



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



**Minutes of Donegal Local Community Development Committee Meeting in County House,  
Lifford and online via Teams at 2pm on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| <b>Members in attendance</b> | <b>In person:</b> James O'Donnell -ICMSA, Cllr. Niamh Kennedy – DCC, Anne McAteer – HSE, Charlene Logue – PPN, Aengus Kennedy – PPN, Joe Boland – PPN<br><br><b>Online via Teams:</b> Cllr. Martin McDermott – DCC, Cllr. Brian Carr - DCC, Siobhan McLaughlin – PPN, Micheal Mac Giolla Easpaig – Údarás, Maire Uí Mhaolain - Comhar na nOilean and Andrew Ward –IDP. |
| <b>Apologies</b>             | John McLaughlin – DCC, EveAnne McCarron - ATU, Anne McHugh - ETB, and Padraig Fingleton - DLDC.  |
| <b>Chief Officer</b>         | Paddy Doherty  |
| <b>Attending</b>             | Liam Ward, Ciaran Martin, Adrienne Kelly, Charlene Gillespie and Kathleen Browne   |

**Welcome**

Cllr. Martin McDermott welcomed members to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance.

**1. Draft minutes of the LCDC meeting of 18<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

The minutes of the previous LCDC Meeting, as circulated with the agenda, were considered by the LCDC.

Cllr. Brian Carr queried if a response had been received from the Department on funding for Men's Sheds, an issue he raised at Plenary Council. Paddy Doherty confirmed that no correspondence had been received yet.

On the proposal of Siobhan McLaughlin, seconded by Charlene Logue, the minutes of the LCDC Meeting of 18<sup>th</sup> December 2024 were adopted with no matters arising.

**2. Community Recognition Fund 2024 – Window 3**

Ciaran Martin provided members with the background to the Community Recognition Fund 2024 as follows:

The Community Recognition Fund 2024 aims to support the development of community infrastructure and facilities in recognition of the contribution being made by communities

across the country in welcoming and hosting significant numbers of arrivals from Ukraine and other countries.

The funding was specifically targeted at projects that are located in communities, towns and villages that are hosting the Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection and/or International Protection Applicants.

The Fund aims to support the development of facilities that will be used in the future by all members of the community. It is separate in its objectives and scope to any other public funding streams which aim to support the development of public service needs arising from the significant number of arrivals from Ukraine.

€50 million is available nationally under the Fund and this is allocated between each local authority based on the number of new arrivals located there. On this basis, the allocation to County Donegal is **€3,391,917**.

Donegal County Council at its plenary meeting, held on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024, agreed that the LCDC would administer the fund on behalf of the Council.

Ciaran reminded the LCDC members on some of the main components of the Scheme:

- The scheme will provide large capital grants ranging from **€50,000 to a maximum of €500,000** with a requirement that projects are fully complete by **4<sup>th</sup> September 2026**. Applications in excess of €175,000 will require a completed business case.
- Projects to be funded will be capital in nature, deliver tangible benefits for the communities in which they are located, and be capable of being delivered over the course of 2025 and 2026.
- A minimum spend of 50% of the allocation must be incurred in 2025 with projects fully complete by **4<sup>th</sup> September 2026**.
- Eligible projects will receive funding for capital costs, but not for any ongoing operational or running costs.

Ciaran set out the funding breakdown for members advising that there were 3 funding windows for Community Recognition Fund 2024. Donegal LCDC agreed not to submit any request under Funding Window 1 (up to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024) to give applicant groups sufficient time to prepare and submit their funding applications to Donegal LCDC.

The LCDC agreed at their meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> September that, as permitted under the Community Recognition Fund Scheme 2024, €100,000 of the total allocation will be retained for administrative and technical costs incurred by Donegal County Council. This left a balance of **€3,291,917** available for award.

The LCDC further agreed to retain a minimum of 20% of the total allocation to Donegal for award under Funding Window 3 (1<sup>st</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> January 2025).

The LCDC agreed the ranking of Applications for Funding Window 2 at their meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> September and 28 projects in the sum of **€2,036,000** were submitted to the Department of Rural and Community Development by Window 2 deadline of 30<sup>th</sup>

September 2024 for approval. To date, no final approval/decision on Window 2 projects has been issued by the Department.

Ciaran confirmed that this leaves a balance of **€1,255,917** available to award in Window 3.

Members were advised that Window 3 of Community Recognition Fund was open for application from 7<sup>th</sup> October to 14<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

1. All unsuccessful applicants from Window 2 were advised that their application would be rolled over for consideration under Window 3. All applicants were given an opportunity to amend their application or submit additional documentation in support of their project.
2. Originally, the closing date for submission of Ranking and recommendation of awards under window 3 was 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025. However, the Department of Rural and Community Development extended this deadline until 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

Ciaran provided details of the Evaluation of applications for Window 3 to members as follows:

The LCDC Grant Evaluation Sub-Committee met on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2025 to evaluate all grant applications.

