

SLIGO LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT
FOR 2018



Coiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Áitiúil Shligigh
Sligo Local Community Development
Committee

18th April 2019



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Foreword from the Chairperson of Sligo Local Community Development Committee

The Local Government Reform Act of 2014 bestowed particular responsibility on local government to provide strategic leadership at local level, with the establishment of Local Community Development Committees.

LCDCs have responsibility for the planning and oversight of a substantial amount of local development spends on behalf of the State or by other local development agencies and structures and have brought a new collaborative approach which is reflected in the framework set out in the Local Economic Community Planning process.

Fortunately in Sligo there has always been a strong tradition of mutual co-operation between the local government and local development sectors both at an informal and formal level and the establishment of the LCDC has helped cement this partnership. I am optimistic that the LCDC will continue to work in partnership with local stakeholders and the local community to ensure that Sligo continues to benefit from national and EU resources targeting social inclusion, community and rural development. This collaboration will go a long way towards achieving the Local Economic & Community Plan's overarching vision for the County as *'An enterprising, inclusive, resilient and environmentally sustainable place which values and celebrates its unique landscape and rich culture and heritage and where the wellbeing of future generations is central to everything we do'*.

As Chairperson of the LCDC, I wish to acknowledge the commitment of all members of the LCDC and support staff during the period. In accordance with the Department's *Guidelines for the Operation of Local Community Development Committees*, a review of the membership of the LCDC was carried out in 2018. Following this review, we welcomed new members to the Committee and acknowledged the contribution of outgoing members. The input of Members has been crucial in the implementation of the community elements of the Local Economic & Community Plan, the oversight of our main programmes such as the Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme and the Rural Development Programme through the LAG. Members have had an input into many other funding programmes such as the Peace IV Programme, the Community Enhancement Programme and the Healthy Ireland Programme in 2018, and have always carried out their role with diligence, integrity and professionalism.

Cllr Sinéad Maguire, Chairperson Sligo LCDC



A Statement by the Chief Officer, Sligo LCDC

The Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) is required to prepare and submit a report to the Local Authority on its activities in the previous year. This report outlines progress in respect of the various LCDC functions over 2018 including 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.

Since the submission of the last report, Sligo LCDC and its sub groups have had a busy and productive year.

Under the strong leadership of Cllr Sinéad Maguire as Chairperson, the LCDC embarked upon an ambitious work programme which included the oversight many funding programmes. 2018 also saw a review of the membership of the Sligo LCDC resulting in changes in representatives under the PPN and other sectors. This review is dealt with under Section 1.2 of this Annual Report.

I wish to acknowledge the co-operation of all the partners of the LCDC. County Sligo LEADER Partnership CLG who is the Programme Implementer of SICAP in Sligo and the LCDC has been very efficient in its review and monitoring of the Programme, with the new programme for SICAP 2018 – 2022 commencing on the 1st January 2018.

Sligo LCDC also acts as the Local Action Group (LAG) for Sligo for the Rural Development Programme 2014 - 2020. The LEADER Programme has added to the already significant role played by the LCDC in the oversight of public funding to bring about improved social, economic and community development of the County. The LEADER programme 2014-2020 is progressing well in Sligo with 85 projects approved at 31st March 2019. Sligo is in the top quadrant nationally for approvals under the programme.

In addition Sligo as a border region county is the beneficiary of funding under the Peace IV Programme.

The period has been active and successful for the Sligo LCDC and I set out hereunder more detail in relation to this activity and other areas of progress.

Dorothy Clarke
Chief Officer



1. Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The Sligo LCDC was formally established by resolution of the local authority on 7th July 2014 for the purposes of developing, coordinating and implementing a coherent and integrated approach to local and community development. The committee is made up of representatives from the local government and local development sectors, public bodies and representatives of social, economic, environmental and community interests.

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.

1.1 Dates and attendance at LCDC Meetings

LCDC/LAG meetings took place on the following dates in 2018;

22 nd February	29 th March	31 st May	26 th July	13 th Sept	18 th October	13 th December
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Attendance of Sectors represented on Sligo LCDC at meetings during 2018							
Sector Represented	22nd February	29th March	31st May	26th July	13th September	18th October	13th December
Elected Member	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	yes	yes	yes
Elected Member	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	yes	no	yes
Elected Member	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	yes	yes	no
Local Authority Official	No	Yes	No	No	yes	no	no
Local Authority Official	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	yes	yes	yes
State Agency - Dept of Social Protection	Yes	Yes	No	No	no	no	no
State Agency - Health Service Executive	yes	Yes	Yes	No	no	yes	no
State Agency - Education & Training Board	Yes	No	No	Yes	yes	no	yes
Local Development Company	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	yes	yes	yes
Trade Union	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	no	yes	yes
Business	Yes	Yes	No	No	yes	no	yes
Farming	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	yes	yes	yes
PPN - Environment	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	yes	yes	yes
PPN - Community & Voluntary	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	yes	yes	yes
PPN - Community & Voluntary	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	yes	yes	no
PPN - Social Inclusion	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	yes	yes	yes
PPN - Social Inclusion	Yes	No	No	No	no	yes	no

