

**Minutes of Donegal Local Community Development Committee
Held in Council Chamber, County House, Lifford and by web conference 10.45 am on
15th February 2023**

Members	Clr Niamh Kennedy (Chair), John McLaughlin, Michael MacGiolla Easbuig James O Donnell, Charlene Logue, Aengus Kennedy, Joe Boland Anne McHugh and Padraic Fingleton, and remote attendance by Paul Hannigan, Clr Maire Therese Gallagher and Andrew McNulty
Apologies	Shauna McClenaghan, Liam McElhinney, Brenda Hegarty, Siobhan McLaughlin and Maire Ui Mhaolain
Chief Officer	Paddy Doherty
Attending	Liam Ward, Seamus Canning, Ciaran Martin, Claire McCallan, Margaret Fitzgerald, Adrienne Kelly and Kathleen Browne

Welcome

Clr Niamh Kennedy welcomed everyone and thanked the members present for participating in the meeting.

1. Draft minutes of the LCDC meeting of 14th December 2022

The minutes of the previous LCDC Meeting, as circulated with the agenda, were considered. On the proposal of Charlene Logue, seconded by Aengus Kennedy, the minutes of LCDC Meeting of 15th November 2022 were adopted with no issues arising.

2. Donegal Outdoor Recreation Strategy

Claire McCallan provided members with an update on the Donegal Outdoor Recreation Strategy. She reviewed the background to the development of the strategy and the timeline for publication of same. Claire confirmed that internal steering and external stakeholder group were established to inform the detail of the Strategy. She also set out details of the National Strategy and how the Donegal Outdoor Recreation Strategy can align with them. She advised that the National Strategy seeks to create a more coordinated cohesive approach providing a planned approach to outdoor recreation at county level with the objective to establish County Outdoor Recreation Forums. The established working relationships created with stakeholders through the Donegal Strategy will be beneficial in this regard for Donegal. Members were advised that Donegal was very well placed to deliver on the National Strategy as they are only one of only four Counties in the country with a County Outdoor Recreation Strategy.

Claire then set out the next steps in relation to the Donegal Outdoor Recreation Strategy as follows:-

- Contact has been made with DRCD and Donegal Sports Partnership re delivery of actions at National and local level
- Proposed public launch of the Donegal Outdoor Recreation Strategy at end March 2023
- Finalising design of the Donegal Outdoor Recreation Strategy and review and proofing of same.

Claire thanked members for their engagement through the development of the strategy and advised members that allocation of funding provided through the LCDC facilitated the delivery of an all of county strategy which will ultimately inform how we manage Outdoor Recreation in the County. She stated that this strategic approach is cost effective and an efficient delivery of service.

On behalf of the LCDC, Cllr Niamh Kennedy acknowledged the work undertaken to create the Donegal Outdoor Recreation Strategy and looked forward to the launch of same.

3. LECP Stage 1

Paddy Doherty advised members that the process for review of the LECP had commenced and advised that Claire McCallan would co-ordinate the development and delivery of the revised LECP.

Claire advised members of the purpose of the LECP and briefly outlined the process involved in undertaking the review. She confirmed that they would work with the LCDC, colleagues from Economic Development and the Advisory group to undertake this review. Claire reminded members that the LCDC representatives on the Advisory Group, which was established in February 2022, were Cllr Maire Therese Gallagher and Charlene Logue.

Claire confirmed to members that Consultants (People and Place) had been appointed to deliver Stage 1 of the LECP Review. She advised that it was proposed to establish and convene an internal Technical Steering Group to work alongside the Advisory Steering Group. This Steering Group will provide a platform for colleagues across directorates to feed into the development and delivery of the LECP to make sure the profile is adequate to inform their work eg the development of the County Development Plan or the Local Development Strategy.

She further advised that it was intended to examine the possibility of extending the scope of the ASG by inviting/seeking nominations for additional and representative personnel to sit on the ASG. Ultimately the LECP will provide an enabling framework that supports and facilitates collaborative working both in the structures that support the LECP and in the interventions that the LECP seek to support. It is hoped that the process with which we engage in developing the LECP will equally be reflective of this collaborative and integrated aligned way of working.

Claire confirmed that an internal half day workshop has been scheduled to refine a timeline identifying critical dates and outcomes to inform the practical actions required to deliver the LECP. Following this workshop, it is proposed to convene a meeting in mid March with colleague and stakeholders in advance of a presentation scheduled with People& Place where the data they are gathering in relation to Donegal will be examined and reviewed.

Claire then made a presentation to members detailing the various stages of the LECP Review – particularly Phase 1. She particularly focused on the type of data the Consultants would provide in relation to profiling of Donegal.

Liam Ward thanked Claire for her update and presentation and advised that as this was a review of the existing LECP, it would be interesting to see how it performed. He felt that, in the later stages of this review, it may be necessary to reduce the number of actions in the LECP from the 712 in the current LECP to ensure they are delivered.

