



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



**LCD C**  
Coiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Aitiúil  
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 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

<b>Members in attendance</b>	John McLaughlin – DCC, Micheal Mac Giolla Easpaig – Údarás, Brenda Hegarty – LEO, Shauna McClenaghan – IDP, Charlene Logue – PPN, Joe Boland – PPN, Siobhan McLaughlin - PPN and James O’Donnell - ICMSA
<b>Members in attendance via Teams</b>	Cllr. Niamh Kennedy – DCC, Cllr. Martin McDermott – DCC, Padraic Fingleton – DLDC, Maria Ferguson – HSE, and Helen Nolan, PPN
<b>Apologies</b>	Anne McHugh – ETB, Aengus Kennedy - PPN & Liam McElhinney – ICTU
<b>Chief Officer</b>	Paddy Doherty
<b>Attending</b>	Liam Ward, Ciaran Martin, Claire McCallan, Adrienne Kelly and Kathleen Browne

**Welcome**

Cllr. Niamh Kennedy welcomed members to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance.

**1. Draft minutes of the LCDDC meeting of 23<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

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

On the proposal of James O’Donnell, seconded by Charlene Logue, the minutes of the LCDDC Meeting of 23<sup>th</sup> January 2024 were adopted.

**2. Matters Arising**

Cllr Niamh Kennedy, on behalf of the LCDDC welcomed Helen Nolan, representing the PPN to the LCDDC.

**3. Presentation on Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty**

Balume Dube Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Trainer with Think Equality Donegal and Nolunga Shologu, Donegal Intercultural Platform, joined the meeting and made a presentation to members on the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty. They advised members of their work to date in delivering training and human rights and social justice programmes to various public bodies and non-government organisations.

Members were advised of the background to the introduction of the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty and provided with detail of the breakdown of population and ethnicity nationally and in County Donegal.

The following recommendations were made to the LCDC:-

- Training for all front-line staff on the tenets of public sector duty.
- Release of staff to participate in Public Sector Duty training.
- An increase in the availability of documents on equality and public sector duty and in various languages.
- Fulfil the requirements of the Public Sector Duty to include Travellers by putting up signs, symbols and images of Black Minority and Ethnic communities including the Roma and Travellers in all public bodies.
- Request expansion of the PPN secretariat to include two additional seats for the BME including Travellers and Roma to ensure BME and Minority communities are represented in public bodies.

John McLaughlin, Chief Executive of Donegal County Council, welcomed the presentation and agreed that it was important for the LCDC and local authority to commit to the ethos of the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights duty through erection of signage and provision of training. He queried what process was required to expand the PPN Secretariat to include seats for BME representatives. Paddy Doherty clarified the structure of the PPN and confirmed that he would raise the proposal to expand the PPN Secretariat with PPN Resource Workers.

Siobhan McLaughlin suggested that affirmative action was required to create a seat for BME sector on the PPN and that this could take place when the new PPN was set up after the Local Elections.

Maria Ferguson, HSE, welcomed the presentation and confirmed that the HSE would reach out to the Donegal Intercultural Platform to invite them to make a presentation to the HSE Management Team.

Brenda Hegarty, LEO, expressed her support for expansion of the PPN Secretariat to include representation for new communities.

Liam Ward advised that the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty as presented directly linked into the implementation of Donegal County Council's Integration Strategy which was ongoing.

#### **4. SICAP Annual Performance Review 2023**

Ciaran Martin advised members that as part of the LCDCs oversight role in the SICAP programme, the LCDC were notified of the need for an Annual Performance Review 2023 for SICAP Lots 33-1 (Inishowen), 33-2 (Donegal Gaeltacht) and 33-3 Donegal. DCC subsequently convened the LCDC SICAP Sub Committee for consideration of this on 31st January 2023.

A copy of the various documents including the Annual Performance Narrative Report and Lot Summary Report were circulated with the Agenda in advance of the meeting.

Members noted that the SICAP Sub Committee recommended that the LCDC request IDP and DLDC to continue to provide regular updates at LCDC Meetings throughout 2024 on Programme Delivery and Expenditure for Lots 33-1, 33-2 and 33-3.