1.2 LCDC Membership in 2018

Name	Sector	Organisation
Cllr. Sinéad Maguire (Chairperson)	Local Government	Sligo County Council
Cllr. Séamus Kilgannon	Local Government	Sligo County Council
Cllr Chris MacManus	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. Kieran O'Dwyer (Jan – May) Ms. Mairin Haran (June – Dec)	State Agency	Dept. of Social Protection
Ms. Patricia Garland	State Agency	Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan HSE
Ms. Mary Brodie	State Agency	Mayo, Sligo, Leitrim ETB
Mr. Chris Gonley	Local Development Sector	Sligo LEADER Partnership Co.
Mr. Hugh MacConville	Trade Union Interests	Irish Congress of Trade Unions
Mr. Aidan Doyle	Business Interests	Sligo Chamber of Commerce
Mr. Seán Tempany (Vice Chair)	Farming / Agriculture Interests	Farming / Agriculture Pillar
Mr. Michael Kirby	Environmental Interests	Environment Pillar (PPN)
Ms. Bernadette Maughan (Jan – April) Ms. Elizabeth King (May – Dec)	Community & Voluntary – Social Inclusion	PPN
Mr. Gerry O'Connor (Jan – April) Mr. Finbarr Filan (May – Dec)	Community & Voluntary	PPN
Ms. Sharon Boles (Jan – April) Dr. Jennifer Van Aswegen (May – Dec)	Community & Voluntary – Social Inclusion	PPN
Ms. Jackie Sweeney	Community & Voluntary	PPN



LCDC members with Cathaoirleach Cllr Martin Baker – December 2018

Mr. Chris Gonley, Mr. Michael Kirby, Ms. Mary Brodie, Mr. Seán Tempany, Mr. Finbarr Filan, Mr. Hugh MacConville, Mr. Aidan Doyle, Mr. John Reilly, Ms. Elizabeth King, Cllr Sinéad Maguire, Chairperson, Cathaoirleach Cllr Martin Baker (SCC), Cllr Chris MacManus, Dr. Jennifer Van Aswegen



Members of Sligo LCDC with support staff, December 2018



LCDC in session in the Council Chamber, City Hall



LCDC in session in February 2019 – Sligo Chamber of Commerce hosted this meeting

1.3 Review of LCDC Membership in 2018

A review of Membership took place in 2018 in accordance with Department *Guidelines For The Operation Of Local Community Development Committees*, issued in December 2016 which states that the Chief Officer, in consultation with the CPG and Chairperson, is to review the membership of the LCDC at least once every three years to ensure the membership is relevant and representative of the work of the LCDC

- The Guidelines state that as a general rule, **there is no requirement to renew the public sector members**. Local authority officials and State agency representatives are members because of the positions they hold within the organisations represented. The Guidelines say it would be neither practical nor logical to seek to rotate these members
- Letters issued on the 9th April to the National Pillars of **Trade Union & Farming Sectors** seeking their nominations to which they confirmed the continuity of their existing members
- Following **PPN elections** held on 19th April 2018, three new PPN representatives were elected to the LCDC with Mr. Michael Kirby and Ms. Jackie Sweeney being re-elected
- Mr. Kieran O'Dwyer advised of his reassignment within the DEASP in May 2018 and a replacement nomination was sought from the Dept on the 7th June. Ms Mairin Haran was nominated to replace Mr. O'Dwyer in June 2018.
- Mr. Aidan Doyle replaced Mr. Des Faul as the Business Pillar rep in November 2017 therefore renewal of this pillar was not necessary in 2018.

At a meeting of Sligo County Council on the 11th June 2018 a Resolution **to approve in accordance with Section 128C of the Local government Act 2001 the revised membership of the Sligo Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)** was proposed by Cllr Chris MacManus, seconded by Cllr Hubert Keaney and agreed.

2. Local Economic and Community Plan (Community Elements)

2.1 Implementation & Monitoring of the LECP

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

The LECP seeks to advance the overarching purpose of local government as being 'to promote the wellbeing and quality of life of citizens and communities' by;

- The promotion of local and community development.
- The promotion of economic development



Mr. Finbarr Filan, Mr. John Reilly, Mr. Aidan Doyle, Ms. Margaret McConnell, Mr. Michael Kirby, Mr. Jude Mannion, Ms. Dorothy Clarke, Cllr Séamus Kilgannon, Cllr Sinéad Maguire, Mr. Seán Tempany, Cllr Chris MacManus, Dr. Jennifer Van Aswegen – Pictured at the announcement of funding for 129 community groups under the Community Enhancement Programme

The LECP was prepared in a collaborative manner setting out the Policy framework and context, the vision and goals for the duration, and the Action Plan dealing with the 6 key themes.

- Employment and Sustainable Economic Activity
- Education and Training
- Health and Well being
- Social Inclusion, Equality and Poverty,
- Environment and Climate Change
- Collaborative Framework

In order to ensure that the preparation of the economic and community elements of the LECP are co-ordinated, and duplication avoided, (both in terms of effort and engagement with stakeholders) each local authority established an Advisory Steering Group to assist in the preparation, drafting, adoption, and monitoring of the LECP. Membership and composition of the Steering Group was set out in guidance from the Department (*Circular LG 1/2015 AL 1/2015*). Members of the Advisory Steering Group in Sligo are as follows;

- Cllr Sinéad Maguire (Chair SPC/Chair LCDC)
- Mr. Chris Gonley, (LCDC rep)
- Mr. Hugh MacConville, (LCDC rep)
- Mr. Finbarr Filan (LCDC rep)
- Cllr Hubert Keaney (SPC rep)
- Mr. Conor McCarthy (SPC rep)
- Mr. John Reilly (Nomination of Chief Officer)

Following the formal launch of the Plan in February 2016, a system for updating & monitoring progress of actions in the LECP is ongoing with contact with the lead agencies who submit progress on their LECP actions on a quarterly basis. Progress is updated to the LCDC by the support staff at each meeting of the LCDC.