4. Healthy Ireland – Update

Margaret Fitzgerald made a presentation to members on the Healthy Ireland Fund setting out the background to the initiative and providing an update on what was delivered and achieved in Round 4 of the Programme from commencement of the June to December 2022, which included the following:

- Creative Play
- Healthy Donegal Small Grants Scheme,
- Donegal's Playground Passport
- Collaboration with Donegal Food Response Network

Margaret advised members that the next stage of delivery of the Round 4 of the Programme 2023-2025 represented a more evidenced based outcomes led approach with a longer 3 year timeframe. She confirmed that it also included the development of a Healthy Ireland Fund Local Strategy and the funding of Children and Young Peoples Services Committee directly through Tusla. Margaret outlined the budgets for the next three years of the Programme and she detailed the sources used to identify the key needs, existing health inequalities, outcome selection and output/activity proposals. Members were updated on the outcome of the Healthy Donegal Public Consultation Survey and how it aligned with local and national policies.

Margaret set out the proposals for Healthy Ireland Round 4 2023-2025 Action Plan under the various Health Ireland Outcome Indicators detailing the target groups and communities, project proposals and project outcomes.

Proposed Projects under the HI Action Plan 2023-25 included as follows:-

Increase in % of persons assessing health to be very good/good as per EU-SILC Questionnaire

Civic Dollars

Active Play Programme

Finn Harps Football & Social Responsibility Programme

Move to Improve

Increase in individual's level of positive mental health as per Energy and Vitality Index

Not Around Us Campaign

Breastfeeding Friendly Campaign

Balor Theatre – Summer Academy Programme

Moments of Happiness at your Library

Margaret provided members with detail of the Implementing Partners for the programmes and the budgets for same.

Members welcomed the various Programmes detailed and acknowledged the successful delivery of the Programmes under Healthy Ireland to date. On the proposal of Joe Bolan, seconded by Charlene Logue, members approved the Healthy Donegal Action Plan 2023-2025.

5. SICAP – Lot 33-1

Patricia Lee and Denise McCool, Inishowen Development Partnership, joined the meeting and made a comprehensive presentation to members setting out achievements under the Annual Performance Review of the SICAP Programme in 2022 and detailing the proposals within the SICAP Action Plan for Lot 33-1 in 2023.

6. SICAP – Lot 33-2 and Lot 33-3

John Logue, accompanied by Margaret Larkin, Lousie Brogan and Joylene Kuper, Donegal Local Development CLG, joined the meeting and made a presentation to members setting out achievements under the Annual Performance Review of the SICAP Programme in 2022 and detailing the proposals within the SICAP Action Plan for Lot 33-2 and 33-3 in 2023.

On behalf of the LCDC Cllr Niamh Kennedy thanked both Local Development Companies for their work on the SICAP Programme throughout 2022.

John McLaughlin raised the issue of difficulties encountered by groups with Governance and finding volunteers which was flagged in the presentations. He agreed that this issue needed to be addressed by all statutory bodies not just the Local Development Companies. Patricia Lee and John Logue detailed the supports and actions they put in place to assist groups with this issue. James O'Donnell expressed support for the comments on difficulties experienced by groups in recruiting volunteers.

The issues raised in relation to Unemployment in Lot 33-2 and 33-3 were addressed by Michael MacGiolla Easbuig who confirmed that there was a disconnect between jobs available and the unemployment statistics. Louise Brogan advised that transport in rural areas was a major barrier for people wishing to take up employment opportunities. It was agreed that further engagement with transport providers was needed to address this issue.

Cllr Maire Therese Gallagher agreed with the points raised in relation to transportation issues but also raised the issue of increasing housing costs.

Padraic Fingleton advised that DLDC would be appointing Employment Liaison Officers in both Lots to link up with both employers and the unemployed to match up supply and demand.

7. Approval of Annual Plans 2023 in Principle

Members considered approval of Annual Plans 2023 in principle as follows:

Lot 33-1 – Donegal Inishowen

Members considered Lot 33-1 Annual Plan 2023, which had been circulated with the Agenda, and report from SICAP Sub Committee which circulated was in advance of the meeting.

Seamus Canning advised members that the Annual Plan 2022 for Lot 33-1 (Donegal Inishowen), was brought before the LCDC SICAP Sub Committee for consideration on 9th February 2023. Copies of the Annual Plan had been circulated with the Agenda.

Document Check

All required documentation has been uploaded onto IRIS.

Budget

The total annual budget for 2023 is €819,965.00 (€703,329 Annual Budget and €116,726 for Ukrainian Supports). The Plan meets all the criteria set down in relation to financial and budgetary checks and the PI had detailed where any underspend from 2022 and how the budget increase for 2023 would be allocated in 2023. The Budget increase and Ukrainian Support funding are reflected in a modest increase in Salary and Administration costs along with an increase in non Salary costs across 4 of the 5 Goal 1 Actions and 3 of the 5 Goal 2 Actions.

