

SUMMARY REPORT:

Offaly Local Community Development Committee

Meeting held on Thursday 9th June, 2022 at 11.00 am via ZOOM and in the Council Chamber.

Members in attendance

SECTOR	SECTORAL INTERESTS	NAME	PRESENT / APOLOGIES
Public Sector	Local Authority Member Tullamore Municipal District	Cllr Declan Harvey (Chairperson)	Present
	Local Authority Member - Birr Municipal District	Cllr John Leahy	Present
	Local Authority Member - Edenderry Municipal District	Cllr Noel Cribbin	Present
	Local Authority Official - Chief Executive	Ms. Anna Marie Delaney	Present
	Local Authority Official - Local Enterprise Office	Ms. Orla Martin	Via Zoom
	State Agency - Laois Offaly Education & Training Board	Mr. Anne Marie Keane	Apologies
	State Agency - Teagasc	Mr. Con Feighery	Via Zoom
	State Agency - HSE	Ms. Ann Sheerin	Apologies
	Department of Social Protection	Vacant	
	Private Sector	Community & Voluntary Sector - Offaly PPN	Ms. Sylvia Sweeney
Community & Voluntary Sector Offaly PPN		Ms. Sinead McDonagh (Vice-Chairperson)	Via Zoom
Social Inclusion Sector - Offaly PPN		Ms. Olive O' Sullivan	Apologies
Social Inclusion Sector - Offaly PPN		Ms. Deirdre Arnold	Present
Environment Sector - Offaly PPN		Ms. Rebekah Keaveny	Via Zoom
Local & Community Development Offaly Integrated Local Development Company		Mr. Brendan O'Loughlin	Apologies
Other Civic Society or Local Community Interests Construction Industry Federation		Mr. Mark Cronin	Via Zoom
Other Civic Society or Local Community Interests Irish Farmers Association		Mr. Richard Scally	Via Zoom
Other Civic Society or Local Community Interests Business Interests		Mr. Fechin Daly	Via Zoom
Other Civic Society or Local Community Interests Offaly Tourism Marketing CLG		Mr. Philip O' Brien	Apologies

In attendance:

Ann Dillon, Chief Officer, Sharon Kennedy, D.O.S.; Paula Donovan, A.O.; Brian Pey, A.O; Sharon Bollard, Fiona Flaherty, Offaly County Council; Siobhan Broderick, OLDC.

Cllr. D. Harvey, Chairperson, welcomed members to the meeting. A roll call of all members in attendance was recorded by the Chief Officer. Apologies were noted.

Adoption of Minutes of the LCDC meeting held on 12th May 2022.

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th May 2022 were proposed for adoption by Cllr. J. Leahy, seconded by Cllr. N. Cribbin and agreed by the members.

Matters Arising.

None.

Selection of Chairperson

Cllr. D. Harvey, Chairperson, thanked the LCDC members, members of support committees, Ms. A. Dillon as Chief Officer and the Executive and OLDC members for their co-operation and assistance over the last number of years during his term as Chairperson.

Cllr D. Harvey, Chairperson, highlighted the achievements of the LCDC in assisting many community groups through available funding streams and programmes. In particular, he highlighted the LEADER Programme and the naming of Offaly Local Action Group (LAG) as one of the top ten performing LAGs in the country under the LEADER programme. He acknowledged the tremendous work carried out through the SICAP Programme across the county and the challenges they overcame during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Cllr. D. Harvey, Chairperson also thanked Ms. S. McDonagh, Vice-Chairperson for her help and support during their term and for taking on the duties of Chairperson when required.

Members of the LCDC and Ms. A. Dillon, Chief Officer expressed their thanks to Cllr. D. Harvey for his work over the past 3 years as Chairperson.

Cllr. D. Harvey, Chairperson, invited nominations from the members for the selection of Chairperson to serve for a maximum period of three years.

On the proposal of Cllr. D. Harvey, seconded by Ms. S. McDonagh, Cllr. J. Leahy was nominated for the position of Chairperson.

There being no other nominations, Cllr. J. Leahy was deemed to be selected as Chairperson of Offaly LCDC and took the Chair.

Cllr. J. Leahy thanked the proposer and seconder for his nomination and the members for his selection.

Selection of Vice-Chairperson

Cllr. J. Leahy, Chairperson informed the meeting that the current Vice-Chairperson, Ms. S. McDonagh, had advised that she would not be seeking to continue in her role as Vice-Chairperson and was not going forward for selection. Cllr. J. Leahy, Chairperson, thanked Ms. S. McDonagh for her work as Vice-Chairperson over the past 3 years and for carrying out the duties of Chairperson when called on.

Cllr. J. Leahy, Chairperson, invited nominations from the members for the selection of Vice-Chairperson to serve for a maximum period of three years:

On the proposal of Cllr. N. Cribbin, seconded by Cllr. J. Leahy, Ms. S. Sweeney was nominated for the position of Vice-Chairperson.

There being no other nominations, Ms. S. Sweeney was deemed selected as Vice Chairperson of Offaly LCDC.

Ms. S. Sweeney thanked the members for her selection to the position of Vice-Chairperson.

