



**SLIGO LOCAL
COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE (LCDC)
ANNUAL REPORT
ACTIVITY IN 2017**

31ST MAY 2018





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Foreword from the Chairperson of Sligo Local Community Development Committee

The Local Government Reform Act of 2014 bestowed particular responsibility on local government to provide strategic leadership at local level, with the establishment of Local Community Development Committees.

LCDCs have primary responsibility for the planning and oversight of local development spends by local authorities on behalf of the State or by other local development agencies and structures and have brought a new collaborative approach which is reflected in the framework set out in the Local Economic Community Planning process.

Fortunately in Sligo there has always been a strong tradition of mutual co-operation between the local government and local development sectors both at an informal and formal level and the formal establishment of the LCDC has helped cement this partnership. I am optimistic that the LCDC will continue to work in partnership with local stakeholders and the local community to ensure that Sligo continues to benefit from national and EU resources targeting social inclusion, community and rural development. This collaboration will go a long way towards achieving the Local Economic & Community Plan's overarching vision for the County as *'An enterprising, inclusive, resilient and environmentally sustainable place which values and celebrates its unique landscape and rich culture and heritage and where the wellbeing of future generations is central to everything we do'*.

As Chairperson during the period of review of 2017, I wish to acknowledge the contribution of my predecessor Cllr Seán Mac Manus, and the commitment of all members of the LCDC and support staff during the period. The input of Members has been crucial in the development of the community elements of the Local Economic & Community Plan, the oversight of our main programmes such as the Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme and the Rural Development Programme. Members have had an input into many other funding programmes such as the Peace IV Programme in consultation with the Peace Partnership committee, the Communities Facilities Scheme and the Healthy Ireland Fund in 2017, and have always carried out their role with diligence and integrity.

Cllr Sinéad Maguire, Chairperson Sligo LCDC

A Statement by the Chief Officer, Sligo LCDC

In accordance with the Local Government Act 2001, the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) is required to prepare and submit a report to the Local Authority on its activities in the previous year. A report was prepared in May 2017 outlining activities and progress for 2015 and 2016. This report outlines progress in respect of the various LCDC functions in 2017 including a review of progress generally, details of meetings held, details of progress under the community elements of the LECP and details of the implementation, management and collaboration in relation to public-funded programmes under the LCDC's remit.

Since the submission of the last report, Sligo LCDC and its sub groups have had a busy and productive year.

Under the strong leadership of Cllr Seán MacManus as Chairperson and later Cllr Sinéad Maguire who was elected Chair on Cllr MacManus's retirement at the April 2017 meeting of the LCDC, the LCDC embarked upon an ambitious work programme which included the oversight many funding programmes.

County Sligo LEADER Partnership CLG is the Programme Implementer of SICAP in Sligo and the LCDC has been very efficient in its review and monitoring of the Programme since it commenced in April 2015.

Sligo LCDC also acts as the Local Action Group (LAG) for Sligo for the Rural Development Programme 2014 - 2020. The LEADER Programme has added to the already significant role played by the LCDC in the oversight of public funding to bring about improved social, economic and community development of the County. The LEADER programme 2014-2020 is progressing well in Sligo with the official opening of the Country's first completed project, the Walking Track at Ballinalack Community Park, on 21st December 2017 by Minister Michael Ring, T.D

In addition Sligo as a border region county will benefit from funding under the Peace IV Programme.

The period has been active and successful for the Sligo LCDC and I set out hereunder more detail in relation to this activity and other areas of progress.

Dorothy Clarke
Chief Officer

1. Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The Sligo LCDC was formally established by resolution of the local authority on 7th July 2014 for the purposes of developing, coordinating and implementing a coherent and integrated approach to local and community development. The committee is made up of representatives from the local government and local development sectors, public bodies and representatives of social, economic, environmental and community interests.

National policy envisages a central role for local government in the planning and oversight of local and community development programmes while maintaining a key role for local development entities in front line delivery.

Section 128B of the Local Government Act 2001 sets out the **functions** of LCDCs. These functions include—

- in relation to the **Local Economic and Community Plan**, to —
 - prepare and implement the community elements of a 6-year Local Economic and Community Plan (the Plan),
 - review and monitor on an on-going basis the implementation of the community elements of the Plan and, if appropriate, to revise the actions and strategies set to achieve the objectives of the Plan, and
 - consider a draft of the economic elements of the Plan and adopt a statement for consideration of the Council in this regard,
- to coordinate, manage and oversee the implementation of **local and community development programmes** that—
 - may be agreed between Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government and other Government Departments or State bodies,
 - may be sourced through direct application by the LCDC or local authority on the LCDC's behalf (e.g. EU programmes), or
 - may be agreed by the local authority with relevant State agencies or Government Departments.
- to improve the **coordination of public-funded local and community development programmes** and reduce duplication, and to coordinate generally local and community development programmes within the LCDC's operational area, and
- to prepare an **annual report** on the performance of its functions.