A number of agencies have also taken the opportunity to make a presentation at meetings of the LCDC to outline generally their role in the overall context of the community and economic development of the county and specifically to make reference to those actions in the Plan that are identified with them as lead agency. Agencies who presented at meetings in 2018 are as follows;

Date	Presenter/Organisation	Topic
22 nd February 2018	Mr. Shane Campbell, Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN)	Rural Broadband
22 nd February 2018	Ms. June Murphy, County Sligo LEADER Partnership CLG	SICAP 2018 Annual Plan
29 th March 2018	Mr. John Reilly, Local Enterprise Office	LEO Supports
26 th July 2018	Ms. Sarah Wetherald & Mr. Gerry O'Connor, Public Participation Network (PPN)	PPN

Progress on the implementation of the LECP will be subject to a mid-term review in 2019 wherein each individual action will be reviewed not just to monitor progress, but also to assess continued relevance and establish the need for additions and amendments if necessary. The Department of Rural & Community Development is in the process of developing guidelines for monitoring progress with implementation of the LECP's.

In preparation for this the LCDC reviews quarterly progress reports received, focusing on the relevance and appropriateness of their content in the context of the agreed outcome/target as set out in the LECP against the particular action(s).

There are a total of 179 individual actions contained in the LECP and each has been assigned a timescale for delivery upon/completion. These are;

- Short Term (delivery in under 1 year)
- Short-Medium Term (for delivery in 1-2 years)
- Medium Term (Delivery between 2 – 4 years)
- Medium-Long Term (Delivery between 4-6 years)
- Long Term (Delivery at approx 6 years)
- Ongoing (beyond the life of the Plan)

Of the 179 actions, 34 & 69 fall into the categories of ‘Short Term’ and ‘Short-Medium Term’ respectively. By early 2018 the LECP was into its 2nd year of a 6 year lifespan, and so it was considered reasonable to assume that many of those actions that fell in the realm of these two short time frames would have by now been completed/ delivered upon.

Accordingly, the evaluation process in 2018 concentrated and focussed on progress updates in respect of these categories of actions. By definitively dealing with shorter terms actions, it would allow for a concentration on the evolution of the remaining longer term actions for which the departmental guidelines would be of assistance.

The Advisory Steering Group, over the course of 2018 considered this matter and on foot of this, the overwhelming majority of these shorter term actions have now been considered completed/delivered upon. It was agreed that many of those not yet considered ‘completed/delivered upon’ now require treating under a longer time frame as both local circumstances and the operating environment has changed significantly since the plan was adopted in early 2016.

3. Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2018 – 2022 provides funding to tackle poverty and social exclusion at a local level through local engagement and partnerships between disadvantaged individuals, community organisations and public sector agencies. SICAP 2018 – 2022 is the successor programme to SICAP 2015 - 2017. Following extensive national consultation during 2017, some changes were introduced to the new Programme which commenced on the 1st January 2018.

Some of the key changes implemented are listed as follows;

- Five year programme with two goals Goal 1 – supporting **Community Groups** & Goal 2 – Supporting **Individuals** in Education & Employment

- A greater focus on the **quality** of the work rather than quantity. The Department will be looking for an increase in the number of interventions with community groups and individuals and more of a focus on the quality of supports and outcomes.
- All Lots in SICAP 2018-2022 will have two targets only, to achieve – Key Performance Indicator 1 and Key Performance Indicator 2. No targets to be set for other Headline Indicators; however interventions will still be recorded on the Integrated Reporting Information System (IRIS)
- An increase in the list of Programme Target groups with the introduction of 3 new target groups as follows (Total of 13 SICAP target groups);
 - o Disadvantaged Women
 - o The Disengaged from the Labour Market (the economically inactive)
 - o Emerging needs - Named by each LCDC based on local need (if considered necessary). The Emerging needs Group can be changed annually.*

*Sligo LCDC agreed on the inclusion of ‘**Substance Misusers**’ under the Emerging needs group for 2018.

In the previous programme Pobal set annual targets under a series of Headline Indicators and the Programme Implementer’s performance was measured against these targets which were closely monitored by the SICAP Committee. The new programme has seen a reduction in targets to just 3 as follows;

Ref	Key Performance Indicator (KPI)	Annual Target 2018
1.	Total number of local community groups engaged under SICAP	45
2.	Number of Individuals (aged 15 years upwards) assisted under SICAP on a one to one basis	431
3	Individuals under KPI2 living in Disadvantaged areas	18.08%

Following procurement and a tender evaluation process (from August – October 2017) the SICAP Monitoring Committee made a recommendation to the LCDC to accept the tender and award contract to County Sligo LEADER Partnership CLG. In accordance with Pobal’s guidance, a notification letter issued to County Sligo LEADER Partnership CLG on the 24th November 2017 informing them that their tender was successful. The Funding Agreements for the SICAP 2018 - 2022 were signed on the 18th December 2017 with the new Programme commencing on the 1st January 2018.

Target groups to be supported under SICAP 2018 - 2022 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

SICAP is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development with co-funding from the European Social Fund (ESF) as part of the ESF Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning 2014-2020.

The allocated budget for 2018 was **€585,514** with the Programme being implemented by County Sligo LEADER Partnership CLG.

3.1 Social Inclusion & SICAP Monitoring Committee

The SICAP Monitoring Committee continued to oversee the delivery of SICAP on behalf of the county based on the agreed Annual Plan for 2018 and to monitor implementation progress. At the LCDC meeting on the 31st May 2018, it was agreed to extend the remit of this committee and rename it as the '**Social Inclusion & SICAP Monitoring Subcommittee**' and to increase its membership from four to six members.

Members of this Committee are as follows;

- Cllr Sinéad Maguire, Chairperson
- Mr. Hugh MacConville, Trade Union Pillar
- Ms. Mairin Haran as Mr. Kieran O'Dwyer's replacement as Dept of Social Protection rep
- Ms. Elizabeth King as Ms. Bernadette Maughan replacement as PPN Social Inclusion rep
- Ms. Patricia Garland (LCDC HSE rep) - Additional member
- Ms. Jennifer Van Aswegen (PPN Social Inclusion rep) - Additional member

The new Committee met on the 5th July 2018 and agreed that Ms. Dorothy Clarke, Chief Officer of the LCDC would also sit on the Committee bring total membership to seven.

