

**Minutes of Meeting of Cavan Local Community Development Committee**

**Date: 20<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

**Time: 11am**

**Location: Online via Microsoft Teams & Cavan County Local Development**

**Offices**

**Present:**

**Statutory**

Mr Brendan Jennings (Cavan County Council, Chairperson), Cllr T.P. O'Reilly (Elected Member), Cllr Clifford Kelly (Elected Member), Mr Conor Craven (Local Enterprise Office), Ms Ruth Woods (HSE), Dr Fiona McGrath (CMETB), Ms Carmel Denning (Department of Social Protection).

**Private Sector Interests**

Mr Jim Maguire (Cavan County Local Development Company), Ms Maryam Temile (Women's Interests), Ms Bridget Boyle (Community & Voluntary Interests), Ms Ashling Traynor (Youth Services), Mr Barry Kavanagh (Environmental Interests)

**Apologies:**

Ms Connie Whelan (Cootehill Chamber), Mr Charlie Smyth (Social Inclusion Interests), Ms Catherine McCollum (Farming Interests)

**In attendance:**

Mr John Donohoe (Chief Officer), Ms Deirdre Donnelly (Cavan County Council), Mr Séamie Clarke (Cavan County Council), Ms Brona Keating (Cavan County Council), Ms Annmarie O'Rourke (Cavan County Local Development Company),

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The Chair (Mr Brendan Jennings) opened the meeting and noted the apologies. He welcomed Mr Barry Kavanagh, who is replacing Mr Tirloch O'Brien in the Environmental Interests seat to his first meeting of the LCDC. The Chair also welcomed Ms Annmarie O'Rourke (Cavan County Local Development) & Ms Brona Keating (Cavan County Council) to the meeting.

**1. Minutes of previous meeting**

Minutes were proposed by Cllr Clifford Kelly and seconded by Cllr T.P. O'Reilly.

**2. Matters arising**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

**3. Conflicts of Interest**

The Chair reminded members of their conflict of interest's responsibilities.

**4. Presentation from Ms Brona Keating, Climate Action Co-Ordinator, Cavan County Council – 'Development of the County's Climate Action Plan'**

Ms Brona Keating gave a detailed presentation on the development of the County Cavan Climate Action Plan.

The Chair thanked Brona for her presentation and opened the floor for questions.

Dr Fiona McGrath enquired if there had been much response to the public consultation process. Ms Keating replied that there has been several submissions received through the survey portal and by email, the public are putting in some really relevant ideas. There has also been suggestions received following presentations made to other groups on the plan and feedback has come in through the PPN.

Cllr T.P O'Reilly commented that it was important that information on the consultation process for the Climate Action Plan is shared widely so that members of the public would be aware of it and could have their say. It was also important that the action plan was aligned with national frameworks.

The Chair asked if the Climate Action Plan was being developed for the county as a whole or just for Cavan County Council. Ms Keating confirmed that the Action Plan will cover the county as a whole including Cavan County Council.

The Chair queried if the €3 million cross border funding that Ms Keating had spoke about was open for applications by the wider community. Ms Keating confirmed that applications could be submitted from both Local Authority and communities. More information on this will become available as it progresses, and it will be circulated.

Mr Barry Kavanagh complimented Ms Keating on her presentation and stated that the development of a Climate Action Plan for the county is very welcome.

## **5. New LECP Update.**

The Chair Officer gave the following update on progress on the development of the new LECP:

- A critical milestone in the process has just been passed stage 3 – we now have an overall document.
- Consultants from KPMG Future Analytics presented the Goals, Objectives & Actions to the 3 Municipal Districts for approval last week - approval was granted following some amendments. KPMG will issue a final draft by next week to include all amendments requested.
- They will then send it to the Regional Assembly, and it also must undergo an Environmental Appraisal.
- KPMG are to begin working on the implementation Plan. This is a 2-year plan that will set out in detail actions to be prioritised including who the lead agency will be for each action.
- There will also be a final 2-week period of public consultation – online at the end of August. This is additional to the requirements of the LECP guidelines.
- The LECP must go back to both the Economic SPC & LCDC for final comment before it is recommended for adoption at a meeting of Cavan County Council.
- KPMG have advised the plan is on schedule to go onto the agenda for the October County Council Meeting.

## **6. PEACEPLUS**

The Chief Officer gave the following update:

- The PEACEPLUS Partnership met earlier today.
- It is now open for Local Authorities Action Plans - there are rolling deadlines for this. The next deadline is 29<sup>th</sup> September to submit a Local Authority Action Plan.
- There are 3 different themes under PEACEPLUS
- For the Community Regeneration and Transformation theme there were 39 projects submitted over the summer- these have been shortlisted to 16 projects which will go ahead for further development.
- It was agreed this morning by the PEACEPLUS Partnership that these 16 applications would enter into an open competitive process for further investigation. They would have a deadline of 3 weeks to develop their projects further. These 16 applications will have to be whittled down further it is important that there is a good geographical spread across all three Municipal Districts.
- There has been a Subcommittee of four members set up by the PEACEPLUS Partnership to assess these applications, it is meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> August and will make a recommendation to the PEACEPLUS Partnership who are then meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> August. The process is moving rapidly.

