



**Minutes of  
South Cork Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)  
Council Chamber, County Hall & Via Microsoft Teams**

**Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024**

**Time: 10.00am.**

**Present:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Public / Private</b>
Cllr. Michael Hegarty	Cork County Council	Public
Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen	Cork County Council	Public
Cllr. Marcia D'Alton	Cork County Council	Public
Mr. Michael Lynch	Divisional Manager South Cork	Public
Mr. Sean O'Sullivan	Head of Leo South Cork	Public
Mr. John Fitzgibbons	Cork ETB	Public
Ms. Valerie Murphy	Avondhu Blackwater Partnership CLG	Private
Mr. Ryan Howard	SECAD Partnership CLG	Private
Ms. Arran O'Driscoll	West Cork Development Partnership	Private
Mr. Jimmy Hosford	IFA	Private
Ms. Mary O'Leary	Environmental Pillar	Private
Mr. Liam McCarthy	Cork County PPN	Private
Mr. Tom Howard	Cork County PPN	Private

**Apologies:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Private / Public</b>
Cllr. Seamus McGrath	Cork County Council	Public
Mr. Donal O'Liathain	Údarás na Gaeltachta	Public
Ms. Leighann Kennedy	Dept of Social Protection	Public
Ms. Ashley Amato	Cork Chamber	Private
Mr. Brian Williams	Youth Work Ireland	Private
Vacant	Civic Society	Private

**Staff in Attendance:**

Ms. Kay Keegan	Chief Officer	Cork County Council
Mr. Andrew Lewis	Project Accountant	Cork County Council
Mr. Jesse Dorrington	Senior Staff Officer	Cork County Council

<p><b>Quorum = 11 (50% of 19 rounded up + 1 = 11)</b>  <b>In attendance = 13 (6 Public : 7 Private)</b>  <b>Apologies = 6</b>  <b>Total membership = 19</b></p>
---



## **Welcome and Introduction.**

The Chair welcomed all to 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 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023.**

The Minutes were adopted on the proposal of Tom Howard and seconded by Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen.

### **Matters arising**

None.

### **2. SICAP.**

Nil

### **3. LECP Update on Draft Framework Plan and Draft Initial Implementation Plan by Sharon O'Connell, LECP Programme Manager, Cork County Council.**

Sharon O'Connell presented an update of the LECP Draft Framework Plan and Draft Initial Implementation Plan to the members of the Local Community Development Committee and identified amendments following consultation with the Southern Regional Assembly and the 8 Municipal Districts.

The Chair Cllr Michael Hegarty thanked Sharon O'Connell and her team for all of their work to date.

Proposed by Liam McCarthy and seconded by Cllr. Marcia D'Alton.

### **4. Presentation on Census 2022 Data for Cork County by Justin Gleeson, People and Place.**

Justin Gleeson gave an in-depth presentation.

The Chair Cllr. Michael Hegarty thanked Justin Gleeson for an excellent presentation. Sharon O'Connell added that it is great to get access to the up-to-date CSO information and Cllr. Marcia D'Alton said that it was an excellent presentation with a lot of very useful facts.

Cllr. Marcia D'Alton commented that the Pobal Deprivation Index looks at economic deprivation but not social deprivation which is also a key type of deprivation. She said that Pobal's approach is disappointing and puts South Cork at a disadvantage compared to other areas. Justin Gleeson agreed that social deprivation is an important issue that is not reflected in CSO data.

Cllr. Marcia D'Alton said that although there is a low amount of HAP payments being made in South Cork these figures can be misleading. Strong employers in the area attract highly skilled and educated employees to the local rental sector. These tenants are generally preferable to HAP tenants for landlords and consequently HAP tenancies are low although HAP properties are needed. Justin Gleeson agreed with this observation.



Ryan Howard stated that South Cork represents a great economic model for the country but he agreed with Cllr. Marcia D'Alton's point about social deprivation. He noted that there is lack of much-needed Deis schools in the area and that action needs to be taken on this. He commented that while having strong employers in the area is a significant advantage, it is also a disadvantage as houses are rented by the room to professionals which makes them unaffordable for families to rent even those with two adult earners. He added that this situation can force people to move out of the area to get affordable rent and they then need to commute back into the area daily for work.

Ryan Howard referred to a model currently utilised in Slovenia whereby communities engage directly with energy companies to secure access to renewable energy themselves as opposed to relying on national policies and schemes. He said that this might be worth exploring for South Cork.

Liam McCarthy asked about the definition of working from home used by the CSO: does this refer to people who work from home every day or just a couple of times a week. Justin Gleeson confirmed that it refers to people who work from home at least 3 days a week. He acknowledged that the figures relating to this are constantly changing and said that they will be regularly updated as a result.

#### **5. Healthy Ireland Fund Update by Niall O'Callaghan, Healthy Ireland Coordinator, Cork County Council.**

Niall O'Callaghan, Healthy Ireland Co-Ordinator, provided the West Cork Local Community Development Committee with an update on Healthy Ireland Round 4 Fund. This presentation included the key outcomes of round 4 Healthy Ireland Fund.

The Chair Cllr. Michael Hegarty thanked Niall O'Callaghan for the update and commended him on the Together Initiative in Midelton which he attended personally.

Tom Howard asked if Niall O'Callaghan intends to tie in with the Men's Sheds network in Cork. Niall O'Callaghan said that there is no definitive connection between the Healthy Ireland Programme and the Men's Sheds in Cork at present but that he would welcome working with them in the future so long as they are eligible for the funding. He noted that the Men's Sheds would tie in with the Positive Mental Health outcomes.

Mary O'Leary asked if engagement with Primary Care Centres would be desirable. Niall O'Callaghan said that the HSE is a key link for the Healthy Ireland Programme. He said that it was a welcome suggestion and that he would bring it back to the Steering Group for discussion.

The Chief Officer commented that Niall O'Callaghan in his role as Healthy Ireland Coordinator is carrying out tremendous work as he does not have a team. She thanked LCDC Members for their suggestions and said that they are always welcome but noted that resources are limited.

#### **6. LCDC Annual Report 2023**

Proposed by Cllr. Marcia D'Alton and seconded by Tom Howard.

#### **7. Any Other Business**

