



## **Minutes of Meeting of Sligo Local Community Development Committee**

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2016 at 9.30a.m., City Hall, Sligo**

### **PRESENT**

- Councillor Seán MacManus, **Local Government Member, Sligo County Council**
- Councillor Séamus Kilgannon, **Local Government Member, Sligo County Council**
- Mr. John Reilly, **Local Government / LEO, Sligo County Council**
- Mr. Kieran O'Dwyer, **State Agency, Department of Social Protection**
- Ms. Mary Brodie, **State Agency, Mayo, Sligo, Leitrim ETB**
- Mr. Chris Gonley, **Local Development Sector, Sligo LEADER Partnership Co. Ltd**
- Mr. Paul Keyes, **Business Interests, Sligo Chamber of Commerce**
- Mr. Hugh MacConville, **Trade Union Interests, Irish Congress of Trade Unions**
- Mr. Seán Tempany, **Farming / Agriculture Interests, Farming / Agriculture Pillar**
- Mr. Michael Kirby, **Environmental Interests, Environment Pillar (PPN)**
- Mr. Gerard O'Connor, **Community and Voluntary , PPN**
- Ms. Jackie Sweeney, **Community and Voluntary , PPN**

### **APOLOGIES**

- Mr. Ciarán Hayes, **Local Government /CE, Sligo County Council**
- Mr. Frank Morrison, **State Agency, Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan HSE**
- Councillor Sinéad Maguire, **Local Government Member, Sligo County Council**
- Ms. Sharon Boles, **Social Inclusion, PPN**
- Ms. Bernadette Maughan, **Social Inclusion, PPN**

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

- Ms. Dorothy Clarke, **Chief Officer LCDC, Sligo County Council**
- Ms. Margaret McConnell, **Senior Executive Officer, Sligo County Council**
- Ms. Aisling Smyth, **Administrative Officer, Sligo County Council**
- Mr. Jimmy O'Brien, **Administrative Officer, Sligo County Council**
- Ms. Maria Collery, **A/ Assistant Staff Officer, Sligo County Council**
- Ms. Fiona Gilligan, **Staff Officer, Sligo County Council**
- Ms. Geraldine Timlin, **Assistant Staff Officer, Sligo County Council**

#### **1. DECLARATIONS RE: CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Sligo Leader Partnership Company was not present at this point so there was no conflict of interest declared.

## 2. MINUTES

Minutes of last meeting held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2016 were proposed by Mr. Seán Tempany and seconded by Mr. Kieran O'Dwyer and agreed by all.

## 3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

## 4. SICAP

- a) **SICAP Monitoring Committee's Recommendation to Mid-year Review**
- b) **Approval of Quarter 3 payment to SLPCo**

The SICAP Monitoring Committee's Recommendation report was circulated to members. Ms. Margaret McConnell advised members that the Programme was on target to date with both Key Performance Indicators achieved, and noted the good co-operation existing between Sligo LEADER Partnership Co (SLPCo) and the SICAP Monitoring Committee. Mr. Chris Gonley advised that SLPCo are satisfied with progress to date also and commended the strong team working on SICAP. Mr. Gonley acknowledged that more engagement was needed with regards NEET group. With regards engagement with Traveller and Roma target groups, Mr. Gonley advised that SLPCo work well with the Sligo Traveller Support Group (STSG). Some issues have been experienced with tracking members of the Travelling community as individuals who are settled may not be recorded as travellers. Mr. Gonley acknowledged the good working relationship that exists between SLPCo, the DSP and LEO in dealing with the long-term unemployed.

Approval to issue of Quarter 3 payment to SLPCo was proposed by Mr. Paul Keyes, seconded by Mr. Gerry O'Connor and agreed by all.

Councillor Seán MacManus acknowledged SLPCo and the SICAP Monitoring Committee on their work to date under SICAP.

## 5. LOCAL ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY PLAN

- **Presentation by Mr. Kieran O'Dwyer, Dept of Social Protection**

Mr. Kieran O'Dwyer gave a presentation on the work of the Department of Social Protection. It was noted that Sligo was the first INTREO office opened in the country. INTREO is a single point of contact for all employment and income supports. It offers tailored employment services and supports for jobseekers and employers which links to LECP Action 1.9.4 '*Promote labour market activation schemes to ensure they enhance employment prospects*'. Mr. O'Dwyer advised that the DSP work closely with LEO and other agencies and local employers under different programmes including the IDA and EI on Jobs Ireland – recruitment service.

The DSP provide work place support for people with disabilities which links with LECP action 1.9.5 '*Promote employment supports for people with disabilities*.'

Councillor Seán MacManus thanked Mr. O'Dwyer for the overview on DSP services.

Ms. Mary Brodie acknowledged the work of the DSP in supporting the remit of the ETB. The DSP in dealing with unemployed people are aware of training deficits and work with the ETB in providing appropriate training.

Mr. Chris Gonley acknowledged the DSP support on SICAP, in particular around self employment supports under Goal 3 (Employment) and also noted the DSP's financial support to local communities through provision of Community Employment Schemes, Rural Social Schemes etc.

Mr. Paul Keyes thanked Mr. O'Dwyer for his presentation and advised that the Chamber of Commerce run a Skillnets Programme which includes free training courses for unemployed people, however the Chamber has struggled to get uptake from the unemployed.

Mr. Keyes asked that the DSP give a presentation to the Chamber. This was welcomed by Mr. O'Dwyer as the DSP have found it difficult to get employers engaged in the past.

