



**Comhairle Contae  
Dhún na nGall**  
Donegal County Council



**LCDC**  
Coiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Áitiúil  
Dhún na nGall  
Donegal Local Community Development  
Committee

**Minutes of Donegal Local Community Development Committee Meeting  
County House, Lifford & online via Teams at 10am on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

<b>Members in attendance</b>	Cllr. Niamh Kennedy – DCC, John McLaughlin – DCC, Micheal Mac Giolla Easpaig – Údarás, Joe Boland - PPN, Charlene Logue – PPN, Aengus Kennedy – PPN, Padraic Fingleton – DLDC, and James O'Donnell - ICMSA
<b>Members in attendance via Teams</b>	Cllr. Martin McDermott – DCC, Andrew Ward – IDP, Anne McHugh – ETB, Paul Hannigan – ATU
<b>Apologies</b>	Maria Ferguson – HSE, Brenda Hegarty – LEO, Liam McElhinney – ICTU, Siobhan McLaughlin – PPN and Maire Uí Mhaolain - Comhar na nOilean
<b>Chief Officer</b>	Paddy Doherty
<b>Attending</b>	Liam Ward, Ciaran Martin, Adrienne Kelly, Charlene Gillespie and Kathleen Browne

**Welcome**

Cllr. Niamh Kennedy welcomed members to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance. Cllr. Kennedy advised that Shauna McClenaghan, IDP, had left the LCDC and welcomed Andrew Ward, as the IDP Representative on the LCDC.

**1. Draft minutes of the LCDC meeting of 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

The minutes of the previous LCDC Meeting, as circulated with the agenda, were considered by the LCDC.

On the proposal of Joe Boland, seconded by James O'Donnell, the minutes of the LCDC Meeting of 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024 were adopted with no matters arising.

**2. Draft Minutes of Special Joint Meeting of Donegal LCDC and Economic, Enterprise and Emergency Services SPC held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

The minutes of above meeting were, as circulated with the agenda, were considered by the LCDC.

On the proposal of Charlene Logue, seconded by Joe Boland, the minutes of the Special Joint Meeting of Donegal LCDC and Economic, Enterprise and Emergency Services SPC held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024 were adopted with no matters arising.

### 3. Local Enhancement Programme 2024

Ciaran Martin advised members following the approval of the award of Large, Small and ring-fenced Capital Grant Awards for the Local Enhancement Programme 2024 at the March meeting, it was noted that there was a duplication of Small Grant awards in Glenties and Inishowen MD resulting in minor amendment to the large grant awards as follows:-

#### Glenties MD

LEP24/G/25	Pobal Eascarrach	€5,585.93
LEP24/G/34	Comharchumainn Oilean Arainn Mhor CTR	€5,585.93
LEP24/G/41	Local Youth & Family Service	€5,585.94

#### Inishowen MD

LEP24/I/06	Clonmany Parochial	€7,440.31
LEP24/I/23	The Wee Hall, Culdaff (Culdaff Community Association, WEE Hall Management Committee	€7,440.32
LEP24/I/17	Inishowen Children's Autism Related Education Limited	€7,378.00

He further advised that following final review of the Community Support Fund there was a balance of €6,315.07 which is made up of grant awards not drawn down by successful applicants under the Community Support Fund. The Department permit the LCDC to carry this balance forward into the Local Enhancement Programme funding and allocate same as grant funding or administration costs.

The large grant Evaluation Scoring awarded to applicants to the Local Enhancement Programme by LCDC Grant Evaluation Sub Committee were reviewed. Coiste Forbartha Ceantair Mhin an Aoire, Donegal MD, were the group with the highest score who had not been awarded a large grant.

James O'Donnell welcomed this proposal to award a grant to Coiste Forbartha Ceantair Mhin an Aoire and advised the group and area was in need of support.

On the proposal of Padraic Fingleton, seconded James O' Donnell, the LCDC approved the amendment to large grant awards in Glenties and Inishowen MD and the award of Large Grant to Coiste Forbartha Ceantair Mhin an Aoire.

