

Minutes of Meeting: Louth Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

Date: 18th December 2023 at 4.00pm

Location: Cooley Room, County Hall, Dundalk

In attendance: Ms. Alison Quail, Chairperson, PPN
Cllr. Liam Reilly (via Telephone)
Cllr. Kevin Meenan
Cllr. Dolores Minogue
Ms. Sadie Ward-McDermott, LMETB
Ms. Joan Martin, C.E. of LCC
Ms. Niamh Dennehy, LEO
Ms. Bridie Pepper, HSE
Ms. Bernardine Quinn, PPN
Ms. Carol Murphy, PPN
Ms. Jasmine Mathew, PPN
Ms. Lisa Doyle, PPN
Ms. Olivia Conlon, Louth Volunteer Centre
Ms. Una McGoey, Chamber of Commerce Dundalk
Mr. John Carroll, IFA
Mr. Ciaran Reid, LLD

Officials: Mr. Joe McGuinness, Chief Officer
Mr. Finbar Gethins, Senior Executive Officer LCC
Ms. Sinead McVerry, Administrative Officer LCC
Ms. Miriam Roe, Senior Staff Officer LCC
Mr. Eamonn Redmond, Staff Officer LCC

Apologies: Cllr. Eileen Tully
Ms. Sharon Curran, DSP
Mr. Steven Rice, Chamber of Commerce Drogheda

Guests: Ms. Mary O' Neill, LLD
Niall Gallagher, A/Administrative Officer LCC

LCDC MATTERS

LCDC Minute No. 65/2023

1. Minutes of LCDC Meeting 16th October 2023

On the proposal of Cllr. Liam Reilly and seconded by Ms. Carol Murphy and unanimously agreed by the members, the minutes of the meeting held on the 16th October 2023, were adopted.

LCDC Minute No. 66/2023

2. Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising.

LCDC Minute No. 67/2023

3. Election of new Vice-Chairperson:

Chairperson Ms. Alison Quail advised the meeting that the LCDC now required a new Vice-Chairperson following her selection as Chairperson.

On the proposal of Ms. Jasmine Mathew and seconded by Cllr. Kevin Meenan and unanimously agreed by the members, Ms. Carol Murphy was selected as the new Vice Chairperson of LCDC.

LCDC Minute No. 68/2023

4. LCDC Correspondence:

Mr. Finbar Gethins advised the meeting that New Financial Controller for Louth Local Development was Ms. Pam Kierans.

LCDC Minute No. 69/2023

5. LECP Update:

Ms. Sinead McVerry advised the meeting that on 8th December the Draft LECP framework was presented to the Eastern Midland Regional Authority (EMRA). The Regional Authority issued a Statement of Consistency for the Louth LECP as required under Section 44 of the Local Government Reform Act (as amended) subject to a number of minor amendments.

A 2-year Implementation Plan is being prepared at present.

LCDC Minute No. 70/2023

6. Social Inclusion and Community Development:

a) SICAP – Award of Contract 2024-2028 Programme

Conflict of Interest: Mr Ciaran Reid

Mr. Finbar Gethins advised the meeting that the contract for the delivery of the SICAP Programme 2024 – 2028 has been awarded to Louth Local Development CLG and on the approval of the LCDC the contract would be signed by the LCDC Chairperson Ms. Alison Quail.

The SICAP 2024 budget is €1,651,231.00 with an additional €230,987.00 for New Arrivals funding.

Recommendation: To approve the signing of the contract for the delivery of the SICAP Programme 2024–2028 which has been awarded to Louth Local Development CLG.

Decision: On the proposal of Ms. Bernadine Quinn, seconded by Ms. Carol Murphy, the signing of the contract for the delivery of the SICAP Programme 2024 – 2028, by Louth Local Development, was approved.

b) Notification of SICAP Audit for year 2022

Mr. Finbar Gethins advised the members that notification was received that the Local Government Audit Service will undertake an Audit of SICAP for the 2022 financial year, commencing on 24th January 2024.

c) SICAP Qtr.1 Payment 2024:

Mr Finbar Gethins advised the members that SICAP 2024 Qtr.1 payment, in the amount of €412,807.75, was now due. However, as the end of year review process is in progress the recommendation is to issue payment for two months (Jan & Feb) with the March payment to issue following approval of the End of Year review for 2023 by the LCDC.