The LCDC, like the Corporate Policy Group (CPG) and the Strategic Policy Committees (SPC), is a committee of the local authority. Unlike the CPG and SPCs, however, the LCDC is independent from the local authority in the performance of its functions. While these functions will be determined by Government from time to

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time as provided for under Local Government Act, how those functions are carried out and any decisions to be made by the LCDC when carrying out those functions are solely a matter for the LCDC.

This independence is provided for explicitly in sections 49A (2) and 128B (8) of the 2001 Act.

1.1 Dates and attendance at LCDC Meetings

LCDC/LAG meetings took place on the following dates in 2017;

26th January	6th April	1 st June	27th July	21st Sept (LAG only)	26th October	7 th December
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Attendance of Sectors represented on Sligo LCDC at meetings during 2017 is tabulated below.

Attendance at LCDC Meetings in 2017

Sector Represented	26th Jan	6th April	1 st June	27th July	21 st Sept	26 th Oct	7 th Dec
Elected Member	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Elected Member	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Elected Member	yes	yes	yes	No	yes	yes	yes
Local Authority Official	yes	yes	yes	No	No	No	No
Local Authority Official	yes	no	yes	No	No	No	Yes
State Agency - Dept of Social Protection	yes	yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
State Agency - Health Service Executive	yes	no	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
State Agency - Education & Training Board	No	yes	yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
Local Dev Company	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Trade Union	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	No
Business	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Farming	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	No	yes
PPN - Environment	yes	yes	yes	No	No	Yes	yes
PPN - Community & Voluntary	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
PPN - Community & Voluntary	yes	No	yes	No	No	yes	No
PPN - Social Inclusion	No	No	yes	No	No	yes	yes
PPN - Social Inclusion	Yes	No	yes	Yes	yes	yes	yes

1.2 LCDC Membership in 2017

Name	Sector	Organisation
Cllr. Seán MacManus (Chair – retired at 26 th Jan meeting)	Local Government	Sligo County Council
Cllr. Sinéad Maguire (Elected Chair at meeting 6 th April)	Local Government	Sligo County Council
Cllr. Séamus Kilgannon	Local Government	Sligo County Council
Cllr Chris MacManus (from 6 th April 2017)		
Mr. Ciarán Hayes	Local Government	Sligo County Council
Mr. John Reilly	Local Government / Local Enterprise Office	Sligo County Council
Mr. Kieran O'Dwyer	State Agency	Dept. of Social Protection
Mr. Frank Morrison	State Agency	Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan HSE
Ms. Patricia Garland (replaced F. Morrison as HSE rep from July 2017)	State Agency	Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan HSE
Ms. Mary Brodie	State Agency	Mayo, Sligo, Leitrim ETB
Mr. Chris Gonley	Local Development Sector	Sligo LEADER Partnership Co.
Mr. Hugh MacConville	Trade Union Interests	Irish Congress of Trade Unions
Mr. Des Faul	Business Interests	Sligo Chamber of Commerce
Mr. Seán Tempany (Vice Chair)	Farming / Agriculture Interests	Farming / Agriculture Pillar
Mr. Michael Kirby	Environmental Interests	Environment Pillar (PPN)
Ms. Bernadette Maughan	Community & Voluntary – Social Inclusion	PPN
Mr. Gerry O'Connor	Community & Voluntary	PPN
Ms. Sharon Boles	Community & Voluntary – Social Inclusion	PPN
Ms. Jackie Sweeney	Community & Voluntary	PPN

Noted Changes to LCDC Membership in 2017 as follows;

Cllr Sinéad Maguire elected Chairperson at LCDC meeting 6th April 2017

Cllr Chris MacManus replaced Cllr Seán MacManus as an Elected Representative in April 2017

Ms. Patricia Garland replaced Mr. Frank Morrison as the HSE representative in July 2017

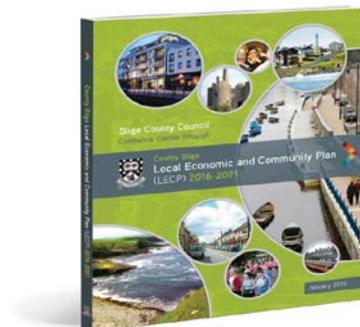
2. Local Economic and Community Plan (Community Elements)

2.1 Implementation & Monitoring of the LECP

A primary function of the LCDC under the Local Government Reform Act 2014 is the preparation of the community elements of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP).