## **Lot 33-1**

Shauna McCleanaghan, IDP, provided members with an overview of the work carried out by IDP in the delivery of the SICAP Programme in 2023. Shauna detailed the challenges in dealing with the emerging themes of Ukrainian & Refugee response, Defective Block supports, Energy and cost of living crisis alongside the other sectors requiring support.

Shauna also acknowledged the support of the LCDC and SICAP Sub Committee as well as the work of her team and the support of the local community in the delivery of the SICAP Programme for Lot 33-1 in 2023.

Members were advised that the Annual Performance Review 2023 for Lot 33-1 (Inishowen), was brought before the LCDC SICAP Sub Committee for consideration on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023.

### **Document Checks**

Ciaran confirmed that all required documentation has been uploaded onto IRIS. The End of Year Narrative Report had been submitted and all sections of the report had been completed satisfactorily.

### **Annual Targets**

Ciaran advised members that the overall progress for Lot 33-1 in 2023 was very good with targets for KPI1 and KPI2 being achieved and exceeded. The target for percentage of KPI 2 participants from Disadvantaged areas was also achieved and exceeded. The Action Progress report provided detail of individual progress and target achievement under each Action.

### **Budget Parameters**

He confirmed that the Sub Committee examined the Financial Reports submitted and confirmed that budget management by was in line with Programme Guidelines. Admin costs charged as a % of Annual Budget did not exceed 25% and the costs reported against each Goal 1 and 2 as a percentage of the total actions costs was within the 40-60% threshold. The amount of spend reported on sub-contractors did not exceed 30% of the total budget amount. 20 grants were awarded to local Community Groups by IDP in 2023. There was a Budget underspend of €12.67 which was less than the 5% permitted. Therefore, no remedies need to be applied.

### **Additional Programme Delivery Considerations**

It was confirmed that Valid Certificates of Insurance were in place and the Tax Clearance Certificate for IDP is up to date. IDP adhered to all publicity requirements.

Members were advised that the Sub Committee acknowledged that engagement with IDP was excellent throughout 2023 with requests for updates, financial claims and meetings all being promptly addressed. The PI regularly made presentations to the LCDC and SICAP Sub Committee throughout the year detailing the progress of the delivery of the SICAP Programme throughout 2023.

### **Case Studies**

Members were reminded that at their October 2023 meeting, the Donegal LCDC considered the case study for the Lot, which focused on the critical work of supporting families facing the MICA issue across the peninsula. "A Community Response to Inishowen's Housing

“Defective Concrete Block (DCB) Crisis” demonstrated how an issue such as MICA can have such a detrimental effect on all aspects of the community and its people.

Ciaran confirmed that Sub-committee members felt that overall, this case study clearly demonstrated the role that SICAP plays in the process of providing appropriate local solutions for local issues and the power of communities working together for a greater good.

#### Pobal Parallel Review

The Pobal parallel review was satisfactory and any issues which arose have been resolved.

#### Overall Assessment

Members were advised that the LCDC Sicap Sub Committee found no areas of concern requiring further engagement with IDP in conducting the Annual Performance review.

Members were advised that the LCDC SICAP Sub Committee is satisfied to recommend approval of the Annual Performance Review 2023 for Lot 33-1 Inishowen

On the proposal of Joe Boland, seconded by Charlene Logue, members approved the End of Year Report 2023 for Lot 33-1 and further recommended that Programme Funding in the amount of €62,556 for the SICAP Programme and €7,458.16 for SICAP Ukrainian Supports for the period 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 be released to Inishowen Development Partnership.

Members noted that the SICAP Sub Committee recommended that the LCDC request IDP to continue to provide regular updates at LCDC Meetings throughout 2024 on Programme Delivery and Expenditure for Lot 33-1.

#### **Lot 33-2 & Lot 33-3**

Padraic Fingleton, DLDC, provided members with an overview of the work carried out by DLDC in the delivery of the SICAP Programme in 2023 for Lots 33-2 and 33-3. Padraic advised that the main focus for SICAP Programme delivery in early 2023 was provision of supports to Ukrainian and Refugee response but that there had been a shift in focus towards the end of the year back to the core work of SICAP and in particular the long term unemployed. Padraic set out the importance of working with the Social Enterprise, Mens Sheds and Day Care Centre Networks in the delivery of the Programme. Padraic also set out the challenges of meeting the needs of people requiring support with MICA and people impacted by the Environmental Climate issues.

