

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

Date: 15th December 2025 at 4.00pm

Location: Cooley Room, County Hall, Dundalk and via Teams

In attendance: Cllr. Kevin Meenan, Chairperson
Cllr. Shane McGuinness
Cllr. Dolores Minogue (via Teams)
Cllr. Ejiro O'Hare Stratton (via Teams)
Mr. David Conway, C.E. of LCC
Ms. Nikki Campbell, LEO
Mr. Ciaran Reid, LLD (via Teams)
Ms. Bridie Pepper, HSE
Mr. Liam Reilly, PPN (via Teams)
Mr. Pat McCormick, Chamber of Commerce Dundalk
Mr. Eugene Conlon, PPN
Ms. Kayleigh Mulligan, Louth Volunteer Centre (via Teams)

Officials: Ms. Colette Moss, Senior Executive Officer LCC/Chief Officer
Ms. Joanna Kelly, Acting Director of Services LCC
Ms. Sinead McVerry, Administrative Officer LCC
Ms. Miriam Roe, Senior Staff Officer LCC
Ms. Ann Monahan, Staff Officer LCC

Apologies: Ms. Sharon Curran, DSP (via Teams)
Mr. Hubert Murphy, Chamber of Commerce Drogheda
Ms. Jasmine Mathew, PPN
Ms. Bernardine Quinn, PPN
Mr. Kevin Sweeney, IFA
Ms. Sadie Ward-McDermott, LMETB
Ms. Carol Murphy, PPN

Guests: Ms. Mary O'Neill, LLD

LCDC MATTERS

Cllr. Kevin Meenan, Chairperson, advised the members that Ms. Colette Moss, Senior Executive Officer, had been appointed Chief Officer of the LCDC with effect from 1st December 2025. He formally welcomed Ms. Moss to her new role and expressed his appreciation to the outgoing Chief Officer, Mr. Finbar Gethins, for his contribution and professionalism during his tenure.

LCDC Minute No. 87/2025

1. Minutes of LCDC Meeting Monday 18th November 2025:

On the proposal of Cllr. Shane McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Eugene Conlon and unanimously agreed by the members, the minutes of the meeting held on the 18th November 2025 were adopted.

LCDC Minute No. 88/2025

2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest:

Members were reminded by Ms. Colette Moss to declare their Conflict of Interest at the beginning of the meeting or as it appears on the agenda, if applicable.

Ms. Moss informed the members that two forms, the Annual Conflict of Interest Declaration and the Register of Interests, are required to be completed in January. These forms pertain to the period from January to December of the preceding year and will be circulated to members in early January.

LCDC Minute No. 89/2025

3. Matters Arising:

There were no LCDC matters arising.

LCDC Minute No. 90/2025

4. LCDC Correspondence:

There was no correspondence for noting.

LCDC Minute No. 91/2025

5. Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme (SICAP):

Ms. Colette Moss advised the members that as part of the SICAP cycle of Planning & Review, both the SICAP 2025 Annual Performance Review and review of the Draft 2026 Annual Plan must be undertaken.

a) The 2025 Annual Performance Review Timeline:

- Louth Local Development will upload their Financial & Monitoring report on IRIS by **Friday 16th January 2026**.
- LCDC (SICAP/Social Inclusion Subgroup) must carry out a review of the report and provide feedback to Pobal by Friday 30th January 2026.
- Pobal will provide feedback to the LCDCs by Wednesday 11th February 2026.

- Annual Progress Report to be formally approved by the LCDC at the February meeting.

b) **SICAP 2026 Annual Plan Review Process:**

On 11th December, the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht (DRCDG) communicated that there has been a delay in finalising the 2026 budgets for both SICAP and New Arrivals. As a result, timelines will be adjusted to reflect this delay. Updated budgets and revised timelines are expected to be issued within the coming week.

- Following the submission of the 2026 Draft Annual Plan on IRIS, the LCDC (through the SICAP/Social Inclusion subgroup) must carry out a review of the 2026 Draft Annual Plan and provide feedback to Pobal on any issues identified.
- Pobal will carry out a high-level review and provide feedback to the LCDC, again this date is to be confirmed.
- Final approval of the 2026 Annual Plan, following approval of the 2025 Annual Performance Review, will be brought before the LCDC at their February meeting.

A meeting of the SICAP/Social Inclusion Subgroup will be called in January where both the Annual Performance Review 2025 and the 2026 Draft Annual Plan will be reviewed – with any issues identified and recommendations made to the LCDC. This will ensure that both items will be on the LCDC Agenda for February for Approval.

Thanks were also extended to Ms. Maeve Harkin and all those involved in the SICAP Programme for their work throughout the year and for the significant work required in preparing the 2026 Annual Plan.

LCDC Minute No. 92/2025

6. PEACEPLUS:

An update was provided by Ms. Colette Moss on the PEACEPLUS Programme which included the following:

- Contracts for the Sports Leadership and Youth Leadership & Mentoring Programmes were signed on 27th November with Dundalk Youth Centre, and the programmes were launched at Dundalk Youth Centre on 10th December.
- 6 other Programmes have been awarded. Outcome letters have been sent but contracts have yet to be signed.
- 11 Programmes are due to be advertised in 2026 and 1 Programme will be re-advertised as the Tender Response did not pass the selection criteria.

