

Laois Local Community Development Committee
Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 16th December 2020
At 11:30am via Microsoft Teams



Members in attendance:

Public Sector representatives:

Cllr. Paschal McEvoy, Laois County Council (Chairperson)
Mr. John Mulholland, CE Laois County Council
Cllr. John King, Laois County Council
Cllr. Conor Bergin, Laois County Council
Ms. Evelyn Reddin, Laois Local Enterprise Office
Ms. Ann Sheerin, HSE

Private Sector representatives:

Ms. Catherine Cowap, A/CEO Laois Partnership Company
Mr. Clive Davis, Youth Sector
Mr. Henry Burns, Farming Sector
Ms. Mary White, Laois Public Participation Network
Mr. Robbie Quinn, Laois Public Participation Network
Mr. PJ Campbell, Laois Public Participation Network
Mr. Martin Crowley, Business Sector

Apologies:

Mr. Colm Purcell, DEASP
Mr. Joe Thompson, Laois Offaly Education & Training Board (Vice Chairperson)
Mr. Vincent Booth, Laois Public Participation Network
Mr. Ray Harte, Laois Public Participation Network

In Attendance:

Ms. Carmel McNicholl, Chief Officer
Ms. Suzanne O'Connor, A/Senior Staff Officer
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.

Chairman Cllr. Paschal McEvoy opened the meeting.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of LCDC meeting held on 18th October 2021.

The minutes were adopted following a proposal from *Cllr John King* was seconded by *Mr. Robbie Quinn*.

2. Matters Arising

None

3. Correspondence

None

4. SICAP

(A) Revision of Targets

Ms. Carmel McNicholl, Chief Officer advised members that following correspondence received from Pobal, KPI targets that were proposed at the October LCDC meeting are now required to be revised in order to adhere with the max reduction of 30%. SICAP target were set at:

	2020 Target	2021 Target	% Difference
KPI 1	25	28	+12%
KPI 2	442	300	-32%

In order to adhere with the max % reduction of 30%, and in consultation with the IP, KPI targets for 2021 will now read:

NEW KPI targets 2021

	2020 Target	2021 Target	% Difference
KPI 1	25	28	+12%
KPI 2	442	310	-30%

Ms. McNicholl informed members that a communication was issued to Pobal to amend KPI targets in order to adhere to timelines. Members received a copy of all communications which formed part of their meeting pack, and Ms. McNicholl called on member to ratify the revised targets retrospectively. This was proposed by Mr. Clive Davis and seconded by PJ Campbell.

(B) SICAP Quarter 1 Payment to cover the period January - March 2021.

Ms. Carmel McNicholl Chief Officer, informed members that the Department have confirmed that they will issue three months funding in the amount of €151,056.50. However, Laois LCDC should issue an initial payment of two months funding to facilitate the cash flow requirements of PIs at the beginning of the year. The third month will only be released to Laois Partnership Company on final approval of the 2020 Annual Performance Review and the 2021 Annual Plan.

Ms. McNicholl noted that the 2021 SICAP fund amounted to €604,226 and sought approval to issue the initial payment of €100,704.32 to Laois Partnership Company. This was proposed by Cllr. John King and seconded by Ms. Ann Sheerin.

(C) SICAP Annual Plan 2021

- Ms. Carmel McNicholl advised members that the SICAP sub-committee met on Tuesday 8th Dec in order to review the 2021 Annual Plan. No queries arose and this was communicated to Pobal. Pobal in turn will commence their own review/ check and revert back to Laois LCDC on or before Friday 18th Dec. The 2021 Annual Plan will then require final approval on or before 26th Feb 2021.

Dept Confirm 2021 Lot KPI targets	Mid November
LCD submit Annual Plan to IRIS	Mon 30 th November
LCDC review Annual Plan and provide feedback to Pobal on any issues identifies	Mon 14 th December
Pobal Check and provide Feedback	Friday 18 th December
Final Approval (following approval of 2020 Annual Performance Review)	26 th Feb 2021.