### 4. Local Area Initiative

Members were advised that as advised at the LCDC Meeting in March, Donegal County Council had been chosen as a pilot location within the Department of Taoiseach driven Local Area Initiatives, which aims to strengthen existing statutory planning and implementation arrangements of local government and bring a renewed focus to consistent engagement with the community sector around local needs and responses. It was confirmed that members had agreed that the Glencar Area of Letterkenny be selected as the pilot area for this programme in Co Donegal.

Ciaran Martin informed members that further to their agreement at the March LCDC Meeting, the Local Area Initiative would become a sub-group of the LCDC and that an Implementation Board would be established to deliver Integrated Responses to Local Area Challenges. It was now necessary to approve the structure and membership of the Implementation Board as follows:

- Independent Chairperson
- Director of Services, Local Authority
- Chief Superintendent, AGS
- Local Area Manager, Tusla
- Local Area Manager, HSE
- Head of Operations/Youth Services, CDYSB
- Area Manager Local ETB
- Principal Probation Officer
- Principal Local Primary School
- Principal Local Secondary School
- Assistant Chief Inspector, Education Inspectorate
- Three Local Representatives (Community)
- Local Business Group Representative
- Local Development Company Representative

Padraic Fingleton queried if any resources would be available for the Initiative. Paddy Doherty advised that no direct funding resources would be available for the Initiative, however it was intended that the Implementation Board representatives would work together to co-ordinate monies spent by each organisation in the area and that there would be data provided for pilot areas to support delivery of the Local Area Initiative.

In response to a query from John McLaughlin, Paddy Doherty advised that it was hoped to have the first meeting of the Implementation Board within 4-6 weeks.

The LCDC agreed on the proposed structure and membership of the implementation board.

### 5.1 SICAP – Lot 33-2 Donegal Gaeltacht – Proposed Amendment to 2024 Budget Spend

Kathleen Browne advised members that the LCDC agreed the Budget spend for Lot 33-2 when approving the acceptance of Tender submitted by DLDC at the LCDC Meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023. Members were informed that at their meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> April, the SICAP Sub Committee considered and recommended approval of the proposed amendment to the Budget spend for Administration Costs & Goal 1 & 2 Action Costs as follows:

	<b>Original Schedule A</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Revised Schedule A</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>SICAP</b>	€362,029.50		€371,683.00	
<b>New Communities</b>	€110,629.00		€113,579.00	
<b>Action Costs</b>	<b>€472,658.50</b>	75%	<b>€485,262.00</b>	77%
SICAP	€120,676.50		€111,023.00	

New Communities	€ 36,876.00		€33,926.00	
<b>Admin/Mgt</b>	<b>€ 157,552.50</b>	25%	<b>€144,949.00</b>	23%

A copy of the revised Schedule A for Lot 33-2 had been circulated with the Agenda.

Kathleen confirmed that the proposed amendment results in an increased spend on Action Costs and a reduction in Administration Costs for both SICAP and New Communities funds. The amendment does not impact the KPI1 and KPI2 Targets set for 2024 and the Administration and Goal 1 and 2 spend remains within the acceptable percentage boundaries.

On the proposal of Joe Boland, seconded by Aengus Kennedy, the LCDC approved the proposed amendment to the Budget spend for Administration Costs & Goal 1 & 2 Action Costs Lot 33-2 Donegal Gaeltacht as set out above.

## 5.2 SICAP – Percentage Target for Local Priority Target

Kathleen Browne advised members that Donegal LCDC selected one priority target for Lots 33-1, 33-2 and 33-3 – People living in Disadvantaged areas for the SICAP Programme 2024-2028. They also selected Priority Target Areas within each Lot that LDCs should focus on as follows:

- Lot 33-1 Carndonagh & surrounding area
- Lot 33-2 Island Communities
- Lot 33-3 Convoy, Raphoe, Ballindrait & Lifford

She confirmed that at their meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024, the SICAP Sub Committee considered the percentage target for Local Priority Targets.

