Minutes of 19th February, 2018 Local Community and Development Committee Meeting held at Littleton and Moycarkey Community and Sports Centre, Thurles

Present:

Public Sector:

Matt Shortt, Rita Guinan, Councillor John Carroll (Chair), Councillor Joe

Hannigan, Adrian Cunneen (5)

Private Sector:

Charles Stanley-Smith, Isabel Cambie, Michael Murray, Clare Cashman, Cora

Horgan, Sean O'Farrell, Sara Bourke (7)

Apologies:

Public Sector:

Eileen Condon, Maria Bridgeman, Donal Mullane

Private Sector:

Catherine Guest, Imelda Walsh

Not Present:

Councillor Mary Hanna Hourigan, John O'Shaughnessy

In Attendance:

Sinéad Carr (Chief Officer), Attracta Lyons, Michael Moroney, Margo Hayes,

Fiona Crotty, Fiona Hughes.

1. To Note Adherence to Meeting Procedure Requirements

1.1 Quorum

Margo Hayes confirmed that a quorum had been achieved to proceed with the meeting with 7 representatives from private sector and 5 from public sector.

1.2 Conflict of Interest & Decision Making - LEADER

Attracta Lyons advised of COI's for Basic Services TC, namely Michael Murray, Cora Horgan and Matt Shortt. No other COI was declared for same.

1.3 Decision - Making Requirements to include written decision

No written decisions were received in relation to the LEADER projects for decision at the meeting. There may not be sufficient numbers required for decisions on Targeted Call applications – this will be reviewed at Agenda item 7.2. Rural Tourism TC will not proceed owing to technical issue with CRM system which delayed A48 Administrative Check clearance.

2. Nomination & Election of LCDC Chair and Vice Chairperson

Charles Stanley-Smith, outgoing Chair, declared the meeting open. The Chair requested Margo Hayes to refer to regulations governing the election of Chairperson and details of the procedure were outlined by M. Hayes to the Board. Matt Shortt proposed Councillor John Carroll. This was seconded by Clare Cashman. As there were no further nominations, Charles Stanley-Smith

declared Councillor John Carroll as the new Chair. Councillor John Carroll took over as Chair of meeting at this stage. He expressed his thanks to his Proposer and Seconder and the Members of the LCDC and complimented Charles Stanley-Smith for his excellent 3 year term as Chair.

The Chair sought nominations for the position of Vice-Chair. Sara Bourke proposed Clare Cashman. This was seconded by Cora Horgan. As there were no further nominations, the Chair declared Clare Cashman as the new Vice-Chair.

Sinéad Carr indicated changes in the composition of sub-committees arising from John Carroll's election as Chair. Charles Stanley-Smith and Sean O'Farrell had agreed to sit on the Audit & Finance Sub-group.

Approval of Draft Agenda

Draft Agenda was approved on the proposal of Matt Shortt and seconded by Clare Cashman. Apologies were noted.

4. Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of Tipperary LCDC meeting held on 15th January, 2018 were agreed on the proposal of Sean O'Farrell and seconded by Sara Bourke. There were no matters arising.

5. 2018 LCDC Operational Priorities

Margo Hayes circulated a document at the meeting entitled "Draft LCDC Operational Work Priorities 2018" and referred the Board to the re-wording of Item 4a as follows: Tipperary LCDC support staff and Programme Implementers through delivery of funding schemes will support organisations which receive funding through the LCDC where there are governance or operational challenges in an appropriate manner and where value can be added". Support to organisations will be through RAPID and IP's will provide supports also. This document was proposed by Matt Shortt and seconded by Clare Cashman.

6. SICAP

6.1 SICAP Audit STDC 2015-2016

Margo Hayes confirmed that an audit in South Tipperary had been conducted last month with no substantial issues. Isabel Cambie also confirmed that no substantial issues were encountered by the STDC.

6.2 End of Year Review Lot 22 & 23

Clare Cashman on behalf of the Social Inclusion sub group presented the end of year review for both STDC & NTLP:

South Tipperary LOT 23

The LCDC Social Inclusion Subgroup are recommending the South Tipperary SICAP End of Year Review to the LCDC –

The End of year review incorporated feedback from the parallel Pobal Review.

