

**Minutes of the Waterford LCDC Meeting
 Thursday 10th July 2025, via Videoconference @ 10 a.m.**

Present: **Non-Public Sector:** **Public Sector**

1. Gabriel Foley	PPN / Environment	1. Cllr Damien Geoghegan (Deputy Chair)	Elected Representative
2. Liam Quinn	CEO – Waterford Area Partnership	2. Gareth Evans	Head of LEO
3. Ger Hurley	Waterford Chamber of Commerce	3. Kate Cassidy	HSE
4. Christine Rossi	CEO – WLP CLG	4. Karina Daly	WWETB
5. Csilla Czelvikker	PPN / Community & Voluntary	5. Sean McKeown	CE, WC&CC
6. Sinead Kilcawley	PPN / Community & Voluntary	6. Cllr Liam Brazil	Elected representative
Apologies:		Apologies:	
7. Catherine Quinlan	I.C.M.S.A.		
8. Ian O’Brien	PPN / Community & Voluntary	7. Kathryn Kiely	SETU
9. Jenny Beresford	CEO Dungarvan & West Waterford Chamber	8. Margaret Mary Collins	TUSLA
10. Mary Ray	Social Inclusion	9. Mayor Seamus Ryan (Chair)	Elected representative

Staff Present: S De Faoite D.O.S., Chief Officer S Breathnach Community S.E.O., O. Kelly A.O., J. Codd S.O., E Morrissey S.S.O, G Mulhall S.O., E Smyth A.S.O., N Osborne LAIT Coordinator., M McKnight C.O.

Apologies: O Matiut S.S.O., S. Whelan S.O., C Flavin S.O.

1.Total current Membership	19
2.Total attendees	12
3. Quorum % required (50% of 1 above)	Achieved – 63%
4. non-public/public ratio	50% non-public: 50% public

1. Confirmation of Quorum:

Having reviewed the attendance record, Chief Officer Sinéad Breathnach informed the Committee that a quorum had been achieved.

2. Apologies.

As per table above, apologies were noted.

3. Conflict of interest

Liam Quinn CEO WAP - Conflict of interest in relation to Agenda Items 6 and 7: SICAP and the approval of funding for WAP.

4. Confirmation of Minutes

Confirmation of Minutes of LCDC Meeting held on 9th July 2025

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

5. Matters arising

No matters arising.

6. SICAP Annual Plan updated to include additional New Arrivals funding

Proposed: Liam Brazil	Seconded by: G Foley
Abstentions: L Quinn	
Quorum achieved: Yes	Approved: Yes

7. SICAP payments to WAP

Liam Quinn declared a conflict of interest and therefore abstained for this Agenda Item.

SICAP VAT Refund Jan - May 2025	€11,936.36
SICAP Oct – Dec 2025	€363,189
New Arrivals Oct – Dec 2025	€61,701.75

Proposed: Liam Brazil	Seconded by: K Daly
Abstentions: Liam Quinn	
Quorum achieved: Yes	Approved: Yes

8. Well Waterford Committee: Eoin Morrissey

Key Themes and Ongoing Work

In August and September, Healthy Waterford continued its work by supporting our key themes with a variety of activities and continued commitment to responding to local needs and collaborating with community, voluntary groups, and other agencies.

- **National Conference Hosting:** Waterford hosted a national conference on September 11th and 12th at the SETU Arena. Titled "Building Resilient Futures through Local Government," the event focused on addressing health inequalities and promoting place-based approaches to community wellbeing. The conference provided a significant platform for knowledge sharing and collaboration among local government leaders and officials from across Ireland.
- The **Playful Communities** initiative was a huge success, with over 45 events attracting 5,000 participants.
- Planning for the **Connecting Communities** program for 2026 is underway, with a review meeting scheduled with the PPN in October.
- Locations are currently being identified for **Buddy Benches** for 2026.
- **Place Standard** – Place Standard for two of the three locations are completed, with one remaining, through close working with the PPN.
- **Mental Health and Wellbeing** – A variety of activities are taking place as part of mental health week. The Elephant in the Room Project is also in the early stages of roll out.
- A pilot of the **Civic Dollars program** has launched in selected Waterford parks and green spaces. This innovative scheme allows residents to earn digital "dollars" for spending time in public spaces. The initiative promotes physical and mental wellbeing while supporting the local economy and is a collaborative effort with the support of the chambers, PPN, Waterford Sports Partnership, and other departments.
- **Launch of New Members Group:** Following its official launch in June 2025, the Healthy Waterford Practitioners Network Members Group continues to facilitate collaboration and knowledge sharing among health and wellbeing practitioners in the city and county. This network is a vital component of Healthy Waterford's strategy for joint initiative development and effective resource coordination.
- **The "Community Wellbeing"** programme continues to positively impact neighbourhoods across the city and county. This project, which began in May 2024, promotes social connection, physical activity, mental health, and nutrition based on local community needs. It is a prime example of how Healthy Waterford, in partnership with other organizations, is delivering on priorities identified in the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) and by the LCDC.

