



Laois Local Community Development Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 22nd February 2023 Laois County Council & via MS Teams at 11.30am

Members in attendance:

Public Sector representatives: Mr. Joe Thompson, Laois Offaly Education & Training Board (Chairperson)
Cllr. John King, Laois County Council
Ms. Paula Phelan, HSE

Private Sector representatives: Mr. Martin Crowley, Business Sector (Vice Chairperson)
Ms. Peter O'Neill, Laois Partnership Company
Ms. Joan Bolger, Laois Public Participation Network
Mr. Ray Harte, Laois Public Participation Network
Mr. Clive Davis, Youth Sector (Youth Work Ireland Laois)
Mr. Nina Horan, Laois Public Participation Network
Mr. Naeem Iqbal, Laois Public Participation Network
Mr. Henry Burns, Farming Sector (I.F.A)

Apologies: Cllr. Paschal McEvoy, Laois County Council
Cllr. Conor Bergin, Laois County Council
Mr. Kevin Geoghegan, DSP
Mr. John Mulholland, CE Laois County Council
Ms. Evelyn Reddin, Laois Local Enterprise Office
Mr. John Oxley, Laois Public Participation Network

In Attendance: Ms. Pamela Tynan, A/Chief Officer
Ms. Suzanne O'Connor, A/Senior Staff Officer, Laois County Council
Ms. Jenny Collier, Laois Partnership Company

Ms. Suzanne O'Connor, Laois Co Co registered all members present on the meeting attendance sheet.

Mr. Joe Thompson, Chairperson, opened the meeting welcoming all present.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of LCDC meeting held on 25th January 2023

The minutes were adopted following a *proposal from Cllr. John King seconded by Ms. Paula Phelan.*

2. Matters Arising

None

3. Correspondence

- Letter received 24th January 2023 titled “Expression of Interest (EOI) – Progression to Stage 2 of the Local Action Group (LAG) selection process

Mr. Pamela Tynan, A/Chief Officer noted that following the submission of the expression of interest the Dept of Rural and Community Development confirmed that Laois LCDC were successful in their application to progress to stage 2 of the process being the development of the Local Development Strategy for which a funding amount of €50,000 will be provided towards the cost of works associated with the development of the LDS.

4. SICAP

2022 End of Year Review.

Ms. Pamela Tynan, A/Chief Officer informed members that the SICAP subcommittee convened on Wednesday 8th February to undertake the 2022 Annual Performance Review. The review allowed the LCDC to assess the progress of the LDC for 2022 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.

Based on the recommendation of the SICAP subcommittee, Ms. Tynan sought full LCDC approval of the 2022 End of Year Review, *being proposed by Ms. Joan Bolger and seconded by Ms. Paula Phelan*

2023 Annual Plan

Ms. Pamela Tynan, A/Chief Officer advised members that the Local Development Company, Laois Partnership Company, submitted a SICAP annual plan to the LCDC, setting out their proposed SICAP plan for the coming year. The annual planning process provided the LDC with an opportunity to reflect on their work and identify emerging trends to be addressed in the Lot area.

With a budget allocation of €849,393 confirmed (of which €133,687 refers to Ukrainian spend) the LDC were in a position to finalise the 2023 annual plan and input the relevant information onto IRIS.

A review of the Annual Plan was undertaken by LCDC staff and presented to a meeting of the SICAP subcommittee on Tuesday 24th January in order to review the plan and provide feedback to Pobal.

Based upon LCDC checks and subsequent sub-committee review Ms Tynan sought members approval of the 2023 Annual Plan being, *being proposed by Mr. Clive Davis and seconded by Cllr. John King.*

Q1 2023 Final Tranche Payment

Ms. Pamela Tynan, A/Chief Officer sought approval to pay the IP, Laois Partnership Company the amount of €32,829.76. This represents the final Q1 tranche of €59,642.17 less underspend identified in the amount of €26,812.41.

Payment in the amount of €32,829.76 was *approved by members being proposed by Ms. Joan Bolger, being seconded by Mr. Clive Davis.*

2022 Final VAT Payment

Ms. Pamela Tynan, A/Chief Officer sought approval to pay the IP, Laois Partnership Company the amount of €16,764.16 which was identified as part of the 2022 Annual Performance Review and represents their outstanding VAT liability for 2022. Mr. Tynan noted note that this amount will only be paid to the IP once drawdown request and funds are received from the Department.