- STDC have met KPI 2 and have achieved 702 out of 742 on HI 1 (this will incur a €1,500 remedy as it a 4%-6% underachievement).
- STDC has an under spend of €13,864.51 to be returned to LCDC (and then to Department).
- KPI1.6 (% from disadvantaged area) -45.3% people resided in disadvantaged area out of target of 52%. This is partly due to participants receiving self employments supports (Back to Work Enterprise Allowance or Short Term Enterprise Allowance) being from outside the disadvantaged areas. Out of 207, 55 of those are from disadvantaged/very disadvantaged area.
- Case Study link uploaded to Pobal where as Pobal required full report uploaded and this
 was resubmitted.
- Data input issues had been rectified.

North Tipperary LOT 22

The LCDC Social Inclusion Subgroup are recommending the North Tipperary SICAP End of Year Review to the LCDC.

- The End of year review incorporated feedback from the parallel Pobal Review
- NTLP have met both Headline Indicator 1 & 2
- NTLP have an under spend of €2,290.71 to be returned to LCDC (and then to Department)
- No remedies payable by NTLP and they need to confirm IRIS completed in full.
- KPI 1 b (5 from disadvantaged areas) is at 35.38% with a target of 40%. The rationale
 provided is that many marginalised individuals are living in private rented accommodation
 supported by rent schemes/long term leases
- The Cyber bullying and internet safety programme was sleeted as a case study
- All data errors on Iris have been rectified.

The same issues as private rented accommodation not being in a designated area arose. On behalf of Social Inclusion sub-committee, Clare recommended approval to the LCDC.

End of Year Review Appeal by STDC

Isabel Cambie requested the support of the LCDC with regard to the penalty of €1,500 and gave detailed breakdown of interventions and case-loads and believed they were being penalised for working with clients with the greatest need of supports. During the year, STDC had 3 staff on sick leave and had to balance annual leave also, with a total loss of 40 weeks of a F.T.E. The penalty has to be paid from private resources and further discussion ensued regarding margins of error and varying rates.

Isabel Cambie left to room for the LCDC to discuss the appeal proposal. Sinéad Carr stated that the LCDC is the contract holder and members needed to take on the responsibility of making decisions around these type of issues. The Chief Officer stated that STDC have had an excellent past record in terms of achieving and indeed exceeding their targets. However this has to be considered in the context of the critical headline targets which were the minimum to be achieved;

the fact that there were issues with STDC T&S last year and most importantly that very similar arguments were made to the Department/Pobal last year by the LCDC for NTLP and these were not upheld. Sinéad Carr stated that it was unlikely that this appeal would be considered favourably as "exceptional" circumstances were not proven and members needed to be mindful of this when making their decision. After due deliberation and clarification around a number of points, the meeting decided that they were not in a position to support the request for an appeal by STDC. In order to try and ensure that situations such as that experienced by NTLP and STDC did not arise again, it was agreed that both IP's should factor in such issues as manpower and sick leave into the new programme and should therefore aim for 60% target by June 2018 to ensure they did not fall foul of the remedy situation again.

Isabel Cambie returned to the room to be informed by the Chair that the Appeal had been rejected as the meeting considered that the rationale given did not constitute an exceptional circumstance

6.3 Roll-out of SICAP2018 - 2022

M. Hayes confirmed the beginning of the new SICAP programme on the 1stJanuary, 2018. The Annual Plans had to be uploaded by the 16th February and LCDC need to review these Plans. There will be a meeting of the sub-group on the 22nd February to discuss the Annual Plans for 2018. STDC have been requested to work with a group of travellers in a halting site and NTLP have been asked to work in Newport area and to discuss needs.

Michael Murray indicated a vacancy for a manager and the closing date is 23rd February. There is an under spend with the NTLP for the 1st three months of 2018 arising from this vacancy.

