



Coiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Áitiúil
an Chabháin
Cavan Local Community Development
Committee

Cavan Local Community Development Committee

Annual Report 2022

Cavan LCDC Annual Report 2022

Produced by:

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Cavan County Council

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Cavan

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Foreword

Welcome to the 2022 Annual Report of the Cavan Local Community Development Committee (LCDC). The LCDC has primary responsibility for co-ordinating, planning and overseeing local and community development funding and the preparation and review of elements of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP). The LCDC also provides oversight and coordination of a number of programmes and funds including the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP), Peace Programme, Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) and the Healthy Ireland initiative. Cavan LCDC delivers the LEADER element of the Rural Development Programme and acts as the Local Action Group (LAG) working in partnership with Cavan County Council as Financial Partner and Cavan County Local Development Company as Implementing Partner. Oversight and co-ordination of the various programmes is supported and augmented by Cavan County Council, Pobal, and the Department of Rural and Community Development.

2022 was another successful year for Cavan LCDC in terms of the LEADER programme, administering Community Enhancement and Social Enterprise Funding and the significant adaptability shown through the SICAP programme in responding to both Covid19 and the Ukrainian Crisis. At the beginning of 2022 Covid19 was still present and having an impact on the way services were being delivered. Then in March war broke out in Ukraine and Cavan began to host displaced Ukrainian people and the Ukrainian Community Response came into being. The huge role being played by Cavan County Local Development in delivering the Ukraine Community Response under SICAP must be commended. I would like to acknowledge the extraordinary commitment and dedication of all those involved in delivering essential services to individuals, communities and businesses in our communities.

While there were a number of changes in membership of the LCDC during 2022, there continues to be excellent engagement at LCDC meetings by both statutory and non-statutory members. 2022 was the last year of the current Local Economic and Community Plan, significant achievements were made during the lifetime of the plan, with lead agencies reporting on activity at six monthly intervals. A new Local Economic and Community Plan will

be prepared in collaboration with the members of the LCDC in 2023 and work has already commenced on this.

I would like to express my appreciation to LCDC members for their significant time commitment and the valuable role they play in co-ordinating activity and progressing important areas of work that are crucial to the social and economic development of our county. The diverse range of expertise on the committee helps it to act effectively in managing programmes and overseeing the community elements of the Local Economic and Community Plan.

Brendan Jennings
Chairperson
Cavan Local Community Development Committee

A Statement from the Chief Officer, Cavan LCDC

The Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) under Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2014 (S128B of the Local Government Act 2001) is required to prepare and submit a report to the Local Authority in respect of the various LCDC functions in the previous year. This report includes a review of progress generally, details of meetings held, implementation of the Local Economic & Community Plan and details of the oversight, management and collaboration in relation to public-funded programmes under the LCDC's remit including the LEADER Programme, Peace Programme, the Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme (SICAP) and Healthy Cavan.

Since the submission of the last report, Cavan LCDC and its subgroups have had a busy and productive year. Covid19 continued to cause issues for the people of our communities as well as impacting on how we do our work. The Ukrainian crisis has also posed additional challenges particularly as Cavan is host to a large number of displaced people who are being sent to the county with little or no advanced notice. A Community Response Forum has been set up which met every 2 weeks from April to December. This Interagency forum's purpose is to co-ordinate services and to assist displaced Ukrainians who come to the county.

Each member of the LCDC has embraced these challenges and the committee continue to deliver on the commitments for each of the programmes.

Cavan LCDC's focus for 2022 was primarily on the delivery of the Community Plan of the LECP as well as the delivery of LEADER and SICAP, in particular ensuring targets were met and spend was progressing. Progress reports have been presented to the LCDC on a regular basis on the delivery of actions in the LECP. The LCDC managed, implemented and collaborated in relation to a number of public funded programmes under its remit including the Community Enhancement Programme and the Social Enterprise Capital Grants Scheme. The committee functioned in an effective and professional way throughout the year with members demonstrating an understanding of their role and a commitment to the tasks in hand.

The current Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2018-2022 is ongoing with Cavan County Local Development Company as the Programme Implementer. The Department of Rural and Community Development have decided to extend the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP 2018-2022) funding agreements for a period of 12 months, up to 31st December 2023. The actions set out in the 2022 Annual Plan were completed and significant progress was made with the relevant groups. The SICAP Monitoring sub-committee continue to work constructively in its review and monitoring of the SICAP programme. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the work of our colleagues in Cavan County Local Development Company who have continued to implement the SICAP programme, I also wish to note the remarkable dedication to their work in the co-ordination and delivery of the Ukrainian Community Response.

2022 was the final year of our current Local, Economic and Community Plan and preparatory work has commenced on the important process of preparing a new Local, Economic and Community Plan. I look forward to working with all members of the LCDC and the wider community in Cavan in the preparation of a new Cavan Local, Economic and Community Plan.

John Donohoe
Chief Officer
Cavan Local Community Development Committee

Introduction

This annual report presents a description of the activity of Cavan Local Community Development Committee [LCDC] during the period January to December 2022. It incorporates a general overview of the LCDC and specific information including:

- An overview of progress generally including details of meetings held and attendance;
- An analysis of progress with the community elements of the LECP;
- A report on the implementation, management and oversight of public-funded programmes under the remit of the LCDC;
- A summary of activity under the programmes for which the LCDC provides oversight coordination; including the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP), Peace Programme and the Healthy Cavan Programme.

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

Purpose

The purpose of LCDCs is to bring 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.

Background

The Local Government Reform Act 2014 gives legislative effect to the commitments in 'Putting People First', including the establishment of LCDC's in each local authority administrative area, for the purposes of developing, co-ordinating and implementing a coherent and integrated approach to local and community development.

National policy envisages a central role for local government in the planning and oversight of local and community development programmes while maintaining a key role for local development entities in front line delivery.

Section 128B of the Local Government Act 2001 sets out the functions of LCDCs.

These functions include—

- in relation to the Local Economic and Community Plan, to:
 - prepare and implement the community elements of a 6-year Local Economic and Community Plan (the Plan),
 - review and monitor on an on-going basis the implementation of the community elements of the Plan and, if appropriate, to revise the actions and strategies set to achieve the objectives of the Plan, and
 - consider a draft of the economic elements of the Plan and adopt a statement for consideration of the Council in this regard,

- to coordinate, manage and oversee the implementation of local and community development programmes that—
 - may be agreed between Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government and other Government Departments or State bodies,

- may be sourced through direct application by the LCDC or local authority on the LCDC's behalf (e.g. EU programmes), or
 - may be agreed by the local authority with relevant State agencies or Government Departments.
-
- to improve the coordination of public-funded local and community development programmes and reduce duplication, and to coordinate generally local and community development programmes within the LCDC's operational area, and

 - to prepare an annual report on the performance of its functions.

