



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

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2021 at 11.30 a.m.**

**Community Virtual Meeting Room**

### **PRESENT**

Councillor Dara Mulvey <i>(by video)</i>	<b>Local Government Member</b>	<b>Sligo County Council</b>
Councillor Tom Fox <i>(by video)</i>	<b>Local Government Member</b>	<b>Sligo County Council</b>
Mr. Tom Kilfeather <i>(by video)</i>	<b>Local Government /Deputy CE</b>	<b>Sligo County Council</b>
Mr. Peter Egan <i>(by video)</i>	<b>State Agency</b>	<b>Mayo, Sligo, Leitrim ETB</b>
Mr. John Feerick <i>(by video)</i>	<b>Local Development Sector</b>	<b>Sligo LEADER Partnership CLG</b>
Ms. Kathleen Henry <i>(by phone)</i>	<b>Farming / Agriculture Interests</b>	<b>Farming / Agriculture Pillar</b>
Mr. Pat Fallon <i>(by phone)</i>	<b>Trade Union Interests</b>	<b>Irish Congress of Trade Unions</b>
Ms. Connie Nell <i>(by video)</i>	<b>Environmental Interests</b>	<b>Environment Pillar (PPN)</b>
Mr. Brendan Lynch <i>(by video)</i>	<b>Social Inclusion</b>	<b>PPN</b>
Ms. Noelle O’Gara <i>(by phone)</i>	<b>Social Inclusion</b>	<b>PPN</b>
Mr. Pat Benson <i>(by video)</i>	<b>Community &amp; Voluntary</b>	<b>PPN</b>
Ms. Jean Finnerty <i>(by video)</i>	<b>Community &amp; Voluntary</b>	<b>PPN</b>

### **APOLOGIES /ABSENT**

Mr. John Reilly	<b>Local Government / LEO</b>	<b>Sligo County Council</b>
Mr. Aidan Doyle	<b>Business Interests</b>	<b>Sligo Chamber of Commerce</b>

Mr. John Kennedy	<b>State Agency</b>	<b>Dept. of Employment Affairs &amp; Social Protection</b>
Ms. Patricia Garland	<b>State Agency</b>	<b>Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan HSE</b>
Councillor Joseph Queenan	<b>Local Government Member</b>	<b>Sligo County Council</b>

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Ms. Dorothy Clarke	<b>LCDC Chief Officer</b>	<b>Sligo County Council</b>
Ms. Margaret McConnell	<b>Senior Executive Officer</b>	<b>Sligo County Council</b>
Ms. Aisling Smyth	<b>Administrative Officer</b>	<b>Sligo County Council</b>
Ms. Fiona Gilligan	<b>Staff Officer</b>	<b>Sligo County Council</b>
Ms. Lisa Dennison	<b>A/Staff Officer</b>	<b>Sligo County Council</b>
Ms. Lisa Kelly	<b>Clerical Officer</b>	<b>Sligo County Council</b>
Ms. Sarah Wetherald	<b>PPN Development Worker</b>	
Ms. Gwendolyn Carpenter	<b>Economist, Smart Development Expert</b>	<b>Joint Assistance to Support Projects in European Regions (JASPER)</b>
Mr. James Chilton	<b>Associate Director</b>	<b>KPMG - FA</b>
Mr. David McGlinchey	<b>Manager</b>	<b>KPMG - FA</b>
Mr. Caoimhin Kelly	<b>Senior GIS and Research Analyst</b>	<b>KPMG - FA</b>

Councillor Dara Mulvey opened the meeting and welcomed officials in attendance from JASPER and KPMG – FA teams.

**1. INTRODUCTION TO THE PROCESS OF MAKING THE NEW LECP AND SLIGO 2030**

Ms. Dorothy Clarke gave a brief overview and advised that the LCDC are one of the key stakeholders in the process of the making of the Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP) and the Sligo 2030 Plan which will guide the development of all of County Sligo over the next 8 to 10 years. Ms. Clarke advised of ongoing preparation for the public consultation phase and outlined the main objectives of the 2030 Plan.

Ms. Clarke welcomed Ms. Gwendolyn Carpenter from JASPER who will provide support from an EU funding perspective.

It was noted that the Plan is ambitious with the ultimate goal of improving the quality of life for all.

A report outlining the main phases in relation to the making of the new LECP was circulated in advance of the meeting. Ms. Margaret McConnell briefed Members on this report which sets out the steps involved from preparation, public consultation, developing objectives and actions to finalising

the LECP. Ms. McConnell advised that these steps are taken from the existing 2015 Guidelines with revised guidelines expected from the Department in Quarter 3 of 2021. The department have confirmed that the existing guidelines are to be followed as the requirements under legislation will not change.

It was noted that the new guidelines are being formulated with an emphasis on the Sustainable Development Goals and all consultations as well as the plans themselves are to take cognizance of these goals. This will fit well with the green and smart ambitions of the new Sligo LECP.

## 2. PRESENTATION ON THE NEW DRAFT SOCIO ECONOMIC STATEMENT AND HIGH LEVEL GOALS FOR THE NEW LECP, SLIGO 2030 BY KPMG-FA

The draft Socio Economic Statement was circulated in advance of the meeting.

Mr. James Chilton opened the presentation and advised of an innovative & ambitious plan for Sligo 2030 and how we can make Sligo a better place to live, work and invest in by capitalising on funding streams available. Mr. Chilton acknowledged the assistance of Sligo County Council and JASPER in the process to date and advised that the public consultation phase will open next week.

