



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Stiúrthóireacht Pobail, Turasóireachta & Cultúir
Comhairle Cathrach agus Contae Luimnigh
Ceannchearthú Chorporáideach
Cé na gCeannaithe
Luimneach

Community, Tourism & Culture Directorate
Limerick City and County Council
Corporate Headquarters
Merchants Quay
Limerick

eircode: V94 EH90

t: +353 (0) 61 556 000

9th March 2023

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

Local Community Development Committee –Annual Report 2022

.....

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 2022.

Is mise le meas,

Seamus O'Connor
LCDC Chief Officer
Community, Tourism and Culture Directorate

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE OPERATION OF THE LIMERICK LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE (LCDC) FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2022

6th March 2023

Introduction

This document constitutes the Annual Report for the Limerick Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) for the year ended 31st December 2022. 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. The tenure for sitting on the LCDC expired for a number of members in 2022 and this saw new members being appointed to the LCDC during the year.

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, Tourism & Culture Directorate of Limerick City and County Council.

Councillor Stephen Keary (Chairperson)	Limerick City & County Council
Councillor Brigid Teefy (Vice Chairperson)	Limerick City & County Council
Councillor Joe Pond	Limerick City & County Council
Councillor Michael Collins	Limerick City & County Council
Gordon Daly	Limerick City & County Council
Pádraig Casey	Ballyhoura Development CLG
Anne Kavanagh	PAUL Partnership Limerick
Shay Riordan	West Limerick Resources
James Prior	Public Participation Network
Linda Ledger	Public Participation Network
David Tobin	Public Participation Network
Maurice O'Connell	Public Participation Network
Leona O'Callaghan	Public Participation Network
George O'Callaghan	Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board
Diarmuid Fitzgerald	Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection
Anne Ryan	Health Service Executive
Diarmuid O'Shea	Limerick Chamber of Commerce
Barry Murphy	Agricultural Sector
Fiona O'Grady	Limerick Youth Service

Achievements and Progress 2022

The members of Limerick LCDC continued to working together as partners for the betterment of developing sustainable communities for Limerick. This involved planning, delivering and evaluating interventions, and the policies, underpinning those interventions, for the good of individuals and communities. The members met 10 times in 2022 facilitating in person and blended meetings as allowing members being able to attend in person or join online. This ensured the committee was very active in the performance of its functions. There was also a workshop held 18th November 2022 regarding the EOI process for new the LEADER Programme 2023-2027.

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 fall under the remit of the LCDC. The reallocation of budgets within the themes of the LEADER Programme was completed in response to the needs of the community sector. In addition to the LCDC meetings, subgroup meetings also took place in relation to SICAP annual performance review and preparation of the 2022 Annual Plans for the SICAP Programme, LEADER Programme and reacted operational matters, Healthy Ireland, as wells as funding under the Community Enhancement Programme – Community Support Fund.

Key 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.

In November 2021, guidelines were issued by the DRCD for the preparation of new Local Economic and Community Plans (LECP) across the state for the period 2022-2028. LECPs are statutory plans for the local authority area. Goals and objectives of the LECP must be consistent with higher level national and regional plans – the National Planning Framework Ireland 2040 and the Regional Economic and Spatial Plan for the Southern Region (2021) - and with the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028. The LECP has two main elements – a Community Plan and an Economic Plan with the Community Plan led by the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and the Economic Plan led by the Economic Strategic Policy Committee. The Urban and Rural Community Development Section (URCD) is leading out on the preparation of the LECP in cooperation with Forward Planning, Economic Development Directorate. During 2022, a multi-stakeholder LECP Advisory Steering Group was set up and is operational to guide the preparation of the Plan. A Draft Socio-economic Statement has been prepared including a socio-economic analysis of Limerick, draft High Level Goals and Sustainable Development Objectives. A public consultation process on the draft will commence in January 2023 with the new LECP expected to be approved by Council in Autumn 2023.

Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

The LCDC oversaw the delivery of the SICAP programme and approved payments to the three Local Development Companies contracted to deliver the programme in Limerick – PAUL

Partnership in the city /urban Limerick, West Limerick Resources in West Limerick and Ballyhoura Development in East Limerick. The programme budget in 2022 was €2,598,398, an increase compared with 2021. The core SICAP budget was €2,389,664 with an additional €208,734 provided for supports and services targeted on Ukrainian refugees, located in Limerick. Social inclusion actions under SICAP are delivered under two goals:

Goal One: Supporting local community groups

Goal Two: Supporting individuals in or at risk of social exclusion to identify and take steps to improve quality of life and well-being and access lifelong learning opportunities.