The LCDC, like the Corporate Policy Group (CPG) and the Strategic Policy Committees (SPC), is a committee of the local authority. Unlike the CPG and SPCs, however, the LCDC is independent from the local authority in the performance of its functions. While these functions will be determined by Government from time to time as provided for under Local Government Act, how those functions are carried out and any decisions to be made by the LCDC when carrying out those functions are solely a matter for the LCDC. This independence is provided for explicitly in sections 49A (2) and 128B (8) of the 2001 Act.

Structure and membership

The Cavan LCDC is a 17 member committee. Membership is drawn from different sectors, following guidelines issued by the Department of Housing, Community, Planning and Local Government. Membership (at 31st December 2022) as follows:

Name	Sector/Organisation Represented	
Mr Brendan Jennings	Cavan County Council	Statutory
Cllr T.P O'Reilly	Elected Representative	Statutory
Cllr Aiden Fitzpatrick	Elected Representative	Statutory
Cllr Clifford Kelly	Elected Representative	Statutory
Dr Fiona McGrath	Cavan Monaghan ETB	Statutory
Ms Marcella Rudden	Local Enterprise Office	Statutory
Ms Carmel Denning	Department of Social Protection	Statutory
Vacant	Health Service Executive	Statutory
Mr Jim Maguire	Breffni Integrated Ltd	Non Statutory
Mr Tírlach O'Brien	PPN Environmental Pillar	Non Statutory
Mr Charlie Smyth	PPN Social Inclusion Interests	Non Statutory
Ms Bridget Boyle	PPN Community & Voluntary	Non Statutory
Ms Aisling Traynor	PPN Youth Interests	Non Statutory
Ms Maryam Temile	PPN Women's Interests	Non Statutory
Ms Marisa Goldstone ²	Older Persons Interests	Non Statutory
Ms Catherine McCollum	Agricultural & Farming Interests	Non Statutory
Ms Connie Whelan ¹	Cootehill Chamber	Non Statutory

1. Connie Whelan is representing Cootehill Chamber of Commerce replacing Mr Tom Brady, Cavan Chamber of Commerce for 2 years in the rotating seat vacated at the February 2021 LCDC meeting.
2. Ms Marisa Goldstone is representing Older People's Interests for 2 years in the rotating seat, replacing Mr Seamus McGrath who vacated the Disability Interests seat at the July 2021 LCDC meeting.

Roles on the Committee (at 31st December 2022):

Mr Brendan Jennings, Director of Services, Cavan County was Chair of the LCDC in 2022.

Mr Jim Maguire was Vice Chair of the LCDC during 2022.

Mr John Donohoe, Senior Executive Officer, Community, Enterprise & Tourism is Chief Officer to the LCDC.

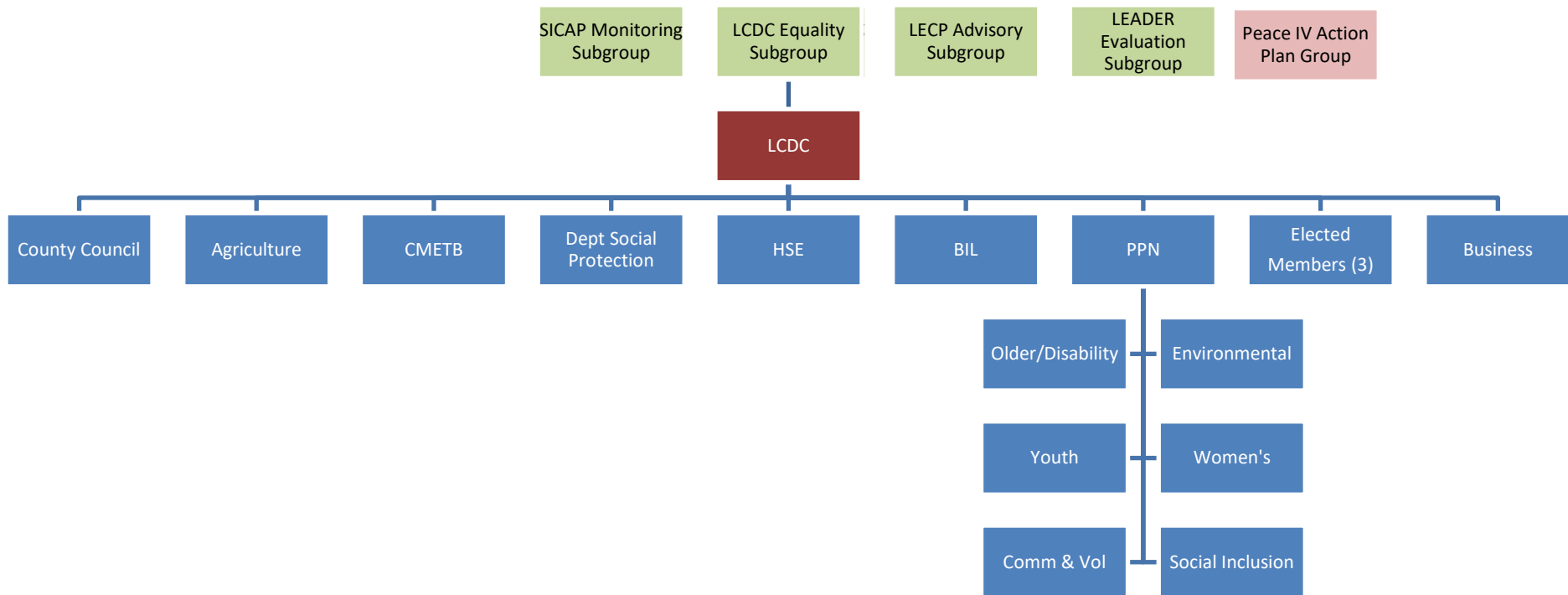


Figure 1 Structure and Composition of Cavan LCDC

Subgroups

The Cavan LCDC operates a number of subgroups:

- SICAP Monitoring Subgroup
- LEADER Programme Subgroup
- LCDC Equality Group
- Peace IV Small Grants Evaluation Group
- Healthy Cavan Subcommittee

There is also a separate LEADER Independent Evaluation Committee that assesses grant applications.

