



LCDC Annual Report 2017

Introduction.

LCDC's are required under Section 128B of the Local Government Act 2001 to prepare, adopt and submit an annual report to the local authority, no later than the 31st March each year, in respect of the performance of its functions in the previous calendar year. The annual report should be co-ordinated with the preparation of the local authority's annual report and include an outline of LCDC activities in the relevant period.

At a minimum the report should cover each of the LCDC functions, as outlined in the Act, but also other areas of activity such as development, review or implementation of community elements of the plan and contributing to the economic objectives of the Plan, both in its development and implementation.

Functions of the LCDC

The LCDC functions set out in the Act, are as follows:

- the preparation and adoption of an LECP,
- implementing the community elements of the LECP,
- reviewing the LECP and amending it or amending any element of it,
- monitoring, and reviewing the implementation of the plan on an ongoing basis,
- co-ordinate, manage and oversee the implementation of community development programmes that have been approved by the Council, agreed between the Committee and a public authority and to ensure that any plans or strategies are implemented in accordance with the community elements of the LECP,
- seeking to ensure effectiveness, consistency, co-ordination and avoid duplication between local and community development programmes,
- pursuing the co-ordination of all local community and coordination of programmes so as to optimise resources for the benefit of local communities and improve efficiency with which public funded local and community development resources are used,
- to consider and adopt a statement in respect of the economic elements of a draft plan and
- not later than 31st March each year adopt and submit to the Local Authority a report relating to the performance of its functions in the preceding calendar year.

Membership.

The membership of the LCDC is 20. The composition of the LCDC is such that it brings together the expertise and skills of people actively working with local development, community development and economic, cultural and environmental organisations and local authority members, officials and state agencies to implement a joined up, cross sectional approach to local and community development programmes.

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During the year Mr Denis Drennan replaced Mr Declan Rice as the Kilkenny Leader Partnership nominee, Mr Declan Gibbons replaced Martin Carroll as the PPN Community Pillar nominee and Ms Anne Corr replaced Mr P J Cleere as the PPN Disability Linkage nominee.

Following consideration of the breakdown of membership and the absence of certain sectors, it was agreed by the LCDC that where it identifies a need, it can invite agencies/groups to apply for associate membership. The standing orders were then revised to reflect this approach. Subsequently the LCDC identified a need for HSE representation at its meetings and accepted a HSE nominee as an Associate Member.

A full listing of members and their nominating bodies is included in *appendix No 1*.

Role of Chief Officer

The Chief Executive of the Local Authority has a legal obligation to assign staff to assist the LCDC in performing its functions including the assignment of a staff member to the position of Chief Officer.

The Chief Officer has responsibility for carrying out, managing and controlling generally the administration and business of the Committee and for providing ongoing support. In particular the role envisages the facilitation and promotion of partnership and interagency working, managing membership, being a link and conduit between the LCDC and the Local Enterprise Office and SPC 1 and the Department, providing capacity building interventions, pursuing funding streams and broadening the work of the Committee, providing advice and guidance and bringing local authority experience to the Committee.

Mary Mulholland had been in the position of Chief Officer since September 2017 and following the implementation of the Councils workforce plan Mr Michael Delahunty was assigned to the position in May 2017.

LCDC Meetings.

The LCDC met on five occasions in 2017. A meeting scheduled for 14th July 2017 had to be cancelled due to the absence of a quorum. Subsequent to this a communication issued from the Chair of the LCDC and Chief Officer reminding members of their obligations regarding attendance and the implications of not attending. It was also agreed to issue an advance schedule of meetings following agreement of the LCDC. The schedule was agreed at the LCDC meeting held on 30th November 2017.

Engagement with Stakeholders.

It is the policy of the LCDC to meet Local Economic and Community Plan implementing partners in connection with their LECP actions and to consider issues of mutual concern. During 2017 the LCDC had presentations from HSE -St Luke's Hospital on the range of its services at St Luke's Hospital and on its Age Friendly initiatives. A presentation was also made by the Councils Library services in relation to the delivery of its actions in the LECP and on its range of services being provided to the public.

Local Economic and Community Plan.

The LCDC monitors and reviews the implementation of the LECP on an ongoing basis and in doing so it considers the reports and advice from the LECP Advisory Group.

Specifically in 2017, the LCDC reviewed the six monthly monitoring reports in respect of the Community Actions for the period ending 31st December 2016 and for the six months ending 30th June 2017. It was noted from the 31st December report that 64 on-line reports were made by 20 out of 22 agencies, groups or departments. Of the prioritised list of actions only 2 groups did not report on their actions. It was noted from the 30th June report that all agencies/groups/departments had reported on their actions. The key achievements of the 18 months period of the LECP were also noted.

The LCDC engages with key stakeholders in the LECP and receives feedback with regards actions in the Community plan in 3 ways: through stakeholder presentations to the LCDC, through biannual LECP progress reports, which have been highlighted above, and through annual stakeholder engagement workshops.

