



## Laois Local Community Development Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023 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. John King, Laois County Council  
Cllr. Conor Bergin, Laois County Council  
Mr. Kevin Geoghegan, DSP  
Ms. Paula Phelan, HSE

#### Private Sector representatives:

Mr. Martin Crowley, Business Sector (Vice Chairperson)  
Mr. Peter O'Neill, Laois Partnership Company  
Mr. Nina Horan, Laois Public Participation Network  
Mr. Henry Burns, Farming Sector (I.F.A)  
Mr. John Oxley, Laois Public Participation Network  
Mr. Naeem Iqbal, Laois Public Participation Network

#### Apologies:

Mr. John Mulholland, CE Laois County Council  
Ms. Mark Clancy, Laois Local Enterprise Office  
Ms. Joan Bolger, Laois Public Participation Network  
Mr. Ray Harte, Laois Public Participation Network  
Mr. Clive Davis, Youth Sector (Youth Work Ireland Laois)

#### In Attendance:

Ms. Pamela Tynan, A/Chief Officer  
Ms. Suzanne O'Connor, A/Senior Staff Officer, L  
Ms. Danielle Keane, Clerical Officer, LCC  
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 26<sup>th</sup> April 2023

The minutes were adopted following a *proposal from Cllr. Paschal McEvoy seconded by Mr. Peter O'Neill*

### 2. Matters Arising

None

### **3. Correspondence**

Ms. Pamela Tynan, A/Chief Officer advised of an email received on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May titled "Case Study Guidance 2023", which will be noted under Agenda Item 4 - SICAP

### **4. SICAP**

As noted under Agenda Item 3, an email communication was received advising that this year's case study process will be similar to last year, with case studies to be submitted by LDCs to LCDCs and Pobal by Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

The Implementing Partner, Laois Partnership Company have been informed of same with the title of the Case Study to be agreed. Once agreed it will be noted at the June LCDC meeting for members approval.

### **5. LECP**

Ms. Pamela Tynan, A/Chief Officer informed members that public consultations on the LECP Draft High Level Goals closed on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April. A report on the public consultation process is being prepared which will be presented to members at the June LCDC meeting.

Public Consultation for the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP), the Local Development Strategy (LDS) and the Local Authority Climate Action Plan (LACAP) took place throughout May. An online survey was widely circulated, and 7 public workshops were held across Laois at locations in Rathdowney, Mountmellick, Abbeyleix, Portarlinton, Portlaoise, Ballylinan and one virtual workshop. Local communities and businesses have been given the opportunity to have a meaningful input into the plans. The workshops to date have been well attended with very useful engagement and feedback from attendees

### **6. AOB**

#### **(a) Delegation of decision making powers on the adoption of the Local Development Strategy by the LCDC to the LCDC LDS sub-committee.**

Ms. Pamela Tynan, A/Chief Officer advised members that Laois LCDC are in the process of preparing a County Laois Local Development Strategy (LDS). An LCDC LDS subcommittee was established at the March LCDC meeting. The closing date for submission of the LDS is the 14<sup>th</sup> July, 2023.

Due to timing issues and as the July LCDC takes place on the 26<sup>th</sup> July, it was recommended that decision making powers on the adoption of the Local Development Strategy be delegated by the LCDC to the LCDC LDS sub-committee.

Ms. Tynan called on members present to approve the delegation of decision making powers on the adoption of the Local Development Strategy by the LCDC to the LCDC LDS sub-committee. The delegation was unanimously agreed by members being proposed by Cllr. Paschal McEvoy and seconded by Cllr. John King.

**(b) Delegation of decision making powers on the approval of the 2024 KPIs and Local Priority Target Groups by the LCDC to the LCDC SICAP sub-committee.**

Ms. Pamela Tynan, A/Chief Officer noted that Pobal & DRCD have recommended that the LCDC delegate responsibility for approving the 2024 KPIs and LPTGs to a subgroup (i.e., SICAP sub-committee) to reduce the possibility of sensitive information being compromised during the procurement process.

Ms. Tynan called on members present to approve the delegation of responsibility for approving the 2024 KPIs and LPTGs to the SICAP sub-committee. The delegation was unanimously agreed by members being proposed by Cllr. Paschal McEvoy and seconded by Mr. John Oxley.

**(c) Vacant Seats**

Mr. Pamela Tynan, A/Chief Officer advised members that one position on each of the following committees had become vacant:

- Healthy Ireland Sub-Committee
- Community Enhancement Programme Sub-Committee
- SICAP Sub-Committee

Ms. Tynan called members present to nominate a fellow member to the committees.

- Healthy Ireland Sub-Committee  
Nominee: Mr. Naeem Iqbal  
Proposed: Cllr. John King  
Seconded: Cllr. Paschal McEvoy
- Community Enhancement Programme Sub-Committee  
Nominee: Mr. Naeem Iqbal  
Proposed: Cllr. Paschal McEvoy  
Seconded: Cllr. John King
- SICAP Sub-Committee  
Nominee: Mr. Peter O'Neill  
Proposed: Cllr. Paschal McEvoy  
Seconded: Cllr. John King

**(d) Local Government Audit Service (LGAS) Audit – Laois LCDC**

Ms. Pamela Tynan, A/Chief Officer noted that the 2021 audit of the LCDC's implementation of the community based programmes funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) is now complete. The audit was conducted in accordance with the requirements of the memorandum of understanding agreed between the Local Government Audit Service and the Social Inclusion and Communities Unit (DRCD) to undertake an audit of the following programmes:

- Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP)
- Community Enhancement Programme (CEP).

The purpose of the audit was to obtain an understanding of how the programmes were implemented in Laois County pursuant to the requirements.

In respect of SICAP, a review was also undertaken of the operations of the programme conducted at the level of the programme implementer (PI) but it should be noted that this process did not involve a full audit. The review of the PI included an examination of beneficiary files together with a sample of financial transactions. LGAS have issued a separate letter to the Chief Executive Officer (Laois Partnership Company) in which they have also requested a response to issues noted during this stage of the audit.

Ms. Tynan advised that the SICAP sub-committee will convene on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June to discuss the findings of the audit and report back to the Local Government Audit Service.

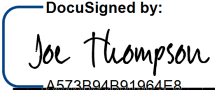
**e) Expiration of Three-Year Term**

Mr. Henry Burns IFA Representative's seat on LCDC will become vacant on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2023, with his last meeting taking place on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023. Mr. Burns served on the LCDC since 27<sup>th</sup> July 2020 for a three-year term, which is the maximum term allowable. A request has been sent to the IFA to nominate a representative to fill the vacant seat on or before Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023 in order to have same ratified at the June council meeting.

**f) Primary Authorised User – Healthy Ireland**

As A/Chief Officer Ms. Pamela Tynan will act as Primary Authorised User (PAU) for all Health Ireland returns with Ms. Anne-Marie Kirrane to remain as Temporary Authorised User, to act as signatory in the absence of the PAU. Cllr Paschal McEvoy approved the proposal being seconded by Mr. Naeem Iqbal.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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**SIGNED:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2023.  
**Mr. Joe Thompson**  
**CHAIRPERSON – LAOIS LCD**