

Sligo Local Community Development Committee

Thursday 4th December 2014, 9.30am, City Hall, Sligo

PRESENT

Councillor Sinead Maguire	Local Government Member	Sligo County Council
Councillor Sean MacManus	Local Government Member	Sligo County Council
Councillor Seamus Kilgannon	Local Government Member	Sligo County Council
Mr. Benny Swinburne for Mr. Kieran O'Dwyer	State Agency	Dept. Of Social Protection
Mr. Frank Morrison for Mr. Damian McCallion	State Agency	Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan HSE
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	Social Inclusion	Sligo County Community Forum
Mr. Gerard O'Connor	Community & Voluntary – Rural Communities	Sligo County Community Forum
Ms. Vanessa Clarke	Community & Voluntary – Urban Communities	Sligo County Community Forum
Mr. Brian Scanlon	Social Inclusion- RAPID Communities	Sligo County Community Forum

APOLOGIES

Mr. Michael Burke	State Agency	Mayo, Sligo, Leitrim ETB
Mr. John Reilly	Local Government / LEO	Sligo County Council
Mr. Ciarán Hayes	Local Government /CE	Sligo County Council

IN ATTENDANCE

Ms. Dorothy Clarke	Chief Officer LCDC	Sligo County Council
Ms. Síofra Kilcullen	Administrative Officer	Sligo County Council
Ms. Fiona Gilligan	Staff Officer	Sligo County Council
Ms. Maria Collery	A/Assistant Staff Officer	Sligo County Council

1. DECLARATION S RE: CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Letter from Ms. Clodagh McDonnell, DECLG re Conflict Of interest in relation to SICAP was read to members. The letter drew attention to Sections 6.6 and 10.6 of the Guidelines for the Establishment and Operation of LCDCs.

- LCDCs must observe EU requirements of equal treatment & non-discrimination in any/all engagements with parties interested in winning programme competitions.
- Procedures to be in place to deal with conflicts of interest.

To comply with this, it was agreed that members will be asked to make any declarations of interest at the beginning of each meeting in relation to agenda items.

With regards the agenda of 4th December Mr. Chris Gonley, SLPCo declared an interest in SICAP.

2. MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting dated 9th October 2014 were proposed by Mr. Paul Keyes and seconded by Mr. Hugh MacConville.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

a. Mr. David Dalton, DECLG, Alignment Division dated 21/11/14 re Rural Development Programme

Ms Dorothy Clarke outlined the main issues raised in letter from Mr. David Dalton, Principal Officer, DECLG issued in response to correspondence from the LCDC date 13th October re Rural Development Programme and a meeting with the Chief Officer, LCDC Chairman, Chief Executive SCC & officials. Main points raised;

- The Department outlined that it is government policy that LCDCs offer the most effective means for achieving and inclusive and integrated partnership approach to LEADER implementation in their respective areas. LCDCs should be the new Local Action groups

(LAGS) under the new programme where it can be achieved as part of an open and transparent selection process.

- The Department had outlined a possible approach whereby one of the key LAG partners is tasked with the development of the Local Development Strategy on behalf of the LAG or LCDC. It is the responsibility of the LCDC to agree the final strategy and submit to Department.
- This approach envisages that Local Development Companies, given their experience will operationalise the strategy on behalf of the LCDC through a Service Level Agreement/Memorandum of Understanding but would remain accountable to the LCDC.
- Local Authority would be lead financial partner and as such underwrite/indemnify the LAG and its members for actions taken in the implementation of the LDS. As such the LA would have a robust verification role in respect of process around decision making so that it can confidently underwrite LAG activities facilitated through article 28 checks
- Issue of the arrears payment system is being discussed with the CCMA as part of the national dialogue.
- EU Regulation 1303/2013 Art 34 confirms that decision making rests solely with the LAG. No partner can override a LAG decision.
- No scope for an increase in the LEADER budget at this time. Maximum allowable admin cost is 25% of budget.
- The allocation of costs to cover article 28 verification checks by Local Authorities is being considered.
- The exact arraignment and their practical implementation are a matter for local consideration and agreement with LAG partners (with the exception of fundamental requires such as the LAG role in developing the Local Development Strategy, decision making by LAG and indemnification of LAG by the local authorities.
- A document with clearer explanation of roles and responsibilities will issue before the call for expressions of interest.

Discussion - Mr. Chris Gonley advised of documentation released under a FOI request to Birdwatch Ireland relating to correspondence between the EU Commission and Irish Government which indicates that the methodology for delivering the LEADER programme is still being negotiated. As members had not received this documentation, Cllr Sean MacManus asked that this correspondence (Bird Watch) be circulated to LCDC members.

b. From Ms. Clodagh McDonnell (DECLG) re Conflict of Interest SICAP

Dealt with under Item 1.

5. TERMS OF REFERENCE AND STANDING ORDERS

The Draft Terms of Reference & Standing Orders, Sligo LCDC July 2014 were circulated and discussed Points raised as follows:

The importance of having continuity in relation to the roles of chair and vice chair was discussed. There was a consensus that they should sit for a three year period.