The LCDC have heard presentations from 7 stakeholder agencies as part of a standing item on the LCDC agenda and have hosted 2 Stakeholder engagement workshops. The initial stakeholder engagement workshop held in 2017 involved 32 stakeholder organisations/groups/sections that are responsible for delivering actions within the community plan. The aim of the workshop was to:

- Identify priority actions for 2016-2017 to create a composite annual implementation plan
- Understand the role and responsibilities in leading out on actions
- Create an agreed approach to reporting to the LCDC on actions

The second annual Stakeholder workshop was held in December 2017 where stakeholder engagement was again high with over 30 in attendance. Denis Leamy, CEO of Pobal gave a key note address to stakeholders and LCDC members on “*The importance of stakeholder engagement in the delivery of integrated services- models, frameworks for the LECP*” which was well received. All stakeholders then were asked for their input into an evaluation of the first implementation plan, Identify priority actions for 2018 and create a composite annual implementation plan, and create an agreed approach to reporting to the LCDC on actions.

The workshop was deemed a huge success and something that stakeholders want to continue with, as part of the LECP process.

A copy of the six monthly progress reports for the period to 30th June 2017 will be made available through Kilkenny County Councils website. The report for the reporting period to 31st December 2017 will be available from March 2018.

Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme. (SICAP)

SICAP provides national funding for local actions to tackle social exclusion, with the responsibility on local implementers to design and deliver the most appropriate types of interventions, initiatives and projects for each Lot. The programme targets disadvantage both at an individual level and at a community group level. Kilkenny LCDC manages the programme for County Kilkenny (Lot 7) and is the key decision maker in terms of annual planning, monitoring and oversight.

Contract for the period 2015-2017.

County Kilkenny Leader Partnership clg is the programme implementer in respect of the period 2015-2017. The annual value of the contract, excluding vat is € 608,000. The annual performance review is undertaken by the SICAP sub-group with the assistance of LCDC support staff and Pobail. In 2017 the end of year review for 2016 was undertaken and the LCDC was satisfied with the performance of the contract.

2017 was the third year of the 3 year SICAP programme 2015-2017 and during the year, with the assistance of the SICAP subgroup and the Programme Implementer, the midyear review was undertaken which was also satisfactory. A further end of year review will be carried out early in 2018.

Contract for the period 2018-2022

A new Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme was introduced late in 2017 in respect of the 5 year period 2018-2022. There has been a slight increase in funding to €632,000 p.a. Following a competitive procurement process County Kilkenny Leader Partnership, clg, was awarded the contract by the LCDC.

Public Participation Network (PPN)

At each meeting the PPN reports on citizen engagement and social inclusion. In 2017 the PPN reported to the LCDC on the following:

- the PPN work plan agreed at the plenary meeting held on 25th April
- the Community section and KLP presentation on community funding to the members
- information and guidance to communities at Municipal District level on the Water and Communities Office and on the LCDC administered Communities Facilities Grant Scheme
- the PPN lead role in the HSE initiative for Universal Access in Kilkenny City which will entail the preparation of a strategic plan
- the award of six degree scholarships in Business, Social Enterprise and Community Development funded by the PPN
- the formation of PPN thematic working groups for social inclusion, disabilities and the environment
- the development and distribution of a community development leaflet
- the provision of free PPN training programmes for members

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- the cofounded PPN & KLP community development courses
- the organisation by the PPN and KLP of a Volunteer expo in McDonagh Junction
- the provision of organisational support and €5,300 financial support to community groups for capacity building events during Yulefest 2017
- the PPN plenary meeting of 8th November at which information was provided on a wide range of initiatives with regards to Community Development, Rural and Town Development and Tourism, community involvement in Yulefest. The four Kilkenny County Council Municipal District Staff Officers were also introduced to the PPN members,
- that the membership stands at 245 groups across the county

Information Sharing

The provision and sharing of information to LCDC members is a standing item on the agenda of LCDC meetings. In 2017 information was provided on the following:

- The CLAR Programme,
- The Resettlement Programme
- Outdoor Recreation Grant Scheme,
- Africa Day Events,
- County Kilkenny Repair and Leasing Scheme,
- Community Based TV Scheme,
- Seniors Alert Scheme,
- St Canice Credit Union Community Fund
- New Public Libraries Strategy,
- LCDC Quality and Capacity Development Plan,
- Healthy Ireland Fund -
- Domestic Violence Needs Analysis – Tusla conducting a public consultation in Carlow and Kilkenny through a survey.
- Letter received from the Department concerning its proposed review of LCDC's.
- New Public Library Strategy 2018-2022 Public Consultation
- Irelands National Age Friendly Recognition and Achievement Awards 2017/2018- Call for submission of applications.

Community Funding Schemes.

The LCDC is the conduit through which national community funding initiatives are developed and implemented.

In 2017 the following schemes were implemented:

- **Community Facilities Grant Scheme.**

The sum of €64,500 was made available to Community Groups to fund small scale capital works. The LCDC appointed the Community Facilities sub group to assess the applications. Following a public call for applications the LCDC received 61 applications of which 36 awards were recommended to the Municipal District members. The recommendations were accepted. All grants have been paid.

