

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

**Date: 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

**Time: 10.00am.**

**Present:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Public / Private</b>
Cllr. Seamus McGrath	Cork County Council	Public
Cllr. Marica Dalton	Cork County Council	Public
Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen	Cork County Council	Public
Mr. Sean O'Sullivan	Head of LEO South Cork	Public
Ms. Valerie O'Sullivan	Divisional Manager South Cork	Public
Mr. Donal O'Liathain	Údarás na Gaeltachta	Public
Mr. Jimmy Hosford	IFA	Private
Mr. Ryan Howard	SECAD Partnership CLG	Private
Ms. Mary O' Leary	Environmental Pillar	Private
Mr. Liam McCarthy	PPN	Private
Mr. Pat Roche	Avondhu Blackwater Partnership CLG	Private
Ms. Arran O'Driscoll	West Cork Development Partnership	Private

**Apologies:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Private / Public</b>
Mr. Michael Hegarty	Cork County Council	Public
Mr. John Fitzgibbons	Cork ETB	Public
Ms. Leighann Kennedy	Dept of Social Protection	Public
Mr. Tom Howard	Cork County PPN	Private
Ms. Ashley Amato	Cork Chamber	Private
Mr. Brian Williams	Youth Work Ireland	Private
Vacant	Civic Society	Private

**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

<p><b>Quorum = 11 (50% of 19 rounded up + 1 = 11)</b>  <b>In attendance = 12 (6 Private: 6 Public)</b>  <b>Apologies = 7</b>  <b>Total membership = 19</b></p>
--

## **Welcome and Introduction.**

Note - Cllr. Seamus McGrath (Vice Chairman) chaired this month's South Cork Local Community Development Committee meeting. It was noted that a quorum was in place and the meeting commenced.

### **1. Confirmation of Minutes of the Previous LCDC Meeting of 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023.**

The Minutes were adopted on the proposal of Liam McCarthy and seconded by Sean O'Sullivan.

### **Matters arising**

None.

### **2. SICAP: SECAD Partnership CLG 2022 Case Study by Toni McCaul**

#### **SECAD Ukraine Supports Documentary**

##### **Context**

On 24 February 2022, Russia launched a full-scale assault on Ukraine. The war has since killed thousands, displaced millions and destroyed entire cities. Some 50,000 Ukrainians have come to Ireland in the months since we announced visa-free travel and offered housing and support for the displaced in line with the European Union's temporary protection directive.

The number hosted in Ireland is just a fraction of the more than seven million Ukrainian refugees that the United Nations has recorded across Europe since the start of the war in February. But it has proved to be a logistical challenge for a country with a population of only about five million, which is already experiencing a housing crisis and a shortage of doctors and teachers.

SECAD has received a higher-than-average cohort of refugees from the Ukraine. As of October 2022, at the time of filming this video case study, the largest numbers by far within the Lot are residing in private accommodation centres, of which there are as of October 2022 6 in the SECAD area:

- Youghal Accommodation Centre (Redbarn) – 565+
- Old Imperial Hotel Youghal – 43
- Trabolgan holiday village, Whitegate – 293
- Warrensgrove centre Lissarda – 63
- Cobh Mercy Convent – 43
- Inchigeela – 25

This totals those currently living in such centres around 1,032 with more accommodation centres coming onstream all the time.

Furthermore, there are many more Ukrainians living in family homes/pledged accommodation in the area. From discussion with other agencies, it is estimated that the figures below loosely represent those residing with host families in the areas of Midleton, Youghal, Cobh, Carrigaline, Ballincollig, and Macroom to be in the region of 300-400. This is clearly conservative and falls short of including numbers in the peri-urban conurbations, with the overall Ukraine population in our area now indicating in the region of 1,400 to 1,500.

SECAD during the presentation addressed the areas of Rational & Needs Analysis including provision of Information sessions at Accommodation Centres, English Language Supports, Provision of structural & governance support to emerging LCGs, Skills training and employment supports.

Toni McCaul noted that a lot development has happened since this project has been established with a great sense of teamwork and community has evolved over the past 12 months.

Cllr. Seamus McGrath thanked Toni & her team, and SECAD for their excellent work and for their powerful & attentive presentation, and opened the floor for questions & comments.

Liam McCarthy commented that he was impressed by the presentation and was grateful for the work that was being carried out and wishes that there will be no negative salient taking away from the work that was done.

The Chief Officer thanked Toni McCaul for her presentation and mentioned that SICAP along with the Local Development Companies have supported the Ukraine crisis with a lot of work being carried out at on the ground and acknowledged that any additional funding that is available would be greatly forthcoming.

Cllr. Seamus McGrath ended the conversation with thanking all those involved for their work and the presentation & would hope that the work that is being carried out would reach a greater audience.

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

#### Overview

- Purpose of the LECP and Draft Document
- Development and Structure of Document
- Role of LCDDC
- 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 Local Economic and Community Plan Socio-Economic Statement and High-Level Goals were proposed by Liam McCarthy and seconded by Sean O'Sullivan.



Cllr. Seamus McGrath thanked Sharon O’Connell for her work and presentation, and opened up the floor for any comments, questions and queries.

Cllr. Marica Dalton had a query regarding the High Level Goal no. 4 on how the statistics are being presented she thinks that the stats need to be presented to what is happening in each divisional area not just as an overall statistic of Cork County.

Sharon O’Connell responded to Cllr. Marica Dalton’ query to say that that the information in High Level Goal no. 4 is just a snapshot of the information that was provided to them and that the challenge is in the presentation of data. She confirmed that she would undergo a comparative piece on the date before going out to public consultation.

Ryan Howard thanked Sharon for her presentation, and asked will the framework show the structure element when it comes to design of the plan i.e link to the LCDC’s and other agencies. He also queried if there is going to be clear measurable KPI’s or measurable impacts on the communities included in the framework.

Sharon O’Connell responded to Ryan by saying that the first phase of the LECP is the framework and the second phase is the implementation plan which will address these goals along with a smart action plan that will include regular reporting to the Department

Mary O’Leary had a query regarding the first few High Level Goals of the LECP plan on how they are going to be achieved, such as will communities be assisted in a practical way and how can communities apply for such support.

Sharon responded that in the first instance we need to show that a framework is in place and that all future funding will have to link back into the LECP..


**4. Any Other Business**

**None.**

**5. Date of Next Meeting**

The date for the next meeting is 25<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

**Meeting Concluded**

Signed:	 CHAIRPERSON
Dated:	<u>25/05/23</u>