The LECP seeks to advance the overarching purpose of local government as being 'to promote the wellbeing and quality of life of citizens and communities' by;

- The promotion of local and community development.
- The promotion of economic development



The LECP is prepared in a collaborative manner setting out the Policy framework and context, the vision and goals for the duration, and the Action Plan dealing with the 6 key themes.

- ***Employment and Sustainable Economic Activity***
- ***Education and Training***
- ***Health and Well being***
- ***Social Inclusion, Equality and Poverty,***
- ***Environment and Climate Change***
- ***Collaborative Framework***

Following the formal launch of the Plan in February 2016, a system for updating & monitoring progress of actions in the LECP is ongoing with contact with the lead agencies who submit progress on their LECP actions on a quarterly basis. Progress is updated to the LCDC by the support staff at each meeting of the LCDC.

A number of agencies have also taken the opportunity to make a presentation at meetings of the LCDC to outline generally their role in the overall context of the community and economic development of the county and specifically to make reference to those actions in the Plan that are identified with them as lead agency. Agencies who presented at meetings in 2017 are as follows;

Mr. Joe Gethin, Cranmore Regeneration Project – 4th April 2017

Mr. Gerry Home, Túsla – 27th July 2017

Mr. Enda Candon, First Western on the Proposed Tourism Strategy 2018 – 2023 – 26th October 2017

Ms. Ronnie Fay & Ms. Lynsey Kavanagh, Pavee Point – 7th December 2017

3. Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

SICAP is a national programme which aims to tackle poverty and social exclusion through local engagement and partnership between disadvantaged individuals, community organisations and public sector agencies. It has three core programme goals: community development, education and training and employment. The aim of SICAP is to ***reduce poverty; promote social inclusion and equality through local, regional and national engagement and collaboration.***

Target groups to be supported under SICAP are as follows;

- Children and Families from Disadvantaged Areas – Changed to **Disadvantaged Children & families** under V1.6 of Programme Requirements (Aug 2016)
- Lone Parents
- New Communities (including Refugees/Asylum Seekers)
- People living in Disadvantaged Communities
- People with Disabilities
- Roma
- The Unemployed (including those not on the Live Register)
- Low income Workers/Households – new group added in V 1.5 of Programme Requirements (Feb 2016)
- Travellers
- Young Unemployed People living in Disadvantaged areas
- NEETS (Young people aged 15 – 24 who are not in employment, education or training)

SICAP is funded by the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government with co-funding from the European Social Fund (ESF), including a special allocation under the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI). The allocated budget for 2017 was €585,514 with the Programme being implemented by County Sligo LEADER Partnership CLG.

3.1 SICAP Monitoring Committee

The SICAP Monitoring Committee continued to oversee the delivery of SICAP on behalf of the county based on the agreed Annual Plan for 2017 and to monitor implementation progress. Members of this Committee are as follows;

Cllr Sinead Maguire
Mr. Kieran O'Dwyer
Ms. Bernadette Maughan
Mr. Hugh MacConville

The Committee met on the following dates to discuss progress on SICAP in 2017;

9th February, 4th May, 29th June, 5th October, 30th November

Special meetings of the Monitoring Committee were also held on the following dates in 2017 to discuss the Procurement process for SICAP 2018 – 2022;

29th June, 17th July, 24th October, 26th October

3.2 Progress under SICAP 2017

Pobal set annual targets under a series of Headline Indicators and the Programme Implementer's performance is measured against these targets which are closely monitored by the SICAP Committee. All progress under SICAP is recorded on the Integrated Reporting Information System (IRIS)

In accordance with the Programme Requirements for SICAP, the Programme undergoes two reviews each year (mid-year and end-year). Quarterly Payments to the Programme Implementer is dependent on their performance against targets set with a budget of €585,514 for 2017.

At the 2017 End-year review both Key Performance Indicators (below) were exceeded and the LCDC approved the 2017 SICAP end year reports at their meeting 22nd February 2018.

Ref	Headline Indicator	Annual Target 2017	Actuals at End-year 2017
1.	Total number of disadvantaged individuals (15 years upwards) engaged under SICAP on a one-to-one basis (KPI)	719	727
2.	Number of local community groups assisted under SICAP (KPI)	55	56



The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2015-2017 is funded by the Irish Government and co-funded by the European Social Fund and includes a special allocation under the Youth Employment Initiative.

3.3 Procurement Process for SICAP 2018 – 2022

The Department issued a letter on 26th June 2017 in relation to the procurement process for the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2018 – 2022 and key changes to be implemented.

