



Comhairle Cathrach  
& Contae **Luimnigh**

**Limerick City**  
& County Council

Stiúrthóireacht na Forbartha Pobail,  
Comhairle Cathrach agus Contae Luimnigh  
Ceanncheathrú Chorporáideach,  
Cé na gCeannaithe,  
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**4<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

**To/ The Mayor and each Member of Limerick and City Council**

**Local Community Development Committee –Annual Report 2019.**

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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<sup>st</sup> December 2019.

Is mise le meas,

Seamus O'Connor  
LCDC Chief Officer  
Community Development Directorate

# **ANNUAL REPORT ON THE OPERATION OF THE LIMERICK LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC) FOR YEAR ENDING 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2019**

**DATE: 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020**

## **Introduction**

This document constitutes the Annual Report for the Limerick Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019. 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 (LECP).
- 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. On the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 there was one vacancy. Following the Local Elections in 2019 four new elected members were appointed to the Committee having replaced the previous elected members on the Committee. Dee Ryan, Limerick Chamber of Commerce also replaced James Ring in 2019.

Following a nomination process Cllr Michael Collins was elected Chairperson and Cllr Stephen Keary was elected Vice Chairperson in 2019.

Cllr Michael Collins (Chairperson)	LCCC
Cllr Stephen Keary (Vice Chair)	LCCC
Cllr Catherine Slattery	LCCC
Cllr Brigid Teefy	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
Vacant	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
Dee Ryan	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 Community Development Directorate of Limerick City and County Council.

## **Progress / Achievements in 2019**

The LCDC held 10 meetings during the year and was very active in the performance of its functions. The committee was chaired by Cllr Jerome Scanlan up to June 2019 and following the appointment of new elected members was subsequently chaired by Cllr Michael Collins. 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. In 2019, an additional €500,000 EU LEADER funding was allocated to the Limerick LCDC based on it being in the top five performing LCDC’s in the country in the delivery of the LEADER Programme.

### **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, (€2,185,427 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 2019 programme was agreed and Mid- and End of Year Reviews were undertaken. A 3% increase on the SICAP programme was confirmed in December 2019 bringing the overall budget to €2,250,989. The programme is now more focused on social inclusion rather than activation of the unemployed. A regional workshop on the SICAP programme was held in Limerick in December 2019. The Local Government Audit Service undertook an audit of the programme in December 2019 on behalf of the Department

of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) and internal audits of the three contracted companies delivering the programme for the LCDC was also undertaken.

### **LEADER Programme (2014-2020)**

The delivery of the LEADER Programme (€9.276 million) advanced in 2019 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 2019, following project assessment by two Independent Evaluation Committees the LCDC approved 85% of the project budget. In 2019, the LCDC allocated €1.83 million to 37 projects in Limerick.

There were 3 Food Projects approved to the Value of €54,347.87 (Pandora Bell, West Limerick Food Series and Franklin Sisters T/A CD Foods). There were 3 Cooperation Projects approved to the value of €21,308.54 (River Feale Catchment management Animation Project, The Shannon-Erne Pilgrim Way Baseline Study & Shannon Estuary Way Destination Development). The Limerick LCDC is the lead partner in a feasibility study to consider the development of the Shannon Erne Pilgrim Way project and this project involves 13 LCDC's along the River Shannon. The feasibility study was completed in 2019.

During the year the Council also took on responsibility for the EU LEADER audit checks (Article 48 audit checks) and these were successfully carried out by the LCDC support staff.

### **Healthy Limerick Programme**

The LCDC oversees the delivery of Healthy Limerick. In 2019, the LCDC successfully applied for €246,050 Healthy Ireland funding covering a range of cross-sectoral initiatives up to June 2021 that progress priorities in the LECF and Healthy Ireland. Additionally, administration was provided for the successful application for Healthy Ireland Funding of €128,050 by Limerick Children and Young People's Services Committee (CYPSC). The outcomes of 2019 include the conclusion of eight interagency actions promoting health and wellbeing across Limerick, Limerick Food Partnership being re-established and on a county-wide basis, two initiatives being scaled up for national use (We're Breastfeeding Friendly and Not Around Us), one initiative expanding regionally (Social and Health Education Programme), an All-Ireland Community and Council Award for We're Breastfeeding Friendly Limerick and the preparation of a draft play policy for Limerick City and County Council.

### **Other Programmes**

The LCDC oversaw the delivery of other programmes such as Healthy Limerick mentioned above, the Men's and Women's Sheds, Community Enhancement Programme and the "Big Hello" volunteer event. There were 76 projects and groups successful in their application for

funding under the above schemes. All applicants were guided by the LCDC in relation to their projects in terms 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 2019 has led to a very 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 85% of its budget is leading the way at national level in the roll out of the programme. This was reflected in the additional allocation of €500,000 for EU LEADER Programme in Limerick in 2019.

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 we look forward to building on the achievements to date. The contribution of past members, including the two previous Chairpersons, Cllr Eddie Ryan and Cllr Jerome Scanlan is also acknowledged.



Cllr Michael Collins  
Chairperson



Seamus O'Connor  
LCDC Chief Officer