Gender Balance

Guidelines for LCDCs state that every effort should be made to ensure an equitable gender balance among the local authority members on the LCDC, as well as across the broader LCDC membership. At 31st December 2022, there were 9 women and 7 men on the Cavan LCDC, giving a gender balance of 56% female and 44% male.

Male	Female
Cavan County Council	Local Enterprise Office
Cavan County Local Development Company	Cavan Monaghan ETB
Cavan PPN/Environmental interests	Department of Social Protection
Cavan PPN/Social Inclusion	Cavan PPN/Youth interests
Elected member	Cavan PPN/Women's interests
Elected member	Cavan PPN/Community & Voluntary
Elected member	Agricultural & Farming Interests
	Cootehill Chamber
	Older Persons Interest

LCDC/LAG Support staff

Director of Service	Mr Brendan Jennings
Chief Officer	Mr John Donohoe
Administrative Officer	Ms Deirdre Donnelly
Assistant Staff Officer	Ms Siobhan Morgan
Sláintecare Healthy Communities	
Development Officer	Ms Sinead Tormey ¹
Healthy Cavan Co-ordinator	Mr Steven Ormsby ²
LEADER Co-ordinator	Ms Deborah Leahy
PEACE Co-ordinator	Ms Jane Crudden
Clerical Officer	Vacant

The following staffing changes occurred in Cavan County Council in 2022

¹ Ms Sinead Tormey was appointed Sláintecare Healthy Communities Development Officer in January 2022

² Mr Steven Ormsby took up the position of Healthy Cavan Co-ordinator in October 2022 (Ms Aine O'Reilly acted in the position prior to Mr Ormsby's appointment)

Activity During 2022

The principal work of the committee in 2022 was to manage a number of funding programmes, while monitoring and implementation of the community elements of the Cavan LECP. In addition to this, the committee sought to enhance co-ordination by inviting parties to LCDC meetings to give presentations.

Number of meetings and meeting dates:

Cavan LCDC held 7 meetings in 2022. LCDC Meetings took place on the following dates:

1. 2nd March 2022
2. 31st March 2022
3. 28th April 2022
4. 26th May 2022
5. 12th July 2022
6. 6th October 2022
7. 11th November 2022

Attendance at LCDC meetings

Records of attendance are monitored on a regular basis. Cavan LCDC recorded good attendance during the year.

The LCDC complies with the transparency code of the Public Lobbying Act 2015. This requires the publication of the agenda and minutes of committee meetings on the Cavan County Council website. The website also details membership and terms of reference of the committee.

Members are requested to sign Declarations of Interest/Code of Conduct forms, these are updated when necessary.

Presentations made to the LCDC

During 2022, presentations to the Cavan LCDC included:

March 2022	Placing Heritage at the Heart of the Community – Presentation by Ms Annmarie Ward, Heritage Officer, Cavan County Council
April 2022	Peace Plus Programme Update – Presentation by Ms Jane Crudden, Peace Programme Manager, Cavan County Council Response to Ukrainian Crisis being provided under SICAP – Presentation by Ms Hazel Leahy, Cavan County Local Development
May 2022	Update on Planet Youth - Presentation by Mr Ste Corrigan, Co-ordinator, Cavan Children & Young People’s Services Committee (CYPSC)
July 2022	Cavan Food Strategy – Presentation by Ms Patricia Smith, Food Strategy Co-ordinator, Cavan County Council.
November 2022	Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme – Presentation by Ms Sinead Tormey, Sláintecare Healthy Communities Development Officer Healthy Ireland Fund Round 4 – Presentation by Mr. Steven Ormsby, Healthy Cavan Co-ordinator

Local Economic and Community Plan (Community Elements)

A primary function of the LCDC under the Local Government Reform Act 2014 is the preparation and delivery of the community elements of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP).

The Cavan LECP Community Plan has four goals:

Goal 9: We will support the ongoing development of safe, active and empowered communities

Goal 10: We will focus on developing the health and wellbeing of our communities

Goal 11: We will promote social inclusion and address disadvantage

Goal 12 We will protect our natural resources/heritage and promote culturally rich communities

Implementation & Monitoring of the LECP

There was continued progress with actions in the community plan in 2022. Some of the notable achievements in 2022 included the following:

- SICAP targets were surpassed with 47 Local Community Groups (Target 36 LCG's) and 697 individuals (Target 405) receiving supports.
- To follow on from successful URDF funding approval from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for the development of a Community Hub for Cavan Town, Cavan County Council have submitted Preliminary Business Case to the Department and expect feedback shortly. Abbeylands Phase 1 Part VIII planning process and the tender process for a multi-disciplinary design team have commenced and are progressing. Initial site works are anticipated to commence Q3-2023
- Cavan County Council collaborated with Cavan County Local Development to support the 7 Sustainable Energy Communities in the County as they developed, implemented and progressed their energy masterplans.

- Healthy Ireland sponsored the RTE programme Operation Transformation in 2022 and filming for the series took place in Mullagh in January & February.
- Cavan Library Service Right to Read programme continued in 2022 with initiatives such as Spring into Storytime, Summer Stars Reading Programme, Children's Book Festival and Family Time at Your Library. A free library bag containing books and information for all children starting primary school in September 2022 was made available through all library branches.
- Club Leabhar an Chabháin – Cavan Library Service supported this programme with a quality As Gaeilge book stock and facilitated in person and online meetings to enhance and grow the Irish language Reading Group in Johnston Central Library.
- As of 31st December 2022 all funding under the 2014-2022 LEADER Programme was committed to ongoing projects across the three themes of the programme. A New LEADER programme 2023 – 2027 has been announced.
- Cavan Comhairle na nÓg topics for 2022 were Sexual Consent, Youth Mental Health and Anti-Bullying. The Comhairle na nÓg AGM for 2022 was very successful and led to over fifty young people expressing an interest in joining the committee. Cavan Comhairle nÓg have been shortlisted for a Pride of Place Award for their 2021 Mental Health Services in Cavan video project.
- The 2022 Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) provided small grants designed to support groups particularly in disadvantaged areas. Groups could apply for funding to assist with their non-pay running costs, non-pay operating costs and for repairs and improvements to their facilities and for purchase of equipment. The 2022 Communities Activities Programme saw 96 Community Groups in Cavan share in €269,514 of grant aid.
- The Formation of the PEACEPLUS Partnership was completed and the first PEACEPLUS Partnership meeting was held on 31st August 2022. The members met

with Derry/Strabane PEACEPLUS Partnership on a visit to Derry where they took part in a capacity building session and went on a guided project visit to Waterside Shared Village which was funded by PEACE IV.

