



## Local Community Development Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024 in County Hall and via County 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  
Cllr. Conor Bergin, 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:

Ms. Joan Bolger, Laois PPN (Vice Chairperson)  
Ms. Nina Horan, Laois PPN  
Ms. Caroline Lydon, CEO Laois Partnership Company  
Ms. Caroline Hoffman, Business Sector  
Mr. John Oxley, Laois PPN  
Mr. Harry Lalor, Farming Sector (I.F.A)  
Ms. Rosey Kunene, Youth Sector (Youth Work Ireland Laois)

#### Apologies:

Cllr John King, Laois County Council  
Mr. Ray Harte, Laois PPN

#### In Attendance:

Mr. Donal Brennan, Chief Officer  
Ms. Anne Marie Kirrane, A/Administrative Officer, LCC  
Ms. Danielle Keane, Clerical Officer, LCC

Ms. Danielle Keane LCC commenced roll call and registered all members present on the meeting attendance sheet.

Mr. Joe Thompson, Chairperson, opened the meeting welcoming new member Mr. Martin O'Toole who is replacing Mr. Kevin Geoghegan as the DSP representative.

### 1. Confirmation of Minutes of LCDC meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024

The minutes were adopted following a *proposal from Cllr. Paschal McEvoy seconded by Mr. John Mulholland.*

## 2. Matters Arising

None

## 3. Correspondence

Mr. Donal Brennan, Chief Officer informed members of a letter from Dept Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) and the Dept of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) titled “CYPSC/LCDC Local Area Child Poverty Pilot Plans Update”. This letter notifies the LCDC that a joint pilot programme between Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) and the Dept of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) is being conducted to establish at least four Local Area Child Poverty Action Plans.

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

Mr. Donal Brennan advised the group that due to unforeseen circumstances that this item will be presented to members at the March LCDC meeting.

## 5. Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme – SICAP

### (a) 2023 Annual Progress Report

The purpose of the 2023 Annual Progress Report is to capture the role that SICAP played in responding to the needs of SICAP target groups during the year. In doing so, the report captures beneficiaries’, the approaches used by the programme to respond to these needs, alongside challenges faced and lessons learned during the year.

This year there is a dedicated section where the LDC outlined details of the supports that they provided to the Ukrainian arrivals in their Lot and another dedicated section that described their work in responding to the chosen Lot priority groups within the National Programme Priorities. A copy of the 2023 Annual Progress Report was attached separately for members attention.

Based on the recommendations of the SICAP sub-committee LCDC members proposed the 2023 Annual Progress Report. This was proposed by **Ms. Joan Bolger** been seconded by **Evelyn Reddin**.

### (b) SICAP 2023 End of Year Review

The SICAP subcommittee convened on 29<sup>th</sup> January in order to undertake the 2023 Annual Performance Review. The review allowed the LCDC to assess the progress of the Local Development Company, Laois Partnership, for 2023 against what was set out in the SICAP annual

plan and budget. It provided a picture of the actual achievements in relation to the actions and targets set out in the SICAP annual plan and budget for each Lot. It identified and reviewed issues that arose during the year and provided a mechanism for the LDC to report on and charge VAT costs to the programme.

Members were presented with the table below and based on the recommendation of the SICAP subcommittee will be called upon to approve the 2023 Annual Performance Review

8. Overall assessment	Yes	No	Total Remedies to be applied
Based on the outcome of your review of the above items, have any areas of concern requiring further engagement with the LDC been identified?	✓		
Based on the outcome of your review of the above items, has the 2022 Annual Performance Review been approved?  <i>This will be posed to full LCDC meeting</i>			

The 2023 Annual performance Review was approved by members being proposed by **Cllr. Paschal McEvoy** and seconded by **Ms. Joan Bolger**.

**(c) End of Year VAT Payment**

During the Annual Performance Review an End of Year VAT liability was identified in the amount of €18,886.23. Approval is sought to pay the IP, Laois Partnership Company the sum of €18,886.23. These funds will be transferred once the Dept VAT claim is submitted, and relevant funds recouped.

The payment of €18,886.23 to the IP was proposed by **Mr. John Mulholland** been seconded by **Ms. Caroline Hofman**.

**(d) Q1 2024 Payment**

Mr. Donal Brennan, Chief Officer advised members that at the January LCDC meeting it was noted that IP Laois Partnership Company would be paid a total of €190,995 representing Q1 2024. The first tranche in the amount of €127,330 representing the first two months of Q1 2023 was paid in Jan 2024, with the final tranche in the sum of €63,665 to be paid after the approval of the 2023 Annual Performance review.

After the 2023 Annual Performance Review an underspend of €78,098.72 was identified that will be deducted from 2024 payments, therefore there will be no final Q1 payment and a reduction of €14,443.72 from Q2 payment.

## 6. Local Enhancement Programme

Mr. Donal Brennan informed the group that Laois received an allocation of €153,591.05, this total amount comprises:

- €127,922.54 Capital funding for use towards carrying out necessary repairs and improvements to facilities, energy efficiency type projects, purchase of equipment etc.
- €25,598.51 capital funding ring-fenced for Women's Groups
- The maximum administration fee allowed is €7,679.55 (5% of total allocation), and this fee is only permitted to be deducted from the €127,992.54 Local Enhancement Programme funding stream. Note any unspent monies from the Community enhancement Programme (CEP) of the Community Support Fund (CSF) must be used against the 5% admin fee.

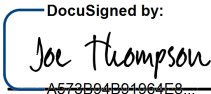
The Department requests that LCDCs ring-fence 30% of its funding for grants of €1,000 or less. This is guidance only, and the LCDC can adjust this depending on the needs in its area.

The CEP subcommittee will convene on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March in order to appraise application which will be brought forward to members at the March meeting for their approval.

## 7. Any Other Business

None.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

SIGNED:  DATE: Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024.  
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**Mr. Joe Thompson**  
**CHAIRPERSON – LAOIS LCDC**