

14 March 2018

**To: The Mayor and Each Member of Limerick City and County Council**

**Local Community Development Committee – Annual Report 2017**

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**A Chomhairleoir, a chara,**

In accordance with the requirements of Chapter 2 Section 128B(1)(i) of the Local Government Act 2001, as inserted by the Local Government Reform Act 2014, please find herewith the Annual Report on the activities of the Limerick Local Community Development Committee for the year ending 31 December 2017.

**Is mise le meas,**



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**Seamus O'Connor**  
**LCDC Chief Officer**  
**Social Development Directorate**



# ANNUAL REPORT ON THE OPERATION OF THE LIMERICK LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC) FOR YEAR ENDING 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2017

DATE: 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2018

## Introduction

This document constitutes the Annual Report for the Limerick Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017. The report has been prepared in the context of Chapter 2 Section 128 B(1)(i) of the Local Government Act 2001, as inserted by the Local Government Reform Act 2014, which states that one of the functions of a Local Community Development Committee is: “not later than 31 March in each year, to prepare, adopt and submit to the local authority a report in relation to the performance of its functions during the year immediately preceding the year in which the report is submitted”.

## Background Legislation:

Section 49A of the Local Government Act 2001, as inserted by the Local Government Reform Act 2014, provides for the establishment of Local Community Development Committees for the purposes of:

- developing, co-ordinating and implementing a coherent and integrated approach to local and community development.
- to prepare the community elements of a 6-year Local Economic and Community Plan.
- to implement, or arrange for the implementation of, the community elements of the Plan.
- to review the community elements of the Plan at least once within the period of 6 calendar years and, if necessary, to amend the community elements of the Plan.
- to 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 community elements of the Plan.
- to coordinate, manage and oversee the implementation of local and community development programmes that have been approved either by the relevant local authority or by agreement between the LCDC and a relevant public authority (e.g. government department, State agency etc.).
- to improve the coordination of public-funded local and community development programmes and reduce duplication.
- in addition to public-funded programmes, to coordinate generally the local and community development programmes within the operational area of the LCDC.
- to consider a draft of the economic elements of the Plan and adopt a statement for consideration of the Council in this regard, and

- to prepare an annual report on the performance of its functions.

## Membership

The Limerick LCDC was established in July 2014 and has 19 members which includes representatives from the statutory and non-statutory (“private”) sectors drawn from the Limerick City and County Council administrative area.

Cllr Jerome Scanlon (Chairperson)	LCCC
Cllr Seamus Browne	LCCC
Cllr Eddie Ryan	LCCC
Cllr Daniel Butler (Vice Chair)	LCCC
Conn Murray	LCCC
Pádraig Casey	Ballyhoura Development Company
Anne Kavanagh	PAUL Partnership
Shay Riordan	West Limerick Resources
Zara O’Driscoll	Public Participation Network
Susan O’Neill	Public Participation Network
Trish Forde Brennan	Public Participation Network
Tony Lynch	Public Participation Network
Liz Price	Public Participation Network
Geroge O’Callaghan	Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board
Jim Lynch	Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection
Tony Quilty	Health Service Executive
Aidan Gleeson	Irish Farmers’ Association
Fiona O’Grady	Limerick Youth Service
James Ring	Limerick Chamber of Commerce

## Supports to LCDC

In accordance with Section 128A of the Local Government Act 2001, as inserted by the Local Government Reform Act 2014, the Chief Executive of Limerick City and County Council has designated a person to act as “Chief Officer” of the LCDC: Mr Seamus O’Connor.

Meetings and other supports are provided to the Limerick LCDC by the Social Development Directorate of Limerick City and County Council.

## Progress / Achievements in 2017

The LCDC held thirteen (13) meetings during the year and was very active in the performance of its functions. As the statutory term of office for Chair ended in 2017, Cllr Jerome Scanlon replaced Cllr Eddie Ryan as Chairperson and Cllr Daniel Butler was elected Vice Chairman at the July meeting. All the members acknowledged the contribution and commitment of the outgoing Chairperson to the LCDC and this is reflected in the significant achievements since its establishment in 2014. The LCDC

oversaw, and made decisions, when required in relation to the Social Inclusion Activation Programme (SICAP) and the EU Leader Programme and various grants schemes. In addition to the LCDC Meetings subgroup meetings also took place in relation to SICAP evaluation, monitoring and planning, LEADER operational matters, Healthy Limerick and evaluation of applications for various grant schemes.

## **Strategies**

The LCDC, in the delivery of its functions has full regard to all relevant statutory requirements and in particular the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) and the Local Development Strategy for Rural Development (LDS). The members were briefed on the changing socio-economic conditions in Limerick as reflected in the latest census data by Dr. Eileen Humphreys to assist the strategic approach of the Committee. The objectives and agreed actions contained in above plans are critical to the operation and outcomes of the LCDC to ensure consistency and coordination of all LCDC actions.

## **Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP)**

The LCDC oversaw the delivery of the SICAP programme, (€2.3 million per annum) and approved payments to the three Local Development Companies who are contracted to deliver the programme in Limerick. Mid and End of Year Reviews were undertaken and an annual plan for the 2017 programme was agreed. The LCDC also made an input at national level to the design of a new Social Inclusion Programme which will replace the current SICAP Programme in 2018. A procurement process for the new programme was completed and following this contracts were awarded to the three Local Development Companies.

## **EU Leader Programme (2014-2020)**

The EU Leader Programme (€9.276 million) was advanced in 2017 and applications for various community and specific interest groups were sought following a series of public information and consultation events. Operational matters were finalised having full regard to Department and EU requirements. Two Independent Evaluation Committees were established by the LCDC to assess all project applications and submit recommendations to the LCDC. The process gathered momentum in late 2017 and €435,000 was allocated to 12 projects during the year. It is expected that an additional €2 million euro will be offered to applicants to commence their Leader Projects in Q1, 2018.

## **Healthy Limerick**

The Healthy Limerick programme was officially launched in 2017 and is joint initiative between Limerick City and County Council and the Health Service Executive. The LCDC oversees the delivery of the Healthy Limerick Programme and a Healthy Limerick Coordinator is employed to deliver the programme. In addition to advancing the

delivery of the programme actions €100,000 was secured under the Healthy Ireland Programme in 2017 for specific programmes which will be delivered in quarter 1, 2018.



### Healthy Limerick Launch

*Cllr Jerome Scanlon (LCDC Chair), Minister of State Catherine Byrne TD, Mayor Stephen Keary and Mo Foley Walsh (Healthy Limerick Coordinator)*

## Grant Schemes

In 2017, the following grant schemes were administered by Limerick LCDC.

- CLÁR Programme (M3)
- Communities Facilities Scheme
- RAPID Programme
- Outdoor Recreation Scheme

The delivery of these grants resulted in up to 80 communities benefitting by addressing identified needs in local areas.

## Conclusion

The active participation of all members of the Local Community Development Committee during 2017 has led to a successful year for the Committee. The targets and deadlines set out at the beginning of the year were achieved. The engagement of the Committee, at both local and national level has yielded positive outcomes and

the members are committed to continuing this for the betterment of all citizens and communities in Limerick.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Seamus O'Connor', written in a cursive style.

**Seamus O'Connor**  
**LCDC Chief Officer**  
**Social Development Directorate**

