LCDC
Coiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Áitiúil na Mí
Meath Local Community Development Committee

Minontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Local Community Development Committee
Date – 27th February 2026 @ 10.35 a.m.
Held at THRIVE Centre of Business Excellence/Online via Teams

Presiding:

Mr Seamus McGee (SMcG)	Farming Sector

Present:

Barry Lynch (BL)	Director of Services, Meath County Council
Cllr Maria Murphy (MM)	Councillor, Meath County Council
Sadie Ward McDermott (SWMcD)	Louth Meath Education Training Board
Johann McKeever (JMcK)	Health Service Executive
Sean O Coisdealbha (SOC)	Údarás na Gaeltachta
Colin Ludlow (CL)	Meath Partnership
Ger Hogarty (GH)	Youth Work Ireland Meath
Garret O'Brien (GO'B)	Community & Voluntary Sector
Shola Yahya (SY)	Social Inclusion Sector
Ciara Burke (CB)	Chamber of Commerce
Nicky Bowman (NB)	Community & Voluntary Sector
Michael Gunn (MG)	Environmental Sector

Guest:

Tinu Achioya	Programme Manager, Cultúr Migrants Centre
Susan Mkhabela	Community Worker, Cultúr Migrants Centre
Babatunde Oginna	Community Worker, Cultúr Migrants Centre
Caoimhe Donnellan	SICAP Co-Ordinator, Meath Partnership

Officials:

Brian Hora (BH)	Senior Executive Officer, Community Dept, MCC
Angie Mitchell (AM)	Senior Staff Officer, Community Dept, MCC
Anne O'Brien (AOB)	Senior Staff Officer, Community Dept, MCC

Apologies/Absent

Cllr Edward Fennessy (EF)	Councillor, Meath County Council
Cllr Padraig Coffey (PC)	Councillor, Meath County Council
Noel Maguire (NM)	Trade Union Sector
Marie Brennan (MB)	Social Inclusion Sector
Lorraine O'Malley (LOM)	Department of Social Protection
Vacant	Local Enterprise Office

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Item	Discussion / Action
5.	**To receive a Presentation from Cultúr on the Migrant Network Community Development Project (MNCDP)** The meeting commenced at 10.35 a.m. and SMcG welcomed all to the meeting. He advised that today's meeting would start with item 5 on the Agenda. Tinu Achioya, Programme Manager from Cultúr gave a detailed presentation in relation to the MNCDP, the aim of which is to foster integration and community development for ethnic minorities and migrants in County Meath & Louth. She advised that this initiative aims to tackle the inequalities and social exclusion experienced by ethnic minority and migrant communities by supporting inclusive environments which enhance the integration and well-being of migrants through targeted outreach, English Language classes and events that promote advocacy and connection between migrants and local populations. She gave details of the Leadership and Team involved, the goals and objectives of the project and the benefits for migrants and local communities. She detailed how Cultúrs work aligns to the Local Community & Economic Plan 2023 – 2029 under Goals 4, 6 & 7. She provided an overview of participant engagement which included details of the 2822 individual participants across a diverse range of programmes and initiatives and details of key events that promoted inclusion and support. She also gave details of the 8 Advocacy Campaigns carried out in 2025, the 8 multicultural events and 4 interagency meetings (engaging 63 service providers and leaders to improve service delivery and resource sharing for migrant communities) and 11 IPAS Outreach Events. She advised of the challenges faced by migrants and of the achievements and positive impact this project has had on migrants, leading to tangible improvements in their lives, in enhancing their skills, knowledge and overall wellbeing. She thanked Meath LCDC for their continued support and asked for their support in 1) sourcing a dedicated space in Meath to establish a one-stop shop where migrants and the wider community can meet and access activities designed to foster community integration 2) Linking the Cultúr team in with County Meath Chamber 3) Discussing future funding options. **SMcG** thanked Tinu for her detailed and informative presentation. **MM** and **CB** will link the Cultúr team in with the County Meath Chamber. **GH** will meet Tinu to discuss Youth and Employment. **CL** will meet Tinu and discuss funding opportunities following his recent meeting with the Minister of State for Migration. **SWMcD** left the meeting at 11.12 a.m.