As per the guidelines issued for selection of the percentage targets, the SICAP Sub Committee considered the Pobal Deprivation Index for each Lot, previous target achievement in the SICAP Programme 2018-2024 and a consultation with the Local Development Companies for each Lot was conducted.

In calculating the achievement of the percentage target for Local Priority Targets, the numbers for People Living in Disadvantaged areas will be calculated based on the address of individuals targeted under Goal 2 Actions as input on the IRIS system and its status on the Pobal Deprivation Index Maps.

Members were advised that previously, this target was calculated by Pobal and applied to each Lot. Donegal LCDC must now agree the figure for the 2026 milestone year and overall figure for the plan. In considering the % Target for Local Priority Target Groups the LCDC should bear in mind that, should they decide to add additional Local Priority Target Groups over the course of the SICAP Programme, the % Target is cumulative. In this regard, whilst the Guidance indicated that the target should be ambitious and achievable, the SICAP Sub Committee agreed that it would be wiser to select a lower % now to allow for inclusion of additional Priority Target Groups or other changes which may occur during the Programme delivery period.

The SICAP Sub Committee recommend approval of the percentage targets for each Lot as follows:

Lot 33-1					
Local Priority Target Group		2026 Milestone (%)	2028 Percentage Target	Combined Local Disadvantage Target	
LPTG 1	People Living in Disadvantaged Communities	37%	40%	40%	

KPI 2 Target for 2024 = 374

People in disadvantaged communities @ 40% in 2026 = 150

Lot 33-2					
Local Priority Target Group		2026 Milestone (%)	2028 Percentage Target	Combined Local Disadvantage Target	
LPTG 1	People Living in Disadvantaged Communities	45%	50%	50%	

KPI 2 Target for 2024 = 199

People in disadvantaged communities @ 30% in 2026 = 90

Lot 33-3					
Local Priority Target Group		2026 Milestone (%)	2028 Percentage Target	Combined Local Disadvantage Target	
LPTG 1	People Living in Disadvantaged Communities	30%	30%	30%	

KPI 2 Target for 2024 = 596

People in disadvantaged communities @ 17% in 2026 = 179

On the proposal of Charlene Logue, seconded by James O'Donnell, the LCDC approved the Percentage Targets for Local Priority Target for SICAP Programme 2024-2028 for Lots 33-1, 33-2 and 33-3 as set out above.

### 5.3 SICAP Annual Plans 2024

Members were advised that the review of the SICAP 2024 Annual Plans for Lots 33-1, 33-2 and 33-3 was to ensure that the plan matched the Budget and was in line with the Tenders submitted by the successful Development Companies and approved by the LCDC on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

### Lot 33-1

Kathleen Browne advised that at their meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024, the SICAP Sub-Committee reviewed the Annual Plan for SICAP Lot 33-1.

Members noted that there was an issue extracting the Annual Plan Report from the IRIS system therefore the Annual Plan Reports, as circulated, were supplied by Pobal. The Targets per Action and Collaborative Partners for Lot 33-1 Annual Plan did not migrate from IRIS into the Annual Plan Report as supplied but details of same had been checked on the IRIS System and were included for each Lot.

The Annual Plans were reviewed under the following headings, and it was confirmed that they matched the Budget and were in line with the Tender submitted by IDP, with no issues arising:

- Annual Plan General
- Staffing Costs Summary
- Targets and Actuals
- Local Priority Groups
- Total Cost Summary
- Action Costs Summary
- Staffing Costs
- Actions
- Action Detail
- Targets and Outcomes
- Action Costs

Members noted that the Priority Target Group (Disadvantaged Communities) was not selected as Primary Target for any Goal 2 Action and sought and received assurance from IDP that the Local Priority Target Group – Disadvantaged Communities be selected as a Primary Target for at least one Goal 2 Action for all future Annual Plans for Lot 33-1 SICAP Programme 2024-2028.