122 applications were eligible for evaluation under Window 3 as follows:

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Carried forward from Window 2 - No amendment | 46 |
| Carried forward from Window 2 – Amended      | 46 |
| New Applications                             | 30 |

Members of the Sub-Committee were presented with the most recent data on numbers of New Communities in settlements throughout the County. This information was received from the Department and included the percent of the total number of new arrivals those in a respective location make up in terms of the overall county figure and the percent increase in population in these areas as a result of their arrival. This data was to assist in devising and agreeing the Scoring Scheme for evaluation of the applications submitted under the scheme.

Members agreed that they would not evaluate applications received from settlements who are not hosting any Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection and/or International Protection Applicants in Window 2, as per Department criteria. Members agreed that no late applications would be considered for award.

Members also agreed not to rescore applications which were carried forward from application Window 2 which no amendment/additions.

In advance of Evaluating the applications, members noted that, as agreed by the LCDC in September, LCDC Administration had:

- Contacted groups who applied from areas with no BTOP/IPAS Centres to seek documentary evidence of New Arrivals residing in their area.

- Contacted applicants with premature/incomplete applications to allow them the opportunity to amend/ update their application.
- Identified and contact groups, through Community Development Officers & Local Development Companies, who are based in towns/settlements with BTOP/IPAS Centres who did not submit applications to offer support to them to submit applications for funding under the Community Recognition Fund 2024 Window 3.

Members of the Grant Evaluation Sub-Committee also noted the following:

- The Integration Unit, Donegal County Council and Local Development Companies reported difficulty in providing accurate, up to date data for new arrivals residing in private rentals due to the very fluid nature of their arrangements.
- 13 applications had been received from groups based in towns/settlements with no recorded BTOP/IPAS centres.
- A number of applications remained premature and in need of further information/ amendment to allow them to proceed.

Ciaran confirmed that the Grant Evaluation Sub-Committee agreed to retain the scoring scheme used in Window 2 and valid applications were scored out of a total score of 100 under the following headings:

|                                       |    |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| Project Management and Deliverability | 30 |
| Community Impact                      | 30 |
| Need                                  | 30 |
| Strategic Value and Alignment         | 10 |

Members were advised that following the Evaluation of the Grants members agreed to recommend the following ranking of proposed grant awards for the approval of the LCDC:

| Ref        | Applicant                              | Proposed Award | Purpose   | Town         |
|------------|--|----------------|---|--------------|
| CRF24/D/16 | Carrick Regeneration Group             | €130,000.00    | Purchase of Community Property  | Carrick      |
| CRF24/I/30 | Barrack Hill Town Park                 | € 50,000.00    | Development of Phase 2 of covered space   | Carndonagh   |
| CRF24/L/36 | Kilmacrennan Community Development CLG | € 75,000.00    | Construction & fit out of Community Gym & Fitness Suite                             | Kilmacrennan |
| CRF24/D/10 | Dunkineely Community CLG               | € 70,000.00    | Purchase of Community Building  | Dunkineely   |
| CRF24/G/08 | Coiste Forbartha Dobhair Teo           | € 52,000.00    | Equipment for Centre for Community use to include accessible equipment              | Bunbeg       |
| CRF24/G/14 | Scoil Chroine                          | € 72,000.00    | Upgrade of Playing field and installation of walking track to include ability swing | Dungloe      |
| CRF24/I/27 | Buncrana Community Centre              | €100,000.00    | Restoration of Roof of Community Centre   | Buncrana     |

|            |                                     |             |  |             |
|------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|--|-------------|
| CRF24/S/23 | Stranorlar Parish                   | € 50,000.00 | Refurbishment of old Parish Centre Building for Community use  | Ballybofey  |
| CRF24/G/13 | Comharchumann Forbartha Dhún Láiche | € 82,000.00 | Refurbishment of Water Park Pool Area or Soft Play area        | Dunlewey    |
| CRF24/L/06 | Donegal County Council (Milford)    | €125,000.00 | Development of walkway from Mulroy Woods Hotel to Milford town | Milford     |
| CRF24/L/12 | Scoil Cholmcille                    | €100,000.00 | Development of Outdoor Classroom                               | Letterkenny |
| CRF24/D/28 | Friend of Rossnowlagh               | € 50,000.00 | Installation of Outdoor Gym                                    | Rossnowlagh |
| CRF24/I/08 | Colgan Community & Resource Centre  | € 50,000.00 | Upgrade of outdoor area/carpark to improve access              | Carndonagh  |
| CRF24/I/09 | Greencastle Community Centre        | € 50,000.00 | Upgrade of Community Centre                                    | Greencastle |
| CRF24/I/15 | Malin Head Community Association    | € 50,000.00 | Provision of Remote Learning Hub, upgrade flooring & doors     | Malin Head  |
| CRF24/L/01 | Letterkenny Youth & Community Group | €150,000.00 | Installation of disabled lift & toilet                         | Letterkenny |

Cllr. Brian Carr queried whether there had been any indication from the Department as to when Window 2 awards would be confirmed. Ciaran Martin confirmed that no recent update had been received.