The Department’s letter briefly outlined changes for the new SICAP which included the following;

- Five year programme with two goals Goal 1 – supporting Community Groups & Goal 2 – Supporting Individuals in Education & Employment
- A greater focus on the quality of the work rather than quantity. The Department will be looking for an increase in the number of interventions with community groups and individuals and more of a focus on the quality of supports and outcomes.
- All Lots in SICAP 2018-2022 will have two targets only, to achieve – Key Performance Indicator 1 and Key Performance Indicator 2. No targets to be set for other Headline Indicators, however interventions will still be recorded on the Integrated Reporting Information System (IRIS)
- An increase in the list of Programme Target groups with the introduction of 3 new target groups as follows (Total of 13 SICAP target groups);
 - Disadvantaged Women
 - The Disengaged from the Labour Market (the economically inactive)
 - Emerging needs - Named by each LCDC based on local need (if considered necessary). The Emerging needs Group can be changed annually

Sligo LCDC agreed on the inclusion of ‘Substance Misusers’ under the Emerging needs group for 2018 and the following targets were set under the Key Performance Indicators

KPI 1: Number of local community groups supported	Annual Target 2018 44
KPI 2: Number of individuals supported	431

Following procurement and a tender evaluation process the SICAP Monitoring Committee made a recommendation to the LCDC to accept the tender and award contract to County Sligo LEADER Partnership CLG. In accordance with Pobal's guidance, a notification letter issued to County Sligo LEADER Partnership CLG on the 24th November 2017 informing them that their tender has been successful. The Funding Agreements for the SICAP 2018 - 2022 were signed on the 18th December 2017 with the new Programme commencing on 1st January 2018.



The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2018-2022 is funded by the Irish Government through the Department of Rural and Community Development and co-funded by the European Social Fund under the Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning (PEIL) 2014-2020

4. Rural Development Programme 2014 – 2020 (LEADER Programme)

In March 2015 the Department issued calls for expression from any groups that can show broad local and community participation and wishes to be considered as a Local Action Group (LAG) for the delivery of LEADER Programme in their respective areas. LEADER is a key funding pillar within the national Rural Development Programme (RDP). LEADER in Ireland is programmed under Priority 6 of the RDP – Promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas.

Sligo LCDC was successful in its Expression of Interest to deliver the LEADER element of the Rural Development Programme and acts as the Local Action Group (LAG) working in partnership with Sligo County Council as Financial Partner and Sligo LEADER Partnership CLG as Implementing Partner.

The Local Development Strategy (LDS) for County Sligo was drafted and agreed by the LCDC and was approved by the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs in March 2016 and forms the basis against which all project approvals will be measured.

The Contract between the Department and the above parties was signed in July 2016 and the Service Level Agreement between the LCDC, Sligo County Council and Sligo LEADER Partnership CLG to deliver the programme in line with the LDS was signed on 22nd September 2016. The LCDC as LAG has final approval on

what projects proceed subject to the recommendation of the Independent Evaluation Committee which was established in November 2016. The Council act as lead partner in administrative and financial matters. Its role will also be to conduct verification checks, make payments to promoters and manage drawdown from the Department and funding to the Implementing Partner.

The LEADER allocation for Sligo 2014-2020 is **€7,655,648**. This allocation is broken down between;

- Preparatory Support for the Local Development Strategy (€21,000)
- Administration & Animation Costs (€1,913,912) and
- Implementation of operations/Projects (€5,720,735)

Themes, Sub themes and Budgets for Implementation of Operations/Projects are as follows;

Theme 1	Theme 2	Theme 3
Economic Development, Enterprise Development and Job Creation	Social Inclusion	Rural Environment
Sub Themes	Sub Themes	Sub Themes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural Tourism • Enterprise Development • Rural Towns • Broadband 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic Services targeted at hard to reach communities • Rural Youth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection and sustainable use of water resources • Local Biodiversity • Renewable energy
€2,860,370	€2,002,260	€858,105

The LEADER programme 2014-2020 is progressing well in Sligo with the official opening of the Country's first completed project, the Walking Track at Ballinalack Community Park, on 21st December 2017 by Minister Michael Ring, T.D. As with many other EU Programmes, it is acknowledged that the process involves significant administration and processing, however, a number of revisions have taken place at national level during 2017 to support and streamline the Operating Rules applying to the programme.



Official Opening of the Walking Track at Ballinalack Community Park, on 21st December 2017 by Minister Michael Ring, T.D

As at April 2018, Letters of Offer/Contracts had issued to 39 Project promoters with approval to funding in the amount of €1,121,462. Projects vary from the development of community playgrounds to purchase of equipment, marketing and feasibility projects. To date €265,231 has been paid to promoters in respect of claims submitted on 6 No. projects and funds in the amount of €392,347.91 have been drawn down from the Department in respect of Administration of the LEADER Programme.