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	BH advised that the Local Authority Integration Team would continue to work closely with Cultúr and he noted that at a conference at the Department of Justice this week, he advised that this funding is not short term and that funding supports need to be continued. **BH** thanked Tinu and the Cultúr Team for their work and achievements in 2025. He advised the LCDC that as Chief Officer he must provide feedback to DRCD today on Cultúr's End of Year Report and their Annual Plan Report for 2026 and needed LCDC approval for same. The approval of the Cultúr MNCDP End of Year Report for 2025 and Annual Plan for 2026 was proposed by **BL** and seconded by **CL**.
1.	**To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd January 2026** The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd January were confirmed on the proposal of **CL** and seconded by **MG**.
2.	**Matters arising** There were no matters arising from the minutes.
3.	**Correspondence** **BH** confirmed that there were 4 items of correspondence circulated since January's meeting relating to: • Meath County Councils Ethics Framework • The launch by Meath County Council and Partners of the New Community Preparedness Alliance • Details of the Public Survey on the National Strategy for improving Community Safety • Details of the Public Consultation on the Child and Family Homelessness Action Plan
4.	**To receive an update on the PPN** **BH** advised that the PPN update for February had been circulated to the Committee prior to today's meeting as follows: Along with Meath Community Safety Partnership, a Community Support Hubs information workshop is scheduled for 24th March for centres/organisations that have completed an EOI. Meath PPN supported the Transition Year Programme in MCC recently. A presentation on community infrastructure, opportunities for taking part and a workshop using the Place Standard Toolkit to assess local parks in their areas was given.

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	The PPN Secretariat want to develop a series of events for National Volunteer Week, taking place on May 18th – 22nd and PPN staff are currently liaising with partners and various stakeholders regarding same. An LCDC meeting is scheduled for 22nd May, and this may be an opportunity to showcase groups that received LEADER/SICAP funding. Meath PPN will sit on the subgroup for the 2026 National PPN Conference, expected to take place in Roscommon in October. In partnership with Healthy Meath, a community meeting was held with information on the Civic Dollars app. The meeting included how individuals and groups can get involved as well as a demo of the app. Nicky and Aisling presented to a business breakfast hosted by Meath Chamber 26th February highlighting how businesses can get involved. https://www.meathppn.ie/2026/02/20/civic-dollars-meath-information-webinar-recording-19th-feb-2026/ Meath PPN submitted an application to the Creative Ireland 'Youth Nurture Fund' in collaboration with Healthy Meath, Meath Community Safety Partnership and Foróige. If successful, the project will be an 18-month experiential learning process, leading to a youth designed and developed outdoor garden of remembrance. Membership continues to grow strongly. As part of the governance framework from DRCDG, a re-registration process will need to be undertaken this year. This will help identify inactive accounts, changed roles and obsolete/incorrect email addresses. This is expected to happen in Q3 with support from South Dublin Volunteer Centre who manage the Salesforce system for all PPNs. 839 groups are registered with Meath PPN: • 702 Community/Voluntary • 112 Social Inclusion • 25 Environment **CB** stated that she had a look at the map of the civic dollar earn zones and she noted that a few locations near her were not listed. She urged people to have a look at the map and list any earn zone locations that are not listed on the map in their areas. They can do this by contacting Meath PPN.
6.	**To approve an extension to the Healthy Ireland Fund Local Strategy 2023-2025** **BH** advised that he is looking for approval to extend the Healthy Ireland Fund Local Strategy 2023-2026. This was approved on the proposal of **CL** and seconded by **MG**.
7.	**To approve the LCDC Annual Report 2025** **BH** gave an overview of the LCDC Annual Report which had been circulated in advance of today's meeting. He noted that meeting attendance in 2025 had improved from 2024 and that a quorum had been achieved for all meetings of the LCDC/LAG except the January meeting which was cancelled due to storm Eowyn. He gave an overview of membership, meeting attendance, details of the LEADER & SICAP Programmes, and updates on the