- Cavan Sports Partnership established a Cycle Hub at Cavan Leisure Centre this includes a bike storage container, bike shelter, bike racks and a classroom for the delivery of Cycling Ireland training courses.
- Cavan Sports Partnership - Operation Keep Well was completed in 10 communities in 2022 – Belturbet, Mullagh, Kilnaleck, Gowna, Cavan Town, Lacken, Denn, Mullahoran, Templeport and Shercock. 10 Outdoor programmes were delivered for people aged 50+ including leisure cycling, lawn bowls and padel tennis.
- Cavan County Council secured funding under the Disability Participation and Awareness Fund 2021 for 3 projects – Social Farming, Train the Trainer for Disability Awareness Training and Accessibility Auditing & Mapping for facilities in the County - Cavan Disability Network are a key partner in all 3 projects.
- Cavan Age Friendly Alliance and the Older People’s Council Executive Committee met regularly during 2022. Online Information sessions continued and Information Roadshows took place in Bailieborough and Cavan Town in June 2022. The Cavan Age Friendly Strategy was launched and Age Friendly Business Recognition Charters were awarded in July 2022. Cavan Age Friendly took part in the Creative Ireland/Age Friendly Ireland St Brigid project in September 2022. Cavan Older People’s Council held it’s AGM in October 2022 and a new Executive Committee was elected.
- The Cavan Drug and Alcohol Forum continued to meet and worked with a facilitator to develop a New Action Plan for the Drug & Alcohol Forum for 2022 to 2024.
- A new youth service has commenced in the Bridge Street Centre in Cavan Town, this service is being delivered by Foroige.

- The Planet Youth project is continuing. The launch of the Planet Youth Cavan Monaghan Project and the publication of the Cavan and Monaghan County Planet Youth Reports took place in June 2022. Work has progressed with the development of an after-school pilot programme in 5 of Cavan's post primary schools. It is planned to roll this programme out to all of the post primary schools in the county. Facilitators are offering no cost activities in school premises after school to provide positive engagement opportunities and prosocial activities.
- Work is ongoing in the implementation of the Connecting for Life Cavan Monaghan Suicide Prevention Plan 2022 -2024 – the Suicide Crisis Assessment Nurse (SCAN) and the Early Intervention Youth Mental Health Service have both been introduced in the County.
- The Ukrainian Community Response Forum was formed following the outbreak of war in Ukraine. The Forum met every 2 weeks from April to December its purpose is to co-ordinate services and to assist displaced Ukrainian People who are being accommodated in the county.

Preparation of a New Local Economic and Community Plan

The Department of Rural and Community Development issued guidelines to support the development and implementation of effective Local Economic and Community Plans (LECPs).

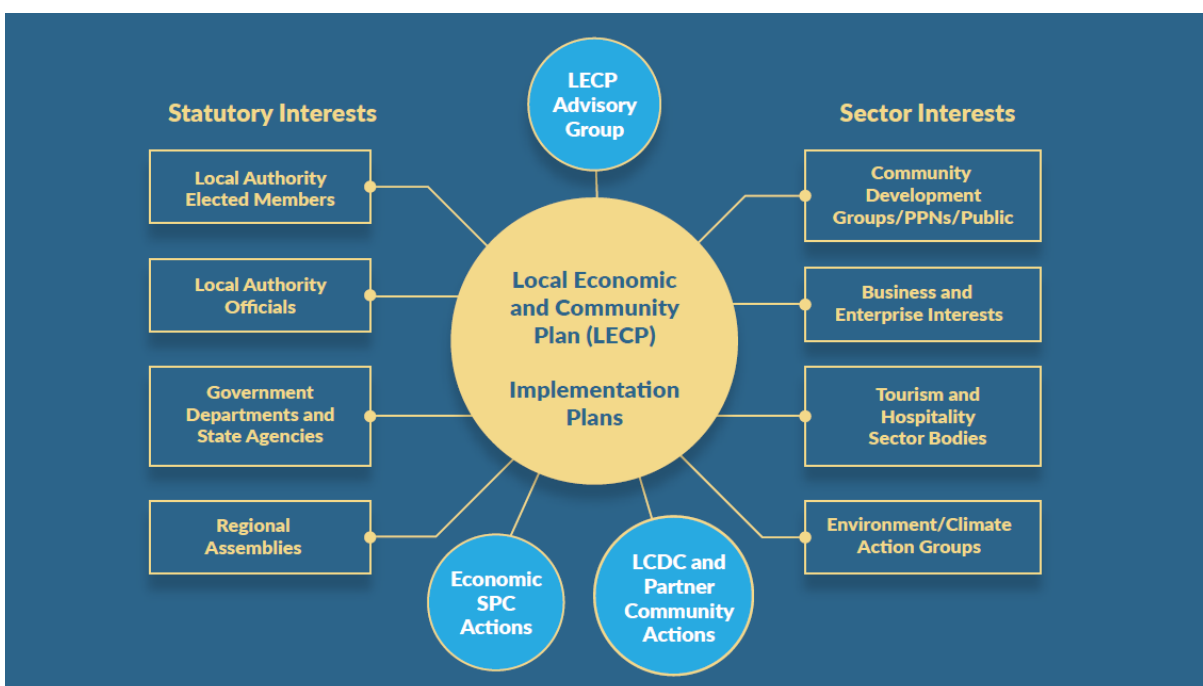
The primary aim of the LECP is to set out, for a six-year period, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of the county, both by the Local Authority directly and in partnership with other economic and community stakeholders.

