

**Minutes of the Meeting of**  
**Carlow Local Community Development Committee**  
**Held on the 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2015**  
**in**  
**Council Chamber, County Buildings, Athy Road, Carlow**

**PRESENT**

**Statutory Interests:**

Cllr's. Michael Doran, Jennifer Murnane O Connor  
Head of LEO: Kieran Comerford,  
Kilkenny/Carlow Education & Training Board: Cynthia Deane  
Department of Social Protection: Noel Barry

**Non -Statutory Interests:**

Community & Voluntary Sector: Mary Doyle  
Community & Voluntary Sector: Thomas Kelly  
Social Pillar: Andrea Dalton  
Environmental Pillar: Eamonn Moore  
Business/Employer: John Brophy  
Civic Society: Fr. Caomhín O'Neill  
Carlow County Development Partnership: Mary Walsh

**Chief Officer:** Michael Brennan

**Administrative Officer:** Margaret Moore

**Apologies:**

Agricultural /Farming: John Nolan  
Statutory Interests: Cllr's Willie Quinn and Charlie Murphy and Seamus O'Connor  
Social Inclusion: Anne Shortall

**ITEM 1      Approval of Minutes and Matters Arising**

**Proposed: Thomas Kelly**  
**Seconded: Cllr Michael Doran**

“That the Minutes of the LCDC Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2015 are hereby approved.”

Carlow LCDC Members agreed to rearrange the order of the Agenda that Item 3 would move to Item 6. There are no matters arising that were not on the Agenda.

**ITEM 2      Local Economic Community Plan (LECP)**

The Chief Officer advised of the two public consultations meetings that had been scheduled with one of them taking place last evening (24<sup>th</sup> March) in Bagenalstown Family Resource Centre while the 2<sup>nd</sup> one is taking place on Thursday evening (26<sup>th</sup> March) in the Seven Oaks Hotel. In regards to the meeting in Bagenalstown it was agreed that while attendance was small, the quality and content was excellent in regard to facilitation and submissions from attendees.

Closing date for receipt of submissions is 5pm on Thursday 2nd April, 2015 which will be then collated and put up on Carlow County Council’s website.

The Chief Officer reminded the members of the role of the LECP Advisory Committee which is to oversee this process and advised who the members were. He also reminded the members that the role of the LCDC is to prepare the Community Element of the Plan and Economic Development and Enterprise SPC is responsible for the Economic element. The plan will be presented to the Elected Members of Carlow County Council for final approval.

It was agreed that the preparation timetable for the Plan would be circulated to the members.

Queries raised by Members were responded to by the Chief Officer.

**ITEM 3      LCDC Annual Report**

The Chief Officer advised that the Local Government Act 2001, Section 128B(1)(l) requires the LCDC to prepare, adopt and submit an Annual Report to the Local Authority on an annual basis in respect of the performance of its functions in the previous calendar year. He also pointed out typographical error in the circulated copy of the LCDC Annual Report .

**Proposed: Fr. Caomhín O’Neill**  
**Seconded: Cythnia Deane**

“That the Carlow LCDC Annual Report for 2014 is hereby adopted”.

#### **ITEM 4      LCDP Monthly Payments**

Carlow LCDC Members noted the LCDP Monthly Payment Report for January 2015 and Quarter 4 LCDP report for 2014 which were circulated. The Chief Officer stated

- CCDP received €125,390 to cover the first 3 months of 2015 until SICAP commences on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015.
- No payments were withheld for the month of January 2015 and payment has been made as per the rules of the programme.
- Payments made to the LDC to date are in line with budget for 2015
- In relation to 2014 the majority of targets were reached or exceeded apart from targets for beneficiaries participating in accredited education. However this was balanced by the high numbers of beneficiaries participating in accredited labour market training.
- It was also noted that the programme also achieved high numbers in supporting individuals into both employment and self-employment.
- Administration Cost spend is in line with required spend and is within budget.
- Spend across Goals 1-4 are in line with required spend thresholds.

#### **ITEM 5      Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP)**

The Chief Officer informed the members that the signing of the Contract which was arranged for today has been rescheduled to Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March at 12.30pm as CCDP had requested further time to consider and examine the contract. He invited all members to attend and informed them that a press release will issue on Monday.

The Chief Officer advised of the general terms and conditions of the Carlow SICAP programme which he circulated and informed the members that at the next meeting the Implementer (CCDP) will present a full report of the SICAP actions.

Queries raised by members were responded to by the Chief Officer.

#### **ITEM 6      LEADER Programme**

The Chief Officer advised that the total budget for Carlow LEADER Programme is €6.4 million. He also reminded the members of the agreement reached at 12<sup>th</sup> November 2014 LCDC meeting where the CCDP were invited to prepare an expression of interest application under the first phase of the LEADER application and selection process in collaboration with other partners, and to take a lead role in the preparation of the local strategy priorities for the local development strategy. He met the CEO and Finance Manager with the LCDC Chairperson on the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2015. The following issues were raised:

- What operating budget (as a percentage of the total budget of €6.4million) is available to Carlow County Development Partnership Ltd as the implementing body?
- What is the total funding available to Carlow County Development Partnership Ltd to prepare the EOI/Local Development Strategy on behalf of the Carlow LCDC
- Is it the LCDC's intention to retain the LEADER programme as one cohesive programme and for the entire programme would be delivered by one implementing body?

After a considerable amount of discussion it was agreed that CCDP Ltd., would receive 18% Administration Costs with the remaining 3% (as advised by the Department – 21% is recommended maximum spend on Administration/Operational Costs) is up for negotiation as it was pointed out that the Local Authority requires their costs to be covered as the Lead Financial Partner in this arrangement. It was also agreed that the CCDP Ltd would receive any funding available to cover the cost of the preparation of the EOI and the Strategic Priorities from the Dept. to the LCDC. It is the intention of the LCDC to retain the LEADER programme as one cohesive programme and it is envisaged that CCDP Ltd., would be the implementing body for the programme.

In order to oversee this period of negotiation the Chairperson Eamonn Moore recommended the setting up a subgroup from the LCDC and the members were agreed as follows;

- Chief Officer Michael Brennan (proposed by Eamonn Moore and Seconded by Cllr. Michael Doran)
- Cllr Michael Doran (proposed by Eamonn Moore and Seconded by Cynthia Deane)
- Kieran Comeford (proposed by Fr. Caomhín O'Neill and Seconded by Thomas Kelly)
- Chairperson Eamonn Moore (proposed by Noel Barry and Seconded by Cynthia Deane)

**This concluded the business of the meeting**