

LCDC Community Progress Report and Updates – December 2025

1. Community Integration Forum/LAIT update for LCDC – Noeleen Osborne

Community Integration Forum (CIFO):

Waterford Council's Ukrainian Team working with arrivals to the Designated Accommodation Centre (DAC) has now concluded and the building has been returned to owners. New pledge properties are now offered to the other DACs and the team will work with DAC staff to ensure occupancy of properties and management of the licenses going forward. The team continues to support those in pledged accommodation and are still seeking pledge properties (vacant and shared) and can be contacted at 058 22059 or offerahome@waterfordcouncil.ie

Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT):

As of 31st October, there are 2,703 BOTPS in Waterford (increase of 56). As of 26th October, there are 616 IPAs (164 children) in the seven IPAS centres.

For the month of November, the team carried out 26 group clinics with 75 attendees. There were 10 non clinic enquiries (Facebook/email/telephone).

The outcomes are individual queries answered/ advice and information packs provided and signposting to relevant services. Discussions were held regarding; Education-Training/ Employment-Enterprise/ Finance-Welfare/ Legal-Justice-Civic/ Driver Licensing & Travel Documents/Housing/Language.

The LAIT continues to progress resettlement under the IRPP – currently there are 54 individuals residing in 18 WCCC provided houses. There will be 5 properties (3 families) resettled between 4th and 15th December.

There are four properties at kit out completion stage with inspections before Christmas and three properties ready for kit out and one property remains at voids stage. There will be further resettlements in early January for the kitted-out properties.

2. Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) – Ger Mulhall

Work is ongoing with Buíon Phort Láirge (formerly known as Waterford Area Partnership), who continue to implement SICAP on behalf of the Waterford LCDC.

KPIs have exceeded targets for 2025 and approved KPI Targets for 2026 were submitted to Pobal at the start of November. DRCDG will confirm the SICAP budget allocation for 2026 in early December and the deadline for Buíon Phort Láirge to submit the 2026 Annual Plan to the LCDC is Friday 12th December 2025.

3. Local Economic and Community Plan – Orla Kelly

Partners have been requested to report progress on their actions for the period Quarter 1 to Quarter 3, 2025. To date, seven partners have submitted updates and five remain outstanding. We have contacted all outstanding partners reminding them to report

4. Community Grants Update

Community Recognition Fund (CRF) 2024 – Orla Kelly

Window 1 (€491,392): Four out of the seven projects are now complete, two of the remaining projects are close to completion and one project is progressing.

Window 2 (€86,557): Work is progressing with the project approved under Window 2 project.

Window 3 (€786,625): One out of the seven projects is now complete and two have requested interim payment and are over 50% complete.

To date, funding of €456,844 has been paid to projects, of which €431,844 has been recouped from the Department, with one claim outstanding of €25,000 which will be submitted in the coming days.

Completed Projects Include:

Organisation	Project Title
Lismore Town Association	Lismore Bank of Ireland & Revitalisation Project
Tramore Allotment Association	Tramore allotment - Drainage, fencing and preparation works
De La Salle GAA & Camogie Club	Community Walking/Jogging Track at Club grounds
Lismore GAA Club	Phase 2 Refurbishment Lismore GAA Community Centre
Tallow GAA & Camogie Club	Continuation of club walkway with solar lighting

Interim claims received from:

Organisation	Project Title
Tramore GAA Club	Tramore GAA - facility improvement works
Waterford Boat Club	Waterford Boat Club Pontoon refurbishment at Scotch Quay, Canada Street
Ballinroad Soccer Club	Ballinroad soccer club upgrade project
Dungarvan United Athletic Football Club	Upgrade works in clubhouse outdoor track

Supporting Waterford Communities Fund 2025 – Johnny Codd

2025 Fund

Waterford City and Council's Supporting Waterford Fund budget for 2025 was €240,338, which was allocated to 305 groups throughout the county. All payments have now been processed and the deadline for receipts from groups was 30th of November 2025.

2026 Fund

Preparations are underway for the 2026 grant. It is envisaged that the fund will launch before Christmas on the 12th December 2025 and will remain open until the 16th January 2026. Notification will be circulated widely to Members, Elected Representatives, through the PPN and on the Council's website and through its social media channels.

Local Enhancement Programme (LEP) Grants 2025 – Ger Mulhall

Notification was received on the 3rd December from the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, that Waterford City and County Council has been allocated funding of €219,286.41 for the Local Enhancement Programme 2026. This fund will support capital projects only, and can be used towards carrying out necessary repairs and improvements to facilities, energy efficiency type projects, purchase of equipment etc.

It is anticipated that the 2026 LEP will launch on the 30th January 2026 until the 27th February 2026. Notification will be circulated widely to Members, Elected Representatives, through the PPN and on the Council's website and through its social media channels.

5. Waterford Local Sports & Physical Activity Plan – Ger Mulhall

The Community Department, in collaboration with Waterford Sports Partnership (WSP), continues to progress the development of a Sports and Physical Activity Plan for Waterford, the purpose of which will be to increasing participation in sport and physical activities across the County.

Following a significant consultation process, including online surveys, one-to-one meetings and facilitated workshops, the appointed consultants, S3 Solutions, are currently engaging with key personnel in Waterford Council and the Sports Partnership to finalise the strategic review of the sport and recreation function and resources within Waterford Council and the Sports Partnership, before moving onto the strategic visioning and planning phase of the plan development.