Recommendation: To issue payment for two months (January and February 2024) in the amount of €275,205.17. The payment of the remaining €137,602.58 for the month of March will issue following approval of the 2023 End of Year Review by the LCDC.

Decision: On the proposal Cllr. Kevin Meenan, seconded by Ms. Bernadine Quinn, payment of two months (January and February) funding for SICAP Qtr.1 2024 in the amount of €275,205.17 was approved.

d) SICAP Q1. New Arrivals payment

The members were advised that the SICAP Qtr.1 2024 New Arrivals payment in the amount of €57,746.75 was now due for payment.

Recommendation: To issue payment for SICAP Qtr.1 2024 New Arrivals payment in the amount of €57,746.75.

Decision: On the proposal Ms. Carol Murphy, seconded by Cllr. Kevin Meenan, payment for SICAP Qtr.1 2024 New Arrivals payment in the amount of €57,746.75 was approved.

e) SICAP Case Study 2023

The Annual SICAP Video Case Study for 2023 submitted by Louth Local Development was titled: SICAP and Dundalk Institute of Technology – Back to Education Access. The focus of the case study is the strong collaboration between Louth Local Development and DkIT across the 6 year SICAP Programme cycle on their back to education programmes. It was agreed to also forward the video to the members following the meeting.

LCDC Minute No. 71/2023

7. Local Development Strategy Update

Conflict of Interest: Ciaran Reid

Mr. Finbar Gethins informed the members that an independent panel assessed the Strategy on behalf of the Department of Rural & Community Development and Louth received confirmation on 28th November, that the LDS was approved. This correspondence also confirmed that Louth LCDC, with its Implementing Partner Louth Local Development CLG and Lead Financial Partner Louth County Council, is approved as the Local Action Group to deliver the 2023-2027 LEADER Programme for Co Louth.

On the approval of the LCDC, a contract between Louth County Council and Louth Local Development CLG would be signed.

Recommendation: To approve the signing of the contract between Louth LCDC and Louth Local Development CLG for the delivery of the 2023-2027 LEADER Programme for Co Louth.

Decision: On the proposal of Cllr. Kevin Meenan, seconded by Mr. John Carroll, the signing of the contract between Louth LCDC and Louth Local Development CLG for the delivery of the 2023-2027 LEADER Programme for Co Louth was approved.

LCDC Minute No. 72/2023

8. Peace IV and PEACEPLUS:

Mr. Niall Gallagher from Louth County Council, PEACE Office gave a presentation to the members on PEACEPLUS.

LCDC Minute No. 73/2023

9. Community Support Fund:

Re-allocation of de-committed funding: Ms. Sinead McVerry advised the members that money from the Community Support Fund, 2022 was re-allocated, as set out below, due to a grant de-committals. It was noted that this funding remained within the Municipal Districts.

Ardee	
Group	€
Westerns GFC	€1,092.00
Ferdia Park Residents Association	€1,500.00
Aclint	€1,057.00
Advertising	€308.41
Total	€3,957.41

Drogheda			
Group	Energy	Capital	€
Drogheda Women & Childrens Refuge Centre		€930.40	
7th Louth Coastal Scout Group		€150.00	
Red Door Project		€420.00	
Connect FRC		€500.00	
Advertising		€690.00	
Moneymore FC		€516.00	
Lifestyle Development Group	€201.00		
Total	€201.00	€3,206.40	€3,407.40

Dundalk			
Group	Energy	Capital	€
Grange & District Residents Association	€250.00	€750.00	
Muirhevnamor Community Council		€825.00	
Advertising	€116.00	€574.00	€690.00
Total	€366.00	€2,149.00	€2,515.00

Re-allocation of funding under spend: It was noted that there was a county wide under spend of €1,000, across a number of projects. Due to time constraints, the full amount of €1,000 was re-allocated to The Drogheda Dolls Group, Drogheda who had the required paperwork already on file.

