



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Seirbhísí Corparáideacha,
Comhairle Cathrach agus Contae Luimnigh,
Ceanncheathrú Chorparáideach,
Cé na gCeannaithe,
Luimneach

Corporate Services,
Limerick City and County Council,
Corporate Headquarters,
Merchants Quay,
Limerick

EIRCODE V94EH90

t: +353 (0) 61 557150
f: +353 (0) 61 415 266

12th March 2021

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

Local Community Development Committee –Annual Report 2020.

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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 31st December 2020.

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 31st DECEMBER 2020

DATE: 8th March 2021

Introduction

This document constitutes the Annual Report for the Limerick Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) for the year ended 31st December 2020. 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.

LCDC Membership

The Limerick LCDC was established in July 2014 and has 19 members, which includes representatives from the statutory (“public”) and non-statutory (“private”) sectors drawn from the Limerick City and County Council administrative area. On the 31st December 2020 there was one vacancy. Four new members were appointed to the LCDC in 2020 following resignations due to changes in employment or end of membership term.

LCDC Membership

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
James Prior	Public Participation Network
Susan O'Neill	Public Participation Network
David Tobin	Public Participation Network
Tony Lynch	Public Participation Network
Edel Geraghty	Public Participation Network
George O'Callaghan	Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board
Diarmuid Fitzgerald	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 2020

Despite the challenges in 2020, arising from the COVID 19 Pandemic, the LCDC performed its functions effectively. The LCDC met 9 times in 2020 with 8 meetings held online during the year in accordance with COVID 19 requirements and the committee was very active in the performance of its functions. The LCDC oversaw, and made decisions, when required in relation to the Social Inclusion Activation Programme (SICAP), the EU LEADER Programme and various grants schemes that come under the responsibility of the LCDC. The reallocation of budgets within the themes of the LEADER Programme was also completed in response to the needs of the community sector and in December 2020 the LCDC

completed the allocation of the current EU LEADER Programme Budget. In addition to the LCDC meetings, subgroup meetings also took place in relation to SICAP annual performance review and preparation of the 2020 Annual Plans for SICAP, LEADER operational matters, Healthy Limerick programme implementation 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, (€2,250,989,427 million) in three areas or Lots: Limerick Urban Area, Limerick West Rural and Limerick East Rural. This represents an increase in the SICAP programme budget for 2020 by 3% (compared with earlier years) by the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD). During 2020, the LCDC approved payments to the three Local Development Companies, PAUL Partnership (Limerick Urban Area), West Limerick Resources (Limerick West Rural) and Ballyhoura Development (Limerick East Rural) who are contracted to deliver the programme in Limerick. The Annual Plans for the 2021 programme were prepared by the Local Development Companies in the last quarter of 2020, for approval by the LCDC. Mid-Year and End of Year Reviews of the Annual Plans for 2020 were undertaken and during 2020, the Mid-Year Review was approved by the LCDC. In 2020, the annual targets for support to individual clients were revised in two of the Limerick Lot Areas in recognition of the difficulties presenting in delivering programmes that required a physical presence due to COVID 19 restrictions. During 2020, the local development companies successfully delivered many of their programmes to local community groups and individuals online. The involvement of the Council, via the LCDC, proved very beneficial in supporting communities and groups worst affected by the COVID 19 pandemic and continues to do so. The established relationships between the LCDC / Council and the three Local Development Companies led to an efficient, evidence-based and coordinated delivery of COVID 19 supports across the city and county.

LEADER Programme (2014-2020)

The delivery of the LEADER Programme (€9.276 million) advanced in 2020 and applications from various community and specific interest groups continued to be sought following a series of public information and consultation events. The LCDC, as the Local Action Group (LAG) for the LEADER Programme completed the allocation of the 2014-2020 LEADER Programme Budget plus the additional €500,000 received from the Department of Rural and Community Development in 2018.

In 2020 the LCDC approved 48 Projects to the value of €1,938,708.76. In addition to the above, funding of €438,630.55 was allocated for 8 LEADER Food Projects and funding of €515,452.71 was allocated to 8 LEADER Cooperation Projects (see Appendix 1 for further details).

