

Minutes of the Waterford LCDC Meeting
Thursday 9th January 2025, via Videoconference @ 10 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. Karina Daly	WWETB
4. Sinéad Kilcawley	PPN/Social Inclusion	4. Sean McKeown	CE, WC&CC
5. Jenny Beresford	CEO Dungarvan & West Waterford Chamber	5. Mayor Jason Murphy (Chair)	Elected representative
6. Christine Rossi	CEO – WLP CLG	6. Kathryn Kiely	SETU
7. Gerald Hurley	Waterford Chamber of Commerce	7. Margaret Mary Collins	TUSLA
Apologies:			
8. Senan Cooke	PPN/Community & Voluntary	Apologies:	
9. Catherine Quinlan	I.C.M.S.A.	8. Gareth Evans	Head of LEO
10. Heather Kiely	PPN/Social Inclusion	9. Kate Cassidy	HSE

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, Ovidu Mathiu, AO.

Apologies:

1.Total current Membership	19
2.Total attendees	14
3. Quorum % required (50% of 1 above)	Achieved – 74%
4. non-public/public ratio	50% non-public: 50% 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 7 non-Public : 7 Public: .

2. **Apologies.**

As per table above apologies were noted.

3. **Confirmation of Minutes**

- LCDC Meeting held on 12th December 2024 (on extranet)

Proposed: Liam Brazil	Seconded by: Liam Quinn
Abstentions: None	
Quorum achieved: Yes	Approved: Yes

4. **Matters arising**

No matters arising.

5. **SICAP**

(a) Presentation by Liam Quinn – WAP

Liam gave a presentation on WAP end of year progress report for 2024. He gave a brief synopsis under each of their strategic goals. Goal 1 Innovation – The Peoples Transition - Larchville and Lisduggan, over 140 individuals engaged in focus groups. Multi stakeholder discussions to achieve solutions on retrofitting. There was a workshop event on 1/10/2024 in The Growth Hub, SETU.

Goal 2 – Connection: 95 new IME clients, all 95 received Advice and Advocacy. 40 attended English Language Workshops. 37 completed workshop and developed CV's. Atelier Roma Project: 24 participants progressed to employment.

Goal 3 – Collaboration: KPI was set at 949 the actual figure is 1,275. People living in Disadvantaged Communities 269 participants. People impacted by Educational Disadvantage 439 participants. Jobless Households/Parttime/Precarious 539 participants. Disabled People 221 participants. IPA/Refugees 221 participants. Roma/Travellers 39 Participants.

Goal 4 – Capability: The tus initiative is a community work placement scheme providing short term working opportunities for unemployed people. Currently have 92 participants place in 41 organisations in and around Waterford City.

Goal 5 – Policy Shaping: ILDN – Climate Action Grup and New Opportunities Committee and Social Enterprise Working Group. Peoples Transition outcomes – OECD, WCC Climate Action, WCC Housing Department and DECC. Waterford Integration Forum. DCEDIY – Nitrus Report. CYPSC. WWETB Literacy Coalition. Social Enterprise Republic of Ireland. Foodcloud and FEAD.

(b) Proposer and seconder for the ratification of Cllr. Jason Murphy and Cllr. Damien Geoghegan on to the LEP grant assessment group:

Proposed: Sean McKewon	Seconded by: Liam Brazil
Abstentions: None	
Quorum achieved: Yes	Approved: Yes

6. Proposer and seconder for the SICAP Sub Committee

It is proposed to reconvene the SICAP Sub-committee previously established by the LCDC. The Sub-committee met once in 2024 and it is proposed that it would meet more regularly in 2025.

Propose to make automatic substitutions by virtue of position and role to the membership of the SICAP Sub-committee i.e. Cllr Jason Murphy replaces the previous Mayor, Helena Dennehy replaces Ivan Grimes as D.O.S. and Karina Daly replaces Michael O'Brien from WWETB.

