

Redacted Version for Publication

Meeting: Louth Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

Louth Local Action Group (LAG)

Date: 19th February 2018 at 3.00pm

Location: Cooley Room, County Hall, Dundalk

In attendance: Cllr. Colm Markey,
Cllr. Pearse McGeough
Cllr. Dolores Minogue
Ms. Joan Martin, CE, LCC
Ms. Anne Keeley, DSP
Mr. Thomas McEvoy, LEO
Ms. Annette McDonnell, HSE

Mr. Kevin Moran, PPN
Mr. Geordie McAteer, PPN
Ms. Grainne Berrill, Louth Volunteer Centre
Ms. Joanne Finnegan, PPN
Mr. Michael Gaynor, Chamber of Commerce
Mr. Breffni Martin, Environmental Pillar
Mr. Matthew McGreehan, IFA
Mr. Ciaran Reid, CEO, LLP

Officials: Mr. Joe McGuinness
Mr. John Lawrence
Ms. Riona McCoy
Ms. Mary Deery

Apologies: Cllr. Liam Reilly, Chairperson
Mr. Larry Magnier, PPN
Mr. Breannán Casey, Chamber of Commerce
Ms. Sadie Ward-McDermott, LMETB

Guests: Mr. Donagh MacArtain (Exodea)
Ms. Mary O'Neill (LLP)

LCDC MATTERS:

LCDC Minute No. 07/2018

1. Minutes of LCDC meeting held on the 15th January 2018

Decision: On the proposal of Ms. Grainne Berrill, seconded by Mr. Geordie McAteer and unanimously agreed by the members the minutes of the meeting held on the 15th January 2018 were adopted.

LCDC Minute No. 08/2018

2. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

LCDC Minute No. 09/2018

3. LECP

Mr. John Lawrence informed members that the information for the second progress report is still being collated and it is envisaged that this will be available for the next meeting.

LCDC Minute No. 10/2018

4. PEACE IV – Rebid 2018 Proposals

C.E. Ms. Joan Martin informed members that the Peace Partnership is currently in the process of rebidding for the remaining funding €1,259,047 across the three themes. Theme 1 is Children and Young People, theme 2 is Shared Spaces & Services and theme three is Building a Positive Relations. The targets groups that will be considered in the programme include women, victims and survivors, communities with low social capital, young people, older people, faith communities, disability arising from legacy of violence and ex prisoners.

This funding can be applied for by projects which had failed the previous round of funding or by approved projects who wish to obtain further funding. There are four new proposals: The Cross Border Youth Council Networking Project under Theme 1, Engagement and Signposting Service in County Louth under Theme 3, Development of a Shared Space in Millmount under theme 2, From Oriel to Brexit: border reflections, traditions and contemporary issues under Theme 3. Finally Uplift Projects previously approved for funding will garner further funding support.

Members were advised by the Chief Officer that if any member had a conflict of interest that they should excuse themselves from the meeting. Due to a conflict of Interest Ms. Joan Martin and Vice Chairperson, Mr. Kevin Moran excused themselves from the room. Due to the absence of the Chairperson and the conflict of interest of the Vice Chairperson, the Chief Officer, Joe McGuinness took the role of Chairperson for this decision.

Mr. Ciaran Reid advised the Chairperson that there were two errors in the minutes of the Peace IV Partnership circulated, in particular under the absent section: Mr. Frank O'Brien did not represent the LCDC on the Partnership Board and Mr. Geordie McAteer no long is employed by the Redeemer Family Resource Centre. Chief Officer Joe McGuinness advised both items will be notified to the administrative support section to the Peace Partnership Board.

Decision: On the proposal of Mr. Michael Gaynor, seconded by Mr. Thomas McEvoy and unanimously by the members present the Rebid 2018 proposals were approved.

