



**COUNTY WICKLOW LCDC
ANNUAL REPORT**

Local Community Development Committee

2015

Introduction

“Local government will be the main vehicle of governance and public service at local level - leading economic, social and community development, delivering efficient and good value services, and representing citizens and local communities effectively and accountably”

Ireland has a complex range of local development structures and entities that deliver local and community development actions. The 50 or so local development companies are one sphere of this activity – there are also volunteer centres, family resources centres, children services committees, local and regional drugs taskforces, etc., which also deliver or co-ordinate a range of local and community development services at local level. There is little by way of structural co-ordination for such funding and activity.

Unlike many other OECD countries, the local authorities in Ireland traditionally do not have a lead role in such co-ordination, partly because local authorities in Ireland have a narrow range of functions. However, in response to the economic climate, change is required across all sectors to help meet the challenges facing us, including reduced budgets both nationally and from the EU. In addition, the focus of local government reform, “Putting People First”, is also on maximizing resources to improve services to citizens. One of the main responses has been to set up the Local Community Development Committees in the context of:

- Emphasis on role of local government as vehicle of governance closest to citizen
- Greater alignment of sectors delivering local economic social and community services
- Reduction in central government operational role in local service delivery
- Less resources – emphasis on value for money
- Emphasis on local responsibility, accountability and oversight

1. Background

Local Community Development Committees

Section 36 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 provides for the establishment of Local Community Development Committees. The LCDC in Wicklow was set up in May 2014 following the passing of a resolution by the Local Authority. The purpose of these committees is to develop, co-ordinate and implement a coherent and integrated approach to local and community development.

1.1 The functions of the LCDC

- a. To prepare and adopt the community elements of a 6 year economic and community plan.
- b. To implement, or to arrange for the implementation of the community elements of the Plan.
- c. To undertake a review of the community elements of the Plan at least one within the 6 year period.
- d. To monitor and review on an ongoing basis the implementation of the community elements of the Plan, including performance against any benchmarks or indicators of performance.
- e. To seek to ensure effectiveness, consistency, co-ordination and avoidance of duplication between the local and community development programmes.
- f. To pursue the co-ordination generally of all local and community development programmes within the functional area of the Committee, so as to optimise resources for the benefit of local communities in that area and improve the efficiency with which publicly-funded local and community development resources are used.
- g. To consider and adopt a statement in respect of the economic elements of a draft of the Plan prepared by the local authority.
- h. The Committee may enter into an agreement in writing with a public authority, local development or community development body, or other person for the carrying out of those functions by such an authority, body or person, as the case may be, which the Committee considers appropriate to be carried out.

1.2 The Committee, in performing its functions, shall have regard to –

- The resources, wherever originating from, that are available or likely to become available to it for the purpose of such performance and the need to secure the most beneficial, effective and efficient use of such resources.
- The need for co-operation with, and the co-ordination of its activities.
- The need for consultation with public authorities and publicly funded bodies in appropriate cases.

- The need for consistency with the policies and objectives of the Government or any Minister of the Government or other public authority in so far as they may affect or relate to the Committee's functions.
- The need to integrate sustainable development considerations into policy development and implementation
- The need to promote social inclusion

1.3 Co-Operation with Local Community Development Committees.

It is the duty of a relevant body, including the local authority, in so far as it is consistent with the performance of its functions to co-operate with the LCDC in the performance of its functions.

2. County Wicklow LCDC

2.1 Membership of the LCDC

NOMINATING BODY	NOMINEE
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL	CLLR PAT CASEY
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL	CLLR GRAINE MCLOUGHLIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL	BRYAN DOYLE
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL	VACANT
HEALTH SERVICE EXECUTIVE	MAURICE FARNAN
KWETB	KEVIN LEWIS
LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE	SHEELAGH DALY
BRAY AREA PARTNERSHIP	PETER BRENNAN
COUNTY WICKLOW PARTNERSHIP	TOM GREGAN
PPN - COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY	LIAM O'LOUGHLIN
PPN - COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY	MAI QU Aid
PPN- SOCIAL INCLUSION	NIAMH WOGAN
PPN - SOCIAL INCLUSION	MARTINA CRONIN
ENVIRONMENT INTERESTS	RICHARD WEBB
BUSINESS INTERESTS	RORY BENVILLE
FARMING INTERESTS	CHRIS HILL
LOCAL & COMMUNITY INTERESTS	BRIAN OGILVY

In 2015:

- Michael Nicholson replaced Joe Lane as the Chief Officer
- Bryan Doyle replaced Eddie Sheehy (Wicklow Local Authority)
- Brian Ogilvy replaced Joe Collins (Carlow IT)
- Richard Webb replaced Judy Osborne (PPN Environmental Pillar)

The LCDC members were shocked and saddened by the sudden passing of Cllr Pat Kavanagh. She will be missed.

