

**Minutes of
West Cork Local Community Development Committee (LCD C)
Council Chamber Kent Street Clonakilty & Via Microsoft Teams**

Date: 28th March 2024

Time: 3:00pm.

Present:

Name	Organisation	Public/Private
Cllr. John O’Sullivan	Cork County Council	Public
Cllr. Declan Hurley	Cork County Council	Public
Cllr. Patrick Gerard Murphy	Cork County Council	Public
Cllr. Alan Coleman	Cork County Council	Public
Ms. Loraine Lynch	Divisional Manager West Cork	Public
Ms. Máire Ní Shé	Udarás na Gaeltachta	Public
Mr. Enda McWeeney	Cork ETB	Public
Ms. Máire Uí Mhaoláin	Comhar na nOileán Teo	Private
Ms. Phoebe Bright	Environment Pillar	Private
Mr. Ryan Howard	SECAD Partnership CLG	Private
Mr. Cornelius Buckley	Farming Pillar/IFA	Private
Ms. Eileen O’ Shea	Civic Society	Private
Ms. Arran O’Driscoll	West Cork Development Partnership	Private

Apologies:

Mr. Kevin Curran	Head of LEO North and West	Public
Ms. Leighann Kennedy	Department of Social Protection	Public
Mr Finbarr Harrington	Cork County PPN	Private
Vacant	Cork Chamber	Private
Vacant	Foroige	Private
Vacant	Cork County PPN	Private

Staff in Attendance

Ms. Kay Keegan	LCD C Chief Officer	Cork County Council
Mr. Andrew Lewis	Finance Officer	Cork County Council
Ms. Elaine Connolly	Clerical Officer	Cork County Council

Quorum = 11 (50% of 19 rounded up +1 = 11)

In attendance = 13 (6 Private: 7 Public)

Apologies = 6

Total membership = 19

Welcome & Introduction

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

1. Confirmation of Minutes of the Previous LCDC Meeting of 22nd February 2024.

The Minutes were adopted on the proposal of Máire Uí Mhaoláin and seconded by Cllr. Patrick Gerard Murphy.

Matters arising

N/A

2. SICAP

• SICAP End of Year Reviews 2023

Andrew Lewis confirmed that the SICAP Sub Group had held meetings with each of the Local Development Companies to discuss the SICAP EYR 2023 performance and the Annual Plans for 2024. It was confirmed that the 2 Local Development Companies achieved KPI 1 and KPI 2 targets for year 2023. During the individual meetings with the three LDCs, concerns were raised such as the prolonged impact on Community Groups of Covid. The KPI number achieved had been significantly boosted by the Ukrainian supports provided.

Enda McWeeney from the SICAP Sub Group confirmed that each LDC completed a huge amount of work during the year.

It was recommended by the SICAP Sub Group to recommend the acceptance of the End of Year Reviews for 2023 for Lots 18-5, 18-6 and 18-7.

Proposed by Cllr. Patrick Gerard Murphy and seconded by Cllr. Declan Hurley

• SICAP Annual Reports 2024

Andrew Lewis confirmed that the new IRIS system for the 2024-2028 Programme was having teething problems concerning the uploading and analysis of the Annual Plans for 2024, but that the SICAP Sub Group had been provided with the Actions proposed as part of the Plans. LCDC Staff would ensure that the Plans are fully input into IRIS in the near future. On this basis the SICAP Sub Group were satisfied with the plans of the three Lots in West Cork.

Proposed by Cllr. Patrick Gerard Murphy and seconded by Cllr. Declan Hurley

• SICAP Audit Reports for 2022

The LCDC Chief Officer informed the LCDC members that Internal Audit Department of Cork

County Council had conducted an audit of the 2022 SICAP Programme for Lots 18-5, 18-6 & 18-7 which both West Cork Development Partnership & Comhar na nOileán are the Implementers. A sample was taken of the files including budget, key KPIs, insurance, costs, grant allocations, administration, etc.

The recommendation was that both WCDP and Comhar na nOileán were in compliance with the SICAP programme and there were no further recommendations.

3. Local Enhancement Programme 2024 and Women's Group Fund 2024 Allocations

Cork County Council launched this scheme on Monday, 29th January inviting applications from Community and Voluntary groups. The scheme is funded by the Department of Rural & Community Development with support from the Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs) of Cork County Council.

The scheme was an opportunity for community groups to access funding for capital projects only, particularly in disadvantaged areas. Closing date for applications was 3.00pm on Monday, 26th February, 2024.