The Committee met on the following dates to discuss progress on SICAP in 2018;

19th February, 5th July, 25th September, 9th November

As part of the ongoing monitoring of the programme, it was agreed by the Social Inclusion & SICAP Monitoring Committee to visit two SICAP projects per quarter. Sligo LEADER Partnership CLG suggest projects for verification and suitable dates and a notification is send to all members of the LCDC allowing

members the opportunity to visit projects selected. In 2018, six SICAP projects were identified with LCDC Members/support staff visiting five.



Cllr Chris MacManus, Cllr Sinéad Maguire, Ms. Fiona Gilligan and Mr. Ciarán Hayes, CE visiting the Open Studio: Art Classes in Sligo Presbyterian Church, Church Street on the 8th November 2018



Members of Sligo LCDC and participants at Kieran Quinn's work-shop as part of the Men's Horizon Programme in Caltragh Community centre on 14th March 2019

3.2 Progress under SICAP 2018

All progress under SICAP is recorded on the Integrated Reporting Information System (IRIS)

In accordance with the Programme Requirements for SICAP, continued funding is subject to positive findings from a mid-year and annual performance review by the LCDC and the Key Performance Indicator (KPI) targets being achieved.

At the 2018 Annual performance review targets under both KPIs (below) were exceeded and the LCDC approved the 2018 SICAP Annual Performance Review reports at their meeting on the 21st February 2019.

Ref	Key Performance Indicator	Annual Target	Actuals as at 31st Dec 2018 (from IRIS)	% achieved
KPI 1.	Total number of local community groups engaged under SICAP	45	48	107%
KPI 2.	Number of Individuals (aged 15 years upwards) assisted under SICAP on a one to one basis	431	506	117%
	Percentage of Individuals supported under KPI 2 living in disadvantaged areas (143 individuals)	18.08%	33.18%	



The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2018-2022 is funded by the Irish Government through the Department of Rural and Community Development and co-funded by the European Social Fund under the Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning (PEIL) 2014-2020

4. Rural Development Programme 2014 – 2020 (LEADER Programme)

Sligo LCDC delivers the LEADER element of the Rural Development Programme and acts as the Local Action Group (LAG) working in partnership with Sligo County Council as Financial Partner and Sligo LEADER Partnership CLG as Implementing Partner.

The Local Development Strategy (LDS) for County Sligo forms the basis against which all project approvals will be measured. The LCDC as LAG has final approval on what projects proceed subject to the recommendation of the Independent Evaluation Committee. The Council act as lead partner in administrative and financial matters. Its role will also be to conduct verification checks, make payments to promoters and manage drawdown from the Department and funding to the Implementing Partner.

The LEADER allocation for Sligo 2014-2020 is **€7,655,648**. This allocation is broken down between;

- Preparatory Support for the Local Development Strategy
- Administration & Animation Costs
- Implementation of operations/Projects

The LAG in accordance with the direction of the Department and having operated the programme for some 2 years saw the need to move certain funds as it reached the 50% approval milestone in delivering the programme and decided in December 2018 to reallocate its budget based on the following criteria:

IP Report to RDP Sub Committee Draft Proposed Reallocation of RDP Budget Dec 2018

	Economic/Enterprise Development & Job Creation				Social Inclusion		Environment		
	Rural Tourism	Enterprise Dev	Rural Towns	Broadband	Basic Services	Rural Youth	Water Resources	Local Biodiversity	Renewable Energy
Original Budget	858,115	1,144,145	572,075	286,035	1,439,936	572,075	286,035	286,035	286,035
5,730,485.85									
Proposed Reallocation	-	250,000	190,691	- 95,345	822,071	-	95,345	- 95,345	- 95,345
New Proposed Budget	858,115	894,145	381,383	190,690	2,262,007	572,075	190,690	190,690	190,690
5,730,485.85									

Approved as of 18th Oct 2018	411,568	34,564	44,448	-	1,455,418	360,081	-	-	-	2,306,080
Balance Remaining	446,546	859,580	336,934	190,690	806,588	211,994	190,690	190,690	190,690	3,424,405
										5,730,485.

Action	Rationale
1. €250,000 reduced from Enterprise Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The majority of enterprise EOI's received to date are tourism related businesses and can be supported under Rural Tourism Measure. • Planning an advertisement campaign and closed call for enterprise in early 2019 • Planning promotion of enterprise start up supports to BTWEA clients who have completed SICAP Enterprise Training, beginning January 2019
2. €190,691.67 reduced from Rural Towns	The availability of finance through Rural and Urban Regeneration has affected the number of RDP applications, therefore warranting a reduced budget
3. €95,345 reduced from Broadband	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To date SLPC have received only 2 EOI's from a private promoter that have not developed into full RDP Applications

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SLPC met with Mr. Nigel Carter IS Project leader, Sligo County Council re RDP Possibilities
4. €95,345 reduced from Water Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 EOI received to date • SLPC met with Mr. Ray O Grady and Mr. Michael Carty, Sligo County Council re funding possibilities all ideas are Tourism related and can be supported under Rural Tourism • Meeting to be organised with Teagasc farming based projects
5. €95,345 reduced from Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No EOI's received to date • SLPC met with Ms. Siobhan Ryan, Heritage Officer, SCC re funding possibilities, Biodiversity plan closed call planned for early 2019
6. €95,345 reduced from Renewable Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 EOI's received to date • Promotion of community centre retrofitting supports planned for 2019, surplus can be supported under Basic Services
7. €822,017.67 added to Basic Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EOI's to value of €1,803,920 received, as of 18th October 2018, measure is committed, therefore need to include additional budget to ensure community projects are supported.

This will allow the Sligo LAG to achieve the target of full spend on its budget in accordance with the demand arising.

4.1 LEADER Application Process



As at 31st March 2019 there are 282 projects on the LEADER ICT System for Sligo – at various stages, .i.e. 158 Expression of Interest submitted/eligible, 12 Expression Of Interest ineligible, 4 at Application stage, 85 Projects approved, 18 applications withdrawn and 5 projects rejected.

The LEADER programme 2014-2020 is progressing well in Sligo with Letters of Offer/Contracts issued to 85 Project promoters with approval to funding in the amount of €2,664,076.19 (at 12th April 2019). Projects vary from the development of community playgrounds, Walking Tracks and all weather playing facilities to purchase of equipment, marketing and feasibility projects. To date €791,919 has been paid to promoters in respect of claims submitted on 28 No. projects and funds in the amount of €688,173.98 have been approved by the Department in respect of Administration of the LEADER Programme.

****Article 48 checks**

From the 1st February 2019, Local Authorities in their role as Lead Financial Partner (LFP), in each LCDC LAG area are tasked with undertaking Article 48 Checks, on projects and claims, with the exception of “In-House” projects delivered directly by the LAG or Implementing Partner (IP) where Pobal will continue to perform Article 48 checks. Pobal will also carry out checks on Monthly administration claims.



Visit by Michael Ring TD to Oxfield Community Sports & Leisure Centre, Drumcliffe, Co. Sligo on 15th November 2018



An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar visiting the Reading Wing, St. Paul's Church, Collooney, Co. Sligo in November 2018



An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithé agus Pobail
Department of Rural and
Community Development



5. Public Participation Network (PPN)

Local authorities are required to establish PPNs and all community representation on committees of the local authority must be sourced through the PPN.

Sligo Public Participation Network (PPN) was established in September 2014, following statute endorsing the framework for public participation in local government. The Sligo PPN is active and vibrant and offers a valuable opportunity for groups to avail of training and networking to facilitate the community, voluntary and environmental sectors and enable their participation in local decision making.

5.1 Structure of the PPN

The PPN is organised at both County and Municipal District level and the network is managed by an elected Secretariat made up from individuals representing the 3 PPN Colleges of Social Inclusion, Environment and Community & Voluntary, Sligo MD and Ballymote/Tubbercurry MD.

The role of the PPN is to facilitate structured input by the community through representation on various local policy making committees such as the Local Community Development Committee, Strategic Policy Committee, Joint Policing Committee and other policy making groups. The PPN also has a strong role to play in capacity building among groups, county networking and promotion of activities and also informing policy development. Specifically the PPN has made submissions to the SCC Disability Plan, the National Volunteering Strategy and the National PPN User Guide.

With a strong focus on communications development across 2018 the PPN has proved to be a very useful structure for information sharing both across the sector and with key organizations and stakeholders the community. The PPN has the capacity to act as a conduit for a large volume of information to be dispatched to community groups, as well as ensuring that community issues are heard at the relevant decision making tables..

5.2 PPN Secretariat, Elections & Policy Support Worker

In April 2018, elections were held to nominate a new Secretariat as well as to elect PPN representatives to North West Regional Drugs Taskforce. The PPN have 31 reps on 12 committees of the Council.

As of December 2018 Secretariat Members are as follows;

Mr. David Tuffy, Dr. Jennifer Van Aswegen, Mr. Gerry O Connor, Mr. Michael Bell, Mr. Thomas Walsh, Ms. Ann Marie Snee, Ms. Ann Donegan and Mr. Michael Kirby

The PPN Secretariat held 10 meetings throughout 2018 to discuss the running of the PPN.

A part time resource worker was assigned to the PPN in April 2018 and in December 2018 DRCD announced additional funding for the employment of a support worker full time.

5.3 Activities

Some of the activities the PPN engaged in across 2018 include:

- Countywide General Data Protection Regulation training in partnership with Sligo LEADER Partnership CLG.
- Sligo PPN initiated a countywide training partnership with Sligo LEADER Partnership CLG., Sligo Volunteer Centre and MSLETB to try and better ensure that training delivered in the county met

the direct needs of the community in a more coordinated way. The partnerships flagship event was the Get Funding Ready workshop and we will build on this with a series of programmes over 2019.

- In December 2018, the PPN worked in partnership with Sligo County Council and Sligo Volunteer Centre to host a Celebrating Community event acknowledging the work of volunteers in Sligo and unveiling the PPN commissioned Art piece in Doorly Park
- Sligo PPN are delighted that core elements of the PPN submission to the Sligo County Council Disability Plan, with a call for a focus on access and the social model of disability, have now been accepted into the new plan. The PPN have also contributed to the national Volunteer Strategy.
- Communications was a core focus of the 2018 plan with the launch of a new website, the introduction of Twitter and Instagram accounts and the creation of a new communications strategy
- On the 9th August, the PPN hosted an EU funding event in partnership with Sligo Library and Europe Direct
- Completed an image library to ensure that the PPN has access to a stock of updated and relevant images that really reflect the faces and places of the Sligo community
- Community Issues Template launched which allows the PPN to track key areas of community concern and use the PPN structure to ensure they reach the most appropriate decision making table or Sligo County Council department. Two pilot issues have come through to 'test' the approach
- The PPN has produced a series of guides, in partnership with Healthy Sligo, to support both boards and committees and community groups to become more inclusive as well as Social Media Guide for Community Groups and a 100 ways to make Sligo more Inclusive guide.
- Sligo PPN became the first in the country to join the Alliance for Insurance Reform to lobby against rising insurance costs for community groups. The PPN embarked on a project to capture case studies around the county that illustrate the crippling impact these costs can have on the community and voluntary sector
- Sligo PPN co-hosted a series of Pilot Webinars in partnership with Sligo Volunteer Centre to facilitate rural community groups to access support from national organisations such as the Carmichael Centre in Dublin
- In November 2018 the PPN held their AGM, which was very well attended by over 80 participants