2.2. Meetings

Six meetings of the LCDC have been held in 2016.

- 5th February 2015
- 26th March 2015
- 30th April 2015
- 30th June 2015
- 12th October 2015
- 30th November 2015

At the meeting of the 5th February 2015 Cllr Pat Casey was elected as chair and Cllr Grainne McLoughlin was elected as vice chair.

3. Progress of the LCDC in 2015

The LCDC work plan consisted of four key areas in 2015. Progress in these areas is outlined below.

3.1 SICAP

SICAP is the successor to the Local & Community Development Programme 2010 – 2014. It is the primary social inclusion programme of government. There are three programme goals:

- Community Development
- Education and Training
- Employment

The programme has a strong focus on community activation, social inclusion and community development, targeted at those most excluded from society. The aim is to enable communities which are most disadvantaged to develop and sustain their own well-being.

The LCDC now has the remit for the oversight and management of the SICAP. Following the procurement process in 2014 for the operation of SICAP, the LCDC approved the awarding of

contracts to Bray Area Partnership and County Wicklow Partnership, at the February meeting, 2015. Bray Area Partnership is responsible for Lot 15-1, the Bray and Greystones Municipal Districts. County Wicklow Partnership is responsible for Lot 15-2, the Municipal Districts of Wicklow, Arklow and Baltinglass.

The Mid-Year Review of SICAP was considered by the LCDC at the meeting of the 12th October 2015. Presentations were made by the two Programme Implementers, Bray Partnership and County Wicklow Partnership. Overall, the mid-year programme targets were achieved and work is progressing well. The Mid-Year Review was endorsed by the LCDC. One of the first jobs of 2016 will be to review the 2015 programme and endorse the 2016 Annual Plan for SICAP.

As an example of the impact of SICAP, 1,330 disadvantaged individuals (15 years and upward) were engaged under SICAP on a one to one basis in 2015.

3.2 LEADER

The LCDC and County Wicklow Partnership (CWP) have been working together on the development of the Local Development Strategy (LDS) for the LEADER Programme 2014 - 2020. The LCDC has become the Local Action Group with oversight of the programme. County Wicklow Partnership is the implementing body for the programme. Five consultation meetings were held around the County and were well attended. In November 2015 the LCDC adopted the LDS. The LDS was submitted for consideration in December 2015. The Local Authority will be the lead financial partner for LEADER in County Wicklow with responsibility for the programme both administratively and financially.

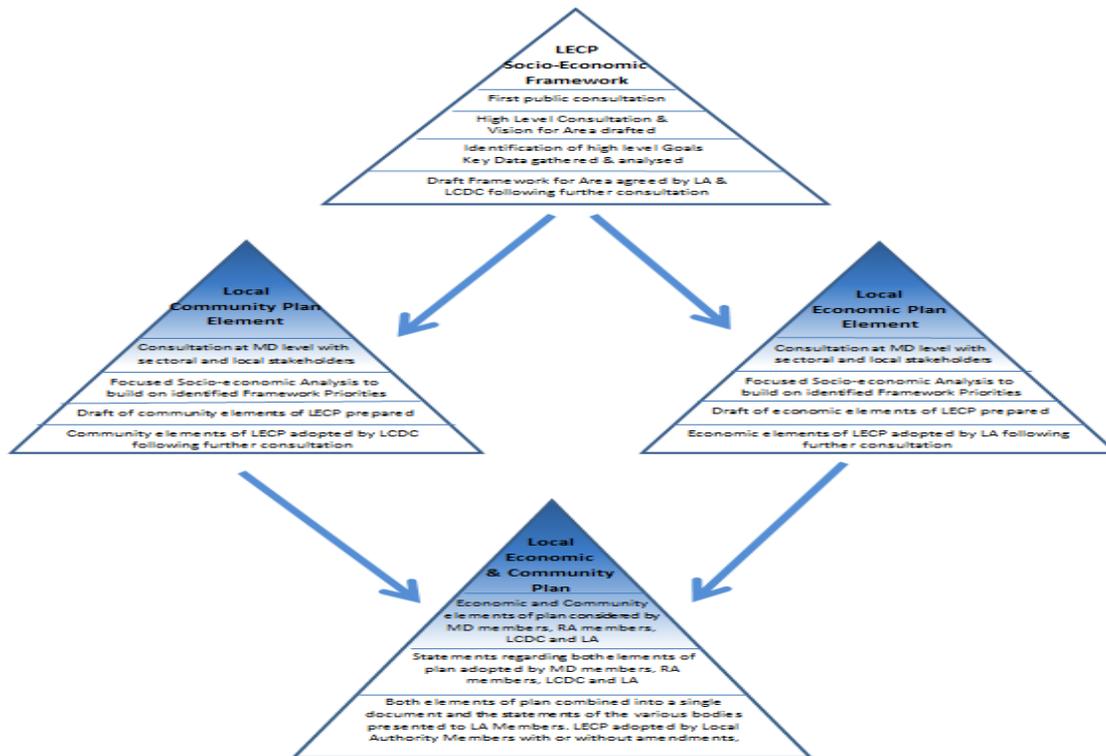
The priorities of the LEADER programme are social inclusion, the green economy and economic and community development. The LDS strongly reflects some of the relevant goals and objectives of the LECP.

3.3 LECP

The LECP is a 6 year plan to be prepared by the LCDC and the Local Authority. The Community element is to be prepared by LCDC. The Economic element is to be prepared by Local Authority, specifically the SPC for Economic Development and Enterprise. The LECP is the framework for many operational and other plans in the County. It contains:

- Agreed priorities for the area
- Agreed agency roles in addressing these

- Places onus on parent bodies of agencies at local level to enable them to respond to plan



During 2015 one of the main achievements of the LCDC was the development of the community element of the LECP. This began with public consultation meetings and a call for submissions in 2014. In 2015 Future Analytics was engaged to assist with the Socio-Economic Profile of County Wicklow and the economic element of the LECP. The Socio-economic Profile was produced in April 2015 when it was presented at a joint workshop of the LCDC and the SPC for Enterprise and Economic Development. The Profile set out the key characteristics of the county and provided an evidence base for the Socio-Economic Framework. The Socio-economic Framework was produced in June 2015. The Framework set out the high level goals for the LECP and provided the priorities for the development of the plan.

In August 2015 three separate workshops were conducted, each focusing on specific community related themes:

1. Social and Community Services (*Workshop 1*)
2. Education, Support and Training (*Workshop 2*)

3. Social Innovation, entrepreneurship and Local Development (*Workshop 3*)

Attendance included representatives of State and semi-State sector such as the Department of Social Protection, Health Service Executive, Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board, Tusla and Wicklow County Council itself. In addition, invitations were extended to key local agencies, organisations and groups with a role in providing for the community needs of County Wicklow.

Throughout the three workshops, recurring issues emerged, for example, the need for greater inter-agency collaboration with regard to many critical areas including mental health, youth services and unemployment. Also prevalent during the workshops was the recurring demand for improved transportation and its significant influence on a wide range of social and socio-economic related subjects, including access to education, training and employment services, in addition to access to health and recreational services, particularly for vulnerable groups.

The LCDC adopted the community element of the LECP in November 2015. 2016 will see the finalization of the draft and the first implementation plan.

High Level Goals

Community Capacity and Urban regeneration and Rural Development
Active citizenship and public participation to improve governance, participation and enrich decision making
Targeted and integrated supports for vulnerable and disadvantaged groups
Support local communities in innovation, entrepreneurship, micro-enterprise and social innovation
Training, education and lifelong learning based in analysis of employment trends and the skill needs of employers
Infrastructure and measures that are positive and supportive to investment, enterprise, innovation and knowledge creation
Sustain existing enterprise and develop quality employment and income opportunities for the wide range of employment needs in the county, with possibilities for reversing commuting patterns
Capitalise on Wicklow's unique attributes: proximity to the Dublin market; excellent quality of life; human capital; tourism; landscape; marine; agricultural and forestry resources
Low carbon and climate resilient economic activity, reducing energy dependence, and the sustainable use of resource, and leading in the smart economy
Harness efficiently the full resources of the county and promote interagency collaboration

3.4 Public Participation Network (PPN)



The PPN is the main link through which the local authority and the LCDC connect with the community, voluntary and environmental sectors. The aim of the structures of the PPN is to facilitate and enable the public and the organisations to articulate a diverse range of views and interest within the local government system. A parallel and equally important aim should be to facilitate the local authority in making better and timelier decisions. The County Wicklow PPN was set up in July 2014.

County Wicklow PPN is supported by a resource worker, hosted by Wicklow Travellers Group. The membership has increased to 134 groups. Facilitating new membership is a priority for the PPN. In 2015 the PPN has also undertaken training, developed an effective communication strategy and produced an information pack to encourage participation.

Participation & Representation

LCDC	5 Reps
Joint Policing Committee	7 Reps
Housing SPC	2 Reps
Planning & Development SPC	1 Rep
Transport, Water & Environment SPC	1 Rep
Community Culture & Social Development SPC	3 Rep
Economic Development & Enterprise SPC	1 Rep
Children & Young People's Services Committee	1 Rep
Local Sports Partnership	1 Rep
Wicklow County Tourism	1 Rep
Co. Wicklow Volunteer Centre	1 Rep
Wicklow County Childcare Committee	2 Reps
Bray Local Drug & Alcohol Task Force	1 Rep

The LCDC will continue to support the development of the PPN.

Please note all documents and research pertaining to the LCDC and the LECP are available on www.wicklow.ie

