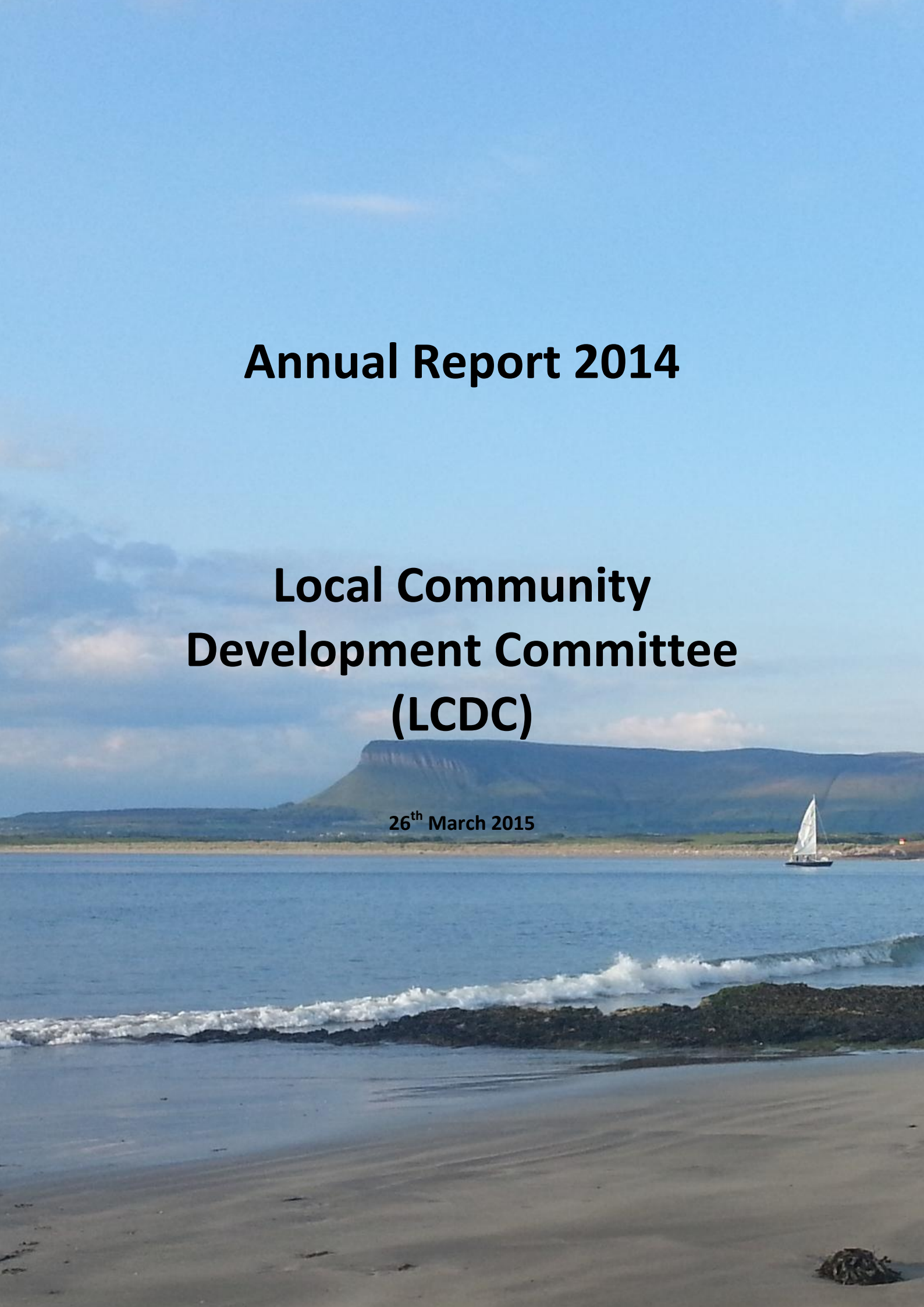


Annual Report 2014

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

26th March 2015



Sligo Local and Community Development Committee

Annual report 2014

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1. Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The Sligo LCDC has been established 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.

