

**Miontuairiscí ó Chruinniú an Choiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Áitiúil na Gaillimhe
a tionóladh ar 22ú Samhain 2022, ag 4.00 pm**

**Minutes of Galway County Local Community Development Committee held on
22nd November 2022, at 4.00 p.m.**

Present:

Cllr. Noel Thomas, LA Member (Chairperson)	Public
Cllr. Gabe Cronnelly, LA Member	Public
Donal Walsh, GRETB	Public
Michael Keady, HSE West	Public
Jim Cullen, Chief Executive	Public
Breda Fox, Head of Local Enterprise	Public
Sean O'Coisdealbha, Udaras na Gaeltachta	Public
Steve Dolan, Galway Rural Development	Community
Terry Keenan, FORUM Connemara Ltd (Vice-Chairperson)	Community
Máire Uí Mhaoláin, Comhar na nOileán Teo	Community
Mairin Ni Chonghaile, PPN Community	Community
Peter Gohery, PPN Social Inclusion	Community
Gerard Costello, PPN Community	Community
Kevin Gavin, PPN Social Inclusion	Community
Jen Fisher, PPN Environment	Community
Kenny Deery, Galway Chamber	Community
Anne Mitchell, IFA	Community

Apologies:

Cllr. Pdraig Mac An Iomaire, LA Member	Public
Regina Higgins, Department of Social Protection	Public

Also in Attendance:

Alan Farrell Chief Officer, Mary McGann, Linda Potter, Galway County Council

Noel Thomas welcomed everyone to the meeting with a special mention to Jen Fisher as a new member of the Committee.

1. Miontuairiscí ó chruinniú an Choiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Áitiúil (LCDC) a tionóladh ar an 20ú Iúil 2022

Minutes of Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) held on 20th July, 2022

N. Thomas asked if there were any matters arising from the Minutes of the previous meeting. T Keenan noted there was an error in proposer of the Minutes which was noted as Maire Uí Mhaoláin who was not in attendance and McGann stated she would correct same.

On the **PROPOSAL** of A. Mitchell, **SECONDED** by K. Gavin, the Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th July, 2022, were **APPROVED**.

2. SICAP 2023

SICAP 2023 – KPI's and Emerging Needs Group

M. McGann advised the members that a 3% increase has been confirmed for the 2023 SICAP budget for County Galway which will bring the allocation to €1,784,074.33. The separate 2023 Ukraine Response Allocation has yet to be confirmed, therefore, it is not possible to confirm timelines for the Annual Plan 2023 and at this stage, it is only the KPI's and Emerging Needs Group that need approval and Pobal have recommended that these remain the same unless otherwise agreed by the LCDC.

On the **PROPOSAL** of J. Cullen, **SECONDED** by D. Walsh, the KPI's and Emerging Needs Group to remain the same was **APPROVED**.

3. Empowering Communities Programme

Empowering Communities Programme

S. Dolan provided an outline of the programme in addition to an information note that has been circulated to Members. He outlined that a Community Engagement Worker was to be recruited as part of the programme and the position has been accepted by Yvonne Hoary and a second appointment is to be made in the way of a support role to assist in carrying out the programme. He suggested that Ms. Hoary present to the LCDC at the January meeting. S. Dolan outlined the partnerships with various agencies to develop initiatives across a range of areas.

N. Thomas welcomed the Empowering Communities Programme, stating that it is good that funding is targeted at areas of greatest need. J. Cullen welcomed the positive update and stated that Galway County Council has a particular interest and in-depth knowledge of the issues in these areas as they are Local Authority Estates. He stated that it was important that GRD and the Council as well as other agencies work closely with the pilot programme to give it the best chance of success. A Farrell stated that while the Department have indicated they want the oversight by the LCDC to be reasonably light touch, there is a role for the LCDC and the Council in terms of the programme. He agreed with Mr Cullen in terms of the importance of coordination as this is one of the central roles of the LCDC. He said he was aware that the housing unit of the Council are anxious to engage with the programme and other key stakeholder in the area.

