

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

**Date: 17<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 4.00pm**

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

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- In attendance:** Ms. Alison Quail, Chairperson, PPN  
Cllr. Kevin Meenan  
Cllr. Dolores Minogue (via Teams)  
Cllr. Shane McGuinness  
Cllr. Ejiro O'Hare Stratton  
Mr. David Conway, C.E. of LCC  
Ms. Bridie Pepper, HSE  
Ms. Carol Murphy, PPN  
Mr. Hubert Murphy, Chamber of Commerce Drogheda (via Teams)  
Mr. Niall Gallagher, LEO (via Teams)  
Mr. Ciaran Reid, LLD  
Mr. Kevin Sweeney, IFA  
Ms. Bernardine Quinn, PPN (via Teams)  
Ms. Jasmine Mathew, PPN (via Teams)
- Officials:** Mr. Finbar Gethins, Senior Executive Officer LCC/Chief Officer  
Ms. Miriam Roe, Senior Staff Officer LCC  
Ms. Ann Monahan, Staff Officer LCC
- Apologies:** Ms. Sadie Ward-McDermott, LMETB  
Ms. Sharon Curran, DSP  
Ms. Kayleigh Mulligan, Louth Volunteer Centre  
Mr. Pat McCormick, Chamber of Commerce Dundalk  
Mr. Joe McGuinness, Director of Services LCC  
Ms. Sinead McVerry, Administrative Officer LCC
- Guests:** Ms. Mary O'Neill, LLD
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### **LCDC MATTERS**

#### **LCDC Minute No. 10/2025**

##### **1. Minutes of LCDC Meeting Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025:**

On the proposal of Cllr. Shane McGuinness and seconded by Ms. Carol Murphy and unanimously agreed by the members, the minutes of the meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025 were adopted.

### LCDC Minute No. 11/2025

#### **2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest:**

Mr. Finbar Gethins reminded the members to declare their Conflict of Interest at the beginning of the meeting, if applicable.

### LCDC Minute No. 12/2025

#### **3. Matters Arising:**

Mr. Gethins advised the members that a number of applications have already been received for funding under the Local Enhancement Programme 2025 with the closing date set for 23<sup>rd</sup> February. The information sessions held were well attended with a number of new groups participating.

### LCDC Minute No. 13/2025

#### **4. LCDC Correspondence:**

Mr. Finbar Gethins provided the members with an update in relation to the LCDC National Awareness Campaign and advised that an external Consultant has now been appointed to assist with developing and delivering the awareness campaign.

### LCDC Minute No. 14/2025

#### **5. Social Inclusion Update:**

**Conflict of Interest:** Mr. Ciaran Reid

- **SICAP End of Year Review 2024:**

Ms. Miriam Roe advised that the SICAP/Social Inclusion Subgroup carried out a review, on behalf of the LCDC, which was submitted to Pobal, who in turn carried out their own High Level Review. The review assessed financial and non-financial information through both the Financial & Monitoring Report and the Annual Progress Report.

#### **Items Noted:**

- (a) **Financial Compliance:** €53,465.06 was carried forward from the SICAP 2024 budget which is permissible under the Programme Requirements of <5%. Under the New Arrivals 2024 budget €18,720.30 was carried forward which is 5%. In August 2024, Departmental approval was granted to carry forward €33,429 from the New Arrivals 2024 budget– which is in addition to the €18,720.30.

- (b) **KPI & Local Priority Target Groups:** The performance against the KPIs in 2024 has been excellent: KPI 1 (Local Community Groups) target of 75 and achievement of 107 or 143%. KPI 2 (Individuals) target of 910 with the Local Development Company, supporting 1,221 clients or 134% of the target. Overall, the progress against the Local Priority Target Groups has been very strong in 2024, far exceeding the targets set for the groups.
- (c) **Progress on Actions:** The 2024 Annual Progress Report is highly detailed and provides valuable insights into the experience of delivering the SICAP programme. The report provides clear, practical examples of how SICAP's horizontal principles are embedded in the delivery of the Action Plan.
- (d) **Case Study:** The Louth Local Development (LLD) case study submitted showcases the successful implementation of strategic initiatives in Drogheda under the SICAP Programme, with a strong focus on advancing the actions of the Drogheda Implementation Board.

