

ANNUAL REPORT
ON THE OPERATION OF THE
NORTH CORK LOCAL COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC)
FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2015

NIALL HEALY
CHIEF OFFICER,
NORTH CORK LCDC

DATE: 27TH May 2016

Introduction

This document constitutes the Annual Report for the North Cork Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) for the year ended 31st December 2015.

The report has been prepared in the context of Chapter 2 Section 128B(1)(i) of the Local Government Reform Act 2014. The LCDC is required to prepare, adopt and submit to the local authority a report in relation to the performance of its functions for the previous year.

Functions of LCDC

- to prepare the community elements of a 6-year Local Economic and Community Plan
- to implement, or arrange for the implementation of, the community elements of the Plan
- to review the community elements of the Plan at least once within the period of 6 calendar years and, if necessary, to amend the community elements of the Plan
- to monitor on an on-going basis the implementation of the community elements of the Plan and, if appropriate, to revise the actions and strategies set to achieve the objectives of the community elements of the Plan,
- to coordinate, manage and oversee the implementation of local and community development programmes that have been approved either by the relevant local authority or by agreement between the LCDC and a relevant public authority (e.g. government department, State agency etc.)
- to improve the coordination of public-funded local and community development programmes and reduce duplication
- in addition to public-funded programmes, to coordinate generally the local and community development programmes within the operational area of the LCDC
- to consider a draft of the economic elements of the Plan and adopt a statement for consideration of the Council in this regard, and
- to prepare an annual report on the performance of its functions.

Establishment

The North Cork LCDC comprises 17 no. members (both public and non-public ("private") socio-economic partners drawn from the North Cork County administrative area).

Membership North Cork LCDC No. Total 17.

Sector	Name	Organisation
Local Government	Cllr. Gerard Murphy	CCC-Northern Committee
	Cllr. Noel McCarthy	CCC-Northern Committee
	Cllr. Bernard Moynihan	CCC-Northern Committee
	Cllr. John Paul O'Shea	CCC-Northern Committee
	James Fogarty	Cork County Council – Delegated Manager
	Kevin Curran	Cork County Council – A/Head of LEO
State Agencies	Ger Canning	Education and Training Board
	Marie O'Flynn	Dept. of Social Protection
Local & Community Development	Carmel Fox	Ballyhoura Development Group
	Maura Walsh	IRD Duhallow
	Sean Hegarty	Avondhu/Blackwater Dev. Group
Social, Economic and Community	Brid Coakley	Community & Voluntary Forum
	Sean Kelly	Community & Voluntary Forum
	Declan O'Leary	Foróige
	Margaret Fenton	Respond! Housing
	Michael Doyle	Environmental
	Julian O'Keefe	Agriculture / Farming Sector representative

Supports to LCDC

- In accordance with Section 128A of the Local Government Reform Act 2015, the Chief Executive of Cork County Council has designated a person to act as "Chief Officer" of the LCDC: Mr. Niall Healy.
- Meeting supports are provided to the North Cork LCDC by Cork County Council: Ms. Fiona Hayes, Local Community Development Unit.

Progress / Achievements in 2015

- 7 No. statutory LCDC meetings held in 2015:
 - 16th February 2015
 - 20th April 2015
 - 11th May 2015
 - 15th June 2015
 - 20th July 2015
 - 21st September 2015
 - 19th October 2015
- 6 No. North Cork LCDC Leader Sub Group meetings held in 2015:
 - 28th July 2015
 - 11th August 2015
 - 20th August 2015
 - 24th August 2015
 - 1st September 2015
 - 9th September 2015

1. Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

- Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) Lots - 3 no. in North Cork.
- SICAP Stage 2 tender process was completed. The North Cork Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) is the contracting authority for SICAP.
- Tender Process: An Evaluation process was completed and notification of outcomes issued on 2 March 2015. (A standstill period of 14 days applied after which the process concluded on signing of contracts).
- Letters to the three successful tenderers for the 3 LOTS in North Cork issued. Contracts were signed by all successful delivery agencies and the programme commenced on the 1st April 2015.
- The programme implementers are IRD Duhallow Ltd., Avondhu Blackwater Partnership Ltd. and Ballyhoura Development Ltd.
- A SICAP Monitoring and Oversight Sub Group of the LCDC has been formed. The Sub Group carried out a mid year performance review and the results of same were presented at the LCDC meeting on 21st September 2015. No significant issues arose.

