

Redacted Version for Publication

Meeting: Louth Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

Louth Local Action Group (LAG)

Date: 26th March 2018 at 3.00pm

Location: Cooley Room, County Hall, Dundalk

In attendance: Cllr. Liam Reilly, Chairperson
Cllr. Colm Markey
Cllr. Pearse McGeough
Cllr. Dolores Minogue
Ms. Joan Martin, CE, LCC
Ms. Anne Keeley, DSP
Mr. Thomas McEvoy, LEO
Ms. Sadie Ward-McDermott, LMETB

Mr. Larry Magnier, PPN
Mr. Kevin Moran, PPN
Mr. Geordie McAteer, PPN
Ms. Grainne Berrill, Louth Volunteer Centre
Ms. Joanne Finnegan, PPN
Mr. Michael Gaynor, Chamber of Commerce
Mr. Breannán Casey, Chamber of Commerce
Mr. Matthew McGreehan, IFA

Officials: Mr. Joe McGuinness
Mr. John Lawrence
Ms. Riona McCoy
Ms. Mary Deery
Ms. Clare O'Hagan

Apologies: Ms. Annette McDonnell, HSE
Mr. Ciaran Reid, CEO, LLP

Guests: Ms. Mary O'Neill (LLP)

LAG MATTERS:

Mr. John Lawrence enquired if members were agreeable that the LAG meeting would take place before the LCDC, Members agreed to the change in running order.

LAG Minute No. 18/2018

1. Minutes of LAG meeting held on the 19th February 2018

Decision: On the proposal of Mr. Geordie McAteer, seconded by Ms. Grainne Berrill and unanimously agreed by the members the minutes of the meeting held on the 19th February 2018 were adopted.

LAG Minute No. 19/2018

2. Matters arising

There were no matter arising.

LAG Minute No. 20/2018

3. Quorum Requirements

Mr. John Lawrence advised members that on foot of the Leader Forum held in May 2017 a number of action points (25 & 26) in relation to quorums and decision making at LAG meetings were addressed in Circular 12/2017. However the revised operating rules issued in Dec 2017 were in conflict with the circular in relation to the percentage split for decisions of the LAG. Mr. J. Lawrence advised that there were sufficient members present today in any event to satisfy quorum and decision making requirements.

A question has been submitted to the Department for clarity around the following change:

Revised Operating Rules have reduced the requirement that "at least 51% of those voting on a decision are non-public sector partners" to at least 50%. It was noted that the introduction at 5.3 on the Operating Rules states that "LAG decision-making procedures must ensure that neither the public sector nor any single interest group represents more than 49% of the LAG voting"

Members will be advised of the outcome of this query.

LAG Minute No. 21/2018

4. Financial Reports

There were four number financial reports circulated to members up to the 26th March 2018.

Ms. Riona McCoy referred members to two further financial reports numbers 1 and 2 both reports were raised on the LCC accounting system. One report shows the financial transactions carried out under a job code for the administration budget, the other shows the financial payments to promoters for projects.

Recommendation: Approval of financial reports numbers 1 and 2.

Decision: On the proposal of Mr. Kevin Moran, seconded by Mr. Geordie McAteer and unanimously agreed by the members financial reports 1 and 2 were approved.

Ms. Riona McCoy informed members present that Report 4 – Named Administrative Costs as circulated to members showed the administration expenditure for February as submitted by LLP was €23,794.38.

Recommendation: Approval of the administration expenditure costs for February in the amount of €23,794.38.

Decision: On the proposal of Mr. Kevin Moran, seconded by Mr. Geordie McAteer and unanimously agreed by the members present the expenditure for February in the amount of €23,794.38 was approved.

Members were advised by Ms. Riona McCoy that financial report number 3 provides an overview of the committed projects and which Programme Sub Theme they fall under. The report as well as indicating the actual committed funding also provides members with the budget for 2018 available under these themes.