In relation to points 5.2 & 5.8, it was clarified that the role of the LCDC in relation to the economic element of the plan was to too consider and adopt a statement in respect of the economic elements

of a draft of the Plan prepared by the local authority in accordance with section 66C of the Act. This statement would be developed with input from the LCDC.

The draft ToR were agreed and proposed by Mr Gerry O'Connor and seconded by Mr Brian Scanlon subject to amendments as discussed.

Issue of expenses for members that do not receive support from nominating organisations was raised. Chief Officer agreed to investigate further with the Department.

6. RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (LEADER)

During discussion on the Leader programme it was queried if the LEADER programme is to be extended to cover all of the County Sligo. The meeting was advised by Mr Sean Tempany that the programme was specifically devised to support **Rural Communities and rural communities** must be the highest priority in any new programme. It was agreed to investigate this further. A Letter is to issue to DECLG to look for inclusion of all of County Sligo in any new round of Leader funding. (EU Threshold of 15,000 population excludes Sligo town at present).

Proposed by Mr Brian Scanlon and seconded by Mr Hugh MacConville.

7. LCDC PROGRAMME (LOCAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2011 - 2015)

a. Quarter 2 Performance Monitoring & Financial Report

b. Monthly Financial Reports Sept, October

Both above reports from Pobal were noted. Proposed by Mr Gerry O'Connor and seconded by Ms Bernadette Maughan

8. SICAP (SOCIAL INCLUSION AND COMMUNITY ACTIVATION PROGRAMME 2015 – 2017)

A Report circulated to members. It was agreed to include the following text on Sligo's LCDC's website. **'Any attempt by tenderers, or anyone acting on behalf of the tendering organisations, to contact evaluation sub-committee or evaluation team or LCDC members directly in relation to the SICAP contract will result in immediate disqualification from the tendering process.'**

9. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK

A report was circulated by Ms Siofra Kilcullen on the Sligo Public Participation Network. The first plenary meeting took place on 26th November. 140 people attended, 104 groups were represented and the PPN Secretariat was elected. Very positive feedback received from PPN reps as regard the potential of the network. Reports on the proceedings can be viewed on the PPN website sligoppn.com. It was clarified that the role of the Secretariat is to co-ordinate the PPN. Members were advised to encourage groups who haven't registered to register. Ms. Maria Collery was acknowledged for work carried out in the lead up to the election of Secretariat.

It was stated by Mr John Bartlett that Sligo PPN is being viewed as a model of best practice in certain online community discussion boards on the subject.

The work of Sligo County Community Forum in supporting the successful establishment of the PPN was acknowledged and it was pointed out that the transition to PPN would not have been so smooth without the support of the executive of the Forum.

Vote of sympathy: Mr Gerry O Connor extended sympathy, on behalf of the Community Forum to Ms. Bernadette Maughan on her recent bereavement. Councillor Sean MacManus, on behalf of all members of the LCDC, also expressed sympathy to Bernadette.

10. LOCAL ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY PLAN (LECP)

A report titled 'Draft Framework for Sligo 2020: Local Economic & Community Plan (Stage 1)' was circulated to all members. Presentation by Ms. Siofra Kilcullen outlined the content of the 98 submissions received as follows:

The following vision for the county was agreed by members

- ▶ *By 2020 Sligo will be an enterprising, inclusive, creative and sustainable County where all members of society are enabled to achieve their full potential.*

Key assets, challenges, priorities and opportunities for the County were highlighted.

The report was welcomed by members however the following points were made

- There is a massive shortage of skilled people in Sligo. There needs to be more input from the education sector in relation to the development of the LECP plan in light of this.
- Role of the ETB in taking people from unemployment to employment is critical. More input required from the ETB in the work of the LCDC.
- There has been substantial engagement with the IT to address future skill requirement and these needs to be built on.
- There is a need for a hub for tourism within the County. The role of the local authority and Failte Ireland in relation to this was discussed including the need for a Tourism Officer for the County.
- There is a perception that Sligo is not benefiting as much as other areas in relation to investment in discovery point on the Wild Atlantic Way. Failte Ireland should be contacted asked to advise of their plans for Sligo.
- In relation to Climate Change and economic development Sligo IT has developed a scheme which supports 42 renewable businesses. This should be built on.
- In relation to the plan the possibility of making activities of public service organisations energy neutral should be considered.
- There is significant job creation infrastructure in Finisklin which needs to be maximised.
- Need for more co-operation with the Western Development Commission
- The potential of the harbour, Rosses point and Raughley needs to be investigated and a plan developed.
- Counties that take ownership of economic development are the ones that succeed.
- The reality of the financial situation of the local authority needs to be taken into account.

SWOT Analysis – a report on feedback given at the workshop 9th October was circulated to the members. Ms D. Clarke asked that the members look at this feedback and advise on any omissions/additions before the February meeting of the LCDC.

It is proposed that the Draft Plan will be ready to go to public consultation by the end March 2015.

11. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2015

Ms D Clarke read a list of proposed dates for LCDC meetings in 2015. A Meetings schedule is to be agreed at February meeting (4th)

12. AOB

The Community and Voluntary sector representation on the LCDC will have to be reviewed based on the establishment of the PPN. The Chief Officer to contact the secretariat of the PPN and advise of requirement for representation.

Meeting concluded at 1.20pm.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Chairperson