

Minutes of the Waterford LCDC Meeting:

Thursday May 13th 2021 meeting held via conference call at 11.00 a.m.

Present:

Non Public Sector:

Public Sector

1. Gabriel Foley	PPN / Environment	1. Richie Walsh	Head of LEO
2. Catherine Quinlan	I.C.M.S.A.	2. Cllr. Lola O'Sullivan (Chair)	Elected representative
3. Breda Fell	PPN / Community & Voluntary	3. Cllr. Adam Wyse	Elected representative
4. Heather Kiely	PPN/ Community & Voluntary	4. Brendan Lawton	Reg. Mgr. Dept Social Protection
5. Senan Cooke	PPN / Community & Voluntary	5. Michael Walsh	CE, WC&CC
6. Jenny Beresford	CEO Dungarvan & West Waterford Chamber	6. Michael O'Brien	WWETB
7. Michael Bowe	Interim CEO – Waterford Area Partnership		
8. Jimmy Taaffe	CEO – WLP CLG		
9. Gerald Hurley	CEO Waterford City Chamber		
Apologies:		Apologies:	
10. Maggie Flanagan	PPN / Community & Voluntary	7. Cllr. D Geoghegan	Mayor Public Rep
		8. Julie Somers	CYPSC Coordinator
		9. Derval Howley	Head of Wellbeing HSE

Staff Present: D. Tuohy Chief Officer, Ivan Grimes DoS, J. Codd S.O., Susan Whelan S.O., Emma Smyth A.S.O., C. O'Brien S.O.

1.Total current Membership	19
2.Total attendees	15
3. Quorum % required (50% of 1 above)	Achieved – 79%
4. non-public/public ratio attendees % ratio non-public/public attendees	9 non-public : 6 public 60% non-public: 40% public

Confirmation of Quorum:

1. Having reviewed the attendance record, Chief Officer D. Tuohy confirmed that a quorum was achieved. Non-public 9 & Public 6, total 15 members attending. In the absence of Mayor Damien Geoghegan Cllr Lola O’Sullivan took the chair and opened the meeting

2. **Apologies:**

Apologies, as detailed in the table above, were noted by the committee.

3. **Confirmation of Minutes of LCDC Meeting held on 8th April 2021**

Proposed: A. Wyse	Seconded by: S. Cooke
Abstentions:	None
Quorum achieved: Yes	Approved

4. **Matters arising: None**

B. Lawton mentioned that 3000 extra CE places are available under employment supports as part of last July’s Stimulus Package and expressions of interest sought. B. Lawton is on the committee which has been set up to set criteria, etc for the above. Under the general activation programmes there are issues in relation to those on the Pandemic Unemployment Payment and how the DSP can engage with those who will not be returning to work. A special policy document is currently been finalised to address this issue.

5. **Presentation – Waterford Migrant Integration Strategy 2021 – 2024 (on extranet)**

Full presentation uploaded to the extranet. D. Tuohy introduced A. Nolan and C. Power who made the presentation on behalf of the Migrant Integration Strategy Steering Sub-Group. They updated the committee on the development of the strategy and the resources required to achieve the implementation of key actions. The main recommendation from the presentation is to secure funding to employ a Project Coordinator and seek financial commitments and supports from the relevant stakeholders.

The members all agreed that it was an excellent presentation and supported the recommendation to employ a Project Coordinator. I. Grimes mentioned that the key ask today is around funding and that only some organisations around the table would be in a position to make that commitment and proposed to talk offline with potential funders but also to be mindful that it is the middle of the year and budgets have been already committed to year end.

M. Bowe confirmed that WAP will commit €5,000 from SICAP towards the implementation of the Migrant Integration Strategy and will continue to support the Waterford Migrant Integration Forum.

