

Meeting: County Louth LCDC

Date: 13th April 2015

Location: Cooley Room, County Hall

In Attendance: Cllr Colm Markey (Chair),
Cllr Dolores Minogue,
Cllr Pearse McGeough,
Cllr Liam Reilly,
Joe McGuinness
Mary Deery,
Paddy Drumgoole,
Kevin Moran,
Anthony McArdle,
Marian Sloane,
Breffni Martin,
Breda Tuite,
Paddy Matthews,
Mary Ann Mc Glynn,
Anne Keeley,
Peter Kierans
Joe English
Eddie Phelan

Apologies: Fiona Murphy
Frank O'Brien
John Cotterell,

Guest: Joan Martin
Mary Kelly Louth Leader Partnership (LLP)
Stephen Hanna Department of Social Protection (DSP)

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chairman, Cllr. Colm Markey, thanked the members for attending and noted apologies.

2. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting on 9th February 2015

Minutes were proposed by Liam Reilly and Seconded by Ann Keeley.

3. Matters Arising

The Chief Officer advised the group regarding the previous meeting's actions, and contact with the department and the minister for clarification on the definition of LCDC responsibilities; the letter sent and the reply from the department were contained within the folders provided for today's meeting.

4. Correspondence

The Chief Officer referred to the list of circulars on the agenda in relation to guidance on LECP (AL1/2015), the development of protocols (AL2/2015) and a reminder to LCDCs to submit an annual report (AL03/2015).

5. Community elements of Local Economic Community Plan (LECP)

Update by Joe McGuinness:

Joe McGuinness reminded the members that the community elements of the plan will be developed by the LCDC. There will be a workshop organised with members of the LCDC and other relevant reps from groups who are not directly represented on the committee but have an input into community development to attend this brainstorming session.

Action: Executive to develop list of those to be invited to attend.

6. Advisory Steering Group

The members agreed the individuals nominated at LCDC meeting would attend Advisory Steering Group:

These were noted as: Joe McGuinness, Mary Ann McGlynn, Mary Deery, and Kevin Moran from the LCDC and Mary T Daly & Mark Deery from the SPC on Economic Development.

7. Job Activation Programme

A Presentation was given by Ann Keeley and Stephen Hanna from the Department of Social Protection.

There followed a general discussion in relation to the presentation – areas where the group could focus on:

- Distance: Rural/Urban- how this affects young and old
- Early school leavers- takes years for them to return en par with their peers.

- Older people who became unemployed find it difficult to return to employment.
- Mid Louth- Youth Reach not in the area- possible priority with ETB through LECP.

The Chief Officer advised the group that they had to be cognisant of the Action Plan for Jobs and the CEDRA in the development of the LECP. The committee also should consider work on ideas where job activation programmes would help deliver national plans and policies at local level.

Members were advised that DKIT will be involved through the economic forum which is more the economic side of the plan.

8. Social inclusion Activation programme

Mary Kelly – Presentation refers

There was a general discussion in relation to the SICAP programme including how challenging it will be to meet the 11 targets and defining structural disadvantaged within SICAP. There was concern whether mid Louth would be considered disadvantaged enough for inclusion in the programme- the community elements of the LECP should address this, along with 4 reps from the mid Louth area on the committee.

Peter Kierans said that to advance the youth reach in Ardee it would be an advantage if local politicians engaged with LMETB- the chair advised that this would be done at Municipal District.

9. LEADER – Expression of interest (EOI)

The Louth County Council Chief Executive explained to the committee details of the expression of interest for LEADER. Initially the preference was for LCDC to be the Local Action Group (LAG) however there was a policy shift to extend to others to make submissions and LLP were also interested. The department prefers one EOI from each county- there is ongoing discussion with LLP in advancing this subject to agreement by Louth LCDC and the LLP board. An agreement in principal is likely which will see LCDC making the expression of interest (EOI) for Louth stating that LLP will be the delivery agent and LCC dealing with the financial administration.

Mary Ann advised that it would be in the best interest for the county to progress asap in order to release funding for the programme otherwise a delay in the EOI will not be beneficial to Louth.

The CE said that the applicant will see no difference, LLP will be the animation and Louth LCDC will provide the financial administration supports .

Mary Ann McGlynn confirmed that the final decision on grants can only be made by the LAG i.e. the LCDC.

Action: Mary Ann McGlynn to put a document together for circulation to the committee.

The role of the LCDC as a LAG was further discussed with the outcome as follows:

The LCDC has an oversight role on all public funding in the community at county level and therefore will act as a central clearing house for all community economic activity in the County. It therefore has an integral role with the Leader Programme and is best placed to act as the LAG.

Eddie Phelan asked can the requirement to have LCDC give final grant approval be included in the EOI.

Pearse McGeough asked if finances are in the programme to cover admin, the CE advised that this shouldn't be a problem. Mary Ann said that projects are ready in the wings for a quick turnaround.

Proposed: Liam Reilly and Seconded by Kevin Moran with the requisite that the position of the LCDC to give final sign on grant approval as proposed by Eddie Phelan be included.

10. LDCP Report

Mary Ann McGlynn excused herself from the meeting as she identified a conflict of interest. She did not return to the meeting.

Proposed: Joe McGuinness, Seconded Marian Sloane.

11. Adoption of annual report

The Chief Officer presented the Louth LCDC annual report as circulated. The annual report will be presented to the LCC meeting 20th April.

12. Training for LCDC

The Chief Officer gave updates on national training for LCDC members.

Breffni Martin said LCDC members would benefit from training on sustainable development.

Kevin Moran said that logic model training programme was required and LMETD may be able to provide- CE to review.

13. AOB

The Chief Officer requested in the next full LCDC meeting the committee should focus on the public consultation plan. A focused workshop on the community elements of the LCDC will be convened in early May.

The Chair advised the workshop would be within the next two weeks and Joe McGuinness further noted there would be 2 advisory steering committees over that period and will give early notice.

14. Date of Next Meeting

Date of next meeting 15th June 2015