***Leitrim LCDC Induction Pack***

**Role of the Local Community Development Committees (LCDC’s)**

Each local authority had established a Local Community Development Committee (LCDC). The aim of the LCDCs is to develop, co-ordinate and implement a coherent and integrated approach to local and community development.

The membership of LCDCs includes members of the local authority, local authority staff, representatives of public bodies which provide services in the area; local community representatives; and representatives of publicly funded or supported local development bodies. The majority of members (at least 51%) must be from the non-statutory sector.

The main function of an LCDC is to prepare, implement and monitor the community elements of the six-year Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP). It must consider the economic elements of the plan in order to enhance co-ordination with the community elements. It has a general role in seeking to ensure effectiveness, consistency, co-ordination and avoidance of duplication between the various elements of statutory body activities in the community.

**Why were LCDC’s established**

* Following the Reform of Local Government in 2014, Local Authorities were to take on a more central role in governance, oversight, coordination and planning of local and community development programmes
* A more co-ordinated approach to service delivery at local level was desired
* Greater efficiency and effectiveness in publicly funded programmes is required
* Locally identify priorities and solutions, match resources to priorities and make best use of the local resources
* Deliver better services for citizens and communities

**Purpose and Functions of LCDC’s**

* To bring all stakeholders together to ensure a stronger and more strategic focus on local and community development
* Build a true partnership approach at local level, comprising Local Authorities, State and non-State local development agencies, community and voluntary organisations and other representatives of civil society
* Manage and oversee implementation of local and community development programmes, for example LEADER programme and Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP).
* Provide for meaningful citizen engagement in planning, delivery and evaluation of programmes.
* Co-ordination, planning and oversight of local development expenditure
* Match resources to priorities
* Deliver a more co-ordinated approach to implementation of programmes at local level
* Pursue more cost efficient administration of programmes, and value for money in management and delivery of programmes
* Pursue opportunities for additional funding for the area.

**Leitrim LCDC Membership (17 members)**

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| **Statutory (Public) Members (8)** | **Non statutory (Private) Members (9)** |
| Local Authority Elected Members: 3 | Local Development Company: 1 |
| Local Authority Officials: 1 | Community & Voluntary (nominated through PPN): 5 |
| Public Authorities (HSE, DSP, Teagasc, Local Enterprise Office): 4 | Other local interests (business, farming, trade unions): 3 |
| *Chairperson is elected by the Committee for a three year term. Currently the Leitrim LCDC Chairperson is Cllr Felim Gurn, elected June 2019.* | |

Role of Chief Officer on LCDC

* Supports and assists the LCDC and works with the Chairperson to provide guidance and strategic direction to the LCDC.

Role of Elected Members on LCDC’s

* Governance, monitoring, oversight responsibilities
* Represent the views of the full council
* Represent the needs of communities in relation to local and community development needs
* Elected members critical to targeting of resources and delivery of services
* Bring a strategic view and oversight of local and community development needs

Role of PPN on LCDC

* Avenue for ongoing dialogue with local communities
* Facilitates input by communities into decision making on local and community development funding

Role of Public Sector Agencies on LCDC

* Cross-government support to local and community development
* Facilitate interagency working and collaboration

**Role of LCDC Members**

* Attend committee meetings
* Attend training and networking events as appropriate and required
* Understand confidentiality issues and self declare conflict of interest when relevant, which may arise
* Provide all relevant information on local issues affecting their organisation in order to enable effective debate on issues raised
* Take the time to read, absorb and understand communications that are received and carry out tasks/actions as allocated
* Provide feedback to their member organisations / sectors on the work of the LCDC
* From time to time participate on sub-committees relevant to their area of interest/expertise
* Participate in decision making processes, for example LEADER funding applications

**Sub committees of the LCDC**

1. **RDOC – Rural Development Operational Committee**

The RDOC is subcommittee of the LCDC with three representatives from the LCDC (the decision making LAG), three from Leitrim County Council (the Lead Financial Partner) and three from Leitrim Development Company (the Lead Implementing Partner). This RDOC will report directly to the LAG (LCDC) and makes recommendations, presents information and options to the LAG (LCDC). For example, to consider the way funding is distributed under the Leader programme and then to put any recommendation agreed to the full LAG for it to make the final decision. The RDOC will also discuss, formulate, agree and draft all LAG policies, procedures etc. as appropriate and as directed by the LAG (LCDC) so that the LAG can make considered decisions.

1. **SEC - Social Inclusion, Equality and Community**

The SEC comprised of members of the LCDC and external agencies as agreed by the LCDC to carry out work on its behalf and report to the LCDC under three main areas.