Targets

The KPI Targets set by the LCDC are aligned with the targets set for Goal 1 (36), Goal (299) and KPI2 disadvantaged area target (37%).

Actions

Goal 1

- There are 5 actions under Goal 1 with no new Actions in 2023. The rationale and descriptions provided for the actions provide sufficient detail to indicate that they are SICAP appropriate, well structured and realistic.
- The target groups identified offer a wide geographic and sectoral spread throughout Inishowen.
- The proposed actions are targeting the community and voluntary sector in Inishowen and are seeking to empower the groups and sustain the community. They sufficiently target groups in the Lot and prioritise the work of SICAP.
- The LDC has indicated that the underspend from 2022 will be spent on Goal 1 Actions 2 and 4.
- The LDC has detailed that the budget increase will be spent across all programmes and have specified where Ukrainian Support Budget will be spent.
- Actions are informed by the outcome of the Mid-Programme Review and agreed Statement of Priorities – Older People, Long Term Unemployed and Mental Health.
- The LDC has indicated that carryover underspend will be spent on Goal 1 Actions 2 and 4
- ‘People living in Disadvantaged Communities’ have been named as the Primary Target Group for Actions 2 and 5. IDP indicate they will be Lot wide actions.
- The Emerging Needs Target Group (Rural Isolation – transport & connectivity) has been selected as their primary target group for Goal 1 Actions 1 and 3 and as Secondary Target Group for Goal 1 Actions 2, 4 and 5. The Programmes included in these Actions will support this group and each action has at least one LDC staff member assigned to it and a target assigned, where relevant.
- IDP will deliver all the actions in the Plan in collaboration with the partners listed in their Annual Plan.
- All actions have been linked to the relevant LECP objectives and action cost details have been uploaded against all 5 actions. The plan is assisting in implementing the LECP

- All proposed actions are to be implemented in conjunction with community groups in a way that is consistent with the horizontal themes of community development, equality and collaboration.

Goal 2

- There are 5 actions under Goal 2 with no new Actions in 2023. However. The rationale and descriptions provided for the actions indicate that they are SICAP appropriate, well structured and realistic.
- The Goal 2 actions target issues such as employment, wellbeing and progression. The proposed actions are to be delivered across the Inishowen Peninsula and are targeting all identified SICAP objectives that make up sustainable communities.
- The Emerging Needs Target group – Rural Isolation – Transport & Connectivity, is not selected as a primary target group for any of the actions.
- The LDC has detailed that the budget increase will be spent across all programmes and have specified where Ukrainian Support Budget will be spent.
- Actions are informed by the outcome of the Mid-Programme Review and agreed Statement of Priorities – Older People, Long Term Unemployed and Mental Health.
- The LDC has indicated that carryover underspend will be spent on Goal 2 Actions 6 and 9.
- Each action has at least one LDC staff member assigned to it and a target assigned, where relevant.
- IDP will deliver all the actions in the Plan in collaboration with a wide range of appropriate and relevant the partners who are identified in their Annual Plan.
- All actions have been linked to the relevant LECP objectives and action cost details have been uploaded against all 5 actions and the plan will assist in the implementation of the LECP
- All proposed actions take account of the horizontal themes of community development, equality and collaboration. Whilst Goal 2 is aimed at individuals it should be noted that equality and networking are important elements of the actions

Members were advised that the Pobal Review of the plan was completed with no issues arising.

On the proposal of Joe Boland, seconded by Charlene Logue, , members approved in principle the 2022 Annual Plan for Lot 33-1.

Lot 33-2 – Annual Plan 2023

Seamus Canning advised members that the Annual Plan 2022 for Lot 33-2 (Donegal Gaeltacht), was brought before the LCDC SICAP Sub Committee for consideration on 9th February 2023. Copies of the Annual Plan had been circulated with the Agenda.

Document Check

All required documentation has been uploaded onto IRIS.

Budget

The total annual budget for 2023 is €621,024.00 (€452,205 Annual Budget and €168,819 for Ukrainian Supports). The Plan meets all the criteria set down in relation to financial and

budgetary checks and the PI had detailed where any underspend from 2022 and how the budget increase for 2023 would be allocated in 2023. The Budget increase and Ukrainian Support funding are reflected in a modest increase in Salary and Administration costs along with a significant increase in non Salary costs across all of the Goal 1 Actions and 6 of the 7 Goal 2 Actions.

Targets

The KPI Targets set by the LCDC are aligned with the targets set for Goal 1 (31), Goal (178) and KPI2 disadvantaged area target (44%).