LCDC Minute No. 11/2018

5. SICAP

Conflict of Interest: Due to a conflict of interest both Mr. Ciaran Reid and Ms. Mary O'Neill excused themselves from the room.

a) 2017 End Of Year report

Vice Chairperson Mr. Kevin Moran informed members of the work carried out by the SICAP Sub group to review the 2017 End of Year Report. He also outlined the supporting role of Pobal to the Sub Group. Mr. Moran further advised that both headline targets had been exceeded and that there was no under spend of funding. While the achievement of exceeding these targets is noted the SICAP Sub-Group did recommend a reduction in the targets for the next iteration of SICAP in 2018 to allow for a greater number of interactions with clients and opportunities for better outcomes.

Recommendation: The SICAP Sub Group recommended approval of the 2017 End of Year Report.

Decision: On the proposal of Ms. Grainne Berrill, seconded by Ms. Annette McDonnell and unanimously by the members present the 2017 End of Year Report was approved.

b) SICAP Qtr 1 2018 – 1 months payment (March)

Members were advised that following the approval of the 2017 End of Yea Report that the LCDC could now issue the final months funding payment for Quarter 1, 2018. This payment would be in the amount of €109,466.00

Recommendation: The SICAP Sub Group recommendation is payment of the final month of Qtr1 (March) funding in the amount of €109,466.00.

Decision: On the proposal of Ms. Anne Keeley seconded by Ms. Joan Marin and unanimously by the members present the March payment of Qtr 1, 2018 was approved.

c) LCDC End of Year Report on SICAP 2017

Mr. Kevin Moran gave an overview of the report to the members he also outlined some items of note:

- 1) Emergence of Ardee and mid county as an area of disadvantage
- 2) National profile of the LCDC
- 3) To be able to compare best practice of actions from across the country
- 4) Continued training for staff of the LA to interrogate the IRIS system
- 5) LCDC training to assist in identifying social inclusion priority areas in the county.

Recommendation: The SICAP Sub Group recommends approval of the LCDC End of Year Report for 2017.

Decision: On the proposal of Ms. Anne Keeley seconded by Ms. Grainne Berrill and unanimously by the members present the LCDC End of Year Report for 2017 was approved.

d) Membership of the SICAP Sub Group

Mr. John Lawrence advised the members present that since SICAP 2015 – 2017 has now been finalised, the issue of membership of the Sub Group for the next iteration of SICAP needs to be addressed. He further explained that the incumbent members were happy to remain however they felt that possibly another two members on the Sub Group would bring a geographic or thematic perspective. The Sub Group also feel that the addition of a new member on a yearly basis to represent the emerging needs would ensure that SICAP is meeting the needs of the emerging needs group as determined by the LCDC.

Recommendation: To allow an increase of the membership of the SICAP Sub Group by 2 new members and allow a representative from the identified emerging needs to join the Sub Group.

Decision: On the proposal of Mr. Michael Gaynor seconded by Mrs. Annette McDonnell and unanimously by the members an increase in the membership of the SICAP Sub group was approved.

e) VAT payment June 2017 to December 2017

Ms. Riona McCoy informed members that the drawdown for the final VAT payments incurred by the PI from June 2017 to December 2017 was submitted and approval would be required for payment in the amount of €9747.47

Decision: On the proposal of Mr. Thomas McEvoy seconded by Mr. Pearse McGeough and unanimously by the members present payment of the VAT for June to December 2017 was approved.

Mr. Ciaran Reid and Ms. Mary O'Neill returned to the meeting.

Ms. Joan Martin raised the issue of the identification of new areas of disadvantage and queried how these areas will be encompassed into SICAP and as the emerging needs are identified each year would inclusion of these in the annual plan impact on delivery of the programme for the already identified disadvantaged areas.

Mr. Ciaran Reid informed members that identifying disadvantage requires reviewing deprivation index, the census, consultation with stakeholders and area based analysis. For the emerging needs for the 2018 Annual Plan LLP will be meeting with the various stakeholders

In the Ardee area for example in tackling youth unemployment LLP will support the schools through SICAP. Mr. Reid acknowledged that the targets had been reduced for the 2018 Plan in comparison to the previous programme.

The target for community groups has been reduced from 92 to 63 and this will allow greater identification of disadvantage and will mean that groups who do not have a social inclusion focus will not be supported.

