



Coiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Áitiúil Lú
Louth Local Community Development
Committee

Annual Report 2017

Mr. Liam Reilly, MCC, Chairperson, Louth Local Community Development Committee

Mr. Joe Mc Guinness, Chief Officer, Louth Local Community Development Committee

Introduction

National policy envisages a central role for local government in the planning and oversight of local and community development programmes while maintaining a key role for local development entities in front line delivery.

The enhanced oversight role by local government in this area is consistent with its purpose of promoting the well-being and quality of life of citizens and communities. The policy envisages more joined up working between the local government and local development sector to ensure local communities derive maximum benefit from local, national and EU resources targeting social inclusion, community and rural development.

Part 6 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 gives legislative effect to this national policy including the establishment of Local Community Development Committees (LCDC's) in each local authority administrative area.

Purpose and function of Louth LCDC

Louth LCDC has been established for the purposes of developing, coordinating and implementing a coherent and integrated approach to local and community development and the inaugural meeting of the committee was held on 25th April 2014. The committee is made up of representatives from the local government and local development sectors, public bodies and representatives of social, economic, environmental and community interests.

Specifically the LCDC is responsible for the strategic coordination, governance, planning and oversight of local development expenditure by local authorities on behalf of the state or by other local development agencies and structures.

The functions of the LCDC are set out in Section 128A of Local Government 2001 (as inserted by section 36 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014). They are as follows;

- Prepare and adopt the community elements of the 6 year Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP).
- Implement or arrange for the implementation of the community elements of the LECP.
- Review the 'community elements' of the plan at least once over the six year period and amend as considered necessary.
- Monitor and review implementation of the community elements and revise actions and strategies as appropriate.
- Coordinate the management and oversee the implementation of the programmes that have been approved either by the local authority or by agreement between the LCDC and other public bodies.
- Ensure effectiveness, coordination, consistency and the avoidance of duplication between publicly funded local and community development programmes.
- Optimise resources for the benefit of local communities and improve the efficiency with which publicly funded local and community development resources are used.
- Consider and adopt a statement in respect of the economic elements of the Plan to be prepared by the local authorities.
- Prepare and submit an annual report on the performance of its duties no later than the 31st March each year in relation to the performance of its functions for the preceding year.

Meetings held in 2017

Louth LCDC meetings were held on the following dates during 2017:

16th January 2017

20th February 2017

20th March 2017

10th April 2017

15th May 2017

19th June 2017

17th July 2017

18th September 2017

13th November 2017

4th December, 2017

Main achievements in 2017

1. Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP) - Community Goals

The Louth LCDC has prepared a six year local community plan which includes actions to tackle poverty and disadvantage, support enterprise, employment and training, develop community infrastructure and the promotion of economic development. The actions (183 in number) are contained within eight overarching goals as follows

- Goal 1: Strong, safe and flourishing communities
- Goal 2: Access to education
- Goal 3: Prosperous, inclusive communities and places
- Goal 4: Health and wellbeing
- Goal 5: Nurturing children and young people
- Goal 6: An age-friendly society
- Goal 7: Entrepreneurship, innovation and enterprise
- Goal 8: A valued environment

The LECP was adopted by Louth County Council in April 2016 and implementation of the plan commenced during 2016. The delivery of actions has been assisted by various initiatives and events throughout the year including

- Facilitate the Community Hub's in Dundalk, Ardee and Drogheda
- The PPN Community and Voluntary Awards Night
- Continued communication to community groups through the Friday Communiqué
- Pride of Place achievements and National Tidy Towns awards
- Comhairle na nÓg, Crossborder Brexit Project
- Remote monitoring REDZ II scheme

During 2017 the LCDC provided oversight in the allocation of funding across various funding programmes.