An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail
Department of Rural and
Community Development



5. Public Participation Network (PPN)

Following the commencement of section 46 of Local Government Reform Act 2014 on 1st June 2014, local authorities were required to establish PPNs and all community representation on committees of the local authority must be sourced through the PPN.

Sligo Public Participation Network (PPN) was established in September 2014, as part of the framework for public participation in local government. It facilitates the community, voluntary and environmental sectors to participate in local decision making and it has a statutory basis in the Local Government Reform Act 2014 (Section 46).

5.1 Structure of the PPN

The PPN is organised at both County and Municipal District level and will have a number of linkage groups on specific.

The role of the PPN is to facilitate structured input by community and voluntary groups, social inclusion groups and environmental groups through representation on various local policy making committees such as the Local Community Development Committee, Strategic Policy Committee, Joint Policing Committee and other policy making groups.

Over the course of 2017 the PPN provided a very useful structure to inform the community and to act as a conduit for much information to be dispatched to community groups. The PPN also made submissions on matters of relevance including the County Development Plan, National Planning Framework and Diaspora Strategy.

5.2 PPN Secretariat, Elections & Policy Support Worker

The PPN Secretariat held eleven meetings throughout 2017 to discuss the running of the PPN.

Secretariat Members are as follows;

At December 2017

David Tuffy, Albert Higgins (replaced Marcella McGarry in November 2016), Jennifer Van Aswegen, Gerry O Connor, Vanessa Clarke (replaced Susan Mahon in November 2016), Elizabeth King, Michael Bell and Michael Kirby

Elections were held in February 2017 to elect PPN representatives to North West Fisheries Local Action Group and Co Sligo Place Names Committee

In January 2018, recruitment process commenced for a new PPN Development worker to assist Sligo PPN in their work plan going forward.

5.3 First National Public Participation Network Conference

Sligo PPN hosted the first National PPN Conference in the Clayton Hotel on 19th October with over 200 delegates in attendance representing PPN's, Local Authorities and a variety of groups from around the country. The Conference was officially opened by Sean Kyne, T.D, Minister of State for Community Development, Natural Resources and Digital Development. Delegates on the day were welcomed by Cllr Hubert Keaney, Mayor of Sligo MD and Mr. David Tuffy, Acting Chairman of the PPN Secretariat. Speakers on the day included: Mr. Jason Kearney, Principal Officer, Department of Rural & Community Development (DRCD); Mr. Michael Ewing, Environmental Pillar; Mr. John Lonergan, Former Governor Mountjoy Prison; Dr. Sean Healy and Sara Burke, Social Justice Ireland; Jamie Moore Fingal PPN., and Dorothy Clarke, Deputy Chief Executive.

The Conference also highlighted Sligo's designation as EVC 2017. The DRCD allocated funding in the amount of €8,000 towards the conference.

A Report on the conference has been compiled and circulated to attendees, PPN workers, elected members among others.



Members of Sligo PPN Secretariat and Staff of Sligo County Council with Minister of State, Sean Kyne, T.D. October 2017

5.4 Sligo PPN statistics at December 2017

At December 2017, there were 445 groups registered with Sligo PPN. Of these 290 are from the Sligo MD and 155 from the Ballymote /Tubbercurry MD. Of those groups 383 have registered with the Community & Voluntary College, 46 with the Social Inclusion College and 16 with the Environmental College.

The PPN is represented on 12 committees in Co. Sligo through 39 representatives, i.e. 3 Strategic Policy Committees, Sligo LCDC, Co Sligo Heritage Forum, Joint Policing Committee, North West Regional Drug & Alcohol Taskforce, Sligo Sport and Recreation Partnership, Sligo County Council Disability Consultative Committee, Independent Evaluation Committee for RDP Programme, North West Fisheries Local Action Group, , Place Names Committee.



6. Peace IV Programme

Sligo is to benefit from the PEACE IV programme along with the other 5 counties in the Border Region i.e., Leitrim, Cavan Donegal, Louth and Monaghan. The indicative budget allocated to Sligo was €860,866. The Plan will operate for a minimum 2 year period.

At the LCDC meeting on the 22nd September 2016 a resolution was passed that the LCDC agree and adopt the PEACE IV Plan for submission to the SEUPB by 23rd September, 2016.

SEUPB issued a Letter of Offer to Sligo County Council as Lead Partner in January 2017. In the months that followed, a series of pre-commencement conditions were met. The Peace IV staff team consisting of a Programme Manager and Administrator took up their positions in September 2017.

