



LCDC

Local Community Development Committee Annual Report 2015

The Local Government Reform Act, 2014, outlines significant changes to the role, structure and systems of Local Government nationally. Part 6 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 provides for the establishment of a Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) for the purposes of developing, co-ordinating and implementing a coherent and integrated approach to local and community development.

It is a requirement under the act that an annual report is prepared by the LCDC in respect of the performance of it's functions in the previous year.

In Meath the LCDC was established in 2014 and is made up of 19 members. The chair person of the committee is Sinead Smith and the chief officer is Barry Lynch. The role of the chairperson is to manage the meetings of the LCDC efficiently and effectively and ensure that the committee is aware of their obligations as members.

The role of the chief officer is to support and assist the LCDC in the exercise of it's functions. The key function of the chief officer is to work jointly with the chairperson to provide guidance and strategic direction for the LCDC. The chief officer is not a member of the LCDC however he/she will attend and participate in all meetings in an advisory and support capacity.

Membership of LCDC at 31st December 2015

Ms Jackie Maguire	Chief Executive
Mr Joe English	Local Enterprise Office
Cllr Noel French	Meath County Council
Cllr Sharon Keogan	Meath County Council
Cllr Sinead Burke	Meath County Council
Mr Des Henry	Department of Social Protection
Ms Liz Lavery	Louth Meath Education Board
Mr Tom Oxley	Health Service Executive
Mr Michael Ludlow	Meath Partnership
Mr Eamon Cassells	Community Representative
Mr John Higgins	Community Representative
Ms Sheila Comiskey	Social Inclusion Representative
Ms Sinead Smith	Social Inclusion Representative
Mr Ian Carey	Environmental Representative
Mr John V Farrelly	Business Sector
Mr Seamus McGee	Farming Sector
Anton McCabe	Trade Union Sector
Mr Tadhg Ó Conghaile	Udaras na Gaeltachta
Ms Geraldine Hogarty	Youth Work Ireland Meath



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The representatives on the LCDC for the community, social inclusion and environmental sectors were interim until such a time that the Public Participative Network (PPN) was established. Thereafter any future representatives required under these three sectors to sit on the LCDC are to be nominated through the PPN. In Q4 2015 the selection of the permanent representatives for these seats took place and members are now in place on the committee.

Role of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The Local Government Reform Act 2014 sets out a number of functions for the LCDCs. The main functions are:

- Prepare the community elements of a 6-year Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP).
- Implementation of the community elements of the plan and to review within the 6 year period and if necessary, to amend accordingly.
- Programme oversight and management of work in respect of the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP).
- Co-ordinate, manage and oversee the implementation of the LEADER programme.
- Any other areas of activity undertaken to improve the coordination of public funded local and community development programmes and reduce duplication.
- To prepare an annual report to the performance of its functions.

The following meetings of the LCDC were held in 2015:

13th February 2015

11th March 2015

1st May 2015

13th May 2015

3rd July 2015

11th September 2015

12th October 2015

19th November 2015

1st December 2015



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The following areas were progressed in 2015 by Meath LCDC;-

Local Economic Community Plan (LECP) 2016-2022

One of the primary functions of the LCDC is to develop, implement and monitor a six year local economic and community plan for county Meath. The plan (LECP) sets out the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic and community development of Meath over the next six years. The plan will serve as the primary strategy, guiding development in the county.

The LECP represents an integrated plan and its implementation will require ongoing integration between the two components in order to ensure a co-ordinated delivery of actions for both economic and community development.

The preparation of the plan was driven by the LECP advisory committee, which comprises members of the LCDC and the economic SPC. The first stage of the plan was the production of a socio – economic statement for the county. This statement formed the discussion during the consultation phase which involved four thematic workshops and four area based workshops held in the districts, one of which was held in Rathcairn through Irish. Submissions were invited from the public and an online survey was made available. A workshop was also held with the LCDC members to develop an equality and human rights statement. A draft LECP was then developed collating the information from the consultations.

The draft LECP has to be considered and approved by the LECP advisory committee, LCDC, Economic SPC, Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly and each of the 6 Municipal Districts with the integrated LECP adopted by the full council in Q1 2016.

LEADER 2015-2021

The selection process for the LEADER programme was conducted in two phases. In Q2 2015, the first stage called for expressions of interest from any group that wished to be considered as a local action group (LAG) for the purposes of the delivery of the LEADER programme. In Meath the LCDC agreed to be the LAG with Meath Partnership as the programme implementer. The LCDC was successful and selected as the LAG for the delivery of the programme in Meath.

One of the functions of the LAG is to develop a local development strategy (LDS) for submission and approval by the Department of Environment Community & Local



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Government. The LAG will have ultimate responsibility for the implementation of the strategy and decisions on the funding of actions under the LDS. The Council is the

lead financial partner of the LAG and will carry out the administrative tasks associated with this role.

The Leader programme is based on 3 Themes, with Meath allocated a budget of €6,903,123.57 over the period of the programme. The LDS was submitted to the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government in Q4 2015 for assessment and approval.

Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP)2015-2017:

The aim of SICAP is to reduce poverty and promote social inclusion and equality. It's vision is to improve the life chance and opportunities of those who are marginalised in society, living in poverty or in unemployment. The programme has three goals that contain activities that are focused on the most disadvantaged groups or individuals.

The programme is funded by the Department of Environment Community & Local Government. The LCDC is the contracting authority and it's role is to manage and administer the programme. Meath Partnership was awarded the contract as programme implementer for the delivery of the programme following a tendering process.

The programme commenced in Q2 2015 with a budget of €235,799 till year end. A SICAP sub-committee was set up and met with the programme implementer to review their mid year and end of year progress prior to recommending approval of the end of year report to the LCDC.

The LCDC will continue to progress work on the above programmes in 2016.