Mr. Larry Magnier stated that this report would be a useful tool for the LAG as it will clearly highlight the expenditure under each of the Programme Sub-themes.

Recommendation: Approval of the financial report number 3 for February is approved.

Decision: On the proposal of Mr. Kevin Moran, seconded by Mr. Geordie McAteer and unanimously agreed by the members present the financial report number 3 for February is approved.

LAG Minute No. 22/2018

5. RDP Sub Group Report

Mr. John Lawrence informed members that the RDP Sub Group had met on 12th March. A number of recommendations were now being brought to the LAG for consideration.

a) Selection of a new RDP Sub Group Chairperson

Mr. Colm Markey was elected as the new Chair of the RDP Subgroup

b) Targeted Call

Mr. John Lawrence informed members that the LAG is obliged to have one targeted call per year and once a call has issued the strategic action remains closed for a period of 6 months. The RDP Sub Group is recommending that the next targeted call should be SA26 – Renewable Energy Capital Supports, under the Theme of Rural Environment. The full action funding of €156,000 should be made available for the call. If agreed for publication the closing date for EOIs under this call will be Friday 11th May 2018.

Mr. Geordie McAteer queried match funding element of the targeted call. Ms. Mary O'Neill advised that 75% funding was available for communities, with a maximum of 50% for businesses.

Recommendation: The targeted call for 2018 should be for SA26 Renewable Energy Capital Supports with the full action funding of €156,000 being made available.

Decision: On the proposal of Mr. Larry Magnier, seconded by Ms. Grainne Berrill and unanimously agreed by the members present the targeted call for 2018 under SA26 was agreed.

c) Project Suitability

Mr. John Lawrence informed the members that at the RDP Sub Group meeting clarity around alignment with the LDS of the various types of funding enquiries being received by Louth Leader Partnership. The RDP Sub Group had discussed these at length and a number of recommendations were now being made.

- a) Private members clubs e.g. golf clubs

Recommendation: These projects can be considered for funding if they apply in the appropriate strategic action under the Economic Theme.

- b) Schools to renovate classrooms e.g. sensory room /areas e.g. playgrounds

Recommendation: Cannot be considered under the programme

- c) Bed & Breakfast accommodation part of residential – renovation and refurbishments

Recommendation: SA4 Alternative Accommodation Facilities Provision

i) The refurbishment of B&B would not be considered.

ii) Due to the level of capital for this action the RDP Sub group will review over the life of the programme.

- d) Should Resident Associations applying for funding do so through the umbrella Tidy Towns Committee – Do lawnmowers qualify for funding?

Recommendation: SA12 Support and development of Tidy Towns initiatives

i) Residents Associations can apply for funding without reference to the umbrella Tidy Towns Groups. However individual Residents Associations should highlight how their proposal is congruent with Action Plans of Tidy Towns groups where relevant.

iii) Lawnmowers would not be considered LDS states local infrastructure enhancement

Decision: On the proposal of Mr. Sadie Ward McDermott, seconded by Mr. Thomas McEvoy and unanimously agreed by the members present the recommendations from A to D of the RDP Sub Group were agreed.

Re-surfacing of car parks

The RDP Sub Group discussed this issue and were unable to make a determination regarding funding for car parks. Further details around the number of enquiries received, the number of projects in the pipeline and the approximate cost of the projects would assist the Sub group in their deliberations. Louth Leader Partnership will bring this information to the next RDP Sub group meeting and a recommendation to the LAG will follow.

LAG Minute No. 23/2018

6. LEADER

Ms Riona McCoy advised that the Qtr 2 administration payment in the amount of €81,876.02 had been paid in advance as per the SLA and therefore members were being asked to ratify the payment.

Recommendation: Approval of the administration payment for LEADER for Qtr 2 2018.

Decision: On the proposal of Ms. Sadie Ward McDermott, seconded by Ms. Anne Keely and unanimously agreed by the members the Qtr 2 2018 payment was ratified by the members.

