

Laois Local Community Development Committee
Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 21st April 2021
At 11:30am via Microsoft Teams

Members in attendance:

Public Sector representatives: Mr. Joe Thompson, Laois Offaly Education & Training Board (Vice 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 (Youth Work Ireland Laois)
Ms. Mary White, Laois Public Participation Network
Mr. Naeem Iqbal, Laois Public Participation Network
Mr. Robbie Quinn, Laois Public Participation Network
Mr. PJ Campbell, Laois Public Participation Network
Mr. Ray Harte, Laois Public Participation Network
Mr. Martin Crowley, Business Sector (Chamber of Commerce)

Apologies: Cllr. Paschal McEvoy, Laois County Council (Chairperson)
Mr. Colm Purcell, DEASP
Mr. Henry Burns, Farming Sector (I.F.A)

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.

Mr. Joe Thompson, Vice Chairperson opened the meeting and welcomed all present. Mr. Thompson on behalf of the committee extended his condolence to Cllr. Paschal McEvoy on the recent passing of his mother-in-law Mrs. Madge Teehan. Ar dheis De go raibh a hanam.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of LCDC meeting held on 24th March 2021.

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

2. Matters Arising

None

3. Correspondence

MS. CARMEL MCNICHOLL, CHIEF OFFICER reminded members that the Department of Rural and Community Development have engaged Pobal to conduct a review of the training needs within the community and voluntary sector in Ireland in support of the implementation of *Sustainable, Inclusive and Empowered Communities: a five-year strategy to support the community and voluntary sector in Ireland*.

As part of the strategy, a commitment was made to identify skills gaps and training needs, and support the skills development of key stakeholders, particularly among non-profit organisations, and their supporting structures, such as LCDCs. This research will contribute to building a knowledge base that will inform the type and scale of supports provided.


A first step in providing supports will be identifying key areas requiring greater support. Ms. McNicholl noted that the Dept have asked if LCDC members could complete the survey entitled "LCDC Training Needs Survey" which was distributed to members via email, with a completion deadline of 30th April.

4. AOB

Ms. Catherine Cowap, A/CEO Laois Partnership, noted that under the SICAP programme 60 tablets were purchased as previously approved from the "Cash In Hand" carry over to the 2021 programme. Ms. Cowap noted that this action has been completed with tables purchased in line with public procurement guidelines. Tablets will be used for the delivery of on-line training to those availing of services such as cookery courses etc. Tablets will be provided to users on a loan basis for the duration of their course with support training being provided if required

Ms. Mary White expressed thanks for follow up information received as requested after the March meeting.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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SIGNED: _____
Cllr. Paschal McEvoy
CHAIRPERSON – LAOIS LCDC

DATE: Wednesday 19th May 2021.