

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE OPERATION OF THE

SOUTH CORK LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

COMMITTEE (LCDC)

FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2015

NIALL HEALY
CHIEF OFFICER, SOUTH CORK
LCDC

DATE: 31 MARCH 2016

Introduction

This document constitutes the Annual Report for the South 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.

Background

Legislation: Section 49A of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 provides for the establishment of Local Community Development Committees for the purposes of: *'Developing, co-ordinating and implementing a coherent and integrated approach to local and community development'*

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 South Cork LCDC comprises 19 no. members (both public and non-public (“private”) socio-economic partners drawn from the South Cork County administrative area) as follows:

Membership

Local Government Sector	
Cllr Michael Hegarty (Chair)	Elected Member
Cllr Cathal Rasmussen	Elected Member
Cllr Ger Keohane	Elected Member
Cllr Marcia D'Alton	Elected Member
Mr. Declan Daly,	Divisional Manager, Cork County Council
Mr Sean O’Sullivan	Head of South Cork LEO
State Agencies	
Mr Dónal Ó Liatháin	Údarás na Gaeltachta
Ms. Maria Hurley	Department of Social Protection
Mr. John Fitzgibbons	Cork Education and Training Board
Local and Community Development	
Mr. Ryan Howard	CEO, South and East Cork Area Development Ltd.,
Mr. Ian Dempsey,	CEO, West Cork Development Partnership Ltd.
Mr. Sean Hegarty,	Chair, Avondhu Blackwater Ltd.
Social, Economic & Community Interests	
Ms Therese (Barrett) Bourke	Cork County Community and Voluntary Forum

Mr. Sean O’Riordan	Cork County Community and Voluntary Forum
Ms Mary O' Leary	Environmental Pillar
Mr. Conor Healy	Business Pillar
Mr Jimmy Hosford	Agricultural Pillar
Mr. Brian Williams	Youth Pillar
Mr. Michael Delaney	Civic Society

Supports to LCDC

- In accordance with Section 128A of the Local Government Reform Act 2014, 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 South Cork LCDC by Cork County Council: Mr. Fergal Gough, Community Development Section

Progress / Achievements in 2015

- 7 No. statutory meetings held in 2015:
 - 12th February 2015;
 - 16th April 2015
 - 8th May 2015;
 - 2nd July 2015 ;
 - 12th September 2015;
 - 5th November, 2015.
 - 10th December 2015

Social Inclusion and Activation Programme (SICAP):

- Social Inclusion and Activation Programme (SICAP) Lots agreed – 1 no. Lot in South Cork;

- SICAP Evaluation Sub-Committee and Evaluation Team formed to oversee the tendering process;
- SICAP Stage 2 tender process completed. Successful tenderer was appointed- SECAD South and East Cork Area Development Ltd;
- Programme commenced on the 1st April 2015 with the SICAP budget for South Cork of €591,919 (9 months to end of 31 December 2015)
- A SICAP Monitoring sub-group was established to provide future reports and recommendations to the LCDC;
- Mid-year review took place and was presented to LCDC meeting on 22nd September, 2015;
- LCDC deemed the performance by SECAD as satisfactory to date.

Rural Development Programme (LEADER):

- There are two approved expressions of interest for delivering LEADER in South Cork, i.e. the South Cork LCDC and West Cork Development Partnership Ltd.
- South Cork LCDC has prepared its local development strategy with the support of 4 implementing partners: South and East Cork Area Development Ltd., Avondhu Blackwater Partnership Ltd., IRD Duhallow Ltd. and Udaras na Gaeltachta.
- The Rural Development Programme 2014-2010 budget for the South Cork LCDC of € 3,831,303 was notified to the LCDC. The LCDC was further notified and consequently approved a 25% top-up to this budget by Cork County Council subject to full support by all actors for the LCDC bid for Local Action Group LAG status.
- Extensive public consultation workshops were completed across South Cork during 2015. Online public submissions were also invited and received

- A final draft LDS was presented to the LCDC on 10th December 2015 and approved for submission to the Departments Independent Evaluation Committee.

Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP):

- LECP Guidelines were issued by the Department of Environment Community and Local Government in January 2015.
- 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.
- 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 Advisory Steering Group 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 Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs) has responsibility to develop the community elements of the LECP.
 - Cork County Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) Draft Socio-Economic Statement was adopted for public consultation by the South Cork LCDC on 8th May 2015.

- 3 public consultation workshop events were held across Cork County divisions in June 2015. The South Cork Divisional LECP consultation workshop was held on the 18 June 2015 with approx 80 community and economic stakeholder participants in attendance.
- Public consultation phase closed on July 10th 2015 with in excess of 100 no. written submissions received. LECP Draft Plan writing continued to end of 2015 with appropriate briefings to Municipal Districts, Economic SPC and each of Corks three LCDC's.
- A Quality of Life survey for residents of Cork county was also undertaken and the outcomes presented to the LCDC.
- Consultation meetings continued in 2015 with key community and economic stakeholders and an LECP Protocol of Engagement document was adopted and signed by a range of key identified non-LCDC community stakeholders.

Public Participation Network

- There are 262 members on the South Cork PPN.
- 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.

**NIALL HEALY
CHIEF OFFICER, SOUTH CORK LCDC
CORK COUNTY COUNCIL**

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