In 2022, the Local Development Companies continued to adapt their programmes to needs of most excluded groups. Based on a statement of priorities agreed for the 2022 and 2023 programmes, priority groups for support were people in or leaving the Direct Provision system (in the urban SICAP programme), young people with mental health problems, Travellers / Roma, long-term unemployed people and older people living in rural isolation (in the rural SICAP programmes). In 2022, the Local Development companies played a key role in coordinating sub-area forums – in the city, east and west Limerick - to respond to needs of Ukrainian refugees. The Local Development Companies collaborate with other partners in the statutory and voluntary sector to reach and support people and families most at risk of, or in, social exclusion and in order to assist them to access a wide range of services. Joe O'Brien, TD, Minister for Community Development and Charities visited Limerick in October holding meetings in various sites in the city and rural Limerick. The Minister met with the Council, the Local Development Companies, local community and voluntary groups and Travellers to see the operation of SICAP, on the ground, and engage in a discussion of needs addressed by the programme.

The Annual Plans for the 2023 programme were prepared by the LDCs, for approval by the LCDC. Mid-Year and End of Year Reviews of the Annual Plans for 2022 were undertaken in each of the Limerick Lots, and approved by the LCDC. During 2022, the LDCs successfully delivered support programmes to local community groups and individuals in the target groups at risk of social exclusion and proved to be an important source of support to communities.

LEADER Programme (2014-2022)

The delivery of the EU LEADER Programme (€14.097 million) advanced in 2022 and applications from various community and specific interest groups were evaluated and considered. Limerick City & Council as Financial Partner continued to manage the EU LEADER audit checks (Article 48 audit checks) on projects and the LCDC support staff successfully managed the payment of claims to project promoters in this regard. The Local Community Development Committee (LCDC), as the Local Action Group (LAG) for the LEADER Programme completed the full allocation of the 2014-2021 LEADER Programme Budget.

In 2022, the LCDC approved 33 Projects to the value of €1,801,944.82 . In addition to the above, funding of €122,919.71 was allocated for a number of LEADER Cooperation Projects (see Appendix 1 for further details).

Minister Heather Humphreys came to Limerick on 8th April 2022 to visit a number of projects funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development including the EU LEADER Programme, Town and Village Renewal Scheme and the Rural Regeneration Development Fund. Minister Humphreys' spent time meeting the community members and officially opened a number of projects funded under the EU LEADER Programme.

Health and Wellbeing Programmes

The LCDC oversees the delivery of Healthy Limerick. The Healthy Limerick/Ireland programme continued to provide health and well-being supports during 2022. The lifting of COVID 19 restrictions provided the opportunity to progress the implementation of projects. These included the Healthy Food Made Easy Programme delivered in Limerick through the Limerick Food Partnership, a multi-stakeholder partnership of statutory and community and voluntary organisations managed by the PAUL Partnership. The Limerick Food Partnership receives funding from Healthy Limerick, the HSE Sláintecare Healthy Communities and the Redemptorists and its key focus is to raise awareness, improve access and increase the supply of healthy food options to its target communities in Limerick City and County. The Limerick Food Partnership links with the School of Allied Health in University of Limerick and is currently supporting two MSc students in conducting an evaluation of the programme.

Healthy Limerick, in collaboration with the Limerick Food Partnership supported integration work with migrant communities using food as an engagement tool throughout 2022. It also collaborated with Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board, Limerick Integration group and Doras in the Riverfest BBQ competition. The Food Partnership also engaged with the Childhood Anti-Poverty Programme in Limerick, ABC Start Right, on a project to identify how the 'Starting your Baby onto Solids' can be adapted to meet the needs disadvantaged families including migrant families and those living in transitional housing with little or no access to cooking facilities

Healthy Limerick supported the establishment of a city centre-based community kitchen in Tait Community Centre, Lord Edward St. The planning, development, and installation of the kitchen in conjunction with LCCC was funded by Healthy Ireland and Sláintecare Healthy Communities. The

launch of the community kitchen took place in December 2022. The kitchen is now open for community organisations to hold Healthy Food Made Easy classes and other related workshops.

Other events were supported by the Limerick Food Partnership including: Cappamore Community Food Initiative Day, Limerick Fittest Youth Club organised by West End Youth Service Ballinacurra Weston and Croom Healthy Community Day held at the Croom Family Resource Centre

The Social Health Education Programme (SHEP) delivered three programmes supported by Healthy Ireland / Healthy Limerick during 2022. The SHEP programme is well-established in Limerick and Healthy Ireland funding has led to the expansion of the programme. The programme aims to achieve improved health and well-being for our communities through the delivery of community-led supports in the form of advocacy, counselling, community organisation supports and improved interagency approaches at local level.

Healthy Ireland supported the Woodlands for Health initiative in collaboration with mental health Ireland, Limerick Sports Partnership and the HSE. Walks were aimed at supporting those with various mental health issues and took place on Friday mornings between March and June 2022 in Curraghchase Forest Park.

Other Programmes

Community Activities Fund

In 2022, the LCDC secured €305,884.00 under the Community Activities Fund which provides funding to community groups to support groups in disadvantage areas. The purpose of this scheme was to assist groups/organisations with grants towards their non-pay running costs and grants towards necessary repairs and improvements to their facilities and purchasing of equipment. There were 146 groups in Limerick assisted under this scheme in 2022.

Community Support Fund

On 22nd November 2022 Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, and Minister of State with responsibility for Community Development and Charities, Joe O'Brien TD, announced a €10 million fund to support local community & voluntary groups with their energy bills.

The once-off fund will be allocated under the Department's Community Enhancement Programme in 2023. Administered locally by the Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs), the final approval of grants will be a matter for the LCDC. This funding is about giving a helping hand to our communities, local groups and clubs.

The Community Support Fund will support groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas

- With their non-pay running costs for example energy costs (electricity costs, refuse charges, heating charges) or other non-pay operating costs for example rental/lease costs, insurance bills. Only energy/operating costs relating to 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023 are eligible.

- Groups will also be able to use the funding to carry out necessary repairs and improvements to their facilities, purchase equipment such as tables and chairs, tools and signage, laptops and printers, lawnmowers, canopies and training equipment etc.

The allocation for Limerick is €350,592.00. This total amount comprises:


- €171,790 Current funding (Non-Pay) for use towards energy running/operating costs- capped at a max of €5,000 per applicant.
- €175,296 Capital funding for use towards carrying out necessary repairs and improvements to facilities, energy efficiency type projects, purchase of equipment etc.- capped at a max of €5,000 per applicant.
- €3,506 ring-fenced for Women's sheds

Once all applications are received they will be evaluated by the LCDC Evaluation Sub Committee on for consideration by the LCDC for funding.

Conclusion

The active participation of the members of the Local Community Development Committee during 2022 continues to build on the commitment and effort of former members whom are passionate about developing Limerick. The targets and deadlines set out at the beginning of the year were achieved including the full allocation €12.9 million under the LEADER Programme. The oversight and monitoring of the SICAP Programme in response to challenging times such as the Ukraine response shows how flexible and responsive the interventions are in a real time crisis. Any funding approvals made by the members of the LCDC are notified to the Elected Members of the Council by 15:00 hrs the day after an LCDC meeting. As agreed in 2022 the Agenda of the meeting is notified to Elected Members of the Full Council in advance of the meeting.

The engagement of the Committee, at both local and national level, continues to yield many positive outcomes and the members are committed to continuing this for the betterment of all citizens and communities in Limerick. The preparation of a new LECP 2023-2018 is underway along with the process of deciding how the new LEADER Programme 2023-2027 will be delivered for Limerick. The Chairman acknowledges the commitment to date of all members and in particular those who contribute on a voluntary basis and looks forward to building on the achievements to date.



