

**Minutes of Donegal Local Community Development Committee  
Held by web conference 10.15 am on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

<b>Members</b>	Clr Niamh Kennedy (Chair), John McLaughlin, Clr Maire Therese Gallagher, Aengus Kennedy, Anne McHugh, Michael Tunney, Paul Hannigan, Michael MacGiolla Easbuig, Andrew Ward, Joe Boland, Charlene Logue, Kathleen Bonner and Seamus Bonner
<b>Apologies</b>	James O Donnell, Siobhan McLaughlin and Anne McAteer
<b>Chief Officer</b>	Paddy Doherty
<b>Attending</b>	Liam Ward, Seamus Canning, Claire McCallan, Eileen Burgess, Adrienne Kelly, Kathleen Browne and Charlene Gillespie

**Welcome**

Clr Niamh Kennedy, Chairperson, welcomed everyone and thanked the members present for participating in the meeting.

**1. Draft minutes of the LCDCC meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

The minutes of the previous LCDCC Meeting were considered with no matters arising. On the proposal of Michael MacGiolla Easbuig, seconded by Joe Boland, the minutes of LCDCC Meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> January 2022 were adopted.

**2. SICAP Annual Progress Report 2021 and Annual Plans 2022 Presentations**

**Lot 33-1**

Shauna McClenaghan and Patricia Lee, IDP, joined the meeting

Patricia made a presentation to members setting out details of the delivery of the SICAP Programme for Lot 33-1 in 2021.

Patricia also made a presentation to members setting out details of the proposed SICAP Annual Plan for Lot 33-1 for 2022.

Clr Niamh Kennedy thanked Patricia for her detailed and informative presentations. Clr Maire Therese Gallagher queried if there were any supports for families affected by MICA that the LCDCC could advocate for. Patricia Lee confirmed that a collaborative approach was vital in the delivery of supports and support for families and household members underpinned all actions and programmes. Charlene Logue confirmed that Donegal Youth Services had commenced a programme to support young people effected by MICA with two full time staff located in Inishowen. Anne McHugh advised that funding for supports for

young people effected by MICA had been raised by the ETB at a recent meeting with the Department of Education.

Liam Ward advised that a proposal to allocate funding from CYPSC to provide community resilience supports to families effected by MICA would be brought to the March CYPSC meeting.

Shauna McClenaghan confirmed that it was essential that groups collaborate and be as agile as possible to ensure appropriate supports are in place to assist people as the need arises eg community support in emergency situation, assistance with completing forms etc. Andrew Ward confirmed that assistance with completing forms was one of many issues faced by people affected by MICA. He advised that the scale of the problems to be addressed would require a co-ordinated approach from all agencies.

Clr Maire Therese Gallagher recognised all the good work being done and called on all agencies represented on the LCDC to ensure as much support as possible is put in place for families and households effected by MICA.

### **Lot 33-2**

Margaret Larkin and Ciara Cronin, DLDC joined the meeting Margaret made a presentation to Members setting out details of the Goal 1 element of the SICAP Programme and Ciara made a presentation setting out details of the Goal 2 element of the SICAP Programme for Lot 33-2 in 2021.

Margaret and Ciara also made a presentation to members setting out details of the proposed SICAP Annual Plan for Lot 33-2 for 2022.

Clr Maire Therese Gallagher expressed her delight that youth mental health was included as a priority action for Lot 33-2. She advised that it was very difficult to find support services for children in crisis and expressed her concern that many programmes, such as Gemma's Legacy for Hope, are dependant on fundraising and called for the stability of these programmes and services to be prioritised. Clr Gallagher also raised the issue of support services for victims of Domestic Abuse, Drugs and Alcohol.

Margaret Larkin confirmed that DLDC had provided supports to Playmatters, the group behind Gemma's Legacy of Hope, to manage and deliver their services and would continue to do so.

Clr Niamh Kennedy, on behalf of the LCDC, thanked them for their informative presentations.

### **Lot 33-3**

Margaret Larkin and Ciara Cronin, DLDC made a presentation to Members setting out details of the Goal 1 element and Goal 2 elements of the SICAP Programme for Lot 33-3 in 2021.

Margaret and Ciara also made a presentation to members setting out details of the proposed SICAP Annual Plan for Lot 33-2 for 2022.

Seamus Bonner suggested that supports for remote working, specifically for the long term unemployed and disabled, be included in future plans. Cllr Niamh Kennedy also raised the difficulty being faced in the hospitality sector to fill vacancies,

On behalf of the LCDC, Cllr Niamh Kennedy, thanked Margaret and Ciara for their informative presentations.

### **3. Approval of Annual Plans 2022 in Principle**

Members considered approval of Annual Plans 2022 in principle as follows:

#### **Lot 33-1 – Donegal Inishowen**

Members considered Lot 33-1 Annual Plan 2022, which had been circulated with the Agenda, and report from SICAP Sub Committee which circulated was in advance of the meeting.

Seamus Canning advised members that the Annual Plan 2022 for Lot 33-1 (Donegal Inishowen), was brought before the LCDC SICAP Sub Committee for consideration on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

#### Document Check

Seamus confirmed that all required documentation has been uploaded onto IRIS.