The formal establishment of the LCDC by resolution of the local authority on 7th July 2014 brings with it significant new responsibilities for local government in relation to the promotion of local 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.

The LCDC will prepare a six year local community plan which will include measures to tackle poverty and disadvantage, support enterprise, employment and training, develop community infrastructure and the promotion of economic development. Specifically the LCDC will be responsible for the strategic coordination, governance, planning and oversight of local development expenditure by local authorities on behalf of the state or by other local development agencies and structures.

The enhanced oversight role by local government in this area is consistent with its purpose of promoting the well-being and quality of life of citizens and communities. The policy envisages more joined up working between the local government and local development sector to ensure local communities derive maximum benefit from local, national and EU resources targeting social inclusion, community and rural development.

1.1 Functions of Local Community Development Committee

The functions of the LCDC are set out in Section 128A of Local Government 2001 (as inserted by section 36 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014). They are as follows;

- a. Prepare and adopt the community elements of the 6 year Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP).
- b. Implement or arrange for the implementation of the community elements of the LECP.
- c. Review the 'community elements' of the plan at least once over the six year period and amend as considered necessary.
- d. Monitor and review implementation of the community elements and revise actions and strategies as appropriate.
- e. Coordinate the management and oversee the implementation of the programmes that have been approved either by the local authority or by agreement between the LCDC and other public bodies.
- f. Ensure effectiveness, coordination, consistency and the avoidance of duplication between publicly funded local and community development programmes.
- g. Optimise resources for the benefit of local communities and improve the efficiency with which publicly funded local and community development resources are used.
- h. Consider and adopt a statement in respect of the economic elements of the Plan to be prepared by the local authorities.
- i. Prepare and submit an annual report on the performance of its duties no later than the 31st March each year in relation to the performance of its functions for the preceding year.

1.2 Activities

LCDC meetings took place on the following dates in 2014: 28th May 2014, 18th July 2014, 9th October 2014, 4th December 2014 (minutes posted on County Council website). The following is a summary of the committees' activities.

- Adoption of Terms of Reference and Standing orders.
- Appointment of Chair (Cllr Sean MacManus) and Vice Chair (Sean Tempany)
- Oversight of the initial consultation process for the community elements of the Local Economic and Community Plan to be developed under the Local Government Reform Act 2014 (more details below).
- Collation of baseline socio-economic information to inform strategic priorities
- Development of the socio-economic framework for the community elements of the Local Economic and Community Plan including the identification of a vision and of high level priorities and opportunities.
- Agreement of a draft vision and high level priorities for the strategic plan.
- Oversight of the Local Community Development Programme (national programme targeting disadvantage (details below)
- Submissions to Department in relation to Rural Development Programme (LEADER) implementation arrangements.
- Oversight of the second stage of the procurement of the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme - SICAP (2015-2017) including
 - Establishment of an Evaluation subcommittee in relation to SICAP,
 - preparation and issuing of tender documentation to short listed candidates
 - Preparation and agreement of evaluation plan

1.3 LCDC Membership 2014

Name	Sector	Organisation
Cllr. Sinead Maguire	Local Government	Sligo County Council
Cllr. Sean MacManus	Local Government	Sligo County Council
Cllr. Seamus Kilgannon	Local Government	Sligo County Council
Mr. Ciarán Hayes	Local Government	Sligo County Council
Mr. John Reilly	Local Government	Sligo County Council / LEO
Mr. Kieran O'Dwyer	State Agency	Dept. of Social Protection
Mr. Damian McCallion	State Agency	Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan HSE
Mr. Michael Burke	State Agency	Mayo, Sligo, Leitrim ETB

