

Laois Local Community Development Committee
Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 15th September 2021
At 11:30am via Microsoft Teams



Members in attendance:

Public Sector representatives:

Cllr. Paschal McEvoy, Laois County Council (Chairperson)
Mr. Joe Thompson, Laois Offaly Education & Training Board (Vice Chairperson)
Mr. John Mulholland, CE Laois County Council
Cllr. John King, Laois County Council

Private Sector representatives:

Ms. Catherine Cowap, A/CEO Laois Partnership Company
Mr. Henry Burns, Farming Sector (I.F.A)
Mr. Clive Davis, Youth Sector (Youth Work Ireland Laois)
Mr. Nina Horan, Laois Public Participation Network
Ms. Joan Bolger, Laois Public Participation Network
Mr. John Oxley, Laois Public Participation Network
Mr. Ray Harte, Laois Public Participation Network
Mr. Martin Crowley, Business Sector (Chamber of Commerce)

Apologies:

Cllr. Conor Bergin, Cathaoirleach Laois County Council
Ms. Evelyn Reddin, Laois Local Enterprise Office
Mr. Colm Purcell, DEASP
Ms. Ann Sheerin, HSE
Mr. Naeem Iqbal, Laois Public Participation Network

In Attendance:

Ms. Carmel McNicholl, Chief Officer
Ms. Pamela Tynan, Administrative Officer, Laois County Council
Ms. Suzanne O'Connor, A/Senior Staff Officer, Laois County Council
Ms. Jenny Collier, Laois Partnership Company

Ms. Suzanne O'Connor, Laois Co Co took a roll call of all attendees and registered those present on the meeting attendance sheet.

Cllr. Paschal McEvoy opened the meeting welcoming all present.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of LCDC meeting held on 21st July 2021.

The minutes were adopted following a proposal from *Mr. Joe Thompson* seconded by *Mr. Ray Harte*.

2. Matters Arising

None

3. Correspondence

None

4. SICAP

(A) SICAP Mid-Year Programmed Review

Ms. Carmel McNicholl, Chief Officer noted in light of the recent announcement of a one year extension to the SICAP programme, LCDC's and LDC are asked to engage in a Mid Programme Review at lot level and to agree a set of SICAP priorities for the remainder of the programme. The emphasis of this year's engagement meeting will specifically focus on:

- What the programme has achieved so far at lot level, and
- What the priorities of the programme should be going forward.

In order to carry out the review and in line with guidance issued the timeline below, in agreement with Laois Partnership Company, has been prepared.

As part of the review process the SICAP sub-committee will convene on Thursday 30th September at 2:00pm. The IP's report and the sub committee's report will then form part of the Pobal Annual engagement meeting which is scheduled for Friday the 8th October.

Step 1	Initial Meeting with IP re SICAP Statement of Priorities	Thursday 19 th August 2021 @ 2:00pm
Step 2	IP to complete report and Proposed Statement of Priorities Recommendations	No later than Friday 24th September
Step 3	SICAP Sub Committee to Convene Independently to Consider IP Report and agree LCDC report and proposed Statement of Priorities Recommendations	Thursday 30 th September 2pm
Step 4	Pobal Engagement meeting	Friday 8 th October 10.30am
Step 5	LCDC to approve agreed Statement of Priority	Wednesday 20 th October (October LCDC Meeting)
Step 6	Submission Deadline of 2022 Annual Plan and Statement of Priorities on IRIS	Friday 12 th November 2021
Note	LCDC to appraise 2022 Annual Plan and approve the Annual Plan in principle	Friday 10 th December 2021.

(B) SICAP VAT Payment to the IP

Ms. Carmel McNicholl, Chief Officer advised members that following the Mid-Year check it was noted that the IP (Laois Partnership Company) incurred a VAT liability of €4,694.17 up to 31.05.2021. The reimbursement of the IP's vat liability in the amount of €4,694.17 was *approved by Mr. Joe Thompson and seconded by Mr. Ray Harte.*

5. AOB

a) **Membership**

Ms. Carmel McNicholl, Chief Officer advised members that following ratification at the July council meeting the newly appointed PPN members are:

- Ms. Joan Bolger, Laois PPN Social Inclusion Rep
- Ms. Nina Horan, Laois PPN Community & Voluntary Rep
- Mr. John Oxley, Laois PPN Community & Voluntary Rep

Members of the committee welcomed the newly appointed members of the committee.

b) **Notice of Intention to Commence SICAP Internal Audit**

Ms. Carmel McNicholl, Chief Officer noted that the SICAP funding agreement between the DRCD and the L.A./ LCDC sets out its obligations regarding audit of the SICAP programme 2018-2022. In that the LCDC, shall undertake an annual audit, inspection and/or verification of SICAP for the duration of the programme, the final verification to take place within 9 months of the end of the fifth review period. The Audit of the programme will commence with an audit inspection due to take place on Thursday 16th September 2021.

c) Dormant Accounts funded Social Enterprise Capital Grant Scheme 2021

Ms. Carmel McNicholl, Chief Officer informed members of e-mail notification received on Monday 13th September from the Dept of Rural and Community Development re Social Enterprise Grant Scheme. The scheme aims to support social enterprises and will provide social enterprises with small capital grants. Laois allocation €23,793.59.

Proposed timelines were set out as follows:

On-line Guidance Webinar	Wednesday 22 nd September 2021
Application open date	Thursday 16 th September 2021
Application closing date	Friday 8 th October 2021 <i>Note: the Dept have stipulated a closing date no later than Friday 15th October 2021.</i>
Sub Committee Appraisal	Monday 18 th October 2021
LCDC Approval	Wednesday 20 th October 2021
Assessment Summary Report to DRCD	Friday 29 th October 2021
DRCD Approvals to LCDC	Friday 12 th November 2021
Applicants Notified of Results	No later than Friday 19 th November 2021
Single Payments issued to each LCDC	No later than Friday 19 th November 2021
Final Date for reimbursement of claims by social enterprises	No later than Friday 8 th April 2022

Ms. McNicholl suggested that a specific one-off sub-committee be convened for the purpose of assessment of applications with the above timeframe. Following discussion membership of the Social Enterprise Capital Grant Scheme Sub Committee 2021 as set out below was *proposed by Cllr. John King and seconded by Mr. Ray Harte.*

- Cllr. Paschal McEvoy (Chairperson)
- Mr. Joe Thompson (Vice-Chairperson)
- Local Enterprise Representative
- Catherine Cowap

In addition to the above Cllr. John King expressed an interest in joining the committee which was seconded by Ms. Catherine Cowap. Mr. Clive Davis furthermore proposed Ms. Joan Boger which was seconded by Cllr. John King.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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Cllr. Paschal McEvoy
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Cllr. Paschal McEvoy
CHAIRPERSON – LAOIS LCDC

DATE: Wednesday 20th October 2021.