#### **Lot 33-2**

Members were advised that the Annual Performance Review 2023 for Lot 33-2 (Donegal Gaeltacht), was brought before the LCDC SICAP Sub Committee for consideration on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023.

#### Document Checks

Ciaran confirmed that all required documentation has been uploaded onto IRIS. The End of Year Narrative Report had been submitted and all sections of the report had been completed satisfactorily.

### Annual Targets

Ciaran advised the overall progress for Lot 33-2 in 2023 was very good with targets for KPI 1 and KPI 2 being achieved and exceeded. The target for percentage of KPI 2 participants from Disadvantaged areas was also achieved and exceeded. The Action Progress report provided detail of individual progress and target achievement under each Action.

### Budget Parameters

Ciaran confirmed that the Sub Committee examined the Financial Reports submitted and confirmed that budget management by was in line with Programme Guidelines. Admin costs charged as a % of Annual Budget did not exceed 25% and the costs reported against each Goal 1 and 2 as a percentage of the total actions costs was within the 40-60% threshold. The amount of spend reported on sub-contractors did not exceed 30% of the total budget amount. 25 grants were awarded to local Community Groups by Donegal Local Development CLG in 2023. There was a Budget underspend of €9.23 which was less than the 5% permitted. Therefore, no remedies need to be applied.

### Additional Programme Delivery Considerations

It was confirmed that Valid Certificates of Insurance were in place and the Tax Clearance Certificate for IDP is up to date. DLDC adhered to all publicity requirements.

Members were advised that the Sub Committee acknowledged that engagement with DLDC was excellent throughout 2023 with requests for updates, financial claims and meetings all being promptly addressed. The PI regularly made presentations to the LCDC and SICAP Sub Committee throughout the year detailing the progress of the delivery of the SICAP Programme throughout 2023.

The LCDC also acknowledged the work of DLDC in delivering the SICAP Programme in the Gaeltacht area, through the Irish language while also targeting the socially excluded in the coastal and rural communities of the region.

### Case Studies

Members were reminded that at their October 2023 meeting, the Donegal LCDC considered the case study for Lot 33-2 Donegal Gaeltacht under “Engagement strategies with SICAP target groups” – disadvantaged communities/disadvantaged children and families, that focused on the work of the “Donegal Food Response Network: Addressing food insecurity in Donegal” and was aimed at helping local groups to deal with increasing issues around food need in the community.

Ciaran confirmed that the sub-committee believed the case study illustrated the important input of the SICAP staff in coordinating and overseeing the initiative and stated it was important to acknowledge the Food poverty issue in the county and that it should be monitored by the PIs and the LCDC going forward.

### Pobal Parallel Review

The Pobal parallel review was satisfactory and any issues which arose have been resolved.

### Overall Assessment

Members were informed that the LCDC Sicap Sub Committee found no areas of concern requiring further engagement with DLDC in conducting the Annual Performance review.

Members noted that the LCDC SICAP Sub Committee is satisfied to recommend approval of the Annual Performance Review 2023 for Lot 33-2 Donegal Gaeltacht.

On the proposal of Joe Boland, seconded by Charlene Logue, the LCDC approved the End of Year Report 2023 for Lot 33-2 and further recommended that Programme Funding in the amount of €40,225.50 for the SICAP Programme and €12,292.08 for SICAP Ukrainian Supports for the period 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 be released to Inishowen Development Partnership.

### **Lot 33-3**

Members were advised that the Annual Performance Review 2023 for Lot 33-3 (Donegal), was brought before the LCDC SICAP Sub Committee for consideration on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023.

#### Document Checks

Ciaran confirmed that all required documentation has been uploaded onto IRIS. The End of Year Narrative Report had been submitted and all sections of the report had been completed satisfactorily.

#### Annual Targets

Ciaran advised that the overall progress for Lot 33-3 in 2023 was excellent with targets for KPI 1 and KPI 2 being achieved and exceeded. The target for percentage of KPI 2 participants from Disadvantaged areas was also achieved and exceeded. The Action Progress report provided detail of individual progress and target achievement under each Action.

#### Budget Parameters

He confirmed that the Sub Committee examined the Financial Reports submitted and confirmed that budget management by was in line with Programme Guidelines. Admin costs charged as a % of Annual Budget did not exceed 25% and the costs reported against each Goal 1 and 2 as a percentage of the total actions costs was within the 40-60% threshold, or as stated in their annual plan for 2023. The amount of spend reported on sub-contractors did not exceed 30% of the total budget amount. 42 grants were awarded to local Community Groups by Donegal Local Development CLG in 2023. There was a Budget underspend of €220.83 which was less than the 5% permitted. Therefore, no remedies need to be applied.

#### Additional Programme Delivery Considerations

It was confirmed that Valid Certificates of Insurance were in place and the Tax Clearance Certificate for DLDC is up to date. DLDC adhered to all publicity requirements.

Members were advised that the Sub Committee acknowledged that engagement with DLDC was excellent throughout 2023 with requests for updates, financial claims and meetings all being promptly addressed. The PI regularly made presentations to the LCDC and SICAP Sub Committee throughout the year detailing the progress of the delivery of the SICAP Programme throughout 2023.

#### Case Studies

Members were reminded that at their October 2023 meeting, the Donegal LCDC considered the case study for Lot 33-3 Donegal focused on the "Enterprise Client Engagement Strategy". DLDC advised that the SICAP Enterprise team had noticed a significant downturn

in referrals from the Department of Social Protection, both of clients availing of support through the Back to Work/Short Term Enterprise Allowance schemes and clients who wished to start their business but were ineligible for additional financial support. They were also aware that a number of highly skilled individuals who had moved to Donegal from the Ukraine may also have an interest in starting new businesses in the county.

Ciaran confirmed that the sub-committee believed the case study illustrated the important input of the SICAP Enterprise Team and SICAP funds in tackling issues around client engagement.

#### Pobal Parallel Review

The Pobal parallel review was satisfactory and any issues which arose have been resolved.

#### Overall Assessment

The LCDC Sicap Sub Committee found no areas of concern requiring further engagement with DLDC in conducting the Annual Performance review.

Members noted that the LCDC SICAP Sub Committee was satisfied to recommend approval of the Annual Performance Review 2023 for Lot 33-3 Donegal.

On the proposal of Joe Boland, seconded by Charlene Logue, the LCDC approved the End of Year Report 2023 for Lot 33-3 and further recommended that Programme Funding in the amount of €104,911.08 for the SICAP Programme and €33,657.75 for SICAP Ukrainian Supports for the period 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 be released to Inishowen Development Partnership.

Cllr Martin McDermott requested that the LCDC make representations to have additional facilitators appointed to each area to provide support for people making application to the MICA Redress Scheme. Both Shauna McClenaghan and Padraic Fingleton supported this proposal. Liam Ward acknowledged the request and agreed to bring this request to the Directorate responsible for the Scheme.

James O Donnell raised the issue of delays in issuing payments to successful applicants to the scheme. Cllr McDermott confirmed that a new portal would be available in the coming days which should address this and urged all applicants to ensure that their paperwork was in order before submitting their claim.

## **5. Local Enhancement Programme**

Ciaran Martin advised that the application deadline for the Local Enhancement Programme was 3.30pm on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February. Ciaran confirmed that, as with other funds, an internal evaluation of the applications would be conducted to check for validity and required documentation followed by a meeting of the LCDC Grant Evaluation sub-committee. It was proposed to hold this meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> March.

Members were advised that there was a vacancy on the Grant Evaluation Sub Committee and on the proposal of Cllr Niamh Kennedy, seconded by Charlene Logue, Joe Boland was appointed to the Sub Committee.

## **6. LCDC Annual Report 2023**

Paddy Doherty requested that members consider approval of the LCDC Annual Report 2023 which had been circulated with the Agenda. He advised members that the Report details the expanded role of the LCDC and the activities throughout 2023. He further advised that once it was approved by the LCDC it would be brought before the full Council for noting.

On the proposal of Siobhan McLaughlin, seconded by Charlene Logue, members approved the LCDC Annual Report 2023

## **7. Community Development Programme – 2023 Annual Report Review**

Ciaran Martin advised members that in 2021, the DRCD awarded seven applicant organisations funding under a €1 million, three-year pilot Community Development Programme to trial community led interventions that address poverty, social exclusion and inequality and promote human rights.