7. LEADER

7.1 Matters Arising

Attracta Lyons indicated that IPs advised at a meeting of the Sustainable Communities Sub-Group last week :

- They had held a team meeting to discuss a number of issues including the promotion of Rolling Calls and the promotional plan for the year. This will include press releases etc. highlighting the type of projects that can be supported under LEADER to promote greater awareness of activity.
- Meeting to take place re. Evaluation Scoring Sheet Environmental & Social Inclusion criteria would be rescheduled to the same date for IEC meeting to evaluate playground applications under the TCC Scheme of Capital Grants.
- IPs have met with the Education & Training Board Youth Committee re. LEADER Rural Youth Theme and a meeting/workshop will be held with representatives from various youth/community organisations to increase take-up of support under this sub-theme.

Sinéad Carr also advised IPs will also liaise with TCC Arts, Sports & Heritage Officers re. potential for take-up of Rural Youth and other LEADER sub- themes as relevant. Isabel Cambie and Michael Murray advised that:

- a press release, with photographs, outlining take-up of LEADER in 2017 with an

- accompanying advertisement for 2018 Rolling Calls will be issued in the next two weeks thorough local media and other distribution channels.
- The Basic Services Targeted Call proposal and advertisement will issue to members of SCSG for comment in advance of the LCDC March meeting. This TC will then be advertised in early April as per schedule agreed by the LCDC.

Clare Cashman requested input from a member of the Social Inclusion Sub Group into the Basic Services Targeted Call process - this was agreed.

7.2 Targeted Calls

Isabel Cambie referred to revised Assessment Report which was circulated at the meeting for the community walkway project by Rosegreen Development Association [Project Reference Number STP103572] which had been approved for funding at the January meeting. She stated that the overall project cost (€105,929.66) and grant awarded (€79,447.24) figures had not changed. She clarified that the voluntary labour (€2,500) and donation of property (€10,000) had been detailed in the "Costs" section on page 2 of the Assessment Report circulated at the January meeting but had not been included in the "Financed by" section. The revised Report now included these in both sections. The members noted the details regarding the donation of property and specifically noted the amount of voluntary labour (€2,500) and agreed that these formed part of their original decision to grant aid the project.

Members requested that every effort is made to ensure that Reports and figures presented by IPs at future meetings do not contain omissions/errors.

7.2. & 7.2.2 To Decide on Basic Services Applications & Rural Tourism Applications

Attracta Lyons advised that, due to COI, there were would not be sufficient numbers to make decisions on projects under the Basic Services TC and that these would have to be deferred to the March meeting. As previously advised the Rural Tourism Call Targeted Call was also deferred.

Sinéad Carr stressed the importance of having alternates on the private side attend where the Member cannot attend. It is extremely frustrating for promoters and appreciates that the COI and decision-making quorum of LAG element is very onerous. It was requested to hold an "emergency" meeting to consider these projects and a decision was made to convene a special meeting as soon as possible – the date would be agreed after the meeting.

7.3. To Update on 2017 Annual Report & 2018 Implementation Plan & Approve LDS Deviation

Attracta Lyons presented this item and referred to the 2017 Annual Progress Report & Implementation Plan 2018 document which had been circulated. As previously advised, Department Circular 1/2018 — 'Changes to Action Plan and LDS Amendments' advised to incorporate any LDS Action Plan Deviations/Changes at Annual Report stage and also required approval of said deviations/changes by the LCDC/LAG prior to submission to the Department.

In line with 2017 procedure for 2017 Annual Report it was advised at January LCDC meeting that the CEOs of the IPs, the Chief Officer, the Chair, and A. Lyons would meet to agree the 2017 Annual Report & 2018 Implementation Plan. This meeting was held on Friday 16th February (apologies were received from the Chair for this meeting).

Re. the 2017 Annual Report & Implementation Plan 2018 A. Lyons went through same highlighting responses to key elements – decision-making; progress 2017 and estimated expenditure for 2018 & 2019; achievements, issues and challenges; 2018; priorities; animation programme 2018; and case studies.

A. Lyons advised that on page 2. the IPs project approval estimate for Enterprise Creation was in excess of the budget for same for 2018 as per approved LDS - therefore she would raise a query on this with the Department when submitting the report. S. Carr advised that the target budget approvals for 2018 estimated by the IPs was €3,500,128.56 which is less than the budget available based on 2018 budget, as per approved LDS, combined with carryover from 2017. It was noted that the 2017 budget comprised the 2016 budget also as the programme only opened for Rolling Call applications in Q.4 2017. It was also noted that there are some commitments already in 2018 under the 2017 Basic Services for Hard to Reach Communities Targeted Call.

Re. Co-operation projects section of the report the IP's updated the LCDC as follows:-

- 1. Lingaun Valley Tourism Destination Development I. Cambie stated that Stage 1 capacity building was almost completed for this project which encompasses Tipperary and Kilkenny at a total cost of €10,000.
- 2. Social Enterprise/Community Shops M. Murray stated aim is to build a network and includes 4 community shops in Tipperary and 3 in Kilkenny and each LAG is allowed €6,000 for each County. A query was raised as to possibility as to providing similar supports for privately owned small shops in towns and villages and if support for these shops impacts on local privately owned shops. It was stated that displacement and substitution are reviewed when considering supports.
- 3. Nore Vision Project involving Tipperary, Kilkenny, Carlow and Laois Councils at total cost of €8,000. M. Murray stated that a Steering Group had been created to review the management of the Nore catchment areas. Local authorities have representatives on the Steering Group and LAWCO are also involved. Consultative meetings regarding governance, pollution, activity led tourism and other matters had been discussed and M. Murray advised €3,600 consultation fees will be paid from administration budget and requested this be noted for Minute purposes.
- 4. Lough Derg Discovery Points & Road Map Projects —Re. Discovery Point Project the objective would be to examine feasibility for development of discovery points around Lough Derg. This project would involve Tipperary, Clare & Galway. In addition there may be another co-operation project to develop a Road Map —Stage 2 for Lough Derg. Further information will be provided in due course.
- Munster Vales covers 4 counties of Tipperary, Waterford, Cork and Limerick. Isabel outlined the marketing approach using mountains in these 4 counties. Further to a query, S Carr stated that a feasibility study had been completed in 2013 and Tourism

- Development Ireland had identified ranges that would maximise tourism numbers in tandem with the necessary goodwill from Fáilte Ireland.
- 6. **Shannon-Erne Pilgrim Trail** M. Murray indicated the involvement of 12 counties and NTLP are part of this trail.
- 7. Killaloe-Ballina Community Sports Training Facilities Project workers have been approached by Clare LAG regarding a project to assist with facilities provision in Killaloe. M. Murray stated Tipperary LCDC/LAG involvement will need to be considered further from a policy and cost-benefit perspective.

Members were in agreement to proceed with the report as outlined.

Re. Deviations/Changes to LDS Action Plan – Appendix 2. Attracta Lyons reminded members that proposed changes to the LDS Action Plan had been approved at the September LCDC meeting and submitted to the Department for approval in November 2017. Subsequently the Department issued Circular 1/2018. The LDS changes as previously agreed were reviewed in light of same and it was considered, in the main, that the changes envisaged by the LCDC/LAG were eligible to be considered a 'Deviation' as opposed to an 'Amendment' (as defined in Circular 1/2018). A. Lyons emphasised that it was only after a mid-term evaluation of the programme that movement of budgets between LEADER themes or sub-themes and/or major changes to the programme could be proposed for approval by the Department.

The most critical point is there can be no movement of budget between themes and sub-themes in the current year and no change in targets or KPI's needs to occur at this stage. Any such changes occurring can be explained when evaluating the programme.

Appendix 2. as now presented includes particular changes in line with Circular 1/2018 – namely, a response to emerging needs while adhering to the general approach outlined in the LDS, and that funding allocations under each sub-theme (e.g. sub- themes of Social Inclusion are Basic Services for Hard to Reach Communities and Rural Youth) are maintained. The Department will make direct contact with the LAG if it has any concern with proposed deviations.

A. Lyons and the IPs presented on Appendix 2 – 'Areas where the LAG intends to deviate from the LDs Action Plan' as circulated. Deviations/changes to the Tipperary LDS Action Plan as outlined are the result of needs identified through the implementation of LEADER in 2017, changes within the operating environment since the development of the LDS such as the introduction of new funding programmes at national level, the need for greater clarity within the LDS Action Plan in terms of what can be supported through LEADER, and the elimination of unseen duplication and overlap within actions in the LDS Action Plan.