The Council continued to manage the EU LEADER audit checks (Article 48 audit checks) on projects and claims 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. In 2020, the contract was extended to December 2021 and additional funding for the extended contract was allocated. The Healthy Limerick programme includes support for the multi-agency and public / community sector cooperation initiative, the Limerick Food Partnership. This project has been critical in coordination of food services provision to disadvantaged communities and families during the COVID 19 pandemic and supporting these communities to develop healthy food choices and cooking skills. The Limerick Healthy Ireland programme also involves allocation of 15 small grants (€2,000) to Community Mental Health projects delivered by community and voluntary bodies and other interventions needed to address issues presenting with COVID 19. The impact of COVID 19 on individuals and communities in 2020 was very significant. The Healthy Limerick programme played a key role in cooperation with Healthy Ireland and in addition to food and other initiatives proved vital in the circulation of information and advice on Health and Well Being. It also oversees the KEEP WELL Campaign, which is a Government promotional campaign to support individuals and communities in positive mental health, engagement in physical activity and creative pursuits during the lockdown.

Other Programmes

Community Enhancement Programme

In 2020, the LCDC secured €73,674 under the Community Enhancement Programme which provides funding to community groups to enhance facilities in disadvantaged areas. Priority for this scheme was given to projects that engaged with Tidy Towns with a focus on bio diversity, access to outdoor and green space, enhancement to develop outdoor space/amenities and other adaptations that may be needed as a result of Covid 19.

- A total of 41 groups were assisted under this scheme.

Community Enhancement Programme- Community Buildings/Centres

A further allocation of funding was announced in late 2020 under the Community Enhancement programme for repairs or improvement to community buildings/centres. A budget of €203,981 was allocated to Limerick for projects that focussed on Upgrade to Community buildings/community centres, Kitchen/Food Preparation upgrades, Energy efficiency/ Heating upgrade, Disability Access works, Improvements to toilet/shower/changing facilities.

- A total of 39 groups were assisted under this scheme.

The LCDC worked to ensure that the Community Enhancement Programme funding stream 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 2020 led to a very successful year for the Committee despite the challenges of 2020. The targets and deadlines set out at the beginning of the year were achieved. The completion of the allocation of the EU LEADER Programme enabled many local communities to commence their projects and the Limerick. Oversight and flexibility around the SICAP Programme in response to COVID 19 resulted in the delivery of more appropriate and meaningful supports to disadvantaged persons and communities. 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 Chairman acknowledges the commitment of all members and in particular those who contribute on a voluntary basis looks forward to building on the achievements to date.



Cllr Michael Collins
Chairperson



Seamus O'Connor
LCDC Chief Officer

Appendix 1

Main LEADER Programme Projects

Promoter Name	Project Name	LEADER Grant Amount
Abbeyfeale Community Council C.L.G.	Promoting Abbeyfeale via Broadband Technologies	€8,972.18
Abbeyfeale Community Council CLG	Landscaping, walkway and signage of Abbeyfeale Biodiversity Park	€21,303.38
Abbeyfeale Folk CLG (t/a Glorach)	Glorach Facility Upgrade	€54,426.39
Adare Recreation & Community Complex Company Limited by Guarantee	Remote access and operation of lighting, CCTV and generator in Manor Fields, Adare.	€8,154.12
Ambulance Base and Training / Community Rooms	East Limerick Red Cross	€41,517.17
Amenity Development for Knocklong Railway Heritage Park	Knocklong Development Association	€84,577.89
Ardagh District Recreational and Sporting CLG	Ardagh District Community Walkway	€85,118.19
Askeaton Ballysteen Tennis Club	Askeaton Ballysteen Tennis Club	€32,614.97
Ballybrown Clarina Community Council	Lift Installation in Community Resource Centre	€32,734.80
Ballysteen Carnegie Development CLG	Development Carnegie Library	€7,884.75
Beagh Castle, Ballysteen, Askeaton	Beagh Castle Cottages	€150,000.00

Bleach Lough Anglers CLG	Provide new roof to office and stores at Bleach Lough	€2,553.75
Caherconlish Caherline Community Council CLG	Millenium Centre Kitchen Refurbishment and Associated Office Space.	€18,925.50
Caherconlish Caherline Community Council CLG	Sustainable Energy Upgrade for the Millennium Centre	€78,176.25
County Limerick and North Cork Transport Group CLG	Rural Transport Programme for County Limerick and County Clare	€12,685.21
Crecora Manister GAA Club	Crecora Manister GAA Club	€36,295.59
D & G Purpose Giving Foundation	Co-Working Hub - West Limerick	€46,173.40
Development & Implementation of a Tourism Marketing Campaign for Ballyhoura Country 2021	Ballyhoura Failte DAC	€37,104.90
Diarmuid McIntyre	"Raising Voices (HearSay) - Development & Technical Support	€30,000.00
Diarmuid McIntyre	HearSay Festival – Services & Supports	€19,637.50
Edward Liston	Expansion of Wood Processing Business	€32,500.00
Feasibility Study on "Deel Recycling" Social Enterprise	West Limerick Resources CLG	€18,357.75
Fedamore GAA	Fedamore/Carnane Community Walking Track Development	€26,111.58
Garrienderk, Kilmallock	Feasibility Study on Restoration of Community House	€18,122.40
Garryspillane	Garryspillane Rural Tourism	€25,950.00