Programmes in the following areas will be delivered as part of the Local PEACE Action Plan, to be implemented by Sligo County Council/LCDC Peace partnership:

- Children and Young People
- Shared Spaces & Services
- Building Positive Relations

Projects will be delivered via a blend of external providers and partner delivery arrangements. A Small Grants Fund, under the Building Positive Relations theme, will support peace building initiatives at local level throughout County Sligo. All projects and initiatives are to be rolled out during the course of 2018 and 2019.

Implementation of the Peace IV Programme is being monitored by the Peace IV Sub Committee which was established as a subcommittee of the LCDC at their meeting in April 2016.

Members of the Peace IV sub-committee are as follows;

Name	Representation (LCDC nominee)
Cllr Sinead Maguire	LCDC Chairperson
Ms. Sharon Boles	Public Participation Network (PPN) Social Inclusion College
Mr. Hugh MacConville	Social Partner – Irish Congress of Trade Unions
Mr. Michael Kirby	Public Participation Network (PPN) Environment College
Mr. Gerry O'Connor	Public Participation Network (PPN) Community & Voluntary
Mr. Chris Gonley	County Sligo Leader Partnership CLG.
Mr. Chris MacManus	Tus Nua
Mr. Shane McManus	Youth Officer Mayo Sligo Leitrim Education Training Board
Sgt Phillip Maree	An Garda Siochana
Mr. David Simpson	Minority Faiths

The official launch of the Programme was held on 10th April 2018 and featured speeches from Cathaoirleach Councillor Séamus Kilgannon, Councillor Sinéad Maguire Chair of LCDC and Peace IV Sub Committee, Ms. Brenda Hegarty SEUPB with Ms. Dorothy Clarke, Director of Planning, Community and Economic Development and LCDC Chief Officer acting as MC. The Keynote speaker was Ms. Linda Ervine of the Turas Project, East Belfast Mission.



Ms. Aisling Smyth, Administrative Officer; Mr. Shane McManus Peace IV Subcommittee; Mr. Chris Gonley, Peace IV Subcommittee; Cllr Chris MacManus, Peace IV Subcommittee; Mr. Michael Kirby, Peace IV Subcommittee; Ms. Dorothy Clarke, Director of Services; Cllr Sinéad Maguire, Chairperson Sligo LCDC; Mr. David Simpson, Peace IV Subcommittee

7. Healthy Ireland Fund

The Healthy Ireland initiative is a Government-led initiative to create an Irish society where everyone can enjoy positive **physical** and **mental health**, and where **wellbeing is valued** and supported at every level of society. An effective way of translating the Healthy Ireland objectives into practical actions is to align with those actions in the Local Economic & Community Plans (LECPs) that can further those objectives. With this in mind, in 2017, the Government approved the creation of a 'Healthy Ireland Fund with an initial allocation of €5 million to support the implementation of its objectives in a practical way such as through alignment with specific objectives contained in the LECP's. Up to €100,000 in 2017 was available to each LCDC for 'funding to commence, progress and/or strengthen relevant actions in their Local Economic & Community Plans, LECP's'.

The aim of the Healthy Ireland Fund was to support innovative, cross-sectoral, evidence based projects, programmes and initiatives that implement key national policies to support projects and programmes aimed at children and young people and their families, communities and vulnerable groups, who are at most risk of experiencing health inequalities.

The Fund and applications too, are administered by POBAL and following its launch in late August 2017, a 'call out' was made to LECP 'Lead Agencies' (i.e. those who are responsible for reporting on and delivering on specific Health & Wellbeing related actions in the LECP) to make submissions for inclusion in the Application by Sligo LCDC to the Healthy Ireland Fund. Following a collaborative process the following is a summary of the projects that constituted the application by Sligo LCDC to the Healthy Ireland Fund.

This application consisted of proposals from a range of agencies such as Sligo Sports & Recreation Partnership, the HSE, the North West Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force and the Cranmore Regeneration Office. A common thread running through all was a focus on marginalized and disadvantaged groups in our society, developing and rolling out appropriate physical health and general well being programmes with an emphasis on empowerment and the building of capacity within such groups and communities.

The operating terms of the scheme was that all agencies must have completed their respective projects by 31st March 2018. However, this was subsequently extended to 25th June 2018. The final 10% of the grant will be released by POBAL once all returns and reporting has been completed.

Coinciding with this, the 2018 Healthy Ireland Fund was announced in April 2018. However, the allocation here was reduced from €100,000 per LCDC to €75,000. POBAL are currently assessing applications and it is expected a decision on these will be reached and notification given to the LCDC in August 2018.