1. The Social Inclusion Community Activation (SICAP) Programme
   * Monitoring the SICAP Programme implementation in Leitrim;
   * Recommending approval or not of reports such as the End of Year Report and the Annual Action Plan report;
   * Overseeing preparation of SICAP Action Plans with the PI;
   * Looking at local targets for the remaining element of the SICAP programme and making recommendations for the programme post 2017;
2. Equality Promotion and Social Inclusion Role
   * To promote and implement the Equality Agenda for LECPs
3. Community Plan Implementation
   * Looking at performance against targets set out in the Community Plan;
   * Provide updates on the actions which its own agency/group is responsible for;
   * Recommend actions for improving the achievement of the LECP’s Sustainable Community Objectives (SCOs).

**LCDC Work Programme**

* Developing and overseeing the implementation of the community elements of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)
  + - Working closely with local statutory structures, communities and committees to identify local priorities
  + Managing delivery of SICAP 2018-2022 – Leitrim Development Company implements the SICAP programme in Co. Leitrim
  + LEADER Programme 2014 – 2020
  + Transitional LEADER Programme 2021
  + Developing capacity of members
  + Identify other sources of funding

**Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2016- 2021**

The six year LECP is a mid-level plan that sets out the high level goals, objectives and actions to promote and support economic and community development in County Leitrim over the period 2016 – 2021. It also includes regional actions of strategic importance to the county that can be developed in collaboration with neighbouring regions.

The LECP is the framework for the economic and community development of the county for the next six years and will affect everyone who lives, works, does business and visits County Leitrim. It will also be the primary mechanism, at local level, to bring forward relevant actions arising under the various relevant regional and national plans and strategies such as the National and Regional Action Plan for Jobs and the Commission for the Economic Development of Rural Areas (CEDRA report).

The LECP was prepared by the Local Authority, through the Economic Development and Enterprise Support Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) of Leitrim County Council and the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC), following extensive research and stakeholder consultation, and adopted by Leitrim County Council. Overseen by the LA and the LCDC, delivery of the individual LECP actions will be the responsibility of these relevant public bodies, agencies and other stakeholders, as identified in the LECP that can play a pro-active role in economic and community development in the county, taking a partnership approach.

**Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP)**

The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2018-2022 is funded by the Irish Government and co-funded by the European Social Fund and includes a special allocation under the Youth Employment Initiative. The aim of the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) is to reduce poverty and promote social inclusion and equality through local, regional and national engagement and collaboration. Its vision is to improve the life chances and opportunities of those who are marginalised in society, living in poverty or in unemployment through community development approaches, targeted supports and interagency collaboration, where the values of equality and inclusion are promoted and human rights are respected.

Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs) are required to focus on social inclusion through empowering communities to work collaboratively with relevant stakeholders. The Programme Implementers, with the support of LCDCs, will target those most disadvantaged and excluded in our society. It will afford local flexibility to respond to local priorities.

The individuals assisted will include the most vulnerable in society who are unable or unlikely to access mainstream supports.

Programme Target Groups: SICAP 2018-2022 has 13 target groups, an increase from the previous number of groups, (new \*). Each LCDC had the option to add its own target group as the ‘emerging needs’ group, based on where the LCDC considers the need is greatest. The target groups for SICAP 2018-2022 are:

* 1. Disadvantaged Children and Families
  2. Disadvantaged Young People (aged 15 – 24)
  3. Disadvantaged Women\*
  4. Lone Parents
  5. Low Income Workers/Households
  6. New Communities, including Refugees and Asylum Seekers
  7. People living in Disadvantaged Communities
  8. People with Disabilities
  9. Travellers
  10. Roma
  11. The Unemployed
  12. The Disengaged from the Labour Market (the economically inactive)\*
  13. Emerging needs - Named by LCDC based on local need

There is no upper age limit for those assisted under the SICAP 2018-2022 so older people are automatically included.

The contract for the delivery of SICAP in Leitrim over the period 2018-2022 has been awarded to Leitrim Integrated Development CLG and is valued at €540,390 for 2021.

SICAP has two Programme Goals

**Goal 1: Supporting Communities**

*To support communities and target groups to engage with relevant stakeholders in identifying and addressing social exclusion and equality issues, developing the capacity of local community groups, and creating more sustainable communities.*

**Goal 2: Supporting Individuals**

*To support disadvantaged individuals to improve the quality of their lives through the provision of lifelong learning and labour market supports.*

**LEADER**

LEADER is part of the overall Rural Development Programme (RDP) 2014-2020 which includes a range of both on-farm and off-farm support measures for the sustainable development of rural Ireland. The priority of LEADER is to promote social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas.

