

## Waterford LCDC Annual Report 2019

### Chief Officer's Statement:

Waterford Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) was established in 2014 under the provisions of the Local Government Reform Act 2014. It is an independent sub-committee of Waterford City & County Council. 2019 saw a year of significant progress for the Waterford LCDC with progress made on many of the goals and targets set out in the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP).

The LCDC met eight times during 2019, with a quorum achieved at each sitting. The following are the details relating to these meetings:

<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>No. Of members</b>	<b>In attendance</b>	<b>Apologies</b>
14/2/19	19	14	5
11/4/19	19	14	5
9/5/19	19	15	4
11/7/19	19	16	3
12/9/19	19	15	4
10/10/19	19	14	5
14/11/19	19	13	6
12/12/19	19	15	3

Minutes of the LCDC meetings are available on the Community section of the Council's website.

Membership of the LCDC at 31/12/2019 was as follows:

Senan Cooke	PPN
Jenny Beresford	Dungarvan/West Waterford Chamber of Commerce
Gabriel Foley	PPN
Heather Kiely	PPN
Richard Awosika	PPN
Gerald Hurley	Waterford City Chamber of Commerce

Maggie Flanagan	PPN
Catherine Quinlan	ICMSA
Richard Grant	WAP
Jimmy Taaffe	WLP
Cllr. John Pratt, Mayor, Chair	Elected member WCCC
Councillor Adam Wyse	Elected member WCCC
Councillor Lola O’Sullivan	Elected member WCCC
Derval Howley	HSE
Richie Walsh	Head of Waterford L.E.O.
Michael Walsh	C.E. WCCC
Kevin Lewis	WWETB
Julie Somers	CYPSC/Tusla
Liam Daly	Dept. of Social Protection

The male: female ratio is 63% male, 37% female.

### **Progress under elements of the Local Economic and Community Plan**

- In the context of the LECP objective, *“Stronger, Healthier Safer Waterford”*
  - The Joint Policing Committee met regularly throughout 2019 (3 times) giving the opportunity for constructive communication between the communities of Waterford, the Local Authority and An Garda Síochána.
  - The Healthy Waterford initiative, set up to improve the health and well-being of people in Waterford, continued to grow and become more embedded in the wider Community. The Healthy Waterford Committee is a sub-committee of the LCDC and reports to the members at each LCDC meeting. The Healthy Ireland Fund Round 2 supported two key actions during 2019, namely, the posts of Healthy Waterford Coordinator and Social Prescribing Coordinator. An application for Round 3 funding was made in Q4 2019. Implementation of

the actions approved by the LCDC will make Waterford a better place to live, work and play.

- The Waterford Age Friendly Alliance continues to grow and develop. The programme has nine thematic subgroups and during 2019 the Waterford Older Persons Council was formed.
- In the context of the LECP objective, *“Build Stronger Futures”*
  - The Waterford Rural Coordination Working Group was set up as a new subcommittee by the LCDC during 2018. In 2019 this group continued to meet with its role continuing to be:
    - To ensure a cohesive approach to the planning and delivery of rural development programmes and projects in Waterford and to ensure alignment of priorities across the primary delivery agencies
    - To maximise funding in order to deliver rural development projects.

Various Council departments are represented on the working group as are Waterford Area Partnership and Waterford Leader Partnership.

- Comhairle na nÓg continues to flourish and grow in Waterford. The LCDC actively supports the work of the Comhairle.

### **Update regarding the implementation, management and oversight of publicly funded programmes**

The main publicly funded programmes managed by the LCDC are SICAP (Programme Implementer being Waterford Area Partnership who were successful in winning the tender to implement the programme 2018-2022) and the Rural Development Programme (Implementing Partner being Waterford Leader Partnership). The Chief Executives of both Waterford Leader Partnership and Waterford Area Partnership are members of the LCDC.

