



## Local Community Development Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September 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. John King, Laois County Council  
Cllr. Conor Bergin, 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. Rosey Kunene, Youth Sector (Youth Work Ireland Laois)  
Mr. John Oxley, Laois Public Participation Network  
Mr. Ray Harte, Laois Public Participation Network  
Ms. Joan Bolger, Laois Public Participation Network  
Mr. Naeem Iqbal, Laois Public Participation Network  
Ms. Caroline Lydon, CEO Laois Partnership Company

#### Apologies:

Cllr. Paschal McEvoy, Laois County Council  
Mr. John Mulholland, CE Laois County Council  
Mr. Kevin Geoghegan, DSP  
Ms. Nina Horan, Laois Public Participation Network  
Mr. Harry Lalor, Farming Sector (I.F.A)

#### 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 registered all members present on the meeting attendance sheet.

Mr. Joe Thompson, Chairperson, opened the meeting welcoming all present especially returning members Ms. Evelyn Reddin (LEO) and the new youth representative Ms. Rosey Kunene (YWI).

### 1. Confirmation of Minutes of LCDC meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2023

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

### 2. Matters Arising

None

### 3. Correspondence

Ms. Pamela Tynan, A/Chief Officer informed members of email correspondence received from Pobal on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September titled “2022 SICAP Annual Plan”.

Ms. Tynan noted that the SICAP 2022 Annual Report highlights the vital importance of the Programme in addressing inequality and improving outcomes for the most disadvantaged groups and individuals in the country. In 2022, 2,760 Local Community Groups and 30,416 individuals were supported by the programme.

The report also acknowledges the role of the Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs) and the Local Development Companies (LDCs), local community groups and volunteers who support the delivery of the Programme at County and local area level.

It was noted that Laois Partnership Company concentrated on Men’s Sheds as a means of supporting men’s mental health. Working with Laois Offaly Education and Training Board (LOETB), Laois Partnership Company facilitated several training courses for Men’s Sheds, with over 30 people engaging. They also held two focus groups with the Men’s Sheds in December 2022, and included a questionnaire for the members. The results of the survey found that participants had a sense of better wellbeing, less loneliness and improved mood. Some answers indicated that the Sheds were the only contact some had with their communities.

### 4. SICAP

#### (a) SICAP 2024+ Tender

Ms. Pamela Tynan, A/Chief Officer noted that the closing date for receipt of tender for SICAP 2024+ programme closed on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 12:00pm.

#### (b) SICAP Additional Ukrainian Allocation

Notification received on 25<sup>th</sup> September confirmed that Laois were successful in their application for additional funds in the amount of €5,750 under the addition Ukrainian Funds Proposal.

Ms. Tynan noted that due to the rural nature of County Laois transport to and from events continues to be a challenge in supporting the Ukrainian community. It was proposed to arrange six events between Sept – December 2023, including transportation. Examples would be attendance and participation in free events that are being run across the County in September and October.

SICAP and Ukrainian support staff in Laois Partnership company will liaise with the local Ukrainian community to arrange attendance at a number of these events and to plan some others for the Christmas period. Transportation to and from these will form the biggest cost.

Action	Budget Allocation
Travel Expenses	€2,500
Action Costs	€2,000
Admin	€1,250
Totals Costs	€5,750

Following the Dept announcement Ms. Tynan sought members approval to pay the IP, Laois Partnership Company the sum of €5,750 representing additional Ukrainian funding, advising that funds will only be paid once recouped from the Dept.

Payment in the sum of €5,750 to Laois Partnership Company was approved by **Cllr. John King** and seconded by **Ms. Evelyn Reddin**.

### **(c)Q4 SICAP Payments**

#### General SICAP Allocation

Ms. Pamela Tynan, A/Chief Officer sought Approval to pay the IP, Laois Partnership the sum of €182,821.50. The sum represents Q4 2023 final payment in the sum of €178,926.50 in addition to the sum of €3,895 which was identified in the LGAS audit of LPC.

Payment in the sum of €182,821.50 was approved being proposed by **Cllr. John King** and seconded by **Ms. Evelyn Reddin**

#### Ukrainian Allocation

Approval to pay the IP, Laois Partnership the sum of €33,421.75. The sum represents Q4 2023 final payment under the Ukrainian allocation.

Payment in the sum of €33,421.75 was approved being proposed by **Cllr. John King** and seconded by **Mr. Naeem Iqbal**.

In addition, Ms. Tynan advised members that the Department has been flexible in allowing unspent SICAP funds to be carried forward (up to the maximum threshold of 5% of the total amount available to spend in a particular year) during the lifetime of the programme. However, as the current programme is closing at the end of 2023, all unreported and unspent SICAP funds remaining on hand with Local Development Companies cannot be retained moving from one programming period to a new programming period.

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

### **Objectives and Actions**

Ms. Pamela Tynan, A/Chief Officer advised that work continues on developing the actions and objectives which should be concluded and presented to the LECP subcommittee and then the LCDC at the October meeting.

## 7. Any Other Business

Ms. Pamela Tynan, A/Chief Officer proposed that the LCDC undertake site visits to programmes funded under the SICAP and LEADER programme. The Local Development Company have proposed a number of sites/projects that would be feasible to visit.

LCDC and IP staff will liaise to agree a suitable date..

Ms. Caroline Lydon, CEO Laois Partnership Company noted that the SICAP Programme Manager, Ms Etaoin Walsh has rendered her resignation and wished Ms. Walsh the very best in her future endeavors.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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*Joe Thompson*  
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**SIGNED:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2023.  
**Mr. Joe Thompson**  
**CHAIRPERSON – LAOIS LCDC**