

LCDC Community Progress Report and Updates – May 2026

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

Community Integration Forum (CI Fo):

Waterford Council's Ukrainian Team continue to work with BOTPs in Waterford and support those in pledged accommodation. They are still seeking pledge properties (vacant and shared) and can be contacted at 058/22059 or offerahome@waterfordcouncil.ie

New pledge properties are now offered to the other DACs and the team work with DAC staff to ensure occupancy of properties and management of the licenses going forward

LAIT Update

As of 20th April, there were 2,815 BOTPs (+14) and as of 19th April, there were 619 IPAs in Waterford (147 children). The Local Authority Integration Team continues to support International Protection Applicants with queries and signposting to services. The Local Authority Integration Team carried out 16 clinic appointments in April with 88 attendees. Topics included Accommodation queries/Renting in Ireland/Options to move from IPAS accommodation/Employment/English Language/Further Education/Volunteering. There were also 11 non clinic queries.

IRPP Update

As of 19th March there are 87 refugees resettled in 30 properties under the Irish Refugee Protection Programme (IRPP). There is one remaining family of 5 to resettle, which will complete Waterford's obligation under the current IRPP.

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

Work is ongoing with Buíon Phort Láirge (formerly Waterford Area Partnership), who continue to implement SICAP on behalf of the Waterford LCDC. The budget allocation for SICAP for Waterford City and County (Lot 24-1) for 2026 is €1,497,267. The budget allocation for 'New Arrivals' for 2026 is €246,807.

	Actual	Target	%
KPI 1 (Community Groups)	50	72	69.4%
KPI 2 (Individuals)	412	949	43.4%
% of Supported Individuals who fall into the local priority target groups:	40.5%	88%	-

- Disabled People / People with Disabilities - People living in disadvantaged communities - People living in households that are jobless or are in low-paid and/or precarious employment			
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3. Local Economic and Community Plan – Anita Maher

No update

4. Community Grants Update:

Supporting Waterford Communities Fund 2026 – Ger Mulhall

The Supporting Waterford Communities Fund provides grants to Residents Associations, Community Groups and Sports Clubs engaged in community activity, providing community services or carrying out improvement works in their communities.

Grants totalling €240,258 were approved by the elected members at the Plenary Meeting on 12th March 2026 and the processing of payments commenced immediately. Approximately 350 payments have been processed to date and the Community Grants Team continues to engage with the remaining groups to ensure the prompt processing of the remaining payments.

Local Enhancement Programme (LEP) Grants 2026 – Ger Mulhall

The Local Enhancement Programme (LEP) is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht and administered by the Waterford LCDC through Waterford City and County Council.

In Waterford, the total fund for allocation in 2026 was €248,286.26. The LCDCs list of recommended projects has been submitted to the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht for approval, and it is expected that the Minister will announce the successful applicants in late May/early June.

Community Recognition Fund (CRF) 2024 –

Window 1 (€491,392): No Update

Window 2 (€86,557): No Update

Window 3 (€786,625): No Update

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 increase participation in sport and physical activities across Waterford.

The consultants have been given the detailed feedback received from the Management Team, Seniors Forum and Sports Plan Steering Group, and have been asked to relook at the structure, formatting and presentation of the Plan and issue a revised draft by the end of May.

6. Reports from Sub-Committees:

(i) Skills / Training – Johnny Codd

UNESCO City of learning: Officially launched in October. Lifelong Learning Festival will run from 15th to 17th April. Also in April Cork host Learning City gathering and will establish an international learning network. Laois have applied to become a learning region.

West Waterford Fab Lab: Official Launch will be in 2026. **Youth Training and Employment:** BUION engaged 150 individuals under 25 in 2025. 2026 annual plan is being finalised. **Skillnet Programmes:** Skillnet courses will be circulated.

Opportunities for New Arrivals: Demand for English classes continues, funding for tutors is key. Library rep introduced to the committee to assist with PR and dissemination of information through the library network. **Breakfast Briefing:** the next scheduled event will take place on 26th May in SETU.

Offshore Wind Farming: SOLAS have developed a micro quals wind turbine technology course. **A.I.:** Recruitment sector seeing increasing number job applications written by A.I. **A.O.B. Library updates:** A global Women's Learning Day event took place in February and was well attended

(ii) Health, Wellbeing & Sports – Eoin Morrissey

Connecting Communities Roadshows

The events provided valuable opportunities for community groups and residents to engage directly with local services, supports, and community organisations. Positive feedback was received from participants, and this is currently being reviewed to help inform and strengthen future outreach and engagement initiatives. Plans are in place to identify a area in the mid county to run a similar event later in the year.

WHO Healthy Cities and Counties Accreditation

We have successfully submitted our application and are awaiting any feedback or amendments. A delegation will travel to the conference in June.

Healthy Ireland Fund – Round 4

Delivery of projects funded under Healthy Ireland Fund Round 4 continues to progress positively following approval by the Well Waterford Sub-Committee of the LCDC. A range of initiatives supporting community health, wellbeing, inclusion, and physical activity are now underway across the county. The following projected number of events based on this fund are as follows

- 15 Community Grants
- 6 Community Engagement Events
- 68 Community Wellbeing Events, broken down as follows:
 - 40 Playful Community Events
 - 20 Community Wellbeing Events
 - 5 Place Standard Consultations

Place Standard Training Event

A successful two-day Place Standard training event was delivered jointly by Waterford City and County Council and the PPN, with participation from a wide range of Council departments, including Planning.

The training provided an excellent opportunity to build understanding of the Place Standard Tool and its role in supporting healthier, more inclusive, and sustainable communities. The event encouraged strong cross-sector collaboration and generated positive engagement and discussion among participants.

EU Funding

Work is continuing on a number of European funding opportunities, including Erasmus+ and CERV applications, to support future health and wellbeing initiatives and strengthen community development opportunities across Waterford.

Sports Facilities

Preparatory work is continuing in relation to a Part 8 application for upgrade works to pitches and dressing room facilities at Regional Sports Centre (RSC), alongside a funding application under the Community Sports Fund.

In addition, an accessibility audit of the RSC has been undertaken to help identify opportunities to further enhance accessibility and inclusivity within the facility for all users.

A feasibility study for Williamstown Golf Course is also scheduled to commence in the coming weeks

(iii) Sláintecare Healthy Communities – Nicola Spendlove

(iv) SICAP Sub-Committee – Ger Mulhall

No update this month