Glin Development Association CLG	Installation of water butts in Glin	€3,771.03
Glow in the Dark 8 Lane Bowling Alley	Orrantree Leisure Ltd	€105,747.10
High Nellie Bike Company	Bicycle Mechanics & Engineering Training	€58,079.00
Improvements at Abington Enterprise Centre	Abington Enterprise Centre CLG	€28,516.87
Kantoher Development Group CLG	Kantoher Renewable Energy Feasibility Study	€22,140.00
Knockainey Historical & Conservation Society	Repair works on the roof of St. John's Church, Knockainey	€101,350.56
Lough Gur Development Co-operative Society Limited	Lough Gur Environmental Visitor Information Point/Kiosk	€25,155.00
Maigue Rivers Trust - Preparatory Study for a Crayfish Ark Project	Maigue Rivers Trust	€16,605.00
Newcastle West and District Community Centre Limited	Newcastle West Community Centre Broadband Upgrade	€2,484.02
Olive Sheehan	Barnagh: Greenway Hub	€44,457.91
Pallasgreen	Technology Upgrade of Pallasgreen Community Hall Phase 2	€32,163.02
Pallasgreen Templebraden Community Council	Pallasgreen Community Centre Energy Efficiency Renovations and Retrofit	€181,750.20
Ray & Joy Conway t/a Curraghchase Garden Centre	Curraghchase Garden Centre Expansion Project	€30,417.17
Shanagolden Community Council	Upgrade of Car Park in Capt Tim Madigan Park	€111,810.92
Shannon House Fit Out	ACM Community Development Society Ltd	€62,380.01

Spin Doctor Bike Repair Ltd	Great Southern Greenway Bike Hire	€19,791.46
The A.K. Ilen Company Limited	Ilen Marine School	€25,044.62
The Mague Rivers Trust	An exploration of recreation and amenity potential of the Mague rivers	€29,446.20
Trails maintenance training (West Limerick)	West Limerick Resources CLG	€8,722.59
UL Bohemian RFC	UL Bohemian RFC - Facility Development A & D	€9,000.00
Walkway around perimeter of GAA Pitch	Galtee Gaels GAA Club	€52,242.57
West Limerick Digital Marketing Training Programme	West Limerick Resources CLG	€17,788.84
Woulins Ltd t/a Cosyfill Insulation	Natural External Wall Insulation System	€19,947.00
Total		€1,938,708.76

LEADER Food Cooperation Projects

Promoter Name	Project Name	LEADER Grant Amount
Applewood Farm Produce Ltd	Ballyhoura Apple Farm Bottling Plant	€14,665.00
Applewood Farm Produce Ltd	Production Facility Development	€21,450.00
Caher Bakery Ltd	Caher Bakery Ltd Bakery Extension	€200,000.00

Glenstal Abbey Operations CLG	Simply Glenstal Artisan Water	€23,925.00
Kearneys Home Baking Ltd	Kearney's Home Baking Business Expansion	€82,506.50
Madam Olda Fitzgerald t/a Glin Castle	Glin Castle Food Fair	€6,483.00
Total		€349,029.50
West Limerick Resources CLG	West Limerick Food Series Phase 2	€74,216.00
West Limerick Resources CLG	Limerick Food Trail and Verification System	€15,385.05

LEADER Cooperation Projects

Promoter Name	Project Name	LEADER Grant Amount
Ballyhoura Development	Living and Learning Communities	€81,600.00
West Limerick Resources	North Kerry/West Limerick Periphery and Border Areas Initiative	€28,183.36
West Limerick Resources	North Kerry/West Limerick Periphery and Border Areas Initiative	€49,155.50
West Limerick Resources	Social Enterprise Training Initiative	€59,381.00
West Limerick Resources	Destination Development Training Programme - Shannon Estuary Way	€60,000.00

West Limerick Resources	Greenway Destination Development Training Programme	€37,650.00
West Limerick Resources	Wild Work Co-operation Project Inter-territorial (Analysis and Development)	€25,469.73
West Limerick Resources	Wild Work Co-operation Project Inter-territorial (Training)	€174,013.12
Total		€515,452.71