

**Minutes of the Waterford LCDC Meeting  
Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024, Tower Hotel @ 11 a.m.**

**Present:**

**Non Public Sector:**

**Public Sector**

|                      |                                        |                                  |                        |
|----------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Gabriel Foley     | PPN/Environment                        | 1. Damien Geoghegan (Vice Chair) | Elected representative |
| 2. Liam Quinn        | CEO – Waterford Area Partnership       | 2. Liam Brazil                   | Elected Representative |
| 3. Csilla Czelvikker | PPN/Community & Voluntary              | 3. Richie Walsh                  | Head of LEO            |
| 4. Sinéad Kilcawley  | PPN/Social Inclusion                   | 4. Sean McKeown                  | CE, WC&CC              |
| 5. Senan Cooke       | PPN/Community & Voluntary              | 5. Mayor Jason Murphy (Chair)    | Elected representative |
| 6. Christine Rossi   | CEO – WLP CLG                          | 6. Kathryn Kiely                 | SETU                   |
| <b>Apologies:</b>    |                                        | 7. Margaret Mary Collins         | TUSLA                  |
| 7. Gerald Hurley     | Waterford Chamber of Commerce          | 8. Kate Cassidy                  | HSE                    |
| 8. Jenny Beresford   | CEO Dungarvan & West Waterford Chamber | <b>Apologies:</b>                |                        |
| 9. Catherine Quinlan | I.C.M.S.A.                             | 9. Karina Daly                   | WWETB                  |
| 10. Heather Kiely    | PPN/Social Inclusion                   |                                  |                        |

**Supporting Staff Present:** Helena Dennehy DOS, Sinéad Breathnach SEO & Chief Officer, Orla Kelly AO, Johnny Codd SO, Susie Whelan SO, Ger Mulhall SO, Emma Smyth C.O., Noeleen Osbourne LAIT Coordinator and Eoin Morrissey HI Waterford Co-ordinator, Mairead McKnight, C.O.

**Apologies** G Power S.O., O Matiut S.S.O.

|                                       |                        |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1.Total current Membership            | 19                     |
| 2.Total attendees                     | 13                     |
| 3. Quorum % required (50% of 1 above) | Achieved 68– %         |
| 4. non-public/public ratio            | 6 non-public: 8 public |

1. **Confirmation of Quorum:** Having reviewed the attendance record, Chief Officer Sinead Breathnach informed the meeting that a quorum had been reached. The quorum was non-Public 7: Public: 6.
2. **Apologies.**  
As per table above apologies were noted.

3. **Confirmation of Minutes**

- LCDC Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2024 (on extranet)

|                              |                                      |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Proposed: Liam Brazil</b> | <b>Seconded by: Damien Geoghegan</b> |
| <b>Abstentions: None</b>     |                                      |
| <b>Quorum achieved: Yes</b>  | <b>Approved: Yes</b>                 |

4. **Matters arising**  
No matters arising.

5. **SICAP**

(a) **SICAP Sub Committee Update from Johnny Codd**

(b) **Approval of SICAP funds:** Liam Quinn excused himself from the meeting while the approval of the funds was being sought.

|                                |                                  |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Proposed: Gabriel Foley</b> | <b>Seconded by: Sean McKeown</b> |
| <b>Abstentions: Liam Quinn</b> |                                  |
| <b>Quorum achieved: Yes</b>    | <b>Approved: Yes</b>             |

6. **Local Economic and Community Plan – Orla Kelly**

Work on the LECP online reporting system is ongoing. The CivicQ system which is currently being developed by Information Systems is very inflexible and not user friendly. So, the SUBMIT system is being explored as an alternative. It is hoped this system will be ready to demonstrate at the January meeting.

7. **Community Grants Update – Grace Power (update given by Johnny Codd in Grace’s Absence)**

***Community Recognition Fund (CRF)– Window 2***

Final approval has yet to issue from the Department of Rural and Community Development for the two projects recommended for funding under Window 2 of the Community Recognition Fund 2024. A decision is expected in the coming weeks.

***Community Recognition Fund (CRF)– Window 3***

Window 3 will launch on December 04<sup>th</sup> and close for applications at 4pm on January 08<sup>th</sup> 2025. The target areas for Window 3 are Dungarvan-Abbeyside-Ballinroad, Tallow, and Clonea Power-Moethel.

***Local Enhancement Programme (LEP)***

Waterford has been allocated €219,286 for 2025, comprising of €187,960 for Capital funding and €31,327 for current funding projects. The Fund will open from the 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2025 until 4.00pm on the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025.

Nominations were sought to be part of the Assessment Group for the 2025 LEP funding. Cllr. Murphy and Cllr. Geoghegan agreed to be part of the Assessment Group.

### ***Supporting Waterford Grants***

Waterford City and Council's Supporting Waterford grant budget for 2025 is: €240,338. Preparations are currently being put in place for the launch of Supporting Waterford 2025.

### ***Dormant Accounts Fund Action Plan to support LGBTI+ Community Organisations***

One project was successful, and Waterford & South Tipperary Community Youth Service (WSTCYS) was awarded €19,800.

## **8. Reports from Sub-committees:**

### **a. Skills / training – Johnny Codd:**

The Skills committee met on the 20<sup>th</sup> November last. The official launch of the Fabrication laboratory is still awaited, but the facility is up and running smoothly under Steven Lucey and Denise Healy, courses are fully attended. A national policy is being drafted with a current proposal for five national clusters to be established. Funding is an issue with 50% of funds required from private sector. Clustering is the creation and network support for industry specialization based in a particular region. 140 companies attended a series of breakfast briefings over the summer, these events link trainers with employers and the events were timed to precede course registrations in Autumn.

Companies are reporting issues with staff retention due to changes in work patterns post covid and the age profile of the workforce, who seem to prefer the gig economy. Childcare, hospitality, retail, manufacturing and engineering continue to experience labour shortages. Opportunities in the offshore wind sector will arise and Ireland needs to find a niche service within that industry in which we can specialize in. Workability programme supporting accessibility is underway. SETU, Waterford Area Partnership and Waterford Chamber are leading the programme. LEO and DEASP are also interested in this area. Waterford has joined the UNESCO Learning City Network this year. Waterford Council is the applicant, joined by SETU, WWETB, Kilkenny County Council and Waterford Area Partnership, and supported by Waterford Chamber and the Southern Regional Assembly. An SLA is being drafted and SETU are recruiting a coordinator.

### **b. Healthy Waterford – Eoin Morrissey**

#### **Health and Well-being Practitioners Seminar (Dec 6)**

A successful event took place with over 40 attendees from the Health and Wellbeing Sector. In 2025 another four events are planned along with the monthly meetings with the Healthy Waterford Coordinator continuing.

#### **Community Wellbeing Seminars**

Pilot wellbeing seminars took place in each municipal district over recent weeks (Lismore, Portlaoise and Passage East). Over 65 people attended, and feedback was very positive. We aim to continue these into 2025.

#### **Connecting Communities Roadshows**

Final plans are underway to launch the roadshows in early January. Six areas of Waterford have been identified to host and over 20 partner organisations have committed their resources and time to be a part of the project again in 2025. This project was shortlisted at the National Chamber awards.

### **Playful Communities**

A recent stakeholder meeting reviewed and evaluated this programme. The rebranding and naming of the project aim to be more inclusive and assure those attending that more than play takes place. Discussions around identifying specific areas to align with other stakeholders' efforts will also be considered. Over 30 events took place in 2024, with a similar outlook planned for 2025.

### **Healthy Ireland Funding 2025**

The reporting of expenditure and impact is due back to Pobal and the DOH by February 2025. In January Healthy Waterford will communicate year 3 of the fund to potential partners who will have a six-week period to return the application for funding.

### **Healthy City Accreditation and Interegg Europe Funding**

Unfortunately, our funding application was not successful. However, this application will be used for future funding opportunities. The WHO Expression of Interest has been submitted to the WHO. Once approved our application phase will begin.

### **Place Standard for Communities**

Within Quarter 1 of 2025 we will be running a limited number of Place Standard training for communities in line with the PPN and other relevant sections of the local authority.

#### **c. Sláintecare Healthy Communities – Ovi Matiut:**

There will be no update until the January meeting.

#### **9. Community Integration Forum (CI Fo) and LA Integration Team update – Noeleen Osbourne**

The Local Authority Integration Team have carried out 80 Engagements and 7 information clinics to date, with in excess of 500 attendees.

As of 25<sup>th</sup> November, there are 3,072 BOTPs (increase of 21) and as of 1<sup>st</sup> December there are 621 IPAs in Waterford (of whom 169 are children). WCCC Ukrainian team continue to work with arrivals to the Designated Accommodation Centre in Dungarvan (DAC) to assist BOTPs under the 90-day protocol to source accommodation and access services. We continue to seek pledge properties (vacant and shared) and can be contacted at 058/22059 or [offerahome@waterfordcouncil.ie](mailto:offerahome@waterfordcouncil.ie)

All BOTP centres providing full board to residents are DAC with reduced benefits. The remaining self-catering accommodation residents remain on full benefits. This is set to change in Quarter 1, 2025. There are no proposed relocations from Waterford centres for this period of time.

A very successful networking event was held in Carrickphierish Library on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December to review 2024 and highlight proposed areas of development for 2025.

#### **10. Correspondence**

No correspondence to update.

#### **11. AOB**

The Chair, Chief Executive and others thanked Richie Walsh for his service and wished him well on his retirement.

Kate Cassidy reminder all, particularly those over 60 years of age, to get the flu jab.

12. Date and venue of next LAG/LCDC meeting: Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at via Video Conference

Signed:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson Waterford LCDC

Date: \_\_\_\_\_