Mr. Chris Gonley	Local Development Sector	Sligo LEADER Partnership Co. Ltd
Mr. Hugh MacConville	Trade Union Interests	Irish Congress of Trade Unions
Mr. Paul Keyes	Business Interests	Sligo Chamber of Commerce
Mr. Sean Tempany	Farming / Agriculture Interests	Farming / Agriculture Pillar
Dr. John Bartlett*	Environmental Interests	Environment Pillar
Ms. Bernadette Maughan*	Community & Voluntary - Social Inclusion	Sligo County Community Forum
Mr. Gerald O'Connor*	Community & Voluntary -	Sligo County Community Forum
Ms. Vanessa Clarke*	Community & Voluntary -	Sligo County Community Forum
Mr. Brian Scanlon*	Community & Voluntary - RAPID Area	Sligo County Community Forum

**The Community and Environmental representatives are temporary pending the establishment and elections of the Sligo Public Participation Network*



Front row – J Reilly, B. Maughan, S Kilgannon, S MacManus, H. McConville, S. Maguire, B Swineburn (representing K ODwyer). Backrow – J Bartlett, C Gonley, V Clarke, C Hayes, S Tempany, G. O Connor, B Scanlan (missing from picture P Keyes, M Burke, D. McCallion, K ODwyer)

2. Local Economic and Community Plan (Community Elements)

A primary function of the LCDC under the Local Government Act 2001 is the preparation of the community elements of the Local Economic and Community Plan.

The LECP is for the purposes of:

1. The promotion of economic development
2. The promotion of local and community development

The LECP is to be developed over five stages and must be adopted by the Local Authority by December 2015. The Local Authority is responsible for developing the economic element whilst the LCDC is responsible for developing the community element. The plan will form the strategic framework for all public funded local, economic and community development programmes with the economic element prepared by the local authority and the community element to be prepared by the Local Community Development Committee. The LCDC is still awaiting final guidelines from the Department in relation to the Local Economic and Community Plan, however work has commenced on the basis of the preliminary guidelines.

2.1 Progress 2014

The first stage of the LECP process commenced at the end of July, following agreement by the LCDC as to the broad consultation framework for the plan. Submissions were invited from the general public aimed at identifying the key community & economic issues, priorities and opportunities for Sligo. Information on the consultation process was publicly advertised and distributed widely throughout public offices, libraries, HSE, ETB and other community centres and civic spaces throughout the County. Email and social media was used extensively to distribute the information and key workers & agencies in the community and economic sectors were briefed on the process.

By September 2014 98 submissions were received from a wide variety of individuals, groups, networks, public organisations and businesses. The responses were collated and analysed and the following is a summary of the key priorities emerging

Priority Area	Submissions referring
Employment & Economic Activity	68%

Social Inclusion & Poverty	46%
Education & Training	19%
Climate Change & Environment	14%
Health & Well-being	21%

A preliminary vision, high level goals and a socio economic Framework for the Plan was agreed by the LCDC on 4th December 2015. A summary of the submissions, consultation process and socio-economic framework is available on the County Council’s website.

In December Sligo LCDC agreed a draft vision and socio-economic framework for the plan on the basis of the consultation process and the baseline data collated.

3. Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme

Sligo LCDC is responsible for the management of the SICAP (Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme) at a local level. In 2014 this involved the oversight of the second stage of the public procurement process for the local SICAP Programme Implementer.

SICAP (Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme) 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, and will operate across the Republic of Ireland. SICAP is the successor programme to the Local and Community Development Programme (LCDP). The Department of Environment, Community and Local Government is the lead funding Department for SICAP with technical support from Pobal.

In 2014 Sligo was allocated €439,136 in respect of this programme for April 2015- December 2014. The first stage of the procurement process, involving the short-listing of suitably qualified programme implementers, was managed by Pobal on behalf of the Department.

The second stage of the process commenced in October with Sligo LCDC issuing an invitation to tender to the shortlisted companies.

In line with national guidance Sligo LCDC established an Evaluation sub-committee (made up of LCDC members with the LCDC Chief Officer in attendance and evaluation team (made up of internal Council staff with expertise in the area of procurement, social inclusion and project assessment)).

