

Waterford LCDC Annual Report 2021

Chief Officer's Statement:

The **Waterford Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)**, an independent subcommittee of the Council, continued to meet and deliver on the Community element of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) in 2021. The LCDC provides the basis for a more coherent, streamlined and co-ordinated approach to local and community development programmes. The LCDC has primary responsibility for planning and oversight of local development spend. Public and non-public bodies from local government, state agencies, local communities, development, social, and economic interests are represented on the LCDC.

The LCDC met eleven times during 2021, with a quorum achieved at each sitting. There was no meeting in August and meetings for the remainder of the year were held by way of Zoom.

The following are the details relating to these meetings:

Meeting Date	No. Of members	In attendance	Apologies
14/1/21	19	16	3
11/2/21	19	16	3
18/3/21	19	15	4
8/4/21	19	13	6
13/5/21	19	15	4
11/6/21	19	14	5
05/07/21	19	15	4
09/09/21	19	16	3
14/10/21	19	14	5
11/11/21	19	13	6
16/12/21	19	12	6

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

Membership of the LCDC at 31/12/2021 was as follows:

Senan Cooke	PPN
Jenny Beresford	Dungarvan/West Waterford Chamber of Commerce
Gabriel Foley	PPN

Heather Kiely	PPN
Breda Fell	PPN
Gerald Hurley	Waterford City Chamber of Commerce
Maggie Flanagan	PPN
Catherine Quinlan	ICMSA
Michael Bowe	WAP
Jimmy Taaffe	WLP
Cllr. Joe Kelly, Mayor	Elected member WCCC
Councillor Eamon Quinlan	Elected member WCCC
Councillor Pat Nugent	Elected member WCCC
Derval Howley	HSE
Richie Walsh	Head of Waterford L.E.O.
Michael Walsh	C.E. WCCC
Michael O'Brien	WWETB
Julie Somers	CYPSC/Tusla
Brendan Lawton	Dept. of Social Protection

LCDC Subgroups:

In 2021, *the Health and Well-being LCDC subgroup* which reports to the LCDC at each LCDC meeting, continued the work of the Healthy Waterford initiative that has taken place over the past number of years. Round Three of Healthy Waterford will cease in March 2022 and preparation for Round Four will commence. Nine actions were devised in Round Three namely; Physical Activity, Accessibility, Social Farming, Regional Actions, Men Connect, Social Prescribing, Recover Theatre, Community Engagement and Community Mental Health Grants. A Healthy Waterford Coordinator was recruited to oversee and coordinate the actions with the lead agencies. The work of the coordinator was instrumental in delivering the Healthy Waterford Actions. The coordinator position was vacated in Q4 2021 and

recruitment for a replacement commenced. Funds were reallocated from Social Prescribing to Discover Theatre due to unforeseen circumstances. The project remains within budget and an under-spend is expected due to the aforementioned reallocation of funds and the departure of the coordinator.

In the context of the LECP objective *“to co-ordinate employment, skills and local economic development policy”*, the **Skills Enhancement LCDC subgroup**, consisting of members from WCCC, SERSF, WWETB, WLP, WAP, LEO, Skillnet, LCDC and DSP met on a number of occasions in 2021 to consider initiatives to address the skill gaps existing in Waterford and to make recommendations to the LCDC to tackle these and make Waterford best in class at up skilling workers.. Particular focus was given towards advancing the “Skills to Advance” initiative locally. Consideration was given to the need to ensure coordination in the delivery of training and upskilling by the various providers in Waterford in 2022. Collaboration between Waterford Leader Partnership and Waterford Wexford ETB has commenced with a view to creating a fabrication Laboratory in West Waterford. The Fab Lab will provide skilled labour for a number of growing fabrication firms in West Waterford, many of whom have received LEADER support. Two such laboratories have been established in Wexford and continue to thrive. This subgroup is another example of co-ordination between public agencies, under the auspices of the LCDC, to improve services for the people of Waterford

The **LCDC SICAP subcommittee** carried out regular reviews of the implementation of the SICAP programme being delivered by the Waterford Area Partnership and reported back to the LCDC at each meeting.

Progress under elements of the Local Economic and Community Plan

- ***In the context of the LECP objective, “Stronger, Healthier Safer Waterford”***
- **Waterford Local Community Safety Partnership**

In 2021 the JPC in Waterford was replaced by the Waterford Local Community Safety Partnership. The Local Community Safety Partnership is a new government initiative which brings together statutory services, the voluntary and community sector, local councillors and community members to work together to identify and tackle community safety issues locally. New Local Community Safety Partnerships are being piloted in three areas: Waterford City and County, Longford, and Dublin’s North Inner City. Representatives of the community make up 51% of the members of the Local Community Safety Partnership and it has an independent Chairperson, Mr. Sean Aylward. A co-ordinator was appointed in September 2021 and a public launch was held.

- **Age Friendly:**

The Waterford Age Friendly Alliance continues to grow and develop with the programme having nine active thematic subgroups. During 2021, the programme, in partnership with the Waterford Older Persons Council, continued to engage with the response to Covid 19. The Older Persons Council held regular online events to assist in keeping older people connected within their community in addition to actively participating with the Digital Connectivity Subgroup.