#### Budget

Members were advised that the annual budget for 2022 is €682,756.00. It was confirmed that the Plan met all the criteria set down in relation to financial and budgetary checks and the PI had detailed where any underspend from 2021 and how the budget increase for 2022 would be allocated in 2022. They had also detailed where the portion of the budget increase had been allocated to address the Mid Programme Priorities.

#### Targets

Seamus advised that the KPI Targets set by the LCDC are aligned with the targets set for Goal 1 (36), Goal (299) and KPI2 disadvantaged area target (37%).

#### Actions

Seamus advised members as follows:-

#### Goal 1

- There are 5 actions under Goal 1, which includes one new action for 2022 – Strengthening Social Enterprise. The rationale and descriptions provided for the actions provide sufficient detail to indicate that they are SICAP appropriate, well structured and realistic.
- The target groups identified offer a wide geographic and sectoral spread throughout Inishowen.
- The proposed actions are targeting the community and voluntary sector in Inishowen and are seeking to empower the groups and sustain the community. They sufficiently target groups in the Lot and prioritise the work of SICAP.
- The LDC has indicated that the underspend from 2021 will be spent on partially funding a Social Enterprise Officer post.

- The LDC has detailed that the budget increase of 11% allocated will be spent across all programmes and confirmed that this includes actions to address the Mid Programme priorities.
- All five actions under Goal 1 have Emerging Needs Target Group (Rural Isolation – transport & connectivity) selected as their primary target group and their needs will be met and each action has at least one LDC staff member assigned to it and a target assigned, where relevant.
- IDP will deliver all the actions in the Plan in collaboration with the partners listed in their Annual Plan.
- All actions have been linked to the relevant LECP objectives and action cost details have been uploaded against all 5 actions. The plan is assisting in implementing the LECP
- All proposed actions are to be implemented in conjunction with community groups in a way that is consistent with the horizontal themes of community development, equality and collaboration.

## Goal 2

- There are 5 actions under Goal 2, which include one new action for 2022 – Facilitating Inclusion for All. The rationale and descriptions provided for the actions indicate that they are SICAP appropriate, well structured and realistic.
- The Goal 2 actions target issues such as employment, wellbeing and progression. The proposed actions are to be delivered across the Inishowen Peninsula and are targeting all identified SICAP objectives that make up sustainable communities.
- The Emerging Needs Target group – Rural Isolation – Transport & Connectivity, is the primary target for Action 10.
- The LDC has detailed that the budget increase of 11% allocated will be spent across all programmes and confirmed that a portion of the additional budget will address the Mid Programme priorities in Actions 6, 9 and 10.
- Each action has at least one LDC staff member assigned to it and a target assigned, where relevant.
- IDP will deliver all the actions in the Plan in collaboration with a wide range of appropriate and relevant the partners who are identified in their Annual Plan.
- All actions have been linked to the relevant LECP objectives and action cost details have been uploaded against all 5 actions and the plan will assist in the implementation of the LECP
- All proposed actions take account of the horizontal themes of community development, equality and collaboration. Whilst Goal 2 is aimed at individuals it should be noted that equality and networking are important elements of the actions

Members were informed that the Pobal Review of the plan was complete and that any issues raised, which were minor, had been addressed by IDP.

On the proposal of Joe Boland, seconded by Michael Tunney, members approved in principle the 2022 Annual Plan for Lot 33-1.

## **Lot 33-2 – Donegal Gaeltacht**

Members considered Lot 33-2 Annual Plan 2022, which had been circulated with the Agenda, and report from SICAP Sub Committee which circulated was in advance of the meeting.

Seamus Canning advised members that the Annual Plan 2022 for Lot 33-2 (Donegal Gaeltacht), was brought before the LCDC SICAP Sub Committee for consideration on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2022

### Document Check

Seamus confirmed that all required documentation has been uploaded onto IRIS.

### Budget

Members were advised that the Annual Budget is €439,034.00. It was confirmed that the Plan met all the criteria set down in relation to budgetary checks and the PI had detailed where any underspend from 2021 and how the budget increase for 2022 would be allocated in 2022. They also detailed where the portion of the 20% budget increase had been allocated to address the Mid Programme Priorities.

### Targets

Seamus advised that the KPI Targets set by the LCDC are aligned with the targets set for Goal 1 (28) and Goal 2 (159) and KPI2 disadvantaged area target (44%).

### Actions

Seamus advised members as follows:-

#### Goal 1

- There are 5 actions under Goal 1 and the rationale and descriptions provided for the actions indicate that they are SICAP appropriate, well structured and realistic.
- The actions included in the 2022 plan are a continuation or expansion of last year's actions
- All actions are eligible and relevant. It is proposed to deliver the actions through a large number of community organisations and actions are based on expressed community needs. The actions will seek to empower the groups and sustain the Community. The actions prioritise the work of SICAP across the Lot. The actions target identified SICAP objectives
- Actions which have 'People living in disadvantaged communities' named as the primary target group clearly name programmes for groups in a designated disadvantaged area.
- The LDC has indicated where the underspend from 2021 will be spent (Goal1 Action 1) and have detailed how the budget increase of 20% will be spent across all Goal 1 actions and on confirmed that this includes spend on actions to address the Mid Programme priorities (Goal 1 Actions 1 and 4).
- The Emerging need Target Group has been selected as the secondary target for Actions 1, 2, 3 and 4
- DLDC will deliver the actions within collaboration with a wide range of relevant partners and the outlined actions support the achievement of the desired thematic outcomes.

- Each action has at least one LDC staff member assigned to it and a target assigned, where relevant
- All actions are consistent with the objectives of Goal 4 of the LECP – sustainable, inclusive and healthy communities and the plan will assist in implementing the LECP.
- All proposed actions take account of the horizontal themes of community development, equality and collaboration and will be implemented in conjunction with community groups in a way that is consistent with community development principles.

## Goal 2

- There are 7 Actions under Goal 2 and the rationale and descriptions provided for the actions indicate that they are SICAP appropriate, well structured and realistic.
- The actions included in the 2022 plan are a continuation or expansion of last year's Actions.
- The Goal 2 actions are aimed at individuals and target issues such as employment, wellbeing and progression. There will be a wide range of impacts from the delivery of the Actions and the actions target identified SICAP objectives
- Actions which have 'People living in disadvantaged communities' named as the primary target group clearly name a designated disadvantaged area.
- The LDC has indicated that the underspend from 2021 and Budget increases will be spent on Goal 1 actions and the agreed Mid Programme Priorities also relate to Goal 1 actions only.
- The Emerging need Target Group has been selected as the primary target for Action 7 and the action supports this group.
- DLDC will deliver the actions within collaboration with a wide range of relevant partners and the outlined actions support the achievement of the desired thematic outcomes.
- Each action has at least one LDC staff member assigned to it and a target assigned, where relevant
- All actions are consistent with the objectives of Goal 4 of the LECP – sustainable, inclusive and healthy communities and the plan will assist in the implementation of the LECP.
- Although Goal 2 actions are aimed at individuals equality and networking are important elements of the actions and all actions take account of the horizontal themes of community development, equality and collaboration.

Members were informed that the Pobal Review the plan was complete and that any issues raised, which were minor, had been addressed by DLDC

On the proposal of Joe Boland, seconded by Michael Tunney, members approved in principle the 2022 Annual Plan for Lot 33-2.

## **Lot 33-3 – Donegal**

Members considered Lot 33-3 Annual Plan 2022, which had been circulated with the Agenda, and report from SICAP Sub Committee which circulated was in advance of the meeting.

Seamus Canning advised members that the Annual Plan 2022 for Lot 33-3 (Donegal), was brought before the LCDC SICAP Sub Committee for consideration on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2022

#### Document Check

Seamus confirmed that all required documentation has been uploaded onto IRIS.

#### Budget

Members were advised that the Annual Budget is €1,145,033. The Plan meets all the criteria set down in relation to budgetary checks and the PI had detailed where any underspend from 2021 and how the budget increase for 2022 would be allocated in 2022. They also detailed where the portion of the 5% budget increase had been allocated to address the Mid Programme Priorities.

#### Targets

Seamus advised that the KPI Targets set by the LCDC are aligned with the targets set for Goal 1 (46), Goal 2 (477) and KPI2 disadvantaged area target (28%).

#### Actions

Seamus advised members as follows:-

#### Goal 1

- There are 5 actions under Goal 1 and the rationale and descriptions provided for the actions indicate that they are SICAP appropriate, well structured and realistic.
- The actions included in the 2022 plan are a continuation or expansion of last year's actions
- All actions are eligible and relevant. It is proposed to deliver the actions through a large number of community organisations and actions are based on expressed community needs. The actions will seek to empower the groups and sustain the Community. The actions prioritise the work of SICAP across the Lot. The actions target identified SICAP objectives
- Actions which have 'People living in disadvantaged communities' named as the primary target group clearly name programmes for groups in a designated disadvantaged area.
- The LDC has indicated where the underspend from 2021 will be spent (Actions 1 and 4) and have detailed how the budget increase of 5% will be spent across all Goal 1 actions and on confirmed that this includes spend on actions to address the Mid Programme priorities (Goal 1 Actions 1 and 4).
- The Emerging need Target Group has been selected as the secondary target for Actions 1, 2, 3 and 4
- DLDC will deliver the actions within collaboration with a wide range of relevant partners and the outlined actions support the achievement of the desired thematic outcomes.
- Each action has at least one LDC staff member assigned to it and a target assigned, where relevant
- All actions are consistent with the objectives of Goal 4 of the LECP – sustainable, inclusive and healthy communities and the plan will assist in implementing the LECP.
- All proposed actions take account of the horizontal themes of community development, equality and collaboration and will be implemented in conjunction with community groups in a way that is consistent with community development principles.

## Goal 2

- There are 7 Actions under Goal 2 and the rationale and descriptions provided for the actions indicate that they are SICAP appropriate, well structured and realistic.
- The actions included in the 2022 plan are a continuation or expansion of last year's Actions.
- The Goal 2 actions are aimed at individuals and target issues such as employment, wellbeing and progression. There will be a wide range of impacts from the delivery of the Actions and the actions target identified SICAP objectives
- Actions which have 'People living in disadvantaged communities' named as the primary target group clearly name a designated disadvantaged area.
- The LDC has indicated that the underspend from 2021 and a portion of the Budget increases will be spent on Action 5. Action 2 will address the outcome of the mid programme review and the agreed Statement of Priorities.
- The Emerging need Target Group has been selected as the primary target for Action 7 and the action supports this group.
- DLDC will deliver the actions within collaboration with a wide range of relevant partners and the outlined actions support the achievement of the desired thematic outcomes.
- Each action has at least one LDC staff member assigned to it and a target assigned, where relevant
- All actions are consistent with the objectives of Goal 4 of the LECP – sustainable, inclusive and healthy communities and the plan will assist in the implementation of the LECP.
- Although Goal 2 actions are aimed at individuals equality and networking are important elements of the actions and all actions take account of the horizontal themes of community development, equality and collaboration.

Members were informed that the Pobal Review the plan was complete and that any issues raised, which were minor, had been addressed by DLDC

On the proposal of Joe Boland, seconded by Michael Tunney, members approved in principle the 2022 Annual Plan for Lot 33-3.

## **4. Approval of SICAP Annual Performance Reviews 2021**

Members considered the approval of SICAP Annual Performance Review 2021 for Lots 33-1, 33-2 and 33-3 as follows:-

### **Lot 33-1**

Seamus Canning reported to the members on the Annual Progress Report submitted by Inishowen Development Partnership for Lot 33-1 for 2021. The Narrative Report, Lot Summary Report, Lot Cost Charged Reports were circulated to members with the Agenda and the Report and recommendation from the SICAP Sub Committee had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

Members were informed that the Annual Progress Report 2021 for Lot 33-1 (Inishowen), was brought before the LCDC SICAP Sub Committee for consideration on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2022. Following consideration of the Pobal Parallel review and review of all reports and



documents submitted (as set out below), the SICAP Sub Committee were satisfied to recommend approval of the Annual Progress Report 2021 for Lot 33-1 Donegal Inishowen.

#### Document Checks

Members were advised that all required documentation has been uploaded onto IRIS. The End of Year Narrative Report had been submitted and all sections of the report had been completed satisfactorily.

#### Annual Targets

Seamus Canning advised members that the overall progress for Lot 33-1 in 2021 was good with targets for KPI1 and 2 being achieved and exceeded. The target for percentage of KPI 2 participants from Disadvantaged areas was also achieved and exceeded. The Action Progress report indicated that whilst the overall KPI 1 and 2 Targets had been achieved and exceeded, there was a large overachievement in some Action Targets and an underachievement in others. A satisfactory rationale was received from IDP in relation to this breakdown.

#### Budget Parameters

It was confirmed that the Sub Committee examined the Financial Reports submitted and confirmed that budget management by Inishowen Development Partnership was in line with Programme Guidelines. Admin costs charged as a % of Annual Budget did not exceed 25% and the costs reported against each Goal 1 and 2 as a percentage of the total actions costs was within the 40-60% threshold. The amount of spend reported on sub contractors did not exceed 30% of the total budget amount. No grants were paid by Inishowen Development Partnership in 2021. Verification checks on expenditure and VAT were carried out by Donegal County Council and no issues of concern were identified. There was a Budget underspend of €21,767.54 (3.538%) which was less than the 5% permitted to be carried forward to be spend in 2022. Therefore, no remedies need to be applied. IDP have clearly detailed in the Annual Plan 2022 where the under spent monies carried forward into 2022 will be spent

#### Additional Programme Delivery Considerations

It was confirmed that Valid Certificates of Insurance were in place and the Tax Clearance Certificate for IDP is up to date. IDP adhered to all publicity requirements.

Members were advised that the Sub Committee agreed that engagement with PI was good throughout 2021 with requests for updates, financial claims and meetings all being promptly addressed. Through engagement with the PI and as evidenced in the excellent Annual Progress Narrative Report 2021 submitted the Sub Committee were confident that IDP had clearly evidenced their capacity and adhere to the three horizontal themes of SICAP.

#### Lot Level Performance

Having examined the Lot Summary Report the Sub Committee confirmed that the Local Community Group and individual supports and interventions were in line with local needs. The Lot Level Summary Report confirmed that the type of supports to Children and Families were in line with local needs.

The Lot Level Performance report evidenced that the level of engagement with individuals and LCGs in disadvantaged areas and from SICAP Target Groups/Emerging Needs Group were in also in accordance with local needs and priorities.

### Case Studies

The Sub Committee confirmed that the case study under the Goal 1 Project Theme on the EnVision Inshowen Service, submitted and presented by IDP at the LCDC Meeting in October, was of good quality and reflected the quality of the work on the ground by IDP. The Case Study clearly captured the journey of the participants of the EnVision Inishowen Service from over 40 towns, villages and settlements across the Inishowen Peninsul and the agreed priorities that resulted from their participation.

### Pobal Parallel Review

The Pobal parallel review was satisfactory and any issues which arose with the Data Checks had been resolved and that.

### Overall Assessment

The LCDC Sicap Sub Committee found no areas of concern requiring further engagement with IDP in conducting the Annual Performance review.

On the proposal of Charlene Logue, seconded by Joe Boland, the LCDC approved the Annual Progress Report 2021 for Lot 33-1 and recommended that Programme Funding in the amount of €58,893.34 for the period 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 be released to Inishowen Development Partnership. Members noted that the approval of the End of Year Review also resulted in the Final Approval for the Lot 33-1 Annual Plan 2022, which had been approved in principle earlier in the meeting.

The LCDC that IDP continue to provide regular updates at LCDC Meetings throughout 2022 on Programme Delivery and Expenditure for Lots 33-1.

### **Lot 33-2 – Donegal Gaeltacht**

Seamus Canning reported to the members on the Annual Progress Report submitted by Donegal Local Development CLG for Lot 33-2 for 2021. The Narrative Report, Lot Summary Report, Lot Cost Charged Reports were circulated to members with the Agenda and the Report and recommendation from the SICAP Sub Committee had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

Members were informed that the Annual Progress Report 2021 for Lot 33-2 (Gaeltacht), was brought before the LCDC SICAP Sub Committee for consideration on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2022. Following consideration of the Pobal Parallel review and review of all reports and documents submitted (as set out below), the SICAP Sub Committee were satisfied to recommend approval of the Annual Progress Report 2020 for Lot 33-2 Donegal Gaeltacht.

### Document Checks

Members were advised that all required documentation has been uploaded onto IRIS. The End of Year Narrative Report had been submitted and all sections of the report had been completed satisfactorily.

### Annual Targets

Seamus Canning advised members that the overall progress for Lot 33-2 in 2021 was good with targets for KPI1 and 2 being achieved and exceeded. The target for percentage of KPI 2 participants from Disadvantaged areas was also achieved and significantly exceeded.

The Action Progress report indicated that whilst the overall KPI 1 and 2 Targets had been achieved and exceeded, there was a large overachievement in some Action Targets and an underachievement in others. A satisfactory rationale was received from DLDC in relation to this breakdown.

#### Budget Parameters

It was confirmed that the Sub Committee examined the Financial Reports submitted and confirmed that budget management by Donegal Local Development Company was in line with Programme Guidelines. Admin costs charged as a % of Annual Budget did not exceed 25% and the costs reported against each Goal 1 and 2 as a percentage of the total actions costs was within the threshold agreed in the Lot 33-2 Annual Plan. The amount of spend reported on sub contractors did not exceed 30% of the total budget amount. No grants were paid by DLDC in 2021. Verification checks on expenditure and VAT were carried out by Donegal County Council and no issues of concern were identified. The Budget underspend of €17,367.00 (4.77%) is less than 5% of the total budget. Therefore, no remedies need to be applied. DLDC have clearly detailed in the Annual Plan 2022 where the under spent monies carried forward into 2022 will be spent.

#### Additional Programme Delivery Considerations

It was confirmed that Valid Certificates of Insurance were in place and the Tax Clearance Certificate for DLDC is up to date. DLDC had also adhered to all publicity requirements.

The Sub Committee agreed that engagement with PI was good throughout 2021 with requests for updates, financial claims and meetings all being promptly addressed. Through engagement with the PI and as evidenced in the Annual Progress Narrative Report 2021 submitted the Sub Committee were confident that DLDC had clearly evidenced their capacity and adhered to the three horizontal themes of SICAP.

#### Lot Level Performance

Having examined the Lot Summary Report the Sub Committee confirmed that the Local Community Group and individual supports and interventions were in line with local needs. The Lot Level Summary Report confirmed that the type of supports to Children and Families were in line with local needs.

The Lot Level Performance report evidenced that the level of engagement with individuals and LCGs in disadvantaged areas and from SICAP Target Groups/Emerging Needs Group were in also in accordance with local needs and priorities.

#### Case Studies

The Sub Committee confirmed that the case study submitted and presented by DLDC at the LCDC Meeting in October under the Goal 2 Theme on Preparing People for Employment and to Remain in Work was of good quality and reflected the quality of the work on the ground by DLDC. It clearly evidenced the achievement of the aims of the programme, which were to promote confidence in navigating the world of employment for the young adults who participated.

#### Pobal Parallel Review

The Pobal parallel review was satisfactory and issues which arose with the Data Checks have been resolved.

### Overall Assessment

The LCDC Sicap Sub Committee found no areas of concern requiring further engagement with DLDC in conducting the Annual Performance review.

On the proposal of Charlene Logue, seconded by Joe Boland, the LCDC approved the Annual Progress Report 2021 for Lot 33-2 and recommended that Programme Funding in the amount of €36,586.17 for the period 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 be released to Donegal Local Development CLG. Members noted that the approval of the End of Year Review also resulted in the Final Approval for the Lot 33-2 Annual Plan 2022, which had been approved in principle earlier in the meeting.

The LCDC that DLDC to continue to provide regular updates at LCDC Meetings throughout 2022 on Programme Delivery and Expenditure for Lots 33-2.

### **Lot 33-3 – Donegal**

Seamus Canning reported to the members on the Annual Progress Report submitted by Donegal Local Development CLG for Lot 33-3 for 2021. The Narrative Report, Lot Summary Report, Lot Cost Charged Reports were circulated to members with the Agenda and the Report and recommendation from the SICAP Sub Committee had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

Members were informed that the Annual Progress Report 2021 for Lot 33-3 (Donegal), was brought before the LCDC SICAP Sub Committee for consideration on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2022. Following consideration of the Pobal Parallel review and review of all reports and documents submitted (as set out below), the SICAP Sub Committee were satisfied to recommend approval of the Annual Progress Report 2020 for Lot 33-3 Donegal.

### Document Checks

Members were advised that all required documentation has been uploaded onto IRIS. The End of Year Narrative Report had been submitted and all sections of the report had been completed satisfactorily.

### Annual Targets

Seamus advised members that the overall progress for Lot 33-3 in 2021 was good with targets for KPI1 and 2 being achieved and exceeded. The target for percentage of KPI 2 participants from Disadvantaged areas was also achieved and exceeded. The Action Progress report indicated that whilst the overall KPI 1 and 2 Targets had been achieved and exceeded, there was a large overachievement in some Action Targets and an underachievement in others. A satisfactory rationale was received from DLDC in relation to this breakdown

### Budget Parameters

The Sub Committee examined the Financial Reports submitted and confirmed that budget management by Donegal Local Development Company was in line with Programme Guidelines. Admin costs charged as a % of Annual Budget did not exceed 25% and the costs reported against each Goal 1 and 2 as a percentage of the total actions costs was within the threshold agreed in the Lot 33-3 Annual Plan. The amount of spend reported on sub contractors did not exceed 30% of the total budget amount. The total grant amount reported as spend was less than or equal to 7.5% of the total action budget amount. No grants were paid by DLDC to individuals. Grants that were paid to Local Community

Groups or to an Enterprise Start up or Social Enterprise did not include more than one grant to any group and none of the grants awarded exceeded the maximum eligible amount of €2,500.

Verification checks on expenditure and VAT were carried out by Donegal County Council and no issues of concern were identified.

The Budget under spend of €60,435.82 (5.21%) exceeded the 5% of the overall annual budget that can be carried forward and spent in 2022. Therefore 0.21% of the overall budget, €2,443.83, must be deducted from the next payment to the LCDC in 2022. DLDC have clearly detailed in the Annual Plan 2022 where the remaining under spent monies carried forward into 2022 will be spent.

#### Additional Programme Delivery Considerations

It was confirmed that Valid Certificates of Insurance were in place and the Tax Clearance Certificate for DLDC is up to date. DLDC had also adhered to all publicity requirements.

Members were advised that the Sub Committee agreed that engagement with PI was good throughout 2021 with requests for updates, financial claims and meetings all being promptly addressed. Through engagement with the PI and as evidenced in the Annual Progress Narrative Report 2021 submitted the Sub Committee were confident that DLDC had clearly evidenced their capacity and adhere to the three horizontal themes of SICAP.

#### Lot Level Performance

Having examined the Lot Summary Report the Sub Committee confirmed that the Local Community Group and individual supports and interventions were in line with local needs. The Lot Level Summary Report confirmed that the type of supports to Children and Families were in line with local needs.

The Lot Level Performance report evidenced that the level of engagement with individuals and LCGs in disadvantaged areas and from SICAP Target Groups/Emerging Needs Group were in also in accordance with local needs and priorities.

#### Case Study

The Sub Committee confirmed that the case study submitted and presented by DLDC at the LCDC Meeting in October under the Goal 1 or 2 Project Theme on 'Goal 1 – Support Social Enterprises which contribute to SICAP Outcomes was of good quality and reflected the quality of the work on the ground by DLDC. The Case Study clearly evidenced the establishment of the Social Enterprise Network Donegal (SEND) a support structure for frontline organisations and its achievements.

#### Pobal Parallel Review

The Pobal parallel review was satisfactory and issues which arose with the Data Checks have been resolved..

#### Overall Assessment

The LCDC Sicap Sub Committee found no areas of concern requiring further engagement with DLDC in conducting the Annual Performance review.

On the proposal of Charlene Logue, seconded by Joe Boland, the LCDC approved the Annual Progress Report 2021 for Lot 33-3 and recommended that Programme Funding in

the amount of €92,975.59 for the period 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 be released to Donegal Local Development CLG. This figure reflects the deduction €2,443.83 from the figure due for Payment 2 Quarter 2 to repay underspend above 5% in 2021. Members noted that the approval of the End of Year Review also resulted in the Final Approval for the Lot 33-3 Annual Plan 2022, which had been approved in principle earlier in the meeting.

The LCDC that DLDC to continue to provide regular updates at LCDC Meetings throughout 2022 on Programme Delivery and Expenditure for Lots 33-3.

## **5. SICAP Audit 2020**

Members considered the SICAP Audit 2020 which was circulated with the Agenda for the meeting. Seamus Canning advised members that the audit of the SICAP programme is provided for in the SICAP Funding Agreement between the Department of Rural & Community Development and the LCDC. He confirmed that this was the third year the audit has been carried by DCC Internal Audit Section in conjunction with Community Development administration. Members were informed that the purpose of the audit is to undertake independent checks of both the financial and non-financial records and activity to ensure that there is compliance with all of the requirements of the programme.

Seamus advised that, as was the case in 2019, the 2020 audit was carried out remotely. The cooperation of the PIs in this regard was acknowledged and appreciated.

Members were advised that the processes examined during the audit were found to be in compliance with the SICAP programme requirements.

On the proposal of Clr Maire Therese Gallagher seconded by Clr Niamh Kennedy members noted and approved the SICAP Audit 2020.

## **6. Letterkenny Town Social Enterprise Grants**

Paddy Doherty reminded members that at the LCDC Meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> November they were advised that this Scheme was an initiative being taken by Donegal County Council in conjunction with the Northern & Western Regional Assembly under the National Social Enterprise Policy for Ireland. The application form and guidelines for the scheme were based on the parameters used for the National Social Enterprise Grant Scheme 2021. Expressions of interest were sought from Social Enterprises to be submitted by 3pm on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

Members were informed that on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021, the LCDC Grant Evaluation Sub Committee met to evaluate applications received for the scheme. 8 applications were initially received with one being subsequently withdrawn.

Sub Committee Members agreed that the parameters used for the National Social Enterprise Grant Scheme recently administered by the LCDC, should be applied to the evaluation of these applications. The Department of Rural and Community Development had confirmed at an information Webinar for the National Social Enterprise Grants Scheme that sporting organisations could not be categorized as Social Enterprises for the purpose of this funding scheme. One application from a Sports Group was accordingly deemed invalid by the Sub Committee.

The 6 remaining Expressions of Interest were deemed valid pending submission of additional information from one applicant.

Shortly after the evaluation of applications, the Northern & Western Regional Assembly advised that following an audit review they could not allow the €1million allocated to Donegal County Council to be used for this grant scheme as the principal beneficiaries of the monies must be Donegal County Council.

Internal discussion took place within Donegal County Council and they have agreed to honour the process of the scheme and permit the award of grants to the applications which had been received before the closing date, evaluated by the LCDC Grant Evaluation Sub Committee and deemed valid.

Members of the LCDC Grant Evaluation met on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2022 to review additional information received from applicant and agreed to recommend the approval of the following Expressions of Interest in the Letterkenny Town Social Enterprise Grants to Donegal LCDC:-

<b>Name</b>	<b>Purpose of Grant</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Cairde le Cheile	To build extension to existing building to create a disability friendly rest area, sensory room and garden, multi-purpose changing room for people with disabilities, toilets (with public access) and disability access to all areas from town park	€200,000.00
Letterkenny Community Development CLG	To purchase two units in Courtyard Shopping Centre for use as Charity Shop, Office Space and space for programmes eg Adult Education Classes, Alternative Therapies, Exhibitions, Youth Programmes, Drop in for older Adults, IT Classes, Men's & Women's Health Programmes, Office Services.	€200,000.00
Cara House	Development of Active Age Centre (former Furniture 2000 building behind Charley's Cafe) to complete upper floor and install lift, necessary works to make building fire safety compliant, construction of internal divisions to make it usable for classes/groups as well as offices & installation of hot desk facilities	€125,000.00
Letterkenny Community Centre	To Build meeting room, kitchen, changing facilities, showers and toilets for players and officials to include a viewing area which is fully accessible to wheelchair users. Meeting area and kitchen will be available to wider community.	€200,000.00
Congress Centre Network	Renovation of ground floor of McKendrick House, Pearse Rd, Letterkenny to provide a social enterprise centre to include reception, 2 offices for let, 4 admin offices & public coffee shop	€110,700.00
No Barriers Foundation	Purchase of rehabilitative equipment ie Ekso NR exoskeleton which will be used for medical rehabilitation for stroke and spinal cord injury	€170,874.00

On the proposal of Clr Maire Therese Gallagher, seconded by Clr Niamh Kennedy members approved the award of Letterkenny Town Social Enterprise Grants to the groups as set out above.

## **7. Community Audit**

Seamus Canning advised members that the Community Section conducted an Audit of Community Groups in the County in late 2021 by inviting responses to an online questionnaire from Community Groups in the County. Groups were engaged through issue of Press Release, Social Media PPN and direct email contact. Participants were asked a series of questions

- Name and Contact
- Municipal District
- Purpose of the Group
- Needs of the Group

Under needs of the group they were given options under type of funding and training they needed. Groups were also requested to give Data sharing Consent to allow their contact details to be shared with the directorate and other Council Services so they could be advised directly of any relevant Funding opportunities or events relevant to their group. 188 groups completed the questionnaire and of those 186 gave consent to share their contact details.

The report circulated with the Agenda provides a breakdown of these responses. Members will noted the equal divide of responses between the Municipal Districts and the wide variety of sectors represented by respondents and that the needs of groups were very clearly display.

Members acknowledged the value of this work and requested that it be reviewed regularly and added to.

## **8. Community Funding Report**

Paddy Doherty presented a report providing a breakdown of all funding awarded by the LCDC for the following funding Programmes in 2021:

- Community Enhancement Programme
- COVID 19 Emergency Fund
- Social Enterprise Grant Scheme
- Development Fund Initiative
- LEADER
- CLAR
- ORIS

A breakdown of the number and amount of grants awarded by Municipal District was included in the report. Paddy confirmed to members that 447 funding awards were made to 370 groups in 2021. Paddy Doherty also made a presentation to members of a heat map of the geographical location of all funding awards in 2021.



Members welcomed the report and requested that it be circulated to them. It was further agreed that the report would be circulated to be brought to the attention of all Council Members at MD Level.

## **9. LCDC Annual Report 2021**

Paddy Doherty requested that members consider approval of the LCDC Annual Report 2021 which had been circulated with the Agenda. He advised that once it was approved by the LCDC it would be brought before the full Council for approval.

On behalf of the LCDC, Cllr Niamh Kennedy welcomed the opportunity to bring the report to a full Council meeting to allow all members to see the work of the LCDC.

On the proposal of Cllr Maire Therese Gallagher, seconded by Joe Boland, members approved the LCDC Annual Report 2021.

## **10. LECP Review**

Paddy Doherty updated members on the review of the Donegal LECP and particularly the establishment of Donegal LECP Advisory Steering Group. He advised members.

Members were advised that the primary aim of the LECP was to set out, for a six-year period the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of the relevant Local Authority area, both by the Local Authority directly and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders. Paddy advised it will be necessary to ensure adequate co-ordination between the community and economic elements of the LECP therefore it is recommended that an Advisory Steering Group be established with this co-ordination as its primary function. He reported to members that the Department guidelines outlined that the structure for the Advisory Steering Group should include:-

- at least one member of the LCDC;
- at least one member of the SPC for Economic, Enterprise and Emergency SPC;
- the Chief Officer (or a nominee) of the LCDC;
- the Director of Service supporting the SPC for Economic, Enterprise and Emergency SPC or a nominee;
- and subject to avoiding unwieldy size, any person that both the SPC and LCDC consider likely to make a significant contribution. This may include senior personnel from relevant public and private sector organisations, individuals with entrepreneurial expertise, expertise that can practically consider potential synergies between economic and community elements, third level institutions, members of the relevant Regional Enterprise Plan Steering Committee or other relevant interests.

He advised that The specific role of the Advisory Steering Group will be to advise and assist on:

- the development of the socio-economic statement setting out the High-Level Goals for the area;
- the arrangement and management of an inclusive consultation process for the development of the economic elements and the community elements of the framework

LECP based on the High-Level Goals in the socio-economic statement, and the additional consultations identified for the community element;

- the particular areas of activity to be covered respectively by the economic elements and the community elements of the LECP, as well as areas of complementary and co-ordinated activity, taking account of the need to reduce duplication and unnecessary overlap and to maximise the use of available resources;
- the integration of both the economic and community elements into a single, coherent Framework LECP;
- ensuring that, there is clarity as to where responsibility rests for leading/coordinating for each action detailed in the Implementation Plan;
- ensuring the LECP is consistent with the relevant statutory City/County Development Plan; and ensuring the LECP is consistent with any Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) or, as appropriate, National Planning Framework or other national policy, that may apply.

He further advised that the specific role and functions of the Advisory Steering Group in the context of the development of the Implementation Plans will be to advise and assist on:

- engagement with the LCDC, SPC and other relevant agencies and organisations on an ongoing basis;
- the actions to be included in the Implementation Plan;
- ensuring an integrated approach to the implementation of both economic and community actions outlined in the implementation plans; and
- ensuring clarity as to where responsibility rests for leading/coordinating on actions.

Paddy then invited the LCDC to nominate two members of the LCC onto the Advisory Steering Group and requested that the nominees reflect the balance of public/private and gender balance required as part of the decision making process.

On the proposal of Clr Niamh Kennedy, seconded by Paul Hannigan, the LCDC approved the nomination of Clr Maire Therese Gallagher as LCDC (Public) representative on the Advisory Steering Group.

On the proposal of Joe Boland, seconded by Clr Maire Therese Gallagher, the LCDC approved the nomination of Charlene Logue as LCDC (Private) representative on the Advisory Steering Group.

Following a query from Clr Niamh Kennedy, Paddy Doherty confirmed that there would be a public consultation element within the preparation of the LECP. Liam Ward confirmed that there would be ample opportunity for LCDC members to discuss the various elements and objectives to be included in the LECP. He assured members that regular reports advising of updates and progress would be brought to LCDC meetings.

Clr Maire Therese Gallagher queried whether a framework for the plan nationally was available as a guideline to ensure consistency of approach and to ensure that the LECP is accessible and easily read. Paddy Doherty assured her that the existing LECP would serve as a good framework to work from and that there would be interaction between Chief Officers in neighbouring counties during the review process.

## **11. Cycle Against Suicide- Peer Support in Communities**

Seamus Canning advised members that Cycle Against Suicide was inviting community clubs and associations to complete their *free* 'Community Buddy' Programme and be trained to provide 'Buddy' support in their community. The Cycle Against Suicide Buddy Programme prioritises peer-to-peer action as a means to identify and help those who may be vulnerable. The programme trains and equips participants with the practical, hands-on skills and knowledge they need to deliver support to those in mental health distress in their local communities.

Their aim is to train and deploy 'Community Buddies' across Ireland. They are inviting local clubs and associations that have personnel who are already Garda vetted to nominate themselves to complete their 'Community Buddy' training programme. This training, delivered over 2 days or 4 evenings, is free of charge for clubs/associations and will equip them to provide much-needed support for those in the community who maybe struggling with mental health distress.

It was agreed that the link to the website for registration would be circulated to all members of the LCDC.

## **12. Community Groups Recognition of Work**

Clr Maire Therese Gallagher advised that it was important that the LCDC recognise the good work and achievements of Community Groups and Staff in delivering projects during the COVID Crisis. She requested that the LCDC examine a mechanism to do this and to organise events to do this over the summer months.

This concluded the business of the meeting.