The members of the Evaluation Subcommittee were

- Damien McCallion – Public Bodies
- Sean Tempany – Farming Pillar
- Vanessa Clarke – Community and Voluntary Sector
- John Bartlett – Environmental Pillar
- Dorothy Clarke – Chief Officer

The members of the Evaluation Team were

- Peter McCarrick – Procurement Officer
- Síofra Kilcullen – Administrative Officer
- Dolores McDonagh – Administrative Officer/Peace Programme Manager.

Team and committee members undertook training in relation to the evaluation process and minimum award criteria in November and December 2014. A detailed evaluation plan was prepared. One tender was received on the 19th December 2014.

4. Local Community Development Programme

In 2014 Sligo LCDC was responsible for oversight of the DECLG's Local and Community Development Programme from July 2014 to December 2014. This is the final phase of a three year programme delivered locally by Sligo LEADER Partnership Company

The aim of the Local and Community Development Programme is to tackle poverty and social exclusion through partnership and constructive engagement between Government and its agencies, and people in disadvantaged communities. The programme has **4 goals**

1. Promote awareness, knowledge and uptake of a wide range of statutory, voluntary and community services
2. Increase access to formal and informal educational, recreational and cultural development activities and resources
3. Increase people's work readiness and employment prospects
4. Promote active engagement with policy, practice and decision-making processes on matters affecting local communities

The LCDC has received 6 monthly financial reports from Pobal, and four quarterly reports on the programme targets and expenditure. These have been considered at each LCDC meeting. Beneficiary participation rates including targets and actual numbers participating by the end of 2014 is summarised in section 3.1. Budget versus expenditure for 2014 is summarised in section 3.2.

4.1 National Beneficiary Participation Rates (Q4 2014)

BPR	Targets	Actuals
Number of Individuals supported (Caseload)	591	544
Number of young people/children engaged with the Programme	1299	1729
Number of local community groups supported	47	42
Beneficiaries participating in education	46 (accredited) 133 (unaccredited)	41 162
Beneficiaries participating in labour market training	50 (accredited) 13 (unaccredited)	52 59
Individuals supported into employment	25	23
Individuals supported into self-employment	69	123

4.2 Budgets versus Expenditure (Q4 2014)

Budget Headings	Initial Budget Amount 2014	Current Budget Amount 2014	Cumulative Expenditure	% Spend	Amount left to Spend
Administration	€208,708	€195,177	€195,177	100%	€0
Goal 1	€67,814	€66,939	€65,762	98%	€1,177
Goal 2	€178,455	€179,097	€178,578	100%	€520
Goal 3	€162,953	€175,517	€175,510	100%	€7
Goal 4	€55,075	€56,275	€55,458	99%	€817
Overall Total	€673,005	€673,005	€670,485	100%	€2,521

5. Public Participation Network (PPN)

Over 2014 the Sligo LCDC team have also played an integral role in the establishment of the Sligo Public Participation Network in order to facilitate participation by the community and voluntary, social inclusion and environmental sectors in local decision making processes.

In September 2013 the Government established the Working Group on Citizens Engagement in Local Government to make recommendations on more extensive and diverse input by citizens into the decision making at local government level. The Report of the Working Group, published on 28th February 2014, recommends the establishment of a number of new structures to facilitate community engagement in local decision-making. In particular they propose the establishment of a **Public Participation Network (PPN)** in each local authority area to enable the public take an active formal role in relevant policy making and oversight committees of the local authority. Following the