- ***In the context of the LECP objective, “Build Stronger Futures”***

- **Supporting the development of our young people:**

Comhairle

Comhairle na nÓg continues to flourish and grow in Waterford. The LCDC actively supports the work of the Comhairle. Thirty-five young people are currently members with a host of projects being delivered. These include the creation of an App in 2021 which allows young people build a community of engagement on environmental matters in the county. Also, the development of a Native Irish Tree Trail at the Greenway car park by the SETU arena on the outskirts of Waterford city in collaboration with the SETU Forestry Department in addition to their annual project focusing on Youth 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 for the 2018-2022 programme being Waterford Area Partnership) 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 2021 was €1,154,027. Significant work was undertaken and delivered upon by Waterford Area Partnership during 2021, especially in the context of Covid 19. Some of the key indicators relating to the delivery of the LECP in 2021 were as follows:

Headline Indicator	Target	Achievement
KPI 1: Number of local Community Groups assisted under SICAP	67	68

KPI 2: Number of individuals assisted under SICAP	867	898
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No remedies were applied to the Programme Implementer as all Key Performance Indicators were achieved.

Rural Development Programme:

During 2021, the LCDC, acting as the Waterford Local Action Group (LAG) progressed the delivery of the local development actions approved in the Local Development Strategy for the rural community. 11 LAG meetings were held. 30 projects were approved by the LAG totalling €1,979,965. In 2021 a total of €793,833 was paid out to completed projects. By the LAG. These investments create economic, environmental and community benefits including the creation of additional new jobs through new initiatives and business expansion. Throughout 2021 there were 4 Public Targeted Calls for projects, 7 evaluation committee meetings, 12 public meetings across the County. The Waterford Local Action Group (LAG) was ranked in the top 5 nationally in 2021 for project delivery (payments).

General measures advanced during the period:

- **Support to local communities:**
 - Support was provided for communities through the *Supporting Waterford Community Grant Scheme* whereby local sports clubs, tidy towns, residents associations and community & voluntary groups are financially assisted to ensure sustainability. 318 applicants were eligible (a 20% decrease on 2020) and €195,500 was allocated in 2021 for this initiative.
 - *Community Enhancement Programme 2021*– 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 €144,499, which was allocated to 91 community groups for a variety of projects.
 - *The 2nd Round of Covid-19 Emergency Fund* provided grants to groups to assist them to adapt their services and operations to fit the new COVID-19 reality and also was aimed at helping animate community groups to enable them to become more involved in the Government's 'Keep Well' campaign. €54,223 was allocated to 48 groups.
 - *The Social Enterprise Fund* which provided social enterprises with small capital grants and was funded from the Social Enterprise Measure of the

Dormant Accounts Fund in 2021. This fund assisted in the purchase of capital equipment or repairs and refurbishment of existing facilities €22,609 was allocated in total to 9 social enterprises.

- *Community Festival Grants:* The Community Department continued to support community festivals during the year, though some were cancelled or postponed due to the pandemic, 20 festivals were allocated funding in the sum of €85,400.
- *Public Participation Network:* Membership of the PPN increased by 3% in 2021. 768 member groups are now registered with the PPN. The Community Department part-funds and supports the work of the PPN. The Council was a lead partner in the annual Community Awards, organised by the PPN online in 2021 due to the pandemic. These awards give recognition to the work of communities across the City and County.
- *Social Inclusion 2021:*
 - **Migrant Integration Strategy:** In early 2018, Waterford City and County Council and Waterford LCDC 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. Following the recruitment of a consultant to initiate a Migrant Forum, preliminary meetings with open invitations took place in Dungarvan and Waterford City. Subsequent meetings and consultations with a variety of migrant groups resulted in the formation of a Migrant Forum with eighteen seats. The official Forum launch took place in February 2019. The role of the Forum is inter alia, to contribute to the development of an integration strategy for the entire county. A working group comprised of representatives from various local organisations continued to meet in 2021 to support the development of a strategy. Consultants were recruited to develop the Waterford Migrant Integration Strategy which was launched in 2021. A coordinator to oversee the strategy will be recruited in early 2022.
 - **Traveller Inter-agency Group:** This grouping of relevant statutory agencies and state supported initiatives involved in providing the full range of services to Travellers has its focus on improving the integrated practical delivery of such services. The Waterford Traveller Interagency Group aims to find ways of securing better outcomes for Travellers and improve the use of resources allocated across Government departments for Traveller-specific measures. Waterford

TIG met five times in 2021. Notable outcomes/actions included the completion of a combined Needs Analysis and Strategic Plan for Waterford. Funding for this initiative was received from the HSE National Lottery Funding and from other agencies. The Inter-agency group continues to support the 'Yellow Flag Programme', a progressive equality and diversity initiative for primary and secondary schools which promotes and supports an environment of multiculturalism and diversity.

Signed:

Sinead Breathnach

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A/Senior Executive Officer/ Chief Officer to Waterford LCDC

Community and Sport Department

June 2022