



**Minutes of  
South Cork Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)  
Via Microsoft Teams**

**Date: 27th May 2021**

**Time: 10.00am.**

**LCDC MEMBERS PRESENT:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Public / Private</b>
Cllr. Marcia Dalton	Cork County Council	Public
Cllr. Seamus McGrath	Cork County Council	Public
Mr. Sean O'Sullivan	Head of LEO South Cork	Public
Mr. Donal O'Liathain	Údarás na Gaeltachta,	Public
Mr. John Lyne	DSP	Public
Mr. Peter Dineen	PPN	Private
Mr. Thomas McHugh	Cork Chamber	Private
Mr. Jimmy Hosford	Agricultural Pillar	Private
Mr. Ryan Howard	SECAD Partnership CLG	Private
Mr. Martin O'Brien	PPN	Private
Mr. Pat Roche	Avondhu/Blackwater Development Group CLG	Private
Ms. Arran O'Driscoll	WCDP	Private

**LCDC MEMBERS APOLOGIES:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Private / Public</b>
Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen	Cork County Council	Public
Cllr. Michael Hegarty	Cork County Council	Public
Ms. Valerie O'Sullivan	Divisional Manager South Cork	Public
Mr. John Fitzgibbons	Cork ETB	Public
Ms. Mary O'Leary	Environmental Pillar	Private
Mr. Brian Williams	Youth Work Ireland	Private
Vacant	Civic Society	Private

**STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:**

Ms. Kay Keegan	LCDC Chief Officer	Cork County Council
Mr. Andrew Lewis	Finance Officer	Cork County Council
Mr. Jesse Dorrington	Staff Officer	Cork County Council

<p><b>Quorum = 11 (50% of 19 rounded up + 1 = 11)</b>  <b>In attendance = 12 (7 Private: 5 Public)</b>  <b>Apologies = 7</b>  <b>Total membership = 19</b></p>
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## **Welcome and Introduction.**

The LCDC was conducted through Microsoft Teams.

Both Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen & Vice Chairman, Cllr. Michael Hegarty were unable to attend the meeting. With the approval of the LCDC Cllr. Seamus McGrath chaired the meeting. It was noted that a quorum was in place and the meeting commenced.

### **1. Confirmation of Minutes of the Previous LCDC Meeting of 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021.**

The Minutes were adopted on the proposal of Arran O'Driscoll and seconded by John Lyne.

#### **Matters arising**

None.

### **2. SICAP**

- **Presentation of SICAP Case Study by Toni McCaul SECAD: Response to COVID-19**

How We Responded to COVID-19:

- Transitioned our services from face to face to online overnight
- Coaching & active listening skills
- Supported clients around confidence, self-belief, transferable skills
- helped to reframe challenges
- engage clients with eCollege, Springboard
- encouraged clients to use online learning platforms such as alison.com

The Changing Needs of our beneficiaries:

- survey of all enterprise client needs.
- almost 80% of our clients unable to trade or only partially trading
- designed online courses for selling on-line
- look at opportunities and the threats that the pandemic brought
- series of networking sessions called 'Ask and Advise'
- 6 Start Your Own Business courses delivered in 2020 (online)

Phase 1: Online Learning Hub

- Adapting from instructor-led classroom workshops to self- paced, online setting

Phase 2: Learning Campaigns

- Prioritised employment services training resources
- SICAP clients required a comprehensive online registration system

What Worked Well:

- Wellbeing interventions
  - "Making health and happiness a habit"
  - "Discover Winter Wellness"

Challenges:

- Rapid transition to platforms like Zoom and MS Teams
- Extra time to support clients to online platforms
- Impact of no face to face interaction
- Intensity of work escalated (client anxiety)
- Need to upgrade IT for all as 2020 progressed
- Referral source dried up (PUP)
- Challenge for our KPI's
- Against the odds = reaching out

Conclusion:

- Online delivery = channel, a tool
- Unlocked a world of online platforms, learning hubs, IT capacity
- We still need to reach, engage, bring with us, support and positively impact
- Rollercoaster
- MUST always strive to be accessible
- Find the hooks
- Resume some face to face

Cllr. Seamus McGrath thanked Toni McCaul for her presentation and commended SECAD on the services they provide. Cllr. Marcia Dalton asked if it would be possible to provide classrooms which facilitate physical and online attendance simultaneously. Toni confirmed that a blended approach to learning is welcome.

Arran O'Driscoll said that people can be unaware of the services offered by Local Development Companies which is a problem. She said that they offer a lot and need to promote themselves more. She drew the LCDC's attention to the #SicapStories social media campaign to be launched by the Department in the coming days. The Chief Officer confirmed that this would be advertised by the Department.