Ms. S. McDonagh thanked the members for their support and dedication to the LCDC and wished the newly selected Chair and Vice-Chair well.

Members joined with Ms. A. Dillon, Chief Officer in thanking Ms. S. McDonagh for her work as Vice-Chairperson with the LCDC over the past number of years.

Conflict of Interest / Non-Disclosure Agreement

Ms. A. Dillon, Chief Officer, requested that members declare any conflict of interest in relation to LEADER, SICAP and/or other matters at the appropriate time.

Members were reminded of Non-Disclosure Agreements and the mandatory requirement to treat all such confidential information in relation to applicant/project details under the LEADER Programme as strictly confidential.

Rural Development LEADER Programme 2014-2020 and Transitional LEADER Programme:

- A. Projects for Approval**
- B. Projects for Extension**
- C. Expressions of Interest:**
- D. LEADER Administration and Animation Payments:**
- E. Department of Rural and Community Development Circulars:**

Members considered the above items in relation to the LEADER Programme.

LCDC Membership

Ms. A. Dillon, Chief Officer advised members that a vacancy currently exists on the LCDC in respect of the State Agencies Sector - Dept of Social Protection representative. It is now proposed that this vacancy will be filled by Ms. Celine Kirwan. The CPG and County Council members will be advised of same at their June meetings and it is envisaged that Ms. Kirwan will join the July LCDC meeting.

It is the usual practice that the DSP representative forms part of the membership of the Empowering Communities Working Group because of its relevant role.

On the proposal of Ms. S. McDonagh, seconded by Ms. S. Sweeney, members agreed to Ms. C. Kirwan joining the Empowering Communities Working Group as the DSP representative.

Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme 2018-2023 (SICAP)

Mid-Year Review

Ms. P. Donovan informed the meeting that notification had been received from Pobal in regard to the Mid Year review for the SICAP Programme. She outlined the timelines for the 2022 Mid-Year reporting process.

SICAP Targets

Ms. P. Donovan informed the members that given the current operating environment, DRCD has agreed there will be an opportunity to revisit SICAP targets for 2022 as a result of the immediate needs of the Ukrainian Community that SICAP is responding to. A decision on the revision of targets will take place early in Q4, when there will be more clarity for LCDCs and LDCs on the local environment that SICAP is working in.

SICAP Additional Funding

Ms. P. Donovan advised that Minister Humphreys and Minister O'Brien recently announced funding of €5 million for the SICAP Programme/Local Development Companies to assist the community response to support people arriving from Ukraine. This additional funding will support and enhance the work taking place to deliver vital supports and services and continue to assist in the integration of the Ukrainian people into our communities. Notification is expected in the coming days advising of the allocation for Offaly SICAP.

Ukrainian Refugee Local Response Plan 2022 (OLDC)

Ms. S. Broderick briefed the members on the Ukrainian Refugee Local Response Plan 2022.

Ms. S. Broderick advised that consideration would be given at all times to the scale and sustainability of any response and the need to continue with the ongoing planned work of SICAP for 2022. In the event of large-scale accommodation centres, e.g. community centres coming on stream in Offaly, SICAP would provide a response that is flexible, appropriate and sustainable in line with its other responses to the community, refugees and other agencies/partners.

Members thanked Ms. S. Broderick and her team for the ongoing collaborative efforts of all involved to sustain the level of support and assistance given to Ukrainian people in Offaly. The members also acknowledged the work carried out by the Community Responsive Forum and the relevant agencies involved, together with the Housing and Community Departments.

Funding Opportunities

Cllr. J. Leahy, Chair, drew the attention of the members to the funding opportunities report as circulated to members with agenda documentation.

Correspondence

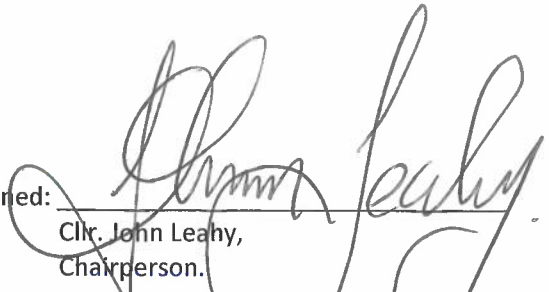
None.

Any Other Business

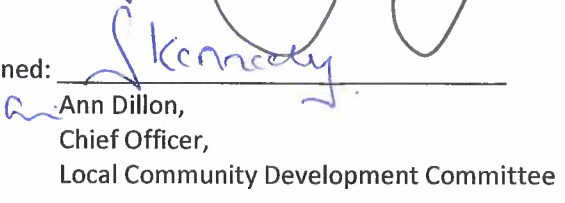
None.

Date of Next Meeting

The members agreed that the next meeting of the LCDC will take place on Thursday 14th July, 2022 at 11.00 am in the Council Chamber and via ZOOM.

Signed: 
Cllr. John Leahy,
Chairperson.

Date: 19/07/2022

Signed: 
Ann Dillon,
Chief Officer,
Local Community Development Committee

Date: 19/07/2022