On the proposal of Cllr. Niamh Kennedy, seconded by Joe Boland, the LCDC approved the proposed ranking and grant awards for submission to the Department of Rural and Community Development for Window 3 of the Community Recognition Fund 2024 as set out above.

### 3. Donegal Intercultural Platform CDP 2025 Annual Plan and Annual Budget

Ciaran Martin outlined the background to the Community Development Programme to members. He confirmed that Donegal LCDC work with the Donegal Intercultural Platform to tackle racism and promote inter-culturalism, human rights, equality and inclusion across County Donegal.

Ciaran advised that following an initial piloting of the scheme over a 3 year period, a further 2 years of annual funding of €125,000 was approved in November 2024 to cover the years 2025 and 2026. He advised that the LCDC has financial oversight of the project locally and will manage this funding in 2025 and 2026. He confirmed that as per CDP agreement, the LCDC also carry out the administrative checks on the Approved CDP's 2025 Annual Plan and 2025 Annual Budget for the project. These checks are then fed back to the department on behalf of the LCDC.

Ciaran confirmed that the administrative checks had been conducted and following review the LCDC agreed the following:

- The Donegal LCDC acknowledges the continued work being planned and delivered at local level in the county by the staff and volunteers of the Donegal Intercultural Platform.
- The LCDC note the partnership with the LAIT services within the Donegal County Council focused on the mapping of new communities is crucial in terms of targeted support and the LCDC acknowledge the value of this work.
- The LCDC also acknowledged the drive to tackle issues around social exclusion for women and how a respective culture can impact on their daily lives and connections to the local community, especially in terms of employment and education and we encourage the DIP to continue to reach out to work with key local statutory providers in these sectors.
- Donegal LCDC noted the sterling work of the DIP in terms of demonstrating local level engagement with New communities is showing the real strength of the community development ethos across the county and the real benefit of cultural diversity to any county and its people.
- They also noted the focus on mental health supports in these communities is also welcomed especially with its targeting of women and men separately and utilising different languages to encourage engagement.

Donegal LCDC thanked the DIP for their engagement and updates provided to the LCDC.

On the proposal of James O'Donnell, seconded by Michael MacGiolla Easbuig, the LCDC approved the Donegal Intercultural Platform CDP Annual Plan and Annual Budget for 2025.

Siobhan McLaughlin advised members that the Visas for all Ukrainian BTOP residents were due for renewal in March. Members were requested to remind and support anyone they knew in this situation to renew their visas to allow them to continue to access services.

#### **4. SICAP – Lot 33-2 – Ring Fenced Funding for Island Communities**

Kathleen Browne advised members that the SICAP Programme requires that when a Lots includes an Island, that a portion of the SICAP Budget be ring fenced for the Island Communities.

At the SICAP Sub-Committee Meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> February members recommended approval of the DLDC proposal to ring fence 10% of the overall SICAP Action budget for Island Communities for Lot 33-2 for 2025 and for the remainder of the SICAP Programme. It should be noted that funding is available to DLDC from Empowering Communities Programme for community engagement and to address social inclusion on

Oileán Árann Mhór'. Therefore, the ring-fenced budget will be used primarily to support this action delivery on Oileán Toraigh.

On the proposal of Cllr. Brian Carr, seconded by Andrew Ward, the LCDC approved the ringfencing of 10% of the overall SICAP Action Budget for Island Communities for Lot 33-2 for 2025 and the reminder of the SICAP Programme.

## **5. SICAP – Lot 33-1**

Denise McCool and Sinead McDaid, Inishowen Development Partnership, joined the meeting and made a comprehensive presentation to members setting out achievements under the Annual Performance Review of the SICAP Programme in 2024 and detailing the proposals within the SICAP Action Plan for Lot 33-1 in 2025.

## **6. SICAP – Lot 33-2 and Lot 33-3**

Margaret Larkin, Donegal Local Development CLG, joined the meeting and made a presentation to members setting out achievements under the Annual Performance Review of the SICAP Programme in 2024 and detailing the proposals within the SICAP Action Plan for Lot 33-2 and 33-3 in 2025.

On behalf of the LCDC, both Cllr. Martin McDermott and Cllr. Niamh Kennedy thanked both IDP and DLDC for their presentations and the work on the SICAP Programme throughout 2024.

Cllr. McDermott raised his concerns at the issues facing small rural community groups accessing funding streams. He stated that available funding was being accessed by the same groups who had the ability and personnel to successfully apply which resulted in smaller groups struggling to get on the ladder to access funding. He called on the LCDC and Implementing Partners to review processes and examine how small groups can be supported through the funding application process.