Financials and Funding

Healthy Waterford's projects are funded by the Healthy Ireland Fund, through the Department of Health, with Pobal overseeing administration for the Waterford LCDC. The committee ensures projects align with the Healthy Ireland Fund Local Strategy (HIFLS) 2023-2025.

Bridge funding of €75,000 was secured for 2026, with any underspend being carried forward. Additionally, the Department of Health has committed to long-term funding for the Healthy Cities and Counties post across all 31 Local Authorities, including Waterford.

Well Waterford Committee Nominations

Following the recent restructuring in line with the designation of the WHO Healthy City and County Accreditation, we can now confirm the nominations for the **Well Waterford Subcommittee**. These individuals have been nominated or have put themselves forward due to their expertise and ability to drive the committee's key objectives forward.

The following individuals have been nominated to serve on the subcommittee:

- **Professor John Wells** (represented by Kathryn Kiely): From SETU, Professor Wells brings invaluable expertise in **research and education**. His role as a subject matter expert, will be crucial for evidence-based decision-making.
- **Paul O'Brien** (represented by Karina Daly): As the WWETB Business Development Manager, Paul will lead efforts in **education, innovation, and new projects**. His insight will be key to developing impactful, forward-thinking initiatives.
- **Councillor Liam Brazil**: Representing the Comeragh Municipal District, Councillor Brazil's nomination is a step towards ensuring a **political lead for wellbeing in each Municipal District**, strengthening the committee's reach and influence at a local level.
- **Margaret Collins**: As the CYPSC Coordinator, Margaret provides a strong and essential voice for **young people and the services that support them**. Her ability to connect and collaborate with these groups will be vital for inclusive planning.

9. Uploaded Community Progress Report for questions:

1. Community Integration Forum
2. SICAP
3. LECP
4. Community Grants
5. Reports from Sub-committees:
 - (i) Skills/Training
 - (ii) Healthy Waterford
 - (iii) Sláintecare Healthy Communities
 - (iv) SICAP Sub Committee

A written progress report on the above was circulated to Members in advance of the meeting.

10. Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) reporting and monitoring update – Orla Kelly

In July, all lead partners were contacted and requested to submit progress on their LECP actions for the 2024 period. A first draft of the 2024 LECP Progress report has been circulated to all LCDC Members. Of the twelve reporting partners, responses were received from eight and contact will be made with Members who have yet to provide their updates or who provided an incomplete update, with a view to having a complete report for circulation to Members in advance for the October LCDC meeting.

A meeting of the LECP Reporting Oversight Subgroup will also be scheduled for the coming weeks.

11. Local Sports Plan: Ger Mulhall

In light of sports participation trends, Local Authorities have been asked to develop a Local Sports Plan to increase participation in sport and physical activities locally, in a manner consistent with the vision and objectives set down in the National Sports Policy 2018 – 2027.

Health, wellbeing and the quality of life of individuals and communities is a very important element in the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2023 – 2029. The development of a Sports Plan for Waterford in collaboration with key stakeholders is included under Objective 6.1 of the LECP.

Waterford City & County Council, in partnership with Waterford Sports Partnership, have now commenced the process of developing a Sports Plan for Waterford. The Local Sports Plan will be a high-level countywide 5-year framework which establishes priorities for Waterford, the purpose of which will be to increase participation in sport and physical activities across the County.

A national framework, including a suite of templates, was developed by Sport Ireland to ensure consistency of approach across the country in each local authority. The Sports Plan will include a number of priorities under three Strategic Themes:

- Active People and Communities
 - Empower and build capacity of people, clubs and organisations to provide sustainable sport & physical activity opportunities
 - Increase sport and physical participation in disadvantaged areas and amongst priority target groups
- Active Spaces and Places
 - Optimise our existing spaces and places such as community centres, parks, leisure centres and schools as places where sport, physical activity and recreation can occur
 - Optimise our natural environment to increase participation in sport and physical activity in the outdoors
- Active Communications and Partnerships
 - Proactively engage and collaborate with a wide range of people and partners in the delivery of our sport and physical activity priorities

The tendering process to appoint a consultant has concluded and S3 Solutions Ltd have been awarded the contract to:

- Carry out a strategic review of the sport and recreation function and resources within Waterford City & County Council and Waterford Sports Partnership; and
- develop a 5-year sports & physical activity plan and associated implementation framework.