Recommendation: To approve the re-allocation of Community Support Fund 2022 grant aid totalling €10,879.81 to the groups, as outlined above.

Decision: On the proposal of Ms. Carol Murphy, seconded by Ms. Bridie Pepper, the re-allocation of Community Support Fund 2022 grant aid totalling €10,879.81, was approved.

Notification of Community Enhancement Fund 2022 Audit

Mr. Finbar Gethins advised the members that the DRCD have given notification of an Audit commencing 24th January 2024. Mr. Gethins clarified that this was for funding granted in 2022.

LCDC Minute No. 74/2023

10. Local Enhancement Programme 2024:

Ms. Sinead McVerry, provided members with a summary of the new Local Enhancement Programme 2024:

Background:

- Department of Rural and Community Development will allocate **€195,412.48** to Louth LCDC.
- **€162,843.74** capital funding for the Local Enhancement Programme to use towards carrying out necessary repairs and improvements to facilities, energy efficiency type projects, purchase of equipment etc.
- **€32,568.75** capital funding ring-fenced for Women's Groups.
- Facilities such as community centres, men's and women's sheds, parish halls and youth centres to be supported.
- The maximum administration fee allowed is €9,770.62 (5% of total allocation), and this fee is only permitted to be deducted from the €162,843.74 the Local Enhancement Programme funding stream.
- Targeted at disadvantaged urban and rural areas.
- Projects that seek to enhance community, address disadvantage and improve social cohesion at local level.

Funding allocation:

In Louth funding will be allocated proportionally as follows:

Mainstream Local Enhancement Programme (€153,073.12)

Municipal District to receive an amount proportionate to their number of elected members to the overall number of elected members in the county:

- Ardee: $6/29 \times €153,073.12 = €31,670.30$
- Drogheda: $10/29 \times €153,073.12 = €52,783.83$
- Dundalk: $13/29 \times €153,073.12 = €68,618.98$

Funding ring-fenced for Women's Groups (€32,568.75)

Municipal District to receive an amount proportionate to their number of elected members to the overall number of elected members in the county. Depending on applications received to is envisaged to distribute this funding stream as follows:

- Ardee: $6/29 \times €32,568.75 = €6,738.36$
- Drogheda: $10/29 \times €32,568.75 = €11,230.60$
- Dundalk: $13/29 \times €32,568.75 = €14,599.78$

An administration fee of €9,770.62 (5% of total allocation), this fee is deducted from the €162,843.74 of the mainstream Local Enhancement Programme funding stream.

Rational for award of funding:

Each application will be required to show how their project will target addressing disadvantage as identified in the LECP.

Closing date for applications is 23rd February 2024 Local Enhancement Programme 2024 will be advertised via the Local Press, Friday Communiqué, Louth County Council website, and the Louth PPN website and social media.

Decisions on projects:

The decision to award or not to award rests with the LCDC following assessment of the applications. The LCDC may need to award a lesser amount of funding to each municipal district depending on the number of applications received and their consistency with the LECP.

Timeline:

Fund Open for Applications 15th January 2024

Closing Date 25th February 2024 (Sunday)

Assessment of Application 11th-13th March 2024

Brought to LCDC for approval 25th March 2024

Announced by Minister April 2024

Closing Dates for drawdown 30th August 2024

Recommendation: To approve proposed Local Enhancement Programme 2024 as outlined above.

Decision: On the proposal of Cllr. Dolores Minogue, seconded by Cllr. Kevin Meenan, proposed Local Enhancement Programme 2024 as outlined above was approved.

LCDC Minute No. 75/2023

11. 2024 Schedule of Meetings:

Ms. Alison Quail, Chairperson, advised that members should have received a schedule of LCDC Meetings with their meeting packs and that the maybe held both on Zoom and in person.

LCDC Minute No. 76/2023

12. Next Meeting of LCDC:

Ms. Alison Quail, Chairperson, informed the members the date of the next LCDC meeting is 15th January 2023. The format of the meeting will be confirmed in the new year.

The business of the LCDC meeting concluded

Minutes confirmed at meeting held on: 15 24/01/2024. A.O

Chairperson: 