He raised the issue facing Mens Sheds since their core funding has been cut by the Department.

Cllr. McDermott stated that the LCDC and Implementing Partners had a role to play as they had knowledge of what was happened and called on them to work together to support groups to ensure their survival and growth by accessing available funding streams.

He requested that staff from IDP and DLDC in attendance at today's meeting bring this matter back to their respective Boards to develop a way to improve this situation.

James O'Donnell expressed his concern for the future of rural Ireland in the current environment and the ongoing viability of the farming community.

Cllr. Brian Carr thanked IDP and DLDC for their comprehensive presentations and congratulated them on the overachievement on the SICAP Targets for groups and individuals in 2024.

Cllr. McDermott confirmed that the LCDC could see at first hand the work being done by IDP and DLDC on a daily basis particularly on enterprise and training for trades people. He thanked the teams for their work in Defective Block supports which was working very well.

## **7. SICAP Annual Plans 2025 – Approval in Principle**

### Lot 33-1

Kathleen Browne advised members that the Annual Plan 2025 for Lot 33-1 (Donegal Inishowen), was brought before the LCDC SICAP Sub-Committee for consideration on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2025. A copy of the Annual Plan 2025 for Lot 33-1 was circulated with the Agenda.

### Document Check

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

### Budget

Members were advised that the total annual budget for 2025 is €880,409.00 (€774,319.00 Annual Budget and €103,091.00 for New Arrivals Supports). The Plan meets all the criteria set down in relation to financial and budgetary checks and the PI had detailed where any underspend from 2024 would be allocated in 2025.

### Targets

It was confirmed that the KPI Targets set by the LCDC are aligned with the targets set for Goal 1 (48), Goal (411) and Local Priority Target Group (People living in disadvantaged Communities) KPI2 target (40%). A KPI Target has been assigned to each action where relevant and will result in the overall KPI Targets being achieved

### Actions - Goal 1 and 2

Kathleen Browne confirmed the following to members:

- There are 5 actions under Goal 1 and 5 actions under Goal 2 with no new Actions in 2025. 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 actions for Goal 1 are targeting the Community & Voluntary Sector in Inishowen and seeking to empower them and sustain communities. Goal 2 Actions are targeting issues such as employment, wellbeing & progression
- The Local Priority Target Area (Carndonagh & surrounding area) selected by the LCDC will be prioritised in delivery of G1 and G2 actions with specific programmes under actions 7, 8, 9 & 10.
- The Local Priority Target Group (People living in Disadvantaged Communities) has been selected as a primary Target Group for 4 of the 10 actions.
- The proposed activities are relevant and will support the achievement of desired outcomes.
- IDP will deliver all the actions in the Plan in collaboration with a wide range of appropriate and relevant partners as listed in their Annual Plan.



- All actions have been linked to Goal 1, 3, 4 and 7 of the LECP objectives and action cost details have been uploaded against all 10 actions. The plan will assist in implementing the LECP
- The Goal 1 action are to be implemented in conjunction with Community Groups in a way that is consistent with Community Development Principles. Although Goal 2 is aimed at individuals' equality and networking are important elements of all the actions

She confirmed that the Pobal Review of the plan was completed with no issues arising.

Kathleen confirmed that whilst the Action titles remain unchanged from 2024, the rationale and action description for each action have been changed or updated.

Members were advised that the actions are well structured and realistic. They support the priorities of the LECP, and the rationale provided for the actions indicates that they are a priority for the Lot. The plan targets the Local Priority Target Group (People living in disadvantaged communities) and there are actions which target the Local Priority Target Area of Carndonagh & surrounding area. The actions also include additional supports for New Arrivals.

Members were informed that the LCDC SICAP Sub-Committee is satisfied to recommend approval in principle of the 2025 Annual Plan for Lot 33-1 Donegal Inishowen.

On the proposal of Cllr. Brian Carr, seconded by Joe Boland, that the LCDC approved the 2025 Annual Plan for Lot 33-1 in principle

#### Lot 33-2

Kathleen Browne advised members that the Annual Plan 2025 for Lot 33-2 (Donegal Gaeltacht), was brought before the LCDC SICAP Sub-Committee for consideration on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2025. A copy of the Annual Plan 2025 for Lot 33-2 was circulated with the Agenda.

#### Document Check

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

#### Budget

Members were informed that the total annual budget for 2025 is €654,416 (€497,911.00 Annual Budget and €147,505.00 for New Arrivals Supports). The Plan meets all the criteria set down in relation to financial and budgetary checks and the PI had detailed where any underspend from 2024 would be allocated in 2025.

#### Targets

It was confirmed that the KPI Targets set by the LCDC are aligned with the targets set for Goal 1 (36), Goal (219) and Local Priority Target Group (People living in disadvantaged Communities) KPI2 target (45%). A KPI Target has been assigned to each action where relevant and will result in the overall KPI Targets being achieved.