The plan will consist of two elements:

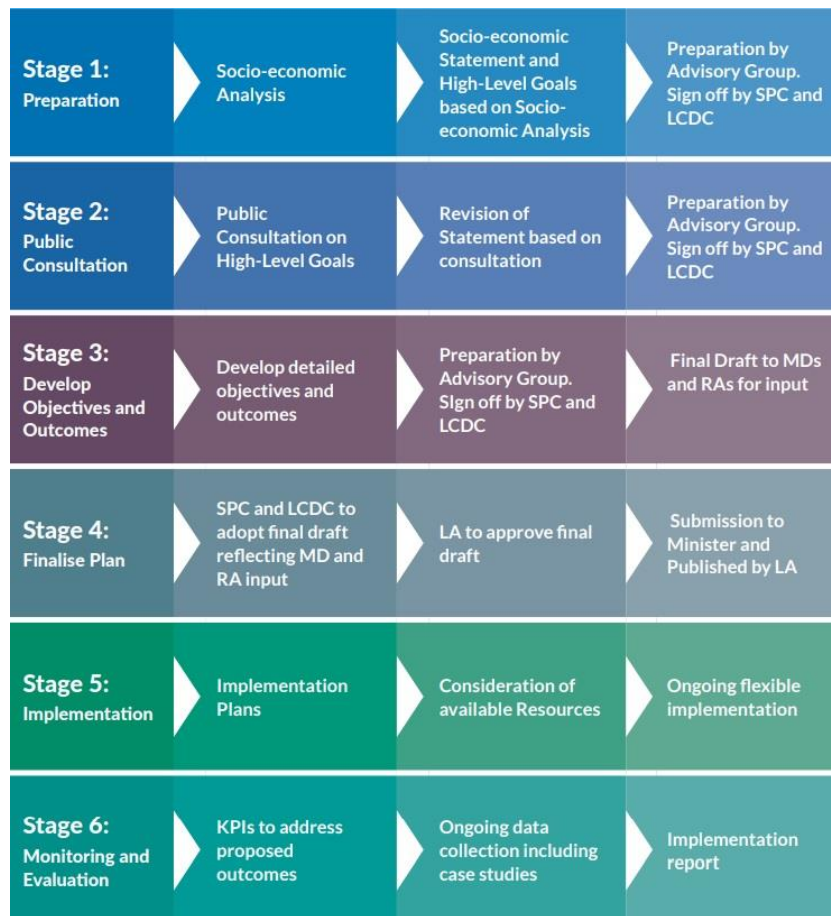
- A local economic element
- A community element

As set out in the guidelines the LCDC will prepare and adopt the community element of the plan. There is a 12-month timeframe to develop the plan and work commenced on the process in 2022.

The diagram below outlines the interactions between the various stakeholders involved in the preparation, implementation and evaluation of the LECP.



The guidelines set out a 6 stage process for the development of the new LECP as per the diagram below:



In 2022 an Advisory Steering Group was established to oversee and develop the new 6 year Local Economic and Community Plan. Two members of the LCDC were selected to sit on this group. Consultants KPMG Future Analytics have been appointed to facilitate and undertake the development of a framework Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) and an initial two-year Implementation Plan for County Cavan. By December 2022 the draft Socio Economic Statement and draft high-level goals have been prepared and presented to the LCDC members for their review. The Public Consultation stage of the process will commence in early 2023.

SICAP Programme

The Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) is a key intervention for the harder to reach groups. Delivery is being overseen and managed by Cavan LCDC. SICAP aims to address poverty, long term unemployment and social exclusion through local engagement and partnerships between disadvantaged individuals, community organisations and public sector agencies.



SICAP Monitoring Sub-Committee

The SICAP Monitoring Sub-Committee continues to oversee the delivery of SICAP and to monitor implementation progress. Members of this Committee are as follows;

Mr Terry Hyland	Cavan County Local Development Company
Ms Carmel Denning	Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection
Ms Maryam Temile ¹	PPN Women's Issues
Ms Deirdre Donnelly	LCDC Administrative Officer & Social Inclusion Officer
Mr John Donohoe	Chief Officer, LCDC
Ms Marcella Rudden	Head of Enterprise, Local Enterprise Office Cavan
Cllr T.P O'Reilly	Elected member
Cllr Clifford Kelly ²	Elected member

¹Following a change to LCDC membership in October 2022, Ms Ashling Tobin left the group and was replaced by Ms Maryam Temile.

²Cllr Clifford Kelly was nominated to the Monitoring Sub-Committee at the October 2022 LCDC meeting.

SICAP Plan and Achievements 2022

The total budget for SICAP in Cavan in 2022 was €981,055.22. This included additional funding of €104,564.00 for Ukrainian Supports bring provided under the SICAP programme. The programme is **co-funded by the Irish Government, through the Department of Rural and Community Development, and the European Social Fund Plus under the Employment, Inclusion, Skills and Training (EIST) Programme 2021 -2027.**” The Programme Implementer, Cavan County Local Development Company achieved both its two key performance indicators (KPI's) for 2022 and ensured that the programme and services were delivered within the financial parameters approved by the LCDC.

Actions were successfully implemented helping Local Community Groups with capacity building, promoting engagement, building stronger communities and promoting participation and collaboration. The SICAP programme also supported individuals, in personal development and well-being, provided lifelong learning opportunities, supports for those seeking employment as well as and self-employment opportunities.

There are 2 goals under the Programme;

Goal 1: Supporting Communities -

To support communities and target groups to engage with relevant stakeholders in identifying and addressing social exclusion and equality issues, developing the capacity of Local Community Groups, and creating more sustainable communities.

Goal 2: Supporting Individuals -

To support disadvantaged individuals to improve the quality of their lives through the provision of lifelong learning and labour market supports. Target groups to be supported under SICAP 2018 - 2023 are as follows;

- Disadvantaged Children and Families
- People living in Disadvantaged Communities
- Disadvantaged Young People (aged 15 – 24)
- People with Disabilities

- Disadvantaged Women
- Roma
- Emerging Needs Group*
- Travellers
- Lone Parents
- The Disengaged from the Labour Market (Economically Inactive)
- Low Income Workers/ Households
- The Unemployed
- New Communities

*Cavan LCDC agreed on the inclusion of 'People experiencing Domestic Violence' under the Emerging needs group for 2022.