Mr. Kevin Moran advised members that a lot of information regarding the deprivation index and geographical spread of deprivation would have been included in the tender documentation submitted by LLP and that asked Mr. Reid to explain how areas are designated as disadvantaged. Ms Joan Martin explained that if we can understand the geographical areas and how social inclusion presents itself, then we could use this information to reinforce work being carried out under other programmes for example Town and Village.

Mr. Ciaran Reid gave a brief outline of the Trutz Haas indices and how they are compiled but did acknowledge that there could be pockets of disadvantage within affluent areas that could be missed. Mr. Reid advised that he would reach out to Trutz Haas and enquire why particular indices are collected, this could be very useful. Mr. Kevin Moran asked if a brief explanation could be given at the next meeting. Mr. Reid agreed that LLP will prepare something for the members.

LCDC Minute No. 12/2018

6. Healthy Ireland

Mr. Donagh MacArtain gave a presentation on the approach being developed to link the LECP to the Healthy Ireland Programme and in doing so develop a Healthy Louth Strategy. Members were advised that there are two key dates to be noted the 9th March for discussion and the 22nd March for consultation.

Ms. Joan Martin welcomed Mr. MacArtain and explained that the Louth LECP was an extremely good document and linking the proposal to the same format as the LECP would allow us to easily monitor the outcomes.

The presentation was given to show members the framework of the Healthy Louth Strategy being developed and to ensure that members were in agreement with this direction.

Decision: The framework of the strategy as outlined was unanimously agreed by the members present.

LCDC Minute No. 13/2018

7. LCDC 2017 Annual Report

Chief Officer Joe McGuinness explained to members that this report if approved will become a sub set of the Local Authority Annual Report. Mr. Ciaran Reid raised the issue of the short timelines for grant funding which can be a challenge to the LCDC could a comment be entered onto the document to reflect these challenges. Chief Officer Joe McGuinness advised that a comment will be circulated for members consideration and if agreed the report will be amended.

Decision: On the proposal of Mr. Michael Gaynor seconded by Ms. Annette McDonnell and unanimously agreed by the members the LCDC 2017 Annual report with comment if received was approved.

The business of the LCDC meeting concluded.

LAG MATTERS:

LAG Minute No. 09/2018

1. Minutes of LAG meeting held on the 15th January 2018

Decision: On the proposal of Ms. Grainne Berrill, seconded by Mr. Geordie McAteer and unanimously agreed by the members the minutes of the meeting held on the 15th January 2018 were adopted.

LAG Minute No. 10/2018

2. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

LAG Minute No. 11/2018

3. RDP Sub Group Report

Mr. John Lawrence informed members that the RDP Sub Group had met in January there were a number of recommendations to be put forward by the RDP Sub group and a number of items which would be put on the agenda for the next RDP Sub group meeting.

a) Selection of a new RDP Sub Group Chairperson

The Chairperson Cllr. Liam Reilly was unable to attend therefore a new Chairperson was not elected but this will be carried out at the next meeting.

b) Funding considerations

At the meeting LLP raised the issue of the types of projects enquiries they were receiving and that they required a decision from the LAG in how to deal with these proposed projects. Mr. Lawrence explained to LAG members that to explore this further the RDP Sub group agreed to take this item back to the next RDP Sub Group Meeting.

c) Mr. John Lawrence advised members that Breda Tuite was no longer a representative on the LCDC and had been replaced by Mr. Matthew McGreehan. Mr. McGreehan had also replaced Ms. Tuite on the RDP Sub Group.

Recommendation: The RDP Sub group were now proposing ratification of Mr. Matthew McGreehan as the new IFA representative on the sub group.

Decision: On the proposal of Ms. Anne Keeley, seconded by Ms. Dolores Minogue and unanimously agreed by the members present Mr. Matthew McGreehan was ratified as a member of the RDP Sub Group.

d) Proposed allocation of LEADER funding for 2018

Mr. John Lawrence informed members that Ms. Mary O'Neill had distributed a document at the meeting which gave an overview of the allocation of €2.6m in 2018, this includes the under spend of 2016 and the under spend of 2017. He further explained that this allocation would need to be in place before the LAG could look for a review of the LDS.