LCDC Minute No. 93/2025

Noted: Mr. Liam Reilly, having declared a conflict of interest in the reallocation of funds under the Local Enhancement Programme 2025, left the room.

7. Local Enhancement Programme 2025:

Reallocation of Funds Approval

Ms. Sinead McVerry advised the members that money from the Local Enhancement Programme 2025 was re-allocated as set out below, due to grant de-committals, and referred to the report which was circulated. It was noted that this funding remained within the Municipal Districts.

Ardee	Amount €
Glyde Rangers GFC	785.69
Westerns GFC	553.50
Aclint Community Hall Committee	221.40
TOTAL	1560.59

Drogheda	Amount €
Dreadnots GFC	500
Moneymore FC	450
Drogheda Homeless Aid	574.07
Drumshallon Forge Heritage Centre CLG	277.40
St Olivers Scout Group	450
Drogheda Tidy Towns	500
TOTAL	2751.47

Dundalk	Amount €
Water Safety Louth	213.01
Knockbridge Tidy Towns	330.04
Omeath District Development	500
Dromiskin Tidy Towns	300
Kilkerley Emmets GFC	500
Turas Counselling	800
Muirhevnamor Community Council	800
St Gerards AC	193.82
TOTAL	3636.87

Recommendation: To approve the re-allocation of Local Enhancement Programme 2025 grant aid totalling €7,948.93, as outlined above.

Decision: On the proposal of Cllr. Shane McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Pat McCormick, the re-allocation of Local Enhancement Programme 2025 grant aid totalling €7,948.93 was approved.

Noted: Mr. Liam Reilly rejoined the meeting at this juncture.

LCDC Minute No. 94/2025

8. Local Enhancement Programme 2026:

Ms. McVerry referred members to information provided in their meeting packs regarding the Local Enhancement Programme 2026 and provided a summary of same.

Background:

- The Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht announced the launch of the Local Enhancement Programme (LEP) 2026 on 3rd December 2025.
- Under this programme, the Department will allocate **€239,207.33** to Louth LCDC.
- This funding for the Local Enhancement Programme 2026 will support **capital projects only; there is no provision for current projects in this iteration of the programme.**
- The Local Enhancement Programme is targeted towards supporting communities that are impacted by disadvantage as identified in the LECP. Groups will be able to use the funding to carry out necessary repairs and improvements to their facilities, purchase equipment e.g. tables and chairs, tools and signage, laptops and printers, lawnmowers, canopies and training equipment.
- This Programme will help communities, community groups and committees, to continue to provide valuable services to the people in their area, and in the process strengthen the bonds that tie communities together.
- LEP 2026 does not provide for an administration fee for the local authority.

Funding allocation:

In Louth funding will be allocated proportionally as follows:

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

Capital Funding (€239,207.33)

- Ardee: 6/29 x €239,207.33 = €49,491.17
- Drogheda: 10/29 x €239,207.33 = €82,485.29
- Dundalk: 13/29 x €239,207.33 = €107,230.87

Rational for award of funding:

Each application will be required to show how their project will target addressing disadvantage as identified in the LECF. It is proposed to ring-fence 30% of funding for grants of €1,000 or less.

Closing date for applications is 27th February 2026. Local Enhancement Programme 2026 will be advertised via the Local Press and Local Radio, Friday Communiqué, News On a Page, Louth County Council website and the Louth PPN website and Social Media. Electronic notice boards in LCC Customer Services & Louth Libraries will also be used to advertise the funding scheme.

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 LECF.

Information Sessions:

It is proposed to hold a number of information sessions in January 2026. The aim of these sessions will be to provide help and assistance with completing the applications forms and to target groups who do not normally apply for funding or do not have the capacity to do so.

Timeline:

Fund Open for Applications: 19th January 2026
Information Sessions: Commencing January 2026
Closing Date: 27th February 2026
Announced by Minister: Q2 of 2026

Given that the programme was announced later than usual this year and timelines are tight, Ms. McVerry recommended including the programme on the agenda for the January 2026 LCDC meeting to allow for further discussion. It was also suggested that the upcoming municipal meetings reference the LEP 2026 to help raise awareness of the programme.

Recommendation: To approve the proposed Local Enhancement Programme 2026 as outlined above.

Decision: On the proposal of Mr. Eugene Conlon and seconded by Mr. Ciaran Reid, the proposed Local Enhancement Programme 2026 as outlined above, was approved.

LCDC Minute No. 95/2025

9. Schedule of Meetings for 2026:

Cllr. Kevin Meenan, Chairperson, referred to the Schedule of Meetings for 2026 which the members received with their meeting packs.

LCDC Minute No. 96/2025

10. Next Meeting of LCDC:

Cllr. Kevin Meenan, Chairperson, informed the members that the date of the next LCDC meeting is Monday 19th January 2026. The meeting will be a hybrid meeting.

The business of the LCDC meeting concluded.

Minutes confirmed at meeting held on:

19.01.26.

Vice Chairperson:



