

**Minutes of Donegal Local Community Development Committee
Held in Council Chamber, County House, Lifford and by web conference 10.30 am on
18th October 2022**

Members	Clr Niamh Kennedy (Chair), Michael MacGiolla Easbuig, James O Donnell, Padraic Fingleton, Brenda Hegarty, Joe Boland, Anne McHugh and Andrew McNulty and remote attendance by Clr Maire Therese Gallagher, Clr Martin McDermott Siobhan McLaughlin, Maire Ui Mhaolain and Shauna McClenaghan
Apologies	John McLaughlin, Liam McElhinney, Charlene Logue, Aengus Kennedy and Liam Ward
Chief Officer	Paddy Doherty
Attending	Seamus Canning, Clair McCallan, Adrienne Kelly, Charlene Gillespie and Kathleen Browne

Welcome

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

Clr Kennedy advised that two new members were in attendance at the meeting, Brenda Hegarty, Head of Enterprise, LEO and Andrew McNulty, PPN. She welcomed both of them to the LCDDC.

1. Draft minutes of the LCDDC meeting of 12th September 2022

The minutes of the previous LCDDC Meeting, as circulated with the agenda, were considered. On the proposal of James O Donnell, seconded by Joe Boland, the minutes of LCDDC Meeting of 18th October 2022 were adopted with no issues arising.

2. Matters Arising

Joe Boland advised that a number of people had expressed their concerns to him in relation to access to the Donegal Volunteers Centre following their change of office to location at Mountain Top Letterkenny. Padraic Fingleton confirmed that the Donegal Volunteer Centre would be housed in DLDC's new premises at Mountain Top, Letterkenny. He confirmed that he would liaise directly with the Volunteer Centre to address concerns raised.

3. SICAP KPI 1 & 2 Targets 2023

Seamus Canning advised members that As part of the preparation for the SICAP Annual Plan 2023, the LCDC are requested to review the Targets for KPI1 and KPI2. He confirmed that the LCDC selected the Minimum recommended Targets for 2019. In 2020 the minimum targets were retained with the exception of KPI1 for Lot 33-3 which was increased by 10%. Targets were reviewed and reduced in 2020 due to the Covid Pandemic. In 2022 the Department directed that no amendment be made to the Targets.

Seamus set out previous Target details are as follows:

	2020 Target		2021/22 Target	
Lot 33-1	KPI 1 40	KPI2 374	KPI1 36	KPI2 299
Lot 33-2	KPI 1 31	KPI2 199	KPI1 28	KPI2 159
Lot 33-3	KIP 1 58	KPI2 596	KPI1 46	KPI2 477

He then advised members that at mid year 2022, target achievement was as follows:-

Lot 33-1

	2022 Target	Achieved to Date	% Achieved
KPI 1	36	19	53%
KPI 2	299	159	53%

Lot 33-2

	2022 Target	Achieved to Date	% Achieved
KPI 1	28	33	118%
KPI 2	159	77	48%

Lot 33-3

	2022 Target	Achieved to Date	% Achieved
KPI 1	46	71	154%
KPI2	477	314	66%

Members were informed that recent correspondence from the Department of Rural and Community Development and Pobal confirmed that they recommend that KPI targets for 2023 should remain the same as the 2022 targets agreed for the 2022 Annual Plan in January of this year. However, there was flexibility for LCDCs to agree a target increase from 2022 levels in certain circumstances eg where an LDC is consistently exceeding KPI targets set. They recommend that where a target increase is proposed, it should not go above the 15% programme baseline threshold

Seamus advised members that the SICAP Sub Committee discussed the KPI 1 and 2 Targets with LDCs and Pobal Co-Ordinator at their meeting on 6th October. Significant overachievement of Mid Year Targets for KPI 1 in Lots 33-2 and 33-3 at mid year were noted. The SICAP Sub Committee proposed that KPI 1 and 2 Targets for Lot 33-1 remain unchanged as there is no significant over/underachievement and that KPI 1 and KPI 2 Targets for Lots 33-2 and 33-3 be increased for 2023. The SICAP Sub Committee agreed that DLDC and LCDC administration should liaise to agree the proposal for increase of targets for Lots 33-2 and 33-3.

Seamus confirmed that this consultation had taken place with the following increases proposed:-

	Lot 33-2	% Increase	Lot 33-3	% Increase
KPI 1	31	10%	52	15%
KPI 2	178	12%	548	15%

LCDC considered the KPI 1 and 2 Targets and on the proposal of Joe Boland, seconded by Clr Niamh Kennedy, the LCDC recommended the following KPI 1 and 2 Targets for Lots 33-1, 33-2 and 33-3 for SICAP 2023.

	Lot 33-1	Lot 33-2	Lot 33-3
KPI 1	36	31	52
KPI2	299	178	548

4. SICAP Emerging Needs Target Group 2023

Seamus Canning advised members that As part of the SICAP Annual Planning process the LCDC can review the Emerging Needs Target Group for 2023.

Sicap 2018-2023 has 13 target groups

1. Disadvantaged Children and Families
2. Disadvantaged Young People (aged 15 – 24)
3. Disadvantaged Women
4. Lone Parents
5. Low Income Workers/Households
6. New Communities, including Refugees and Asylum Seekers
7. People living in Disadvantaged Communities
8. People with Disabilities
9. Travellers
10. Roma
11. The Unemployed
12. The Disengaged from the Labour Market (the economically inactive)
13. Emerging needs - Named by each LCDC based on local need

Seamus advised that since the outset of the SICAP Programme 2018-2022 Donegal LCDC have selected 'Rural Isolation – Connectivity & Transportation' as their emerging need.

Members noted they the 5 suggested SICAP Priorities, as set out below, for the remainder of the SICAP Programme should be taken into consideration when considering amending the Emerging Needs Target Group for 2023

- New Communities with particular focus on those living in Direct Provision
- Mental Health (including Youth)
- Long Term Unemployed
- Travellers/Roma
- Older People and isolation

Seamus advised that if the LCDC wish to change the Emerging Needs Target group they should identify a group of individuals who are not already covered in the list of target groups above so as to extend the coverage of the programme to a new group. He confirmed that the LCDC does not have to amend the Emerging Needs Target Group if it so decides.

Members were advised that when considering the selection of an emerging needs group the following should be noted:

- Older people (65 years and above) are already eligible for assistance under the current programme. There is no upper age limit for those assisted. Smallholders are already covered under low-income workers/households group
- People with mental health issues are also eligible for SICAP supports already as they fall within the people with disabilities group
- Carers are eligible because they come under the disengaged from the labour market – economically inactive.

They were also advised that the LCDC should consider if there are any groups in need of SICAP supports, in the relevant Lot area, who are not covered within the current list. Selection of this Target Group should be made by drawing from the Local Economic and Community Plan, the End of Year Reports submitted for each Lot and the knowledge and experience of the LCDC members in knowing the locality and gaps in provision.

Seamus stated that the 2021 End of Year Reports for all three lots flagged the following issues:-

- Challenges for individuals, Social Enterprises and Community Groups as they emerge from the Covid Crisis (including funding, governance & recruitment of volunteers).
- Migrants & Refugees
- MICA
- Food & Fuel Poverty
- Connectivity Issues

He further advised that the Individual Caseload by Target Groups indicated that the following Target Groups per Lot significantly exceed the National Caseload:

Lot 33-1 – People Living in disadvantaged Communities (39% versus 29%)
Lot 33-2 – People Living in disadvantaged Communities (66% versus 29%),
Low income workers/households (33% versus 17%)
Lot 33-3 – Low income worker/household (26% versus 17%)

Members were informed that Pobal had produced a Social Inclusion Analysis report for Donegal based on Data extracted from the IRIS System which contains all the data recorded by the Local Development Companies for SICAP 2018 to date. Copies of the reports have been circulated to members.

Seamus confirmed that these reports indicate that the Emerging Need category made up the following percentage of the Lot Caseloads in 2021

Lot 33-1 16% (up from 7% in previous year). To date in 2022 it is 8%

Lot 33-2 17% (down from 36% in previous year). To date in 2022 it is 30%
 Lot 33-3 10% (down from 15% in previous year). To date in 2022 it is 18%

Members were provided with the breakdown of the National Caseload percentage and the three Donegal Lots in 2021 as set out below:

	National Caseload	Lot 33-1	Lot 33-2	Lot 33-3
The Unemployed	54%	59%	65%	0%
Disadvantaged Communities	30%	39%	59%	51%
Low Income workers/households	19%	25%	26%	7%
Economically inactive	24%	12%	13%	0%
Disadvantaged Young Persons	18%	9%	16%	1%
Disadvantaged Children & Families	0%	0%	0%	13%
New Communities*	13%	0%	0%	3%
Lone Parents	13%	9%	7%	0%
Person with Disability	10%	7%	3%	13%
Emerging Needs Group	7%	17%	32%	10%
Traveller	3%	0%	0%	2%
Disadvantaged Women	1%	1%	0%	3%
Roma	1%	0%	0%	0%

Seamus confirmed that the number of individuals being targeted under the current Emerging Needs Target Group for each of the three Lots exceeded the national average and the inclusion of Isolation in the suggested Programme Priorities in the Mid Programme Review should also be considered when deciding if you wish to recommend a change to the Emerging Needs Category.

*A significant increase nationally has been recorded for New Communities (23%), Lot 33-1 shows an increase of 1% for 2023 to date, zero change recorded to date for Lot 33-2 and 2% recorded to date for Lot 33-3.

Seamus advised members that at the SICAP Sub Committee Meeting on 6th October Member agreed to recommend to the LCDC that the Emerging Needs Target Group “Rural Isolation – Connectivity and Transport” be unchanged for 2023 – the final year of this SICAP Programme.

Siobhan McLaughlin queried whether actions for people who were homeless, living in poverty, Roma or Travellers would be included in Emerging Need Category of rural isolation – connectivity and transport. Members discussed the role of the LCDC and SICAP Programme in relation to homelessness and acknowledged that whilst provision of housing was a matter for the Local Authority, homelessness and living in poverty had a significant impact on social inclusion.

Siobhan confirmed that Donegal Travellers Project were participating in the KPMG review of the SICAP Programme which was currently ongoing and suggested that the Local

Development Groups should meet with Donegal Travellers group to establish indicative actions for this sector”

On the proposal of Joe Boland, seconded by Cllr Niamh Kennedy, the LCDC approved the continued selection of “Rural Isolation – Connectivity and Transport” as the SICAP Emerging Need for Lots 33-1, 33-2 and 33-3 for 2023.

5. Filling of vacancy on LCDC SICAP Sub Committee

Seamus Canning advised members that following the resignation of Katheen Bonner from the LCDC, a vacancy had arisen on the SICAP Sub Committee of which she was a member. The LCDC agreed Andrew McNulty, PPN, representative should fill the vacancy on the SICAP Sub Committee.

6. Donegal Outdoor Recreation Strategy – Update and Outcome of Audit

Claire McCallan provided an update to members on the background and progress of the Donegal Outdoor Recreation Strategy.

Members were advised that the Public Consultation element of the work had been completed by ORNI in April. The Audit, which would give an overview of everything related to Outdoor Recreation in the County which is not an organised sport had also been completed. This information would be used to inform future funding applications, assist in identifying gaps and planning for development of projects for areas within the County.

Joe Murray and Neil Brennan, Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland, joined the meeting. Joe made a presentation to members providing details of the work they had carried out in development the Donegal Outdoor Recreation Strategy and conducting the audit and public consultation.

Neil demonstrated the Database developed from the results of the Audit and explained how it works.

Members welcomed the valuable work carried out. Michael MacGiolla Easbuig queried whether this information could be used to benchmark the County against other counties to assist with marketing. Claire confirmed that Donegal was one of only four counties who will have County Outdoor Recreation Strategies in place when the National Outdoor Strategy is launched and advised that it could be used to identify the USP for Donegal. She advised that it could also be used to view clusters of activity. It will also be aligned with the County Development Plan and LECP.

James O Donnell raised the issue of lack of available accommodation for visitors to the County.

Brenda Hegarty stated that it was important to note that the Strategy was for residents and communities in the County primarily. It could be used for planning to ensure a balanced development across the County. Claire McCallan concurred and confirmed that this would be the primary use of the Strategy.

Padraic Fingleton, Clr Maire Therese Gallagher and Clr Martin McDermott welcomed the development of the Strategy. They felt that it would allow people to see what is already available in the County as well as identify what was needed.

Clr Gallagher requested that the Strategy be shared with other agencies once it was launched.

Clr McDermott cautioned that intervention was required to assist small groups to relaunch and be revitalised. He advised that many needed support in relation to funding applications.

Padraic Fingleton stated that the Strategy could be used to access EU environmental (greendoor) funding.

On behalf of the LCDC, Clr Niamh Kennedy thanked Claire and the team from ORNI for their presentation and the work they had carried out

7. Letterkenny Social Enterprise Grant Scheme

Adrienne Kelly advised that following the award of 5 Social Enterprise Grants under the Letterkenny Social Enterprise Grant Scheme, three groups had fully drawdown their funding within the prescribed timescale. Two groups were seeking an extension as follows:

Letterkenny Community Centre - Seeking extension to December 2022
Congress Resource Centre - Seeking extension to 31st March 2023

Members unanimously approved the extension of drawdown dates for both groups.

8. Empowering Communities

Padraic Fingleton advised members present that an area of Aranmore Island had been included as one of the 15 communities deemed most deprived under this project. DLDC had been awarded funding to work with the Community on this project. He confirmed that he would provide a further update to members at the November LCDC Meeting.

9. Creeslough

On behalf of the LCDC, Michael MacGiolla Easbuig, expressed their condolences to everyone effected by the tragedy, particularly LCDC member Liam McElhinney. The LCDC also commended the work of Donegal County Council all the emergency services for their swift and professional response to the tragedy.

This concluded the business of the meeting.