At an end of year, Cavan County Local Development Company had reached KPI targets for 2022 as detailed in the following table:

	Annual Target 2022	Actuals Target achieved	Percentage achievement
Number of local community groups assisted under SICAP (KPI 1)	36	47	131%
Total number of disadvantaged individuals (15 years old & upwards) engaged under SICAP on a one-to-one basis (KPI 2)	405	697	172%
Achievement of % KPI from Disadvantaged areas	18%		52.10%

SICAP Case Study 2022

The title of the 2022 SICAP Case Study was 'The Ukrainian Crisis in Cavan & SICAP – Shock, Support and Social Inclusion'

The case study took the form of a video which showcased the SICAP supports that Cavan County Local Development put in place to welcome Ukrainian Nationals to County Cavan following the outbreak of the war with Russia. It includes stills and video of members of the Ukrainian community availing of the services provided through SICAP. It clearly demonstrates the role that SICAP staff have in putting in place supports such as establishment of a support network hub, organising transport and English Language classes, co-ordination of accommodation, fundraising activities, provision of information on entitlements and rights and distribution of food parcels.

It also demonstrates the flexibility of the SICAP Programme in having the capacity to put in place a range of supports and collaborate with relevant agencies and partners at very short notice to meet the needs of the newly arrived Ukrainian community.

The video was very well produced and has strong potential for sharing good practice across the SICAP Programme in terms of supporting displaced members of the Ukrainian community.

The video can be viewed at the following link <https://youtu.be/54os8CUGWr8>

Delivery of SICAP during 2022

The Local Development Company (LDC) clearly documented the needs facing all beneficiary types in 2022 in their Annual Plan Report. There is a strong emphasis on collaboration throughout the report in terms of the delivery of the Annual Plan. A number of items of note within the report are as follows:

- The LDC provided food parcels to a number of households experiencing food poverty in Cavan and extended areas, Bailieborough, Kilnaleck, Ballyjamesduff, Virginia, and Stradone. Due to unprecedented inflation in 2022 over 40 households were being supported under the food parcel programme in quarter four of 2022.
- Information workshops on the benefits of social enterprise held in Ballyconnell & Glangevlin, with 45 attendees from 16 community groups all across West Cavan.
- Programme of training & support developed & delivered online to 7 social enterprises through the Social Enterprise Regeneration Programme.
- The SICAP programme successfully applied to CMETB to access the Mitigating Against Educational Disadvantage Fund (MAEDF). The fund has provided an opportunity to purchase driving lessons for 10 young women from the Traveller Community.
- The LDC continued to coordinate Cavan Disability Network (CDN) and in 2022 supported the group to return to in-person meetings following the easing of covid restrictions.
- The LDC continued to provide free English Conversational Classes in Ballyjamesduff, Cavan, Cootehill, Swanlinbar, Crover, Virginia, Belturbet and Ballinagh, almost 30 tutors are now volunteering with the project, serving over 150 students (adults and children).
- SICAP staff have provided support to hundreds of displaced Ukrainian people who have arrived in the County. The LDC contracted a Cultural Champion and employed a full and part-time Ukrainian Support worker to aid SICAP workers in assisting the existing Ukrainian Community in Cavan and Ukrainian Nationals coming into the county. The LDC under the SICAP programme provided support, advocacy, advice and guidance to the new arrivals.

Challenges identified in the Delivery of SICAP during 2022:

The challenges posed by the delivery of the response under SICAP to newly arrived Ukrainian Nationals has been huge. Cavan is now home to a large number of Ukrainian people who have been displaced by the outbreak of war and

their needs are many and varied. The Ukrainian people coming to Ireland have had their identity stripped without any ability to prepare for it. Their entire world was turned upside down overnight. Attention is given to their immediate needs for food, clothing, and accommodation but mental health supports are also very important as are supports such as the provision of English language classes and social activities. The LDC have continued to deliver the SICAP programme in 2022 to a high level despite this additional challenge which was completely unforeseen when the Annual Plan for 2022 was being prepared.



“The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) is co-funded by the Irish Government, through the Department of Rural and Community Development, and the European Social Fund Plus under the Employment, Inclusion, Skills and Training (EIST) Programme 2021 -2027.”

“Tá an Clár um Chuimsiú Sóisialta agus Gníomhachtú Pobail (SICAP) cómhaoinithe ag Rialtas na hÉireann, tríd an Roinn Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail, agus Ciste Sóisialta na hEorpa Plus faoin gClár Fostaíochta, Cuimsiú, Scileanna agus Oiliúna (EIST) 2021 -2027.”

PEACE Programmes

PEACEPLUS 2021 - 2027

- The nomination process for PEACEPLUS Partnership membership was completed in 2022 the following Councillors were nominated and approved as members.
 - Cllr Paddy Mc Donald
 - Cllr Trevor Smith
 - Cllr Patricia Walsh
 - Cllr Val Smith
 - Cllr Clifford Kelly
- Cavan County Council worked closely with Cavan PPN to seek nominations for social partners for the PEACEPLUS Partnership membership. This process considered geographical community representation and included PEACEPLUS target groups, equality/under-represented groups. There were 13 applications for 7 positions. The social partners selected are
 - Ms Teresa Brady, Carrickallen Development Association
 - Mr John Wilson, Ramor Watersports Club
 - Mr Sridevi Balan, The Culture Wheel
 - Mr Thomas Maughan, Cavan Traveller Movement
 - Mr Stanley Nwaneri, 4C's Cavan Cross Cultural Community
 - Mr Brian McDermott, Cavan County Local Development (CCLD)
 - Ms Clare Willis, Teach Solais Community Development CLG
 - Ms Mary Brigid Duffy, Cootehill Town Team
- Cavan County Council sought nominations from the LCDC for relevant statutory body representation on the PEACEPLUS Partnership it was agreed at the April 2022 LCDC meeting that the statutory nomination request would be issued to CMETB, CYPSC and Cavan County Council.
- The Formation of the PEACEPLUS Partnership was completed and the first PEACEPLUS Partnership meeting was held on 31st August 2022 meetings will take place on the third Thursday monthly. Mr Brendan Jennings, Director

of Services, Cavan County Council was nominated and approved as PEACEPLUS Partnership chairperson.