Payment in the amount of €16,764.14 was approved by members *being proposed by Cllr. John King and seconded by Ms. Joan Bolger.*

5. Community Support Fund

Ms. Pamela Tynan, A/Chief Officer informed members that the application process under the Community Support Fund was now closed with 177 applications received seeking funding in the amount of €841,092 of which €808,068 was eligible. In addition, one Women's Shed application was received seeking the full allocation of €2,915.

Ms. Tynan noted that the CEP sub-committee will convene on Wednesday 8th March to appraise applications, with their approval recommendations being put forward for members approval at the March LCDC meeting.

6. LECP 2023-2028

Ms. Pamela Tynan, A/Chief Officer advised member that following consultation with the Advisory Steering Group, 10 draft high level goals were developed and incorporated into a consultation document and appendices to contain a Socio Economic Statement and Socio Economic Profile. All document's formed part of members meeting papers with Ms Tynan noting that both appendices are working documents, being updated on a continuous basis based on CSO data being released.

The primary aim of the LECP is to set out, for a six-year period, the objectives and actions needed to support and promote the economic development and the local and community development of Laois, both by Laois County Council directly and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders. The LECP is an important way to set out how Laois County Council and other stakeholders can work together to ensure that their initiatives, programmes, and projects support an improved quality of life for people living and working in the County
Propose High Level Goals

The LECP will have high level goals, objectives and actions which will have a direct effect on the

services, supports and amenities in County Laois. A review of the LECP 2016-2021 was undertaken showing what was accomplished in the County because of previous High-Level Goals. The 10 proposed High level Goals are:

Goals	User Friendly Format
Goal 1	Encourage civic participation and support local communities to lead on their own developments.
Goal 2	Develop and promote ways of living and of doing business that support a sustainable environment and resilient communities.
Goal 3	Encourage a sustainable culture of innovation and entrepreneurship throughout the County.
Goal 4	Help the local economy to diversify in a long-term, sustainable manner, broadening employment opportunities in the County.
Goal 5	Recognise and support diversity in the county, promoting equality and inclusiveness across all sectors.
Goal 6	Sustain, develop, and enhance town and village centres as focal points for their communities.
Goal 7	Support an integrated and holistic approach to education, training, and employment along with life-long learning.
Goal 8	Promote well-being and excellent quality of life within the county.
Goal 9	Strengthen and encourage a strong sense of pride in the county and promote our unique identity.
Goal 10	Promote the county as a key location for foreign and domestic investment.

These Goals seek to recognise the challenges the County will face over the lifetime of the new LECP. The High-Level Goals are broad in scope, given that future stages of the process will develop more detailed *Objectives* and *Actions*.

Ms. Tynan further noted that in addition to presenting the proposed High Level Goals to the LCDC, they were also presented to LCC Management Team, and will also be put forward for approval to the Enterprise, Economic Development and Tourism SPC scheduled for Thursday 2nd March. After all approvals are in place the proposed high level goals will go to public consultation.

Members welcomed the 10 proposed high level goals noting their broad scope which will enable the development of clear objectives and actions. Before being proposed it was noted that Goal 5 should include the word “integration” and should therefore read “Recognise and support diversity in the county, promoting equality, integration and inclusiveness across all sectors.

The 10 proposed high level goals were approved by members present, being proposed by Ms. Joan Bolder and seconded by Ms. Paula Phelan.

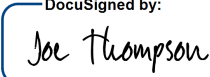
7. AOB

- (a) Ms. Pamela Tynan, A/Chief Officer reminded members that the closing date for receipt of application under the Community Recognition Fund is Friday 24th February at 4.00pm.
- (b) Mr. Peter O'Neill advised members that Laois Partnership Company were also successful in their submission to the Department of Rural and Community Development and have progressed to Stage 2 of the process to deliver a Local Development Strategy.

A lengthy discussion ensued amongst members present with conversation being largely focused on the administration budget allocation. Ms. Tynan noted that to date the Dept have not clarified payment of the Article 48 administration costs for the new programme.

It was noted that Article 48 checks should remain independent, and Laois LCDC will continue to prepare a Local Development Strategy.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

SIGNED:  DATE: Wednesday 29th March 2023.
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Mr. Joe Thompson
CHAIRPERSON – LAOIS LCDC