

Minutes of the Waterford LCDC Meeting
Thursday 13th February 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. Kathryn Kiely	SETU
6. Christine Rossi	CEO – WLP CLG	6. Margaret Mary Collins	TUSLA
7. Ian O’Brien	PPN/Community & Voluntary		
8. Mary Ray	PPN/Social Inclusion	Apologies:	
9. Catherine Quinlan	I.C.M.S.A.	5. Mayor Jason Murphy (Chair	Elected representative
Apologies:		8. Gareth Evans	Head of LEO
10. Gerald Hurley	Waterford Chamber of Commerce	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., and Eoin Morrissey HI Waterford Co-ordinator, Ovi Matiut Sláintecare LDO

Apologies: Noleen Osbourne LAIT Coordinator

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

2. **Apologies.**

As per table above apologies were noted.

3. **Confirmation of Minutes**

- LCDC Meeting held on 9th January 2025 (on extranet)

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

4. **Matters arising**

No matters arising.

5. Proposal to have future updates from LCDC support staff in written format and to schedule up-dates from 2 stakeholders monthly (outside of SICAP/WAP and LEADER/WLP updates)

Johnny Codd gave an overview of the above and that all updates would be uploaded along with the minutes and the agenda for everyone to read before the meeting to streamline the meetings and make them more efficient. There would also be presentations made by the other groups to share information with everyone in the group about what is going on in other departments.

6. **SICAP – Documentation on extranet**

a) Approval of Annual Performance Review 2024 –

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

b) Approval of Annual Plan 2025 –

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

Please note that Liam Quinn excused himself from the meeting for the vote on SICAP Funding

- c) Approval of SICAP Funds for March 2025 (once Annual Plan has been approved by the LCDC)
- SICAP (March '25): €121,063
 - New Arrivals (March '25): €20,567.25

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

Local Economic and Community Plan – Orla Kelly: LECP Update

Since the January meeting, the online reporting system has been finalised and contact has been made with implementing partners in preparation for commencing LECP reporting. We hope to commence online reporting in the coming weeks.

As raised at the previous LCDC meeting, nominations are being sought for an LECP reporting Oversight Working Group.

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.

Ms Kiely raised a query in relation to reporting on collective actions. Ms Kelly advised that there are challenges in how such actions should be collected and reported and suggested a tick box could be included in the online system to allow partners indicate if Actions are individual or collective. An analysis could then be done when collating the data, to ensure there is no duplication of reporting. Flexibility is built into the system and it can be changed and adapted as required to facilitate reporting.

7. Community Grants Update –

Community Recognition Fund (CRF)– Window 1

Out of seven successful projects totaling €491,391 to date, one project has completed and submitted their final claim and a further two projects have submitted interim claims.

Community Recognition Fund (CRF)– Window 2

We currently await final approval from the Department of Rural and Community Development for the two projects recommended for funding under Window 2 last September. It is anticipated this should be forthcoming very soon.

Community Recognition Fund (CRF)– Window 3

Window 3 launched on December 4th and closed on the 8th of Jan 2025. Eleven completed applications were received totaling €875,612. One project was not located within the target area and so, was deemed ineligible.

Applications received were assessed against funding criteria and a recommendation for approval of five projects totaling €282,701 will be submitted to the Department for final approval, by their deadline of the 28th of February 2025.

The Carrickphierish Recreation Park project, which was recommended for funding under Window 2 but was withdrawn pending the required planning permissions being in place, will be resubmitted in Window 3.

Local Enhancement Programme (LEP) Grants 2025

Waterford City & County Council has been awarded €219,286 under the Local Enhancement Programme 2025 (€187,960 for Capital Fund and €31,327 for the Current Fund).

LEP 2025 launched on 2nd January and will close at 4.00pm on the 14th of February 2025.

As of the 13th of February, a total of 197 applications have been received (113 under the Capital Fund and 84 under the Current fund). A further 286 in draft format (153 under Capital Fund and 133 under Current Fund). A reminder email was sent to all applications in draft format to remind them of the deadline.

The Assessment Group Meeting is being scheduled for Friday, 28th February, with the finalised recommendation list being brought to the March LCDC meeting for approval. Once approved, the final list will be returned to the Department by their deadline of the 31st of March. Successful applicants will be notified in May, following Department approval.

Supporting Waterford Communities Grant

The Supporting Waterford Communities grant budget for 2025 is €240,338. We are in the process of finalising the fund documentation are hoping to launch in the next week or so. We are currently liaising with IS to organise this and will be circulating notice of the launch widely, including to LCDC Members, Elected Representative, the PPN and on the Councils website and social media platforms.

8. Reports from Sub-committees:

- a. **Skills / training – Johnny Codd:** The Skills committee met on the 22nd of January last. The Fabrication laboratory in West Waterford have been contacted regarding their launch which is overdue, it will a good opportunity to raise awareness of the facility, and the courses offered. Courses are fully attended and running smoothly. A national policy is being drafted on clustering which the committee continues to monitor, the recent job losses at BNY Mellon New Ross could possibly have been avoided if an effective financial cluster had been in operation. Breakfast briefings linking trainers with employers will resume in the Summer, last year's events were well attended. 205 companies took part in a recent study on labour shortages. Childcare, hospitality, retail, manufacturing and engineering continue to experience labour shortages. Skills in H.R., I.S. and energy management are in demand. Southeast engineering cluster is launching a scholarship. There's good uptake of courses in electrical engineering and life sciences which is encouraging. E-College, run by ETB, offer a range of free online courses. Renewable energy is becoming a major sector. Report due soon on economic opportunities for Southeast in relation to offshore wind. Community benefit funds will be available. €140m has been allocated for communities in the radius of the Tramore Ton Nua farm, total fund of €500m for Southeast. Waterford recently joined the UNESCO Learning City Network, and the committee will support this initiative in any way it can. The emerging field of AI is also of interest and courses are being offered on the subject.