### **Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme:**

There is a clear focus on social inclusion and marginalised communities in the LECP. The SICAP programme in Waterford assists in addressing many of the objectives set out in the LECP including reducing youth unemployment and making stronger connections between services and people. The SICAP budget for 2019 was €1,120,415. Significant work was undertaken and delivered upon by Waterford Area Partnership during 2019. Some of the key indicators relating to the delivery of the LECP in 2019 were as follows:

<b>Headline Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Achievement</b>
KPI 1: Number of local Community Groups assisted under SICAP	69	75

KPI 2: Number of individuals assisted under SICAP	867	895
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A SICAP sub-committee of the LCDC oversees the work of the SICAP programme Implementer and in 2019 gave regular updates to the LCDC on progress. No remedies were applied to the Programme Implementer as all Key Performance Indicators were achieved.

SICAP targeted Waterford's most vulnerable groups in 2019 including: Travellers; Roma; Substance misusers; people with disabilities and people living in disadvantaged areas.

### **Rural Development Programme:**

Waterford LCDC is the Local Action Group (LAG) with ultimate responsibility for implementation of the LEADER programme in Waterford.

Key achievements in 2019 included:

1. The LCDC carried out a mid-term evaluation of progress to date on the LDS in early 2019 and changes were agreed and implemented.
2. There were four targeted calls in 2019. There were no rolling calls.
3. The Article 48 checking responsibility was transferred to local authorities in early 2019. This created significant challenges initially. The process has now bedded in well.

Other achievements included:

- The 2017 and 2018 grant allocations were paid out.
- De-commitments were small in number
- Bio-diversity and Water Conservation Training projects commenced
- Successful Community Training was held in the Comeragh Area.
- Small Business interest was animated

### **General measures advanced during the period:**

- In the context of the objective *“to co-ordinate employment, skills and local economic development policy”*, a skills enhancement group continues to operate up as a sub-committee of the LCDC with its prime focus to examine the skills shortages that Waterford businesses are facing and to make recommendations to the LCDC to tackle these and make Waterford best in class at up skilling workers. This is another example of co-ordination between public agencies, under the auspices of the LCDC, to improve services for the people of Waterford.
- Community Enhancement Programme: During 2019, the Community Enhancement Programme – a programme under the auspices of the LCDC - funded projects which enhanced facilities and communities in disadvantaged

areas. The Programme offered not-for-profit groups access to capital funding in order to kick-start, advance or complete their projects. The Programme addressed some of the difficulties these groups face in terms of accessing small scale levels of funding to match their own fundraising efforts. The total grant received from the Department was €144,496, which was allocated to 79 community groups for a variety of projects. The Department of Rural & Community Development under the Community Enhancement Programme allocated Shed funding which was ring-fenced for small capital grants for Men's & Women's Sheds. Seven registered Sheds in the Waterford area all received this grant which totalled €9,162.

- Migrant Integration Forum: In early 2018, Waterford City and County Council and Waterford Local Community Development Committee established an Inter-agency Task Group to respond to the call made under the National Migrant Integration Strategy: *A Blueprint for the Future*. Local Authorities are responsible for establishing a Migrant Integration Forum and updating their integration strategies. The official Forum launch took place in February 2019 by Minister David Stanton. The role of the Forum will be to contribute to the development of an integration strategy for the entire county.

In July 2019 a consultant was appointed to provide facilitation, coordination, support and administration for the development and initial implementation of Waterford Migrant Integration Strategy 2020 – 2023. Extensive and meaningful engagements and consultations have taken place with Waterford Migrant Integration Forum, migrant communities, service providers, agencies, public bodies and community groups. The launch of this strategy should take place in May 2020.

- A strong relationship between the LCDC and the PPN continued during 2019 with regular updates on PPN activities at LCDC meetings.

Signed:

Don Tuohy

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**Senior Executive Officer/ Chief Officer to Waterford LCDC**

**Community and Sport Department**