On the proposal of Micheal Mac Giolla Easpaig, seconded by Joe Boland, the LCDC are approved the recommendation of the SICAP Sub-Committee to approve the Annual Plan 2024 for Lot 33-1 and noted that this approval would also approve the release of Quarter 2 (April to June 2024) SICAP Payments to IDP for Lot 33-1 as follows:-

SICAP	€187,668.00
SICAP New Arrivals	€22,374.50

### Lot 33-2

Kathleen Browne advised that at their meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024, the SICAP Sub Committee reviewed the Annual Plan for SICAP Lot 33-2.

Members noted that there was an issue extracting the Annual Plan Report from the IRIS system therefore the Annual Plan Reports, as circulated, were supplied by Pobal. The Targets per Action and Collaborative Partners for Lot 33-2 Annual Plan did not migrate from IRIS into the Annual Plan Report as supplied but details of same had been checked on the IRIS System and were included for each Lot.

The Annual Plans were reviewed under the following headings and it was confirmed that they matched the Budget and were in line with the Tender submitted by DLDC, with no issues arising:

- Annual Plan General
- Staffing Costs Summary
- Targets and Actuals
- Local Priority Groups
- Total Cost Summary
- Action Costs Summary
- Staffing Costs
- Actions
- Action Detail
- Targets and Outcomes
- Action Costs

The ringfenced budget for Islands is documented for each action as is the New Communities budget. The notes also contain detail for proposed actions for New Communities in every action.

Members noted that the Priority Target Group (Disadvantaged Communities) was not selected as Primary Target for any Goal 2 Action and sought and received assurance from DLDC that the Local Priority Target Group – Disadvantaged Communities be selected as a Primary Target for at least one Goal 2 Action for all future Annual Plans for Lot 33-2 SICAP Programme 2024-2028.

On the proposal of Micheal Mac Giolla Easpaig, seconded by Joe Boland, the LCDC are approved the recommendation of the SICAP Sub Committee to approve the Annual Plan 2024 for Lot 33-2 and noted that this approval would also approve the release of Quarter 2 (April to June 2024) SICAP Payments to DLDC for Lot 33-2 as follows:-

SICAP	€120,676.50
SICAP New Arrivals	€36,876.25

#### Lot 33-3

Kathleen Browne advised that at their meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024, the SICAP Sub Committee reviewed the Annual Plan for SICAP Lot 33-3.

Members noted that there was an issue extracting the Annual Plan Report from the IRIS system therefore the Annual Plan Reports, as circulated, were supplied by Pobal. The Targets per Action and Collaborative Partners for Lot 33-3 Annual Plan did not migrate from IRIS into the Annual Plan Report as supplied but details of same had been checked on the IRIS System and were included for each Lot.

The Annual Plans were reviewed under the following headings and it was confirmed that they matched the Budget and were in line with the Tender submitted by DLDC, with no issues arising:-

- Annual Plan General
- Staffing Costs Summary

- Targets and Actuals
- Local Priority Groups
- Total Cost Summary
- Action Costs Summary
- Staffing Costs
- Actions
- Action Detail
- Targets and Outcomes
- Action Costs

Members noted that the Priority Target Group (Disadvantaged Communities) was not selected as Primary Target for any Goal 2 Action and sought and received assurance from DLDC that the Local Priority Target Group – Disadvantaged Communities be selected as a Primary Target for at least one Goal 2 Action for all future Annual Plans for Lot 33-3 SICAP Programme 2024-2028.

On the proposal of Micheal Mac Giolla Easpaig, seconded by Joe Boland, the LCDC approved the recommendation of the SICAP Sub Committee to approve the Annual Plan 2024 for Lot 33-3 and noted that this approval would also approve the release of Quarter 2 (April to June 2024) SICAP Payments to DLDC for Lot 33-3 as follows:-

SICAP	€314,733.25
SICAP New Arrivals	€100,973.25

## **6 Community Recognition Fund 2024**

Ciaran Martin advised members that the Community Recognition Fund 2024 was launched by the Minister of Rural & Community Development, Heather Humphries TD on Friday 15th March, 2024.