**Recommendation:** Having assessed in detail the information provided in the 2024 End of Year report, the SICAP/Social Inclusion Subgroup recommends that the SICAP 2024 End of Year Review be approved.

**Decision:** On the proposal of Ms. Carol Murphy seconded by Cllr. Shane McGuinness, the SICAP 2024 End of Year Review was approved.

- **SICAP Annual Plan 2025**

The SICAP/Social Inclusion Subgroup carried out their review on the 2025 Annual Plan, ensuring it aligns with local priorities and SICAP Programme Requirements. The Review was conducted in accordance with Pobal guidelines to ensure a consistent approach.

**Items Noted:**

- (a) **Financial Compliance:** The budget allocated for 2025 was SICAP €1,703,245.00 and New Arrivals €238,309.00. These figures do not include the amount carried forward from 2024. The Goal percentage split falls within the recommended parameters for both, and administration costs remain within the 25% threshold.
- (b) **KPI and Local Priority Target Groups:** The KPIs align with the agreed targets and remain unchanged from 2024. The plan maintains a strong focus on the agreed priority groups, specifically naming them in action descriptions. There are 10 Actions identified: six under Goal 1 and four under Goal 2.
- (c) **SICAP & New Arrivals Actions Review:** Support for New Arrivals is embedded within the plan, with actions specifically targeting International Protection applicants and other migrant communities.
- (d) The plan demonstrates a strong commitment to addressing the needs of vulnerable communities and individuals in Louth. It is comprehensive in scope,

targeting key priority areas with well-defined objectives and evidence-based strategies.

**Recommendation:** Having completed the SICAP 2025 Annual Plan review, in accordance with the guidelines issued by Pobal, the SICAP/Social Inclusion Subgroup recommend that the LCDC approve the 2025 SICAP Annual Plan.

**Decision:** On the proposal of Cllr. Kevin Meenan, seconded by Mr. Kevin Sweeney, the SICAP Annual Plan 2025 was approved.

- **SICAP Qtr. 1 - March Payment**

The Members were advised that following the approval of the 2024 Annual Performance Review and the 2025 Annual Plan, the LCDC could now issue the final months payment for SICAP Qtr. 1 2025, in the amount of €141,937.08.

**Recommendation:** The SICAP Subgroup recommend payment of the final month of the SICAP Qtr. 1 2025 (March) funding in the amount of €141,937.08.

**Decision:** On the proposal of Cllr. Dolores Minogue, seconded by Ms. Bernardine Quinn, payment of the final month of the SICAP Qtr. 1 2025 (March) funding in the amount of €141,937.08 was approved.

#### **LCDC Minute No. 15/2025**

##### **6. PEACEPLUS Update:**

Mr. Finbar Gethins advised the members that the next PEACEPLUS Partnership meeting will take place on 12<sup>th</sup> March and the PEACEPLUS Action Plan will be launched on 10<sup>th</sup> April.

#### **LCDC Minute No. 16/2025**

##### **7. Community Recognition Fund Update:**

Mr. Gethins informed the members that there is still no update in relation to successful projects under Call 2.

Call 3 is due to be submitted to the DRCD by the end of February.

**LCDC Minute No. 17/2025**

**8. Next Meeting of LCDC:**

Ms. Alison Quail, Chairperson, informed the members that the date of the next LCDC meeting is Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2025. The meeting will be a hybrid meeting.

The business of the LCDC meeting concluded.

**Minutes confirmed at meeting held on:**

24.03.2025

**Chairperson:**



