

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

Date: 20th July 2026 at 4.00pm

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

In attendance: Cllr. Kevin Meenan, Chairperson
Cllr. Shane McGuinness (via Teams)
Cllr. Ejiro O'Hare Stratton
Ms. Lorraine O'Malley, DSP (via Teams)
Ms. Sadie Ward-McDermott, LMETB (via Teams)
Mr. Ciaran Reid, LLD (via Teams)
Mr. Eugene Conlon, PPN
Ms. Jasmine Mathew, PPN
Mr. Liam Reilly, PPN (via Teams)
Ms. Bernardine Quinn, PPN (via Teams)
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. Joanna Kelly, A/Director of Services LCC
Ms. Sinead McVerry, Administrative Officer LCC
Ms. Miriam Roe, Senior Staff Officer LCC
Ms. Ann Monahan, Staff Officer LCC

Apologies: Cllr. Dolores Minogue
Mr. David Conway, C.E. of LCC
Ms. Nikki Campbell, LEO
Ms. Bridie Pepper, HSE
Ms. Kayleigh Mulligan, Louth Volunteer Centre
Ms. Carol Murphy, PPN

Guests: Ms. Mary O'Neill, LLD

LCDC MATTERS

LCDC Minute No. 51/2026

1. Minutes of LCDC Meeting Monday 15th June 2026:

On the proposal of Ms. Sadie Ward-McDermott, seconded by Ms. Bernardine Quinn and unanimously agreed by the members, the minutes of the meeting held on the 15th June 2026 were adopted.

LCDC Minute No. 52/2026

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. 53/2026

3. Matters Arising:

There were no LCDC matters arising.

LCDC Minute No. 54/2026

4. LCDC Correspondence:

Ms. Sinead McVerry informed the members that correspondence was received on 29th June from the Social Inclusion & Communities Unit of the DRCDG in relation to the Dormant Accounts Fund (DAF) for 2026. The 2026 DAF Action Plan includes the provision of €275,360 to support LGBTIQ+ Community Organisations and, in line with previous years, the DRCDG is providing LGBTIQ+ organisations another opportunity to avail of funding. The minimum funding amount is €3,000 and the maximum is €10,000 per LCDC.

Outcomers Dundalk have submitted a proposal for this funding and the Council will be sending the application to the DRCDG by the end of July.

LCDC Minute No. 55/2026

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

SICAP 2026 Mid-Year Review

Ms. Miriam Roe informed members that the SICAP/Social Inclusion Sub-Group met to assess the financial and non-financial elements of the 2026 SICAP Annual Plan as part of the Mid-Year Review process. The review covered the period January to May 2026 and provided an opportunity for the LCDC to assess progress against the targets and budget set out in the 2026 Annual Plan.

Referring to the documents circulated in advance, Ms. Roe summarised the Sub-Group's findings. The Sub-Group reported that Louth Local Development continues to deliver the programme to a high standard, demonstrating strong performance, full compliance with programme requirements and a responsive approach to local needs.

Members noted strong progress against programme targets, with KPI 1 already exceeding its annual target and KPI 2 remaining on track. Positive outcomes continued to be achieved across education, employment and self-employment supports.

The Sub-Group commended the progress achieved to date and acknowledged the programme's positive impact on disadvantaged individuals and communities across County Louth. Particular recognition was given to work supporting Traveller inclusion, social enterprise development, community capacity building and the integration of New Arrivals. Financial management and expenditure controls were found to be robust, with no concerns identified regarding programme delivery or the achievement of year-end targets. Strong data quality arrangements and compliance with SICAP communication and visibility requirements were also confirmed.

The SICAP/Social Inclusion Sub-Group and LCDC acknowledged the dedication and professionalism of the Louth Local Development SICAP team. Members recognised the team's continued work in addressing social exclusion, educational disadvantage, unemployment, isolation and integration challenges, and noted the positive outcomes being achieved for individuals, families, community groups and disadvantaged communities.

Recommendation: Having completed the SICAP 2026 Mid-Year review, in accordance with the guidelines issued by Pobal, the SICAP/Social Inclusion Sub-Group recommend that the LCDC approve the 2026 Mid-Year Review and Financial & Monitoring Report.

Decision: On the proposal of Mr. Eugene Conlon, seconded by Cllr. Ejiro O'Hare Stratton and unanimously agreed by the members, the SICAP 2026 Mid-Year Review and Financial & Monitoring Report was approved.

LCDC Minute No. 56/2026

6. PEACEPLUS:

Ms. Paula Keenan updated members on the PEACEPLUS Programme, outlining the following:

Procurement:

- The Stage 2 Procurement Assessment for the appointment of a Conservation Architect for the PEACEPLUS St. Nicholas' Church of Ireland Regeneration Capital Project will take place next week.
- No tenders were received for the Ex-Prisoner Irish Language Engagement Programme. The PEACEPLUS Partnership agreed to enter into direct negotiations with an interested organisation that was unable to tender due to workload pressures.

Contracts:

- Community Restorative Justice in Louth – contract signed 30th June 2026 (€14,280); completion due Q2 2028
- Culture, Heritage and Multicultural Programme – contract signed 10th July 2026 (€140,846); completion due Q1 2028
- Entrepreneurship/Social Entrepreneurship for Traveller and Ethnic Minority Communities – contract signed 10th July 2026 (€82,146); completion due Q3 2028
- LGBTQIA+ Capacity Building Programme – contract value €102,991; signing date to be confirmed.

LCDC Minute No. 57/2026**7. Local Enhancement Programme:**

Ms. Sinead McVerry informed the members that the successful projects under the Local Enhancement Programme 2026 were announced by the DRCDG on 2nd July. A total of 82 projects were approved for County Louth, with Capital funding of €239,207.33 allocated.

All successful applicants have been notified of their grant awards and have been asked to submit additional required documentation. These submissions will be reviewed and followed up as needed. The deadline for receipt of this information is Friday 25th September. Unsuccessful applicants have also been informed of the outcome.

2 groups have already submitted their relevant documents and will receive their Capital funding shortly.

LCDC Minute No. 58/2026**8. Supporting Effective LCDC Membership – September meeting:**

Ms. Paula Keenan advised the members that it is intended to dedicate the LCDC portion of the September meeting to a member development and information session designed to strengthen members' understanding of the LCDC, its functions and their role in contributing to its work. This follows a suggestion from the LCDC's PPN Environment Representative, Mr. Eugene Conlon, and a wider discussion which took place regarding opportunities to enhance members' understanding of the LCDC and its work.

This session will provide members with an overview of the LCDC's role, responsibilities and key programmes, while emphasising the importance of attendance, active participation and serving as effective ambassadors by promoting the Committee's work within their organisations and communities.

A short PowerPoint presentation providing an overview of the LCDC and its programmes is available for members to use when engaging with stakeholders. The information is drawn from the LCDC Annual Report and will be circulated to members following this meeting.

LCDC Minute No. 59/2026

9. Next Meeting of LCDC:

Cllr. Kevin Meenan, Chairperson, informed the members that the date of the next LCDC meeting is Monday 21st September 2026. The meeting will be a hybrid meeting.

The business of the LCDC meeting concluded.

Minutes confirmed at meeting held on:

 21-9-26

Chairperson:



