

**Laois Local Community Development Committee**  
**Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2022**  
**At 11:30am via Microsoft Teams**

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**Members in attendance:**

**Public Sector representatives:** Mr. Joe Thompson, Laois Offaly Education & Training Board (Chairperson)  
Cllr. John King, Laois County Council  
Cllr. Paschal McEvoy, Laois County Council  
Ms. Ann Sheerin, HSE

**Private Sector representatives:** Mr. Martin Crowley, Business Sector (Vice Chairperson)  
Ms. Catherine Cowap, A/CEO Laois Partnership Company  
Mr. Nina Horan, Laois Public Participation Network  
Ms. Joan Bolger, Laois Public Participation Network  
Mr. Ray Harte, Laois Public Participation Network  
Mr. John Oxley, Laois Public Participation Network

**Apologies:** Cllr. Conor Bergin, Cathaoirleach Laois County Council  
Mr. John Mulholland, CE Laois County Council  
Ms. Honor Deevy, Laois Local Enterprise Office  
Mr. Clive Davis, Youth Sector (Youth Work Ireland Laois)  
Mr. Naeem Iqbal, Laois Public Participation Network  
Mr. Henry Burns, Farming Sector (I.F.A)

**In Attendance:** Ms. Carmel McNicholl, Chief Officer  
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, both in-person and on-line, on the meeting attendance sheet.

Mr. Joe Thompson, Chairperson, opened the meeting welcoming all present.

**1. Confirmation of Minutes of LCDC meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2022.**

The minutes were adopted following a proposal from *Cllr. John King* seconded by *Ms. Joan Bolger*.

**2. Matters Arising**

None

**3. Correspondence**

None.

**4. SICAP**

Ms Carmel McNicholl, Chief Officer sought approval to pay the IP, Laois Partnership Company in the amount of €141,263.69 representing Q2 payment of the 2022 SICAP programme. Ms. McNicholl noted that the payment had

been reduced from €173,715 to €141,263.69 taking into account the excess non allowable carryover from the 2021 programme amount to €32,451.31.

The Q2 payment of €141,263.69 was approved by Cllr. Paschal McEvoy and seconded by Mr. Martin Crowley.

## 5. Healthy Ireland

Mr. Carmel McNicholl, Chief Officer updated members in relation to the Healthy Ireland programme advising that the current programme will end on the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2022. Further correspondence in relation to Healthy Ireland – Round 4 Projects/Actions funding allocations is anticipated in the coming weeks.

The Healthy Ireland County Co-ordinator Grant Agreement was received on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 certifying that Pobal agree to provide funding supports to Laois County Council in the amount of €265,454.56, for the Healthy Ireland Co-Coordinator post. The funding will support the continued employment of a Healthy Ireland County Co-ordinator, at Local Authority Grade VI, for the delivery period of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 to the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025. The HI Coordinator post was advertised with a closing date of Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2021. Interviews are currently being scheduled in order to appoint a HI co-ordinator for the new programme.

Finally, Ms McNicholl noted that Frank Feighan Minister for Public Health, Wellbeing and National Drug Strategy will officially visit Laois on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May being greeted by the HI teams taking in three visits to programmes funded under the HI fund in Laois.

## 6. AOB

MS. Carmel McNicholl, Chief Officer updated members in relation to the local response to the current Ukrainian crisis noting that a number of LCDC members are also members of the Laois Ukrainian Community Response Forum. Presently the forum meeting on a fortnightly basis with the collaboration and sharing of information between agencies working well. Mr. Joe Thompson, Chairperson requested that a formal update be given to members at the May meeting noting that the LCDC will support the local response in any means possible.

Ms. Catherine Cowap, A/CEO Laois Partnership Company advised members that the IP under the SICAP programme are undertaking a campaign to recruit a development officer on a 6-month full time contract. The application must have fluent English and Ukrainian. 10 applications were received with interviews scheduled to take place on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

DocuSigned by:

*Joe Thompson*

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SIGNED:

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

DATE: Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2022.