

Laois Local Community Development Committee
Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 25th January 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
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
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

Apologies: 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)
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. Emma O'Connor, healthy Laois Coordinator
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 to the first meeting of 2023

1. Confirmation of Minutes of LCDC meeting held on 14th December 2022.

The minutes were adopted following a *proposal from Mr. John Mulholland* seconded by *Mr. Martin Crowley*.

2. Matters Arising

None

3. Correspondence

4. SICAP

Q1 2023 Payment

Ms. Pamela Tynan, A/Chief Officer sought retrospective approval to pay the IP, Laois Partnership Company €119,284.33 representing an initial payment of **two months** funding to facilitate the cash flow requirements of Programme Implementers (PIs) at the beginning of the year. Ms. Tynan noted that the third month will only be released to the Programme Implementers (PIs) on final approval of the 2022 Annual Performance Review and the 2023 Annual Plan.

Payment in the amount of €119,284.33 to Laois Partnership Company was agreed by members being *proposed by Cllr. Paschal McEvoy and seconded by Ms. Joan Bolger.*

Q1 2023 Ukrainian Payment

Ms. Pamela Tynan, A/Chief Officer sought retrospective approval to pay the IP, Laois Partnership Company €33,421.75 representing Q1 2023 Ukrainian allocation.

Payment in the amount of €33,421.75 to Laois Partnership Company was agreed by members *being proposed by Cllr. Paschal McEvoy and seconded by Ms. Joan Bolger.*

2023 Annual Plan

Ms. Pamela Tynan, A/Chief Officer advised member that an examination of the 2023 Annual Plan was undertaken with the SICAP subcommittee on Tuesday 24th January 2023. The checklist and subcommittee comments has now been sent to Pobal who will undertake a separate high-level review and revert with feedback. The 2023 Annual Plan in addition to the 2022 Annual Review will be presented to LCDC members at the February meeting.

5. Healthy Laois

Before putting the Healthy Laois Strategy forward for approval Ms. Pamela Tynan, A/Chief Officer noted that on Thursday 24th November a consultation workshop was held in the LOETB Centre of Excellence. The workshop brought together a broad cross section of Laois Community Groups and agencies, in addition to service users to help inform the new Healthy Laois Strategy.

The Healthy Laois Strategy sets out the Local Authority (LA) priorities under the Healthy Ireland Fund for the period of the round 4 programme (i.e. 2023-2025). The strategy provides a rationale for the selection of Healthy Ireland outcomes under the Healthy Ireland Fund (HIF) and identifies how work under HIF is aligned with wider health and wellbeing policy and interventions locally.

The programme sets out 14 outcome areas identifying their relevant action partner and budget allocation for 2023. The baseline budget of €75,000 for 2023 has been increased slightly to take into consideration an underspend of €3,561.60 carried over from the 2022 HI Round 4 programme.

Members of the committee congratulated the HI Coordinator on a well-structured, informative and inclusive strategy. Ms. Emma O'Connor addressed queries that arose after which Ms. Pamela Tynan, A/Chief Officer sought approval of the Healthy Laois Strategy, *being proposed by Ms. Joan Bolger and seconded by Mr. Peter O'Neill.*

6. Community Support Fund

Ms. Pamela Tynan, A/Chief Officer reminded members that the application process for the Community Support Fund will close on Tuesday 31st January 2023 at 4.00pm

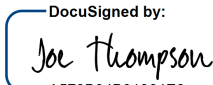
7. AOB

Ms. Pamela Tynan, A/Chief Officer informed members of the newly announced Community Recognition Fund which aims to support the development of community infrastructure and facilities in recognition of the contributions being made by communities across the country in welcoming and hosting significant numbers of arrivals from Ukraine and other countries.

The funding is specifically targeted at projects that are located in communities, towns and villages that are hosting the Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection and/or International Protection Applicants ('new arrivals') including towns identified for the rapid build homes programme. The Fund aims to support the development of facilities that will be used in the future by all members of the community. It is separate in its objectives and scope to any other public funding streams which aim to support the development of public service needs arising from the significant number of arrivals from Ukraine.

Under the scheme Laois have received an allocation of €1,014,607 with projects to be identified and EOI submitted to the Dept by Wednesday 15th March 2023.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

SIGNED: 
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Mr. Joe Thompson
CHAIRPERSON – LAOIS LCDC

DATE: Wednesday 22nd February 2023.