

# ANNUAL REPORT ON THE OPERATION OF THE LIMERICK LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC) FOR YEAR ENDING 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2018

DATE: 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2019

## Introduction

This document constitutes the Annual Report for the Limerick Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018. 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 Scanlan (Chairperson)	LCCC
Cllr Seamus Browne	LCCC
Cllr Eddie Ryan	LCCC
Cllr Daniel Butler (Vice Chair)	LCCC
Gordon Daly	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
Vacant	Limerick Chamber of Commerce
Aidan Gleeson	Irish Farmers' Association
Fiona O'Grady	Limerick Youth Service

## 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 2018**

The LCDC held twelve (12) meetings during the year and was very active in the performance of its functions. The committee is chaired by Cllr Jerome Scanlan and Cllr Daniel Butler is Vice Chairperson. 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 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, (€2.2 million per annum) and approved payments to the three Local Development Companies, Paul Partnership, West Limerick Resources Ltd and Ballyhoura Development CLG who are contracted to deliver the programme in Limerick. The Annual Plan for the 2018 programme was agreed and Mid and End of Year Reviews were undertaken. The programme is now more focused on social inclusion rather than activation of the unemployed. During the year, 1,368 individuals were supported as part of this social inclusion programme. In addition to this a total of 169 groups were also supported. A regional workshop on the SICAP programme was held in Newcastle West during the year which was attended by the Chair, staff and staff around the region involved in the delivery of SICAP.

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

The delivery of the EU Leader Programme (€9.276 million) advanced in 2018 and applications from various community and specific interest groups continued to be sought following a series of public information and consultation events. By the end of 2018, following project assessment by two Independent Evaluation Committees the LCDC approved 81 projects to the value of €6.974 million, which represent 72% of the Leader Programme budget for Limerick. In addition to the above €60,000 was allocated to two Food Initiative Projects and two Co-operation Projects. A number of leader Programme funded projects commenced in 2018 and some of these were completed during the year. The Limerick LCDC, as the Leader Local Action Group also reviewed the budget allocation for

each thematic area and moved budgets to reflect the emerging needs. The Limerick LCDC is the lead partner in a feasibility study to consider the development of the Shannon Erne Pilgrim Way project and this commenced during the year. The project involves 13 LCDC's along the River Shannon and this study will be completed in 2019.

#### **Other Programmes.**

The LCDC oversaw the delivery of other programmes such as Healthy Limerick, Mens Shed and the Community Enhancement Programme. Two hundred and twenty nine (229) groups were successful in their application for funding under the above schemes. All applicants were guided by the LCDC in relation to their projects in term of the most appropriate available funding streams for their project. The LCDC worked to ensure that funding was allocated in a balanced manner throughout the city and county.

A number of sub groups, including project assessment sub groups for the above funding streams met throughout the year to assist the LCDC in the delivery of its functions.

#### **Conclusion**

The active participation of all members of the Local Community Development Committee during 2018 has led to a successful year for the Committee. The targets and deadlines set out at the beginning of the year were achieved. The allocation of the EU Leader Programme enabled many local communities to commence their projects and the Limerick LCDC, having committed over 70% of it's' budget is leading the way at national level in the roll out of the programme. Almost 1,400 individuals were directly provided with supports under SICAP and three hundred and ninety eight (398) groups were funded under the various schemes under the auspices of the committee.

The engagement of the Committee, at both local and national level has yielded many positive outcomes and the members are committed to continuing this for the betterment of all citizens and communities in Limerick. The commitment of all members and in particular those who contribute on a voluntary basis is acknowledged and look forward to building on the achievements to date.



Cllr Jerome Scanlan  
Chairperson



Seamus O'Connor  
LCDC Chief Officer