He confirmed that this Fund aims to support the development of community infrastructure and facilities in recognition of the contribution being made by communities across the country in welcoming and hosting significant numbers of arrivals from Ukraine and other countries.

Members were informed that the funding is specifically targeted at projects that are located in communities, towns and villages that are hosting the Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection and/or International Protection Applicants.

It was noted that the Fund aims to support the development of facilities that will be used in the future by all members of the community. It is separate in its objectives and scope to any other public funding streams which aim to support the development of public service needs arising from the significant number of arrivals from Ukraine.

€50 million is available nationally under the Fund and this is allocated between each local authority based on the number of new arrivals located there. On this basis, the allocation to County Donegal is €3,391,917.

Members were advised that Donegal County Council at its plenary meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> March agreed that the LCDC would administer the fund on behalf of the Council.



Ciaran advised members of the Scheme Outline for the fund as follows:-

- The scheme will provide large capital grants ranging from €50,000 to a maximum of €500,000 with a requirement that projects are fully complete by 4<sup>th</sup> September 2026. Applications in excess of €200,000 will require a completed business case.
- Projects to be funded will be capital in nature, deliver tangible benefits for the communities in which they are located, and be capable of being delivered over the course of 2025 and 2026.
- A minimum spend of 50% of the allocation must be incurred in 2025 with projects fully complete by 4<sup>th</sup> September 2026.
- Eligible projects will receive funding for capital costs, but not for any ongoing operational or running costs.
- Only expenditure incurred after the date of grant approval will be eligible.
- The grant may cover all, or part of, the purchase or works in question. However, the full cost of the project must be provided on the Application Form.
- This funding cannot be used to fund or co-fund any scheme operated by the Department of Rural and Community Development or any other Government Department or as a co-funding source for any project funded under CRF 2023.
- Local authorities have scope to invest the funding based on their own distinct local needs as identified through a “bottom-up” approach.

The type of projects eligible for funding are:

- Development, enhancement or refurbishment of community or cultural facilities including play areas, walkways, parks, community/sensory gardens allotments, and recreational areas;
- Development, enhancement or refurbishment of local club and sports facilities including facilities such as community swimming pools, changing rooms, toilets, digital aids such as score / information boards etc.;
- Enhancement to school/parish facilities which are open to use by all of the community after school hours;
- Purchase of equipment for local clubs, festivals, community events and organisations e.g. music, arts or sports equipment;
- Transport infrastructure such as the purchase of community vehicles, bus shelters and attendant information boards; any vehicle funded must be in good condition and not more than 5 years old)
- Projects that help address dereliction and/or wider local economic and community development objectives;
- Purchase and refurbishment of buildings and/or the purchase of land for the development of community use where a clear need is identified.
- Purchase of land and associated works for the development of community facilities such as play areas/MUGAs or town parks/community gardens, recreational areas etc. (purchases must only be administered by the local authority)

Members reviewed the draft Application Form for the Community Recognition Fund 2024, as circulated in advance of the meeting and considered the proposed closing date for receipt of applications - 3pm on Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> July 2024.

Ciaran Martin advised that it was intended that evaluation of applications will be completed in early September with the award recommendations brought to the LCDC for consideration at the meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

James O'Donnell queried whether accommodation centres were being paid by number of buildings or number of people housed there. It was agreed that this query would be referred to the Local Authority Integration Team for response.

John McLaughlin confirmed that the Council had agreed that grant awards under this programme should be weighted towards areas with the highest number of new arrivals.

Padraic Fingleton queried what supports would be made available to applicants. It was confirmed that there was a dedicated email address for queries and support would be available from Community Development Officers in each area. The role of the Local Development Groups in providing support was also noted.

Michael Mac Giolla Easbuig requested that the list of approved projects from Community Recognition Fund 2023 be recirculated to members.

On the proposal of Charlene Logue, seconded by James O'Donnell, the LCDC approved the Application Form for Community Recognition Fund 2024 and agreed the closing date for receipt of applications as 3pm on Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> July 2024.

This concluded the business of the meeting.