

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**FOR**  
**MEATH LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**  
**2016**

## 1.0 Chief Officer's Statement

2016 saw the adoption of the Local Economic & Community Plan 2016 to 2021 (LECP) by Meath County Council on 8<sup>th</sup> March. Following adoption of the LECP, an implementation workshop for LCDC members was held on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2016 to assist in the preparation of the LECP implementation plan. It was also acknowledged that the implementation plan must set out a method to measure if actions had been implemented and also prioritise the actions in the LECP annually. This implementation plan was presented and agreed at the LECP Advisory Committee and subsequently adopted by the LCDC. The Meath LECP was included as part of the launch event at the National Ploughing Championships in September.

The Meath LCDC has 19 members and during 2016 there were 4 changes in membership with Mr. Anton McCabe, Trade Union Sector, Ms. Liz Lavery, LMETB representative, Mr. Ian Carey, Environmental College representative from the Public Participation Network (PPN) and Councillor Noel French resigning their seats. Replacements from each organisation were sought and Mr. Robert Bradley, Trade Union Sector, Ms. Suzanne Brady, Environmental College rep. from the PPN attended their first meetings in May and September respectively while Ms. Sadie Ward-McDermott, LMETB and Councillor Sharon Tolan attended their first meetings in October 2016. I would like to thank the outgoing members for the contribution to the LCDC during their tenure.

The Membership of the LCDC at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016 was:

- Ms Jackie Maguire, Chief Executive, MCC
- Cllr Sharon Tolan
- Cllr Sinead Burke
- Cllr Sharon Keogan
- Mr Des Henry, Department of Social Protection
- Ms Sadie Ward McDermott, Louth / Meath Education & Training Board
- Mr Tom Oxley, HSE
- Mr Tadhg Ó Conghaile, Údaras na Gaeltachta
- Mr Joe English, Local Enterprise Office
- Mr Michael Ludlow, Meath Partnership
- Mr Eamonn Cassells, Community Sector
- Mr John Higgins, Community Sector
- Ms Sheila Comiskey, Social Inclusion
- Ms Sinead Smith, Social Inclusion (Chairperson)
- Mr John V. Farrelly, Chambers of Commerce
- Ms Suzanne Brady, Environmental Sector
- Mr Seamus McGee, Farming Sector
- Mr Robert Bradley, Trade Union Sector
- Ms Geraldine Hogarty, Youth Work Ireland Meath

During 2016 a total of 9 meetings and 1 workshop were held. Dates of the meeting are listed below:

- 29<sup>th</sup> January 2016
- 29<sup>th</sup> February 2016
- 27<sup>th</sup> May 2016
- 10<sup>th</sup> June 2016
- 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2016
- 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016
- 26<sup>th</sup> October 2016
- 25<sup>th</sup> November 2016
- 16<sup>th</sup> December 2016

As set out in the Standing Orders, the quorum for LCDC meetings is 11 and all meetings in 2016 met the requirement for the quorum. The average attendance at the LCDC meetings during 2016 was 13 with May being the only month with full attendance.

I look forward to supporting the LCDC in carrying out its functions in 2017.

**Barry Lynch**  
**Chief Officer**

## **2.0 Progress on the Community Elements of LECP**

An Implementation Plan Workshop was held on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2016 with all members of the LCDC invited. The purpose of the workshop was to prepare the implementation plan for the LECP, put timeframes on the identified actions and prioritise actions on an annual basis. The workshop enabled a full discussion to take place between all LCDC members focusing on what could be achieved in 2016 and the longer term goals for the remainder of the plan.

The LECP Implementation plan was also presented to the LECP Advisory Committee for their endorsement. It was formally approved by the LCDC at the June meeting.

The LECP is based on a development partnership model which requires sets out Lead agencies and partners required to support each action.

While acknowledging the initial successes in the implementation of the LECP it is recognised that future progress will require intensive engagement between the various agencies and partners involved. With this in mind It is proposed during 2017 to initiate and arrange meetings between relevant parties for each action with a view to encouraging collaboration and progressing and delivering the action.

Of the 42 actions identified for 2016, 11 have been completed, 26 are progressing and 5 have seen no progress to date. The latter category will be given priority in early 2017 to determine how the barriers to progression can be addressed and removed.

