



Minutes of the Waterford LAG Meeting
Thursday 13th November 2025, Videoconference, 10.00 a.m.

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

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

Staff Present: Seamus DeFaoite D.O.S., Chief Officer S Breathnach Community S.E.O., O. Kelly A.O., J. Codd S.O., S. Whelan S.O., E Morrissey S.S.O, N. Osborne LAIT Coordinator, Y. Dam A.S.O., E. Smyth A.S.O.

Apologies: O Matiut S.S.O., G Mulhall S.O. Community, C Flavin S.O. Community.

1.Total current Membership	19
2.Total attendees	15
3. Quorum % required (50% of 1 above)	Achieved – 79%

1. Confirmation of Quorum: Having reviewed the attendance record, Chief Officer Sinéad Breathnach informed the Committee a quorum was achieved. Chair Seamus Ryan opened the meeting.

2. Apologies.

As per table above, apologies were noted.

3. Conflict of Interest:

- (i) C.o.I. declarations: None
- (ii) Review of Quorum: Quorum achieved.

4. Confirmation of Minutes of LAG Meeting held on 9th October 2025

Proposed: Cllr. L Brazil	Seconded by: I O'Brien
Abstentions: None	
Quorum achieved: Yes	Approved

5. Matters arising:

None.

6. Rural Development Programme.

- i) For Noting: RDP Returns Income and Expenditure for Q3 2025 were noted by the committee.
- ii) LEADER Update: C Rossi

2023-2027 LEADER PROGRAMME UPDATE

Status of LEADER targeted calls:

Call 1:

Thirteen (13) approved projects:

Six (6) projects are fully completed and paid out (BVOF; Waterford Food Festival; Billy Moore Metal Works; Charlie Crowley Kitchens & Interiors; Equipment Dungarvan Agricultural Show; Knockanore Cheese)).

One (1) (All-weather pitch An Rinn) is completed but still has a retention payment.

One (1) is fully completed but waiting for the final stage of the final claim (All-weather pitch Knockanore).

Three (3) projects are at different claim stages, but not yet at the final claim (Munster Vales; KOKORO Visitor and Cultural Centre; Glamping Pods Lismore), and one (1) is nearing completion and ready to submit a claim (Facilitation & Capacity Building).

One (1) project (Blackwater Distillery) has requested a 2nd extension which is on the LAG agenda.

Call 2

Nine (9) approved projects:

All projects are ongoing.

Two (2) projects have submitted a final claim which are being processed (Lismore Castle Experience; Land Based Activity Enhancement).

Two (2) projects have submitted their first claims (Dipps Trips; 2nd project for Facilitation & Capacity Building).

One (1) (Nemeton TV upgrading of editing suites) is ready to submit a claim but the LCDC/LAG needs to approve a model change of one piece of equipment).

One (1) project (Preservation Facilities Building Kilmeaden Railway) has to re-tender as their main contractor has seized operation.

The other three projects are not yet at claim stage (Dungarvan Brewing Company; Legacy Irish Cider Expansion; Hostel & Glamping Old Walsh's Hotel Cappoquin).

As per the DRCDG website (dated 13 August 2025) Waterford ranked 4th in terms of LEADER programme spend. 39% of the LEADER budget has been allocated.

Call 3

Call 3 is currently at the Evaluation Committee stage.

Call 3 had a budget of €2,101,124. Twenty-seven (27) eligible project EOIs and ten (10) ineligible project EOIs were received. From the eligible EOIs, six (6) applications were submitted by the due date. There is adequate budget under the themes except for Sub-theme 1a: The Green Economy, Strategic Action 1.1, Capital Investment in Existing and Start Up Technology where there is a budget of €167,602,12 and the funds requested in the applications amounted to €247,125.

The Evaluation Committee met on 10/11/2025 to consider the projects for recommendation and will meet again on 19/11/2025.

The recommended projects will be presented to the LCDC/LAG for consideration and approval on 11 December 2025.

Notable trends:

- There is still significant interest during the targeted call animation process
- Downward trend in EOIs
- Downward trend in applications
- Challenges for promoters include: raising matching and bridging finance; eTenders; planning permissions

- Significant number of grants available creating a competitive environment for projects.
- Request for quotes for the early-stage evaluation of the Waterford Local Development Strategy will be sent out to potential service providers.

Call 4

The next targeted call will kick off on the 6th January 2026.

It is expected that there will be two targeted calls in 2026.

- iii) For Approval: Blackwater Distillery Request for Extension: IE31WAT100004

Proposed: Cllr. S McKeown	Seconded by: L Brazil
Abstentions: None	
Quorum achieved: Yes	Approved

- iv) For Approval: Change of model purchase for project IE31WAT101368 (Department approved).

Proposed: Cllr. D Geoghegan	Seconded by: G Foley
Abstentions: None	
Quorum achieved: Yes	Approved

7. Correspondence:

- Budget 2026: Ministers Calleary and Buttimer secure €611 million in funding for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht. Buiséad 2026: Faigheann na hAirí Calleary agus Buttimer €611 mhilliún i maoiniú don Fhorbairt Tuaithe & Pobail & don Ghaeltacht
- Minister Calleary Announces €20.5 Million for 30 Landmark Rural Regeneration Projects Nationwide. €1m allocated to Portlaoise Town Regeneration Phase 1. The project is to bring to a stage of detailed design and shovel readiness a number of interconnected projects which are focused on town regeneration. This includes the acquisition and redevelopment of an existing derelict building

8. A.O.B. None

9. Date and venue of next LAG meeting: 10.00am Thursday 11th December Waterford City (In Person).

Meeting Closed

Signed _____
CHAIRPERSON DATE