

Minutes of 18th June, 2018 Local Community and Development Committee Meeting held at Littleton and Moycarkey Community and Sports Centre, Thurles

Present:

Public Sector: Joe MacGrath, Councillor John Carroll (Chair), Rita Guinan, Eileen Condon, Councillor Mary Hanna Hourigan, Donal Mullane, Adrian Cunneen (7)

Private Sector: Charles Stanley-Smith, Isabel Cambie, Michael Murray, Clare Cashman, John Lupton (Alternate for Cora Horgan), Imelda Walsh & John O'Shaughnessy (7)

Apologies:

Public Sector: Maria Bridgeman

Private Sector: Seán O'Farrell

In Attendance: Pat Slattery (Chief Officer), Michael Moroney, Margo Hayes, Fiona Crotty & Fiona Hughes

1.	<p><u>To Note Adherence to Meeting Procedure Requirements</u></p> <p>1.1 Quorum Margo Hayes confirmed that a quorum had been achieved to proceed with the meeting.</p> <p>1.2 Conflict of Interest & Decision Making - LEADER Margo confirmed that the LCDC had been notified of the requirements to indicate COI and any issues arising could be discussed prior to formal discussion of the projects.</p> <p>1.3 Decision-Making Requirements to include written decision M Hayes confirmed that none were received in relation to the LEADER projects for decision at the meeting.</p>
2.	<p><u>Approval of Draft Agenda</u></p> <p>Councillor John Carroll, Chair, declared the meeting open. He extended sincere sympathies to Clare Cashman who has been recently bereaved after the death of her father.</p> <p>Apologies were noted. The Chair welcomed back Joe MacGrath, Chief Executive, as a member of the LCDC.</p> <p>Draft Agenda was approved.</p>
3.	<p><u>Confirmation of Minutes</u></p> <p>The minutes of Tipperary LCDC meeting held on 21st May, 2018 were agreed on the proposal of Imelda Walsh and seconded by Cllr Mary Hanna Hourigan.</p>

Minor adjustments to the draft May minutes were requested to be made by Michael Murray, in written correspondence sent to Fiona Crotty. These were as follows:-

- Item No. 4 – SICAP - reference to Trisha Purcell's work allocation needs to be changed from working 5 days per week on RDP to “three days on RDP and two days in SICAP”.
- Item 5.5.2 – LEADER - Christmas Lights Recommendation - discussion over wording of what constitutes a town to be further mentioned at the July LCDC meeting following discussion with STDC.
- Item 5.10 - Templemore Approach Roads – last sentence of third paragraph “LCDC cannot accept the verbal recommendation delivered via NTL” to be changed to “written recommendation was/is included in IEC minutes of the 19th May”.

4. **SICAP**

4.1 Approval of payments to Local Development Companies

Margo Hayes provided an update to the LCDC Members and indicated that payments are made four times in a year following bi-annual reviews. The mid-year review will take place on June 25th. If there is an underspend in the previous year, the Q3 payment (July-September) is reduced by that amount. NTL had an underspend of €2,290.71 in 2017, therefore their payment will be €132,535.04. STDC had an underspend of €13,864.51 in 2017: therefore their payment will be €144,655.49.

On the proposal of Councillor Mary Hanna Hourigan and seconded by Eileen Condon, these payments were approved.

4.2 Mid-Year Review

Margo indicated that SICAP conducted two reviews per annum: one mid-year and the second at year-end. The mid-year review will be held on the 25th June and based on activity between 1st January and 31st May and all figures were uploaded to IRIS by the 15th June. Feedback to Pobal needs to be completed by the 29th June with a review to be carried out by them by the 4th July. Margo advised that the review process must be finalised by 31st July, 2018.

If progress is satisfactory, 3 months' payment upfront will be made but if there are outstanding issues (e.g. targets not met) at the review, then 1 month's payment will be made and the balance paid after the issues are resolved. Clare Cashman doesn't anticipate the need to withhold funding in her programme and accepts this is a good tool to ensure compliance.

Isabel Cambie informed the LCDC that Carmel McKenna, Project Co-ordinator in Carrick-On-Suir, has left the STDC and a replacement will hopefully be appointed by September, but to a more senior role of Development Officer.

5. **LEADER**

5.1 To Decide on NTLP Rolling Call Applications

Documents circulated for consideration by the members were the Project Evaluation Assessment Report and completed IEC Scoring Sheet for each application together with IEC meeting minutes. In addition, an Implementing Partner CEO Report to LCDC Chief Officer with details of each project including deadweight, displacement, rationale for grant aid, consistency with the Local Development Strategy and Operating Rules, IEC score and recommendation, and A48 Checking process undertaken was circulated for the consideration of members.

