

First Meeting of nominees to

Sligo Local Community Development Committee

Wednesday, 28th May 2014 3pm-5pm City Hall, Sligo

Present		
Cllr. Jerry Lundy	Local Government	Sligo County Council
Cllr. Pat McGrath	Local Government	Sligo County Council
Mr. Ciarán Hayes	Local Government	Sligo County Council
Mr. John Reilly	Local Government / Local Enterprise Office	Sligo County Council
Mr. Benny Swinburne rep. Mr. Kieran O'Dwyer	State Agency	Dept. of Social Protection
Mr. Damian McCallion	State Agency	Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan HSE
Mr. Michael Burke	State Agency	Mayo, Sligo, Leitrim ETB
Mr. Chris Gonley	Local Development Sector	Sligo LEADER Partnership Co. Ltd
Mr. Hugh MacConville	Trade Union Interests	Irish Congress of Trade Unions
Mr. Paul Keyes	Business Interests	Sligo Chamber of Commerce
Mr. Sean Tempany	Farming / Agriculture Interests	Farming / Agriculture Pillar
Dr. John Bartlett	Environmental Interests	Environment Pillar
Ms. Bernadette Maughan	Community & Voluntary – Social Inclusion	Sligo County Community Forum
Mr. Gerard O'Connor	Community & Voluntary – Rural Communities	Sligo County Community Forum
Ms. Vanessa Clarke	Community & Voluntary – Urban Communities	Sligo County Community Forum
Mr. Brian Scanlon	Community & Voluntary – RAPID Communities	Sligo County Community Forum
In Attendance		
Ms. Dorothy Clarke	Chief Officer LCDC	Sligo County Council
Ms. Síofra Kilcullen	Administrative Officer	Sligo County Council
Ms. Geraldine Timlin	Assistant Staff Officer	Sligo County Council

1. Welcome and Introductions

Dorothy Clarke, Chief Officer of Sligo LCDC, opened the meeting, welcoming those present and outlined the following.

- The nominees to the Committee have been called together at the request of the Minister in order to meet the deadlines for the transfer of responsibilities of the local and community development programmes.
- The committee will become a statutory committee following consultation with the County Councils new Corporate Policy group and following a resolution by the County Council under section 44 of Local Government Reform Act. This would be proposed at the Council meeting on 7th July.
- The hard work of both the successful and unsuccessful local election candidates present was acknowledged.

Those present introduced themselves and the sectors they represented

Each member was provided with information pack including the following documentation

- *Agenda 28TH May 2014*
- *Briefing Note*
- *Copy of presentation: Sligo Local Community Development Committee Overview*
- *Guidelines for the Establishment of Local Community Development Committees*
- *List of nominees to Sligo Local Community Development Committee*
- *Local Community Development Committees as a Local Action Group: Proposed Structural Arrangements – Department Guidelines*
- *Key Dates / Indicative Timeline 2014 / 2015*
- *Guidelines issued by Department regarding the Local Community Development Programme:*
 - *“Process to be followed by Pobal and LCDCs prior to payments being withheld from LDCs”*
- *Extract from Local Government Reform Act 2014:- Sections relevant to Local Community Development Committees*

2. Election of Chair for the meeting:

Mr P Keyes was appointed to chair the meeting on the proposal of C Gonley and seconded by S Tempany.

3. Overview of role and function of the Local Community Development Committee

D Clarke gave a presentation including

- An overview of significant changes in the local public and local services landscape, acknowledging the need for those present to work together for the betterment of Sligo
- An overview for the policy context for the establishment of the LCDC in the context of better integration between local government and local development sector and the strengthening of local governments role as the vehicles of governance closest to the Citizen

- A snapshot of the key legislation underpinning the establishment and functions of the committee, including the preparation of the community elements of the Local Economic and Community Plan.
 - Underlying principles governing the work of the committee
 - The proposed membership and structure of the committee

Clarification was provided to issues raised by members present as follows:

Membership of the LCDC and how other communities might be included:

A: It was outlined that the draft guidelines restricted the number of members on the committee so there could be no further members added to the committee unless there were changes to the guidelines by the DEC&LG. There will however be changes to individual membership following consultation with the Council's Corporate Policy group as a consequence of the recent local elections. Formal confirmation of representatives from the Community Forum and the Farming pillar was still awaited

Who will be responsible for driving the Local Economic and Community Plan:

A: It was outlined that the LA will drive the economic element of the Plan and the LCDC will drive the community element of the Plan. When completed both plans will be integrated into one final Plan for adoption by the County Council. Whilst it falls to the Council to support the preparation of the plan, it will contain a number of actions which will fall to the different LCDC members and sectoral group to deliver. Implementation of Actions that will be outlined in the Plan will probably fall to all representative bodies on the Committee.

Liability of members in relation to the oversight and implementation of the local and community development programmes and whether professional indemnity insurance is required for board members:

A: It is the understanding of the County Council that the committee will have the same status in terms of the indemnification of members as other statutory committees supported by the Council such as the Traveller Accommodation Committee, the Homeless Forum and the Peace Partnership. Professional liability does not rest with individual committee members but with the council as a corporate body. It was agreed to clarify this with the Department

Action It was agreed to seek clarification from the Department in relation to the status of members in terms of profession indemnification in light of the legislation and the reference to the independence of the committee in the legislation.

How will the work of the committee be promoted to the general public and businesses.

A: The LCDC is chiefly responsible for oversight of the various local and community development programme. There will be consultation events in relation to the LECP which will include all relevant stakeholders and the general public. Individual businesses should contact the Local Enterprise Office whose purpose and function is to support and assist local business.

4. Work Programme

D. Clarke delivered a presentation on key tasks of the Committee between 2014/2015. Key tasks include

1. The preparation of the Community Elements of the Local Economic and Community Plan
2. Oversight of the Local and community Development Programme July -December 2014.
3. Planning for and Oversight of the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme 2015-2017 (SICAP) including the management of Stage 2 of the procurement process for the delivery of SICAP
4. Development of a local development strategy for LEADER funding

Following points were raised

- It was outlined that the committee needed to be aware of the position of SLPCO in relation to the proposed changes in the Local Government and Local Development landscape
 - Whilst the local development companies are supportive of the transfer of the oversight role for the SICAP/LDP from central government to the LCDC there are huge concerns at a national level in relation to the LEADER programme. LEADER groups wish to apply as LAGS for the delivery programmes. They are awaiting clarification from the Minister in relation to this.
 - The lack of interim funding available for the current LEADER programme has major implications for the continued delivery of service post 2015
- It was also confirmed that the
 - LCDCs will more than likely establish a network at some future stage for exchange of information and best practice etc.
 - Community involvement will be through the Public Participation Network (PPN) which has yet to be established (possibly year end)
 - The procurement process for SICAP will be in line with National and EU Procurement Guidelines and supported by Pobal.
- Concerns about the future of Community Forum and its capacity to survive until December 2014 were raised.
- Information on Public Participation Network (PPN) was requested
 - It was outlined that it will possibly be towards the end of the year before the PPN will be in place. In the interim, the Community, Social inclusion and Sectoral representation on the Committee will be sought from the County Community Forum

Action: It was agreed – to circulate PPN guidelines to all LCDC members

- **5. Key dates**

S Kilcullen gave an overview of the key dates and timelines in the members information Pack

7. Next meeting

Agreed for 18th July 2014, 11am at City Hall

AOB

The following issues were raised

- Gateway programme and other labour market activation measures need to be more strategic about target and support young people under 25 into the workplace
- Youth Guarantee Scheme may bring more opportunities for this group
- Random selection for TUS and Gateway Programmes has been problematic – B Swinburne advised that there are proposals in place to bring in 20% self referral in these schemes
- Possibility of establishing a working group to look at young people and employment should be considered
- It was agreed to circulate draft standing orders for consideration at next meeting.
- It was noted that the strength of the Committee would be in its membership and the relationships developed during the lifetime of the LCDC
- The importance of the citizens being central to the process and a successful LCDC was emphasised

Meeting concluded at 4.45

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Chairperson