He further advised that an e-mail from the Department and Circular 01/2018 states that the LAG must have allocated at least 50% of the project budget outlined in the LDS before a request for an amendment to the LDS can be submitted for approval by the Department. There is however some flexibility to allow LAGs deviate from the LDS without having to amend the strategy. The RDP Sub group had an in-depth discussion around this item and the Sub Group agreed that a letter should issue to the Department for clarity around addressing some anomalies in the LDS

Recommendation: The RDP Sub Group recommend to the LAG issuing of a letter to the Department seeking approval to:

- i) Correct an anomaly in the strategy where SA18 has been omitted from the Sub Theme Basic Services Hard to reach communities by way of an error in the text of the strategy.
- ii) The ability to apply the Basic Services Hard to Reach Communities rationale (which will allow for funding of at the 90% rate) to both Strategic Action 19 and Strategic Action 20 in the strategy as they are both under the Programme Theme of Social Inclusion as defined in the Operating Rules. The use of this aid rate will be carefully monitored.

Decision: The LAG unanimously agreed that a letter should issue to Department for clarity.

e) LEADER Annual Progress Report 2017 & Implementation Plan 2018

Mr. John Lawrence advised members that the LAG are obliged to submit each year a progress report for the previous year and an implementation plan for the next year. This document will give the LAG an opportunity to assist in monitoring progress during. The document was compiled jointly by LLP and LCC.

Recommendation: The RDP Sub Group recommends approval of the LEADER Annual Progress Report 2017 & Implementation Plan 2018.

Decision: The LAG unanimously approved LEADER Annual Progress Report 2017 & Implementation Plan 2018.

LAG Minute No. 12/2018

4. Financial Reports

There were three number financial reports circulated to members up to the 19th February 2018.

Ms. Riona McCoy informed members present that Report 1 – Named Administrative Costs was circulated to members showed the administration expenditure for January was €23,941.35.

Recommendation: Approval of the administration expenditure costs for January in the amount of €23,941.35

Decision: On the proposal of Mr. Michael Gaynor, seconded by Ms. Grainne Berrill and unanimously agreed by the members present the expenditure for January was approved.

Ms. Riona McCoy referred members to two further financial reports both reports were raised on the LCC accounting system. One report shows the financial transactions carried out under a job code for the administration budget the other shows the financial payments to promoters for projects.

Recommendation: Approval of the two financial systems reports.

Decision: On the proposal of Mr. Thomas McEvoy, seconded by Ms. Anne Keely and unanimously agreed by the members the two financial reports were approved.

LAG Minute No. 13/2018

5. Project changes and De-commitment of funding

Ms. Mary O'Neill referenced one project change and a de-commitment that needed approval.

- i) Project Ref. 104055 – extension of completion date

The promoter was requesting an extension of time to complete the project due to the level of engagement required. The completion date would be extended from 20th February 2018 to the 30th April 2018.

Recommendation: Approval for the extension of the completion date for Project Ref. 104055 to the 30th April 2018.

Decision: On the proposal of Ms. Annette McDonnell, seconded by Ms. Anne Keely and unanimously agreed by the members the date for completion has been extended to the 30th April 2018.

- ii) Project Ref. 102797 - De-commitment

This promoter has completed the works with an under spend of €271.56. This funding is no required to be de-committed back to the allocation of funding under the Local Objective 4, Strategic Action 12.

Recommendation: Approval for the de-commitment of €271.56 under LO 4, SA12.

Decision: On the proposal of Ms. Annette McDonnell, seconded by Ms. Anne Keely and unanimously agreed by the members the de-commitment of €271.56 under LO4, SA12 was approved.

LAG Minute No. 14/2018

6. Conflict of Interest

All members were reminded by Mr. John Lawrence to declare any conflict of interest based on the agenda and meeting documents.

LAG Minute No. 15/2018

7. EOI's

Members were referred to the EOI's received during January 2018. Project Ref. 106435 was deemed ineligible in accordance with Section 10.3 of the Operating Rules.