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	Local Economic & Community Plan, Healthy Ireland Fund Round 4, Local Enhancement Programme 2025, other programmes and initiatives and a list of all grants awarded under the LEADER Programme, Healthy Meath Micro Fund and Local Enhancement Programmes for 2025. BH advised that if approved today, the Report would be presented for approval to Full Council at their April meeting. The LCDC Annual Report 2025 was approved on the proposal of **CB** and seconded by **BL**. **SMcG, CL** and **BL** commended BH and his team for their support to the LCDC and oversight during 2025. They agreed that the communications and engagement between BH and the LCDC, Meath Partnership Staff and all other stakeholders had been the key to the success of the LCDC in 2025.
8.	**To receive and approve the SICAP End of Year Report 2025** **BH** informed the Committee that the SICAP subgroup had met on 17th February to discuss the above and he noted that all targets had been exceeded. There was also unspent funding which the sub-group had discussed and had recommended that funding carryover be approved together with approval of the annual plan 2026. He welcomed **CD** to the meeting and invited her to make a presentation. **CD** gave an overview on the SICAP Programme for 2025 as follows: - KPI1 had been overachieved for 2025 at 108%. 52 Community Groups were supported with 11 LCG's receiving grants to the value of €13,896. She advised that the objective of Goal 1 is to contribute to building more sustainable, inclusive and empowered communities, and to empower groups of individuals, local community groups, networks and social enterprises to address collective community needs: - GI.1. Pobal Le Cheile had a target of 20 and supported 21 Local Community Groups - G1.2 Teach Mna had a target of 5 and supported 5 LCG's - G1.3 Legacy4Meath had a target of 4 and supported 5 LCG's - G1.4 Connecting Cultures had a target of 6 and supported 6 LCG's - G1.5 Meath Befriending Network had a target of 4 and supported 4 LCG's - G1.6 Resilient Roots had a target of 4 and supported 6 LCG's. - G1.7 New Arrivals Connect Groups had a target of 5 and supported 5 LCG's. - KPI2 had also been overachieved for 2025 at 130%. She noted that the objective of Goal 2 is to support individuals, children and families to progress their formal education, participate in lifelong learning and progress into employment/self-employment and to improve their soft skills and wellbeing. 377 individuals had been supported. 73% of the clients were new to the programme. 28 Individuals received grants with the total grant amount awarded being €14,045. She advised that 79 individuals progressed into employment, 64 into self-employment, 14 progressed into volunteer/work placements and 78 were referred to other services. - G2.1 Youth Progression Initiative – Target 40 – Actual 42 Individuals - G2.2 Follaine – Target 45 – Actual 48 Individuals - G2.3 Cultivating Cultures – Target 90 – Actual 128 Individuals

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	- G2.4 Cultural Crossroads – Target 60 – Actual 80 Individuals - G2.5 New Arrivals Response Initiative – Target 55 – Actual 79 Individuals **CD** outlined the emerging challenges which include, 1) Increasing complexity of need 2) Stabilisation before progression 3) Precarious employment outcomes 4) Volunteer fatigue and governance pressure 5) Rising integration pressures. **SMcG** thanked Caoimhe, Colin and all the SICAP Team, on behalf of the LCDC, for their work and achievements in 2025. The approval of the SICAP End of Year Report for 2025 and the carryover of the underspend for 2025 of €24,464.22 was proposed by **BL** and seconded by **CB.**
9.	**To receive and approve the SICAP Annual Plan 2026** **CD** made a presentation to the group on the various Goals within the 2026 Annual Plan and stated that the actions will remain the same under each heading. The total budget for 2026 is €856,718, with €591,937 allocated to SICAP and €264,781 to New Arrivals. Priority Target Groups will remain the same for 2026 as follows: 1) People living in jobless/low paid households 2) Disadvantaged Communities 3) People impacted with educational disadvantage. She advised that KPI1 is set at 48 and KPI2 is set at 290. She discussed in detail the plan under each action in the GOAL 1 Category for Local Community Groups and Goal 2 for individuals including details of Key Themes, Focus Areas and Target Locations. The approval of the SICAP Annual Plan 2026 was proposed by **BL** and seconded by **CB**.
10.	**To receive and approve the SICAP list of subcontractors for 2026** **BH** advised that the list of subcontractors for 2026 had been circulated in advance of today's meeting. The approval of the SICAP list of sub-contractors for 2026 was proposed by **BL** and seconded by **CB**.
11.	**Agency Updates and A.O.B.** **NB** left the meeting at 11.44 a.m. **BH** advised that today's agency update had been given by Tinu from Cultúr Migrants Centre. **SMcG** thanked all for their attendance today and noted that the next meeting will be held on Friday 27th March 2026. **The meeting concluded at 11.45 a.m.**

Signed: Seamus Mc Gee **Date:** 27th March 2026

Chairperson