4. An Clár um Fheabhsú Pobail 2022

Community Enhancement Programme 2022

M. McGann confirmed preliminary information has been provided by DRCD who have confirmed Galway County LCDC will be allocated €316,244. She stated the guidelines and application forms are yet to issue but from initial correspondence the Department are aiming the support towards energy costs at small grassroots groups, with the Community & Voluntary Energy Support Scheme aimed at registered charities and CLG's. In order to advertise the scheme as early as possible, M. McGann proposed that the

Funding Evaluation Sub-Committee set criteria and carry out the initial assessment and approval of applications under the funding programme.

On the **PROPOSAL** of T. Keenan, **SECONDED** by J. Cullen, assessment by the Grants Sub-Committee was **APPROVED**.

5. Éire Fholláin - Round 4
Healthy Ireland – Round 4

M. McGann advised that the list of 5 outcome areas and 27 indicators had been circulated to LCDC Members, and the HIF Round 4 programme would be based on priorities areas identified from this listing. She also confirmed that base funding of €40,000 per year for 3 years has been confirmed, which has been increased to €75,000 for 2023. She confirmed there is a requirement to produce a strategy to prioritise the outcomes & indicators to be selected and a further update will be provided at the January meeting.

6. LEADER 2023-2027
Leader 2023-2027

A Farrell stated that as per email to the LCDC, the LEADER Programme has been announced and it will be a two-stage process with the first stage being an 'Expression of Interest' by interested parties to be submitted by Friday 16th December 2022 and the second stage will involve developing a Local Development Strategy. In relation to the EOI guidelines issued, he stated the Offshore Islands are referenced and that they should continue to be aligned with the relevant County's sub regional structure. A. Farrell confirmed that he has been contact with each of the 3 Local Development Companies to have an open discussion on how they intended to proceed and to see if they would consider working with the LCDC as part of the EOI process. He stated that this was being encouraged and advised that it is a matter for the LCDC Members to consider if the LCDC wish to submit an EOI, and if so, this would involve implementing partner(s) which could be the LDCs. He stated it would be critical that Local Development Strategy be linked with development of the LECP.

T. Keenan and S. Dolan both expressed their huge disappointment at the low funding available for County Galway stating that this will lead to redundancies for both LDC's and pay cuts for existing staff. A discussion took place among Members regarding the level of funding allocated to Galway and it was proposed that the Chairperson write to the Department to seek clarification on the methodology used to calculate the allocations, with S. Dolan to provide information on the imbalances between Galway and other counties allocations.

S. Dolan confirmed Galway Rural Development will be submitting an EOI for East Galway based on the current position and that they did not intend to partner with the LCDC.

T. Keenan confirmed FORUM Connemara will be submitting an EOI for the municipal district of Connemara and that they intended to do so based on the current arrangement.

A Farrell stated that the LCDC needed to consider if it would be submitting an EOI. He confirmed that the issue of the implementing partner would need to be considered as part of the EOI. Cllr Noel Thomas, Chair said that he did not consider that the LCDC would be progressing an EOI as Galway Rural Development and Forum Connemara had confirmed that they would be submitting their own EOI and were not proposing to join with the LCDC as a party to an additional EOI.

T Keenan suggested that the co-operation projects between FORUM Connemara and GRD should be used to leverage further funding for the County, saying this is an area of collaboration that could be undertaken with the LCDC and partners such as the Council.

Following discussions and consideration on the matter, the Chair asked the LCDC Members if they wanted to put submit an EOI on behalf of the LCDC. It was agreed by the LCDC not to submit an EOI.

Alan Farrell advised that if the LCDC was not submitting an EOI that it was very important that the LDCs worked closely with the LCDC and support staff in terms of developing the LDS and LECP.

7. Dáta don chéad chruinniú eil

Date of next Meeting

The date for the next meeting was agreed was Wednesday 14th December at 10.30am to discuss and agree the SICAP Annual Plan for 2023, subject to funding being confirmed by this stage.

8. Aon ghnó eile

Any other business

The meeting then concluded.

Mr. Thomas
Clr. N. Thomas, Chairperson

A. Farrell
A. Farrell, Chief Officer

Date: 24/1/23

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