Ms. Catherine Cowap, A/CEO Laois Partnership Company, noted queries arose in relation to the carry-over of funds from 2020 to 2021, and how Laois Partnership proposed to allocate same. Pobal have notified the IP that a carryover of max 10% of programme funding is allowable from 2020 to 2021. As a result it is proposed to purchase 60 tablets and it is envisaged the spend will be between €12,000 and €15,000. Following members queries Ms Cowap noted that all tablets would be stand-alone devices, which would be provided to individuals and community groups on a loan facility. This initiative will facilitate training and will commence in 2021. Ms. Cowap also addressed the issue of public procurement and advised members that Laois Partnership always adhere to public procurement guidelines and will seek three quotation to achieve best value for money.

5. Healthy Ireland

Keep Well Campaign / Resilience Campaign

Mr. Carmel McNicholl, Chief Officer noted that *The Government Plan for Living with COVID-19: Resilience and Recovery 2020-2021* highlighted the important role that individual and community resilience will play in contributing to our ongoing response to COVID-19.

At the heart of the campaign is helping people - individuals & communities - to keep up their resilience & wellbeing through an especially challenging winter and through to spring. People will be encouraged to plan some "self-care" every day or week to get them through the winter and will be supported with information and resources to help them to do so. The campaign is focussed on five major themes:

1. Keeping active
2. Keeping in contact
3. Switching Off
4. Eating Well
5. Minding Your Mood

- National Funding allocated €7 million approx.
- Channelled through Department of Health, Sport Ireland, Age Friendly (Elder initiatives), CYPSC (Youth initiatives), and the 31 Local Authorities.
- €67,225 is being allocated to Laois County Council, with expenditure to be completed by March 2021.
- This funding is for development of locally applicable plans to deliver on approved initiatives supported through the campaign including local promotional activities, targeted Library service initiatives, supporting Creativity in our communities, as well as partnering with other agencies such as local Sports Partnerships

6. AOB

(A) 2nd round of the COVID-19 Emergency Fund

Mr. Carmel McNicholl informed member that an additional €1.7 million fund is being provided by the Government to support community and voluntary groups to deal with COVID-19. This information was received via email from the Dept, a copy of which formed part of members meeting pack. The fund was officially launched on 7th December 2020 by Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, and Minister of State with responsibility for Community Development and Charities, Joe O'Brien TD.

A total of €46,811 will be awarded to Laois with all funds to be drawn down by groups by 31st August 2021. 30% to be ring fenced for projects under €1,000 which amounts to €14,064.30. The fund will be administered through the structures used for the Community Enhancement Programme, i.e. Laois LCDC.

Ms. McNicholl added that:

- The fund will assist groups to adapt their services and operations to fit the new COVID-19 reality. Examples of measures supported could be adapting premises to allow for social distancing; offering on-line activities; providing social supports and friendly calls by phone etc.
- The fund is also aimed at helping animate community groups to enable them to become more involved in the Government's 'Keep Well' campaign. It will seek to assist their participation in the campaign, in particular with the three themes: staying connected, switching off and being creative, and minding your mood.

Finally, Ms. McNicholl noted that to ensure the programme is flexible LCDCs will be allowed to set the closing date in their own Local Authority area, but the Department will require that all application processes be closed by end February 2021. The following dates were put forward to members for approval following consultation with members of the Community Dept within Laois Co Co who will co-ordinate administration of the fund.

Proposed Date:

Application opening date:	Fri 18 th Dec.
Closing Date for receipt of applications:	Fri 22 nd Jan
Sub Committee Evaluation:	Wed 3 rd Feb
LCDC Approval:	Wed 17 th Feb.

This motion was proposed by Mr. PJ Campbell and seconded by Mr. Clive Davis.

(B) 2021 Meeting Dates

Ms. Carmel McNicholl, Chief Officer noted that members were required to set meeting dates for 2021.

Historically meetings took place on the 3rd Wednesday of each month with the exception of August where no

LCDC/LAG meeting takes place. The following dates were put to members for approval.

Wed 20 th January
Wed 17 th February
Wed 24 th March
Wed 21 st April
Wed 19 th May
Wed 16 th June
Wed 21 st July
Wed 15 th September
Wed 20 th October
Wed 17 th November
Wed 15 th December

This motion was proposed by Cllr. Paschal McEvoy and seconded by Cllr. John King, noting the timing of 2021 meetings would be agreed at the January meeting scheduled for 20th January 2021 at 11:30am

This concluded the business of the meeting.

SIGNED: Paschal McEvoy
CHAIRPERSON – LAOIS LCDC

DATE: 20th January 2021.

