

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

NIALL HEALY
CHIEF OFFICER,
WEST CORK LCDC

DATE: 27TH May 2016

Introduction

This document constitutes the Annual Report for the West 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 West Cork LCDC comprises 19 no. members (both public and non-public ("private") socio-economic partners drawn from the West Cork County administrative area).

Membership West Cork LCDC No. Total 19.

Sector	Name	Organisation
Local Government	Cllr. Declan Hurley	CCC-Western Committee
	Cllr. Patrick Gerard Murphy	CCC-Western Committee
	Cllr. Noel O' Donovan	CCC-Western Committee
	Cllr. Rachael McCarthy	CCC-Western Committee
	Clodagh Henehan	Cork County Council – Divisional Manager
	Kevin Curran	Cork County Council – A/Head of LEO
State Agencies	Máire Ní Shé	Udarás na Gaeltachta
	Maria Hurley	Dept. of Social Protection
	Enda McWeeney	Cork ETB
Local & Community Development	Ryan Howard	South and East Cork Area Development
	John Walsh	Comhar na nOileán
	Ian Dempsey	West Cork Development Partnership
Social, Economic and Community	Finbarr Harrington	Cork County PPN
	Vacant*	Cork County PPN
	John Kennedy	Foróige
	Colm Leen	Cork Chamber
	Eileen O'Shea	Civic Society
	Phoebe Bright	Environmental
	Richard Connell	Agriculture /Farming Sector Representative

* new PPN representative to take their seat in early 2016

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 West 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:
 - 12th February 2015
 - 26th March 2015
 - 13th April 2015
 - 7th May 2015
 - 2nd July 2015
 - 20th July 2015
 - 22nd September 2015
 - 12th November 2015

1. Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

- Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) Lots - 3 no. in West Cork.
- SICAP Stage 2 tender process was completed. The West 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 West Cork issued. Contracts were signed by all successful delivery agencies and the programme commenced on the 1st April 2015.
- West Cork Development Partnership Ltd. and Comhar na nOileán are the Programme Implementers.
- SICAP Allocation to West Cork Total is € 360,096 (1st April-31st December 2015).
- A SICAP Monitoring and Oversight Sub Group of the LCDC was formed. The Sub Group carried out a mid year performance review and the results of same were presented at the LCDC meeting on 22nd September 2015.

2. Rural Development Programme 2015-2020

- 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 is that each rural LCDC would submit an expression of interest for LAG status.
- The West Cork LCDC expressed grave disappointment with the reduction in Leader funding announced by government for the West 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.

- As part of Stage 1 of the process, The West Cork LCDC submitted an expression of interest for LAG status and this was subsequently approved by the National Evaluation Committee.
- As part of Stage 2, a Local Development Strategy was prepared with the support of 3 Local Development Companies; South and East Cork Area Development Ltd., Avondhu Blackwater Partnership Ltd. and Comhar na nOileáin.
- The amount allocated to West Cork by the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government is €5,015,674.

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 2015, 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 community elements will be developed by the Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs). 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 West Cork LCDC.
 - 8 public consultation events in Cork County were held in June 2015.

- A West Cork Divisional LECP consultation workshop was held in June 2015 with approximately 60 no. community and economic stakeholder participants in attendance.
- In excess of 150 no. written submissions were received.
- A Quality of life survey undertaken which had very positive results and helped to inform the LECP.
- Consultation meetings continued in 2015 with key community and economic stakeholders.
- The final Socio-Economic Statement was adopted by the West Cork LCDC on 22nd September 2015.
- Presentations were made to the Municipal Districts during October/November 2015.

4. West Cork Public Participation Network (PPN)

- There are 260 members on the West Cork PPN.
- The inaugural Plenary meeting was held on the 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.

**NIALL HEALY,
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27th May 2016.