- b. **Healthy Waterford – Eoin Morrissey:**

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. In 2024 over 1100 people from communities attended with a huge effort on collaborative and cooperative working across sectors led out by the PPN and Waterford City and County Council. The launch will take place on the 28th of January with the following areas confirmed:

- Ferrybank: 12th February 5.30pm – 7.30pm
- Waterford City 6th March 12.00pm – 3.00pm
- Tramore 26th March 5.30pm – 7.30pm
- Kilmacthomas 7th April 5.30pm – 7.30pm
- Cappoquin 30th April 5.30pm – 7.30pm
- Ardmore 21st May 5.30pm – 7.30pm

Healthy Ireland Funding 2025

Several organisations received funding in 2024. 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. Budget of 75k which will be delivered in March 2025 on approval of the Well Waterford committee. This funding is ringfenced for projects that meet the criteria for educational disadvantaged or perceived health outcomes in the community.

Received Funding Applications

- Treo Port Láirge
- Social Farming (Waterford Leader)
- Aiséirí Port Láirge
- SHEP Reflective Practice Program
- Growing Communities Project
- Community Wellbeing Program
- Autism Support Dungarvan / Autism Support Waterford

Health and Well-being Practitioners Forum

The first meeting of 2025 took place on the 10th of January with a strong representation. The next forum will take place on March 28th. This network is open to people working in the Health and Wellbeing profession within the community such as agencies, academics and sole traders.

Playful Communities

A recent stakeholder meeting reviewed and evaluated this programme. The rebranding and naming of the project aims to be more inclusive and assure those attending that more than play takes place. The expression of interests is currently being advertised and its envisaged we will be supporting over 30 communities within the Municipal districts throughout 2025. The launch took place on the 7th.

Community Wellbeing – Open for Applications for Communities

Healthy Waterford offers bespoke wellbeing inputs for communities. We are currently open for communities to apply to run one in their community. To receive an application contact Eoin Morrissey

Healthy City Accreditation and ESWAM (European Sport and Wellbeing Alliance for Municipalities)

Our application is underway for Healthy City accreditation with WHO. Once complete we will be presenting to the LCDC and elected members for approval. In support of this bid we are a member of the European Sport and Wellbeing Alliance, which aims to create further funding opportunities in health and wellbeing, linked to the Healthy City accreditation.

Place Standard for Communities (Place Making)

Within Quarter 2 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. Our aim is first to train PPN representatives and internal stakeholders to assist in building capacity for the role out.

For further information contact Eoin Morrissey: eoimorrissey@waterfordcouncil.ie

Sláintecare Healthy Communities – Ovi Matiut: Most of the Seed Funded projects 2023 and 2024 are completed, the 3 remaining projects will be completed by June 2025.

The following 3 projects were proposed for funding in 2025:

1. Community food initiatives – HSE Sláintecare + Community Food and Nutrition worker

- Creation of an informed view of food poverty and food insecurity in the Waterford
- Grow and Cook – cookery sessions with recipe sheets and nutrition advice, on-site at community gardens supported.
- Family Nutrition (Healthy Snacks) – 6-week programme for families, giving nutrition advice and trying out healthy snack recipes to increase parental control over nutrition, reduction in processed food for children.

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2. The Human Library – Waterford New Communities Network

- The project encourages barrier-breaking conversations between Irish and migrant communities, and it helps to reduce the stigma and stereotypes that perpetuate inequalities.
- In this Library, "books" are 20 Irish and migrant people from different cultures, communities, and professions.
- There will be 10 events where Readers of the Human Library can pick a "book" and spend quality time understanding their personal stories.

3. Men's Health Initiative - Waterford Integration Services

- The project aims to empower single males from IPAS centres in Waterford and Tramore, mostly from sub-Saharan Africa, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and the Middle East with little or no formal education.
- The 40 weeks Pilot programme will focus on the socio-determinants of Men's Health as part of a connected system to address the growth, inclusion and sustainability of migrant men. These include:
- Men's Health
- Tackling domestic violence and gender-based violence issues – outlining laws in Ireland.
- Migrant safety in the community
- English language
- Basic IT skills
- Human Rights & Social Justice
- Community Development
- Cultural events & volunteering opportunities

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Sláintecare Healthy Communities in partnership with Mincéirí Port Láirge secured € 142,000 over 2 years to Enhance Health Outcomes for the Traveller Community in Waterford City, the project will start next month.

- 9. Community Integration Forum (CI Fo) and LA Integration Team update – Noeleen Osbourne:** The CI Fo Working Groups continue to work with agencies and stakeholders to provide services and supports to all Ukrainians (BOTPs) and International Protection Applicants (IPAs) residing in Waterford. Our first CI Fo meeting of 2025 was held on 23rd January.

As of 17th January, there were 3,125 BOTPs (increase of 38) and as of 19th January 620 IPAs in Waterford. Waterford Council teams work with arrivals to the Designated Accommodation Centre 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

Migrant Integration

The last Migrant Integration Strategy Meeting took place on 22nd of January 2025 and the next meeting is scheduled for the 26th of March 2025. We await National guidance following a review of the National Migrant Integration Strategy. Waterford Integration Services are carrying out a review of the current strategy and the report on same will issue to the LCDC in due course.

10. Correspondence

No Correspondence

11. AOB

- 12. Date and venue of next LAG/LCDC meeting: Thursday 13th March 2025 at via Video Conference**

Signed:

Chairperson Waterford LCDC

Date: _____