Need to replace Heather Kiely on the Sub Committee - Sinead Kilcawley previously expressed an interest in joining so if she is still interested we need a proposer and a seconder

Proposed: Damien Geoghegan	Seconded by: Liam Brazil
Abstentions: None	
Quorum achieved: Yes	Approved: Yes

7. Local Economic and Community Plan – Orla Kelly

Meetings have taken place with SUBMIT and Civic Q in relation to the online LECP reporting system since December’s LCDC Meeting. SUBMIT was selected as the most appropriate system to proceed with due to it being a more user-friendly system that allows flexibility and reporting. A number of follow up meetings took place with SUBMIT over the past couple of weeks and a reporting master template has been developed, which was demonstrated at the meeting to show the systems user interface. Further engagement will be needed with the IS section to customise the template so it is tailored for individual implementing partners, who will only see Actions specific to them. IS have indicated that they hope this could be completed by the end of the month. In parallel, meetings can reconvene with partners now that the final reporting system can be demonstrated at the meetings.

In the absence of an active Advisory Steering Group who should have a role in the implementation and monitoring of the LECP, there is a need for an Oversight Working Group to be established as a sub-group of the LCDC.

The main role of the LECP Oversight Working Group will be:

- Oversight of the implementation, monitoring and reporting of the LECP.
- Ensuring an integrated approach to the implementation of both economic and community actions outlined in the Implementation Plan; and
- Ensuring clarity as to where responsibility rests for leading/coordinating on actions.

4 Nominations were sought the meeting for this Group to include 2 from the Non-Public Sector and 2 from the Public Sector.

It was suggested that Mr. Gareth Evans, Head of LEO should also sit on this group to link in the economic development element of the LECP.

Nominations were not made at the meeting, to allow time to consider the matter.

8. Community Grants Update –

There were 7 successful projects under Window 1 totalling €491,391.

Letters of Offer issued to projects in August 2024.

To date 1 project submitted their interim & final claims, 1 project an interim claim and another project is in the process of submitting an interim claim.

Community Recognition Fund (CRF)– Window 2

On Sept, 30th 2024, 3 projects were recommended for funding to the Dept. 1 project: Carrickphierish Recreation Park could not proceed at W2 stage as the required planning permission was not in place. This project will be resubmitted in Window 3 once relevant Part 8 planning has been approved.

Final approval is awaited from the Department of Rural and Community Development for the two projects recommended for funding, which we anticipate should be within the coming weeks. An update from the Dept in early Dec advised that they were assessing applications under Window 2 with a view to announcing the successful projects in the near future.

Community Recognition Fund (CRF)– Window 3

Window 3 launched on December 04th and closed for applications at 4pm yesterday (8th Jan 2025).

The target areas for Window 3 are Dungarvan-Abbeyside-Ballinroad, Tallow, and Clonea Power-Mothel. We received 11 completed applications by the deadline, with a total amount sought of €875,612, of which one project totalling €197,887 was not located within the Window 3 target area and so, is ineligible. Dungarvan/Abbeyside /Ballinroad received 6 applications, Tallow 2 applications and Clonea Power / Mothel 2 applications.

Next steps - applications received will need to be assessed against Funding criteria and a recommendation will need to be submitted to the Dept by the 31st January 2025 for final approval.

Target Area	Agreed Funding Allocation	Total amount sought
Dungarvan/Abbeyside /Ballinroad	€132,701	€352,944
Tallow	€50,000	€100,000
Clonea Power / Mothel	€100,000	€224,781
	€282,701	€677,725
1 project outside eligible areas	€197,887	€197,887
	€480,588	€875,612

Local Enhancement Programme (LEP) Grants 2025

Waterford City & County Council has been awarded €219,286 under the Local Enhancement Programme 2025. The fund will support groups particularly in disadvantaged areas.

- €187,960 Capital Funding to use towards carrying out necessary repairs and improvements to facilities, energy efficiency type projects, purchase of equipment etc.
- €31,327 Current Funding to be used to cover running costs e.g. Rental / lease costs, utility bills, insurance costs.
- Dept ringfenced 30% funding to provide small capital grants of €1,000 or less. The Prog can fund or partial fund larger scale projects to address disadvantage.

LEP 2025 launched on 02nd January and will close for applications at 4pm on January 31st, 2025. Successful applicants will be notified in May following department approval.

As of the 8th Jan 2025, 11 completed applications and 26 draft applications have been received under the Current funding Strand and 8 applications are completed and 41 in draft format under the Capital funding strand.

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, which we hope to do in early February, once the LEP applications have closed.