- **Rapid Funding Scheme**

The sum of €64,500 was allocated under a new RAPID scheme which is targeted at capital works in disadvantaged urban areas. A sub group was appointed to act on behalf of the LCDC and following consideration of the scheme 6 awards were made ranging from €4,500 to €32,000. All grants were paid.

- **Healthy Ireland Funding**

A new scheme of funding was made available to the LCDC to fund initiatives under the Healthy Ireland programme. The LCDC appointed a sub group to develop proposals and make applications to the Department via Pobail. A similar scheme was also made available to the local Children and Young People Services Committee (CYPSC). The LCDC sub group and the CYPSC group worked together to develop proposals so as to co-ordinate projects and maximise the allocations. The sum of €89,000 was awarded to the Kilkenny LCDC in respect of 6 projects and CYPSC was awarded €38,000 in respect of 6 projects, all of which are due for completion by March 2018.

A schedule of the awards, under each scheme, is outlined in *Appendix No 2*.

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Appendix 1.

LCDC Membership at 31st December 2017.

Name of Member	Nominating Body/Group
Fiona Deegan	Local Enterprise Office
Loretto O'Driscoll	Teagasc
Eileen Curtis	Education Training Board
Mary Barron	Dept of Social Protection
David Fitzgerald	Elected Representative
Andrew McGuinness	Elected Representative
Gerard Frisby	Elected Representative
Mary Hilda Cavanagh	Elected Representative
Elizabeth Dermody	Comm & Voluntary - Ossory Youth
Fergus Keane	Social Inclusion – St Patricks, Kells Rd.
Eileen Ryan	Social Inclusion - Older Peoples Forum
Anne Corr	Social Inclusion Disability – Health Services Executive
Sheila Donnelly	Family Resource Centres
Niall McManus	Kilkenny Cycling & Walking Campaign
John Bambrick	Irish Farmers Association
John Hurley	Chamber of Commerce
Denis Drennan	County Kilkenny Leader Partnership
Colette Byrne	CEO, Kilkenny County Council
Declan Gibbons	PPN Community Pillar – Community Radio
Derval Howley	Associate Member – HSE

Appendix 2

Community Facilities Grant Scheme

Community Group	Grant Awarded
Dragons Lair Martial Arts School	€2,100
MS Society of South East Region	€1,500
Kilkenny Recreation Sports Partnership	€2,100
Freebooters AFC	€2,100
Thomastown Community Centre	€1,500
Thomastown Men's Shed	€2,100
JJ Reddy Danesfort Run	€2,100
Stoneyford Football Club	€950
St. Canices Community Action CLG	€2,200
Thomastown Community Network	€1,600
The Drum Foroige	€2,000
Happe Tots	€1,600
St. Patricks Boxing Club	€2,200
Open Circle Arts	€1,400
Graignamanagh Festivals Committee	€1,900
Epilepsy Ireland	€900
Castlecomer Enterprise Group Ltd	€2,100
Paulstown Community Alert	€1,000
Paulstown Boxing Club	€2,100
Goresbridge Development Committee	€2,100
Muckalee Football Club	€2,100
Castlecomer Men's Shed	€750

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Ballyragget Community Hall	€2,100
Tullaroan Development Association	€2,100
Freshford Development Association	€1,200
ByrnesGrove Text Alert	€1,450
Muckalee Community Centre	€1,400
Castlecomer Youth Cafe	€2,100
Mill Family Resource Centre	€2,200
Mullinavat Community Group	€1,450
Windgap Tidy Towns	€2,100
Rosbercon Hall & Sports	€2,100
Hillsfield Community Centre, Ferrybank	€2,100
St. Josephs Athletic Club	€2,100
Ballyhale Development Association	€1,600
U-Casadh Limited	€2,100
TOTAL	€64,500

Rapid Funding.

A grant allocation of €64,500 was made to the LCDC under the RAPID Scheme in respect of capital works in disadvantaged areas as follows:

Recipient	Amount
Castlecomer Community Hall	€32,000
U Casagh Ltd-Ferrybank	€5,000
Ballyragget Community Hall	€11,500
Callan Boxing Club	€4,500
Barrow Valley Development-The Hub Graiguenamanagh	€11,500
Total	€64,500

Healthy Ireland Initiative Funding.

The LCDC was successful in securing €89,000 under Healthy Ireland funding in respect of 6 projects including the preparation of a strategic plan for the County and a Regional smoking cessation campaign as follows:

1. Development and implementation oversight of year HI plan for Kilkenny.	€20,000
2. Ageing with confidence workshops	€1,000
3. Positive campaign for non-smoking/tobacco free campaign and promotion (regional action)	€10,000
4. Physical activity, healthy eating, whole community and family approach, targeting those who experience health inequalities – Programme Pilot 6 areas in partnership the 4 FRC's in the county, the LEADER Partnership Company (Castlecomer) and the KTCM (Travellers)	€44,000
5. Develop the built environment to promote the importance of physical activity through signposting walks in the City Centre and on the River Nore walk to Bennettsbridge.	€11,000
6. LGBTI Peer Support Programme	€3,000
Total	€89,000

END.