

Miontuairiscí ó Chruinniú an Choiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Áitiúil na Gaillimhe a tionóladh ar Dé Céadaoin 5 Nollaig 2018

**Minutes of Galway County Local Community Development Committee held on
Wednesday 5th December 2018**

Present:

Tom Turley (Chairperson)	Irish Farmers Association (Farming/Agriculture Interest)
Dan Dowling (Vice-Chairperson)	Galway County PPN (Community & Voluntary Interest)
Delia Colahan	Galway Rural Development CLG (Local Development Company)
Terry Keenan	FORUM Connemara Ltd (Local Development Company)
Enda Conneely	Comhar na nOileán Teo (Local Development Company)
Martin Ward	Galway County PPN (Social Inclusion Interest)
Kathleen Aspel Mortimer	Galway County PPN (Social Inclusion Interest)
Cllr. Noel Thomas	Galway County Council (Local Government - Elected Member)
Cllr. Dermot Connolly	Galway County Council (Local Government – Elected Member)
Kevin Kelly	Galway County Council (Local Government – Interim CE)
Breda Fox	Galway County Council (Local Government – LEO)
Donal Walsh	GRETB (State Agency)

Apologies:

Seán Ó Coistealbha	Galway County PPN (Community & Voluntary Interest)
Margaret Sheehan	Galway County PPN (Environmental Interest)
Conor O'Dowd	Galway Chamber (Business/Employers Interest)
Cllr. Jimmy McClearn	Galway County Council (Local Government - Elected Member)
Michael Keady	HSE West (State Agency)
Eoin Brown	Department of Social Protection (State Agency)
Mícheál O hÉanaigh	Údarás na Gaeltachta (State Agency)

Also in Attendance:

Alan Farrell, Chief Officer LCDC	Galway County Council
Kieran Coyne, A/Senior Executive Officer	Galway County Council
Ann Mallaghan, Administrative Officer	Galway County Council
Mary McGann, Administrative Officer	Galway County Council
Aoibhinn McCann	Galway Rural Development

At the outset of the meeting, Tom Turley, Chairperson, thanked the Members for their condolences regarding his recent family bereavement and expressed his public condolences to Alan Farrell, Chief Officer, on his own recent family bereavement.

- 1 Miontuairiscí ó chruinniú an Choiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Áitiúil (LCDC) a tionóladh ar 13 November 2018**
Minutes of Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) Meeting held on 13th November 2018

No matters were arising from the Minutes. On the proposal of B. Fox, seconded by D. Dowling, the Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th November were agreed.

2. SICAP – Ceadú Plean Bliantúil 2019 **SICAP – Approval of Annual Plan 2019**

Ms. Aoibhinn McCann, Galway Rural Development (GRD) CLG, gave a PowerPoint presentation to the Members on the Annual Plan for 2019, and advised that emerging trends would be highlighted throughout the presentation. Ms. McCann outlined the proposed actions under the various goals as follows:

Goal 1 – Group Supports:

- Under Action 1.1, Support Plans will be prepared for Local Community Groups (LCG's) and 3 further Needs Analysis will be carried out in Gort, Portumna, and Inverin to identify gaps and deficits in services in these areas. Seminars will be delivered for target groups such as Lone Parents, People with disabilities, New Communities, and a Mental Health Support leaflet will be created.
- Under Action 1.2, specific training programmes and supports will be delivered to LCG's on topics such as Governance Training, Social Media, GDPR, Recycling, etc. Training grants will target Socially Isolated Rural Dwellers through existing initiatives such as Men's Sheds and a new befriending initiative being introduced at the request of the LCDC.
- Under Action 1.3, GRD will encourage existing LCG's to join representative networks such as the PPN and igaillimh.ie. Efforts will be made to mobilize groups in disadvantaged communities and in SICAP target groups, through targeted actions and developmental programmes.
- Under Action 1.4, GRD will continue to aid collaboration between LCG's through igaillimh.ie and provide an active support structure for SICAP target groups to engage in national frameworks and input to the development of new strategies through interagency collaboration.
- Under Action 1.5, GRD will continue to support Social Enterprises through facilitating a joint City/County Networking Meeting with Galway City Partnership and encouraging online networking on igaillimh.ie. Awareness will be increased through promotion of in-house supports such as training and small-scale grants, and external supports such as LEO and LEADER funding.

Goal 2 – Individual Supports:

Ms. McCann clarified at the outset that GRD was requesting LCDC approval to reduce the KPI for Goal 2 from 1,300 to 1,200 individuals, and the budgetary breakdown between Goals 1 & 2 to 70/30, due to the reduction in unemployment figures and the more holistic approach being taken under the 2018-2022 Programme to individuals who were disengaged from the labour market.

- Under Goal 2.6, GRD will implement an holistic approach to individuals by focusing on measures to improve their health and wellbeing, in conjunction with the Steps Programme to engage the individual in goal-setting and building their confidence to engage further with training and development programmes.
- Under Goal 2.7, GRD will promote life-long learning by offering grants for individual training courses in life skills such as cookery, art, gardening, etc. Specific courses such as IT and digital learning will be targeted at farmers as many of their returns and forms can only be completed online.
- Under Goal 2.8, GRD will continue support programmes for disadvantaged young people aged 15-24 with general training such as English Language, Driving Theory, as well as assessment of their individual training needs. Breakfast clubs, afterschool clubs and music generation programmes will be delivered to encourage active learning and ensure increased school attendance.

- Under Goal 2.9, individuals will be assisted to prepare for employment through support to develop CV's, interview skills, and labour activation training such as Manual Handling and Safe Pass. GRD will also network with employers to identify placement/employment opportunities and notify all clients through a weekly Jobs Bulletin.
- Under Goal 2.10, GRD will strengthen links with other agencies such as LEO, Udaras na Gaeltachta, and SCCUL, to ensure new enterprises avail of all mentoring support and capacity. To maximise the number of individuals moving from unemployment to employment, GRD will assess the employment needs in high-employment growth areas, and tailor programmes accordingly.
- Under Goal 2.11, GRD will support existing enterprises by providing 5 Business Training Seminars throughout the county. Options for individuals to progress to self-employment will be discussed on a one-to-basis and assistance will be given to access other supports such as LEADER, GRET, DEASP and LEO.
- Under Goal 2.12, GRD will continue to work with other agencies to identify and address barriers and gaps to lifelong learning and employment, e.g. working with Galway City and County Childcare Committee regarding childcare provision and costs, with Bealach na Gaillimhe regarding the provision of rural transport, with RSS & TUS supervisors regarding upskilling requirements.

B. Fox complimented A. McCann on her very interesting presentation. In relation to supporting enterprise, she stated that her concern was regarding duplication of services and it was important that GRD continue to work in partnership with LEO in providing training supports such as Start-Your-Own-Business (SYOB) and Digital Training throughout the county, and this was also cost-effective.

T. Turley stated that it was clearly a very progressive plan and emphasised the importance of agencies working together to avoid duplication where cost-sharing options were available and to prevent gaps in service provision.

D. Dowling welcomed the provision of IT and Digital Training for farmers and stated that the level of online activity required in farming returns was an issue even for younger farmers. T. Turley highlighted the additional obstacle of broadband quality in rural areas, and stated that Teagasc had a big role to play in providing assistance to farmers, especially to older individuals. In response, D. Colohan advised that GRD had received increased interest in these programmes which she felt was a result of their presence at marts to initiate contact with farmers regarding health checks, in addition to their appointment of a Rural Resource Officer.

A Mallaghan advised that the SICAP Sub-Committee had met and considered the Annual Plan for 2019 in detail including the actions, targets and apportionment of costs. The Annual Plan had been submitted to Pobal and their feedback had been considered in determining the draft which was now being presented for consideration and approval in principle. She advised that final approval of the Annual Plan would happen in 2019 following approval by the LCDC of the 2018 Annual Performance Review.

N. Thomas, Chair of the Sub-Committee for Social Inclusion and SICAP, thanked A. McCann for her presentation. He stated that at this point of the meeting, GRD would normally leave to facilitate discussion of the Annual Plan by the LCDC members, however, in light of the lengthy discussion at the

Sub-Committee, he asked the Members if they wanted GRD to stay in this meeting, and all Members were in agreement to an open discussion on the Annual Plan.

N. Thomas confirmed the KPI's for Goals 1 & 2 were 92 and 1,200 respectively, and stated that the latter figure for individuals contained the target group of the LCDC which was Socially Isolated Rural Dwellers. He felt that the measures in the Annual Plan would increase the focus on this group, and build on the contacts already made through the health checks programme at Marts, and the work of the recently appointed Rural Resource Officer. He stressed the importance of working in collaboration with other agencies in developing training and support programmes. He complimented GRD on also including in their Annual Plan other measures which were raised by the LCDC such as a befriending initiative, and Suicide Prevention measures.

N. Thomas stated that the response from Members of the Sub-Committee had been very positive and he commended GRD on the level of information which was always made available to the LCDC. He stated that the level of knowledge and programme quality was very high and was to be commended. He stated that he also wished to acknowledge the contribution of A. Mallaghan whose knowledge was very valuable, and it was apparent that the Programme was being run to a high standard. He stated that he wished to recommend approval in principle of this very positive Annual Plan by the LCDC Members, subject to final approval by Pobal.

On the **PROPOSAL** of M. Ward, **SECONDED** by K. A. Mortimer, the SICAP Annual Plan for 2019 was **APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE**.

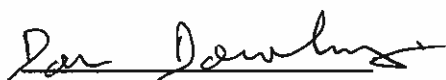
A Farrell, Chief Officer, thanked the Sub-Committee for their time and stated that it was good to see the programme bedded down and having an impact, and a high level of collaboration with other agencies. D. Colohan, GRD, also expressed her appreciation to the Sub-Committee and to A. Mallaghan for their engagement throughout the preparation and discussion of the Annual Plan.

3. Dáta don chéad chruinniú eile
 Date for next meeting

A Mallaghan advised that the deadline for completion of the Annual Performance Review for 2018 was 28th February 2019 and a SICAP Sub-Committee was arranged for 30th January 2019. It was agreed that the next meeting of the LCDC would take place on Wednesday 13th February 2019 at 10.30 a.m.

4. Aon ghnó eile
 Any other business

A Farrell advised the Members that the Local Government Audit Service (LGAS) had completed an audit of the 2017 community programmes of the LCDC and a report on the matters raised would be brought to the next meeting.


 D. Dowling, V/Chairperson

Date: 13/02/2019


 A. Farrell, Chief Officer

Date: 13/02/2019