Dormant Accounts Fund Action Plan to support LGBTI+ Community Organisations

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

9. Reports from Sub-committees:

a. Skills / training – Johnny Codd:

The Skills Committee are meeting next week and there will be no skills/training update until the February meeting.

b. Healthy Waterford – Eoin Morrissey

Health and Wellbeing Practitioners Seminar

A continuation of our network, following an evaluation, will take place on January 17th. There has been significant interest from industry professionals and agencies, with a commitment to support the initiative through the end of 2025. This provides an opportunity for on-the-ground insights from practitioners and meaningful consultations.

Goal: Support the establishment of a health and wellbeing network that collaborates with practitioners and statutory bodies, contributing to local authorities' planning for community wellbeing as part of the LECP.

Community Wellbeing Seminars

Planning is underway for our community wellbeing seminars, scheduled for Q3 and Q4 of 2025. The number of seminars will increase from 3 to 10 in 2025 to align with and contribute to the LECP/PPN Wellbeing Vision.

Connecting Communities Roadshows

Final preparations are underway to launch the roadshows in early January in collaboration with the PPN. Six areas in Waterford have been identified to host these events, with over 20 partner organizations committing their resources and time to the project in 2025.

The first two roadshows will take place in the Metropolitan area:

- **Ferrybank:** February 12th
- **Waterford Inner City (Lisduggan/Larch Ville):** March 6th

Goal: Health and Wellbeing: Improve the health, wellbeing, and quality of life of individuals and communities through equitable access to resources and facilities that promote positive life choices, healthy habits, and active lifestyles.

Playful Communities

Over 30 events were held in 2024, with a similar outlook planned for 2025. An expression of interest will be issued to communities during the week of January 13th.

Healthy Ireland Funding 2025

The reporting of expenditure and impact is due to Pobal and the DOH by February 2025. In January, Healthy Waterford will announce Year 3 of the fund to potential partners, who will have six weeks to submit applications. These will be issued during the week of January 13th. For applications, contact Eoin Morrissey at eoinmorrissey@waterfordcouncil.ie.

Healthy City Accreditation

The WHO Expression of Interest has been submitted. The application process has begun and will need to be presented at the next LCDC meeting. Ratification will also be required at a Plenary Council meeting, involving elected members and political and management commitment.

As discussed in the last meeting with SETU, we will seek contributions and shared input between the Learning City model and other potential frameworks.

Goal: Establish Waterford City as a recognized Healthy City under the WHO Healthy Cities Program, building on key public health and wellbeing measures in partnership with other state bodies.

Place Standard for Communities

In Q1 2025, we will offer a limited number of Place Standard training sessions for communities, in collaboration with the PPN and relevant local authority sections. A webinar for PPN community groups is planned for February, which will help identify areas to implement the Place Standard.

Goal: Embed the 'Place Standard Tool' as a consultation resource for communities in Waterford, enabling them to assess their local environment and produce evidence-based outcomes to enhance the quality of life.

Short-Term Projects

Growing Communities Project

This inspiring initiative reconnects people with the joys of growing their own food while promoting sustainable, chemical-free practices. It empowers schools, individuals, and families to cultivate fruits and vegetables, fostering healthier lifestyles and stronger communities.

6-Week Food Choice Programme

Starting February 10th, with a launch event on January 21st.

Programme Details:

- 2 hours and 20 minutes of one-on-one consultation with a registered nutritionist
- Analysis of current eating patterns
- Goal setting and practical guidance
- Weekly monitoring
- Meal planning and healthy recipes

c. Sláintecare Healthy Communities – Ovi Matiut:

The focus in December was the reporting on the seed funded projects with most of them being completed. There were several meetings with community groups in exploring possible projects to be funded in 2025.

10. Community Integration Forum (CIfo) and LA Integration Team update – Noeleen Osbourne

For 2024 The Local Authority Integration Team have carried out 80 Engagements including 7 information clinics with 500 attendees. We are working on plans for 2025 engagement.

As of 25th November there are 3,072 BOTPs (increase of 21) and as of 29th December there are 620 IPAs in Waterford. 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

The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth issued 1 closure notice on one West Waterford property for 16th January with occupancy of 35. WCCC are not involved in the accommodation/relocation process but the LAIT are providing assistance with information and service support where required.

11. Correspondence

- a. Invitation – Bridging the Gap – Local Authorities and Disability Inclusion

12. AOB

13. Date and venue of next LAG/LCDC meeting: Thursday 13th February 2025 at via Video Conference

Signed:

Chairperson Waterford LCDC

Date:
