

Minutes of Meeting: Louth Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

Date: 21st September 2026 at 4.00pm

Location: Cooley Room, County Hall, Dundalk and via Teams

In attendance: Cllr. Kevin Meenan, Chairperson
Cllr. Shane McGuinness
Cllr. Ejiro O'Hare Stratton (via Teams)
Cllr. Dolores Minogue
Mr. David Conway, C.E. of LCC
Ms. Nikki Campbell, LEO
Ms. Bridie Pepper, HSE
Ms. Lorraine O'Malley, DSP
Ms. Sadie Ward-McDermott, LMETB
Mr. Ciaran Reid, LLD (via Teams)
Mr. Eugene Conlon, PPN
Ms. Jasmine Mathew, PPN
Ms. Kayleigh Mulligan, Louth Volunteer Centre
Mr. Hubert Murphy, Chamber of Commerce Drogheda (via Teams)
Mr. Pat McCormick, Chamber of Commerce Dundalk (via Teams)
Mr. Kevin Sweeney, IFA (via Teams)

Officials: Ms. Paula Keenan, A/Senior Executive Officer LCC/Chief Officer
Ms. Sinead McVerry, Administrative Officer LCC
Ms. Miriam Roe, Senior Staff Officer LCC
Ms. Ann Monahan, Staff Officer LCC

Apologies: Mr. Liam Reilly, PPN
Ms. Bernardine Quinn, PPN
Ms. Carol Murphy, PPN
Ms. Joanna Kelly, A/Director of Services LCC

LCDC MATTERS

LCDC Minute No. 60/2026

1. Minutes of LCDC Meeting Monday 20th July 2026:

On the proposal of Ms. Jasmine Mathew, seconded by Cllr. Shane McGuinness and unanimously agreed by the members, the minutes of the meeting held on the 20th July 2026 were adopted.

LCDC Minute No. 61/2026

2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest:

Cllr. Kevin Meenan, Chairperson, reminded members to declare their Conflict of Interest at the beginning of the meeting or as it appears on the agenda, if applicable.

LCDC Minute No. 62/2026

3. Matters Arising:

There were no LCDC matters arising.

LCDC Minute No. 63/2026

4. LCDC Correspondence:

There was no correspondence for noting.

LCDC Minute No. 64/2026

5. Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme (SICAP):

Conflict of Interest: Mr. Ciaran Reid.

(a) SICAP VAT Payment January to June 2026:

Members were advised that the SICAP VAT January – June 2026 payment is now due, in the amount of €14,237.67.

Recommendation: To approve SICAP VAT January – June 2026 payment in the amount of €14,237.67.

Decision: On the proposal of Cllr. Kevin Meenan, seconded by Ms. Jasmine Mathew, SICAP VAT January – June 2026 payment in the amount of €14,237.67 was approved.

(b) SICAP Qtr. 4 Payment - October to December 2026:

Members were advised that the SICAP Qtr. 4 payment (October to December 2026) is now due in the amount of €438,857.50

Recommendation: To approve SICAP Qtr. 4 payment (October to December 2026) in the amount of €438,857.50.

Decision: On the proposal of Cllr. Kevin Meenan, seconded by Ms. Jasmine Mathew, the SICAP Qtr. 4 payment (October to December 2026) of €438,857.50 was approved.

(c) SICAP New Arrivals Qtr. 4 Payment – October to December 2026:

Members were advised that the SICAP New Arrivals Qtr. 4. payment (October to December 2026) is now due, in the amount of €59,577.25.

Recommendation: To approve SICAP New Arrivals Qtr. 4 payment (October to December 2026) in the amount of €59,577.25.

Decision: On the proposal of Cllr. Kevin Meenan, seconded by Ms. Jasmine Mathew, SICAP New Arrivals Qtr. 4 payment (October to December 2026) in the amount of €59,577.25 was approved.

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6. PEACEPLUS:

Ms. Paula Keenan advised that Ms. Susan Deery, PEACEPLUS Programme Manager, will attend the LCDC meeting in October to provide the members with a detailed PEACEPLUS Programme update.