Thomas McHugh commented that Cork Chamber are now promoting businesses that are offering placements to individuals. He encouraged any interested parties to contact him for further information.

- **SICAP Procurement of Subcontracting Services**

There is now a specific requirement regarding the procurement of subcontracting services which requires the preapproval of subcontracting proposals and compliance with public procurement requirements. In order to make this as efficient as possible and to avoid delays, the LCDC are requested to approve the delegation of this to the LCDC Chief Officer. Information regarding approvals will be brought to the LCDCs at subsequent meetings for noting.

Cllr. Marcia Dalton asked if sub-contracting is necessary to deliver SICAP services. Andrew Lewis explained that it can be occasionally needed to deliver specialist training programmes. Ryan Howard agreed that external expertise is needed in some limited situations.

Proposed by Cllr. Marcia Dalton and seconded by Cllr. Seamus McGrath and unanimously agreed by the LCDC.

**3. Presentation by Alex Grassick, Project Manager Rural Digital Innovation Hubs  
 Presentation Title: Map My Skills**

Alex Grassick discussed the Map My Skills survey created by Abodoo on behalf of Cork County Council. He explained that the aim of the survey is to determine where particular skills and talents are concentrated across Cork in order to attract foreign direct investment and establish appropriate locations for digital hubs. He gave a presentation as follows:

**National Remote Working Strategy:**

- Objective: Ensure Remote Work is a Permanent Feature of the Irish Workplace
- Pillar 1: Create a Conducive Environment
- Pillar 2: Develop and Leverage Remote Work Infrastructure
- Pillar 3: Build a Remote Work Policy and Guidance Framework
- Underpinning Conditions: Promotion and Skills

**Our Rural Future:**

- Pilot co-working & hot-desking hubs for civil servants in a number of regional towns.
- Provide funding to Local Authorities to run innovative marketing campaigns targeted at attracting remote workers and mobile talent to their county.
- Develop national hubs network.
- Enhance the powers of Local Authorities to offer commercial rates-based incentives targeting vacant commercial units.
- Local digital strategies for Local Authorities.

**Relevant Policy:**

- National Development Plan – Prioritising Investment in Rural Areas
- National Planning Framework – Compact Growth, strengthened rural communities, a strong economy
- Town Centre First Policy – a strategic approach to centre regeneration
- National Remote Working Strategy
- Climate Action Plan

**Connected Hubs Network:**

- Being promoted by DRCD
- Western Development Commission (WDC) and National Association of Community Enterprise Centres (NACEC)
- All Hubs connected through common goals
- National Booking system
- National Classification
- National Minimum Quality Standards
- Membership of the Network is pre-requisite to receive funding

**Assessment of need:**

- Regional Assemblies report (Dec 2020) estimated potential for 29,074 private sector remote workers in Cork County.

- Current Hubs have capacity for c.210 desk spaces (many of which are fully used pre-Covid-19)
- Proposed BCP's have capacity for c. 90-100 desk spaces
- Minister Humphries has suggested 400+ Remote Working Hubs needed in the Country
- Inter-departmental government committee set up to consider remote working (DRCD – Chair)

#### Map My Skills:

- Talent is the number 1 attraction for FDI
- Help to prioritise locations for Hub Development/Investment
- Census data from 2016 (Census delayed to 2022)
- 6 short Questions
- Geonostics Platform
- [www.abodoo.com/workingincork](http://www.abodoo.com/workingincork)

Alex encouraged LCDC members to promote the Map My Skills survey in their areas and through their social media accounts.

Cllr. Seamus McGrath thanked Alex Grassick for his presentation. Cllr. Marcia Dalton asked if the survey can be adapted to ask for only the first 3 digits as opposed to the entirety of an individual's Eircode. Alex said we would investigate this. Arran O'Driscoll asked that a link to the survey be shared with LCDC members. The Chief Officer agreed. Thomas McHugh encouraged Alex to engage with Cork Chamber regarding the survey saying that Cork Chamber would be happy to promote it further.

#### 4. AOB

The Chief Officer noted that Minister Heather Humphries had recently launched the Community Enhancement Programme 2021. She highlighted 2 new elements in this year's scheme:

1. The identifying of XY coordinates for projects. This is being worked on at present.
2. Supporting groups as they re-open facilities which have been closed due to Covid-19. This includes supports relevant running costs, only applicable to 2021 expenditure.


The Chief Officer said that it is hoped to launch the CEP 2021 scheme in the next 2 to 3 weeks.

#### 5. Date of Next Meeting

The date for the next meeting is 24<sup>th</sup> June 2021 at 10.00am.

**Meeting Concluded**

The Minutes were approved by the South Cork Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

Signed:   
CHAIRPERSON

Dated: 26<sup>th</sup> June 2021