

**Laois Local Community Development Committee**  
**Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2021**  
**At 11:30am via Microsoft Teams**

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**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  
Ms. Evelyn Reddin, Laois Local Enterprise Office  
Mr. Colm Purcell, DEASP  
Mr. Joe Thompson, Laois Offaly Education & Training Board (Vice Chairperson)

**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)  
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. Conor Bergin, Laois County Council  
Ms. Ann Sheerin, HSE

**In Attendance:**

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

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 and welcomed Mr. Naeem Iqbal to the committee. Mr. Iqbal will represent Laois PPN social inclusion pillar.

**1. Confirmation of Minutes of LCDC meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2021.**

The minutes were adopted following a proposal from *Mr. Joe Thompson, seconded by Ms. Evelyn Reddin.*

**2. Matters Arising**

None

**3. Correspondence**

None

#### 4. SICAP

##### **(A) SICAP Internal Audit 2018**

Ms. Carmel McNicholl, Chief Officer advised members that the Dept had requested that each Chief Executive arrange at LA level to audit SICAP annually effective from 2018. Accordingly, the CE instructed that SICAP be included in the Internal Audit Plan and an audit of both financial and non-financial records be carried out to give independent assurance to the LCDC that the PI is in compliance with all requirements of the programme. LCC Internal Audit carried out a SICAP audit for 2018 on behalf of the LCDC and completed same in 2020. Members were furnished with a copy of the report, which was duly noted.

##### **(B) SICAP Q2 2021 Payment**

Ms. Carmel McNicholl, Chief Officer sought approval to pay the IP (Laois Partnership Company) the amount of **€151,056.50** in relation to the SICAP programme. The Q2 drawn down request has been submitted and the funds in question will only be transferred to the IP once received from the Dept. The amount of €151,056.50 is an advance payment in relation to Q2 2021 (April-June 2021). The payment of €151,056.50 in relation to SICAP Q2 2021 *was proposed by Cllr. Paschal McEvoy and seconded by Mr. Robbie Quinn.*

#### 5. Healthy Ireland

Ms. Carmel McNicholl, Chief Officer advised members that the HI sub-committee convened on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March via MS teams. This was a very productive meeting with several items being discussed (copy of meeting minutes formed part of members meeting pack).

##### **(A) Healthy Laois Plan 2018-2020**

Ms. McNicholl, Chief Officer, noted that the current Healthy Laois Plan runs from 2018-2020. Through the sub-committee it was proposed that members extend the plan for a period of 12 months up to the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 in line with the extension of Round 3 Healthy Ireland Fund. The rationale for same being the impact of COVID-19 to the actions contained within and to ensure the plan runs in line with the current Round 3 funding stream.

Ms. McNicholl, Chief Officer put to the meeting the recommendation of the HI subcommittee to approve the extension of the Healthy Laois Plan to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021. The recommendation was adopted following a proposal from *Cllr. John King, seconded by Ms. Mary White.*

##### **(B) We're Breastfeeding Friendly Laois**

Mr. McNicholl, Chief Officer informed members that the aim of "We're Breastfeeding Friendly Laois" is to help breastfeeding mothers, babies and families through the development and promotion of breastfeeding friendly businesses, organisation's and communities. Under HI Round 3 an allocation of **€4000** is available.

Members of the HI sub-committee recommend that a working group for "We're Breastfeeding Friendly Laois" be established, subject to LCDC approval, consisting of the following membership.

- Le Lecne League (1 nominee)
- Cuidiu (1 nominee)
- HSE lactation nurse
- Laois Chamber of Commerce (1 nominee)
- Public Health Nurse
- Ms. Siobhan Hourigan (HI Sub-committee associate member)
- Ms. Julie Scully (HI coordinator)

Ms. McNicholl, Chief Officer put to the meeting the recommendation of the HI subcommittee, to approve the formation of “We’re Breastfeeding Friendly Laois” working group. The recommendation was adopted following a proposal from Ms. Catherine Cowap, seconded by Mr. Clive Davis.

### **(C) Smoke Free Playgrounds**

Ms. Carmel McNicholl, Chief Officer noted that the purpose of a Smoke Free initiative is to ensure that smoking does not take place around young people in order to discourage them from smoking while preventing second-hand smoke. Under HI Round 3 an allocation of €4000 is available. Laois have 20 playgrounds, 24 play spaces and additional 2 playground coming on stream in 2020. This would mean that 26 signs would be required for playgrounds in Laois. When referencing the Healthy Laois Plan it is very much targeting tobacco free through all age cohorts specifically referencing a smoke free park and playground initiative in Laois. Members recommend the formation of a “Smoke Free” working group consisting of the following membership:

- Ann-Maher, Laois Co Co Sports Section
- Laois Sports Partnership
- Comhairle na nOg
- Laois GAA Health & Wellbeing Officer
- Laois PPN
- Cllr. Paschal McEvoy (HI sub-committee)
- Ms. Siobhan Hourigan (HI sub-committee)
- Julie Scully, Hi coordinator

Ms. McNicholl, Chief Officer put to the meeting the recommendation of the HI subcommittee, to approve the formation of “Smoke Free” working group. The recommendation was adopted following a proposal from Mr. Joe Thompson, seconded by Cllr. John King

Mr. Clive Davis, Youth Work Ireland Laois recommended that the word “vape free” be included in signage. This was unanimously agreed by members of the committee.

## **6. AOB**

### **(A) Standing Order Review**

Ms. Carmel McNicholl, Chief Officer noted as a result of the review of the LAG procedure manual and its adaptation at the Feb LCDC/LAG meeting, a review of the LCDC Standing Orders was undertaken to ensure they aligned with the revised procedure manual. All proposed changes were highlighted for members attention with notes for ease of reference.


The revised S.O.’s were adopted following a proposal from Mr. John Mulholland, seconded by Cllr. Paschal McEvoy.

### **(B) Membership**

Ms. Carmel McNicholl, Chief Officer welcomed Mr. Naeem Iqbal to the LCDC representing Laois PPN, social inclusion pillar. Ms. McNicholl noted that further changes within the membership of the committee will take effect after July 2021, with three PPN representatives due to resign their positions.

All representatives in question have served two consecutive three year terms on the committee.  
Contact will be made with Laois PPN seeking nominations in due course to ensure a smooth transition.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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**SIGNED:**

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**Mr. Joe Thompson**  
**VICE CHAIRPERSON – LAOIS LCDC**

**DATE: 21<sup>st</sup> April 2021.**