

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

**17th April 2023 @ 2.00p.m.**

**Present:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Public/Private</b>
Cllr. Gearóid Murphy	Cork County Council	Public
Cllr. Gerard Murphy	Cork County Council	Public
Cllr. Pat Hayes	Cork County Council	Public
Mr. James Fogarty	Divisional Manager North Cork	Public
Ms. Majella Murphy	Dept. of Employment Affairs and Social Protection	Public
Mr. Bob Seward	Cork County PPN	Private
Mr. Denis McNamara	Cork County PPN	Private
Mr. Michael Doyle	Environment Pillar	Private
Mr. Pdraig Casey	Ballyhoura Development CLG	Private
Ms. Maura Walsh	IRD Duhallow CLG	Private
Mr. Sean Hegarty	Avondu Blackwater Partnership CLG	Private

**Apologies:**

Cllr. Bernard Moynihan	Cork County Council	Public
Mr. Kevin Curran	LEO North Cork	Public
Mr. Declan O'Leary	Foróige	Private
Mr. Julian O'Keeffe	IFA (ICMSA)	Private
Vacant	Respond! Housing	Private
Vacant	Cork Education & Training Board	Public

**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
Ms. Elaine Connolly	Clerical Officer	Cork County Council

**Quorum=10 (50% of 17 rounded up + 1 = 10)**

**In attendance= 11 (6 Private: 5 Public)**

**Apologies= 6**

**Total membership= 17**

## Welcome and Introduction

It was noted that a quorum was in place and the meeting commenced.

### 1. Confirmation of Minutes of the Previous LCDC Meeting of Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023

The Minutes were adopted on the proposal of Sean Hegarty and seconded by Cllr. Pat Hayes.

### Matters arising

None.

### 2. SICAP: IRD Duhallow CLG 2022 Case Study by Helen O'Sullivan

## IRD Duhallow Ukrainian Community Response

### Thematic Area

- Goal 1
  - G1:1: Promote Community Engagement and Stronger Communities
  - G1-1:3 There is increased participation in social, cultural and civic activities among SICAP target groups due to the support of community groups
  - G1-1:4 A strengthened sense of community
  
- Goal 2
  - Thematic Area G2:1: Promote Personal Development and Wellbeing
  - Thematic Area G2:4: Prepare People for Employment and to Remain in Work
  - Thematic Area G2:7: Address Barriers and Gaps in Lifelong Learning and Employment

Target Group; This case study focuses on the Ukrainian Refugees who have been resettled into the Duhallow area since March of 2022.

### Historical Context & External Context

- Historical Context; While the theme of equality permeates through each of IRD Duhallow's various functions, the specific remit of social inclusion is central to IRD Duhallow's Equality Working Group. The function of the Equality Working Group is to champion and prioritise the needs of underrepresented groups in the Duhallow area through the promotion of strategic and supportive actions aimed at mitigating the impacts of social exclusion and disadvantage.

- External Context; Minister of State for Rural and Community Development, Joe O'Brien, tasked Local Development Companies to co-ordinate the voluntary activities focused on supporting new arrivals from Ukraine in our respective regions.

### Strategy & Supports

- Emergency Response; Simple & Effective Strategy Put in place. Focus was on responding to the immediate needs first with practical supports & develop a cohesive plan once they were settled.
- While awaiting the 1<sup>st</sup> arrivals we worked closely with the local schools, childcare services, & GP services to est capacity.
- Easter Weekend; 1<sup>st</sup> arrivals in to Banteer followed by arrivals to both the Green Glens and the Wallis Arms in Millstreet. Since then we have 2 new centres in Kanturk, 1 in Newmarket, Dromcummer and numerous dispersed throught the region in host accommodation.
- 3-Pronged Approach;
  - Humanitarian supports
  - Activation Supports
  - Social Inclusion Supports

IRD Duhallow redeployed staff to provide such supports

Recruited a part time Ukrainian translator / support worker with HSE funding support to work alongside IRD Development Officers.

### Humanitarian Supports

- Donations of clothes, toiletries, personal items, toys, bikes, laptops, phones. Purchased large quantities of toiletries due to high turnover of refugees. Worked closely with St Vincent de Paul & Red Cross. Marquee hired to receive, sort and distribute donations. Recruiting & Co-ordinating volunteers from all communities, assisting Ukrainians to become volunteers, organising emergency dentists and doctors' appointments, transport for cancer care appointments, transport to social welfare appointments, organising translation support.

### Activation Supports

#### IRD Job Centre

- Skills Audit through cv clinics,
- worked with local employers
- Worked alongside ETB re English classes
- SYOB Course via Skillsnet
- Work Preparation via ETB REACH Programme

### Social Inclusion Supports

- Discover Duhallow Magazine
- Millstreet Family Fun Day & Trip to Mallow Cinema
- Trip to Fota Wildlife
- Easter Camps
- Christmas Multi Cultural Events
- Easter Celebrations 2023

### Multi-Cultural Christmas Event

#### Collaborative Partners

- HSE
- ETB
- LA
- DSP
- GARDAI
- Regional Drugs Task Force
- St Vincent de Paul
- Red Cross

#### Collaboration: HSE

- Vital to ensure effective delivery.
- SICAP staff worked closed with the HSE Community & Social Inclusion Unit and in turn their InReach teams.
- Our Ukrainian support workers provided translation to them and to the psychology team.
- Linked with Southern Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force for a visit from their DASH BUS.

#### Collaboration: ETB REACH Funding 2022

IRD Duhallow (LDC) delivered a suite of educational & socially inclusive supports to alleviate educational disadvantage, increase participation, build resilience, improve wellbeing & mental health & create opportunities to upskill/gain employment.

- Actions: Preparation for Work & Future Career Supports, Holistic Trauma Care Supports, Cultural events.
- Delivered via a mix of blended learning options
- Benefits: Ukrainians were more prepared to enter the workforce, managing change & accepting new life, understanding the Irish work culture
- Resilience & Capacity Building, wellbeing and mental health
- improved
- Promoted greater integration in local communities
- Cultural Awareness

#### Outcomes & Learnings

- In 2022 over 1000 Ukrainians supported in Duhallow via SICAP Programme
- Transient nature of the refugee situation is a challenge
- Mental health & wellbeing is a concern
- Trauma coming to the fore and motivation wains periodically
- Humanitarian supports to be managed to avoid creating dependency
- Poor Public transport and lack of accommodation a barrier to progression
- Acquiring a level of English is a priority
- The integrated approach of an LDC where already offering the likes of education & training, employment, family supports and emotional supports meant we could respond with supports quickly
- Greater integration in our communities a priority going forward

The Chair Cllr. Gearóid Murphy said that the support being offered to Ukrainians is heart-warming and encouraging to see. He commended IRD Duhallow CLG for their hard work.

### **3. Local Economic and Community Plan 2023 – 2029 Socio-Economic Statement and High-Level Goals by Sharon O’Connell, Cork County Council**

#### Overview

- Purpose of the LECP and Draft Document
- Development and Structure of Document
- Role of LCDC
- Draft High-Level Goals and Associated Objectives

#### Purpose of LECP

- Sits within and must be aligned with the Hierarchy of National, Regional and County Development Plans.
- It is not a spatial plan and will not include zoning or planning policy objectives.
- Framework for delivering on the objectives from National Planning Framework, RSES, CDP and Government Statements at a local level to Promote and Support the Economic and Community Development of the County for the next 6 years.