#### Actions - Goal 1 and 2

Kathleen Browne confirmed the following to members:

- There are 5 actions under Goal 1 and 5 actions under Goal 2 with no new Actions in 2025. 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 Donegal Gaeltacht Lot area
- The actions for Goal 1 are targeting the Community & Voluntary Sector in Donegal Gaeltacht and seeking to empower them and sustain communities. Goal 2 Actions are targeting issues such as employment, wellbeing & progression
- The Local Priority Target Area (Island Communities) selected by the LCDC will be prioritised in delivery of G1 and G2 actions with specific programmes under actions Goal 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4 and G2.4.
- The Local Priority Target Group (People living in Disadvantaged Communities) has been selected as a primary Target Group for 3 of the 5 Goal 1 Actions and all 5 of the Goal 2 Actions.
- The proposed activities are relevant and will support the achievement of desired outcomes.
- DLDC will deliver all the actions in the Plan in collaboration with a wide range of appropriate and relevant partners as listed in the Annual Plan.
- All actions have been linked to Goal 1, 3, 4 and 7 of the LECP objectives and action cost details have been uploaded against all 10 actions. The plan will assist in implementing the LECP
- The Goal 1 action are to be implemented in conjunction with Community Groups in a way that is consistent with Community Development Principles. Although Goal 2 is aimed at individuals' equality and networking are important elements of all the actions
- DLDC carried out a consultation process and an intense review of census data in 2023 to identify the needs, gaps and challenges in Lot 33-2 catchment area.

Action rationale, initiatives and descriptions were developed to address the identified needs and following an internal review in late 2024. DLDC determined that the challenges and support needs were broadly unchanged. Therefore, the demand for actions remains the same.

On that basis, all of the Goal 1 and 2 2025 actions are very similar to those delivered in 2024.

The Pobal Review of the plan was completed with no issues arising.

Members were advised that the actions are well structured and realistic. They support the priorities of the LECP, and the rationale provided for the actions indicates that they are a priority for the Lot. The plan targets the Local Priority Target Group (People living in Disadvantaged Communities) and there are actions which target the Local Priority Target Area of Island Communities. The actions also include additional supports for New Arrivals.

Members were further advised that the SICAP Sub-Committee noted and accepted rationale provided regarding the continuation of unchanged Goals and Actions for Lot 33-2 from 2024 Annual Plan into 2025 Annual Plan. They agreed that the LCDC should

recommend that the Lot 33-2 Annual Plan for 2026 should include updated actions and rationales.

Members were informed that the LCDC SICAP Sub-Committee is satisfied to recommend approval in principle of the 2025 Annual Plan for Lot 33-2 Donegal Gaeltacht.

On the recommendation of the LCDC SICAP Sub Committee, the LCDC advised DLDC that the Lot 33-2 Annual Plan for 2026 should include updated actions and rationale.

On the proposal of Cllr. Brian Carr, seconded by Joe Boland, that the LCDC approved the 2025 Annual Plan for 33-2 in principle.

### Lot 33-3

Kathleen Browne advised members that the Annual Plan 2025 for Lot 33-3 (Donegal), was brought before the LCDC SICAP Sub-Committee for consideration on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2025. A copy of the Annual Plan 2025 for Lot 33-2 was circulated with the Agenda.

### Document Check

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

### Budget

Members were informed that the total annual budget for 2025 was €1,703,114.00 (€1,297,589.00 Annual Budget and €405,525.00 for New Arrivals Supports). The Plan meets all the criteria set down in relation to financial and budgetary checks and the PI had detailed where any underspend from 2024 would be allocated in 2025.

### Targets

It was confirmed that the KPI Targets set by the LCDC are aligned with the targets set for Goal 1 (64), Goal (590) and Local Priority Target Group (People living in disadvantaged Communities) KPI2 target (35%). A KPI Target has been assigned to each action where relevant and will result in the overall KPI Targets being achieved

### Actions Goal 1 and 2

Kathleen Browne confirmed the following to members:

- There are 5 actions under Goal 1 and 5 actions under Goal 2 with no new Actions in 2025. 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 actions for Goal 1 are targeting the Community & Voluntary Sector in Donegal and seeking to empower them and sustain communities. Goal 2 Actions are targeting issues such as employment, wellbeing & progression.
- The Local Priority Target Area (Convoy/Raphoe, Lifford/Ballindrait) selected by the LCDC will be prioritised in delivery of G1 and G2 actions with specific programmes under actions Goal 1.2, 1.4 and G2.1).