There are over 2,500 Local Actions Groups delivering LEADER across the EU. The Local Action Group (LAG) for the LEADER Programme 2014–2020 in Co. Leitrim is Leitrim LCDC. Leitrim Integrated Development CLG has been designated by Leitrim LCDC as the Implementing Partner and Leitrim County Council designated as the Financial Partner. The project budget for the LEADER Programme 2014-2020 in Co. Leitrim is €6,498,474.74.

The County Leitrim Local Development Strategy (LDS) is the plan for the delivery of the LEADER Programme 2014-2020 in Co. Leitrim. The LDS was compiled by the LAG following a consultation process that included public consultation meeting across the county. The consultation process determined the needs of the county and set out the priority areas, allowing LEADER to fund projects which best address these.

The LDS sets out the methodology for the delivery and implementation of the LEADER Programme in Co. Leitrim as well as the Programme Themes, Sub Themes, Local Objectives and Strategic Actions. The latter form the headings under which projects will be funded.

Leitrim LEADER Programme Themes

The overall aim of the LEADER Programme 2014-2020 is to enable people in Co. Leitrim to realise their ambitions to live in communities where they can fulfil their personal, social, economic and cultural potential.

**Peace IV:**

The PEACE IV Programme is a unique cross-border initiative, financed through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) of the European Union and managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB). It has been designed to support peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland. In addition to supporting peace and reconciliation, the ERDF also contributes to the promotion of social and economic stability, in particular through actions to promote cohesion between communities.

The eligible area for the PEACE IV Programme for 2014-2020 is Northern Ireland and the Border Counties of Ireland (Donegal, Cavan, Leitrim, Louth, Monaghan and Sligo). Cross-border co-operation is encouraged within all projects seeking funding under the PEACE IV Programme.

**Programme Overview**

The overall Programme has four key priority areas where it wants to make significant and lasting changes: Shared Education; Children and Young People; Shared Spaces & Services and Building Positive Relations. The total value of the PEACE IV Programme is €270m. The ERDF contribution is €229m (85%), and €41m (15%) will be provided in match-funding by the relevant Government Departments in Ireland and Northern Ireland.

In Leitrim, the indicative budget is €1,823,633 and is broken down under the following key objectives and actions of the PEACE IV Programme:

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| **Action** | **Indicative Budget** |
| Children & Young People (aged 0-24) | 388,858 |
| Shared Spaces Projects | 843,799 |
| Building Positive Relations (Action Plans) | 590,976 |
| **Total Indicative Budget** | **1,823,633** |

**Requirement to establish a PEACE IV Partnership**

Each area was a required to establish a PEACE IV Partnership. In Leitrim, it was decided to establish the Partnership as a sub-structure of the Local Community Development Committee. The Partnership will lead the development and implementation of a PEACE IV Action Plan that will meet the peace building needs of the County over the programme period. The Partnership will provide regular updates to the LCDC meetings.

The Leitrim Peace IV Action Plan was approved by the SEUPB in 2017 and commenced roll-out in late 2017. It is anticipated that the programme will be completely delivered and all activity will cease in late 2019, sooner than originally anticipated, as a result of the Brexit decision.

**Other Funding Opportunities**

The LCDC has taken on a role in delivering other funding opportunities to the community in Leitrim, such as the Community Facilities Scheme, RAPID, Healthy Ireland Fund, Community Enhancement Scheme, etc. These are funds that are announced by central Government from time to time.

***Current membership of the LCDC***

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|  | ***Name*** | ***Organisation*** |
|  | Gerard McPartlan | Business |
|  | Majella McGovern | Family Resource Centres/CDPs |
|  | James Gallagher | Farming |
|  | Donal Fox | Leitrim Development Company |
|  | Helen Doherty Harte | PPN - Community |
|  | Seamus Regan | PPN - Community |
|  | Blaithín Gallagher | PPN - Environment |
|  | Margaret Hyland | PPN - Social Inclusion |
|  | Lola Gonzalez | PPN - Social Inclusion |
|  | Lar Power | Leitrim County Council |
|  | Cllr Felim Gurn | Leitrim County Council |
|  | Cllr Paddy Farrell | Leitrim County Council |
|  | Cllr Thomas Mulligan | Leitrim County Council |
|  | James Keane | Teagasc |
|  | Joe Lowe | LEO |
|  | Padraig deBuitlear  (temp replacement for Michelle Kennedy) | Dept. of Social Protection |
|  | Patricia Garland | HSE |