

Meeting Report

Date: February 2019
Meeting: Council Meeting (March 2019)
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.
- Administration of Community Enhancement Programme
- Administration of Healthy Ireland Programme
- 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 2018

Name	Sector	Organisation
Cllr. Martin McDermott Chairperson	Local Authority, Councillor	Donegal County Council
Seamus Neely Vice Chairperson	Local Authority Official, Chief Executive	Donegal County Council

Michael Tunney	Local Authority Official, Local Enterprise Office	Donegal County Council
Cllr. Niamh Kennedy	Local Authority , Councillor	Donegal County Council
Cllr. Marie Therese Gallagher	Local Authority, Councillor	Donegal County Council
Paul Hannigan	State Agencies	LYIT
Peter Walker	State Agencies	Health Service Executive
Michael Mac Giolla Easbuig	State Agencies	Udaras na Gaeltachta
Anne McHugh	State Agencies	Education Training Board
Fionan Bradley	Local Development Company	Inishowen Development Partnership
Padraic Fingleton	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
Aengus Kennedy	Environmental Interest	PPN
Siobhan McLaughlin	Social Inclusion Interest	PPN
Liam McElhinney	Trade Union	ICTU
James O'Donnell	Farming & Agriculture	Famers Rep
David Alcorn	Islands interest	Comhar na nOilean

Meetings

Donegal LCDC met 11 times in 2018 consisting of nine LCDC Meetings and eleven LAG Meetings. 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 2018 were 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:

- Donegal LCDC continued to monitor and evaluate the LECP 2016-2022. The Sub Group worked with the Research and Policy Unit, Donegal County Council to develop a monitoring and evaluation framework and system to capture and measure the key outputs, outcomes and impacts of 105 projects that are currently active through the LECP. Progress on the delivery of these projects; the amount allocated and spent under each of 7 LECP Goals and success in reaching agreed targets has been presented in two monitoring and evaluation report to the LCDC. To determine the impact that the LECP is having on the lives of citizens within the county, the M&E Subgroup conducted a 'Donegal Happiness Survey'. This research set out to determine individual's satisfaction rankings across 56 different services; the cost of living, quality of life and reaching their expectations within the county. Results of this survey were presented to members in December 2018 and it was agreed that this piece of work will help to guide LCDC priorities for the coming year.
- Donegal LCDC continued in it's role as the Local Action Group (LAG) 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 nOileán. A total of 102 projects in Donegal are now approved by Pobal and Letters of Offer have issued/are pending granting LEADER funding to a value of just over €4.5m over the course of the Programme to date with funding in the sum of €2.89 million awarded in 2018. Donegal has the highest approved project spend nationally for the LEADER programme to date.

- A new funding scheme was announced by the Department of Rural and Community Development in 2018; The Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) provided €4.5 million of grant funding in 2018 towards enhancing the facilities available to communities.

The Programme provides capital funding to communities across Ireland to enhance facilities in disadvantaged areas. Some funding is ring-fenced for smaller projects, from lawnmowers and IT equipment to minor renovations to buildings. The CEP also provides funding towards larger projects in disadvantaged areas. Typical enhancements under the programme could include the renovation of community centres, community amenities, improvements to town parks, common areas and spaces, CCTV equipment and energy efficiency-type projects. The Programme also provided for 'ring fenced' funding for Men's Sheds in the County who were affiliated to the Men's Sheds of Ireland.

The Donegal Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) administers the Programme in the county on behalf of the Department of Rural and Community Development. Initial grant funding of €159,461 was awarded by the Department for the scheme in 2018 and applications for the scheme were received until the closing date of 30th July 2018. Funding in the sum of €31,884 which was ring fenced for affiliated Men's Sheds in the County, was allocated to the LCDC under the scheme and applications were received until the closing date of 31st August 2018. A further allocation of €441,104 was received from the Department in September 2018 to be distributed to the original applicants to the Programme. Disbursement to the groups was agreed by the LCDC. €8,429.99 of the additional funding made available in September was allocated to the Men's Shed applications to award eligible applications the full funding applied for. This resulted in a total of €40,313.99 being awarded to the Men's Shed element of the Programme. The balance of monies was divided equally across the Municipal Districts.

- Healthy Ireland Update: A joint application from Donegal LCDC as lead partner and the Children and Young Peoples Services Committee (CYPSC) in the sum of €138,000 was approved by Pobal in November 2017. The application was for 11 actions and the grant period ran until 31st March 2018 with a subsequent extension until 30th April 2018. The actions were successfully delivered by the partners and confirmed by Pobal through their Check-in process.

A new application to Phase 2 of the Healthy Ireland Fund was developed jointly between Donegal LCDC and CYPSC and was submitted in May 2018. This application is to the value of €112,100. Approval for the application was received from Pobal in September 2018. Service Level Agreements with the Action delivery partners have been put in place and monitoring and evaluation of the actions is on-going. Two of the approved Actions will be undertaken by Donegal County Council directly with the remainder being delivered by a combination of CYPSC and HSE affiliated bodies. All actions must be complete by 31st March 2019.

- The €5.5million PEACE IV Action Plan for Donegal has been prepared as part of the PEACE IV Programme and will build on the positive work done in Donegal, the border region and Northern Ireland over the last two decades and will see the delivery of projects, interventions and initiatives that will continue to play an important role in reinforcing progress towards a more peaceful and stable society.

The PEACE IV Programme focuses on a range of areas where it wants to make significant and lasting changes including Children and Young People; Shared Spaces and Services; and Building Positive Relations.

In Donegal 19 interventions will be delivered across these three areas with approximately €1.2m allocated to Children and Young People and this will see an emphasis on projects focusing on fostering good relations, citizenship, youth training, leadership, conflict mediation and personal development through a range of interventions such as sport; drama and culture.

€2m has been allocated to the theme of Shared Spaces and Services with the objective being to create more cohesive society through an increased provision of shared spaces and services which has the potential to have a transformative effect on local areas.

€2.4m has been allocated to building positive relations at local level and is about promoting and celebrating cultural diversity where people can live, learn and socialise together, free from prejudice, hate and intolerance. A range of interventions are proposed under the this theme including restorative practices events linked to the decade of commemorations that explore history in a sensitive manner and build mutual understanding; sport, arts, culture (including Irish and Ulster Scots language) and cross border media project, and small grants funding to promote positive relations and regeneration activities.

There are a number of delivery mechanisms within the plan to include tender delivery, partner delivery and direct delivery.

- Donegal LCDDC continues to manage and oversee the implementation of the Social Inclusion, Community Activation Programme (SICAP). 2018 saw the commencement of the new five year SICAP programme, which has a budget of €2,008,917 per year across the lifetime of the programme. Two Local Community Development Companies deliver the SICAP Programme on behalf of the Donegal LCDDC across the three Lots in Co Donegal as follows:-

Lot 33-1	Donegal Inishowen	Inishowen Development Partnership
Lot 33-2	Donegal Gaeltacht	Donegal Local Development CLG
Lot 33-3	Donegal	Donegal Local Development CLG

Donegal LCDDC 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