Donegal Intercultural Platform was approved funding under the theme Migrants to tackle racism and promote inter-culturalism, human rights, equality and inclusion across County Donegal. The LCDC has financial oversight of the development of the project locally and issued funding of €125,000 to Donegal Intercultural Platform in 2023.

As part of this oversight, the LCDC provide feedback on the 2023 Review of the groups activities to both Pobal and the group themselves. Some of the key findings were as follows:

- The sterling work of the DIP in terms of demonstrating creative and local level engagement with new and minority communities was acknowledged.
- Donegal LCDC stated their belief that Cultural diversity is important because our county, workplaces, and schools increasingly consist of various cultural, racial, and ethnic groups and the Donegal LCDC agree that we can learn from one another, but first, we must have a level of understanding about each other.
- They stated that this understanding could only be gained through the development of engagement opportunities, as promoted by the works of the DIP in 2023 especially around the CARA and Conversations for Change initiatives.
- Donegal needs voices from these new communities to act as leaders and we therefore welcomed all training, education and leadership initiatives that seek to build local leaders from new and minority communities. The enrolment of 40 IPA individuals in the ATU access course and over 50 in the ATU Level 6 advanced English course are testament to this.
- Allied to this Donegal LCDC also supported the development of a youth and young adult voice in the new communities and welcome supports for this in 2023.
- Donegal LCDC thanked the DIP for their engagement in the development of both the Local Development Strategy 2022-2027 and the emerging LECP, as its critical that members voices are heard and reflected in these strategic documents.

On the proposal of Shauna McClenaghan, seconded by Charlene Logue, Donegal LCDC approved the 2023 Community Development Programme Annual Report Review for submission to the Department of Rural and Community Development.



## **8. Local Economic Community Plan Update**

Claire McCallan provided an update to members on the progress in updating the Local Economic and Community Plan. She acknowledged the input of members and colleagues in the work carried out to date and confirmed the process was now at the final element of Stage 4 of the development of the LECP. Claire provided a review of the work carried out to date and confirmed that it was proposed to hold a joint meeting with the LCDC and Economic, Enterprise and Emergency Services SPC on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024 to present the final document to members.

## **9. Community Recognition Fund 2023 update**

Ciaran Martin advised members that the Community Recognition Fund 2023 aimed 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.

He confirmed that the funding was 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 ('new arrivals') across Donegal.

Ciaran advised members that the LCDC had recommended the approval of 51 projects totalling €3,014,395.00 to the Department at its meeting held on 15th March 2023. Groups were offered provisional letters of offer and then asked to complete their procurement, in advance of a formal offer of grant letter.

Members were advised that to date 41 project promoters have submitted all of the requested documentation which has been checked and verified as compliant and Formal Offers of Grant have been issued. He confirmed that with agreement from the relevant project promoters, Donegal County Council would tender and deliver 6 of these projects. The remaining 10 projects required additional information, completion of files and re-tendering where necessary.

Ciaran confirmed that to date, 9 projects have been fully completed and funds drawn down. A further 7 projects have phased claims submitted and are well underway. He advised that Project promoters have been given a deadline of 2nd September 2024 to complete projects and submit all relevant claim documentation.

Ciaran acknowledged the work carried out by Adrienne Kelly to support groups to complete the procurement process, progress their application to point of receipt of Formal Offers of Grant and successfully drawdown the grant.

## **10. Donegal Sports Partnership – Nomination to the Board**

Ciaran Martin advised members that a request had been received from Donegal Sports Partnership for 2 nominations from Donegal LCDC (one male/one female) to be appointed to their Board. He confirmed that Donegal Sports Partnership would then select one of the nominees to sit on their Board.

On the proposal of John McLaughlin, seconded by Charlene Logue, Brenda Hegarty was nominated. On the proposal of Charlene Logue, seconded by Brenda Hegarty, Michael Mac Giolla Easbuig was also nominated.

#### **11. Declaration of Interests & Code of Conduct**

Ciaran Martin reminded members of their obligation to complete and return Declaration of Interest and Code of Conduct forms and confirmed hard copies were available for any member who required them.

#### **12. Date of next meeting**

It was confirmed that the Date for next LCDC Meeting was 10am on Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

This concluded the business of the meeting.