PPN AGM November 2018





7th December 2018 - Sligo Community Celebration event acknowledging the work of volunteers in Sligo and unveiling the PPN commissioned Art piece in Doorly Park



*Sligo Global Kitchen – celebration of Christmas from across the Globe – Sligo Community Celebration event
7th December 2018*



Some of the attendees at the Sligo Community Celebration collaborative event on the 7th December 2018



5.4 Sligo PPN statistics at December 2018

At the end of November 2018 there were 506 groups registered with Sligo PPN. 322 of these were from Sligo MD and 184 from Ballymote – Tubbercurry MD.

A re-registration process was undertaken in December 2018 with Sligo, becoming the first in the country to do so which effectively took Sligo's membership figures down to zero. Membership has slowly built back up with 281 groups in total registered as at 11th April 2019 - 106 of these are in the Ballymote – Tubbercurry MD and 175 groups in Sligo MD.

Of those groups 243 have registered with the Community & Voluntary Pillar, 25 with the Social Inclusion Pillar and 13 with the Environmental Pillar.

For the first time Sligo PPN have also introduced an Affiliated Membership group which allows groups that do not meet the full criteria, to register with the PPN for information purposes, but they are not eligible to take part in any election or voting processes.

6. Peace IV Programme

Sligo County Council is currently implementing the PEACE IV Programme. The Programme is valued at €860,000 and operates across the following three themes:

- Children and Young People
- Shared Spaces & Services
- Building Positive Relations

The Programme is due for completion in Autumn 2019.

6.1 Projects

The first project to be completed was the Outdoor Activity Summer Camps. Aimed at 12 -16 year olds and delivered by North West Adventure Tours it provided young people of all faiths and backgrounds to interact in the neutral setting of the Sligo landscape. Operated on a residential basis, daytime activities included surfing, bushcraft, team building and hiking. These were combined with evening activities which provided time for discussion and reflection.



Participants in the Outdoor Activity Camps aboard the Rose Isle of Innisfree with PEACE IV Sub Committee Members Chris MacManus, Gerry O'Connor, Councillor Sinéad Maguire and Shane McManus.



Participants of the Heritage Programme at a workshop in March 2018

6.2 Peace IV Sub Committee

Implementation of the Peace IV Programme is being monitored by the **Peace IV Sub Committee**.

Members of the Peace IV Sub-Committee are as follows:

Name	Representation (LCDC nominee)
Cllr Sinéad Maguire	LCDC Chairperson
Ms. Sharon Boles	Public Participation Network (PPN) Social Inclusion College
Mr. Hugh MacConville	Social Partner – Irish Congress of Trade Unions
Mr. Michael Kirby	Public Participation Network (PPN) Environment College
Mr. Gerry O'Connor	Public Participation Network (PPN) Community & Voluntary
Mr. Chris Gonley	County Sligo LEADER Partnership CLG.
Mr. Chris MacManus	Tús Nua

Mr. Trevor Sweetman (replaced Mr. Shane McManus as of February 2019)	Youth Officer Mayo Sligo Leitrim Education Training Board
Sgt Angela Cummins (replaced Sgt Philip Maree as of February 2019)	An Garda Síochána
Mr. David Simpson	Minority Faiths



7. Healthy Ireland Fund

The Healthy Ireland initiative is a Government-led initiative to create an Irish society where everyone can enjoy positive **physical** and **mental health**, and where **wellbeing is valued** and supported at every level of society. An effective way of translating the Healthy Ireland objectives into practical actions is to align with those actions in the Local Economic & Community Plans (LECPs) that can further those objectives. With this in mind, in 2017, the Government approved the creation of a 'Healthy Ireland Fund with an initial allocation of €5 million to support the implementation of its objectives in a practical way such as through alignment with specific objectives contained in the LECP's. Up to €100,000 in 2017 was available to each LCDC for funding to commence, progress and/or strengthen relevant actions in their Local Economic & Community Plans (LECPs).

The aim of the Healthy Ireland Fund was to support innovative, cross-sectoral, evidence based projects, programmes and initiatives that implement key national policies to support projects and programmes aimed at children and young people and their families, communities and vulnerable groups, who are at most risk of experiencing health inequalities.

The Fund and applications are administered by POBAL and following its launch in late August 2017, a 'call out' was made to LECP 'Lead Agencies' (i.e. those who are responsible for reporting on and delivering on specific Health & Wellbeing related actions in the LECP) to make submissions for inclusion in the Application by Sligo LCDC to the Healthy Ireland Fund.

The 2017 application consisted of proposals from a range of agencies such as Sligo Sports & Recreation Partnership, the HSE, the North West Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force and the Cranmore Regeneration Office. A common thread running through all was a focus on marginalized and disadvantaged groups in our

society, developing and rolling out appropriate physical health and general well being programmes with an emphasis on empowerment and the building of capacity within such groups and communities.

The 2018 Healthy Ireland Fund was announced in April 2018. However, the allocation was reduced from €100,000 per LCDC to €75,000.