LAG Minute No. 24/2018

7. Conflict of Interest

All members were reminded by Mr. John Lawrence to declare any conflict of interest based on the agenda and meeting documents. There were no conflicts of interest.

LAG Minute No. 25/2018

8. EOI's

Members were referred to the EOI's received during February 2018. Ms. Mary O'Neill advised members that the list of EOI's circulated were for noting only. However there were two ineligible EOI's and that a decision would need to be taken for both of these.

- A) Project Ref. No. 106674 was deemed ineligible in accordance with the Operating Rules the project is deemed as retail.
- B) Project Ref. No. 106767 was deemed ineligible in accordance with the Operating Rules as DkIT is a public body therefore not able to apply. Advised to go back to promoter.

Ms. Sadie Ward McDermott indicated that she was on the Board of DkIT and queried if another Company were to apply on their behalf is the money to be spent in DkIT. Ms. Mary O'Neill advised that a subsidiary, not DkIT, can apply but would be subject to Departmental approval and a query had been submitted to the Dept. in relation to this and a response has yet to be received.

Decision: On the proposal of Ms. Gráinne Berrill, seconded by Mr. Geordie McAteer and unanimously agreed by the members present project reference 106674 and 106767 were deemed ineligible.

LAG Minute No. 26/2018

9. LEADER Project

Project Code:	21LDRLOU105789
Promoter Code:	4925
Agreed by Board:	To fully support the project at 90% or €12,564.85 of eligible costs, whichever is the lesser

a) Conflict of Interest: There was no conflict of interest declared for the above project.

b) Members present for decision:

Public: 8 number

Cllr. Liam Reilly, Cllr. Colm Markey, Cllr. Dolores Minogue, Cllr. Pearse McGeough, Ms. Joan Martin, Mr. Thomas McEvoy, LEO, Ms. Sadie Ward-McDermott, LMETB, Ms. Anne Keeley, DSP

Private: 8 number

Mr. Geordie McAteer, PPN, Mr. Kevin Moran, PPN, Ms. Joanne Finnegan, PPN, Mr. Larry Magnier, PPN, Ms. Grainne Berrill, LVC, Mr. Michael Gaynor, Chamber of Commerce Dundalk, Mr. Breannán Casey, Chamber of Commerce Drogheda, Mr. Matthew McGreehan, IFA.

Abstained:

Quorum present – Yes

Public/ Private split – Yes

Decision: On the proposal of Ms. Grainne Berrill, seconded by Mr. Kevin Moran, and unanimously agreed by the members present the above project was approved for support. The project can now proceed to Article 48 check and subject to satisfactory check will progress to letter of offer stage.

LAG Minute No. 27/2018

10. Leader Project

Project Code:	21LDRLOU106450
Promoter Code:	2762
Agreed by Board:	To fully support the project at 50% or €2,996.58 of eligible expenditure, whichever is the lesser

a) Conflict of Interest: There was no conflict of interest declared for the above project.

b) Members present for decision:

Public: 8 number

Cllr. Liam Reilly, Cllr. Colm Markey, Cllr. Dolores Minogue, Cllr. Pearse McGeough, Ms. Joan Martin, Mr. Thomas McEvoy, LEO, Ms. Sadie Ward-McDermott, LMETB, Ms. Anne Keeley, DSP

Private: 8 number

Mr. Geordie McAteer, PPN, Mr. Kevin Moran, PPN, Ms. Joanne Finnegan, PPN, Mr. Larry Magnier, PPN, Ms. Grainne Berrill, LVC, Mr. Michael Gaynor, Chamber of Commerce Dundalk, Mr. Breannán Casey, Chamber of Commerce Drogheda, Mr. Matthew McGreehan, IFA.

Abstained:

Quorum present – Yes

Public/ Private split – Yes

Decision: On the proposal of Ms. Gráinne Berrill, seconded by Mr. Thomas McEvoy, and unanimously agreed by the members present the above project was approved for support. The project can now proceed to Article 48 check and subject to satisfactory check will progress to letter of offer stage.

