

## **Carlow Local Community Development Committee** **Annual Report 2016**

### **Carlow Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)**

#### **The Guiding Principles of the LCDC are:**

- A developmental “bottom up” approach
- A clear focus on social inclusion
- Promotion of enterprise and employment development
- Voluntary activity and active citizenship
- Harnessing of existing community infrastructure
- Achieving value for money
- Best use of available resources

#### **Purpose:**

- Primary responsibility for co-ordination, planning and oversight of local development spend.
- Develop, coordinate and implement a coherent and integrated approach to local and community development in County Carlow. It will do this by bringing together local authority members and officials, state agencies and people actively working with local development, community development, and economic, cultural and environmental organisations to implement a joined-up, cross-sectoral approach to local and community development programming. LCDCs will, therefore, draw on the expertise and experience of public and private actors within the Council area to provide effective and efficient services to citizens and communities of County Carlow, in particular those most in need of those services.
- Meaningful citizen and community engagement
- Efficient administration of local programmes
- Pursue opportunities for additional funding resources

#### **Functions of the LCDC are:**

- To prepare, adopt, implement, monitor and review the community elements of a 6 -year Local Economic and Community Plan
- To consider and adopt a statement of the economic elements of the Local Economic and Community Plan
- To improve the co-ordination of publicly funded programmes including the Local Community Development Programme Rural Development Programme (LEADER) and Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP)
- Oversight of local and community development programmes
- Avoidance of duplication
- To prepare an annual report on the performance of its functions.

Membership of the LCDC was increased from seventeen to nineteen during 2016 and consists of both statutory and non-statutory including four elected members. The following resigned from the committee in 2016, Cllr Jennifer Murnane O'Connor, Ann Shortall, Social Inclusion PPN Rep, Fr Caoimhín O'Neill Civic Society. These

members were replaced by Cllr Arthur McDonald, Josephine Tierney & Brian Hand. The two additional members are Eileen O'Rourke Carlow Tourism and Anna Marie Lanigan Health Service Executive. The LCDC is a committee of the Council but independent in the performance of its functions.

**Carlow LCDC Members are:**

| <b>Statutory Interests</b>                     |                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sector</b>                                  | <b>Members Name</b>                                                                                         | <b>Organisation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Local Government</b>                        | Michael Doran<br>Charlie Murphy<br>Arthur McDonald<br>William Quinn<br>Kathleen Holohan<br>Kieran Comerford | Members of Carlow County Council<br><br>Chief Executive<br>Head of Enterprise                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>State Agencies</b>                          | Noel Barry<br>Cynthia Deane<br><br>Anna Marie Lanigan                                                       | Department of Social Protection<br>Kilkenny/Carlow Education & Training Board<br>Health Service Executive                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Non Statutory Interests</b>                 |                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Sector</b>                                  | <b>Members Name</b>                                                                                         | <b>Organisation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Local &amp; Community Development</b>       | Thomas Kelly<br><br>Mary Doyle<br><br>Josephine Tierney<br><br>Andrea Dalton<br><br>Eamonn Moore            | Drumpeha Cemetery Committee (Community and Voluntary PPN Rep)<br>Hacketstown Community Group (Community and Voluntary PPN Rep)<br>Bagenalstown Family Resource Centre (Social Inclusion PPN Rep)<br>St Catherine's Community Services Centre (Social Inclusion PPN Rep)<br>Environmental Pillar (PPN Rep) |
| <b>Social Economic and Community Interests</b> | Mary Walsh<br><br>John Brophy<br>John Nolan<br>Brian Hand<br>Eileen O'Rourke                                | Carlow County Development Partnership CLG.<br>Carlow Chamber (Business Employer)<br>Agricultural / Farming<br>Arts & Culture - Civic Society<br>Carlow Tourism                                                                                                                                            |

Five LCDC/LAG Meetings were held in 2016 as follows:

- 27<sup>th</sup> January 2016
- 13<sup>th</sup> April 2016
- 6<sup>th</sup> July 2016
- 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2016
- 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2016

The LCDC/LAG has programme oversight and programme management in respect of the following activities:

- Rural Development Programme (LEADER)
- Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP)
- Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

### **Rural Development Programme (LEADER)**

Carlow was allocated €6,416,803.43m under the Rural Development Programme for the period 2014 -2020. The LCDC has approved Carlow County Development Partnership Ltd as Lead Implementing Partner for the Rural Development Programme. The Carlow County Local Development Strategy was submitted to the Department of the Environment Community and Local Government on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2016 following consideration by members of the LCDC and sign off by the LCDC LEADER Sub Committee and Chairperson. The Strategy was prepared by Carlow County Development Partnership CLG through a “bottom –up” process facilitating participation by members of the rural community and taking full and comprehensive consideration of not just local needs but also local potential. The strategy is complementary to Carlow County Council’s strategic planning process which provides for a more integrated approach to community development at local level. The Strategy sets out how LEADER funding will be best used to support the sustainable development of County Carlow. The Strategy was approved by the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs in June 2016. The LCDC/LAG approved LEADER Call for Proposals in respect of the following themes at its meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2016 which are managed by Carlow County Development Partnership CLG, Implementing Partner

- Community Infrastructure Projects
- Community Tourism Festival Projects
- Enterprises in excess of 10 employees who serve the domestic market only
- Community projects in hard to reach communities
- Rural Enterprises with less than 10 employees and a turnover of €2m
- Tourism Project development

Eligibility Criteria for Call for Proposals in respect of the above were approved.

LEADER Call for Proposals were advertised in respect of Regeneration of Rural Towns/Villages and Festivals targeting a National Audience with closing dates respectively of the 18<sup>th</sup> October and 18<sup>th</sup> November 2016 for receipt of Expression of Interest’s. The LAG approved/rejected recommendations in respect of same at its meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2016.

The LCDC/LAG has approved /considered the following:

- LEADER Evaluation Committee
- LEADER Financial Report for 2016
- LEADER Evaluation Committee Scoring Record
- Draft LEADER Procedures Manual

The Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs launched the LEADER Rural Development Programme in Virginia, Cavan on the 8<sup>th</sup> July 2016 where the Carlow LEADER Funding Agreement/Contract was signed by Minister Heather Humphries.

### **Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP)**

The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) is the successor programme to the Local Community Development Programme. SICAP is a local social inclusion programme focussed on the most marginalised in Irish Society.

#### **SICAP Vision**

To improve the life chances and opportunities of those who are marginalised in society, living in poverty and unemployment, through community development approaches, targeting supports and interagency collaboration where the values of inclusion are promoted and human rights are respected.

#### **SICAP Aim**

To reduce poverty, promote social inclusion and equality through local, regional and national engagement and collaboration.

#### **SICAP has three goals:**

1. To support and resource disadvantaged communities and marginalised target groups to engage with relevant local and national stakeholders in identifying and addressing social exclusion and equality issues.
2. To support individuals and marginalised target groups experiencing educational disadvantage so they can participate fully, engage with and progress through life-long learning opportunities through the use of community development approaches.
3. To engage with marginalised target groups/individuals and residents of disadvantaged communities who are unemployed but who do not fall within mainstream employment service provision, or who are referred to SICAP, to move them closer to the labour market and improve work readiness, and support them in accessing employment and self-employment and creating social enterprise opportunities.

#### **SICAP Target Groups**

The target groups are:

- Children and Families from disadvantaged areas;
- Lone parents;
- New Communities (including Refugees/Asylum Seekers);
- People living in Disadvantaged Communities;
- People with Disabilities;
- Roma;
- The Unemployed (including those not on the live register);
- Low Income Workers/Households
- Travellers;
- Young unemployed people from disadvantaged areas

- NEETs-Young People aged 15-24 years who are not in employment, education or training.