A number of key deliverables in the Community element of the Implementation Plan have been achieved, namely:

- A new Intreo office has been opened in Navan by the Department of Social Protection to give income support to jobseekers and one parent families
- Meath County Council has commenced the process with the Department of Social Protection of transferring existing rent supplement recipients to Housing Assistance Programme (HAP)
- The Council's Economic Development, Heritage and Tourism sections worked with Kells Local Heroes to support the 'Bigger Picture' initiative of public seminars to focus on how architecture/design, arts/culture, biodiversity and landscaping can improve a town – Greening of Kells
- Meath Intercultural Network organised a one stop shop event with the Immigrant Council of Ireland. Various agencies had stands with information on voting/social welfare/ housing etc.

- Navan Healthy Town initiative was rolled out in September for 8 weeks which proved very successful with more groups and the public getting involved in a project which was very much in sync with the Healthy Ireland initiative.
- Under *Actions for renew our communities and information on communities*; the newly formed Public Participation Network now has over 444 groups registered. The Network has created a website/newsletter and branding and is currently working on litter/waste survey.
- Establishment of the “Economic & Community Monitor” available on [www.meath.ie](http://www.meath.ie) (right hand side of screen)
- Commencement of the LEADER Programme – 2 target calls to date (Festivals & Community Facilities) and another to be published shortly. Further calls throughout 2017
- Preparation of the 2017 SICAP Annual Plan

The Meath LCDC will continue to work in collaboration with all the relevant parties to deliver on the actions as identified in the LECP.

### 3.0 Implementation, Management & Oversight of Public-Funded Programmes

- **LEADER (RDP) 2014 – 2020**

In May 2016 the Meath Local Development Strategy (LDS) was approved by the Department of Arts Heritage Regional Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs (DAHRRGA). Contracts were signed between the DAHRRGA, the LCDC as the Local Action Group (LAG), Meath County Council as the Financial Partner and Meath Partnership as the Implementing Partner on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2016 at the National Launch of the LEADER Programme in Virginia Co. Cavan. The Service Level Agreement (SLA) between the LCDC (LAG), Implementing Partner Financial Partner was signed on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2016. The official launch of the LEADER programme in County Meath by Minister Damien English took place on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2016 and was attended by a large number of people.

A number of sub-groups of the LCDC have been established. The previously established LEADER sub-group has been re-named the Rural Development Programme (RDP) Monitoring Sub-group. This group met on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2016 to agree the details of the proposed SLA and the proposed membership of the LEADER Independent Evaluation Committee (IEC). A schedule of meetings will be proposed for 2017 to enable the RDP Monitoring Sub-group to monitor the implementation of the LDS.

A number of targeted calls for proposals under LEADER were published during 2016 namely:

- Investing in Festivals and Cultural Events
- Supporting Community Resources and Facilities

Expressions of Interest (EOI's) have been received and eligible EOI's under the Investing in Festivals and Cultural Events approved by the LAG. The closing date for applications under this call is at the end of January 2017 when these will be examined by the IEC in due course.

Subject to applications meeting the eligibility criteria the LAG will commence project approvals during 2017

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

For the SICAP programme, the LCDC is the contracting authority and its role is to manage and administer the programme. Meath Partnership was awarded the contract as programme implementer (PI) for the delivery of the programme following a tendering process. The 2016 SICAP budget was €371,072.

There has been some concern raised by the PI in relation to meeting targets set in Goal 3 due to the job-readiness of the referrals. However, discussion has taken place at local level between the PI and the Department of Social Protection and an agreed protocol is now in place to manage this matter.

During 2016 the SICAP sub-group have met on four occasions – January to approve the end of year report for 2015 and the annual plan for 2016, July to discuss the mid-year review and September prior to the final payment for 2016 and November to review the draft 2017 plan. There has been very good engagement between the SICAP sub-group and the PI in raising issues that should be addressed, i.e., progression of groups to self-sufficiency and mainstreaming of programmes.

As the LECP had been adopted during 2016, it was essential that the SICAP annual plan for 2017 was linked to this statutory document. Ensuring that this was the case, the LECP Advisory Committee and the SICAP Sub-group met in September 2016 to discuss the 2017 annual plan for SICAP and the priorities for the plan. Based on this discussion, the plan was prepared and eventually approved by the LCDC in November.

The LCDC will continue to monitor the implementation of the annual plan during 2017.

**John Higgins**  
**Chairperson**