Actions

Goal 1

- There are 5 actions under Goal 1 with no new Actions in 2023. The rationale and descriptions provided for the actions provide sufficient detail to indicate that they are SICAP appropriate, well structured and realistic.
- The target groups identified offer a wide geographic and sectoral spread throughout Donegal Gaeltacht and DLDC indicate that location selection is based on the Pobal Deprivation Index.
- The proposed actions are targeting the community and voluntary sector in Donegal Gaeltacht area and are seeking to empower the groups and sustain the community. They sufficiently target groups in the Lot and prioritise the work of SICAP.
- The LDC has indicated that the underspend from 2022 will be spent on Goal 1 Actions 1.1 and 1.4 and confirmed the carryover will be spent in the first quarter of 2023.
- The LDC has detailed that the budget increase will be spent across all programmes and have specified where Ukrainian Support Budget will be spent.
- Actions are informed by the outcome of the Mid-Programme Review and agreed Statement of Priorities – Mental Health, Older People and Long Term Unemployed.
- ‘People living in Disadvantaged Communities’ have been named as the Primary Target Group for Actions 1.1, 1.3 and 1.5. with disadvantaged areas clearly identified.
- The Emerging Needs Target Group (Rural Isolation – transport & connectivity) has been selected as their primary target group for Goal 1 Actions 1.2 and 1.4 and as Secondary Target Group for Goal 1 Actions 1.1 and 1.3. The Programmes included in these Actions will support this group and each action has at least one LDC staff member assigned to it and a target assigned, where relevant.
- DLDC will deliver all the actions in the Plan in collaboration with the partners listed in their Annual Plan.
- All actions have been linked to the relevant LECP objectives and action cost details have been uploaded against all 5 actions. The plan is assisting in implementing the LECP
- All proposed actions are to be implemented in conjunction with community groups in a way that is consistent with the horizontal themes of community development, equality and collaboration.

Goal 2

- There are 7 actions under Goal 2 with no new Actions in 2023. However, new programme re detailed within the Actions. The rationale and descriptions provided for the actions indicate that they are SICAP appropriate, well structured and realistic.
- The Goal 2 actions target issues such as employment, wellbeing and progression. The proposed actions are to be delivered across the SICAP Lot area are targeting all identified SICAP objectives that make up sustainable communities.
- ‘People living in Disadvantaged Communities’ have been named as the Primary Target Group for Actions 2.5 and 2.7 with disadvantaged areas clearly identified.
- The Emerging Needs Target group – Rural Isolation – Transport & Connectivity, has been selected as the secondary target group for Actions 2.5 and 2.7. The Programmes included in these Actions will support this group and each action has at least one LDC staff member assigned to it and a target assigned, where relevant.
- The LDC has detailed that the budget increase will be spent across all programmes and have specified where Ukrainian Support Budget will be spent.
- The LDC has indicated that the underspend from 2022 will be spent on Goal 2 Actions 2.5 and 2.7 and confirmed the carryover will be spent in the first quarter of 2023.
- Actions are informed by the outcome of the Mid-Programme Review and agreed Statement of Priorities – Older People, Long Term Unemployed and Mental Health
- Each action has at least one LDC staff member assigned to it and a target assigned, where relevant.
- DLDC will deliver all the actions in the Plan in collaboration with a wide range of appropriate and relevant the partners who are identified in their Annual Plan.
- All actions have been linked to the relevant LECP objectives and action cost details have been uploaded against all 7 actions and the plan will assist in the implementation of the LECP
- All proposed actions take account of the horizontal themes of community development, equality and collaboration. Whilst Goal 2 is aimed at individuals it should be noted that equality and networking are important elements of the actions
- The SICAP Sub Committee noted that Programmes under Goal 2 Actions 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 would switch focus to Unemployed for second half of the year. They recommended that the LCDC request updates from DLDC and keep these actions under review to ensure that Training, Lifelong Learning and Education needs of SICAP participants continue to be prioritised and met

Members were advised that the Pobal Review of the plan was completed with no issues arising.

On the proposal of Joe Boland, seconded by Charlene Logue, members approved in principle the 2023 Annual Plan for Lot 33-2.

Lot 33-3 – Annual Plan 2023

Seamus Canning advised members that the Annual Plan 2022 for Lot 33-3 (Donegal), was brought before the LCDC SICAP Sub Committee for consideration on 9th February 2023. A copy of the Annual Plan had been circulated with the Agenda.

Document Check

All required documentation has been uploaded onto IRIS.

Budget

The total annual budget for 2023 is €1,517,539.00 (€1,179,384 Annual Budget and €338,155 for Ukrainian Supports). The Plan meets all the criteria set down in relation to financial and budgetary checks and the PI had detailed where any underspend from 2022 and how the budget increase for 2023 would be allocated in 2023. The Budget increase and Ukrainian Support funding are reflected in a modest increase in Salary and Administration costs along with significant increases in non Salary costs across all of the Goal 1 Actions and 6 of the 7 Goal 2 Actions.

Targets

The KPI Targets set by the LCDC are aligned with the targets set for Goal 1 (52), Goal (548) and KPI2 disadvantaged area target (28%).

