

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

Date: 16th February 2026 at 4.00pm

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

In attendance: Cllr. Kevin Meenan, Chairperson
Cllr. Shane McGuinness (via Teams)
Cllr. Dolores Minogue (via Teams)
Cllr. Ejiro O'Hare Stratton (via Teams)
Ms. Bridie Pepper, HSE
Mr. Ciaran Reid, LLD (via Teams)
Mr. Liam Reilly, PPN
Mr. Pat McCormick, Chamber of Commerce Dundalk (via Teams)
Mr. Eugene Conlon, PPN
Ms. Kayleigh Mulligan, Louth Volunteer Centre (via Teams)
Mr. Hubert Murphy, Chamber of Commerce Drogheda (via Teams)
Mr. Kevin Sweeney, IFA (via Teams)
Ms. Nikki Campbell, LEO
Ms. Lorraine O'Malley, DSP
Ms. Sadie Ward-McDermott, LMETB (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 (via Teams)
Ms. Miriam Roe, Senior Staff Officer LCC
Ms. Ann Monahan, Staff Officer LCC

Apologies: Mr. David Conway, C.E. of LCC
Ms. Carol Murphy, PPN
Ms. Jasmine Mathew, PPN
Ms. Bernardine Quinn, PPN

Guests: Ms. Mary O'Neill, LLD

LCDC MATTERS

Cllr. Kevin Meenan, Chairperson, welcomed Ms. Lorraine O'Malley, as a new member of the LCDC/LAG. Ms. O'Malley represents the Department of Social Protection and replaces Ms. Sharon Curran who has taken up a new position within the Department.

LCDC Minute No. 09/2026

1. Minutes of LCDC Meeting Monday 19th January 2026:

On the proposal of Mr. Liam Reilly, seconded by Mr. Eugene Conlon and unanimously agreed by the members, the minutes of the meeting held on the 19th January 2026 were adopted.

LCDC Minute No. 10/2026

2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest:

Ms. Colette Moss requested members who had not yet done so, to complete and return their Conflict of Interest forms.

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

LCDC Minute No. 11/2026

3. Matters Arising:

There were no LCDC matters arising.

LCDC Minute No. 12/2026

4. LCDC Correspondence:

There was no correspondence for noting.

LCDC Minute No. 13/2026

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

Conflict of Interest: Mr. Ciaran Reid left the meeting.

a) 2025 End of Year Review:

Ms Miriam Roe delivered an overview on behalf of the SICAP/Social Inclusion Subgroup, outlining the findings and recommendations arising from the SICAP 2025 End of Year Review. She explained that the review was completed in line with Pobal guidelines and was based on verified financial and non-financial information submitted through IRIS.

Ms. Roe reported that Louth Local Development had an exceptionally strong year, fully meeting the objectives set out in the 2025 Annual Plan and fulfilling all programme and funding requirements. Performance across the programme was described as outstanding, with KPI targets significantly surpassed. KPI.1: Support to community

groups reached 133% of the target, while KPI.2; individual engagement achieved 130%, representing 1,187 people supported across the county. This level of delivery reflects deep and meaningful engagement with disadvantaged communities.

Financial management was also highlighted as exemplary. All programme parameters were met, with administration costs kept below the 25% threshold, and all subcontracting and grant allocations remaining within approved limits. Expenditure across Goal 1 and Goal 2 adhered to the 40–60% guideline and financial reporting reconciled fully with IRIS. Data quality was described as accurate, complete, compliant and fully up to date, with no outstanding issues.

Ms Roe noted that programme delivery demonstrated a wide-ranging and high-impact approach, responding effectively to the needs of NEET youth, migrants, older people, people with disabilities, Travellers, Roma communities and families living in IPAS or Ukrainian accommodation. She highlighted the SMART Cafés digital literacy project for older people, which received national recognition, including a “Highly Commended” award from Media Literacy Ireland. Pobal also identified the initiative as an example of innovation and collaboration.

Details were given of how the Action Plan reflected SICAP’s horizontal principles in practice, referencing initiatives such as the Social Prescribing Connection Café, family support programmes and activities promoting climate justice. Strong collaborative work with agencies such as the HSE, LMETB, Local Link and CYPSC was particularly commended.

In concluding, the SICAP/Social Inclusion Subgroup stated that 2025 was an exceptional year for SICAP delivery in Louth, marked by high impact, strong governance and excellent community engagement. Ms. Roe confirmed that Louth Local Development is operating to a very high standard and is well positioned to continue this momentum into 2026.

Recommendation: Having completed the SICAP 2025 End of Year Review, in accordance with the guidelines issued by Pobal, the SICAP/Social Inclusion Subgroup recommend that the LCDC approve the 2025 SICAP End of Year Review.

Decision: On the proposal of Ms. Bridie Pepper, seconded by Cllr. Kevin Meenan, the SICAP 2025 End of Year Review was approved.

b) 2026 Annual Plan and New Arrivals Budget Carryover:

Ms. Miriam Roe informed the members that the SICAP/Social Inclusion Subgroup has completed its review of the SICAP 2026 Annual Plan for Louth. The subgroup confirmed that the plan fully meets the SICAP 2024–2028 Programme Requirements and that all necessary documentation, including staffing and financial details, has been provided. She noted that the plan continues to align with the LCDC’s three Local

Priority Target Groups: people living in disadvantaged communities, new arrivals and those experiencing educational disadvantage.

It was noted that the combined budget for 2026 totals €1,933,739, made up of a €1,755,430 SICAP allocation and €238,309 for the New Arrivals strand. All financial elements were found to be in order, with administration, subcontracting and grant costs within required thresholds, and Goal 1 and Goal 2 balances meeting the 40/60% programme split.

The subgroup also reviewed the 2025 underspend. The SICAP underspend of €87,733.99 falls just below the 5% carryover threshold and will automatically transfer to 2026. The €46,234.57 underspend for New Arrivals can also carry forward in full, following updated Department guidance that allows contracted costs to extend into 2026. Pobal has confirmed the eligibility of this carryover, which has been incorporated into eight of the ten planned actions.

Ms. Roe noted that the 2026 plan contains ten Actions: six under Goal 1 and four under Goal 2. All Actions are well-described, eligible and aligned with the LECP. They target a wide range of disadvantaged groups such as International Protection Applicants, Travellers, Roma communities, isolated older people, people with disabilities and the long-term unemployed and show strong evidence of inter-agency collaboration. KPI targets for 2026 are set at 78 for Community Groups and 937 for Individuals, both considered achievable. Pobal's high-level review confirmed full compliance and raised no issues.

In closing, it was stated that the SICAP 2026 Annual Plan is comprehensive, needs-led and well-designed to address social, educational, health and employment challenges across County Louth. With a combined budget of just over €1.9 million, the plan outlines ten interconnected actions grounded in SICAP's national goals and informed by strong community consultation and partnership working

Recommendation 1: The SICAP Social Inclusion Subgroup recommends that the New Arrivals Long-Term Contracts Budget Carryover from 2025, in the amount of €46,235.00 be approved.

Decision: On the proposal of Mr. Eugene Conlon, seconded by Cllr. Kevin Meenan, the New Arrivals Long-Term Contracts Budget Carryover from 2025, in the amount of €46,235.00 was approved.

Recommendation 2: Having completed the SICAP 2026 Annual Plan review, in accordance with the guidelines issued by Pobal, the SICAP/Social Inclusion Subgroup recommend that the LCDC approve the 2026 SICAP Annual Plan.

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

c) Qtr. 1 March Payment:

The members were advised that following the approval of the 2025 Annual Performance Review and the 2026 Annual Plan, the LCDC could now issue the final months payment for SICAP Qtr. 1 2026, in the amount of €146,285.83.

Recommendation: The SICAP Subgroup recommend payment of the final month of the SICAP Qtr. 1 2026 (March) funding in the amount of €146,285.83.

Decision: On the proposal of Mr. Liam Reilly, seconded by Cllr. Kevin Meenan, payment of the final month of the SICAP Qtr. 1 2026 (March) funding in the amount of €146,285.83 was approved.

Mr. Ciaran Reid rejoined the meeting at this juncture.

LCDC Minute No. 14/2026

6. PEACEPLUS:

Ms. Colette Moss provided an update on the PEACEPLUS Programme, highlighting the following:

- 2 Procurement Opportunities are currently available on eTenders and have been promoted on social media, the Council website and via PPN and PEACEPLUS mailing lists.
- 3 Projects are due to be advertised in Quarter 1 with a further 6 to be advertised in Quarters 2 and 3
- The launch of the 'Youth and Community Safety- Engagement, Wellbeing and Signposting project' was held in the Foy Centre in Carlingford on 21st January. A launch event for the Animated Stories through Art Project will be held on 23rd February by Dundalk Youth Centre at Stephenstown Pond in Knockbridge
- A PEACEPLUS training video has been created and circulated via the Council website and social media.

LCDC Minute No. 15/2026

7. Local Enhancement Programme 2026:

Ms. Sinead McVerry updated members on the progress of the Local Enhancement Programme including attendance at information sessions and applications received to date. As discussed at the January meeting, she advised that letters had been sent to

Minister Buttimer and Minister Calleary requesting an extension of the Department's submission deadline from 3rd April 2026 to 22nd April 2026. This extension has been granted by the DRCDG and recommendations for the distribution of the funding will be brought to the April LCDC meeting for approval.

LCDC Minute No. 16/2026

10. Next Meeting of LCDC:

Cllr. Kevin Meenan, Chairperson, informed the members that the date of the next LCDC meeting is Monday 23rd March 2026. The meeting will be a hybrid meeting.

The business of the LCDC meeting concluded.

Minutes confirmed at meeting held on:

23-3-26

Chairperson:

Kevin Meenan