- The Local Priority Target Group (People living in Disadvantaged Communities) has been selected as a Primary Target Group for 4 of the 5 Goal 1 Actions and 4 of the 5 Goal 2 Actions. It is also a secondary target group in 1 Goal 1 Action.
- The proposed activities are relevant and will support the achievement of desired outcomes.
- DLDC will deliver all the actions in the Plan in collaboration with a wide range of appropriate and relevant partners as listed in the Annual Plan.
- All actions have been linked to Goal 1, 3, 4 and 7 of the LECP objectives and action cost details have been uploaded against all 10 actions. The plan will assist in implementing the LECP
- The Goal 1 action are to be implemented in conjunction with Community Groups in a way that is consistent with Community Development Principles. Although Goal 2 is aimed at individuals' equality and networking are important elements of all the actions
- DLDC carried out a consultation process and an intense review of census data in 2023 to identify the needs, gaps and challenges in Lot 33-3 catchment area.

Action rationale, initiatives and descriptions were developed to address the identified needs and following an internal review in late 2024. DLDC determined that the challenges and support needs were broadly unchanged. Therefore, the demand for actions remains the same.

On that basis, all of the Goal 1 and 2 2025 actions are very similar to those delivered in 2024.

The Pobal Review of the plan was completed with no issues arising.

Members were advised that the actions are well structured and realistic. They support the priorities of the LECP and the rationale provided for the actions indicates that they are a priority for the Lot. The plan targets the Local Priority Target Group (People living in Disadvantaged Communities) and there are actions which target the Local Priority Target Area of Convoy & Raphoe, Lifford & Ballindrait. The actions also include additional supports for New Arrivals.

Members were further advised that the SICAP Sub-Committee noted and accepted rationale provided re the continuation of unchanged Goals and Actions for Lot 33-3 from 2024 Annual Plan into 2025 Annual Plan. They agreed that the LCDC should recommend that the Lot 33-3 Annual Plan for 2026 should include updated actions and rationale's

Members were informed that the LCDC SICAP Sub-Committee is satisfied to recommend approval in principle of the 2025 Annual Plan for Lot 33-3 Donegal.

On the recommendation of the LCDC SICAP Sub Committee, the LCDC advised DLDC that the Lot 33-3 Annual Plan for 2026 should include updated actions and rationale.

On the proposal of Cllr. Brian Carr, seconded by Joe Boland, the LCDC approved the 2025 Annual Plan for Lot 33-3 in principle.

## **7. SICAP Annual Performance Review 2024**

### Lot 33-1

Kathleen Browne advised members that the Annual Performance Review 2024 for Lot 33-1 (Inishowen), was brought before the LCDC SICAP Sub-Committee for consideration on 10th February 2025. A copy of the Annual Performance Narrative Report has been circulated with the Agenda.

### Document Checks

She confirmed 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

Members were advised that the overall progress for Lot 33-1 in 2024 was good with targets for KPI1 and 2 being achieved and exceeded. The target for percentage of KPI 2 participants from Local Priority Target Group – People living in Disadvantaged Communities areas was also achieved. The Action Progress report provided detail of individual progress and target achievement under each Action

### Budget Parameters

Members were informed 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 for either the SICAP or New Arrivals Budgets. The amount of spend reported on sub-contractors did not exceed 30% of the total budget amount. 6 Social Enterprise Grants to Community Organisations and 23 Local Community Group/Local Network Grants were awarded by Inishowen Development Partnership in 2024. 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 €24,224.14 (3.22%) on SICAP and an underspend of €5,033.09 (4.99%) on New Arrivals Support Budget both of which were less than the 5% permitted to be carried forward to be spend in 2025. Therefore, no remedies need to be applied. IDP have clearly detailed in the Annual Plan 2025 where the under spent monies from both the SICAP and New Arrivals budgets carried forward into 2024 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 noted that the Sub-Committee agreed that engagement with PI was good throughout 2024 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 2024 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

Members were advised that 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.

The LCDC SICAP Sub-Committee acknowledged the work of IDP in delivering the SICAP and New Arrival Supports through the SICAP Programme in 2024. The programmes and supports provided are aligned to local needs. A wide range of supports were provided to new arrivals under each Annual Plan Action in the Lot area. Specific supports for the LPTG were delivered in 8 of the 10 Actions of the Annual Plan for 2024.

### Case Studies

Kathleen advised that the Sub-Committee confirmed that case study under Thematic Focus – An Inishowen response for our new communities – Together Connected had been approved by the LCDC at their meeting in July 2024. The case study more than adequately met the guidelines issued and the LCDC were satisfied with the quality of the case study. It clearly showcased the work being carried out, through the SICAP Programme, by IDP in Lot 33-1 to meet, facilitate, engage and support newcomer and migrant communities across Inishowen in collaboration with stakeholders

### Pobal Parallel Review

Kathleen confirmed that the Pobal parallel review was satisfactory and any issues which arose have been resolved.

### Overall Assessment

Members were advised that the LCDC Sicap Sub-Committee found no areas of concern requiring further engagement with IDP in conducting the Annual Performance review.

Members were informed that the LCDC SICAP Sub-Committee is satisfied to recommend approval of the Annual Performance Review 2024 for Lot 33-1 Inishowen.