Members noted the EOI's eligible and ineligible received in January 2018.

LAG Minute No. 16/2018

8. LEADER Projects

Project Code:	21LDRLOU106084
Promoter Code:	5141
Agreed by LAG:	To fully support the project at 50% or €37,615.20 of eligible costs, whichever is the lesser. Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Promoter to complete a SYOB Course. <input type="checkbox"/> The gym facility must for a period of five years provide the option of a pay-per-use offering for users who do not want to make an upfront membership payment or commit to a direct debit type payment option.

Members raised concerns about this project in areas such as displacement and the type of membership envisaged. Ms. Anne Keeley queried if the contract could include a condition that the gym facility provides the option of pay-per-use. Mr. Thomas McEvoy recommended that a condition is included that the promoter

attends a recognised Start Your Own Business Course. Ms. Mary O'Neill informed members that the contract can include conditions.

- a) Conflict of Interest: There was no conflict of interest declared for the above project.
- b) Members present for decision:

Public: 6 number

Cllr. Dolores Minogue, Cllr. Pearse McGeough, Ms. Joan Martin, Mr. Thomas McEvoy, LEO, Ms. Anne Keeley, DSP, Ms. Annette McDonnell, HSE.

Private: 8 number

Mr. Geordie McAteer, PPN, Mr. Kevin Moran, PPN, Ms. Joanne Finnegan, PPN, Mr. Michael Gaynor, Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Matthew McGreehan, IFA, Mr. Ciaran Reid, LLP, Ms. Grainne Berrill, LVC, Mr. Breffni Martin, PPN.

Abstained: Cllr. Colm Markey

Quorum present – Yes

Public/ Private split – Yes

Decision: On the proposal of Cllr. Dolores Minogue, seconded by Mr. Geordie McAteer, and unanimously agreed by the members present the above project was approved for support. The project can now proceed to Article 48 check and subject to satisfactory check will progress to letter of offer stage which will include the following two conditions:

- i) The promoter is to complete a "Start Your Own Business" course
- ii) The gym facility must for a period of five years provide the option of a pay-per-use offering for users who do not want to make an upfront membership payment or commit to a direct debit type payment option.

Due to conflict of interest both Mr. Ciaran Reid and Ms. Mary O'Neill left the meeting.

Project Code:	21LDRLOU106450
Promoter Code:	4654
Agreed by LAG:	To fully support the project at 100% or €5,373.65 of eligible expenditure, whichever is the lesser

- a) Conflict of Interest: Mr. Ciaran Reid declared a conflict of interest for the above project.

- b) Members present for decision:

Public: 6 number

Cllr. Colm Markey, Cllr. Dolores Minogue, Cllr. Pearse McGeough, Ms. Joan Martin, Ms. Anne Keeley, DSP, Ms. Annette McDonnell, HSE.

Private: 7 number

Mr. Geordie McAteer, PPN, Mr. Kevin Moran, PPN, Ms. Joanne Finnegan, PPN, Mr. Michael Gaynor, Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Matthew McGreehan, IFA, Ms. Grainne Berrill, LVC, Mr. Breffni Martin, PPN.

Abstained for quorum reasons: Mr. Thomas McEvoy, LEO
Quorum present – Yes
Public/ Private split – Yes

Decision: On the proposal of Ms. Anne Keeley, seconded by Ms. Grainne Berrill, and unanimously agreed by the members present the above project was approved for support. The project can now proceed to Article 48 check and subject to satisfactory check will progress to letter of offer stage.

Mr. Ciaran Reid and Ms. Mary O'Neill returned to the meeting.

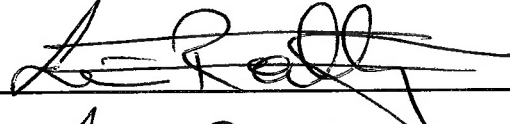
LAG Minute No. 17/2018

9. Circulars and Q&As

Members noted the Circulars 02/2018 and Q&A no.'s 12 and 13 as circulated in the meeting pack.

The business of the LAG meeting concluded.

Minutes confirmed at meeting held on

 26/3/2018

Chairperson