- A very successful and informative cross border PEACEPLUS Partnership visit to meet with Derry/Strabane PEACEPLUS Partnership took place on 17th November 2022. 11 members from Cavan travelled to Derry. Part one was a capacity building session facilitated by Myriam Fearon and Part two was a guided project visit to Waterside Shared Village a PEACE IV funded initiative.
- The PEACEPLUS Partnership held their December meeting on the 15th December 2022, John Wilson (Social Partner) was nominated and approved for the position of Vice- chairperson.
- The PEACEPLUS Local Authority Action Plans guidance note for submitting the Action Plans was due to be issued by SEUPB to Local Authorities in November 2022 this date was changed and the guidelines will now be issued in April 2023. This will not halt the preliminary work for the Cavan PEACEPLUS action plan and consultation process it can proceed with a caveat that outcomes may change slightly when the guidance note is issued.
- There will be a 6-month window of opportunity to prepare and submit the PEACEPLUS LA Action Plans once the guidelines have been issued. With this timeline in mind, it is anticipated that Letters of offer will issue to LA's in late 2023/early 2024. Letters of offer mean that work can commence on implementing the PEACEPLUS LA Action Plan.
- A PEACE IV cross border project that started prior to the COVID lock down between Cavan County Council elected members and Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council elected members ended on 5th October 2022 when a number of Cavan County Councillors travelled to Antrim & Newtownabbey for a facilitated workshop and a PEACE IV project visit. This cross-border project has now completed and opportunities to continue cross border work with these groups will be considered in PEACEPLUS. The Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council Elected Members gifted Cavan an Oak tree and the tree has been planted at the side of the Courthouse.

LEADER Programme

The Local Community Development Committee acts as the Local Action Group [LAG] for the LEADER Programme 2014-2022. The LAG met a total of 8 times over the course of the year with meetings held in person with the option to connect remotely for those who could not attend the venue.

As of 31st December 2022 all funding under the 2014-2022 Programme had commitments amounting to a total of € 9,558,115.20 for projects across the three themes of the programme. The Transitional Programme with an additional €20 million nationally extended the timeframe of the programme from 2020 to 2022. The key focus of the Transitional Programme is on building capacity within communities which have not received LEADER funding to date.

The Transitional Programme aims to support job creation, foster and encourage entrepreneurship, and support projects which address the climate agenda, digital transformation and encourage rural communities to build on their existing strengths and assets.

Four examples of projects which benefitted from funding across the programme are detailed below.

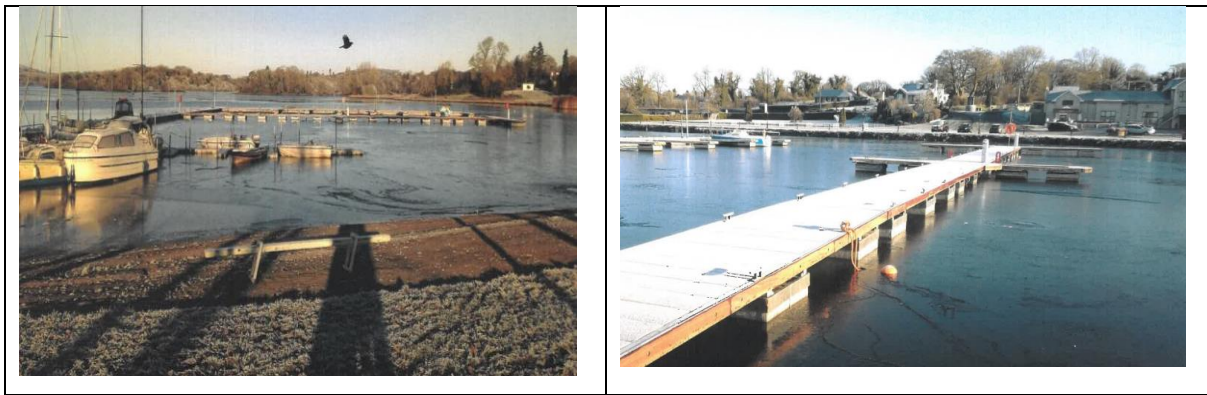
1. Drumgoon Community Centre Co-Op Society Ltd

The community group applied for funding to upgrade aspects of community facilities for stage productions; theatre space with new curtains, rails, lighting and amplification. This project will help secure employment and encourage visitors to the centre. The upgrade will enhance an already very strong committee and further encourage and develop local groups to use the community space.



2. Ramor Watersports Club

The community group applied for funding to add additional facilities & extend their marina to allow a greater number of berthing facilities to attract increased visitor numbers & make the facility as accessible as possible to the local community. The project includes the provision of 38 additional spaces for boats to meet the needs of their various watersports users on Lough Ramor & improve disabled access with inclusion of a ramp.



3. Corlough GAA

The community group applied for funding for Installation of lighting in the unlit sections of the walking track at Corlough Gaa Grounds. The group will set up walking groups to promote health & wellbeing in the community and for visitors.



4. Bailieborough Shamrocks GAA & Community Centre

The community group applied for funding for 2 projects:

Project 1: tarmacadam large car park used by all community groups, fully line paint all spaces.

Project 2: complete a multi-function community room for use by several community groups. This involves installation of plumbing, heating, electrical services, air conditioning, flooring, fittings, sanitary, kitchen ware. The facility will provide a very much needed multi-functional room for use by several local community groups.



Healthy Ireland Fund



Healthy Cavan

All actions under Phase 3 of Healthy Ireland funding were completed by 31st March 2022. Final total expenditure under Phase 3 was €269,662.

In May 2022, Cavan County Council received an initial allocation of €40,000 to fund Healthy Cavan Initiatives from 1st June to 31st December 2022. The purpose of this allocation was to allow for delivery of priority Health and Wellbeing initiatives, and to support the planning/application process relating to HIF 2023-2025.

A new Healthy Cavan Co-ordinator came into post on 12th October 2022.



Healthy Ireland Phase 4 – Healthy Cavan funded initiatives in 2022

- **Refurbishment of the Shanette building at Cavan Bowling Club –** completed in February 2023, Healthy Ireland 2022 Funding (€7.5k) assisted Cavan Sports Partnership in transforming the existing Shanette into a modern, fully accessible and welcoming community space. The Shanette will act as a multi-purpose facility to accommodate numerous community and sporting groups.
- **Procurement of Healthy Cavan Mass Race Signage –** Funding of €473 was used to purchase 25 different Km distance signs and 13 arrowed signs . These mass participation signs will be primarily used for running events organised and delivered by Cavan Sports Partnership.
- **Procurement of a Magic Table 360 Projector for use by Cavan Library Services (including 24 months access to the Happiness Programme Service Package (Funding €5,000) –** The table will initially be located in the Johnston Central Library and can be moved to other branches. The Magic Table is an interactive tool that uses games, music, visuals and other content to engage and stimulate the user. The content challenges people living with dementia, autism and sensory issues to connect through touch, sight and

sound. Library Staff have been trained in its use and it is anticipated that the table will be of immense benefit to the Community.

- **Procurement and provision of Ukrainian literature by Cavan Library Services** – Cavan Library Service is actively engaged in developing library support services for Ukrainian nationals who have been re-settled in County Cavan. The library, as a neutral and safe space, is ideal for providing information and supports to newly arrive refugees. Promoting reading skills and assisting in people's development, learning and social interaction can impact positively on their mental health and help them to integrate better into the Community. €3,000 funding was provided for this initiative.
- **Ukrainian Support Initiatives – led by Cavan County Local Development -** Healthy Ireland funding of €19,000 was provided to CCLD to assist in the delivery of a number of initiatives to support Ukrainian people who were accommodated in the County following the outbreak of war. These included Art Therapy Sessions, Provision of Afterschool and Saturday School, Halloween and Christmas Workshops, and a St Nicholas Christmas Concert and Party. Funding was also used for specific hardship cases – These included Provision of school uniforms, stationery and IT for Ukrainian children attending school locally. There were issues identified with some local schools who would not allow admittance of new pupils without full school uniforms and associated learning equipment. Without intervention this would have meant exclusion for some children who arrived in Cavan with limited financial means.
- Funding of €4,700 was used for the **Procurement of a Facilitator** to assist with developing, drafting and agreeing HIF Phase 4 Local strategy, outcomes and outputs, activity workplans and application completion - Venture International Limited facilitated 2 consultation sessions with Local Implementation partners. Sessions took place on 5th and 12th December 2022. Venture produced a report on the outcomes from both sessions. The Online application for 2023-2025 HIF, along with a local strategy document and 2023 activities workplan, has to submitted to Pobal by 27th January 2023.

Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme (SCHP)

A Local Development Officer for the Programme was recruited in January 2022 to coordinate programme activity from a local authority perspective.

- Cavan was selected as one of the pilot areas for this new initiative and an application was submitted for funding of €250,000 under the Healthy Communities Enhancement Programme, which was approved. The breakdown of the €250,000 funding allocated is as follows:
 - Belturbet Community Playground, Morrissey Park – Groundworks and surfacing - €19,962.01
 - Cootehill Playground upgrade - €51,196.42
 - Ballyjamesduff Playground refurbishment works - €23,145.95.
 - Bailieborough Town Lake – outdoor gym upgrade - €18,489.15
 - Cavan Town – Enhancement of Con Smith Park, including widening and raising of paths and facilities for the installation of low-level lighting, to make the Park a safer place - €137,803.35

All works have been completed.

Seed Funding

- A once off sum of €75,000 “**Seed Money**” is being made available to support the delivery of the Programme. The Local Development Officer engaged with the communities within the Programme Area and, where appropriate, local NGO’s and other groups who are active within the communities in working to address the wider determinants of health, to identify how the Seed Money may best be used in relation to the delivery of the Programme. The following is a breakdown of the seed fund:
 - Tullacmongan Playground: Upgrading of Playground and new sensory equipment - €40,000.

- Leisure centre bowling green / Shanette: Provide services (electrical, water and waste) to existing clubhouse at bowling green so that community groups can use the facilities for health and wellbeing Programmes - €10,000.
 - Cootehill Community Hub: Install and equip kitchen on ground floor for healthy eating programmes and general use for community groups who use the space - €16,744.
 - Cavan Library Services: Contribution towards the purchase of portable Magic Table 360 projector and subscription to the Happiness Programme to deliver an interactive service to those with cognitive impairment in the library environment.
Develop a collection of Ukrainian language eBooks, and audiobooks for adults and children to support their recreational, educational, and information needs - €8,256.
- A promotional video for SHCP in conjunction with the HSE was completed for the official launch of the Programme.
 - A further €75,000 funding will be available in 2023 to support the health and wellbeing projects that tackle the social determinants of health in targeted communities.



The Healthy Ireland Fund supported by the Department of Health, the Department of Children and Youth Affairs.

Community Enhancement Programme

The Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) provides funding to community groups across Ireland to enhance facilities in disadvantaged areas. The CEP is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and administered by the Local Community Development Committees in each Local Authority area. The LCDC administer this funding locally to ensure funding is targeted appropriately towards addressing disadvantage in the areas that need it most.

In 2022 Cavan County Council was awarded funding of €269,514 for the Community Activities Fund under the Community Enhancement Programme.

The Community Activities Fund supported groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas. Groups could apply for funding to assist with their non-pay running costs such as utility bills (electricity costs, refuse charges, heating charges) or other non-pay operating costs for e.g. rental/lease costs, insurance bills. Groups could also use the funding to carry out necessary repairs and improvements to their facilities, purchase equipment such as tables and chairs, tools and signage, laptops and printers, canopies and training equipment etc.

The 2022 Communities Activities Programme saw 96 Community Groups in Cavan share in €269,514 of grant aid.

Activity to Improve Co-ordination

Regular meetings are held between the Chief Officer and other organisations such as Cavan County Local Development Company and Cavan Public Participation Network. Local authority staff meet with SEUPB in relation to the Peace Programme(s) as and when required. Organisations are invited to present to the LCDC on activities to enhance input from other members and improve co-ordination.

Promotion of the LCDC

The support staff to the LCDC use social media and links with statutory and non statutory stakeholders to promote programmes, grant schemes and initiatives. The LCDC is given recognition where possible in purchasing promotional collateral for display at events, ensuring the presence of LCDC/LAG members at LEADER launches, site visits to projects, and using all opportunities afforded through the PPN and other Council networks to profile the work of the LCDC.

Conclusion

While the LCDC has many aspects of work to consider, the fundamental function it carries out is ensuring collaboration and planning of services and funding at local level. This is ensured by effective contribution to and oversight of the local economic and community planning process and constructive attendance and debate at its meetings and sub-committees. Despite ongoing challenges due to the impact of Covid19 and the new challenges posed by the Ukrainian Community Response, the Cavan LCDC successfully continued with its work programme during 2022. The LCDC looks forward to future changes, challenges and successes for Cavan in the years ahead. The commitment and adaptability of LCDC members in relation to their attendance at meetings both in person and online must be acknowledged.

Priorities for 2023 remain the preparation of a new Cavan Local Economic and Community Plan, continue meeting SICAP targets (a new SICAP programme is due to commence in 2024), input into the preparation of the new PEACE PLUS programme, continuing to deliver funding opportunities to local communities and successfully delivering the adapted Healthy Cavan and Healthy Communities programmes.

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