

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

**Date: 21<sup>st</sup> July 2025 at 4.00pm**

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

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**In attendance:** Cllr. Kevin Meenan, Chairperson  
Cllr. Dolores Minogue (via Teams)  
Cllr. Shane McGuinness  
Mr. David Conway, C.E. of LCC  
Ms. Nikki Campbell, LEO  
Mr. Ciaran Reid, LLD  
Ms. Sadie Ward-McDermott, LMETB  
Ms. Sharon Curran, DSP (via Teams)  
Ms. Bridie Pepper, HSE  
Mr. Kevin Sweeney, IFA  
Ms. Carol Murphy, PPN (via Teams)  
Mr. Liam Reilly, PPN (via Teams)  
Mr. Eugene Conlon, PPN (via Teams)

**Officials:** Mr. Finbar Gethins, Senior Executive Officer LCC/Chief Officer  
Ms. Joanna Kelly, Acting Director of Services LCC  
Ms. Miriam Roe, Senior Staff Officer LCC  
Ms. Ann Monahan, Staff Officer LCC

**Apologies:** Cllr. Ejiro O'Hare Stratton  
Mr. Hubert Murphy, Chamber of Commerce Drogheda  
Mr. Pat McCormick, Chamber of Commerce Dundalk  
Ms. Jasmine Mathew, PPN  
Ms. Bernardine Quinn, PPN  
Ms. Kayleigh Mulligan, Louth Volunteer Centre  
Ms. Sinead McVerry, Administrative Officer LCC

**Guests:** Ms. Mary O'Neill, LLD

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**LCDC MATTERS**

**LCDC Minute No. 51/2025**

**1. Minutes of LCDC Meeting Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2025:**

On the proposal of Cllr. Shane McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Kevin Sweeney and unanimously agreed by the members, the minutes of the meeting held on the 16<sup>th</sup> June 2025 were adopted.

### LCDC Minute No. 52/2025

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

Mr. Finbar Gethins reminded the members to declare their Conflict of Interest at the beginning of the meeting or as it appears on the agenda, if applicable.

### LCDC Minute No. 53/2025

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

There were no LCDC matters arising.

### LCDC Minute No. 54/2025

#### **4. Selection of Vice-Chairperson:**

Following Ms. Carol Murphy's resignation from the role of Vice-Chairperson of the LCDC, Mr. Finbar Gethins invited nominations for the position at the LCDC meeting held on 16th June. However, the appointment decision was postponed at that meeting to allow for nominations.

Ms. Murphy advised that due to a change in circumstances she is now able to continue in her role as Vice-Chairperson, should the members wish.

**Decision:** On the proposal of Ms. Bridie Pepper, seconded by Mr. Ciaran Reid and unanimously agreed by the members, Ms. Carol Murphy was re-instated as the Vice-Chairperson of the LCDC.

### LCDC Minute No. 55/2025

#### **5. LCDC Correspondence:**

Mr. Gethins referred the members to the following items of correspondence which were included with their meeting packs and requested that they share same with their networks.

- a) EOIs for SDG Champions Programme 2025-26
- b) ESF+ Support Centre

He also drew their attention to Circular 06-2025 – Post-2027 CAP which issued from the LEADER Policy and Operations Unit. It provides recipients with an update on developments in relation to the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) post-2027. He

advised that a copy will be circulated to members following the meeting and any queries would be dealt with as part of the LAG meeting.

### **LCDC Minute No. 56/2025**

#### **6. Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme (SICAP):**

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

##### **a) SICAP 2023 Audit Report Final**

Mr. Finbar Gethins referred the members to the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2023 Audit Report, which was distributed with their meeting packs.

He referenced correspondence received from Crowleys DFK, noting that their assessment concluded the existing controls provide reasonable assurance that internal systems are adequate and effective in mitigating key financial risks.

Crowleys DFK also commended Louth Local Development for its exemplary standards in maintaining beneficiary files. Their review of a sample of files from the 2023 SICAP programme confirmed that documentation was maintained to a high standard, fully compliant with the requirements outlined in the SICAP Service Level Agreement.

After responding to queries from the members, he made a recommendation to approve the SICAP 2023 Audit Report.

**Recommendation:** To approve the SICAP 2023 Audit Report.

**Decision:** On the proposal of Ms. Carol Murphy, seconded by Ms. Sadie Ward-McDermott and unanimously agreed by the members, the SICAP 2023 Audit Report was approved.