She followed with a current update on the PEACEPLUS Programme, noting the following:

Procurement:

- The Stage 2 Procurement Assessment for the Conservation Architect for the PEACEPLUS St. Nicholas' Church of Ireland Regeneration Capital Project was completed on 31st July 2026. Pre-contract documentation has been requested, with ratification to be sought from the PEACEPLUS Partnership and LCDC at their October meetings.
- Quotations have been sought from 13 organisations to deliver an "Ex-Prisoner Irish Language Engagement Programme". Closing date for receipt of quotations is 1st October 2026.

Contracts:

- A contract signed with Culture Connect on 10th July 2026 for the delivery of the Culture, Heritage & Multicultural Programme was officially launched on 12th August 2026.

- A contract signed with Culture Connect on 10th July 2026 for the delivery of the Entrepreneurship for Traveller & Ethnic Minority Communities Programme was officially launched on 12th August 2026.
- A contract was signed with Outcomers CLG on 27th July 2026 for the delivery of the LGBTQIA+ Capacity Building Programme. The project is valued at €102,991 and will run until Q3 2028. The project was officially launched on 16th September 2026.

LCDC Minute No. 66/2026

7. Supporting Effective LCDC Membership:

A refresher session for members was held to strengthen members' understanding of the LCDC, its functions and their role in contributing to its work. The session consisted of a PowerPoint presentation, followed by a discussion among the members.

Ms. Paula Keenan began with an overview of the purpose, functions and governance responsibilities of the LCDC, with a focus on effective participation, oversight, collective decision-making and the distinct role of members in representing both their sector and the wider interests of County Louth. She outlined the structure of Louth LCDC, the roles of the Chairperson and Chief Officer and the importance of active engagement, two-way communication and adherence to good governance principles in supporting local development outcomes.

Ms. Sinead McVerry delivered a presentation on the Louth Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) which covers the years 2024 to 2029. Members were provided with an overview of the LECP, which sets out goals, objectives and actions to support sustainable economic and community development in County Louth. The role of the LECP Advisory Committee in overseeing implementation, monitoring progress and coordinating the development of successive two-year implementation plans was outlined, with the next implementation plan expected to be presented to the LCDC in October.

Ms. McVerry also spoke about funding opportunities under the Local Enhancement Programme, the Dormant Accounts Fund and PEACEPLUS Programme. Examples were presented to demonstrate how these funding initiatives align with and support the achievement of LECP goals and objectives.

Ms. Miriam Roe then provided an overview of the SICAP and LEADER Programmes. This was followed by a review of key highlights from the 2025 LCDC Annual Report, showcasing significant achievements and programme outcomes. Members were encouraged to continue promoting the success of the LCDC within their respective communities and organisations.

Ms. Paula Keenan advised the members that separate updates would be provided at a later date on Healthy Louth and Slaintecare by the programme leads and she also brought their attention to the Louth LCDC Health & Wellbeing Subgroup and the CommUnity Connect Louth & Meath initiative. She completed the presentation by outlining the key governance essentials relating to meetings and conflicts of interest.

Members praised the presentation and the information provided and a discussion followed centred on the following topics:

- Strengthening New Member Onboarding - Consider introducing a more structured induction process for new LCDC members, including an introductory meeting with the Chief Officer and Chairperson, the provision of a Members' Information Handbook and a buddy system whereby new members are paired with experienced members.
- LCDC Annual Site Visit – explore the introduction of an annual LCDC site visit programme, providing members with an opportunity to see funded projects in action and experience the impact of the LCDC's work first hand
- Programme Updates – consider a more structure approach to programme updates with programme leads invited throughout on initiatives such as Healthy Ireland, Slaintecare, PEACEPLUS and other key programmes

It was agreed to proceed with all suggestions under the three topics. In addition, it was also suggested that a video of site visits be made which could be used to promote the work of the LCDC.

Members were advised that a copy of the presentation and a link to the CommUnity Connect Louth & Meath resource would be distributed following the meeting.

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9. Next Meeting of LCDC:

Cllr. Kevin Meenan, Chairperson, informed the members that the date of the next LCDC meeting is Monday 19th October 2026. The meeting will be a hybrid meeting.

The business of the LCDC meeting concluded.

Minutes confirmed at meeting held on:

19-10-26

Chairperson:

Kevin Meenan

