

# Laois Local Community Development Committee

## Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September 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. Conor Bergin, Laois County Council  
Cllr. John King, Laois County Council  
Cllr. Paschal McEvoy, Laois County Council  
Mr. John Mulholland, CE Laois County Council  
Ms. Honor Deevy, Laois Local Enterprise Office  
Mr. Kevin Geoghegan, DSP  
Ms. Ann Sheerin, HSE

**Private Sector representatives:** Mr. Henry Burns, Farming Sector (I.F.A)  
Mr. Clive Davis, Youth Sector (Youth Work Ireland Laois)  
Ms. Joan Bolger, Laois Public Participation Network  
Mr. Nina Horan, Laois Public Participation Network  
Mr. Ray Harte, Laois Public Participation Network  
Mr. John Oxley, Laois Public Participation Network

**Apologies:** Mr. Martin Crowley, Business Sector (Vice Chairperson)  
Ms. Catherine Cowap, CEO Laois Partnership Company  
Mr. Naeem Iqbal, Laois Public Participation Network

**In Attendance:** Ms. Pamela Tynan, A/Chief Officer  
Ms. Suzanne O'Connor, A/Senior Staff Officer, Laois County Council  
Mr. Stephen Ring, Clerical Officer, Laois County Council  
Ms. Jenny Collier, Laois Partnership Company  
Mr. Liam Ramsbottom, Laois Partnership Company

Ms. Suzanne O'Connor, Laois Co Co registered all members present on the meeting attendance sheet.

Mr. Joe Thompson, Chairperson, opened the meeting welcoming all present. Ms. Pamela Tynan, A/Chief Officer welcomed Ms. Evelyn Reddin (LEO Representative) back to the committee and also Mr. Ray Harte (Laois PPN Environmental Rep) on his second term. Both members were ratified at the September Council meeting.

### **1. Confirmation of Minutes of LCDC meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2022.**

The minutes were adopted following a proposal from **Cllr. Paschal McEvoy** seconded by **Cllr. John King**

### **2. Matters Arising**

None

### 3. Correspondence

Ms. Pamela Tynan, A/Chief Officer referred to correspondence received:

- (a) Email of 31<sup>st</sup> August titled Additional Staff Resource Review for which a short survey was completed, being sent to the LCDC Chair and DOS for their consideration before being returned to the DRCD.
- (b) Email received 15<sup>th</sup> September re Healthy Ireland Fund Update referenced HI Round 4 advising that Pobal will issue the Healthy Ireland Fund 2023-2025 guidance document, along with supporting templates, to Chief Officers on 28<sup>th</sup> September. The guidance document will provide detail of the overarching HIF Round 4 framework and what is required in online 2023-2025 submission. The deadline for completion of the online application is Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

The correspondence also noted that the Community Resilience Fund (CRF) which focused on assisting individuals and communities to maintain their resilience and wellbeing in response to COVID-19 and was implemented by Local Authorities and Children and Young People's Services Committees (CYPSCs) via the Healthy Ireland Fund architecture. Local authorities played a fantastic role in supporting the rollout of a significant number of initiatives across the country, all achieved within a relatively short timeframe.

Finally, Ms. Tynan noted that another element of the HIF round 3 architecture was the Community Mental Health Fund (CMHF) for which an external evaluation of the CMHF has been commissioned

### 4. LECP

Ms. Pamela Tynan, A/Chief Officer informed members that LCDC staff undertook a review of the Local Economic & Community Plan 2016-2021. There is a requirement under the legislation to review the LECP at least once within the 6-year timeframe. The preparatory phase for the next LECP includes a review of the current LECP. The information obtained from the review process will inform the development of the new LECP. The required statutory review process will be satisfied through the review process undertaken as part of the preparatory phase for the new LECP.

Ms. Tynan noted that of the 156 lead agencies contacted during the review process, 128 responded representing 82.05%. It was further noted by way of example that HLG1, Market Laois to Forward Inward Investment had an economic emphasis with two key objectives identified. Under this HLG the BSU was established and continues to operate from its hub in Laois Co Co.

Members proceeded to discuss the LECP review to include challenges facing Laois. Mr. John Mulholland congratulated staff on work undertaken in completing the review.

In addition, it was noted that LCDC staff have commenced a socio-economic analysis i.e. data collection and analysis in order to develop socio economic statement.

## 5. SICAP

### (a) SICAP Payment

Ms. Pamela Tynan, A/Chief Officer sought members approval to issue payment to the IP, Laois Partnership Company in the amount of €173,715 representing payment of Q4 2022 with the drawdown of same being received from the Dept.

The Q4 2022 SICAP payment in the amount of €173,715 was *proposed by Ms. Evelyn Reddin, being seconded by Ms. Joan Bolger.*

### (b) SICAP Payment – Additional Ukrainian Allocation

Ms. Pamela Tynan, A/Chief Officer sought approval to issue payment to the IP, Laois Partnership Company in the amount of €83,548 (€17,378.77 admin and €66,169.23 actions) representing additional funding allocation and drawdown from the Dept to assist with the local response to the Ukrainian crisis

Paying in the amount of €83,548 was *proposed by Mr. John Mulholland being seconded by Cllr. Paschal McEvoy.*

### (c) SICAP case Study

Ms. Pamela Tynan, A/Chief Officer advised members that the 2022 case study will be titled “New Communities from the Ukraine”. The focus of the case study is informed by the work of the Local Development Company and will be based on Supporting Ukrainian Refugees theme.

The finalised report will be forward to Pobal by the closing date of Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October and will also be presented to members at the October LCDC meeting.

### (d) SICAP Audit

An audit of the 2021 SICAP programme is currently being undertaken by LCC Internal Auditor. Once completed the report will be furnished to members for their consideration.

It is hoped that the audit will be completed by the end of October after which it will be presented to members for their attention. The scope of this audit will focus on

- Financial transactions other than payroll funded by SICAP in 2021

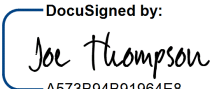
The audit will also check and verify the following:

- ESF requirements - are in compliance with the SICAP Programme requirements.
- Follow up the 2021 recommendations.

**6. AOB**

Ms. Pamela Tynan, A/Chief Officer updated members on the local response to the ongoing Ukrainian crisis noting that the last meeting of the Ukrainian Response Forum took place on-line on the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022. Agencies continue to collaborate on the provision of supports. The next meeting of the forum is scheduled for 5<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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**SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_**  
**Mr. Joe Thompson**  
**CHAIRPERSON – LAOIS LCDC**

**DATE: Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2022.**