



## Local Community Development Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2024 Laois County Council and via MS Teams at 11.30am

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### Members in attendance:

#### Public Sector representatives:

Mr. Joe Thompson, LOETB (Chairperson)  
Cllr. Paschal McEvoy, Laois County Council  
Mr. John Mulholland, CE Laois County Council  
Ms. Evelyn Reddin, Laois Local Enterprise Office  
Ms. Paula Phelan, HSE  
Mr. Martin O'Toole, DSP

#### Private Sector representatives:

Mr. Patrick Whelan, Laois PPN  
Mr. Ray Harte, Laois PPN  
Ms. Caroline Lydon, CEO Laois Partnership Company  
Ms. Caroline Hofman, Business Sector  
Mr. Harry Lalor, Farming Sector (I.F.A)  
Ms. Rosey Kunene, Youth Sector (Youth Work Ireland Laois)

#### Apologies:

Cllr John King, Laois County Council  
Cllr. Conor Bergin, Laois County Council  
Ms. Joan Bolger, Laois PPN (Vice Chairperson)  
Ms. Nina Horan, Laois PPN  
Mr. John Oxley, Laois PPN

#### In Attendance:

Ms. Pamela Tynan, A/Chief Officer  
Ms. Suzanne O'Connor, Senior Staff Officer, LCC  
Ms. Danielle Keane, Clerical Officer, LCC

Ms. Suzanne O'Connor, LCC commenced roll call and registered all members present on the meeting attendance sheet.

Mr. Joe Thompson, Chairperson, opened the meeting acknowledging the upcoming retirement of Mr. John Mulholland, CE Laois County Council, thanking him for his invaluable and unwavering support for Laois LCDC and the County in general. Fellow LCDC members joined the acknowledgements with a presentation being made to mark Mr. Mulholland's service to the LCDC and retirement.

## **1. Confirmation of Minutes of LCDC meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

The minutes were adopted following a *proposal from Ms. Caroline Hoffman seconded by Cllr.*

*Paschal McEvoy.*

## **2. Matters Arising**

None

## **3. Correspondence**

None.

## **4. Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP)**

Ms. Pamela Tynan, A/Chief Officer noted that after the approval of the LECP framework document at the March LCDC meeting, that work was ongoing on developing the LECP Implementation Plan. It is hoped that the Implementation Plan will be presented to members at the May Meeting, prior to local election.

The official design of the Framework doc is near completion, and once finalised will be sent to the Minister for approval and published on the LCDC section of the [www.laois.ie](http://www.laois.ie) webpage.

## **5. Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme – SICAP**

### **(a) Implementation Plan**

*Prior to commencing discussions on the SICAP Implementation Plan, Ms. Caroline Lydon, CE Laois Partnership Company declared a conflict of interest, abstaining from the discussion and temporarily left the meeting room.*

Ms. Pamela Tynan, A/Chief Officer advised members that the SICAP subcommittee convened on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April to review all Q1 Findings of the 2022 SICAP Internal Audit. In total there

were 24 recommendations across 6 findings discussed as part of the Q1 review. Laois Partnership Company responded with an update on all outstanding queries which were noted and examined by the subcommittee. After the subcommittee's initial examination of responses, the IP joined the meeting and worked through all 24 Q1 findings, findings that considered complete and lastly findings that would be ongoing throughout the year.

It was determined that good work has been undertaken to date by the IP, and while no actions were currently completed it is expected that all Q1 findings would be concluded with documentary evidence provided to the subcommittee in Q3 2024. In the meantime, the IP has undertaken to put a percentage completion rate on all findings going forward.

*This concluded discussions pertaining to the SICAP Implementation Plan with Ms. Caroline Lydon rejoining the meeting.*

**(b) 2024 Annual Plan**

Ms. Pamela Tynan, A/Chief Officer informed members that in addition to SICAP Implementation Plan the SICAP sub-committee at their meeting of Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April examined the 2024 Annual Plan. Laois LCDC admin staff carried out an in-depth review of the 2024 annual plan comparing it against the tender document and seeking clarification where required. In line with queries Laois Partnership Company updated the 2024 Annual Plan where required.