Deviations include broadening of some of the target groups; merging of actions where there is duplication between actions; movement of some actions to more appropriate sub-theme e.g. support for festivals moved from Heritage Tourism to Rural Towns - it should be noted that there is no movement of budget as originally envisaged; greater clarification within Enterprise Theme as a result of LEO/LAG Sectoral Agreement; there was reference to 'animation' in original LDS Action Plan so it is proposed to amend now to reflect ineligibility of what was originally envisaged by Tipperary LAG under same; and greater clarity on what is eligible under the various actions and removal of ambiguity. Overall budgets remain the same as per themes and sub-themes within

the Tipperary LDS.

For 2018, it has been agreed that all themes except for Basic Services for Hard to Reach Communities will be on a Rolling Call basis. Basic Services for Hard to Reach Communities will be operated as a Targeted Call.

It is envisaged that there may be changes to indicators/targets in the action plan as a result of deviations outlined. Any differences occurring will be addressed at programme evaluation stage i.e. KPIs/targets/outcomes not changed at this stage.

In summary, the overall focus of Tipperary LDS Action Plan remains the same.

The proposed LDS Deviations/Changes to the LDS Action Plan as outlined in Appendix 2. of the 2017 Annual Progress Report & Implementation Plan 2018 document were proposed by Matt Shortt and seconded by Sara Bourke and agreed by members.

7.4 To Report on 2017 & 2018 Budgets – Projects

Attracta Lyons circulated 2 documents to support this presentation which included a breakdown of the annual Tipperary LDS Budget from 2015 − 2020 as per the approved LDS which totals €7,582,584; and a report on budget commitments from 2015 to date. She advised figures had been provided by the IPs and that the SCSG had reviewed same last week and in addition the CEOs of the IPs had met with the Chief Officer to go through same and agree Target Budgets under each Theme and Sub-Theme for 2018.

Re. 2015, the LDS budget for preparatory support was €20,000 with expenditure of €18,511.38 with the balance being re-paid to the Department. A. Lyons suggested that as part of the LDS Mid –Term Evaluation review the balance and how it should be re- allocated between themes and sub-themes and to seek approval from the Department on same.

Further detail was given on 2017 budget as follows:

- 64/66 projects were evaluated in 2017. The reference to 64/66 projects listed was due to the requirement to distinguish between capital and training elements within the one project.
- 47 projects to approximate value of €1.2m were approved by the LCDC/LAG in 2017.
- Greatest expenditure occurred under Economic Development, Enterprise & Job Creation
 Theme and specifically Enterprise Development (RC) followed by Rural Towns(TC) SubThemes.
- Under the Social Inclusion Theme it should be noted that applications under the TC element of the Basic Services Sub-Theme were evaluated in 2017 with decisions by LCDC/LAG in early 2018. Total value of RC & TC applications evaluated is €444,907 approximately.
- Sub-Themes with low take-up are Rural Tourism and Rural Youth.
- The Rural Environment Theme (Water Resources, Biodiversity and Renewable Energy)

has the lowest take-up of the three themes.

Re. 2018 Budget:

- Budget Target is €3,500,129 based on potential interest at this stage.
- As annual budgets apply, treatment of the estimated overspend in Enterprise Development will be checked with the Department.
- There are already commitments in the 2018 Budget under the Basic Services TC.
- Templemore Roads, Knockfee and Tipperary Tourism applications are still pending.

Sinéad Carr stated the Sub -Totals 1, 2 & 3 as being most important in terms of illustrating activity to date and projected activity under the themes and sub-themes and areas that need to be addressed.

Cllr. Hannigan questioned whether GAA clubs can apply for funding and M. Murray stated that mainstream organisations can apply but the IP's have to agree and develop a policy on same for review by SCSG prior to the April LCDC meeting.

Charles Stanley-Smith expressed concern about the weakness of the Rural Environment Theme and the realisation that following today's elections there would not be an Environmental representative on the SCSG. He wondered would Sean O'Farrell be best placed on the SCSG as opposed to the Audit Committee. S. Carr will consider as an Agenda item for discussion.

Re. estimated overspend for 2018 in the Enterprise Development Sub-Theme, R. Guinan stated that enterprise grants should not automatically be considered to be minimum of 50% and in competitive environment, should be of a lesser value with re-payment element factored into grant e.g. 15% out of 50%. S. Carr accepted validity of this suggestion and the need to establish a norm in a competitive environment.