Round 2 of the Healthy Ireland Fund spans the period 1st April 2018 – 31st March 2019. The composition of the programme under the remit of the Sligo LCDC is as follows;

- 2 No. 'Actions' for delivery by Sligo Sports & Recreation Partnership
- 1 No. 'Action' for delivery by Sligo Traveller Support Group
- 1 No. 'Action' for delivery by the Sligo Leitrim Mental Health Services
- 1 No. 'Action' for delivery by the Cregg House Services
- 1 No. 'Action' for delivery by Sligo LEADER Partnership
- 1 No. 'Action' for delivery by Sligo County Council

As with the previous round , these 'Actions' are in effect , developing and rolling out appropriate physical health and general well being programmes with an emphasis on empowerment and the building of capacity within such groups and communities.

One further 'Action' for delivery by Sligo County Council is in fact provision for a co-ordination role for all of the above as opposed to a programme as such.



8. Funding Opportunities

In terms of progressing with the Implementation of the actions of the LECP a number of funding initiatives became available in 2018 to facilitate economic and community development particularly in rural areas under the overall Government Programme for Rural Development.

In April 2019, Sligo PPN/LCDC, in partnership with Mayo Sligo Leitrim ETB, Sligo Volunteer Centre and Sligo LEADER Partnership CLG, hosted a Grants Information event at the Clayton Hotel, Sligo. The purpose of the event:

The purpose of the night was to provide an opportunity for Community groups to find out what grants are available and appropriate for their projects, understand how application process work, hear about best practice, network, and submit ideas for further training in 2019.

On the night presentations were given on the key upcoming grants for Sligo County Council/LCDC e.g. Community Enhancement Programme, Healthy Ireland, Community and Voluntary grants, Anti Litter and Graffiti and Agenda 21 and other funding opportunities available from the MSLETB and Sligo LEADER Partnership CLG.



Attendees at the Grants Information event held on 11 April 2019 in a partnership arrangement between SCC/Sligo PPN/Sligo Leader Partnership/Sligo Volunteer centre and MSLETB



Speakers at the Grants Information event from Sligo County Council, Sligo PPN, Sligo Volunteer Centre, Mayo Sligo Leitrim ETB and Sligo LEADER Partnership CLG

8.1 Community Enhancement Programme

On the 31st May 2018, the Department of Rural and Community Development launched a new capital grant scheme known as the 'Community Enhancement Programme' (CEP). This new programme builds on and replaces both the 'RAPID' and 'Community Facilities Scheme'. The programme was administered by and delivered through the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC). Its aims to address disadvantage as identified in the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) by providing funding to communities to enhance facilities.

Applications were invited from community and voluntary groups for capital projects that would benefit their local community.

The initial allocation to Sligo LCDC for 2018 was €134,084. The Department recommended that up 30% of this be directed towards small scale capital grants of €1,000 or less. This was aimed at assisting small grassroots community projects to get off the ground. Ring fencing funds at this level allowed a larger volume of those with limited resources to receive some funding. The balance was to be directed towards larger capital projects.

Two further allocations were made over the course of the summer months. The first was specifically in respect of Men's Shed group worth €13,043. This was followed by a supplementary allocation to the general scheme worth €116,265.

Overall 129 Community Groups and organisations in the County shared in over €260,000 in small scale capital grants. The average grant was just over €2,500.

As part of the monitoring and follow up, the LCDC successfully hosted two separate Community Acknowledgement events at City Hall on the 5th February and at Teach Laighne, Tubbercurry, on 25th March 2019 respectively. These events were to celebrate and acknowledge the ongoing work and contribution in the community of those 129 applicants who were successful with their applications. These events were an opportunity for the successful applicants to share ideas and network and a number of the applicants were invited to speak on their experiences of the grant scheme and the impact it has had.



Members of Sligo LCDC & staff at the Community Enhancement Programme event in City Hall 5th February 2019



Members of Sligo County Council and Sligo LCDC with beneficiaries under the Community Enhancement Programme 2018 at Teach Laighne, Tubbercurry on the 25th March 2019

9. The Economic Agenda

In addition to the extensive Community agenda which the LCDC oversees the committee has an ongoing interest in the economic development of Sligo in particular through its main vision document the LECP. Therefore the LCDC would have received numerous presentations and updates on funding opportunities and strategies throughout the year to keep itself informed on progress in this regard such as the update on the National Planning Framework/ Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy consultation process.

9.1 Sligo Economic Forum

Action 1.1.1 of the Local Economic & Community Plan 2016 – 2021 proposes the establishment of an Economic Development Forum for Sligo for the purposes of:

- Planning strategically and directing the economic vision for Sligo
- Collectively promoting Sligo in all its facets
- Sharing information and best practice

The Sligo Economic Forum (SEF) consists of representation from Sligo County Council officials and members, LEO, Enterprise Ireland, IDA Ireland, Chamber of Commerce, IT Sligo, Fáilte Ireland, St. Angela's College, BID, and representatives from the Business and Farming sectors. The Chair of the SEF is Mr. Aaron Forde from Aurivo Co-Op Society Ltd.

The Forum met 6 times in 2018 to review matters with overall economic significance for Sligo. Its considerations focused on the National Planning Framework (NPF), Housing supply, the proposed Regional Spatial and Economic strategies (RSES), the new Urban and Rural Regeneration Development Funds and the Enterprising Town applications, at which Sligo took an award.

The Forum, in conjunction with the Council, was tasked with the commissioning of an overarching Brand for Sligo to ensure a single agreed strong branding message across all major stakeholders. This represents the first step in a marketing and consultation process that will enhance Sligo's further development and promotion locally, nationally and abroad. The implementation of a Brand strategy and the rolling out of the sligo.ie portal will take place in Quarter 3 of 2019. Aligned to this is the development of a new call to action website - sligo.ie.