Actions

Goal 1

- There are 5 actions under Goal 1 with no new Actions in 2023. However, the Plan outlines a range of new Programmes under these actions. The rationale and descriptions provided for the actions provide sufficient detail to indicate that they are SICAP appropriate, well structured and realistic.
- The target groups identified offer a wide geographic and sectoral spread throughout Lot 33-3 area and DLDC indicate that location selection is based on the Pobal Deprivation Index.
- The proposed actions are targeting the community and voluntary sector in the Lot area and are seeking to empower the groups and sustain the community. They sufficiently target groups in the Lot and prioritise the work of SICAP.
- The LDC has indicated that the underspend from 2022 will be spent on Goal 1 Actions 1.1 and 1.4 and confirmed the carryover will be spent in the first quarter of 2023.
- The LDC has detailed that the budget increase will be spent across all programmes and have specified where Ukrainian Support Budget will be spent.
- Actions are informed by the outcome of the Mid-Programme Review and agreed Statement of Priorities – New Communities, Older People and Long Term Unemployed.
- ‘People living in Disadvantaged Communities’ have been named as the Primary Target Group for Actions 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 with disadvantaged areas clearly identified.
- The Emerging Needs Target Group (Rural Isolation – transport & connectivity) has been selected as their primary target group for Goal 1 Actions 1.3 and 1.4 and as Secondary Target Group for Goal 1 Actions 1.1 and 1.2. The Programmes included in these Actions will support this group and each action has at least one LDC staff member assigned to it and a target assigned, where relevant.
- DLDC will deliver all the actions in the Plan in collaboration with the partners listed in their Annual Plan.
- All actions have been linked to the relevant LECP objectives and action cost details have been uploaded against all 5 actions. The plan is assisting in implementing the LECP

- All proposed actions are to be implemented in conjunction with community groups in a way that is consistent with the horizontal themes of community development, equality and collaboration.

Goal 2

- There are 7 actions under Goal 2 with no new Actions in 2023. However, new programme re detailed within the Actions. The rationale and descriptions provided for the actions indicate that they are SICAP appropriate, well structured and realistic.
- The Goal 2 actions target issues such as employment, wellbeing and progression. The proposed actions are to be delivered across the SICAP Lot area are targeting all identified SICAP objectives that make up sustainable communities.
- ‘People living in Disadvantaged Communities’ have been named as the Primary Target Group for Action 2.7 with disadvantaged areas clearly identified.
- The Emerging Needs Target group – Rural Isolation – Transport & Connectivity, has been selected as the secondary target group for Actions 2.5 and 2.7. The Programmes included in these Actions will support this group and each action has at least one LDC staff member assigned to it and a target assigned, where relevant.
- The LDC has detailed that the budget increase will be spent across all programmes and have specified where Ukrainian Support Budget will be spent.
- The LDC has indicated that the underspend from 2022 will be spent on Goal 2 Actions 2.1 and 2.6 and confirmed the carryover will be spent in the first quarter of 2023.
- Actions are informed by the outcome of the Mid-Programme Review and agreed Statement of Priorities – Older People, Long Term Unemployed and New Communities
- Each action has at least one LDC staff member assigned to it and a target assigned, where relevant.
- DLDC will deliver all the actions in the Plan in collaboration with a wide range of appropriate and relevant the partners who are identified in their Annual Plan.
- All actions have been linked to the relevant LECP objectives and action cost details have been uploaded against all 7 actions and the plan will assist in the implementation of the LECP
- All proposed actions take account of the horizontal themes of community development, equality and collaboration. Whilst Goal 2 is aimed at individuals it should be noted that equality and networking are important elements of the actions.
- The SICAP Sub Committee noted that Programmes under Goal 2 Actions 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 would switch focus to Unemployed for second half of the year. They recommended that the LCDC request updates from DLDC and keep these actions under review to ensure that Training, Lifelong Learning and Education needs of SICAP participants continue to be prioritised and met

Members were advised that the Pobal Review of the plan was completed with no issues arising.

On the proposal of Joe Boland, seconded by Charlene Logue, members approved in principle the 2023 Annual Plan for Lot 33-3.

8. Approval of SICAP Annual Performance Reviews 2021

Members considered the approval of SICAP Annual Performance Review 2022 for Lots 33-1, 33-2 and 33-3 as follows:-

Lot 33-1

Seamus Canning reported to the members on the Annual Progress Report submitted by Inishowen Development Partnership for Lot 33-1 for 2022. The Narrative Report, Lot Summary Report, Lot Cost Charged Reports were circulated to members with the Agenda and the Report and recommendation from the SICAP Sub Committee had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

Members were informed that the Annual Progress Report 2022 for Lot 33-1 (Inishowen), was brought before the LCDC SICAP Sub Committee for consideration on 9th February 2023. Following consideration of the Pobal Parallel review and review of all reports and documents submitted (as set out below), the SICAP Sub Committee were satisfied to recommend approval of the Annual Progress Report 2022 for Lot 33-1 Donegal Inishowen.

Document Checks

Members were advised 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

Seamus Canning advised members that the overall progress for Lot 33-1 in 2022 was good with targets for KPI1 and 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

It was confirmed that the Sub Committee examined the Financial Reports submitted and confirmed that budget management by Inishowen Development Partnership 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. 30 grants were awarded to local Community Groups by Inishowen Development Partnership in 2022. Verification checks on expenditure and VAT were carried out by Donegal County Council and no issues of concern were identified. There was a Budget underspend of €12,936.85 (1.8%) which was less than the 5% permitted to be carried forward to be spend in 2023. Therefore, no remedies need to be applied. There was no underspend in the Ukrainian Budget for Lot 33-1 in 2022. IDP have clearly detailed in the Annual Plan 2023 where the under spent monies carried forward into 2022 will be spent.

Verification checks on expenditure and VAT were carried out by Donegal County Council and no issues of concern were identified.

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 agreed that engagement with PI was good throughout 2022 with requests for updates, financial claims and meetings all being promptly addressed. Through engagement with the PI and as evidenced in the excellent Annual Progress Narrative Report 2022 submitted the Sub Committee were confident that IDP had clearly evidenced their capacity and adhere to the three horizontal themes of SICAP.

Lot Level Performance

Having examined the Lot Summary Report the Sub Committee confirmed that the Local Community Group and individual supports and interventions were in line with local needs. The Lot Level Summary Report confirmed that the type of supports to Children and Families were in line with local needs.

The Lot Level Performance report evidenced that the level of engagement with individuals and LCGs in disadvantaged areas and from SICAP Target Groups/Emerging Needs Group were in also in accordance with local needs and priorities.

The LCDC SICAP Sub Committee acknowledged the work of IDP in delivering the SICAP Programme whilst continuing to address the additional challenges faced as communities emerge from the COVID pandemic, and the provision of supports for people impacted by MICA and their central role in the Ukrainian Refugee response in the Inishowen area.

Case Studies

The Sub Committee confirmed that the case study under Engagement Strategies – IDP and SICAP Response to the Ukrainian Crisis had been approved at the LCDC meeting in September 2022. The case study more than adequately met the guidelines issued and the LCDC were satisfied with the quality of the case study. It clearly outlined how, through the SICAP Programme, IDP, assisted in co-ordinating the response of voluntary and community organisations and collaborated with relevant stakeholders to respond to the varied needs of the Ukrainian Refugees.

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 IDP in conducting the Annual Performance review.

On the proposal of Michael MacGiolla Easbuig, seconded by Charlene Logue, the LCDC approved the Annual Progress Report for 2022 for Lot 33-1 Inishowen and recommended that Programme Funding in the amount of €58,602.25 for the SICAP Programme and €9,727.17 for SICAP Ukrainian Supports for the period 1st March 2023 to 31st March 2023 be released to Inishowen Development Partnership. Members noted that approval of the End of Year Report also resulted in Final Approval for the Lot 33-1 Annual Plan 2023.

The LCDC requested that IDP continue to provide regular updates at LCDC Meetings throughout 2023 on Programme Delivery and Expenditure for Lots 33-1.

Lot 33-2

Seamus Canning reported to the members on the Annual Progress Report submitted by Donegal Local Development Company for Lot 33-2 for 2022. The Narrative Report, Lot Summary Report, Lot Cost Charged Reports were circulated to members with the Agenda and the Report and recommendation from the SICAP Sub Committee had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

Members were informed that the Annual Progress Report 2022 for Lot 33-2 (Gaeltacht), was brought before the LCDC SICAP Sub Committee for consideration on 9th February 2023. Following consideration of the Pobal Parallel review and review of all reports and documents submitted (as set out below), the SICAP Sub Committee were satisfied to recommend approval of the Annual Progress Report 2022 for Lot 33-2 Donegal Gaeltacht.

Document Checks

Members were advised 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

Seamus Canning advised members that the overall progress for Lot 33-2 in 2022 was good with targets for KPI1 and 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

It was confirmed that the Sub Committee examined the Financial Reports submitted and confirmed that budget management by Donegal Local Development CLG 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. 14 grants were awarded to local Community Groups by Donegal Local Development CLG in 2022. Verification checks on expenditure and VAT were carried out by Donegal County Council and no issues of concern were identified. There was a Budget underspend of €21,696.30 (4.4%) which was less than the 5% permitted to be carried forward to be spend in 2023. Therefore, no remedies need to be applied. There was an underspend of €19,223 (3.5% of overall annual Budget) on the Ukrainian Budget for Lot 33-2 in 2022 which is less than the 5% permitted. DLDC have completed the Ukrainian Long Term Contracts Budget Carry over Template and confirmed that all monies carried forward into 2023 were committed to Long Term Contracts therefore meeting the flexibility arrangements as agreed by DRCD. DLDC have clearly detailed in the Annual Plan 2023 where the under spent monies carried forward into 2022 will be spent.

Verification checks on expenditure and VAT were carried out by Donegal County Council and no issues of concern were identified.

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.

The Sub Committee agreed that engagement with PI was good throughout 2022 with requests for updates, financial claims and meetings all being promptly addressed. Through engagement with the PI and as evidenced in the detailed Annual Progress Narrative Report 2022 submitted the Sub Committee were confident that DLDC had clearly evidenced their capacity and adhere to the three horizontal themes of SICAP.