Based on the recommendation of the SICAP subcommittee, members approval will be sought to approve the 2024 Annual Plan *being proposed by Cllr. Paschal McEvoy and seconded by Ms. Caroline Hoffman.*

## **6. Local Enhancement Programme**

Ms. Pamela Tynan, A/Chief Officer advised that following the LCDC approval of LEP applicants, a full list of the proposed spend and their respective groups was forwarded to the Department of Rural and Community Development for final approval. It is hoped that the Dept will approve all applicants towards the end of April at which time all successful and unsuccessful groups will be notified in writing.

## **7. Healthy Ireland**

The Healthy Ireland Grant agreement between Pobal and Laois County Council was signed with the purpose of same being “Activities and planning in 2022 and to fund the implementation of a three-year strategy in Laois that contributes to the Healthy Ireland Outcomes Framework as part of HIF Round 4 2023-2025” with the grant amount being €233,122.42 for the period from 01.06.2022 to 31.12.2025.

In line with said agreement all actions partners will receive addendums to their Service Level Agreements setting out their budget for the current year.

## **8. Community Recognition Fund**

Ms. Pamela Tynan, A/Chief Officer noted that on the 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024, Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys and Minister of State Joe O’Brien, announced a further €50 million in funding under the Community Recognition Fund 2024 with Laois to receive an allocation of €1,012,996.

The Community Recognition Fund 2024 aims to support the development of community infrastructure and facilities for the entire community in recognition of the contribution being made by communities across the country in welcoming and hosting significant numbers of arrivals from Ukraine and other countries.

Projects to be funded will:

- be shovel ready.
- be capital in nature.
- deliver medium-long term benefits for the communities in which they are located, and be capable of being delivered over the course of 2025 and 2026.
- A minimum spend of 50% of the allocation must be incurred in 2025.
- Eligible projects will receive funding for capital costs, but not for any ongoing operational or running costs.
- The minimum level of funding for an individual project is €50,000 with a maximum of €500,000 applying.
- Smaller projects cannot be artificially combined to meet the minimum threshold of €50,000 – while the 2023 scheme provided funding for small scale investment in clubs and communities (e.g. for small scale equipment), the focus of the 2024 scheme is on projects of greater scale and impact.
- For projects over €200,000 additional information must be provided at application stage giving further details on the needs identified in the location, the engagement and collaboration that resulted in the selection of the location and specific project and the capacity of the community to progress the proposed project.

Proposed project details should be submitted to [crf@laoiscoco.ie](mailto:crf@laoiscoco.ie) by **4:00pm Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

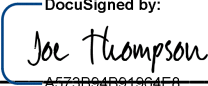
## 9. Any Other Business

- (a) Ms. Pamela Tynan, A/Chief Officer advised members that a review of the LCDC Standing Orders and membership of the LCDC and its subcommittees will take place after the local elections in June.
- (b) Finally, Ms. Tynan noted that the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Community & Voluntary Awards will take place on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November in the Midlands Park Hotel. Laois LCDC has been approached to sponsor a category namely “Healthy & Wellbeing”. The set sponsorship rate of €1,000 will cover: prize money totalling €750, cost of Galway Crystal trophy for

the relevant category, certificates for all participants. In addition, all nominees/nominators will be invited to the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala Awards night. All logos will be included on promotional material and will be included on the trophy and certificates for the sponsored category. The sponsor will also receive an allocation of two tickets to the gala event.

Members presents welcomed the invitation to support and 2024 C&V Awards noting the success of previous year's awards and the feel-good factor for nominated groups. The sponsorship of the "Health & Wellbeing" category in the sum of €1,000 was proposed by Cllr. Paschal McEvoy and seconded by Ms. Caroline Lydon.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

SIGNED:  DATE: Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2024.  
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**Mr. Joe Thompson**  
**CHAIRPERSON – LAOIS LCDC**