Cllr Stephen Keary
LCDC Chairperson



Seamus O'Connor
LCDC Chief Officer

Appendix 1 – LEADER Projects approved 1st January 2022 to 31st December 2022

Promoter/Applicant	Project Title	Address	LEADER Grant Amount	Sub Theme	Date of LAG Meeting
Feohanagh Castlemaison Resource Centre CLG	Feohanagh Castlemaison Community Resource Centre	Feohanagh	€355,486.46	Rural Towns	19/01/2022
Knockladdy Clonagh Resources Centre Limerick CLG	Knockladdy Clonagh Resources Centre - roof repair	Knockladdy	€11,299.56	Basic Services Targeted at Hard to Reach Communities	19/01/2022
Fine Mess Entertainment Ltd t/a RetroVentures	EURI - RetroVentures Bicycle and Electric Bicycle Rental (Adare, Co. Lime)	Adare	€84,159.16	Rural Tourism	01/03/2022
Fine Mess Entertainment Ltd t/a RetroVentures	EURI RetroVentures Motorcycle Rental business recovery and expansion	Adare	€42,708.29	Rural Tourism	01/03/2022
ACM Community Development Society Ltd	Community Life Stories Project	Castlecconnell	€7,499.92	Rural Tourism	01/03/2022
Broadford Community Development CLG	EURI Glamping and Cycle Tours - Templeglantine	Templeglantine	€60,000.00	Rural Tourism	01/03/2022
West Limerick Tourism	Renovation of the Hall - Phase 2	Broadford	€192,844.16	Basic Services Targeted at Hard to Reach Communities	05/04/2022
The A.K. Iken Company CLG	EURI - Shannon Estuary Marine Training	Shannon Estuary	€94,395.00	Rural Tourism	05/04/2022
Data Storage & Management Ltd	EURI Data Storage & Management Upgrade	Unit C Annascotty Business Park.	€197,794.50		03/05/2022
ACM Community Development Society Limited	Shannon House Energy Conservation Project	14/15 Castle Street, Castleconnell	€14,750.50	Basic Services targeted at hard to reach communities	03/05/2022
Abington Enterprise Centre CLG	Upgrading Units	Abington Enterprise Centre, Miurroe	€37,408.91	Enterprise Development	03/05/2022
Ballybrown Clara Community Council	Ballybrown Clara community renewable energy project	Ballybrown, Clara, Co. Limerick.	€13,908.57	Renewable Energy	07/06/2022
Kearneys Home Baking Ltd	Kearney's Home Baking Business Expansion Phase Two	Ballyhall, Co. Limerick	€105,489.04	Enterprise Development	07/06/2022
Croom Community Development Association CLG	Croom Community Refurbishment	Croom, Co. Limerick	€17,010.00	Rural Towns	07/06/2022
Rigney's Farm / Currighchase Free Range Pork	EURI Currighchase Free Range Pork	Currighchase, Kilmoran, Co. Limerick.	€33,475.00	Enterprise Development	07/06/2022
Ahane GAA Club	EURI Walkway around Ahane GAA Club Boundaries	Mackey Park, Lisnagry, Co. Limerick.	€50,734.50	Rural Towns	07/06/2022
Ballyhours Development CLG	Ballyhours Communities Green & Just Transition Strategy	Ballyhours Area	€30,000.00	Basic Services targeted at hard to reach communities	01/11/2022
Ballyhours Development CLG	International Centre for Creative Audio Feasibility	Ballyhours Area	€30,000.00	Rural Towns	01/11/2022
Ballyhours Development CLG	Ballyhours Rural Services - eHub	Ballyhours Rural Services Campus, Doon	€36,726.58	Rural Towns	01/11/2022
Gaitee Gae & GAA club	Lighting of Existing Walkway	O'Mahony Park, Kibbenny	€29,793.75	Basic Services targeted at hard to reach communities	01/11/2022
Ballyhours Heritage & Environment CLG	Griston Bog Development	Griston Bog, Ballylanders	€22,684.20	Rural Tourism	01/11/2022
Castlecconnell Boat Club CLG	Installation of Safety Booms	Worldsend, Lacka, Castlecconnell	€22,970.25	Rural Tourism	01/11/2022
Kentohr Development Group CLG	Ashford Festival Revival	Ashford	€17,647.23	Rural Tourism	01/11/2022
Bruree Rockhill Sportsfield Trust	EURI Bruree Rockhill Community Walkway	Kilmallock Road, Bruree	€35,476.90	Rural Towns	01/11/2022
The Local Hub Glenbrohane CLG	EURI The Local Hub Fit Out	Glenbrohane, Garrysoillane	€25,027.54	Rural Towns	01/11/2022
Greenagh Development Association	EURI Greenagh Parochial House Development - Feasibility Study	Greenagh	€9,314.61	Rural Towns	01/11/2022
West Limerick Resources CLG	Greenway Destination Development Phase 2	West Limerick/North Kerry	€54,775.00	Rural Tourism	06/12/2022
West Limerick Resources CLG	Wild Work Cooperation Phase Two (Training)	West Limerick/Cavan/South-East and West	€60,720.39	Protection and Improvement of Local Biodiversity	06/12/2022
West Limerick Resources CLG	Wild Work Cooperation Phase Two (A&D)	West Limerick/Cavan/South-East and West	€7,424.32	Protection and Improvement of Local Biodiversity	06/12/2022
Olive Sheehan t/a Barnagh Greenway Hub	Wild Work Cooperation Phase Two (A&D) - Purchase of specialised equipment for access	Barnagh Greenway Hub, Newcastle West	€18,375.00	Rural Tourism	06/12/2022
West Limerick Resources CLG	Invasive Species Training in West Limerick	West Limerick	€23,898.90	Protection and Improvement of Local Biodiversity	06/12/2022
Cappamore GAA	Walkway Project - Phase 1	Cappamore	€48,742.08	Rural Towns	06/12/2022
Total			€1,807,944.82		
LEADER Cooperation Projects					
West Limerick Resources CLG	Greenway Destination Development Phase 2	West Limerick/North Kerry	€54,775.00	Rural Tourism	06/12/2022
West Limerick Resources CLG	Wild Work Cooperation Phase Two (Training)	West Limerick/Cavan/South-East and West	€60,720.39	Protection and Improvement of Local Biodiversity	06/12/2022
West Limerick Resources CLG	Wild Work Cooperation Phase Two (A&D)	West Limerick/Cavan/South-East and West	€7,424.32	Protection and Improvement of Local Biodiversity	06/12/2022
			€122,919.71		

Note the Cooperation Projects outlined under the above heading 'LEADER Cooperation Projects' recommended for approval by the LAG in December 2022 of €122,919.71 were not approved by the Department as the National LEADER Cooperation Budget had already been allocated in full.