6. Community Enhancement Programme 2021 – Framework for approval (on extranet)

C. O'Brien updated the committee on the proposed framework as shown below. The application form and guidelines have not yet been received from the Department so the proposed advertisement date is subject to change. 2 to 3 LCDC volunteers required to sit on the Assessment Board.

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME 2021

The Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development to provide funding to community groups across Ireland to enhance facilities in disadvantaged areas. Waterford LCDC has been allocated €144,499 for 2021.

The key theme of this year's programme will provide small capital grants designed to assist not-for-profit groups as they re-open their facilities which have been closed due to Covid-19. The funding may be used to carry out necessary renovations and repairs or to purchase equipment.

This year the Department is allowing each LCDC to set the closing date for applications, as long as it is before the 16th July. I would propose the following;

- *17th May - Advertise the Scheme on Council website, via PPN and email 'grant notification list' (740 groups)*
- *17th May - Advert published in local newspapers*
- *25th June - closing date for applications*
- *2nd July TBC - Assessment Group meet to access applications*
- *8th July - Assessment Group recommendations to be on LCDC agenda for approval*
- *31st May 2022 - groups to submit their receipts and photographs.*
- *Set the maximum allocation per applicant to €5,000*
- *Only one application allowed per group / organisation*
- *The guidance from the Department is that the LCDC ring-fence 30% of the fund to grants of €1,000 or less but the LCDC can adjust this depending on need. I would propose that like previous years the Assessment Group decide the percentage when all applications are received.*

C. O'Brien confirmed that some groups have asked for an extension re the CEP 2020 as they were unable to spend their allocation because of the restrictions and with the construction industry being closed for certain periods, an extension can be given but an application cannot be submitted for the CEP 2021 if funding received from the CEP 2020 remains unspent. Replying to questions raised, C. O'Brien mentioned that the average allocation is anything from a few hundred euro up to a maximum of €5,000; also, applicants must have a bank account in their own name to avoid multiple applications coming in from the same organization/group. It was noted that there is a lot of work involved for those making an application and members queried whether training could be provided to assist those to ensure that the required supporting documents are submitted to WC&CC to avoid any unnecessary problems arising. J. Taaffe confirmed that Waterford LEADER would be open to collaborating with the PPN to provide training to those wishing to make an application under the CEP 2021. M. Bowe confirmed that through SICAP, WAP would also be available to offer assistance. H. Kiely undertook to follow up with PPN.

H. Kiely and Cllr. L. O’Sullivan volunteered to sit on the Assessment Board.

Proposed: J. Taaffe	Seconded by: M. Bowe
Abstentions:	None
Quorum achieved: Yes	Approved

7. a. Report from SICAP Sub Committee

M. Bowe gave an overview on the general status of WAP. WAP has spent the past few weeks engaging with all partners to reassure them that the vital work of WAP will continue and will release a positive report next week. Currently, historical and governance issues are being addressed and good progress has been made; restructuring is ongoing within the company. WAP are open for business and continue to offer a large number of services. Having engaged with An Garda Síochána, the current board is satisfied that some media reports circulated recently are not accurate.

The advertisement for the Community Development Worker in the County will be published in the coming week.

I. Grimes stated that Covid-19 has caused a number of issues in achieving targets under KPI 1 and KPI 2 but he is confident that this will improve over the coming months.

8. Reports from subcommittees:

a. Skills/Training:

Chief Officer D. Tuohy gave an update on the work of the Skills Sub-committee which last met on the 20th April. Discussions are continuing re development of a Fabrication Laboratory (FabLab) for West Waterford. Waterford LEADER and WWETB are working on a programme around Youth Employment initiatives with WLP also intending to support a digital training programme for older people. WWETB are continuing to run many initiatives around youth skills and development. It has been identified that there is lack of Welding Training courses available which is a national issue that may need to be addressed. M. O’Brien mentioned that the WWETB Service to Business Unit in Waterford is a huge resource and offers plenty of training and development opportunities. In Waterford City there are a number of Welding programmes available including the Red Seal Qualification course. There is a Retrofit Training course available and also a Plastic Welding course with Irish Water both at no cost. WWETB can also develop bespoke training courses for any company if required.