The Chair noted that everything is happening at the same time which is challenging but it was important that the County gets as much as possible from the programme.

## **7. SICAP Mid-Year Review**

Ms Annmarie O'Rourke from Cavan County Local Development joined the meeting and presented the SICAP Mid-Year Action Progress report to the members (this report was circulated to the members by email in advance of the meeting). Ms O'Rourke explained that the SICAP mid-year review was carried out based on information submitted on the IRIS system as at mid-June.

The Chair thanked Ms O'Rourke for her presentation and asked the members if they had any questions.

Ms Carmel Denning said that there is a lot going on throughout the county – she said that there is a lot of focus on Ukrainians, but we also have a sizable amount of International Protection Applicants coming to the county. Ms O'Rourke replied yes this is true and explained that the SICAP team have identified and are working with international protection families in Kilnaleck, Cavan Town & Belturbet – the HSE have funded a support worker for these families and there is a lot of work taking place with them. There are Outreach offices in Cootehill, Kilnaleck, Ballyjamesduff, Belturbet & Blacklion.

The Chair asked how many International Protection Applicants are currently in the county. Ms Denning confirmed that there are currently 6 Apartments with families in them in Kilnaleck and approx. 60/70 single males in Cavan Town.

Ms Deirdre Donnelly presented the 2023 Mid-Year Review Checklist - LCDC Admin Review and the Pobal Feedback report to Members. Ms Donnelly explained that she prepares a mid-year review on SICAP and forwards it to Pobal and then Pobal do a review also. The outcome of both reviews is positive. Highlights are as follows:

**Progress against Annual Key Performance Indicators (KPI) 1 and 2 targets and % KPI2 from Disadvantaged areas**

- Cavan LDC has achieved over 40% for both KPI 1 and KPI 2. The achievement for KPI 1 has exceeded 40% with 32 Local Community Groups supported (89%) out of a target of 36.
- KPI 2 has achieved 78% to date. With 316 individuals supported out of a target of 405.
- The agreed overall percentage of working with individuals from disadvantaged areas is 18%. Cavan have recorded that 27.65% of individuals supported to date are from disadvantaged areas.

## **Progress on Actions**

Overall, the LDC are demonstrating good progress against 14 agreed actions with 7 actions exceeding 40% progress at mid-year. 13 out of the 14 actions have mid-year updates with detailed narrative against these actions, which provides a comprehensive report on progress to date. Actions supporting the National Priorities (Health & Wellbeing, Suicide Awareness, Social & Economic Isolation and New Communities) are clearly linked to the Mid Programme Statement of Priorities submitted.

Adherence to Budget Parameters and financial compliance with the Programme Requirements was also checked and all is found to be in order.

The SICAP Monitoring Committee met on 14<sup>th</sup> July to review these reports in detail. The recommendation of the SICAP Monitoring Committee is that the SICAP Mid-Year review be approved by the LCDC.

The Approval of the SICAP Mid-Year review was proposed by Cllr T.P O'Reilly and seconded by Cllr Clifford Kelly.

## **8. AOB.**

Mr Jim Maguire raised an issue regarding the proposal to set up Integration Units within Local Authorities. Mr Maguire stated that there was great concern with the Local Development companies in relation to this. Mr Maguire further stated that Mr Terry Hyland and SICAP staff have gone way and beyond in helping people in the county – working at night in Ballyconnell helping Ukrainian families as one example. It would be a concern as to how the government are looking at the future of Local Development Companies. This doesn't lead to trust or integration of services.

Dr Fiona McGrath stated that the same issues have been raised by the Local Development Company in Monaghan.

The Chair asked the members if they had any thoughts on the issue. Cllr T.P. O'Reilly asked for clarification whether this was a proposal or was it going to


be implemented. Mr Maguire advised that the positions have been advertised in other local authorities.

Cllr T.P O'Reilly asked if Local Authorities had any discretion regarding the setting up of these units. The Chair stated that the details are still unclear on this, from Cavan County Council's perspective there is no agenda, rationale or reason to change how things are done. The Council work very well in partnership already. It would be the Local Authority's belief that any change should be done in conjunction with the Local Development Company. The Chair noted that there was a need for some type of staffing structure re integration but it should be done in partnership. The roles have not been advertised in Cavan yet but it may be something that it becomes mandatory. Cllr T.P. O'Reilly stated that maybe as the response in some other counties to the Ukrainian crisis hadn't been as good as the response provided by our Local Development Company that this was what was leading to the new approach. The Chair noted that there was an additional workload within Cavan County Council dealing with the Ukrainian response.

Mr Maguire concluded by saying he would like to stress that what he has raised had no reflection on anybody present at the meeting.

**9. Date of Next Meeting.**

Next meeting will take place on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September at 3 p.m.

Signed:   
Chairman

Date: 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023