##### **b) SICAP 2025 Mid-Year Review**

Ms. Miriam Roe informed members that the SICAP/Social Inclusion Sub-Group met on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2025, to assess the Financial (Financial & Monitoring Report) and non-financial elements of the 2025 Plan as part of the Mid-Year Review (MYR).

This period under review covers the months of January to May (5 Months) and its purpose is to allow the LCDC to assess progress against what was set out in the SICAP 2025 Annual Plan and budget.

Ms. Roe referred to the documents circulated in advance and summarised the findings of the Sub-Group's Mid-Year Review. She reported that the 2025 review reflects a highly engaged, strategically aligned, and community-responsive implementation. The programme has exceeded many of its community engagement targets and demonstrated strong financial and administrative compliance.

While findings showed a slower financial drawdown under the New Arrivals budget, the overall trajectory remains positive, with clear plans in place to address any gaps. The Sub-Group commended Ms. Maeve Harkin and the SICAP team at Louth Local Development for their effective delivery of the programme.

Following a review of the Action Progress Report, associated documentation and data entered into the IRIS system, the Sub-Group made the following recommendation to LCDC members:

**Recommendation:** Having completed the SICAP Mid-Year review, in accordance with the guidelines issued by Pobal, the SICAP/Social Inclusion Sub-Group recommend that the LCDC approve the 2025 Mid-Year Review & Financial & Monitoring Report.

**Decision:** On the proposal of Ms. Sharon Curran, seconded by Cllr. Shane McGuinness and unanimously agreed by the members, the SICAP 2025 Mid-Year Review and Financial & Monitoring Report was approved.

#### **LCDC Minute No. 57/2025**

#### **7. PEACEPLUS:**

Mr. Finbar Gethins briefed the members on two projects being brought before the LCDC and agreed to provide a written narrative in advance of future meetings, for all upcoming tender projects. He advised that a meeting of the PEACEPLUS Partnership was held on 15<sup>th</sup> July in St. Nicholas Church of Ireland, at which the following projects were recommended for approval by the members.

- Shared Narratives, Storytelling Project

**Recommendation:** The PEACEPLUS Partnership recommendation is the approval of awarding this tender to Eventwise NI.

**Decision:** On the proposal of Ms. Carol Murphy, seconded by Mr. Kevin Sweeney and unanimously agreed by the members, the awarding of tender to Eventwise NI was approved.

- Sport Engagement, Leadership, Cross Border Programme

**Recommendation:** The PEACEPLUS Partnership recommendation is the approval of awarding this tender to Third Sector Connect Ltd.

**Decision:** On the proposal of Ms. Carol Murphy, seconded by Mr. Kevin Sweeney and unanimously agreed by the members, the awarding of tender to Third Sector Connect Ltd was approved.

#### **LCDC Minute No. 58/2025**

#### **8. Local Enhancement Programme 2025 Update:**

Mr. Finbar Gethins advised the members that the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht announced the successful projects in County Louth under the Local Enhancement Programme 2025, on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2025. A total of 125 projects were approved, with combined funding of €227,247 allocated. This was divided between Current funding of €34,172 to 59 groups and Capital funding of €193,075 to 66 groups.

All successful applicants have been notified of their grant awards and have been asked to submit additional required documentation. These submissions are currently being reviewed and followed up as needed. The deadline for receipt of this information is 12th September 2025. Unsuccessful applicants have also been informed of the outcome.

To date, 51 groups have received their Current funding in the amount of €29,608 and 1 group has received their Capital funding of €1,674.00.

#### **LCDC Minute No. 59/2025**

#### **9. Local Economic and Community Plan 2024-2029:**

The members were informed that a meeting of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) Steering Group will take place in early September to discuss the progress and current status of the LECP 2024-2029. The LCDC is represented on the Steering Group by its Chairperson along with two members, and a report on this meeting will be brought before the next meeting of the LCDC on 15<sup>th</sup> September.

**LCDC Minute No. 60/2025**

**10. Next Meeting of LCDC:**

Cllr. Kevin Meenan, Chairperson, informed the members that the date of the next LCDC meeting is Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2025. The meeting will be a hybrid meeting.

The business of the LCDC meeting concluded.

**Minutes confirmed at meeting held on:** 15-9-2025

**Chairperson:** Kevin Meenan