

Local Community Development Committee (Special) Meeting

Held: 8th of April at 10am in the Council Chamber and Online

Attendees: LCDC Members:

Cllr Frank Staples (Public Sector)
Cllr Michael Sheehan (Public Sector)
Cllr Aidan Browne (Public Sector)
Cllr Anthony Donohoe (Public Sector) (online)
Derval Howley, HSE (Public Sector) (online)
Brian Kehoe, WLD (online)
John Carr PPN Community & Voluntary Pillar (online)
Linda Sinnott PPN Community & Voluntary Pillar (online)
Sharon Kennedy PPN Community & Voluntary Pillar (online)
Jonathon King PPN Social Inclusion Pillar (online)
Sean Joyce, Wexford Council of Trade Unions (online)
Feidhlim O'Shea, PPN Environmental Pillar (online)

Also in Attendance:

Carolyn Godkin, Director of Service, Dymphna O'Connor, Chief Officer, Máire Browne, Philip Knight, Eoghan Greene, Denise Kehoe, all Wexford County Council.

Apologies: Eddie Taaffe, Breege Cosgrave, Meghan Callanan, Dr. Karina Daly, and Aislinn Dunne.

Chair: Cllr Frank Staples

Quorum was met.

Agenda: This was a single-item agenda meeting for the LCDC to approve the 2026 Local Enhancement Programme grants before the final Department approval.

1. The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting those in person in the Chamber and online.
2. The Chief Officer outlined the criteria agreed by the LCDC at the meeting on January 13th, 2026. The LCDC decided to use *Option A from the Departmental Guidelines with the following amendments:
 - (i) Divide money between percentage population in Municipal Districts and then with reference to the Pobal Deprivation Index, and
 - (ii) Groups who apply for €5k funding get full amount of €5k.

** Option A: Status quo from last year's criteria, including: • Maximum funding awards capped at €5,000.00 per project, subject to demand, • Project selection prioritised by POBAL Deprivation Index/LECP target areas, • 30% of funding ringfenced for small capital grants <€1,000 (per DRCDG criteria)*

3. Eoghan Greene, Project Officer for the LEP made a presentation on this year's fund. The total fund for County Wexford was €253,226.56. 350 applications were received. There was an over-subscription of 77%. He explained:
 - i. The timeframe for the programme, the evaluation criteria, the Pobal HP Deprivation Indices, the application process statistics, and the evaluation process, and
 - ii. The list of proposed awards by (a) Municipal District and (b) type of award, under €1,000 and over €1,000.

Eoghan answered a few queries following his presentation.

4. The discussion following this presentation examined measures to increase greater awareness of the scheme and the need to improve engagement with groups in areas designated as "extremely disadvantaged". It was suggested that the committee look at the 'bigger picture' regarding funding for extremely disadvantaged areas in a future meeting of the LCDC. Additionally, it was recommended that the criteria for selection of projects be discussed at the next meeting.
5. Members declared conflicts of interest, and it was agreed to vote on the approval/rejection of the proposed projects on a county-wide basis and not by Municipal District.
6. Cllr Sheehan proposed that the LCDC adhere to the rules adopted in the January meeting. This proposal was seconded by Seán Joyce.
7. John Carr proposed approval of the recommended grant allocations, and this was seconded by Sharon Kennedy. The proposed grant allocations will be forwarded to the Department for final approval.
8. Before the meeting was ended, the Director of Services made the following points:
 - i. She noted the release of the proposed awards ahead of this LCDC meeting prior to the decision of the LCDC to adopt the proposal. She further noted that the DRCDG would also have to approve the allocations and reminded members that the information remained embargoed pending the minister's announcement.

- ii. The Director of Services noted the potential conflict of interest acknowledging that many members of the LCDC are involved in some of the community projects. This was mitigated by members voting in favour of the application of the scheme of priorities and approving the recommendations of allocations.



Chief Officer



Cathaoirleach

Dated on the day of 2026.