Rationale for projects, deadweight and displacement were discussed individually in respect of each application, however, there were no issues raised or arising.

In relation to the NTLP Projects the members were taken through these by Michael Murray. Approval of each project, on the basis of the recommendation of the Independent Evaluation Committee, was as follows:

- **NTP107410 Community Energy Audits** - grant of €20,050.00 (90% of total expenditure of €24,500) to conduct energy audits of community buildings. At the request of Michael Murray, this project was deferred to next month for consideration and decision-making.
- **NTP107099 Cloughjordan Arts Stage Canopy** - grant of €60,819.45 which is 75% of total expenditure of €81,092.61. The funding is required for the fabrication and installation of a demountable all-weather stage canopy at the amphitheatre. Michael Murray informed the Committee of the voluntary labour amounting to €6,360 in the proposal.

He also referenced that the project was evaluated at a higher rate than that reflected on the IT System: TOTAL PROJECT COST €81,102.10 with 75% grant rate of €60,826.58. This is due to the VAT rate on a supplier invoice. The VAT rate was subsequently clarified: Concrete Blocks were charged at 13.5 % and all other items at 23%. The total VAT amount is lower than originally calculated at Assessment stage and is reflected correctly on the IT System. This results in the lower rate: TOTAL PROJECT COST €81,092.61 with 75% grant rate of €60,819.45, as presented to the meeting.

Rita Guinan, public sector member, departed the meeting at this stage in order to maintain the public-private balance for decision-making purposes.

The rationale for the project, deadweight, displacement and innovation were discussed in respect of the application. On the proposal of John Lupton and seconded by Councillor Mary Hanna Hourigan, this project was approved, as recommended.

- **NTP107409 Community District Heating A&D** - grant of €22,500 (90% of total expenditure of €24,500) required for feasibility studies. At the request of Michael Murray, this project was deferred to next month for consideration and decision-making.

- **NTP107166 Ascend - Giving Children A Voice** - grant of €5,533.20 which is 90% of total expenditure of €6,148.00. This is an exploratory research project involving LIT which hopes to study the experiences of women (who are victims of domestic abuse) managing court mandated child custody and access procedures. John Lupton sought confirmation that children would be included in the process because it seems to be mainly focused on women in the current proposal. Clare also expressed her opinion that children were not being given adequate consideration and that the research should be expanded. Michael Murray agreed with both John and Clare and confirmed that the project does include both children and women. At this point, Michael Murray left the room due to a conflict of interest. Adrian Cunneen joined Rita Guinan as public sector abstainers and left the meeting to maintain the balance for decision-making purposes for this project. The rationale for the project, deadweight, displacement and innovation were discussed in respect of the application. On the proposal of Isabel Cambie and seconded by John Lupton, this project was approved, as recommended.

Michael Murray and Adrian Cunneen rejoined the meeting. Rita Guinan remained absent to ensure public-private balance for ongoing decision-making purposes.

- **NTP103001 Age Friendly Roscrea** - grant of €2,712.41 which is 75% of total expenditure of €3,616.55. This project involves the purchase of equipment and electrical goods to allow the facility to function efficiently. The rationale for the project, deadweight, displacement and innovation were discussed in respect of the application. On the proposal of John O'Shaughnessy and seconded by Cllr. Mary Hanna Hourigan, this project was approved, as recommended.
- **NTP107433 Dúrlas Éile Memorial Garden** - grant of €3,396.19 which is 75% of total expenditure of €4,528.25. This project will include specialised sandblasting and re-painting of guns in the memorial garden in preparation for future commemorative events. The rationale for the project, deadweight, displacement and innovation were discussed in respect of the application. On the proposal of Isabel Cambie and seconded by Eileen Condon, this project was approved, as recommended.
- **NTP107411 Tipperary Food Tour Education Programme** - grant of €20,000. This is a project which is linked to an STDC project already approved by the LCDC (STP106910). At the request of Michael Murray, this project was deferred to next month for consideration and decision-making.

Isabel Cambie requested that the theme under which the NTLP project and the STDC projects are considered be re-classified from Enterprise Development to Rural Youth because the training under the education programmes will be primarily carried out in primary schools. On the proposal of Donal Mullane and seconded by Imelda Walsh, this was approved.

5.2 Update re Annual Plan and LDS Deviation

Fiona Crotty informed the meeting that further correspondence had been received on the 29th May from the Department in relation to the Annual Plan Progress report submitted in February

2018. In this regard it was confirmed that the Tipperary LDS as submitted via the Annual Progress report is not in contravention of the guidelines, stipulations or relevant circulars. This confirmation in effect enabled the broadening of areas from the original LDS to include other factors in addition to the Pobal Deprivation Index (PDI) for consideration when assessing eligibility. This supported the Basic Services Call announcement by allowing applications from previously excluded geographical areas, by virtue of the PDI, to become eligible for consideration as the group must now demonstrate social inclusion of target groups where the geographical base is outside the areas with high deprivation.