Lot Level Performance

Having examined the Lot Summary Report the Sub Committee confirmed that the Local Community Group and individual supports and interventions were in line with local needs. The Lot Level Summary Report confirmed that the type of supports to Children and Families were in line with local needs.

The Lot Level Performance report evidenced that the level of engagement with individuals and LCGs in disadvantaged areas and from SICAP Target Groups/Emerging Needs Group were in also in accordance with local needs and priorities.

The LCDC SICAP Sub Committee acknowledged the work of DLCD in delivering the SICAP Programme whilst continuing to address the additional challenges faced as communities emerge from the COVID pandemic and their central role in the Ukrainian Refugee response in the Donegal Gaeltacht area.

Case Studies

The Sub Committee confirmed that the case study under Collaboration – A SICAP response to a humanitarian crisis – Supporting the Integration of Ukrainian refugees had been approved at the LCDC meeting in September 2022. The Case Study more than adequately met the guidelines issued and the LCDC were satisfied with the quality of the Case Study and the excellent video presentation. It clearly outlined how DLDC's SICAP Team led out on a countywide collaborative response from community organisations and relevant stakeholders to respond to the varied needs of the Ukrainian Refugees.

Pobal Parallel Review

The Pobal parallel review was satisfactory with no issues arising.

Overall Assessment

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

On the proposal of Michael MacGiolla Easbuig, seconded by Charlene Logue, the LCDC approved the Annual Progress Report for 2022 for Lot 33-2 Donegal Gaeltacht and recommended that Programme Funding in the amount of €37,683.75 for the Lot 33-2 SICAP Programme and €13,768.25 for Lot 33-2 SICAP Ukrainian Supports for the period 1st March 2023 to 31st March 2023 be released to Donegal Local Development CLG. Members noted that approval of the End of Year Report also resulted in Final Approval for the Lot 33-2 Annual Plan 2023.

The LCDC requested that DLDC continue to provide regular updates at LCDC Meetings throughout 2023 on Programme Delivery and Expenditure for Lots 33-2.

Lot 33-3

Seamus Canning reported to the members on the Annual Progress Report submitted by Donegal Local Development Company for Lot 33-3 for 2022. The Narrative Report, Lot Summary Report, Lot Cost Charged Reports were circulated to members with the Agenda and the Report and recommendation from the SICAP Sub Committee had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

Members were informed that the Annual Progress Report 2022 for Lot 33-3 (Donegal), was brought before the LCDC SICAP Sub Committee for consideration on 9th February 2023. Following consideration of the Pobal Parallel review and review of all reports and documents submitted (as set out below), the SICAP Sub Committee were satisfied to recommend approval of the Annual Progress Report 2022 for Lot 33-3 Donegal.

Document Checks

Members were advised 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

Seamus advised that the overall progress for Lot 33-3 in 2022 was good with targets for KPI1 and 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

The Sub Committee examined the Financial Reports submitted and confirmed that budget management by Donegal Local Development CLG 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. 5 grants were awarded to local Community Groups by Donegal Local Development CLG in 2022. Verification checks on expenditure and VAT were carried out by Donegal County Council and no issues of concern were identified. There was a Budget underspend of €27,921.61 (2.1%) which was less than the 5% permitted to be carried forward to be spend in 2023. Therefore, no remedies need to be applied. There was an underspend of €57,668 (4.5% of overall annual Budget) on the Ukrainian Budget for Lot 33-3 in 2022 which is less than the 5% permitted. DLDC have completed the Ukrainian Long Term Contracts Budget Carry over Template and confirmed that all monies carried forward into 2023 were committed to Long Term Contracts therefore meeting the flexibility arrangements as agreed by DRCD. DLDC have clearly detailed in the Annual Plan 2023 where the under spent monies carried forward into 2022 will be spent.

Verification checks on expenditure and VAT were carried out by Donegal County Council and no issues of concern were identified.

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 agreed that engagement with PI was good throughout 2022 with requests for updates, financial claims and meetings all being promptly addressed. Through engagement with the PI and as evidenced in the detailed Annual Progress Narrative Report 2022 submitted the Sub Committee were confident that DLDC had clearly evidenced their capacity and adhere to the three horizontal themes of SICAP.

Lot Level Performance

Having examined the Lot Summary Report the Sub Committee confirmed that the Local Community Group and individual supports and interventions were in line with local needs. The Lot Level Summary Report confirmed that the type of supports to Children and Families were in line with local needs.

The Lot Level Performance report evidenced that the level of engagement with individuals and LCGs in disadvantaged areas and from SICAP Target Groups/Emerging Needs Group were in also in accordance with local needs and priorities.

The LCDC SICAP Sub Committee acknowledged the work of DLDC in delivering the SICAP Programme whilst continuing to address the additional challenges faced as communities emerge from the COVID pandemic and their central role in the Ukrainian Refugee response in the Donegal area.