#### Draft Socio-Economic Statement and High-Level Goals

- Socio-Economic Statement - Outlines the current social and economic status of Cork County
- High-Level Goals and Objectives Developed from:
  - Socio-Economic Statement
  - Review of Higher Order Plans and Statements of Government
  - Comments from LCDC and SPC meetings
  - Advisory Group on 24<sup>th</sup> March – Document was reviewed and Advice given by group

- High-Level Goals are a specific vision that Cork County Council wishes to deliver or achieve either directly or in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders during the lifetime of the LECP (2023-2029).
- Objectives are key priority areas and factors which are intrinsically linked to the High-Level Goal and are important to achieve in order to most effectively deliver the desired results of this plan.
- High Level and Strategic Framework Document for Whole County
- Actions – Specific Steps to Achieve High Level Goals - Detailed in Implementation Plans- 2024  
Subject to Public Consultation 15<sup>th</sup> May to 26<sup>th</sup> June
- Revised based on Public Consultation – Stage 2
- Stage 2 - Subject to Sign off by SPC/LCDCs

#### Draft High-Level Goals

- **COMMUNITY** **SIGN OFF BY LCDCs**
  - HIGH LEVEL GOAL 1: SUSTAINABLE, RESILIENT AND EMPOWERED COMMUNITIES
  - HIGH LEVEL GOAL 2: A SOCIALLY INCLUSIVE COUNTY
  - HIGH LEVEL GOAL 3: A HEALTHY AND ACTIVE COUNTY
- **COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC** **SIGN OFF BY LCDCs and SPC**
  - HIGH LEVEL GOAL 4: A LOW CARBON AND CLIMATE RESILIENT COUNTY
- **ECONOMIC** **SIGN OFF BY SPC**
  - HIGH LEVEL GOAL 5: A COUNTY THAT SUPPORTS ENTERPRISE
  - HIGH LEVEL GOAL 6: A SMART AND INNOVATIVE COUNTY

#### HLG 1: Sustainable, Resilient and Empowered Communities

- Facilitate the building of sustainable communities to encourage sustainable housing development.
- Promote and support placemaking to ensure the creation of liveable, well designed, high quality sustainable places and communities.
- Support initiatives and maximise potential opportunities for funding from various schemes to renew and regenerate our towns and villages.
- Support the delivery of sustainable and inclusive digital and multi-modal transport connectivity.
- Support initiatives and projects to increase availability, improve access and enhance existing sports, recreation and community facilities.
- Facilitate the delivery and promotion of active and sustainable travel infrastructure
- Promote and support community safety and security initiatives.
- Encourage initiatives to enhance community integration, diversity and engagement.
- Promote and further develop Cork County as a vibrant tourism destination.
- Support community led groups who work to improve and enhance the towns, villages and communities in the county.
- Promote and support the Heritage, Culture and the Arts of the County.
- Support sustainable job creation within our communities.

#### HLG 2: A Socially Inclusive County

- Promote and support equitable access to education, training and lifelong learning.
- Enable the provision of supports to help reduce barriers to employment and increase opportunities for the existing and recently arrived populations.
- Facilitate the delivery of focused programmes and supports to enhance inclusion and diversity and reduce isolation across our communities.
- Support citizens in accessing information on available supports.
- Promote actions that improve the quality of life for all citizens in Cork County to improve their mental, physical, and social well-being.
- Support the provision and enhancement of community-based services to address poverty and social exclusion.
- Support the provision of improved digital and multi-modal transport connectivity to aid social inclusion.
- Facilitate initiatives which support and enable people with disabilities to fully participate in education, employment and in their communities.
- Promote the embedding of accessibility and the principles of universal design into practice.
- Support the Council's Age Friendly Strategy.
- Support initiatives which seek to aid independent living for older people.