On the proposal of Joe Boland, seconded by Aengus Kennedy, the LCDC approved the End of Year Report 2024 for Lot 33-1 and that Programme Funding in the amount of €64,526.50 for the SICAP Programme and €8,590.92 for SICAP New Arrivals Supports for the period 1<sup>st</sup> March 2025 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 be released to Inishowen Development Partnership.

The LCDC noted that approval of the End of Year Report also results in Final Approval for the Lot 33-1 Annual Plan 2025.

On the recommendation of the SICAP Sub-Committee the LCDC requested IDP to continue to provide regular updates at LCDC Meetings throughout 2025 on Programme Delivery and Expenditure for Lots 33-1.

### Lot 33-2

Kathleen Browne advised members that The Annual Performance Review 2024 for Lot 33-2 (Gaeltacht), was brought before the LCDC SICAP Sub-Committee for consideration on 10th February 2025. A copy of the Annual Performance Narrative Report had been circulated with the Agenda.

### Document Checks

She confirmed 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

Members were informed that the overall progress for Lot 33-2 in 2025 was good with targets for KPI1 and 2 being achieved and exceeded. The target for percentage of KPI 2 participants from Local Priority Target Group – People living in Disadvantaged Communities areas was also achieved. The Action Progress report provided detail of individual progress and target achievement under each Action

### Budget Parameters

Members were advised that the Sub-Committee examined the Financial Reports submitted and confirmed that budget management by Donegal Local Development CLG 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 for both SICAP and New Arrival Budgets. The amount of spend reported on sub-contractors did not exceed 30% of the total budget amount. One Individual Enterprise Start Up Grant, 5 Social Enterprise Grants and 8 Local Community Group or Network Grants were awarded by Donegal Local Development CLG in 2024. 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 €24,147.89 (5%) in SICAP Budget which is the maximum percentage permitted to be carried forward to be spend in 2025. Therefore, no remedies need to be applied. There was an underspend of €5,349.90 (3.77% of overall annual Budget) on the New Arrival Supports Budget for Lot 33-2 in 2024 which is less than the 5% permitted. DLDC have clearly detailed in the Annual Plan 2025 where the under spent monies from both the SICAP and New Arrivals budgets carried forward into 2025 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 adhered to all publicity requirements.

Members noted that the Sub-Committee agreed that engagement with PI was good throughout 2024 with requests for updates, financial claims and meetings all being promptly addressed. Through engagement with the PI and as evidenced in the detailed Annual Progress Narrative Report 2024 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

Members were advised that 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.

The LCDC acknowledged the work of DLDC in delivering the SICAP Programme and New Arrival Supports through the SICAP Programme in 2024. The programmes and supports provided are aligned to local needs. A wide range of supports were provided to new arrivals in under each Action in the Lot area. Specific support for the LPTG were delivered in 9 of the 10 Actions of the Annual Plan for 2024. Supports were delivered to Island Communities under budget ringfenced as required by SICAP Programme and as Local Priority Target Area for Lot 33-2 Donegal Gaeltacht.

### Case Studies

Kathleen confirmed that Donegal LCDC considered the case study under Thematic Focus: Collaborative Responses to Identified Needs - Collaboration with Donegal Domestic Violence Services at their meeting in October 2024. The case study more than adequately met the guidelines issued and the LCDC were satisfied with the quality of the case study. It clearly showcased the work being carried out, through the SICAP Programme by DLDC in Collaboration with Donegal Domestic Violence Service to provide supports for vulnerable clients.

### Pobal Parallel Review

Members noted that the Pobal parallel review was satisfactory with no issues arising.

### Overall Assessment

Members were advised that the LCDC Sicap Sub-Committee found no areas of concern requiring further engagement with DLDC in conducting the Annual Performance review.

Members were informed that the LCDC SICAP Sub-Committee is satisfied to recommend approval of the Annual Performance Review 2025 for Lot 33-2 Donegal Gaeltacht.

On the proposal of Joe Boland, seconded by Aengus Kennedy, the LCDC approved the End of Year Report 2024 for Lot 33-2 and recommended that Programme Funding in the amount of €41,492.59 for the Lot 33-2 SICAP Programme and €12,292.08 for Lot 33-2 SICAP New Arrival Supports for the period 1<sup>st</sup> March 2025 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 be released to Donegal Local Development CLG.

The LCDC noted that approval of the End of Year Report also results in Final Approval for the Lot 33-2 Annual Plan 2025.

On the recommendation of the SICAP Sub-Committee the LCDC requested DLDC to continue to provide regular updates at LCDC Meetings throughout 2025 on Programme Delivery and Expenditure for Lots 33-2.



### Lot 33-3

Kathleen Browne advised members that the Annual Performance Review 2024 for Lot 33-3 (Donegal), was brought before the LCDC SICAP Sub-Committee for consideration on 10th February 2025. A copy of the Annual Performance Narrative Report had been circulated with the Agenda.