The €245,559.11 allocation for Cork County:

- €204,632.59 Capital funding for use towards carrying out necessary repairs and improvements to facilities, purchase of equipment, etc. **(For drawdown Costs must cover period from LCDC grant approval date to 31st October 2024)**

A minimum of 30% of budget is required to be allocated to projects of €1,000 or less.

- €40,926.52 Women's Groups Fund, Capital funding for use on small projects such as towards carrying out necessary repairs and improvements to facilities, purchase of equipment, etc. **(For drawdown Costs must cover period from LCDC grant approval date to 31st October 2024)**

There was three types of grants available under this Programme:

- Small-scale capital grant up to a maximum of €1,000
- Capital grant in excess of €1,000
- Women's Groups Capital Fund

A large number of applications were received with a large number being supported under the scheme. Those that were unsuccessful were either too large to be funded, the timeline being unachievable or the project was deemed ineligible under the scheme guidelines.

The Chief Officer outlined that timelines are short, which are set out by the Department and reiterated that notifications to both successful & unsuccessful applicants including any public

announcements cannot be provided until after the Department approval and announcement from the Minister as per LOU agreement.

An analysis of the 207 countywide applications received can be found hereunder:

COUNTYWIDE BREAKDOWN

Total No. of Applications Received: 207 No. Countywide
 Total No. of Successful Applications: 136 No.
 Total No. of Unsuccessful Applications: 71 No.

BREAKDOWN

WEST CORK LCDC:

Bandon/Kinsale MD:

No. Applications Received	No. Unsuccessful	No. & Value Successful	No. Successful €1k or less	Value	No. Successful more than €1k	Value
21 No.	8 No	13 No. €20,142	3 No.	€2,142	10 No.	€18,000

West Cork MD:

No. Applications Received	No. Unsuccessful	No. & Value Successful	No. Successful €1k or less	Value	No. Successful more than €1k	Value
48 No.	16 No	32 No. €44,845	15 No.	€13,845	17 No.	€31,000

WOMENS GROUP FUND:

Bandon Kinsale MD

No. Applications Received	No. Unsuccessful	No. & Value Successful	Value
4 No.	1 No	3 No. €4,500	€4,500

West Cork MD

No. Applications Received	No. Unsuccessful	No. & Value Successful	Value

9 No.	3 No	6 No. €9,973	€9,973
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Total Allocations West Cork:

Breakdown:

€1k or less	€15,987
More than €1k	€49,000

	€64,987
Women's Fund	€14,473

Total Allocations	€79,460

Proposed by Cllr. Alan Coleman and seconded by Phoebe Bright.

4. Update on LEADER Programme 2024-2027

Arran O'Driscoll, WCDP read a statement on behalf of WCDP prior to leaving the meeting.

The Chairman thanked Arran and confirmed to the LCDC members that no discussions can take place at this point in time as we are in the appeal timeline.

The Chief Officer gave an update to the members regarding recent decisions received on the bid by the West Cork LCDC in partnership with Avondhu Blackwater Partnership, SECAD Partnership and Comhar na nOileán.

The decisions were received on 11th March and the West Cork LCDC bid with our three partners were successful in retaining LAG status for the West Cork area.

In addition, the West Cork Development Partnership had submitted a competing bid for the West Cork LCDC area but were deemed unsuccessful.

We are now in the appeal process stage whereby WCDP have until the 11th April to submit an appeal so the final decision won't be confirmed until after that date.

If WCDP does not submit an appeal, the next stage would be the Department issuing a Funding Agreement to the LCDC.

Ryan Howard noted that the three partners in West Cork worked well together in the divisions and areas of West Cork, that monies were allocated as fairly as possible.

Máire Uí Mhaoláin concurred with Ryan Howard and added that the budget was fully spent in their respective areas, and that the three partners worked well together and is happy with the continuous partnership.

Cllr. Alan Coleman mentioned that there has been significant change since the previous programme and the LCDC has been working well together, the structure is good and that funding is the issue and he congratulated everyone involved in the process.

Cllr. Patrick Gerard Murphy concurred that the funding has decreased since the 2012 programme.

Cllr. John O'Sullivan thanked everyone who was involved with the preparation of the bid for LAG status and that the LCDC had successfully delivered with the allocated budget over the 2014-2022 Programme.

Cllr. John O'Sullivan noted he is glad West Work LCDC was deemed successful with the bid for LAG status and that collaborating with the various groups has added a lot of value and friendships/relationships, and that as an LCDC we can continue to deliver to the Communities.

5. Any Other Business

None

6. Date of Next Meeting

The date for the next meeting is 25th April 2024 at 3.00pm.

Meeting Concluded

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

Signed:



CHAIRPERSON

Dated:

25/4/2024