2. Rural Development Programme 2014-2020

- The Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government invited Expressions of Interest (EOI's) from groups in rural areas interested in the delivery of the Community Led Local Development (LEADER) element of the E.U. co-funded Rural Development Programme for Ireland 2014-2020.
- This call for expressions of interest was the stage one of a two stage process to select LEADER Local Development Strategies for sub-regional areas.
- The call for Expressions of Interest was open until 15 May 2015.
- Government policy that each rural LCDC would submit an expression of interest for LAG status.
- The North Cork LCDC expressed grave disappointment with the reduction in Leader funding announced by government for the North Cork area. The elected members of Council echoed this disappointment. In an effort to respond and to show leadership and support to communities, Cork County Council developed an innovative proposal to provide additional funding (through the LCDC) for community initiatives. This supplementary fund would represent a top up of up to 25% of the Leader allocation and would coincide with the period of the Leader programme. It applies on the basis that the LCDC would be the sole Local Action Group for its functional area.

- The North Cork LCDC and the 3 local development companies reached an agreement that they would support the LCDC as sole applicant for LAG status in the North Cork area. Heads of Agreement have been entered into and a more comprehensive service level agreement will be entered into in due course.
- The North Cork LCDC submitted an expression of interest for LAG status on 15th May 2015 in partnership with the three Local Development Companies (LDCs) in the North Cork area i.e. IRD Duhallow Ltd., Avondhu Blackwater Partnership Ltd. and Ballyhoura Development Ltd.
- This EOI was subsequently approved by the national Evaluation Committee.
- A Local Development Strategy has been prepared by an LCDC Working Group comprising the LCDC Chairperson, representatives from the three LDC's, the Chief Officer, and Cork County Council staff members.
- A presentation was made to the LCDC meeting on 21st September and the LDS was approved for submission to the national Evaluation Committee.
- Approval of the LDS was awaited at year end.

3. Local Economic Community Plan (LECP)

- LECP Guidelines were prepared by the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government and issued to Cork County Council in January 2015.
- An Advisory Steering Committee (ASG) was established for the preparation of the LECP and will act for the 3 LCDC's in Cork County.

Members on the committee include:

- Divisional Manager (1)
 - Representative from each of the 3 no. Cork County LCDCs (3)
 - Chief Officer (1)
 - Chair of Economic Development SPC (1)
 - Director of Service for Economic Development (1)
 - Cork County Council Senior Planner - Planning Policy Unit (1)
 - Head of Local Enterprise Offices (2)
- The purpose of the LECP, as provided for in the Local Government Reform Act 2014, is to set out, for a six-year period, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of the relevant local authority area, both by itself directly and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders.
 - The economic elements of the LECP will be developed by the SPC for Economic Development and the Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs) will develop the community elements of the LECP. The Plan as a whole, into which both economic and community elements will be integrated, is expected to be adopted by full council during Q1 2016.

- Cork County Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) Draft Socio-Economic Statement was adopted for public consultation by the North Cork LCDC on 11th May 2015.
- 8 public consultation events in Cork County were held in June 2015.
- A North Cork Divisional LECP consultation workshop was held in the Mallow GAA Sports Complex, 18 June 2015 with approx 40 community and economic stakeholder participants in attendance.
- In excess of 100 no. written submissions were received.
- Consultation meetings continued in 2015 with key community and economic stakeholders
- The final Socio-Economic Statement was adopted by the North Cork LCDC on 21st September 2015.
- Presentations were made to the Municipal Districts during October/November 2015.

4. North Cork Public Participation Network (PPN)

- There are 200 members on the North Cork PPN.
- The inaugural meeting was held on 11th May 2015.
- Elections were held to fill various seats on the countywide PPN Secretariat in 2015.
- The Inaugural meeting of the PPN Secretariat was held on 25th May 2015.
- Elections to fill LCDC seats were held in October 2015. Mr Sean Kelly and Ms Brid Coakley were elected as community and voluntary college representatives to the North Cork LCDC.

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27th May 2016