It is envisaged that a draft Sports and Physical Activity Plan will be presented to the Plenary Council in Quarter 1, 2026.

6. Reports from Sub-Committees:

(i) Skills / Training – Johnny Codd

A move to national clusters is part of the National Development Plan. Three all island clusters were announced:

- 1) Cyber Security in Cork,
- 2) Manufacturing in Louth and
- 3) Semi-Conductors pilot cluster, with no location given yet.

An all-island Life Sciences cluster is desirable.

UNESCO City of learning: UNESCO Coordinator Laura Power, linked in with WWETB to pilot the use of a digital badge platform. This is in collaboration with Waterford Learning City and Belfast City Council. Belfast City Council have offered space on their own digital badge platform, which is part of Belfast City Council's skills and employability programme.

Their digital badge platform is open to support organizations and employers in Belfast and has proven very successful. Waterford will trial this to see if the model would add value for providers in Waterford. Feedback will be provided. The official launch took place on October 16th Garden Room, Medieval Museum and was well attended. Waterford Lifelong learning festival will take place from April 15th – 17th 2026.

West Waterford Fab Lab: Official Launch will be in 2026. Courses are progressing well. West Waterford Chamber were impressed with the facility on a recent visit to the lab.

Skillnet Programmes: Skillnet courses will be circulated. A possible shift to a 3-year cycle with a national programme is also a possibility.

Opportunities for New Arrivals: WWETB 20% of caseload are Ukrainians. Condolences were extended to the family of Sammy Hanrahan, who was a WYTEC learner.

Library rep introduced to the committee to assist with PR and dissemination of information through the library network. Subgroup of J Codd, N Quinlan, G Wilson, T Sinnott, P Wallace and L O'Rielly to meet separately and create an infographic roadmap of courses and providers.

Breakfast Briefing: Career days being held in SETU, Toys for engineers Conference took place on the 2nd October, INTREO events took place in Waterford, Wexford and Tipperary. IBEC manufacturing event took place in Carlow. Newsletter to follow.

Portal: Seven Training videos are available and will be included on the skills web page, new videos can be sent to J Codd.

Offshore Wind Farming: Tonne Nua auction ongoing, developer will be announced in January 2026. An event to examine spin off industries and opportunities will be arranged. Community benefit fund of €15m per annum will be available, an administrator with Local Action Group Committee will oversee the funding allocations.

A.I. Chamber ran Creating A.I. policy for SMEs, many of whom do not have a plan or policy in place. SOLAS are launching A.I. courses in 2026, level 4 "learners", level 5 "enhance productivity". HR sector is noticing use of A.I. in job applications. R Hickey will conduct research on risks to low skilled jobs and possible mitigations. Manufacturing also at risk with A.I. bots. A.I. presents a mix of threats and opportunities. LEO are running an A.I. for Marketing Workshop in the Waterford Enterprise Centre on the 22nd January 2026, the fee is €25.

(ii) Health & Wellbeing – Eoin Morrissey



In November, Healthy Waterford continued its strong commitment to responding to local needs and collaborating with community, voluntary groups, and other agencies. This month featured several high-profile initiatives and events focused on enhancing physical, mental, and economic wellbeing across the city and county.

- ***Civic Dollars: Rewarding Wellbeing and Supporting Local Business:*** The Civic Dollars pilot has successfully launched in selected parks and green spaces. This innovative scheme rewards residents with digital currency for time spent in public areas, supporting physical and mental wellbeing. Crucially, these dollars can be exchanged for rewards from a growing list of participating local businesses, providing multiple opportunities for residents to support the local economy.
- ***Pathways to Nature Conference:*** Healthy Waterford attended a Pathways to Nature Conference at the SETU Arena. The conference explored the crucial role of nature in supporting health and wellbeing, helping to inform future strategies for using green and blue infrastructure to promote physical activity and mental restoration.
- ***Conference and Men's Mental Health:*** Waterford GAA and Healthy Waterford hosted a Health and Wellbeing Conference (Healthy Clubs) in the SETU Arena this month, bringing together thought leaders and community stakeholders. Aoife Malone, our placement student was MC for the Q & A section, gaining valuable experience. The event also included a segment promoting the conference on WLR.

- **Men's Mental Health Month:** A key focus this month was on Men's Mental Health, highlighting the importance of targeted supports and resources for men in the community. Healthy Waterford worked with local organisations to promote resources that encourage men to engage with their health, wellbeing, and tackle issues like social isolation.
- **Community Engagement and Collaboration:** The RESET Programme has been ongoing with the Southern Regional Assembly, led by Doug Dane and Linda Barry. Healthy Waterford also had a presence at the Age Well Expo in the Park Hotel Dungarvan. Planning for Playful Communities 2026 is advancing, and locations for Buddy Benches have been identified, with a launch planned in early 2026.

Funding - €75,000 has been 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. For more information contact Eoin Morrissey:

eoinmorrissey@waterfordcouncil.ie

(iii) Sláintecare Healthy Communities – Ovi Matiut

Work is ongoing with Mincéirí Port Láirge in delivering the Enhancing Health Outcomes for the Traveller Community in Waterford City.

One of the five Seed Funded projects 2025 is now completed and work is ongoing on the other four Projects.

(iv) SICAP Sub-Committee – Ger Mulhall

Nothing to report this month.