



**Comhairle Contae
Dhún na nGall**
Donegal County Council

Minutes of Donegal Local and Community Development Committee County House, Lifford, 10am, 9th July 2015

Attendance

Members	Seamus Neely, Cllr Niamh Kennedy, Cllr Martin McDermott, Cllr Marie Therese Gallagher, Maire O'Leary, Paul Hannigan, Jim Slevin, Susan McCauley, Martin McBride, James O'Donnell, Susan McLoughlin, Anthony Doogan, Ursula Donnelly
Apologies	PJ Hannon, Shaun Purcell, Jan Feenstra
Chief Officer	Paddy Doherty (in absence of Micheál Ó hÉanaigh)
Secretariat	Charles Sweeney, Donna McGroarty
Attending	Denis Kelly, Sinead Harkin, Eamonn Brown, Loretta McNicholas, Barney McLaughlin, Sean O'Daimhin, Margaret Fitzgerald, Adrienne Kelly, Kieran Bradley

Welcome

Seamus Neely, Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted. The meeting was advised that the members of the Economic Development Committee would be joining the meeting for a joint presentation in relation to agenda item no. 9 - Update on Preparation of Donegal Local Economic and Community Plan.

1. Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed by Martin McBride and seconded by Cllr. Martin McDermott.

2. Matters Arising

No matters arising.

3. Update on PPN

The Chairman invited Paddy Doherty to provide an update. Paddy Doherty advised that to date over 400 groups have registered as PPN members and that 7 linkage groups have been established – Social Inclusion, Older People's Forum, Heritage, Tourism, Fishing & Aquaculture, Environment and Community Safety & Joint Policing. The Social Inclusion Linkage Group met in June in relation to their participation in the LECP's consultative process. The linkage groups will play a representative role in the Municipal District Committees, providing a 2-way flow of information.

4. Update on SICAP Programme

An update report was circulated to the group and the Chairman invited Eamonn Brown to address the group. Eamonn Brown advised that following receipt of Pobal confirmation that all Annual Plans

were satisfactorily uploaded onto the IRIS system, that the 2nd quarter advances had been released to all Programme Implementers (PI's) in accordance with the established timelines. Future payments will require LCDC approval.

The current reporting period runs to 31st August 2015. PI's then have 10 days to upload details onto IRIS. The SICAP sub-committee is required to review the mid-year report by the 3rd week of September and to bring recommendations to the LCDC meeting in the last week of September. 3rd quarter funding is due for release in the first week of October, subject to LCDC approval.

Seamus Neely asked members to review the circulated Terms of Reference for the establishment of the SICAP Sub Committee. This Terms of Reference set out the role of the sub committee, which would be drawn from membership of the LCDC. Paddy Doherty advised that the SICAP Programme focused primarily on areas such as education, community and employment and that this should be considered when making nominations to the sub committee. Eamon Brown advised that five LCDC members were required to sit on the sub committee.

Jim Slevin proposed the adoption of the Terms of Reference and this was seconded by Anthony Doogan. The following members were confirmed as members of the SICAP sub committee:

- Martin McBride – on the proposal of Jim Slevin
- Paul Hannigan – on the proposal of James O'Donnell
- Cllr. Niamh Kennedy - on the proposal of Cllr. Martin McDermott & Martin McBride
- Susan McCauley - on the proposal of Cllr. Niamh Kennedy
- Maire O'Leary - on the proposal of Martin McBride

Seamus Neely received agreement to the process undertaken and advised sub-group members that they would be issued with a meeting date in due course.

5. Update on LEADER / RDP

Seamus Neely invited Loretta McNicholas to update the committee on the LEADER / RDP. Loretta McNicholas advised that a decision on the EOI is expected in the coming days and that LCDC members would be informed of the decision via Michael O'hEanaigh's office. The Profile for the LDS is now in draft format and a departmental briefing session is due to take place in Tullamore on July, 16th.

Loretta McNicholas also advised in relation to the REDZ programme that her team is currently working with a number of stakeholders in the county to develop funding applications by the deadline submission date of the 31st August 2015.

Paddy Doherty advised the committee of the need to appoint 4 LCDC members to sit on the LDS Working Group which works to identify opportunities for future synergies and to ensure the Donegal Local Development Strategy has a countywide focus. Paddy Doherty advised that the pertaining work areas include Environment, Employment, Education, Tourism, Agriculture & the PPN and asked committee members to bear this in mind when making nominations. The following members were confirmed as members:

- James O'Donnell – on the proposal of Maire O'Leary
- Cllr. Martin McDermott – on the proposal of Cllr. Niamh Kennedy
- Emmett Johnston - on the proposal of Maire O'Leary
- Anthony Doogan - on the proposal of Paul Hannigan

6. Plean Gaeilge an Chontae Update

The Chairman invited Sean O'Daimhin to update the meeting with regard to the Plan. Sean O'Daimhin provided a bi-lingual presentation on the progress of the Plan to date and advised that Donegal County Council was requested by the Dept. to develop an Irish Language Plan for the county, to be prepared under the auspices of the LCDC. The development of the Plan is an objective of the LECP.

A sub-committee has been formed and the importance of broad participation on this group was reiterated in terms of achieving the aims and objectives of the Plan. The committee was advised of the next steps in the process including carrying out an audit of organisations in the county which are directly involved in the Irish language, developing contacts with appropriate organisations and the holding of focus groups and surveys to assist with the collation of data required. It is hoped that a draft Plan will be in place in November, which will allow consultation with schools and educational organisations from the new school term in September.

Michael O'hEanaigh commended Sean's input and the work of the sub group to date in developing the Plan thus far.

7. Gaeltacht Service Towns

The Chairman invited Sean O'Daimhin to update the committee with regard the Gaeltacht Service Towns on behalf on Caitlín Uí Chochlainn. Sean O'Daimhin advised that a response from Foras na Gaeilge is awaited regarding an application for funding regarding Letterkenny as a Gaeltacht Service Town.

8. Update on Donegal Local Economic and Community Plan

Members of the Economic Development Committee (EDC) joined the meeting for a joint presentation of the Update of the LECP. Seamus Neely invited Cllr. Ciaran Brogan, Cathaoirleach of Donegal County Council to proceed as chairperson for this meeting. A round of introductions took place and Cllr. Ciaran Brogan advised that he was looking forward to working with the LCDC and committee members.

Denis Kelly circulated a copy of new Departmental Guidelines on LECP's and invited Sinead Harkin to provide further detail as part of her presentation. Sinead Harkin advised that the revised Guidance requires LECP's to be fully adopted by the end of 2015 and also sets out requirements with regard to monitoring and review of the LECP. The Regional Assembly will undertake a review on a regional basis once all plans for the region have been submitted however individual feedback will not be provided. The LECP should be consistent with local and national policy including for example the County Development Plan, the Action Plan for Jobs, the Regional Planning Guidelines etc. as well as having regard to new funding programmes such as LEADER / RDP and REDZ. The LECP must demonstrate complementarity with the Local Development Strategy however it is not necessary for the both strategies to be adopted concurrently.

A draft vision for the LECP was provided for the consideration of LCDC members, to be discussed further at the next sitting of the LCDC. Examples of identified lead and partner agencies were presented. Work will continue with this task to ensure that appropriate lead and partner agencies are identified for each action.

Paul Hannigan and Cllr. Marie Therese Gallagher raised concerns in relation to the region in which Donegal is included in for the purposes of the LECP and the point was made that Donegal is included in a number of combinations of regions for different purposes and that this may prove a

disadvantage. Seamus Neely concurred and advised that Donegal may more naturally fit in a cross-border region. Seamus Neely added that the Regional Assembly's role is to ensure that the Plan is consistent with relevant local and national policy however LECP's are also permitted to include aims and objectives to address local and area based need.

In response to Maire O'Leary's query with regard the identification of lead / partner agencies, Sinead Harkin stated that it would be very helpful for agencies to identify themselves as lead / partner agencies for relevant actions.

Denis Kelly asked for any further suggested amendments to be brought to his immediate attention.

9. AOB

Martin McBride thanked Seamus Neely, Cllr. Ciaran Brogan & Michael O'hEanaigh for their support and assistance with the Fanad Lighthouse Project.

Cllr. Marie Therese Gallagher stated that the issue of local and community organisations being charged for Policing at local and fundraising events had been raised with her. Seamus Neely suggesting raising this matter at the next Joint Policing Committee meeting.

Next meeting - Council Chamber, Lifford 10am, Wednesday, 30th September 2015