Mr. David McGlinchey then gave the presentation and outlined the objectives of the Sligo 2030 Plan which will focus on regional growth, smart and green agendas and be anchored in an awareness of the importance of the Sustainable Development Goals. Mr. McGlinchey advised that the implementation of Sligo 2030 will focus on four key areas of ambition:

1. Growing Sligo into its role as a Regional Growth Centre
2. Positioning Sligo on the forefront of smart digital transformation
3. Positioning Sligo as an exemplar region in addressing climate change in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals
4. Improving the living conditions and health of the people in County Sligo

Mr. McGlinchey briefly outlined the summary profile of County Sligo with key highlights from the initial baseline socio-economic analysis of Sligo. It was noted that baseline data is from the 2016 Census with gaps in data supplemented by other department/agencies statistics.

Mr. McGlinchey advised that the baseline data was used in developing the SCOT Analysis (Strengths, Constraints, Opportunities and Threats).

Mr. McGlinchey then briefed Members on the four Guiding Principles that will underpin the Plan – **Smart** sustainable development, Economic & Environmental **sustainability**, **Green** Sligo and a **socially inclusive** society.

Members were informed that Sligo County Council is working in partnership with the LCDC, Sligo Economic Forum (SEF) and the SPC for Economic Development to develop an emerging vision for the new LECP which will take the form of an overarching countywide strategic framework, known as

Sligo 2030. In order to achieve this vision for Sligo, several initial high-level goals have been identified which will be further refined as the Sligo 2030 Plan is developed following feedback from the consultation phase and findings from further analysis.

It was noted that the socio-economic statement is designed to provide a basis for discussion for those who wish to have a say in the future of Sligo.

### **3. FEEDBACK FROM MEMBERS OF THE LCDC**

Councillor Mulvey thanked Mr. Chilton and Mr. McGlinchey for the presentation and asked for feedback from the LCDC.

The following points/issues were raised by Members;

- Higher educational opportunities and third level institutions (St. Angela's College and IT Sligo) are documented; however there is also a well developed infrastructure within the MSLETB for further education and training.
- Noted issue in relation to high rate of car use for travelling to work and education and the need for provision of public transport to and from urban centres
- With 28% of the population living alone, what supports can be put in place to counter social isolation. Noted that Planning & Housing are dealt with across a number of Government departments and there is a need for increased engagement by local authorities in this area
- Guiding principles and high level goals identified in the draft statement need equal emphasis on community as well as Economic development
- Include reference to farming
- Consider meaning and use of the word sustainability in some contexts - Smart, Sustainable, Green & Inclusive
- Climate & the Environment - Need to centre everything around sustainability in future. Collaboration is central if sustainability is to be secured
- Impact of Covid 19 on the community could be addressed in more detail
- Welcome greater consultation with PPN/LCDC and wider community in collating baseline data and gaps in data presented
- Need to include Young people and apprenticeships
- Reflect potential impact of automation on jobs in the future
- Need to clearly describe how the issues presented are unique to Sligo and not generic to all Irish towns

Mr. Chilton thanked Members for their feedback and acknowledged the variety and validity of points raised.

With regard the development stages of the Plan, it was confirmed that the current stage involves the preliminary analysis for the Socio economic statement and is constrained by statutory timeframes.

In response to queries on inclusivity and prioritisation of High Level Goals (HLG), Mr. Chilton advised that Inclusivity will be one of the key guiding principles in developing the plan.

With regards data, Mr. Caoimhin Kelly advised that Wellbeing and statistics around Covid will be incorporated into data, however 2020 will throw outliers in terms of forecasts.

Ms. Dorothy Clarke acknowledged points raised and reiterated that the draft Socio Economic statement is designed to facilitate the consultation process which is due to commence. Ms. Clarke advised that surveys have also been drafted to get feedback from the wider community and asked that the PPN assist in raising awareness of the consultation process thereby increasing level of engagement.

Ms. McConnell confirmed that a meeting of the Advisory Steering Group (ASG) took place on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June and feedback from this meeting had been incorporated into the draft statement. Ms. McConnell advised that this is the Preparation stage for the Plan (Phase 1) and the draft Socio Economic statement will be available to inform public consultation. The importance of maximizing public engagement was noted.

In relation to the PPN's Wellbeing statement, Ms. McConnell advised that this document had not been received to date, however data collated by the PPN will be incorporated into the Sligo 2030 Plan/LECP when available.

It was confirmed that KPMG-FA will also be consulting with other relevant agencies, such as HSE, Transport agencies etc through focus group sessions.

#### **4. TO APPROVE THE DRAFT SOCIO ECONOMIC STATEMENT AND HIGH LEVEL GOALS FOR THE NEW LECP - SLIGO 2030 ONE VOICE ONE VISION.**

Ms. Clarke reiterated that the Socio Economic Statement is a draft document and feedback received will be incorporated insofar as is possible. Councillor Mulvey acknowledged that this is a working document which is needed to facilitate the public consultation process.

It was confirmed that KPMG-FA will take feedback from the LCDC and stakeholder meetings on board and that there will be further opportunities to consider following the public consultation process.

It was agreed to forward draft Community survey to the LCDC for feedback in advance of opening public consultation with feedback/comments requested by COB on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> June.

LCDC approval to the draft Socio Economic Statement and high level goals for the new LECP - Sligo 2030 One Voice One vision was proposed by Councillor Tom Fox, seconded by Mr. John Feerick and agreed, subject to feedback being incorporated.

#### **5. AGREE DATE FOR NEXT MEETING**

Ms. Margaret McConnell advised that the matter will be coming to the LCDC again for consideration in July following the public consultation period. Members will be notified of date in due course.

Meeting concluded at 1.30 p.m.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Chairperson**

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