5.3 Update on Co-operation Projects

Michael Murray presented the following co-operation project.

- **NTP107185 Community Shop Regional Network.** The community shops project involves a budget of €6,000 from each LAG in Tipperary, Kilkenny & Laois and aims to develop a business model to sustain a network of community shops. Michael Murray stated shops opened in areas where there were gaps or deficits identified in Basic Services and this included consideration given to displacement of existing businesses. John Lupton expressed concern that the proposal concerning networking is acceptable but a local shop is not economically viable in the co-operative system. The focus should always be on the community and he would hate to see it diluted by joint purchasing systems. Michael Murray agreed with John's sentiments and that the tender is somewhat "corporate" and he will ask Kilkenny to include capacity building in their revised tender. At this stage, Michael Moroney outlined that the project had not yet gone through the full Article 48 check process and was not at Stage 10 on the IT system and so a decision on the project could not be taken. Michael Murray stated that it had gone through the Article 48 checks for the Kilkenny LAG.
- **Other Project**
Isabel Cambie stated that Tipperary Tourism had withdrawn their application (STP102693) after receiving approval of a grant of €82,000 due to difficulties complying with De Minimis and state aid regulations. Joe MacGrath, on behalf of the Tourism Company, thanked the Members for their support of the project. Clare questioned whether money goes back into the overall tourism fund and was told that this sum would now be decommitted and become available.
- **Other Project Matters**
Isabel Cambie reminded the Members that the closing date for receipt of Targeted Call Eols was June 18th.

5.4 Income and Expenditure Report

Michael Moroney outlined the LDS Administration & Animation financial expenditure and income report to May 2018 inclusive which was circulated at the meeting. The report sets out the monthly IP Administration & Animation expenditure claims, payments to promoters and details of income received from DAHRRGA. On the proposal of Clare Cashman and seconded by Eileen Condon, the report was approved by the Members.

6.	<p><u>Healthy Ireland</u></p> <p>6.1 Healthy Ireland 2017 Fund Actions Update</p> <p>Fiona Crotty presented this item and circulated a document at the meeting. The document provided a map of the 2017 Strand 1 actions across the county reflecting the geographical spread of actions across the county.</p> <p>It is proposed to hold the launch of the Healthy Tipperary Strategy on the afternoon of September 17th after the September LCDC, with further information to issue in the next few weeks. Fiona advised that a tender request had issued for the graphic design and print of the Strategy and a supplier had been engaged. The Strategy will be presented to the Housing, Community, Culture and Libraries SPC in June and to the full Plenary of Tipperary County Council on September 11th.</p> <p>Fiona also made reference to the Regional Tobacco Action plan. The work from the Regional Action was showcased at the Tobacco Free Ireland Partners Conference at Farmleigh House on 31st May. An element of this regional action involved a stencil and a positive message poster campaign which will be launched across the Region on the 27th September.</p> <p>As advised at the May meeting, Tipperary will continue to participate in Regional Actions under Healthy Ireland Strand 2 funding with our partners Carlow, Kilkenny, Waterford and Wexford which includes funding for Tobacco Cessation, Sexual Health and Cook It programmes.</p>
7.	<p><u>Public Participation Network Presentation</u></p> <p>Avril Wilson delivered a presentation to the LCDC which was extremely well received and the Chair commented on the PPN's valuable contribution in actively participating with the LCDC. Pat also complimented Avril on her presentation and the invaluable capacity building and variety of training courses. Clare questioned whether Avril could comment on the demands of a Rep for social inclusion and that the community development group does not always receive the respect it deserves for its function. Avril replied that the PPN tries to work with the Reps on an individual and collective basis and aims to improve resources and capacity building. Charles also expressed his sincere thanks to Avril and her role in the success of the PPN. He has previously served on SPC's and acknowledged that the participation of PPN Reps as partners was very evident on the LCDC and hoped that this was mirrored on the SPC's. Eileen also commended Avril and welcomed the capacity building and digital skills.</p>
8.	<p><u>Community Enhancement Scheme</u></p> <p>Fiona Crotty circulated several documents at the meeting including guidelines and an application form for the Community Enhancement Programme 2018 which is a combination of the Communities Facilities Scheme and the re-cast RAPID programme. Tipperary County Council will receive €149,690 in 2018. The national closing date for the Scheme was the 30th of July but the recommendation was to bring this forward to 4pm on 10th July, 2018. This is to enable the grant recommendations to be prepared for the July LCDC meeting. The promoters will be informed following the July LCDC and all funds will have to be spent by 31st December, 2018. The</p>

Tipperary LCDC Recommendation for the CEP Scheme is for three separate categories:-

1. Small Grants at €45,000 accounting for 30%* of overall funding, which would be maximum of €1,000. * This is a national requirement of the scheme.
2. RAPID/CAP Grants - €50,000 has been ring-fenced for projects under these areas and will focus on three RAPID areas of Clonmel, Tipperary and Carrick-On-Suir in addition to CAP in Littleton and Roscrea.
3. Thematic Grants Category totalling €54,690. This will identify areas outside of RAPID and target isolation and loneliness. Grants will be over €1,000 and less than €5,000.

The selection process of successful applications will consider geographic spread and demographics. Details of the scheme will be uploaded to the website today and disseminated by the PPN on behalf of the LCDC. Fiona and Margo confirmed that the application is relatively straight-forward with little bureaucracy involved in the process.

On the proposal of Clare Cashman and seconded by Eileen Condon, this Scheme as proposed was approved.

9. **Update on Funding Grant Schemes**

Michael Moroney outlined details of the following Grant Funding Schemes:


- CLÁR Scheme;
 - Scheme of Capital Grants
 - Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme;
 - Town & Village Renewal Scheme
- CLÁR Scheme - the LCDC was informed that no feedback had yet been received from the Department in relation to the three Measure 2 applications.
- Scheme of Capital Grants - 109 grantees have accepted offers and are actively engaged in the process, with some already commencing their projects.
- Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure 2018 - this scheme was launched this month.
- Measure 1: grants up to €20,000 for small-scale improvements such as walking trails. Applicant must be the Local Development Company and maximum number of applications allowed per Company is 10.
 - Measure 2: grants up to €200,000. Council must be the applicant and the maximum number of applications allowed is 4.
 - Measure 3: grants up to €500,000 and only 1 application is permitted.

Clare questioned whether this scheme will affect the social inclusion of community groups. Michael stated that its aim includes the improvement of facilities in the countryside. The Council is currently working with several stakeholders including tourism and sports in this regard.

	<p>➤ Town & Village Scheme 2017 – Tipperary County Council had received approval for 13 applications and 4 have been completed and others are expected to be finished by year-end.</p> <p>➤ Town & Village Scheme 2018 - The closing date for submission of applications to the Department is the 30th June. 40 EOI's were received. 12 (maximum number allowed) applications were chosen to be put forward as applications and work on these is progressing to meet the application deadline.</p> <p>Rita referred to the Town and Village Renewal Scheme and the 28 unsuccessful EOI's and the merits of having a database of pipeline projects in case additional funding was to become available. Michael stated that some projects did not suit the theme or category and others were directed to apply for LEADER funding adding that all applicants received constructive feedback. Clare was also supportive of Rita's suggestion to maintain details of all unsuccessful applicants in the event that other agencies involved with the LCDC could offer future assistance.</p> <p>Councillor John Carroll complimented the LCDC administration team led by Michael for their consistently professional and competent management of the various schemes.</p>
10.	<p><u>Correspondence, Submissions & Consultations</u></p> <p>Margo referred to Tipperary's Local Link service which has the opportunity to provide a small amount of funding to assist groups or individuals with transportation costs related to social inclusive activities for groups who may not have the resources to participate otherwise. This initiative will run from January to November 2018. Services will be co-ordinated by Local Link Tipperary and up to 80% of the cost of the transport will be covered by this service provider. Clare questioned whether this was confined to one-off trips and Margo stated that Anthony Moroney could provide further clarity on this matter.</p> <p>Ability Funding of €16 Million for 27 projects of which Tipperary was successful in receiving funding for three projects as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Work Ireland Tipperary • St. Cronan's Workshop Roscrea • Knockanrawley Resource Centre
11.	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <p>Councillor Carroll informed everybody that Catherine Guest was not seeking re-election and expressed his thanks for her valuable contribution and time. This endorsement was proposed by Councillor John Carroll and seconded by Clare Cashman.</p> <p>Eileen thanked everybody for attending a recent open evening at the new ETB training centre in Thurles and had sent a PDF file to circulate to Members which has since been done.</p> <p>Isabel mentioned the lack of a Project Co-Ordinator at present may impact on meeting some deadlines in the near future with regard to the delivery of projects.</p>

12.	Next meeting to be held at 10.00 a.m. on Monday, 16 th July, 2018 in the Littleton and Moycarkey Community and Sports Centre
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Signed/


Councillor John Carroll,
Chair,

Tipperary Local Community Development Committee

Date/

16/7/2018