CLÁR 2017

CLÁR Funding under Measure 2		
Group	Grant purpose	Allocation
Mullaghbuoy National School	Outdoor play area	€9,000
Cooley-Complex-Ltd	Resurface carpark and fencing	€20,579.00
Total		€29,579.00

Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2017

Town/Village	Overview	Funding Sought
Ardee	Dee Hub, health check, purchase equipment, install training area, specialised training locally.	€56,000
Ballapousta	Infrastructure works including footpath.	€79,304.80
Blackrock	Infrastructure works along with kerbing, bicycle stand and upgraded traffic lights.	€55,100
Carlingford	Enlarge & extend pedestrian area of Tholsel Street including footpaths, paving, bicycle stands and new road surfaces.	€79,337
Dromiskin	Footpath to link all amenities.	€100,000
Dunleer	Catering facilities/marketing strategy and infrastructure improvements.	€100,000
Kilkerley	Community playground & picnic area.	€64,000
Knockbridge	Upgrade of existing playground at Stephentown Pond.	€100,000
Reaghstown	Provision of facilities in Community Centre inc lift.	€32,137
Stabannon	Footpaths & lighting to facilitate development of walking trail.	€29,872.80
Tallanstown	Upgrade of existing Heritage Trail & outdoor equipment.	€21,806.56
Tullyallen	Pathway to lands of Kind Williams Glen.	€70,400
Total		€787,958.16

Recast RAPID 2017

Municipal District Dundalk		
Group	Grant purpose	Allocation
Craobh Rua	Computer Suite	€4,445.00
St Oliver Carlingford	Upgrade Community gardens	€4,000.00
Dundalk Youth Centre	Digital Music Equipment	€6,720.72
O'Hanlon Boxing Club	CCTV and Intruder Alarms	€3,518.00
Cox's Demesne	Boiler, heating equipment & furniture and blinds	€6,017.17
Cuidigh Linn	Lawn Mowers and garden equipment	€3032.44
Total		€27,733.33

Borough District Drogheda		
Group	Grant purpose	Allocation
Connect Family Resource Centre, Moneymore	Streetscaping, Connect FRC gate, Cable kitchen	€8,236.00
Lifestyle Dev Ballsgrove, Rathmullen & St Finians Park	ICT equipment	€7,263.35
Boomerang	IT suite	€6,066.90
	Total	€21,566.25
Municipal District Ardee		
Group	Grant purpose	Allocation
Tallanstown TT	Estate improvements Cherrywood Park	€3,000.00
Ferdia Pk	Estate Improvements where bottle banks were removed	€3,000.00
Kilsaran	Replace broken down boundary fence	€3,972.50
Castlebellingham	New public waste receptacles	€2,227.68
Dunleer	Beechwood Drive estate enhancements	€3,000.00
	Total	€15,200.18
	Scheme Grand Total	€64,499.76

Healthy Ireland Fund

Project	Project Lead	Allocation
Healthy Louth	LCC for LCDC	€20,000
Towards a Healthy Louth Monitoring system (HELM)	DkIT, Netwell CASALA for LCDC	€20,000
Connect Family resource Centre	Physical Wellbeing Course	€5,000
Youth Health Project	Dundalk Youth Centre for LCDC	€15,500
Pilates for Older People	Connect Family Resource Centre for LCDC	€5,600
Membership of Healthy Cities and Counties Network of Ireland	LCC for LCDC	€2,500
Kick-start fitness and well-being course	LLP for LCDC	€15,000
Healthy Lifestyle Classes	ALONE for LCDC	€5,000
	Total	€88,600

Community Facilities Scheme

Municipal District	Ardee		Drogheda		Dundalk	
Supporting	No. of Projects	Award	No. of Projects	Award	No. of Projects	Award
Social Exclusion	6	€4,000	16	€9,000	48	€22,000
Community Infrastructure	4	€3,000	8	€4,063	14	€5,150
Community Amenities	9	€4,050	11	€4,000	4	€1,550
Sporting Activities	2	€860	1	€430	12	€5,160
Sustainable Energy	0	€0	1	€430	3	€1,290
Totals	21	€11,910	37	€17,923	81	€35,150
Scheme Total						€64,983.00

LECP 1st Progress Report

The oversight of the community elements of the LECP is a statutory role for the LCDC. During 2017 the Advisory Steering Group carried out a review of the progress on the implementation of the Economic and Community elements of the LECP. All Community lead agencies were contacted to provide an update on their actions as at the 31st December 2016 a narrative for each action was included in the report with an overall completion rate of approx. 85%. The report was presented for noting to the LCDC at their meeting in May 2017. Following this the community report and the economic report were collated into one composite report. The full LECP Progress Report was presented to NOAC for their information.