Michael Murray advised he wished to raise the issue of the Templemore Wall Project. Due to COI in relation to this project Matt Shortt left the room for the discussion.

M. Murray stated that the issue with the license agreement had been resolved and that NTLP believes it would fit into the overall town plan. He wishes to submit the project for evaluation and as the requisite timeframe has elapsed as per Operating Rules the project can now be considered a Rolling Call and will therefore be evaluated by the North Tipperary IEC.

Matt Shortt rejoined the meeting.

7.5 To Approve Monthly Administration & Animation Income & Expenditure Report

Michael Moroney presented this item and indicated that November and December returns now approved and only 1 month in arrears and in line with guidelines. The report was proposed by Clare Cashman and seconded by Matt Shortt and approved.

7.6 Other

Attracta Lyons advised she made contact with Department of Agriculture regarding an update on the national €15m LEADER Artisan Food initiative. This had been delayed owing to approval of amendment being sought by the Department from the EU Commission. It is anticipated that the scheme will be launched by the end of Quarter 1. It is envisaged that applications will have to initially be approved by the LCDC/LAG and then decided upon at national level by a committee established by the Department of Agriculture.

8. | HEALTHY IRELAND

Fiona Crotty presented this item and circulated 3 documents at the meeting.

8.1 Healthy Ireland Fund Update

F. Crotty stated there were 20 action items at present, all of which are underway and wished to highlight Item No. 3 – PPN community health & wellbeing event scheduled for 7th March at The Dome, Thurles. It's aim is to showcase initiatives in communities. 90% funding has been received to date and the balance will be payable upon successful completion on reporting on expenditure and outcomes. F.Crotty stated that the LCDC has governance of all 20 action items and singled out the Regional Tobacco Action item with Tipperary being the lead authority and specifically targeting the youth sector.

8.2 Healthy Ireland Strategy Development

F. Crotty provided an update on the strategy with four main goals and indicated that Curley Consultants had won the tender process and were assisting with same. She commented on the challenging timelines with the production of the first draft report due by 26th March.

F.Crotty issued details of an online survey and requested full participation from all Members and to disseminate to other interested groups or parties.

9. Correspondence, Submissions & Consultations

<u>Correspondence</u>: M. Hayes referred to the National Rural Network who had provided an interactive map of 29 LAG areas received and will forward the details to the Members. She also referred to a link regarding a conference on tourism on the 8th March in the Anner Hotel and will also circulate details of this event. Minister Michael Ring had sent correspondence to the Chief Executive with an indicative schedule of calls for proposals in 2018. M. Hayes will also circulate this schedule to all Members.

<u>Submissions:</u> The closing date for submissions for the Rural Spatial Planning & Economic Strategy was the 16th February and input was received from Sinéad, Charles, Sean, Sara, John & Margo.

<u>Consultations:</u> The consultative process for RAPID areas will commence this week and will be held in Tipperary, Clonmel and Carrick On Suir and aim to devise a plan for each area.

10. **AOB**

Councillor Joe Hannigan raised the issue of the multitude of funds and how to access same. S. Carr accepted the validity of this concern and stated that the PPN are very effective in promoting schemes. She also indicated the good rapport between the Council and other agencies in promoting same.

Charles Stanley-Smith mentioned the National Development Plan and the National Planning Framework and €1 billion funding for rural areas on a competitive basis.

S.Carr informed Members that Attracta Lyons was returning to work on a full time basis on her economic portfolio and this was her final meeting of the LCDC. She expressed her sincere thanks for all the hard work and commitment over the years. Councillor John Carroll also expressed his gratitude on behalf of the LCDC and complimented her very thorough approach in working on LEADER.

Finally, S. Carr stated that Imelda Walsh, IFA, has replaced Tim Cullinan on the LCDC – T. Cullinan has taken up a new position as Honorary Treasurer of the IFA nationally.

11. Next meeting to be held at 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday, 20th March, 2018 in the Littleton and Moycarkey Community and Sports Centre.

Signed/

Councillor John Carroll,

Chair,

Tipperary Local Community Development Committee

Date/