### Document Checks

She confirmed 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

Members were informed that the overall progress for Lot 33-3 in 2024 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 provided detail of individual progress and target achievement under each Action

### Budget Parameters

Members were advised that the Sub-Committee examined the Financial Reports submitted and confirmed that budget management by Donegal Local Development CLG was in line with Programme Guidelines. Admin costs charged as a % of Annual Budget did not exceed 25% and the costs reported against Goal 1 and 2 Actions as a percentage of the total actions costs was within the 40-60% threshold for SICAP Budget. The costs reported against the Goal 1 and 2 as a percentage of the total action costs for SICAP New Arrivals Budget was slightly outside the threshold at G1 36.20% and G2 63.8%. This variance was due to the allocation of additional funding for New Arrivals in 2024 which was agreed by the LCDC in September 2024. The amount of spend reported on sub-contractors did not exceed 30% of the total budget amount. 6 Individual Enterprise Start Up Grants, 6 Local Community Group or Network Grants and 5 Social Enterprise Grants were awarded by Donegal Local Development CLG in 2024. 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 €48,374.54 (3.84%) in the SICAP Budget which was less than the 5% permitted to be carried forward to be spend in 2025. There was a Budget underspend of €20,251.49 (4.49%) in the SICAP New Arrivals Support Budget which was less than the 5% permitted to be carried forward to be spend in 2025. Therefore, no remedies need to be applied. DLDC have clearly detailed in the Annual Plan 2025 where the under spent SICAP and New Arrival Supports monies carried forward into 2025 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 adhered to all publicity requirements.

Members noted that the Sub-Committee agreed that engagement with PI was good throughout 2025 with requests for updates, financial claims and meetings all being promptly addressed. Through engagement with the PI and as evidenced in the detailed Annual Progress Narrative Report 2024 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

Members were advised that 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.

Donegal LCDC acknowledged the work of DLDC in delivering the SICAP Programme and New Arrival Supports through the SICAP Programme in 2024. The programmes and supports provided are aligned to local needs. A wide range of supports were provided to new arrivals with specific supports delivered under 9 of the 10 Action in the Lot area. Specific support for the LPTG were delivered in 6 of the 10 Actions of the Annual Plan for 2024.

### Case Studies

Katheen confirmed that the case study Thematic Focus: Collaborative Responses to Identified Needs - Social Enterprise Incubator Hub had been approved by the LCDC at their meeting in October 2024. The case study more than adequately met the guidelines issued and the LCDC were satisfied with the quality of the case study. It clearly showcased the work being carried out, through the SICAP Programme by DLDC in devising an “incubator hub” initiative and engaging in consultation with relevant stakeholders to become collaboration partners.

### Pobal Parallel Review

Members noted that the Pobal parallel review was satisfactory with no issues arising.

### Overall Assessment

Members were advised that the LCDC Sicap Sub-Committee found no areas of concern requiring further engagement with DLDC in conducting the Annual Performance review.

Members were informed that the LCDC SICAP Sub-Committee was satisfied to recommend approval of the Annual Performance Review 2025 for Lot 33-3 Donegal.

On the proposal of Joe Boland, seconded by Aengus Kennedy, the LCDC approved the End of Year Report 2024 for Lot 33-3 and further recommended that Programme Funding in the amount of €108,215.75 for the Lot 33-3 SICAP Programme and €33,793.92 for Lot 33-3 SICAP New Arrival Supports for the period 1<sup>st</sup> March 2025 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 be released to Donegal Local Development CLG.

The LCDC noted that approval of the End of Year Report also results in Final Approval for the Lot 33-3 Annual Plan 2025.

On the recommendation of the SICAP Sub-Committee the LCDC requested DLDC to continue to provide regular updates at LCDC Meetings throughout 2025 on Programme Delivery and Expenditure for Lots 33-3.

**8. LCDC Annual Report 2024**

Paddy Doherty advised members that the LCDC Annual Report 2024, had been circulated to members with the Agenda, for their consideration and approval.

He confirmed that following approval of this report, it would be brought to the Council Meeting in March for consideration and approval.

Paddy reviewed the report with members outlining the highlights, work and achievements of the LCDC in 2024.

Paddy paid tribute to the work of the LCDC administrative staff.

On the proposal of James O'Donnell, seconded by Anne McAteer, the LCDC approved the LCDC Annual Report 2024.

**9. Declaration of Interest – Local Authority Committees and LEADER**

Members were reminded of their obligation to complete and return Declarations of Interest which had been circulated to them in advance of the deadline of 28<sup>th</sup> February.

**10. AOB**

Joe Boland queried whether a PR Toolkit which had been funded under LEADER through the Donegal LAG had been made available to Community Groups yet. Andrew Ward, IDP, confirmed that he would follow up on this query.

**11. Next Meeting**

Cllr. McDermott confirmed that the next meeting of the LCDC was scheduled for 19<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 10am.

This concluded the business of the meeting.