8. Funding Opportunities

In terms of progressing with the Implementation of the actions of the LECP a number of funding initiatives became available in 2017 to facilitate economic and community development particularly in rural areas under the overall Government Programme for Rural Development.

At the LCDC meeting held on the 1st June 2017, Members were advised of the following funding opportunities;

8.1 Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2017

The Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2017 managed by the Department of Community & Rural Development (DRCD) was created to support the revitalisation of towns and villages in order to improve the living and working environment of their communities and increase their potential to support increased economic activity into the future. The scheme was targeted at two categories of Towns/Villages; Category 1: Towns and villages with a population of less than 5,000 people and Category 2: Towns with a population of 5,001 to 10,000 people. The primary focus of the 2017 scheme was on villages and towns with a population of less than 5,000 which will receive at least 60% of available funding.

Sligo County Council has been successfully approved under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2017 from the DCRD in respect of 14 no. locations, as follows:

Achonry/ Lavagh; Ballisodare; Ballygawley; Ballymote; Banada; Bunnanadden; Carney; Carraroe; Coolaney; Easkey; Gurteen; Ransboro/Strandhill; Rosses Point; Tubbercurry with an allocated sum of €1,063,968.

Match funding in the sum of €67,000 has been allocated towards this scheme from Sligo County Council, with a further €67,000 contribution from successful local communities.

8.2 Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme 2017

In accordance with the Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme 2017, promoted by the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Sligo County Council was tasked with the responsibility to produce applications in the county by the deadline of the **31st of May 2017**.

The Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme is part of the Government's Action Plan for Rural Development and will provide funding for the development of new outdoor recreational infrastructure or the necessary maintenance, enhancement or promotion of existing outdoor recreational infrastructure in Ireland. Funds are provided to projects where works have not yet commenced and will be released to successful applicants in tranches based on a specified level of works being completed under three measures.

Measure 1 was grant aided to the value of €129,990. Measure 3 was grant aided to the value of €840, 285.

8.3 CLÁR

As part of Government's overall programme for Rural Development, a number of initiatives, aimed at assisting the social and economic regeneration of rural areas, were introduced by the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs during 2016. The active engagement and participation of Local Authorities in conjunction with their communities has been, and will continue to be, critical to the success of these initiatives that aim to support the social and economic development of rural areas in a sustainable way.

The Department announced a new round of funding for 2017 under the CLÁR scheme. CLÁR is a targeted investment programme which provides funding for small scale infrastructural projects in rural areas which suffered the greatest levels of population decline. An allocation of €5 million was available for CLÁR in 2017 with the objective to maximise the impact of the funding for the benefit of communities in CLÁR areas.

CLÁR 2017 provided funding under the following measures;

Measure 1: Support for Schools/Community Safety Measures (€2M)

Measure 2: Play Areas (€0.75M)

Measure 3: Targeted Community Infrastructure Needs (€1.5M)

Measure 4: First Response Support Measure (€0.75M)

Applications were accepted from Local Authorities for measures 1, 2 and 3. Measure 4 applications were accepted directly by the Department from established organisations/groups that operate entirely on a voluntary basis and are involved in emergency rescue/first response efforts.

Total funding approved under CLÁR for 2017 for Sligo County Council was €274,650.

8.4 Communities Facilities Grant Scheme

In Sligo, on 10th March 2017 the Minister of State for Communities and the National Drugs Strategy Catherine Byrne TD announced a new €2 million Capital grants scheme for disadvantaged urban and rural areas. The Communities Facilities Grant scheme focused on providing small-scale capital grants to help grass roots community projects get underway or take the next step towards completion.

The Scheme was administered by the Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs) along with the Municipal Districts under the remit of the Local Authorities (LAs) on behalf of the Department. LCDCs were given the responsibility for targeting and allocating funding as they are ideally placed to identify the applications which most suitably address the Scheme's target groups and issues in each LA administrative area.

The allocation of €2 million nationally broke down at €64,500 per Local Authority. In Sligo, it was agreed that the €64,500 be split equally between the two municipal districts at €32,250 per district. Funding available under the Scheme was for capital projects or elements of projects only.

128 Applications were received in total with 82 applications approved for funding.

Municipal District	Total No Applications	Approved Applications
Sligo	85	50
Ballymote-Tobercurry	43	32

At their meeting on the 27th July 2017, the LCDC considered the applications received and made a recommendation to each Municipal District, in accordance with operating guidelines issued by the Department. One condition of the scheme was that each application recommended for approval must be complementary with the LECF.

Special meetings of the MDs were convened on 31st July 2017 to allow early approval in order that letters of offer could issue to successful applicants as soon as possible thereafter.