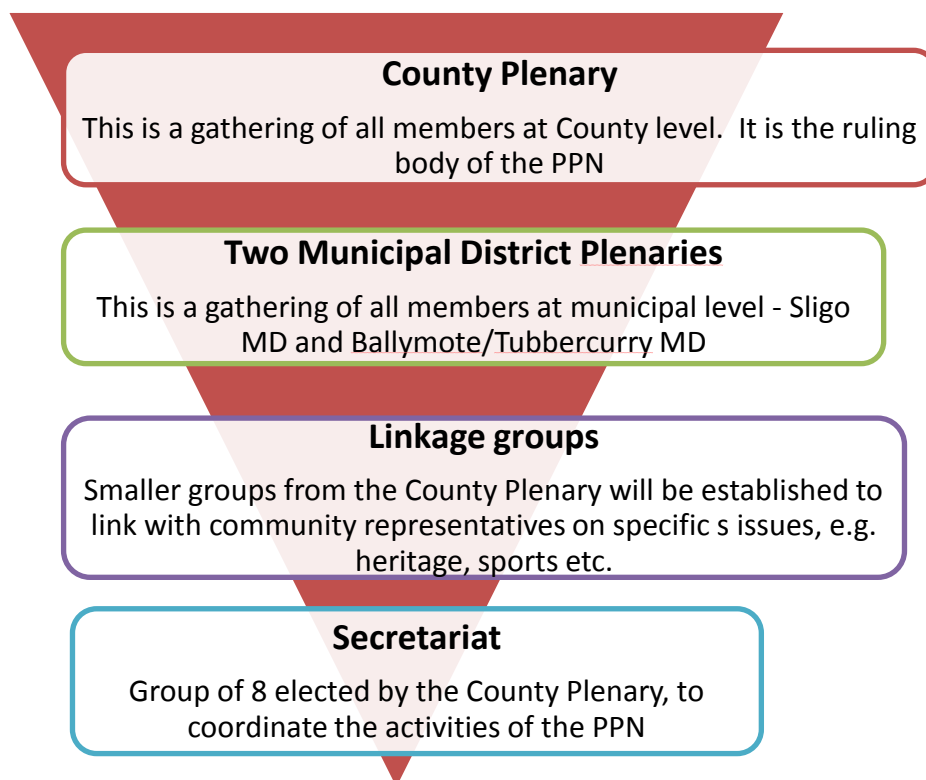


Secretariat elections 2014

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

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 diagram below illustrated the structure in Sligo



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,



PPN Members participating in discussion groups 2014

Sligo Peace and Reconciliation Partnership and other policy making groups.

5.2 Activities to date

In 2014 Sligo County Council's LCDC Team has been working closely with Sligo County Community Forum towards the establishment of the PPN. The team took the view that direct promotion by key organisations and groups, is the best way of ensuring the PPN is active in a meaningful way by the end of the year. To date the following has taken place:

- The development & implementation of a communications strategy in conjunction with the Sligo County Community Forum to facilitate the establishment of the PPN.
- The establishment of a website (www.sligoppn.com) and the distribution of information leaflets and posters throughout the county promoting the PPN and encouraging community groups to register.
- The establishment a unit in City Hall to deal with queries on the PPN has been established in City Hall.
- Key workers/activists in the youth, volunteer, heritage, arts, environmental, social inclusion, sports and community sectors briefed on the role and animated to encourage groups to join.
- Public information sessions in Easkey, Tubbercurry, Ballymote, Grange and Sligo City.
- Organisation of a plenary session and consultation with 140 participants.
- Organisations and oversight of elections process for PPN secretariat including the establishment of online system for registration of groups and nomination of candidates
- Developmental support to PPN secretariat.
- Preparation of three local ebullitions (October, November & December) containing practical information for the community and voluntary sector on grants, policies & events distributed to 700 groups, organisations & individuals.
- Development of an action plan for the development of the Network.



Secretariat members elected 26th November 2014. Back row- G OConnor, D Tuffy, M. Bell, M Kirby, Front Row G. Browne, J. VanAswagen, S. Mahon, M. McGarry

By the end of 2014 292 groups from the Community and Voluntary, social inclusion and environmental sectors had registered with the PPN.

Date Approved by Sligo LCDC

26th March 2015

LCDC Chair

Sean MacManus

Chief Officer

Dorothy Clarke