#### HLG 3: A Healthy and Active County

- Foster cross-agency collaboration and partnerships to continue to improve health and wellbeing and maximise funding opportunities.
- Support and promote increased participation in physical activity and sports for all ages and abilities.
- Support the implementation of health-based initiatives at a local level to improve health and wellbeing.
- Support and promote participation in recreational activities to increase wellbeing and reduce isolation for all ages and abilities.
- Support initiatives that facilitate healthy and positive ageing in association with the Council's age friendly strategy and policies.
- Support and promote increased awareness of, and engagement with, health and wellbeing initiatives.
- Support initiatives which seek to address health inequalities within the county.
- Support public transport initiatives which enhance connectivity for older and disabled people to enable them to live vibrant and healthy lives.

#### HLG 4: A Low Carbon and Climate Resilient County

- Promote and support community initiatives to address climate change, become climate resilient, transition to a low carbon economy and work towards achieving net zero carbon.
- Work towards the just transition through supporting opportunities for public and private investment in economic development that is both sustainable and inclusive.
- Facilitate key stakeholders to identify opportunities for decarbonisation and improved sustainable practices.

- Support and facilitate the continued development of opportunities for renewable energy generation and business growth in Cork County,
- Support initiatives to aid all sectors in transitioning to low carbon and sustainable practices.
- Implement and support projects and initiatives which protect biodiversity and support the principle of biodiversity net gain.
- Enable key stakeholders to identify opportunities to support the retrofitting of the existing housing, business, community and municipal buildings.
- Raise awareness of climate change and facilitate education and training.
- Support the continued development of sustainable communities in the County.
- Support the implementation of the Climate Action Plan.
- Collaborate strategically to maximise County Cork's potential for the development of renewable energy.

#### Public Consultation

- Consultation Period: 15<sup>th</sup> May to 26<sup>th</sup> June
- Notice in Newspaper & Website/Social Media
- Virtual Room
- Council's Website and Social Media
- Information in Libraries
- Three In Person Events

#### **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May Clonakilty Park Hotel**

- Session 1: 1:00pm – 3:00pm
- Session 2: 5:30pm – 7:30pm

#### **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May Hibernian Hotel Mallow**

- Session 1: 1:00pm – 3:00pm
- Session 2: 5:30pm – 7:30pm

#### **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May Raddison Blu Hotel Little Island**

- Session 1: 1:00pm – 3:00pm
- Session 2: 6:00pm – 8:00pm

The Chair Cllr. Gearóid Murphy thanked Sharon O'Connell for her update and hard work. He noted that there are many good ideas in the Plan and asked if it will impact on one off housing in communities. Sharon O'Connell confirmed that the LECP is not a spatial plan and it is not intended that it will impact on planning decisions.

Bob Seward asked how towns and villages will be included at a local level under the village renewal plans. Sharon O'Connell said that Implementation Plans will follow approval of the High-Level Goals. These will have a more localised focus. Bob Seward said that the High-Level Goals will provide great opportunities if Implementation Plans are put in place.

James Fogarty noted that the LECP must correspond to all relevant national and regional plans as well as the Cork County Development Plan to ensure that any funding applied for by local groups is secured. He added that he was impressed with the High-Level Goals and the level of engagement with the LECP from local communities.



Sean Hegarty acknowledged the challenges in securing funding for local projects and stressed that the help and guidance of Local Development Companies and the Council is vital. James Fogarty agreed. He said that the funding system will not be changing and that local communities and Local Development Companies will continue to be vital. Sharon O’Connell commented that the LECP is intended to be a bottom up plan and that the LCDCs will be essential to its success.

Cllr. Gerard Murphy said that it will be important to local communities that localised Implementation Plans containing clear relevant advice are available to them. He noted that it is vital to get these groups involved with the consultation process. He said that these groups and the Local Development Companies’ expertise is invaluable. The Chair Cllr. Gearóid Murphy agreed.

The Local Economic and Community Plan Socio-Economic Statement and High-Level Goals were proposed by Cllr. Pat Hayes and seconded by Cllr. Gerard Murphy.


**4. Any Other Business**

N/A

**5. Date of Next Meeting**

The date for the next meeting is 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

**Meeting Concluded**

Signed:	 CHAIRPERSON
Dated:	