9. European Volunteering Capital (EVC) 2017 – Sligo

At the November 2016 meeting of Sligo LCD, Members were advised of Sligo's designation as the European Volunteering Capital 2017 after a successful joint bid by Sligo County Council and Sligo Volunteer Centre. This was an enormous achievement for Sligo to be selected for this designation, to host a European Capital event which has National and International significance. The competition itself was established in 2014 by the European Volunteer Centre based in Brussels, the purpose of which is to promote and develop volunteering at local and regional level. The awarded municipality is chosen from candidate municipality bids (8 candidates for 2017) by an international jury. Previous winners are Barcelona (2014); Lisbon (2015) and London (2016).

The preparation of a programme of events for 2017 commenced with the Launch on 27th January 2017 by Minister Charles Flanagan in the Aurivo Auditorium, IT Sligo.

The aims of European Volunteering Capital 2017 in Sligo included:

- recognising the culture of volunteering and community spirit in Sligo and in Ireland;
- creating pride among volunteers of the value of their contribution to enhancing the quality of life of those in the community and combating social inclusion;
- showcasing, promoting and celebrating volunteerism in the wider community;
- exploring the development of a formalised Sligo Diaspora initiative from the raised profile of this European designation as a potential legacy of the celebration
- leveraging regional and national support for the EVC. The uniqueness of Sligo's successful EVC bid was the ability to involve all levels, ages of local society and both urban and rural communities in the year-long celebration
- showcasing Sligo, its natural beauty, culture, sport, arts, music, community spirit, enhanced by volunteers
- maximise Economic benefits that can be derived from the designation.

A Steering Committee was established consisting of officials of the Council, officials of the Volunteer centre, representatives of the Volunteer board, St. Angela's College, Marian Harkin, MEP, Fáilte Ireland, and others as required from time to time, to work or advise on certain aspects of the work programme which consisted of a year long, largely volunteer-led calendar of events for County Sligo.

The year was marked by a calendar of events which included participation from a wide range of community groups, business and public sector. It afforded Sligo an opportunity to take the limelight on a national and international stage.

The official closing ceremony to mark the conclusion of Sligo's year as European Volunteering Capital 2017 was held on the 1st December 2017 in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Sligo and was a major event attended by dignitaries from local, national and international destinations. A special piece of music was commissioned by Sligo County Council entitled 'Sligeach – As lámha le chéile' and was performed by Michael Rooney and his orchestra. The event was addressed by the Minister for Justice and Equality. Finally the evening concluded with a massive light show focused on the walls of City Hall which depicted the story of the Year accompanied by music and wonderful images. This show ran for a week at City Hall into the Christmas period.



Light Show - City Hall, Quay Street, Sligo

10. Sligo Economic Forum

Action 1.1.1 of the Local Economic & Community Plan 2016 – 2021 proposes the establishment of an Economic Development Forum for Sligo for the purposes of:

- Planning strategically and directing the economic vision for Sligo
- Collectively promoting Sligo in all its facets
- Sharing information and best practice

An exploratory meeting took place on the 14th February 2017 between Representatives from Sligo County Council, LEO, Enterprise Ireland, IDA Ireland, Chamber of Commerce, IT Sligo, Fáilte Ireland and St. Angela's College. The purpose of this initial meeting was to consider a role and objectives for the Forum. A further meeting of the group took place on the 23rd March 2017 for the purposes of preparing a submission to the National Planning Framework.

Since then the Sligo Economic Forum has become firmly established and has met on a number of occasions with representation from Sligo County Council officials and members, LEO, Enterprise Ireland, IDA Ireland, Chamber of Commerce, IT Sligo, Fáilte Ireland, St. Angela's College, and representatives from the Business and Farming sectors. The Chair of the SEF is Mr. Aaron Forde from Aurivo Co-Op Society Ltd.

The Forum's considerations to date have focused on its role, function and membership, the National Planning Framework, Residential property availability, Rates revaluations and the Regional Enterprise Development Feasibility Study. It is further considering a draft 10 point collaborative Action Plan to inform its work agenda for 2018 with particular emphasis on the commissioning of an overarching Brand for Sligo to ensure a single collaborative message across all major stakeholders.

11. Conclusion

The LCDC has achieved another successful year in 2017 and continues with its work programme. While the LCDC has many aspects of work to consider the fundamental and underlying function it carries out is in the overseeing and monitoring of the LECP, a framework for collaborative action with the ultimate aim of improving quality of life for all who live, work and visit our county.

The LCDC stands for collaboration and encourages all agencies, politicians, communities and public and private interests to work together to ensure that Sligo maximises its opportunity for development.