2. Leader Local Development Strategy and Service Level Agreement

The Louth LCDC which also operates as the Local Action Group (LAG) successfully submitted a Local Development Strategy for funding (circa € 6.1 million) under the LEADER elements of Ireland's Rural Development Programme 2014-2020.

The strategy has been engineered to identify the best approach for delivering actions that focus on addressing poverty and social exclusion, particularly given the significant economic and social changes that have taken place within the last decade.

Louth County Council is the lead financial partner to the LAG and Louth Leader Partnership will deliver the majority of project and animation related actions associated with the implementation of the strategy. To ensure that each partner is fully aware of their role and responsibilities a Service Level Agreement was signed in November 2016 between the three programme partners.

The LAG approved the formation of a sub group to oversee the strategic oversight of the implementation of the programme and advise the LCDC/LAG as appropriate. The Sub group consists of seven members who represent a cross section of the public and private representatives on the LCDC/LAG. The members of the RDP Sub Group are Mr. Matthew McGreehan, Ms. Grainne Berrill, Mr. Larry Magnier, Mr. Breffni Martin, Cllr. Colm Markey, Cllr. Liam Reilly and Mr. Thomas McEvoy along with the support of staff from Louth Leader Partnership and LCC administration staff.

The LAG have overseen approval for projects under the LEADER programme with 19 promoters receiving letters of offer during 2017 with one project completing their proposal and receiving funding in December 2017.

The following is an overview of LEADER activity in 2017

LEADER Programme	
Expressions of Interest (EOI) Received	159
EOI eligible for Funding	94.97%
Ineligible for Funding	5.03%
Contracts Issued	19
Initial Project Meetings	141
Site Visits	41
Website Visits	3612
LAG Funding Approval in 2017	€220,775.09

3. Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

The LCDC at its meeting on 30th November 2016 approved the 2017 SICAP Annual Plan which set 11 challenging actions across the 3 Goals of Community Engagement, Education and Unemployment in disadvantaged areas. The LCDC established a sub group to oversee implementation of the SICAP programme and report to the LCDC on the effectiveness of interventions. Each of the three goals of the SICAP programme has a specific representative on the Sub Group from the LCDC who provide support and bring their own expertise, insight to the challenges and barriers experienced by individuals and groups. Under Goal 1 is Mr. Kevin Moran who is a representative from the PPN, under Goal 2 is Ms. Sadie Ward-McDermott who is a representative from the Louth Meath Educational Training Board and under Goal 3 is Ms. Anne Keely who is a representative from the Department of Social Protection. The Sub Group engage with the staff of Louth Leader Partnership and are supported by administration staff from LCC.

Notable achievements during 2017 included

- Kickstart Programme
- disAbility Louth
- Strengthening Families Programme
- Caring for the Elderly
- Third Level Access Support

The Sub Group reported favourably to the LCDC on the implementation of the Plan for 2017. 2017 was the final year of delivery of the current SICAP Programme 2015 - 2017. The End of Year review showed that LLP had exceeded the targets set under KP1 and KPI2. The LCDC are extremely grateful for the work carried out by the three members of the SICAP Sub Group during the year and indeed by LLP the Programme Implementer.

SICAP 2018 - 2022

Following a detailed and complex tender process Louth LGDC at its meeting on the 13th November 2017 appointed Louth Leader Partnership as the new programme implementer for SICAP 2018 - 2022. The new programme will be delivered over 5 years with a budget of €1.3m for 2018, with lower targets than in the previous programme this change will allow more qualitative work to be carried out., The 2018 SICAP Annual Plan submitted as part of the tender process was approved by the LCDC at its meeting on 15th January 2018.