Online consultation surveys online surveys are an effective way to engage large numbers of stakeholders, and these surveys are currently being finalised with the appointed consultant. Four in-person consultation events around the County are being scheduled for the first week in October. Both the online surveys and in-person consultations will be well communicated & publicised.

The LCDC will be kept informed throughout and included in the consultation process. It is envisaged that a draft Sports Plan will be presented to the Housing, Community, Sports & Recreation SPC for review and agreement in December/January with formal adoption by the Plenary Council thereafter.

12. Update from Family Support Project for Larchville/Lisduggan Task Group

Waterford Area Partnership (WAP) CEO Mr. Liam Quinn briefed the meeting on the work undertaken to date. The group was established on foot of an unsuccessful application to the Child Poverty Community Fund in 2024, after it was identified by the Pobal Deprivation Stats that the area continues to experience levels of disadvantage not seen in other areas of the city and county. Members include representatives from WAP, Tusla, CYPSC, BRILL FRC & WCCC. Work to date has focussed on establishing a suitable premises for BRILL which would allow them to deliver supports and services to children and families in the area. The group are currently finalising their terms of Reference and will provide and update to every LCDC meeting as a standing agenda item.

Community Director of Services Mr. Seamus De Faoite requested that this project be a permanent agenda item.

13. SICAP – Liam Quinn

WAP CEO Mr. Liam Quinn updated the meeting on progress against the KPIs as set out in the 2025 annual plan which confirms that both Goal 1 & Goal 2 teams are on schedule to achieve those targets. Of note is the recent publication of the Feasibility Study into the development of a Community Centre for Dungarvan. This was funded through SICAP and shared with public reps, council officials and residents at a public meeting on Sep 11th. The SICAP team are also engaged with Waterford's bid to achieve designation as a UNESCO Learning City with the Lisduggan & Larchville communities identified as Waterford's first Learning City Neighbourhood under this initiative. This is in part due to the Peoples Transition Report produced by WAP/SICAP in 2024 which highlighted the challenges facing residents in those communities.

14. Other Stakeholder Updates: None

15. Correspondence

- a. Minister of State Jerry Buttimer hosts Stakeholder Consultation on the development of a new strategy to support the community and voluntary sector / Eisiúint Meáin: Óstálann an tAire Stáit Jerry Buttimer Comhairliúchán le Páirtithe Leas
- b. €1.9m ceadaithe ag an Aire Calleary do Scéim na gCúntóirí Teanga / Press Release: Minister Calleary approves €1.9m for the Language Assistants Scheme.
- c. Eisiúint Meáin: Fógraíonn an tAire Calleary ardú ar an bhfóirdheontas do theaghlaigh agus coláistí cónaithe Gaeltachta faoi Scéim na bhFoghlaimeoirí Gaeilge / Media Release: Minister Calleary announces increase in subsidy to Gaeltacht families residential colleges under Scéim na bhFoghlaimeoirí Gaeilge.
- d. Media Release: Minister Calleary announces €14m in additional funding to Local Authorities for upgrade works on rural roads and laneways under the Local Improvement Scheme / Eisiúint Meáin: Fógraíonn an tAire Calleary €14m i maoiniú breise do na hÚdar
- e. Media Release: Minister Calleary announces €8.7 million for 221 outdoor recreation projects / Eisiúint Meáin: Fógraíonn an tAire Calleary €8.7 milliún do 221 tionscadal áineasa lasmuigh.

16. AOB

Orla Kelly advised that an online survey will be circulated to all LCDC Members prior to the next meeting. The purpose of the survey is to gather input from our LCDC Members regarding the work and priorities of the Waterford LCDC. All Members are encouraged to complete the survey, and all comments and feedback are welcome and appreciated.

Eoin Morrissey thanked everyone for their participation at the Building Resilient Futures through Local Government event.

17. Date and venue of next LAG/LCDC meeting: **Thursday 9th October 2025 via Videoconference.**

Signed:

Chairperson Waterford LCDC

Date: _____