

**Minutes of Donegal Local Community Development Committee
County House, Lifford, 10am 29th July 2016**

Members	Seamus Neely (Chair), Martin McBride, James O'Donnell, Michael MacGiolla Easbuig, Jim Slevin, Anne McHugh, Susan McLoughlin, Michael Tunney, Anthony Doogan, Cllr Niamh Kennedy, Susan McCauley, Nóirín Uí Mhaoldomhnaigh
Apologies	Paul Hannigan, Jan Feenstra, Maire O'Leary, PJ Hannon, Cllr Marie Therese Gallagher, Cllr Martin McDermott
Chief Officer	Paddy Doherty
Attending	Liam Ward, Donna McGroarty, Adrienne Kelly

Welcome

Seamus Neely chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone.

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Draft minutes of the LCDC meeting of 21st June 2016 were proposed by Martin McBride and seconded by Susan McLoughlin.

2. Matters Arising

No matters arising.

3. Donegal LEADER / RDP 2014-2020

Donegal LCDC Evaluation Committee

Paddy Doherty thanked the Implementing Partners and the Operational Working Group for their continued assistance and work. In relation to the establishment of the LCDC Evaluation Committee (EC), a diagram was circulated to members outlining the structure of three geographical EC's which has been approved by the Dept. for Co. Donegal. The structure and membership of the EC's will be agreed by the LCDC in consultation with the IP's (via the Operational Working Group). A diagram outlining the evaluation process from EOI to Article 48 Check was also circulated to each Member for their consideration.

Jim Slevin advised that Kerry LAG has received approval from the Dept. for the Boards of the IP's to have a consultative role as part of the evaluation process and queried if a similar process could be implemented in Donegal. Seamus Neely referred to section 5.5 of the Operating Guidelines and advised that the LCDC is solely responsible for making decisions on applications and that there was no formal role for the Boards of the IP's in the model agreed for Co. Donegal. Following a discussion, Seamus Neely confirmed that it was acceptable for Board Members of IP's to sit as members of the EC's. Paddy Doherty reiterated that LCDC members cannot sit on EC's. Anthony Doogan advised of the need to accept the changed LEADER / RDP model but also of the importance of ensuring that local knowledge and expertise be utilised as part of the evaluation process, suggesting that each Board Member of the respective IP be offered a place on the EC. Michael Tunney commented on the importance of achieving a good balance on the EC's and suggested that everyone be afforded equal opportunity.

Michael MacGiolla Easpuig requested that the evaluation process facilitate the consideration of applications as gaeilge in instances where applications are received in Irish. Seamus Neely advised that this would be welcomed and advised of the importance strengthening the Irish language. It was confirmed that the LCDC would make the necessary arrangements to accommodate this request.

Paddy Doherty summarised the discussion and advised that the next stage would be to establish 3 geographical EC's on behalf of the LCDC which will invite participation of the existing Boards of IP's.

Cllr. Niamh Kennedy advised that this was fair and workable solution. Martin McBride added that the members of the IP's should be content with this proposal. Jim Slevin advised that he was unclear about what was being proposed. Paddy Doherty provided further clarity including that the Operational Working Group will have a role in considering the composition of the EC's. Seamus Neely asked for alternative proposals / solutions. No alternative proposals / solutions were received.

In response to Anthony Doogan's query, Seamus Neely confirmed that the Project Officers of the IP's would have a role in presenting applications to both the EC's and the LCDC.

The proposal to establish 3 geographical Evaluation Committees on behalf of the LCDC, which will invite participation of the existing Boards of IP's was agreed by the LCDC on the proposal of Cllr. Kennedy, seconded by Martin McBride.

Service Level Agreements

A copy of the Service Level Agreement Template was circulated to each member of the Committee. Seamus Neely advised that this template was developed and agreed at national level and that since receiving it Paddy Doherty & Donna McGroarty had met with each of the IP's individually. The template was amended as necessary following discussions at these meetings. Paddy Doherty advised that SLA's are required to be completed in order to allow the release of advance administration / animation payments to the IP's.

Paddy Doherty drew the Committee's attention to the following amendments in particular:

Section 7.8

A discussion took place in relation to the impact section 7.8 would have on the budgets of the IP's. Paddy Doherty advised that Donegal County Council is providing a considerable contribution to the delivery of the Programme at local level and does not have a budget. Seamus Neely added that Pobal is currently undertaking the Article 48 checks and it is hoped that this system will continue for the remainder of the Programme, meaning budgets would not be affected. Seamus Neely also advised that in the case where the FP is required to carry out this work, it is hoped that an agreeable solution can be found by the LCDC.

It was agreed that the text for this section be amended to read: "The required amount for Article 48 checks managed by the FP will be provided for within the available amount for administration and animation costs under the Programme, **should this function be delegated to the FP**".

Jim Slevin advised that DLDC was not currently in a position to sign the SLA.

The LCDC, on the proposal of Martin McBride, seconded by James O Donnell, approved the release of advance administration / animation payments to the IP's upon completion of the respective SLA's subject to the agreed amendment under Section 7.8 as set out above.

4. PEACE IV

Paddy Doherty advised that the Stage 1 application was submitted on June 21st 2016. The Steering Committee of the SEUPB considered the application and asked for the application to be revised to include detail on the public consultation process that was carried out and for the application to be resubmitted by August 21st. Paddy Doherty stated that 6 public consultation events had taken place throughout the county and that a dedicated children and young people

consultation event was also held as this is a specific theme of the Programme. The PEACE IV Partnership Board met on July 28th when the resubmission of the stage one application was agreed (by August 12th), subject to a number of minor amendments. Seamus Neely confirmed the overall as being €5.5m. Liam Ward advised that the PEACE IV Partnership meeting had been very productive and that the needs identified as part of the overall public consultation process would be addressed via projects and actions in the stage 2 application. Susan McLoughlin thanked Donegal County Council for holding a dedicated consultation event for children and young people.

5. SICAP

Seamus Neely advised that the mid-year review had been completed by the LCDC SICAP Sub Committee and thanked members for their ongoing work. A report was circulated to all members outlining the process undertaken, any areas of concern as well as the recommendations of the Sub Committee.

With regard to **Lot 33-1** Paddy Doherty advised of the following:

- 5.1 KPI's 1 & 2 have been exceeded.
- 5.2 The majority of headline indicators have reached or exceeded the required 40% target.
- 5.3 It was noted that only one headline indicator had not reached 40% of the annual target set. The rationale provided was accepted by the Sub Committee.
- 5.4 Administrative costs incurred are at a rate of 45.49% (€67,690.77). No underspend is expected in the admin budget at year end. The monitoring budget is expected to be spent in the second half of 2016.
- 5.5 2016 mid-year budgets are as follows:
 - Goal 1 46.28% (€64,917.60)
 - Goal 2 44.98% (€63,154.77)
 - Goal 3 46.72% (€77,328.17)
- 5.6 The SICAP Sub Committee noted that IDP had exceeded budgets (for example KPI 9) which DLDC under-achieved on and it suggested that the IP's share learning and experiences.
- 5.7 Pobal confirmed that that quality of data uploaded to IRIS is good and IDP has agreed to make a small no. of rectifications.
- 5.8 IDP agreed to the uploading of data onto IRIS on a quarterly basis which will enable the monitoring of progress and budgets more regularly. Next uploading deadline agreed as 6th October.
- 5.9 The Sub Committee agreed that IDP had met the requirements with regard Additional Programme Delivery Considerations & has engaged very well with the LCDC SICAP Sub Committee.

The Committee was referred to Section 5 of the Performance Checklist which includes concerns raised by IDP during the mid-year review of Lot 33-1.

The LCDC SICAP Sub Committee was satisfied following the mid-year review, that IDP has achieved the targets set and met the programme objectives. The SICAP Sub Committee recommended that programme funding in the amount of €149,096.45 for the period 1st July to 30th September 2016 be released to Inishowen Development Partnership in respect of Lot 33-1. This amount has been reduced by €198.55 to take into account cash on hand at the end of 2015.

With regard to **Lot 33-2** Paddy Doherty advised of the following:

- 5.10 KPI's 1 & 2 have been exceeded.
- 5.11 The majority of headline indicators have reached or exceeded the required 40% target.
- 5.12 It was noted that a no. of headline indicators had not reached 40% of the annual target set and these were queried with DLDC. The rationale provided was accepted by the Sub

Committee in all instances (i.e. KPI's 6, 8, 10, 11 & 12). With regard to KPI 10, DLDC has advised that it may not be possible to fully achieve target at 100% by year end.

5.13 Administrative costs incurred are at an acceptable rate of 43.56% (€36,310.86).

5.14 2016 mid-year budgets are as follows:

- Goal 1 44.93% (€37,857)
- Goal 2 47.64% (€44,901.97)
- Goal 3 39.46% (€30,013)

5.15 DLDC has advised that due to the summer holiday period, it was not possible to meet some mid-year targets however programme activity will increase in the autumn months and assurances were given that the end of year targets are achievable (with the exception of those specified).

5.16 DLDC consider that there are benefits to be had from the setting of targets at a local level and suggest that this may enable greater impact for individuals (i.e. reduced quantitative targets and increased qualitative targets).

5.17 Pobal confirmed that that quality of data uploaded to IRIS is good and DLDC has agreed to make a small no. of rectifications.

5.18 As requested by the Sub Committee, DLDC agreed to the uploading of data onto IRIS on a quarterly basis which will enable the monitoring of progress and budgets more regularly. Next uploading deadline agreed as 6th October.

5.19 The Sub Committee agreed that DLDC had met the requirements with regard Additional Programme Delivery Considerations & has engaged very well with the LCDC SICAP Sub Committee.

The Committee was referred to Section 5 of the Performance Checklist which includes concerns raised by DLDC during the mid-year review of Lot 33-2.

Martin McBride stated that it appeared that meeting some targets in the Gaeltacht region is proving challenging which may be due to economic / social reasons. Susan McLoughlin advised that the emphasis seems to be on quantitative data rather than qualitative impact. Seamus Neely advised that in an effort to keep the LCDC informed of the qualitative information, the IP's will continue to directly present information on their work at local levels to the LCDC. In respect of the potential underachievement of KPI 10, Michael Tunney queried why this indicator was proving challenging in some areas and not in others. Cllr. Niamh Kennedy advised that IDP has a very strong network to support their work with this age group. Susan McCauley advised that JobPath (employment initiative programme run by DSP) may also be targeting this age bracket which may have an impact on the uptake of SICAP. James O'Donnell raised concerns about the impact of the recession and emigration on the West of Ireland. Anne McHugh advised of ongoing work between the ETB and LYIT in relation to the numbers of people leaving the region to attend 3rd level education but not returning. LYIT & ETB are aiming to use the critical mass of the NW region to make more 3rd level courses available with the aim of increasing the percentage of young people remaining in the region for 3rd level. Seamus Neely referred to the census information received to date and the overall reduction in Donegal's population figures (1.5%).

The LCDC SICAP Sub Committee was satisfied following the mid-year review, that DLDC had achieved the targets set and met the programme objectives. The SICAP Sub Committee recommended that programme funding in the amount of €78,798.89 for the period 1st July to 30th September 2016 be released to Donegal Local Development Company with regard to Lot 33-2. This amount has been reduced by €6,054.86 to take into account cash on hand at the end of 2015.

With regard to **Lot 33-3** Paddy Doherty advised of the following:

5.20 KPI's 1 & 2 have been exceeded.

5.21 It was noted that a no. of headline indicators had not reached 40% of the annual target set and these were queried with DLDC. The rationale provided was accepted by the Sub

Committee in all instances (i.e. KPI's 8 & 12). With regard to KPI 12, DLDC has advised that it may not be possible to fully achieve target at 100% by year end and have estimated achievement at 70%.

- 5.22 Administrative costs incurred are at a rate of 40.09% (€103,041.62).
- 5.23 2016 mid-year budgets are as follows:
- Goal 1 37.88% (€97,150.60)
 - Goal 2 40.68% (€104,344.66)
 - Goal 3 48.97% (€130,000.93)
- 5.24 DLDC has advised that due to the summer holiday period, it was not possible to meet some mid-year targets however programme activity will increase in the autumn months and assurances were given that the end of year targets are achievable (with the exception of those specified).
- 5.25 Pobal has confirmed that that quality of data uploaded to IRIS is good and DLDC has agreed to make a small no. of rectifications.
- 5.26 As requested by the Sub Committee, DLDC agreed to the uploading of data onto IRIS on a quarterly basis which will enable the monitoring of progress and budgets more regularly. Next uploading deadline agreed as 6th October.
- 5.27 The Sub Committee agreed that DLDC had met the requirements with regard Additional Programme Delivery Considerations & has engaged very well with the LCDC SICAP Sub Committee.

It was agreed that the concerns raised by DLDC during the mid-year review of Lot 33-3 would be included in Section 5 of the Performance Checklist.

The LCDC SICAP Sub Committee was satisfied following the mid-year review, that DLDC has achieved the targets set and met the programme objectives. The SICAP Sub Committee recommended that programme funding in the amount of €211,320.74 for the period 1st July to 30th September 2016 be released to Donegal Local Development Company in respect of Lot 33-3. This amount has been reduced by €48,175.51 to take into account cash on hand at the end of 2015.

The recommendations of the LCDC SICAP Sub Committee were approved by the LCDC on the proposal of Anne McHugh, seconded by Michael Tunney.

6. AOB

Martin McBride advised of a follow meeting which will be taking place with regard the application for Letterkenny to be recognised as a Gaeltacht Service Town. 60 / 70 people attended the first meeting and the Committee was advised that it important for non-Irish speakers to attend the meeting also. Seamus Neely advised that many Irish speakers live and work in Letterkenny.

7. Date of next meeting

The next meeting was confirmed for **Wednesday, 28th September at 2pm in County House, Lifford.**

Seamus Neely thanked everyone for their attendance. This concluded the business of the meeting.