

Waterford LCDC Annual Report 2017

Chief Officer's Statement:

Waterford Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) was established in 2014 under the provisions of the Local Government Reform Act 2014. 2017 saw a year of significant progress for the Waterford LCDC with progress made on many of the goals and targets set out in the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP).

The LCDC met ten times during 2017, with a quorum achieved at each sitting. The following are the details relating to these meetings:

Meeting Date	No. Of members	In attendance	Apologies
12/1/17	16	13	3
9/2/17	16	12	4
9/3/17	16	10	6
20/4/17	19	13	6
6/7/17	19	15	4
20/7/17	19	13	6
13/9/17	19	13	6
9/10/17	19	13	6
9/11/17	19	14	5
14/12/17	19	12	7

Minutes of the LCDC meetings are available on the Community section of the Council's website.

Membership of the LCDC at 31/12/2017 was as follows:

Senan Cooke	PPN
Jenny Beresford	Dungarvan/West Waterford Chamber of Commerce
Gabriel Foley	PPN
Heather Kiely	PPN
Niall O'Brien	PPN
Gerald Hurley	Waterford City Chamber of Commerce

Maggie Flanagan	PPN
Tom Aherne	ICMSA
Joe Stokes	WAP
Jimmy Taaffe	WLP
Cllr. Pat Nugent, Mayor	Elected member WCCC
Councillor Eamon Quinlan	Elected member WCCC
Councillor Tom Cronin	Elected member WCCC
Derval Howley	HSE
Richie Walsh	Head of Waterford L.E.O.
Michael Walsh	C.E. WCCC
Kevin Lewis	WWETB
Vincent Daly	Tusla
Liam Daly	Dept. of Social Protection

Progress under elements of the Local Economic and Community Plan

- In the context of the LECP objective, *“Stronger, Healthier Safer Waterford”*
 - The Joint Policing Committee met regularly throughout 2017 (4 times) giving the opportunity for constructive communication between the communities of Waterford, the Local Authority and An Garda Síochána. The JPC Strategic Plan 2018-2023 was adopted at the December 2017 meeting.
 - The Healthy Waterford initiative, set up to improve the health and well-being of people in Waterford, continued to grow and become more embedded in the wider Community. The Healthy Waterford Committee became a sub-committee of the LCDC in 2017. Programmes and seminars were organised and the Healthy Ireland Fund was rolled out in Q4 which supports several strategic actions including the employment of a Healthy Ireland coordinator for Waterford. Healthy Waterford is a very good example of cross-public sector co-ordination in Waterford.

- The Waterford Age Friendly Alliance strategy was launched (having met 8 times in 2017). The strategy covers the period 2017-2022 and aims to make Waterford an age-friendly City and County.
- In the context of the LECP objective, *“Develop a clear strategy for property solutions for significant inward investment”*
 - During 2017, major strides were taken towards preparing Waterford for strategic investment and, and at its meeting on the 8th February 2018 Waterford City and County Council decided by resolution to make the Waterford North Quays Planning Scheme. This is a significant step to realising a hugely important development for Waterford and the South East. The proposed multimillion euro investment at the North Quays along with the development of the Michael Street shopping complex will help to transform Waterford City and ensure that the City attracts further investment in the future.
- In the context of the LECP objective, *“Build Stronger Futures”*
 - In 2017, the Council began a series of “health check” exercises across rural Waterford towns and villages. The outcome of this that there will be a series of town and village plans for each of the settlements in rural Waterford that identify opportunities/priorities for their development/sustainability. The emphasis for 2018 will be on ensuring coherence with relevant local/community development initiatives in the context of engaging communities. The training programmes being progressed by Waterford Leader Partnership will dovetail with the health check approach. This is one example of some of the measures advanced in 2017 to bring about a greater co-ordination between publicly-funded local and community development programmes.
 - Comhairle na nÓg continues to flourish and grow in Waterford. The LCDC actively supports the work of the Comhairle. In 2017, Waterford and South Tipperary Community Youth Services were appointed to provide the coordinator for the Waterford Comhairle. Thirty five young people are currently members with a host of projects being delivered and many volunteering opportunities undertaken across both City and County.
- In the context of the objective, *“Enhance the connectivity between and within our urban centres”*
 - The Waterford Greenway officially opened during 2017 linking the City to West Waterford. This substantial piece of tourism infrastructure is already

providing a major economic benefit for Waterford and is a world class tourism product in Waterford.

Update regarding the implementation, management and oversight of publicly funded programmes

The main publicly funded programmes managed by the LCDC are SICAP (Programme Implementer being Waterford Area Partnership who were successful in winning the tender to implement the programme 2018-2022) and the Rural Development Programme (Implementing Partner being Waterford Leader Partnership). The Chief Executives of both Waterford Leader Partnership and Waterford Area Partnership are members of the LCDC.

Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme:

There is a clear focus on social inclusion and marginalised communities in the LECP. The SICAP programme in Waterford assists in addressing many of the objectives set out in the LECP including reducing youth unemployment and making stronger connections between services and people. The SICAP budget for 2017 was €1,098,446. Significant work was undertaken and delivered upon by Waterford Area Partnership during 2017. Some of the key indicators relating to the delivery of the LECP in 2017 were as follows:

Headline Indicator	Target	Achievement
Number of local Community Groups assisted under SICAP	82	84
Number of local Community Groups whose members have been assisted by SICAP to participate in local, regional or national decision making structures	28	26
Number of individuals who have progressed along the education continuum after registering with SICAP	40	40
Number of individuals (15 years upwards) progressing to part-time or full-time employment up to 6 months after receiving a Goal 3 employment support	60	78

A Sicap sub-committee of the LCDC oversees the work of the SICAP programme Implementer and in 2017 gave regular updates to the LCDC on progress. No remedies were applied to the Programme Implementer as all Key Performance Indicators were achieved.

Rural Development Programme:

Waterford LCDC is the Local Action Group (LAG) with ultimate responsibility for implementation of the LEADER programme in Waterford. The programme is worth €7.52m in Co. Waterford to 2020. Significant progress was made during 2017 on work relating to the programme. By year end, the LAG had approved 25 projects to the value of €1.85m and the

creation of a number of new jobs was confirmed. 3 targeted calls were launched under 12 Actions. 56 Expressions of Interest were received.

General measures advanced during the period:

- In the context of the objective *“to co-ordinate employment, skills and local economic development policy”*, a skills enhancement group continues to operate up as a sub-committee of the LCDC with its prime focus to examine the skills shortages that Waterford businesses are facing and to make recommendations to the LCDC to tackle these. This is another example of co-ordination between public agencies, under the auspices of the LCDC, to improve services for the people of Waterford.

Signed:

Don Tuohy

Don Tuohy

Senior Executive Officer/ Chief Officer to Waterford LCDC

Community and Sport Department