**Minutes of Local Community Development Committee Meeting held on Friday 17th April 2015**

Present

Cllr John King, Chairperson, Evelyn Reddin, Mary Delaney, Sheelagh Coyle, Pat Buggy, Linda Tynan, Mick Dowling, Chris Uys, Gerry Murphy, Anne Goodwin, Joe Thompson, Cllr Gerry Lodge, Margaret Guijt Lawlor, Michael Bergin.

Apologies

Cllr Pascal McEvoy and Graham Tuohy

Presentation on the SICAP Programme

Ms Anne Goodwin, CEO Laois Partnership Company made a comprehensive presentation to the members of the committee on the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme. The SICAP programme replaced the Local Community Development Programme on the 1st April, 2015. The presentation focused on the following areas:

* Programmes being delivered by Laois Partnership Company
* Staff employed by Laois Partnership Company
* SICAP Overview, Tender process, etc.
* Outline of disadvantaged areas
* SICAP Target Groups
* Goals, actions, budget and outputs

Laois Partnership Company will be working with a number of organisations and agencies to deliver the SICAP Programme.

The targets are very ambitious and it will be challenging to deliver them. The 3 goals in the SICAP Programme will be equally weighted.

Cllr John King thanked Anne Goodwin for her presentation and wished her the best of luck in implementing the Programme. He also requested that a copy of the presentation be circulated to all members for their information.

LCDP Monthly Payments Report

A copy of the finance monitoring report for the Local development Company for Quarter 4 of 2014 was circulated to the members for their information. The Chief Officer informed the members that:

* The administration cost is in line with the required spend threshold of the programme and is within budget.
* The spend across the 4 goals is in line within the required spend thresholds of the programme and is within budget.
* All targets had been met and exceeded.

Framework Policy for Local & Community Development

The Chief Officer had circulated documentation to the members with regard to the drafting of a Framework Policy Document on Local & Community Development in advance of the meeting for their information.

Closing date for submissions was Friday, 10th April, 2015.

He advised the members that the general thrust of the document was that everybody would work together for economic regeneration and social cohesion, the focus being on sustainable communities.

The document looks at the evolution of community development, community and voluntary sector and local development. This new policy will be an overarching policy for local and community development delivered through 5 core principals.

* Engaging with communities
* Working with partners
* Planning for local and community development
* Delivery
* Evaluation, monitoring and reviewing

The Chief Officer undertook to brief the members in full when the policy is finalised.

Draft Standing Orders

Ian McCormack circulated a Draft copy of Standing Orders to the Committee asking them to consider same and revert to him with any comments/observations in advance of the next meeting as it is the intention to ask the members to adopt the Standing Orders at their next meeting.

DECLG Circular LG 2/15 Ethical Framework in Local Government

Ian McCormack referred to previous documentation circulated at a previous meeting and advised the members that they would be required to sign a form of Declaration of Interest due to their decision making role on the Committee. The only difference as such is that the forms of Elected Members and Local Authority employees should be submitted to the Ethics Registrar and held on public record whereas the Declaration of the remaining members can be returned to the Chief Officer and held as a non-public record. The remainder of the Code of Conduct for Councillors (paragraphs 3.5 and 10.2 of the Code, previously circulated) and Part 15 of the Act (including sections 167(2)m 169, 177 and 179) do apply to elected members of the LCDC as members of a committee of a Local Authority, in particular, the disclosure of pecuniary/beneficial interests at a meeting where these could give rise to a conflict of interest.

Declaration form to be circulated to the members in due course for signing.

Any Other Business

* Chris Uys requested that a list of contact details of the members of the Committee be circulated together with a list of the funding allocations to each County under the Rural Development Programme. He also requested that some of the committee meetings be held at evening time to facilitate PPN members who were volunteering their time to attend.
* Cllr John King indicated that this matter would be revisited in September.
* Cllr John King proposed that arrangements be made to invite a speaker to the next meeting to inform the members about their role and the function of the Local Community Development Committee. Margaret Guijt Lawlor suggested that this information session be postponed until such time as the new Public Participation Networks members are elected on to the Committee. The Committee agreed with Margaret’s proposal.
* Ian McCormack advised the members that both himself and Cllr John King would be attending a briefing session in Tullamore with regard to the Rural Development Programme in Tullamore on Wednesday 22nd April, 2015 and asked if other members of the Committee wished to attend. Margaret Guijt Lawlor subsequently expressed an interest to attend.

Michael Bergin spoke about the importance of the Rural Development Programme and the Expressions of Interest presently being sought for the delivery of the Programme. Both Ian McCormack and Gerry Murphy assured the members that meetings are ongoing with Laois Partnership Company with a view to working together to submit a joint Expression of Interest.

Mr Bergin requested that the next meeting be held in advance of the closing date for receipt of submissions in order to update members in relation to developments.

Time & Date for next meeting

Friday, 8th May, 2015 at 11.30 am in County Hall, Portlaoise.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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Cllr John King Ian McCormack

Chairperson Chief Officer

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