The business of the LAG meeting concluded.

LCDC MATTERS:

LCDC Minute No. 14/2018

1. Minutes of LCDC meeting held on the 19th February 2018

Decision: On the proposal of Mr. Michael Gaynor, seconded by Mr. Geordie McAteer and unanimously agreed by the members the minutes of the meeting held on the 19th February 2018 were adopted.

LCDC Minute No. 15/2018

2. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

LCDC Minute No. 16/2018

3. LECP Update

Mr. John Lawrence informed members that the Lead Partners had been written to seeking progress reports for end of June & end of December 2017. Closing date for receipt of reports is 20th April and it is envisaged that an update will be available for the May meeting.

LCDC Minute No. 17/2018

4. PEACE IV – Nominee to Replace Mr. Frank O’Brien on the Peace IV Partnership Board

Proposals sought to replace Mr. Frank O’Brien on the Peace IV Partnership Board. Mr. Liam Reilly questioned the commitment required. Ms Joan Martin advised that the nominated person would be required to attend one meeting per month. Ms. Anne Keeley advised that she was interested in taking up the position.

Conflict of Interest: There was no conflict of interest

Decision: On the proposal of Ms Sadie Ward McDermott, seconded by Mr. Geordie McAteer and unanimously by the members it was agreed that Ms. Anne Keeley would replace Mr. Frank O’Brien on the Peace IV Partnership Board.

LCDC Minute No. 18/2018

5. SICAP - Qtr 2 Payment

The Qtr 2 payment of €328,400 for 2018 issued to Louth Leader Partnership today.

Decision: On the proposal of Ms. Sadie Ward McDermott seconded by Mr. Michael Gaynor and unanimously by the members present the payment of Qtr 2, 2018 was ratified.

LCDC Minute No. 19/2018

6. Healthy Ireland Update

Mr. John Lawrence informed the members that a number of individual projects were progressing very well under the Healthy Ireland Strategy. He also advised that the Department had extended the deadline for project by 3 months and that three of the current projects would benefit from the extra time given. €68,000 has been made available to fund the projects. He further advised that a conference call was received from POBAL today for progress report on the actions. This was the second check-in call received since the allocation of funding was made.

LCDC Minute No. 20/2018

7. LCDC Correspondence

Mr. John Lawrence informed the members that Minister Ring visited Dunleer to meet with the Dunleer Community Development Group and Cooley Complex for the opening of the playground.

- a) Department notification of the list of Schemes for 2018 has been disseminated by the PPN through the Friday Communiqué.
- b) Clár funding announced this week for projects in the Cooley Peninsula under two pillars: (1) Schools / Community Safety and (2) Schools/Play Areas. Calls made for proposals issued via schools and local media. Of the €2m funding available, 90% funding support is available for enhancements.

Mr. Larry Magnier raised the question as to whether Clár funding could be used for co-funding/match funding opportunities with LEADER for new playgrounds etc. Ms. Mary O'Neill advised that this would not be available for schools, as they were not in the public remit, but would be available to community groups. Mr. John Lawrence advised that the due to tight timelines for delivery of projects co-funding may not be feasible. Ms. O'Neill advised that Leader funding must be the principle funder in projects. Ms. Joan Martin added that co-funding/match funding proposals would possibly complicate matters in terms of overall funding and delivery.

Cllr. Minogue queried could a request be submitted to the Department for an extension of the CLAR area in the county. Ms. Joan Martin responded that Louth's continuation in the Clár area is tenuous but highly beneficial and it would not be in advisable to pursue this extension.

LCDC Minute No. 21/2018

8. Dates for next Meetings

Cllr. Liam Reilly advised that the next two meetings would take place on 16th April and 21st May and that clarification is required with regard to the date for the June meeting.

The business of the LCDC meeting concluded.

Minutes confirmed at meeting held on _____

16/4/18

Chairperson