4. Peace IV

Peace IV has an indicative budget of €3.5 million

- Targeted and locally-based response to needs identified in the Peace IV Cooperation Programme.
- Outcome: results-focused Action Plan focusing on three specific themes: projects based on tangible outputs and measurable change within lifetime of plan.

Peace IV Themes

The themes are children and young people, shared spaces and services and building positive relations with a focus on reconciliation activities, including cross border initiatives, connections with PEACE III and quality of cross-border and cross-community activities and relationships

Peace IV Target Groups

The targets groups that will be considered in the programme include women, victims and survivors, communities with low social capital, young people, older people, faith communities, disability arising from legacy of violence and ex prisoners.

The Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) has initially approved 13 projects with a combined value of €2.2m

Allocation for Louth's Action Plan (ERDF 85%): **€2,248,105.34 - Thirteen Projects approved**

Theme	Amount
Children & Young People	€631,484.95
Shared Spaces & Services	€867,838.40
Building Positive Relations	€748,781.98
Total	€2,248,105.33

Phased approach being taken on the Procurement Process

The final letter of offer received by Louth County Council has been signed and returned to SEUPB.

The procurement process for the Peace 1V Programme will commence in January 2018 and is expected to take a number of months. A meeting is scheduled to take place with SEUPB in mid January.

We are actively pursuing the allocation of the remaining €1.3m ring-fenced for Louth and SEUPB have indicated that it will consider each local authorities application for its remaining funding in April/May of this 2018.

PEACE IV Programme - Rebid 2018

Louth County Council is currently in the process of rebidding for the remaining funding €1,259,047 across the three themes a number of options are available for the Rebid

A letter of Offer has been signed and returned to SEUPB for funding of €2.2m for 12 projects. Procurement will begin in February 2018.

Funding Scheme Timeframes

The LCDC was pleased to avail of and oversee the drawdown and successful allocation of the Department funding grant schemes including, CLÁR 2017, Town & Village Renewal 2017, Recast RAPID 2017, Healthy Ireland Fund and Community Facilities Scheme despite the challenging timeframes associated with these schemes.

LCDC Membership in 2017

During 2017 Cllr. Colm Markey completed his term as Chairperson at the LCDC meeting on the 18th September 2017 and Cllr. Liam Reilly was elected as the new Chairperson.

The membership of the LCDC changed during 2017 with four new members joining the board. The ICTU presence on the board of the LCDC changed during 2017 with the members agreeing that having considered the aims and objectives of the LCDC and in particular the LECF and actions for delivery it was considered that a representative from ICTU was no longer required. The LCDC identified the Louth Volunteer Centre who is a Lead Partner for 6 actions in the LECF was deemed a more suitable alternative. This recommendation was agreed by the Corporate Policy Group at its meeting on the 30th March 2017 and approved by the elected members of Louth County Council at its meeting in July 2017.

Public Sector	
Louth County Council	Cllr Colm Markey
Louth County Council	Cllr Dolores Minogue
Louth County Council	Cllr Pearse McGeough
Louth County Council	Cllr Liam Reilly
Louth County Council Official	Joan Martin
Louth County Council Official	Thomas Mc Evoy
Louth Meath ETB	Sadie Ward McDermott
DSP	Anne Keeley
HSE	Fiona Murphy – replaced by Annette McDonnell ratified by LCC July 2017
Private Sector	
Louth Leader Partnership	Ciaran Reid
Community & Voluntary Interests	Larry Magnier
Community & Voluntary Interests	Eva Beirne – replaced by Joanne Finnegan ratified by LCC July 2017
Social Inclusion	Kevin Moran
Social Inclusion	Geordie Mc Ateer
Environment	Breffni Martin
Farming	Breeda Tuite – replaced by Matthew McGreehan ratified by LCC September 2017
Chamber of Commerce Dundalk	Michael Gaynor
Chamber of Commerce Drogheda	Breannán Casey
ICTU – replaced by Louth Volunteer Centre	Frank O'Brien – replaced by Grainne Berrill ratified by LCC July 2017

Signed: 
Chairperson

Date: 12/2/18.

Signed: 
Chief Officer

Date: 12/2/18

