

LCDC Special Meeting held at 9.30 on the 13th of January 2026 online

Attendees: Cllr Aidan Browne, Cllr Frank Staples; Cllr Michael Sheehan, Breege Cosgrave, Meghan Callanan, Dr. Karina Daly, Brian Kehoe, Linda Sinnott, Johnathan King, Seán Joyce, Jer O'Mahony, Feidhlim O'Shea, Aislinn Dunne, Carolyn Godkin, Dymphna O'Connor, Philip Knight, Eoghan Greene, Roisin Fitzgerald and Denise Kehoe.

Apols: Cllr Anthony O'Donohoe, John Carr

Chair: Cllr Aidan Browne

Quorum was met.

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. A minute's silence was held in respect of the passing of Cllr Anthony Donohoe's father.

Agenda: This was a one-agenda item meeting for the LCDC to approve the terms for the 'Terms of the Local Enhancement Programme 2026' and a funding model, including any local terms and conditions and funding criteria, in addition to the core DRCDG requirements, as stated in the published Departmental Guidelines.

The meeting proceeded as follows:

1. Dymphna O'Connor provided an overview of the LEP scheme for 2026 and acknowledged the work completed by Roisin Fitzgerald in 2025 as the LEP administrator.
2. Eoghan Greene, administrator of the 2026 scheme, made a presentation of the 2026 scheme which included: the Department's guidelines and criteria; the exclusion of running costs; the purpose of the scheme; the 3 options available for the LCDC to decide on and the projected timelines for the LEP.

Option A	Option B	Option C
Status quo from last year's criteria, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stream 1 - ringfence €80,000.00 (32%) approx. of funding for 5no. larger capital projects in disadvantaged areas; 1no. per MD (@ €16K ea).• Stream 2 - remaining €173,000.00 (68%) approx. to be distributed to smaller projects, capped at max. €5k award, with project selection prioritised by the Deprivation Index/LECP target areas.• 30% Stream 2 funding ringfenced for smaller capital grants <€1,000 (per DRCDG criteria)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• New option to be proposed from the floor by LCDC members during the special meeting (13/01/26), subject to majority approval and compliance with DRCDG criteria.

3. A wide-ranging discussion of Options A and B with possible amendments was conducted by the attendees. The following members contributed: Cllr Frank Staples; Cllr Michael Sheehan; Cllr Aidan Browne; Linda Sinnott; Aisling Dunne; Feidhlim O'Shea; Sean Joyce.
4. During this discussion Members:
 - expressed their disappointment at the exclusion of running costs from this scheme.
 - Acknowledged the DRCDG ringfencing of 30% of overall funding allocation for <€1k projects proposals.
 - Discussed the advantages and disadvantages of Option A and Option B.
5. All members were consulted on the various options, and it was agreed to go with Option A 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.
6. It was agreed that Option A with amendments would be circulated for information purposes to all members.

Signed:



Date: 26 Feb 2026