

Waterford LCDC Annual Report 2018

Chief Officer's Statement:

Waterford Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) was established in 2014 under the provisions of the Local Government Reform Act 2014. 2018 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 eleven times during 2018, with a quorum achieved at each sitting. The following are the details relating to these meetings:

Meeting Date	No. Of members	In attendance	Apologies
11/1/18	19	11	8
26/1/18	19	14	5
22/2/18	19	13	6
12/4/18	19	13	6
10/5/18	19	14	5
14/6/18	19	15	4
12/7/18	19	16	3
13/9/18	19	15	4
11/10/18	19	15	4
8/11/18	19	16	3
13/12/18	19	15	4

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

Membership of the LCDC at 31/12/2018 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
Catherine Quinlan	ICMSA
Joe Stokes	WAP
Jimmy Taaffe	WLP
Cllr. Declan Doocey, Mayor	Elected member WCCC
Councillor Eddie Mulligan	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
Julie Somers	CYPSC/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 held four meetings during 2018, giving the opportunity for constructive communication between the communities of Waterford, the Local Authority and An Garda Síochána. Waterford has a proactive JPC which has been addressing various issues to make Waterford a safer place for all. The launch of the JPC Strategic Plan 2018 – 2023 was held prior to the public meeting on 3rd September 2018 with Josephine Feehily, Chairperson Policing Authority in attendance. The JPC Steering & Oversight Committee continued to oversee the objectives of the JPC Action Plan 2018, ensuring actions within the Plan were completed and also setting the Action Plan for 2019.
 - 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 is a sub-committee of the LCDC and reports to the members at each LCDC meeting. The Healthy

Ireland Fund supported several actions from Round 1 funding and has continued to support the employment of both a Healthy Waterford Coordinator and a Social Prescribing Coordinator under Round 2 funding. The **Healthy Waterford Strategic Plan 2018-2021** was launched by Minister Catherine Byrne on 7th December. This was the culmination of many months of work by the Healthy Waterford Committee and was an LCDC milestone in 2018.

- The Waterford Age Friendly Alliance continues to meet regularly and its nine thematic sub-groups continue to deliver on the issues contained within its Strategy that was launched in 2017. This 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 2018, 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 2018, the LCDC set up a new subcommittee – the Waterford Rural Coordination Working Group. The role of this group is
 - To ensure a cohesive approach to the planning and delivery of rural development programmes and projects in Waterford and to ensure alignment of priorities across the primary delivery agencies
 - To maximise funding in order to deliver rural development projects.

Various Council departments are represented on the working group as are Waterford Area Partnership and Waterford Leader Partnership.

- During 2018, a number of “health check” exercises were carried out by the Council across rural Waterford towns and villages. The outcome of this is 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.

- Comhairle na nÓg continues to flourish and grow in Waterford. The LCDC actively supports the work of the Comhairle. Waterford and South Tipperary Community Youth Services continue to provide the coordinator for the Waterford Comhairle. Thirty five young people are currently members and are actively working on their project, identified in the October AGM, on the subject of Substance Misuse and Mental Health

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 CLG 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 2018 was €1,098,446. Significant work was undertaken and delivered upon by Waterford Area Partnership during 2018. The key indicators relating to the delivery of the LECP in 2018 were as follows:

Headline Indicator	Target	Achievement
KPI 1: Number of local Community Groups assisted under SICAP	66	66
KPI 2: Number of Individuals assisted under SICAP	824	964

A SICAP sub-committee of the LCDC oversees the work of the SICAP programme Implementer and in 2018 gave regular updates to the LCDC on progress. No remedies were applied to the Programme Implementer as both 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 2018 on work relating to the programme. By year end, the LAG had approved 48 projects to the value of €3m (which meant 55% of the Local Development Strategy allocation was approved by year end) and

the creation of a number of new jobs was confirmed. The Implementing Partner (WLP) ran 4 targeted calls for projects in 2018. There were 4 Community Training initiatives during the year.

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.
- **Community Enhancement Programme:** During 2018, the Community Enhancement Programme – a programme under the auspices of the LCDC - funded projects which enhanced facilities and communities in disadvantaged areas. The Programme offered not-for-profit groups access to capital funding in order to kick-start, advance or complete their projects. The Programme addressed some of the difficulties these groups face in terms of accessing small scale levels of funding to match their own fundraising efforts. The total grant received from the Department was €394,081, which was allocated to 100 community groups for a variety of projects. Following the launch of the Community Enhancement Programme, the Department of Rural & Community Development allocated additional funding which was ring-fenced for small capital grants for Men’s Sheds. The six registered Men’s Shed in the Waterford area all received this grant which totaled €8,696.
- **Migrant Integration Strategy:** In early 2018, Waterford City and County Council and Waterford Local Community Development Committee established an Inter-agency Task Group to respond to the call made under the National Migrant Integration Strategy: *A Blueprint for the Future*. Local Authorities are responsible for establishing a Migrant Integration Forum and updating their integration strategies. The official Forum launch took place in February 2019 by Minister David Stanton. The role of the Forum will be to contribute to the development of an integration strategy for the entire county.

Signed:

Don Tuohy

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Senior Executive Officer/ Chief Officer to Waterford LCDC

Community and Sport Department