In relation to 3D Printing, J. Taaffe confirmed that one of three such projects will be brought before the next LAG/LCDC Meeting for approval.

It was agreed that a representative from the Department of Social Protection would sit on the Skills/Training subcommittee, D. Tuohy to discuss separately with B. Lawton.

b. Healthy Waterford:

D. Tuohy issued the update and mentioned that work with the “Keep Well Campaign” and the Community Resilience Fund is ongoing and an invitation will issue to the Healthy Waterford Coordinator to address the LCDC at a later date. An invitation will also issue to H. Kiely re presentation on Social Prescribing.

c. Social Inclusion:

H. Kiely stated that an LCDC Social Inclusion subcommittee has been set up and has met to discuss the terms of reference and how to support the LCDC in planning. It was agreed that the best way to do this is to engage an independent consultant to develop a Statement of Intent and Supporting Information in relation to Social Inclusion to enable the LCDC and partners to strategise and plan for the next five year LECP period 2022 - 2026. The work will be overseen by an inter-agency Steering Group drawn from the Waterford LCDC. It is expected that this work will commence in July 2021 and the total cost of the tender is expected to be €5,000. J. Somers has developed an invitation to tender to find a suitable independent consultant with the following aims set out below.

- To develop a Social Inclusion Statement of Intent and supporting Information to inform the work of Waterford LCDC, WLP and the Waterford Local Economic and Community Plan. The document will be used to inform the work of the LCDC member agencies and other agencies tasked with a social inclusion remit as they prepare to rollout plans and actions over the next 5 years, commencing in January 2022.
- To develop and present a report and recommendations to the LCDC on how best to embed social inclusion as a core principle in the new/reviewed LECP and to ensure - in as much as is possible – that projects and actions under the remit of the LCDC for the new/reviewed LECP are social inclusion proofed
- To carry out a desktop exercise to identify the main social inclusion/exclusion issues in Waterford; identify the gaps in meeting the needs identified and recommend the major social inclusion/ social exclusion issues to be addressed in the new/reviewed LECP.

Each public sector organisation represented on the LCDC are asked to support the information gathering exercise, support the tender process and make a financial commitment towards the consultant costs.

The proposal was agreed unanimously by the committee members.

9. Correspondence

Ten items of correspondence were brought to the attention of the committee, all were circulated previously.

- a. Free Walk in Covid Test Centre – No Appointment Need – Opening 10th April 2021 in WIT Complex College Street circulated on the 9th April 2021. (By Email)
- b. LEADER Transitional Funding circulated on the 9th April 2021. (By Email)
- c. Waterford Migrant Integration Strategy 2021 – 2024 synopsis in Irish and English and link to full document circulated on the 13th April 2021. (By Email)
- d. Diversity and Inclusion in Sport Survey circulated on the 15th April 2021. (By Email)
- e. LCDC Training Needs Survey circulated on the 19th April 2021. (By Email)

- f. NDA Consultation Event and Employers for Change Seminars circulated on the 4th May 2021. (By Email)
- g. Our Rural Future: Minister Humphreys announces €15 million fund to revitalise rural towns & villages circulated on the 4th May 2021. (By Email)
- h. Circular Economy Innovation Grant Scheme (CEIGS) circulated on the 5th May 2021. (By Email)
- i. Covid-19 updates and Vaccine Partner Packs information circulated on the 10th May 2021. (By Email)
- j. Healthy Ireland Strategic Action Plan 2021-2025 Launch circulated on the 13th May 2021. (By Email)

10. AOB: None

11. Date of next meeting:

LAG/LCDC meeting: 11.00am 10th June 2021, via videoconference.

Meeting Closed

Signed:

Chairperson Waterford LCDC

Date: _____