With regards figures for employment, Mr. Keyes noted that these figures in relation to the Border region relate mostly to Louth and not the North West. It was also noted that changes in unemployment levels reflect an increase in migration and emigration.

Councillor Séamus Kilgannon stated that manufacturing jobs are needed in Sligo and asked what the LCDC can do to make Sligo more attractive to Industry. In response Ms. Dorothy Clarke advised that the establishment of an Economic Development Forum is an action in the LECP and meetings have taken place with the IDA, EI and St. Angela's College. The establishment of this Forum is a priority for the Council.

Ms. Clarke proposed that an update be given on the establishment of the Forum at the November LCDC meeting.

Update report on the LECP was circulated to members. Ms. Margaret McConnell outlined the report and advised that work is ongoing with regards a format for presenting progress under actions to the LCDC with a suggestion made to focus on a particular theme/issue and highlight successes and weaknesses of this theme to the LCDC. It was noted that the Advisory Steering Group responsible for the preparation of the Plan has taken on the role of monitoring the implementation of the LECP.

## **6. RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME UPDATE**

- **Consideration of Policy on Independent Evaluation Committee (IEC)**

Update report circulated to members. It was noted that the Contract was signed by all parties on the 8<sup>th</sup> July. A Service Level agreement is yet to be put in place. A meeting has been arranged with SLPCo to discuss the SLA and other LEADER related matters of an operational nature. Financial arrangements are to be in place from the 1<sup>st</sup> August 2016 with an IT system currently being rolled out by Department.

It was proposed by Mr. Michael Kirby and seconded by Mr. Gerry O'Connor and agreed that:-

The LCDC as Local Action Group (LAG) enter into a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with County Sligo Leader Partnership Company Ltd as Implementing Partner and Sligo County Council as Financial Partner, and that the Chair of the LCDC is authorised to sign the SLA on behalf of the LCDC.

A report was also circulated to the LCDC in relation to Policy on Evaluation of projects under the Leader Programme and the structure/membership of the Independent Evaluation Committee (IEC).

Ms. Margaret McConnell outlined this report. Following a discussion on the possible structure and role of the IEC it was concluded that support staff of the LCDC would contact Fáilte Ireland, the LEO, SCC Teagasc and the Business Innovation Centre – IT Sligo to seek representatives to sit on the IEC setting out concise criteria around expectations and expertise which will be required for the operation of the IEC and having regard to gender balance and geographical spread. With regards Banking/Lending institution representative, it was agreed to write to the Irish Banking Federation, likewise in seeking the Financial Advisor representative, it was agreed to write to their umbrella body/financial advisor federation and similar for Accounting bodies. The Chambers could assist in this regard. The PPN representatives, one for each MD area, are to be elected at a plenary meeting of the PPN on the 29<sup>th</sup> September.

In time an informal meeting of the new IEC will take place with the full LCDC.

It was noted that as the LEADER programme will run for 5 years agencies contacted should be asked to provide a substitute nominee as required.

Proposal to proceed as above in order to seek representatives to the IEC was proposed by Councillor Séamus Kilgannon, seconded by Mr. Hugh MacConville and agreed by all.

It is hoped to have the IEC in place at the November meeting of the LCDC. Ms. Margaret McConnell advised that the process to establish the Committee will now commence, however it will be dependent on responses received from agencies.

As the LCDC will be the LAG overseeing the LEADER programme, it was suggested that the agenda for future meetings of the LCDC be split with the LCDC operating as the LAG for the second half of LCDC meetings.

## **7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK UPDATE**

Report circulated to members.

## **8. PEACE IV PROGRAMME UPDATE**

Report circulated to Members. Ms. Dorothy Clarke advised Members that the Stage 1 application has been rejected by the SEUPB. The Council were requested to withdraw their application and re-submit by the 11<sup>th</sup> August as were other border counties.

Clarifications sought by the SEUPB are being addressed by Ms. Aisling Smyth.

Ms. Smyth briefed Members on the process to date with regards consultation submissions to inform the Peace IV Action Plan. To date 27 written submissions have been received together with 20 completed online questionnaires.

A Supplementary report on Peace IV was also circulated to Members clarifying the role of the LCDC and the sub-committee. It was proposed by Mr. Michael Kirby and seconded by Mr. Hugh

MacConville and agreed that the LCDC is the Peace Partnership and the sub-committee is the Working Group of the Peace Partnership with substantial operational functions in relation to the formulation of the plan and the decisions on projects and funding of same.

Concern was expressed in relation to the impact of Brexit on the Peace IV Programme. Ms. Dorothy Clarke had been advised by Ms. Breda Hegarty, Programme Manager with the SEUPB, that it is the SEUPB's intention to ensure that the bulk of funding allocated to Peace IV is expended by 2018.

## 9. CORRESPONDENCE

- **National Rural Network Annual Conference 14<sup>th</sup> October 2016 (Athlone)**
- **Circular 03/2016 in relation to Transitional Funding for LAGS (dated 26/7/16)**

Ms. Dorothy Clarke briefed members on correspondence as above.

With regards the NRN Annual Conference in October, Mr. Chris Gonley advised members interested in attending to check the agenda as this conference is not just focussed on the LEADER Programme but on all rural schemes.

## 10. AOB

None.

Next meeting of LCDC scheduled for 22<sup>nd</sup> September at 9.30am

Meeting concluded at 11.40a.m.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Chairperson**