

Meeting Report

Date: 22nd February 2017
Meeting: Council Meeting (March 2017)
Re: Donegal LCDC Annual Report

Background

Putting People First – An Action Programme for Effective Local Government envisaged a range of reforms including an enhanced role for local government in community development. This enhanced role was provided for in the Local Government Reform Act 2014, which included a requirement to establish a Local Community Development Committees (LCDC) in each local authority area. Donegal LCDC was established in June 2014 in accordance guidelines outlined by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government. LCDC's replaced the County Development Board structure and aim to enhance the strategic planning and coordination of local and community development activity.

Key Responsibilities

LCDC's have been given a number of key responsibilities which include to:

- Prepare the community element of 6 year local economic and community plan (LECP).
- Co-ordinate all community development programmes in the local authority area such as the management and overseeing of the Local Community Development Programme and the Rural Development Programme (LEADER) and the Social Inclusion, Community Activation Programme (SICAP).
- Ensure effectiveness, consistency, co-ordination and avoid duplication of public funded programmes.
- Implement or arrange for the implementation of the community elements of the LECP and to review the community elements of the Plan at least once within its lifetime.
- Consider and adopt a statement for consideration of the Council in respect of the economic elements of a draft of the LECP.
- Prepare an annual report of the performance of its functions.

Composition

LCDC's are required to comprise both public and private sector members, including local authority members and officials, State agencies and private sector local and community development representatives to work in partnership to achieve its objectives. Donegal County Council provide administrative to the LCDC and Paddy Doherty is the Chief Officer of the Committee Donegal LCDC is made up of 19 representatives as follows:

Donegal LCDC Membership at end of 2016

| Name | Sector | Organisation |
|--|---|-----------------------------------|
| Seamus Neely Chairperson | Local Authority official, Chief Executive | Donegal County Council |
| Cllr. Martin McDermott Vice Chairperson | Local Authority official, Councillor | Donegal County Council |
| Michael Tunney | Local Authority official, Local Enterprise Office | Donegal County Council |
| Cllr. Niamh Kennedy | Local Authority official, Councillor | Donegal County Council |
| Cllr. Marie Therese Gallagher | Local Authority official, Councillor | Donegal County Council |
| Paul Hannigan | State Agencies | LYIT |
| Vacant | State Agencies | Health Service Executive |
| Michael Mac Giolla Easbuig | State Agencies | Udaras na Gaeltachta |
| Anne McHugh | State Agencies | Education Training Board |
| Vacant | Local Development Company | Inishowen Development Partnership |
| Jim Slevin | Local Development Company | Donegal Local Development Company |
| Susan McCauley | Social Inclusion Interest | PPN |
| Susan McLoughlin | Community Voluntary Interest | PPN |
| Martin McBride | Community Voluntary Interest | PPN |
| Vacant | Environmental Interest | PPN |
| Jan Feenstra | Business & Enterprise | IBEC Rep |
| PJ Hannon | Trade Union | ICTU |
| James O'Donnell | Farming & Agriculture | Famers Rep |
| Noreen Ní Mhaoldomhnaigh | Islands interest | Comhar na nOilean |

Meetings

Donegal LCDC meets a minimum of seven occasions in 2016. Minutes of the LCDC meetings are available on the community section of Donegal County Council's website. Meetings are held in accordance with Standing Order established by the Committee. Meeting dates for 2017 are also outlined on the website.

Key Achievements

Donegal LCDC has had a very busy and productive year. To date, the Committee has in accordance with requirements:

- Prepared and agreed the community element of 6 year local economic and community plan (LECP), which was approved by the Council at its meeting on 25th January 2016.
- Donegal LCDC continued in its role as the Local Action Group for the implementation of the LEADER / RDP Local Development for 2014-2020. Donegal has been allocated a total of €12.9m under this programme which is being administered by the LCDC in conjunction with 4 local implementing bodies – Donegal Local Community Development Company, Inishowen Development Partnership, Údarás na Gaeltachta and Comhar na nOilean. The

LCDC developed a Local Development Strategy, agreed the structure of three geographical Evaluation Committees.

- Donegal LCDC established a PEACE IV Partnership as a sub structure of the LCDC which lead to the development and implementation of the Peace Action Plan for the County.
- Donegal LCDC continues to manage and oversee the implementation of the Social Inclusion, Community Activation Programme (SICAP). This programme is being delivered at local level by Donegal Local Community Development Company and Inishowen Development Partnership.
- Donegal LCDC continued in its consultative role in relation to the Town and Village Renewal Scheme allocation of €380,000 supporting the selection and successful application for funding of five projects, one from each of the Municipal District, submitted.

Donegal LCDC will continue to work to ensure the implementation of these plans and programmes at a local level and to ensure the effective co-ordination of funding programmes for the benefit of local communities in the county.

Paddy Doherty
Chief Officer
Donegal Local Community Development Committee