Case Studies

The Sub Committee confirmed that the case study under Engagement Strategies entitled 'Progression Pathway Project' had been approved at the LCDC meeting in September 2022. The Case Study more than adequately met the guidelines issued and the LCDC were satisfied with the quality of the Case Study and the excellent video presentation. It clearly outlined how DLDC's SICAP Employment Team provided a range of employment supports to young people with disabilities aged between 18-24 to help them develop skills and explore opportunities for employment in the future.

Pobal Parallel Review

The Pobal parallel review was satisfactory with no issues arising.

Overall Assessment

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

On the proposal of Michael MacGiolla Easbuig, seconded by Charlene Logue, the LCDC approved the Annual Progress Report for 2022 for Lot 33-3 Donegal and recommended that Programme Funding in the amount of €98,282.00 for the Lot 33-3 SICAP Programme and €28,179.59 for Lot 33-3 SICAP Ukrainian Supports for the period 1st March 2023 to 31st March 2023 be released to Donegal Local Development CLG. Members noted that approval of the End of Year Report also resulted in Final Approval for the Lot 33-3 Annual Plan 2023.

The LCDC requested that DLDC continue to provide regular updates at LCDC Meetings throughout 2023 on Programme Delivery and Expenditure for Lots 33-3.

9. SICAP Audit 2022

Members considered the SICAP Audit 2022 which was circulated with the Agenda for the meeting. Seamus Canning advised members that the audit of the SICAP programme is provided for in the SICAP Funding Agreement between the Department of Rural & Community Development and the LCDC. He confirmed that this was the fourth year the audit has been carried by DCC Internal Audit Section in conjunction with Community Development administration. Members were informed that the purpose of the audit is to undertake independent checks of both the financial and non-financial records and activity to ensure that there is compliance with all of the requirements of the programme.

Seamus acknowledged the cooperation of the PIs in conducting the Audit.

Members were advised that the processes examined during the audit were found to be in compliance with the SICAP programme requirements.

On the proposal of Joe Boland seconded by Aengus Kennedy members noted and approved the SICAP Audit 2022.

10. LEADER 2023-2027

Paddy Doherty advised that the Expression of Interest from Donegal LCDC to be the LAG for the County for the LEADER Programme 2023 – 2027 had been submitted and confirmation of approval had been received on 26th January. The Local Development Strategy now had to be submitted before 14th July 2023. Further Guidance Documentation in relation to preparation of the Local Development Strategy was awaited. Following receipt of this additional information Tenders will issue for recruitment of Consultants to develop the Local Development Strategy on behalf of the LAG.

11. LCDC Annual Report 2022

Paddy Doherty requested that members consider approval of the LCDC Annual Report 2022 which had been circulated with the Agenda. He advised members that the Report details the expanded role of the LCDC and the activities throughout 2022. He further advised that once it was approved by the LCDC it would be brought before the full Council for approval.

On the proposal of James O Donnell, seconded by Charlene Logue, members approved the LCDC Annual Report 2022.

12. Community Recognition Fund

Paddy Doherty advised members that the Community Recognition Fund 2023 was launched by the Minister of Rural & Community Development, Heather Humphries TD on Tuesday 24th January, 2023.

He stated 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. 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.

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 €3,114,395.

Members were informed that Donegal County Council at its plenary meeting held on January 30th agreed that the LCDC would administer the fund on behalf of the Council. A briefing was given to all Municipal Districts through the Rural Programmes workshops which are currently taking place. The Donegal Community Forum on Ukrainian Refugees has also received a briefing on the Fund at their meeting on 8th February, 2023.

A draft Expression of Interest (EoI's) form and the Scheme outlined had been circulated with the Agenda. Paddy confirmed that following LCDC approval EoI's will be sought from interested communities and other groups immediately thereafter. The closing date for receipt of EoI's will be Monday 6th March, 2023 to allow evaluation of the proposals to be carried in advance of 15th March deadline.

Paddy confirmed to members that an amendment to the final date for drawdown had been made to the EOI Form after it was circulated to members. He confirmed that a finalised Form would be circulated to all members immediately after the meeting.

On the proposal of Padraic Fingleton, seconded by Anne McHugh, members approved the Expression of Interest Form for the Community Recognition Fund.

Clr Niamh Kennedy welcomed the funding and requested that this funding be directed to rural communities who have dealt with the arrival of new communities.

13. Declaration of Interest Returns

Paddy Doherty reminded members that they were obliged to return completed Declaration of Interest Forms, which had issued on 1st February, by Tuesday, 28th February 2023.

14. Schedule of Meetings 2023

Members considered schedule of Meetings for 2023 which had been circulated with the Agenda and agreed same.

15. Departure of Seamus Canning

On behalf of the LCDC Clr Niamh Kennedy thanked Seamus Canning for his work and contribution to the LCDC in advance of his departure to a new post within Donegal County Council.

This concluded the business of the meeting