SICAP funding of €536,428 was allocated to County Carlow for the year 2016. The LCDC is the contracting authority and Carlow County Development Partnership is the Programme Implementer. County Carlow is one Lot for the purposes of this programme. SICAP will run for three years 2015-2017. The LCDC reviewed the 2015 SICAP Annual Plan in January 2016 and approved the SICAP Annual Plan 2016. The 2016 SICAP Annual Plan Mid Term review for the period January –June 2016 was reviewed by the members in 2016 and the SICAP Annual Plan for 2017 was considered in December 2016. A sub group of the LCDC committee comprising of Andrea Dalton and Noel Barry including Michael Brennan, Chief Officer and Margaret Moore, Community met on a number of occasions during 2016 to examine and review the implementation of the programme with Karl Duffy Carlow County Development Partnership, Programme Implementer. All headline targets in the SICAP Programme will be achieved by the Programme Implementer for 2016.

### **Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP)**

The Local Government Reform Act 2014 provides a stronger and clearer role for local government in economic and community development. This is a key element in achieving the vision set out in the Action Programme for Effective Local Government –Putting People First “local government will be the main vehicle of governance and public service at local level, leading economic, social and community development.” Section 44 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 provides for the making of a six year integrated Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP).

The preparation of the Plan is the responsibility of the Carlow Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and Carlow County Council. The Community elements of the Plan were developed by the Local Community Development Committee and economic elements by Carlow County Council through the strategic Policy Committee (SPC) for Economic Development, Enterprise Support and Planning.

The purpose of the Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP) for County Carlow, is to identify and implement actions to strengthen and develop the economic and community development dimensions of the local authority area over the six year period 2016-2021 and in a manner that both reflects and supports the implementation of the existing Carlow County Development Plan, Joint Spatial Plan for Carlow and the Draft Guidelines and proposed Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSEs), to be prepared by the Regional Assembly and the new National Planning Framework which will replace the National Spatial Strategy. In preparing the LECP, it was necessary also to consider the proposed Rural Development Strategy for County Carlow 2014 to 2020, the Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme (SICAP) and Government’s Action Plan for Jobs.

The draft plan went out on public consultation on the 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2015 with a closing date for comments/observations on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2016. The LCDC

considered and approved the draft plan following the public consultation process at its meeting

held on the 27<sup>th</sup> January 2016 with amendments. Carlow County adopted the draft Local Economic and Community Plan –County Carlow 2021 Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2021 at its meeting held on 8th February 2016. The role of the LCDC will be to implement, oversee, coordinate, monitor and review the plan in partnership with Carlow County Council. The National Oversight Audit Commission (NOAC) and the LECP Advisory Steering Group will also have an monitoring role in the implementation of the Plan.

The Plan will be implemented in three cycles of two year periods through an Implementation plan and the Implementation Plan for the period 2016-2018 has been considered and approved by the LCDC and Carlow County Council. During 2017 LEAD Agencies identified in the Plan will report to the LCDC by delivering a verbal/written progress report on the actions detailed in the Implementation Plan.

The Local Economic and Community Plan was launched by the Cathaoirleach Cllr Charlie Murphy in Carlow in July and by Minister Simon Coveney Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government at the National Ploughing Championships in September.

The LCDC also adopted/considered the following:

- LCDC, 2015 Annual Report
- Amendments to Standing Orders
- Declaration of Interest –Conflict of Interest
- Town & Village Renewal Scheme
- Review of South Carlow REDZ Project
- Report from Carlow Public Participation Network
- Nomination of LCDC member Ms Josephine Tierney to Carlow Suicide Prevention Planning group
- Report from Edmond Connolly South East Regional Skills Forum Manager

Training was organised at National Level by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government and Pobal for members of the LCDC in respect of:

- Operations of the LCDC
- SICAP
- LEADER
- Our Communities –A framework Policy for Local and Community Development in Ireland.