The forum is also in the early stages of establishing a strategic plan which will reflect objectives outlined in the LECP 2018-2021 and other partner strategies. This strategy will incorporate key actions from plans and strategies such as the NPF, RSES, Tourism Strategy and Diaspora Strategy. It is the intention of the forum to also highlight key areas of development for Sligo County in order to establish itself as a pioneer in digital strategy, smart city initiatives and educational development.



9.2 Atlantic Economic Corridor (AEC)

The Programme for a Partnership Government and the Action Plan for Rural Development included a commitment to progress the concept of an Atlantic Economic Corridor (AEC). The AEC is the term applied to a non-administrative or “linear” region along the Western seaboard, covering counties Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Roscommon, Mayo, Galway, Clare, Limerick, and Kerry.

The overarching objective of the AEC concept is to maximise the region’s assets and connect the economic hubs, clusters and catchments of the region to generate a value proposition of scale which will attract investment and support job creation and an improved quality of life for those who live in the region.

A key strategic objective of the Project Ireland 2040, The National Planning Framework and the National Development Plan is to promote economic development across the regions and to enable all parts of the country to achieve their full potential. Therefore, it is strongly supportive of the AEC which is contributing to the achievement of spatial and economic policy objectives.

The Department of Rural and Community Development is helping to progress the AEC concept and develop a clearly articulated road-map for delivery of the AEC objectives. It has committed to making a contribution towards the recruitment of AEC Officers in each of the ten local authorities along the AEC.



AEC Taskforce: Collaboration is core to the AEC and in March, 2017 the Department established a Taskforce to oversee its development and advancement. The Taskforce is chaired by the Minister of State Sean Canning and is made up of a wide variety of stakeholders from the Business Community, Government Departments, Regional Assemblies, County and City Management Associations, Public bodies and community interests and Chambers of Commerce. To assist in achieving the agreed overarching objective, the AEC Taskforce itself has focused in particular on enterprise space, infrastructure and communications through its Sub-Committee structure. Other areas identified within the objective include skills, competitiveness, driving research and innovation, involving communities, and improving quality of life.

Strong collaboration between, and leadership from, all relevant organisations is essential for the success of the AEC. A further vital part of the work, in some ways independent of funding, is that the AEC influences key players in policy and investment areas.

9.3 Urban Regeneration and Development Fund & Rural Regeneration and Development Fund

The Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF), was announced on 9th July 2018 as part of **Project Ireland 2040**, to support the compact growth and sustainable development of Ireland's five cities and other large urban centres in line with the objectives of the National Planning Framework (NPF) and National Development Plan (NDP).

In addition, the Government committed to providing an additional €1b for a new Rural Regeneration and Development Fund over the period 2019 to 2027. The Fund will be administered by the Department of Rural and Community Development and will provide investment to support rural renewal for suitable projects in towns and villages with a population of less than 10,000, and outlying areas.

Sligo submitted numerous applications to this fund and benefited there from as per below:

The following approvals have been received for applications made to the URDF and RRDF funding schemes.

Urban Regeneration Development Fund:

URDF Category A:

Name of Project	Amount of Funding Awarded
Eastern Garavogue Bridge and Approach Roads Scheme	€3,300,000
O'Connell Street Enhancement	€1,236,000
Sligo Cultural Plaza	€750,000
Total:	€5,286,000

URDF Category B:

Name of Project	Amount of Funding Awarded
Sligo Public Realm	Amount TBC

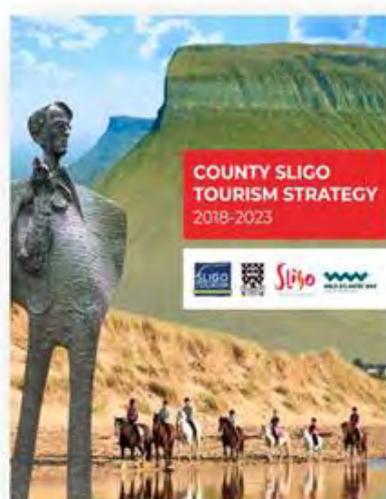
Rural Regeneration Development Fund:

RRDF Category 1:

Name of Project	Amount of Funding Awarded
Yeats Trail	€500,000
National Centre of Excellence for Surfing, Strandhill	€615,752
Total:	€1,115,752

9.4 Tourism Strategy

In 2018 the Council launched the County Sligo Tourism Strategy 2018 – 2023. The purpose of this strategy is to provide a strategic focus and vision for Tourism Development in Sligo. The strategy will guide the Council in conjunction with Sligo Tourism and other stakeholders and will provide the roadmap for the development of a world class product experience to the backdrop of the Yeats theme.



9.5 Diaspora Strategy

The Council has developed a Diaspora strategy to be launched in May 2019 to set out how the Council in collaboration with the LCDC and other partners link, liaise and collaborate with the wider Sligo family who do not live in the county. It is developed under the themes of Economic and job creation, Arts, Heritage and Culture and Sport and Community.

10. Promotion of the LCDC

The support staff to the LCDC embarked upon a campaign of promotion of the work of the LCDC over 2018 which has been extremely useful in raising awareness and profile of the collaborative nature of the work and successes of the committee. This has involved extensive use of social media in promoting programmes, grant schemes and initiatives, 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. Other partner agencies are encouraged also to do likewise.

11. Conclusion

The LCDC has achieved another successful year in 2018 and continues with its work programme. While the LCDC has many aspects of work to consider the fundamental and underlying function it carries out is in the overseeing and monitoring of the LECP, a framework for collaborative action with the ultimate aim of improving quality of life for all who live, work and visit our county.

The LCDC stands for collaboration and encourages all agencies, politicians, communities and public and private interests to work together to ensure that Sligo maximises its opportunity for development.