

## County Galway PPN Briefing note on the:

**Local and Community Development Committee**  
with the purpose of  
*Developing Sustainable, Safe and Inclusive Communities*

This PPN has elected PPN Representatives from the following areas:

Electoral Pillar	No. of Representatives
Environmental Pillar	1
Community & Voluntary Pillar	2
Social Inclusion Pillar	2
<b>Total No. of Representatives</b>	<b>5</b>

## Briefing Note on the LCDC

### Who are we?

The purpose of the **LCDC** (Local Community Development Committee) is to **draw on the knowledge and experience of the public and private sectors** to bring about a more joined-up approach to community development and **deliver effective and efficient services to citizens**, particularly those who are **disadvantaged**.

Each Local Authority has an LCDC and these were given **legislative effect** in the **Local Government Reform Act 2014**, which also set out requirements regarding selection and appointment of members. Galway County LCDC has a total of **19 members**. In accordance with statutory requirements, a representational balance between **public and private sector** interests is achieved as follows:

Private Sector Members = 10	Public Sector Members = 9
5 PPN Representatives	4 Public Agency Officials
3 Local Development Company Representatives	3 Local Authority Elected Members
1 Farming/Agriculture Representative	2 Local Authority Officials
1 Business/Commercial Representative	

### What do we do?

The LCDC has several key functions:

- 1) To prepare, implement and monitor the community elements of the **Local Economic and Community Plan**. The community elements of this 6-year plan cover actions to reduce poverty, disadvantage, long-term unemployment and social exclusion, enable lifelong learning and education, health & wellbeing, community safety, community-led heritage, environmental and cultural development and building sustainable communities.
- 2) To manage and oversee local and community development funding programmes, i.e.
  - **SICAP** (*Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme*) provides €1.6m funding to tackle poverty and social exclusion. An emerging needs group is selected annually by the LCDC and for 2021, this is 'Older People' with a particular emphasis on befriending schemes, digital skills, and other supports to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - **Healthy Ireland Fund** – this is a government-led initiative which aims to create an Irish society where everyone can enjoy physical and mental health and wellbeing. A range of initiatives are supported (totalling €300,000) and are implemented under the themes of physical activity, mental health, sexual health, nutrition, tobacco & alcohol, places & spaces for health & wellbeing.
  - **Community Enhancement Programme** – this funding scheme is aimed at enhancing facilities in disadvantaged areas and initiatives which promote inclusion of disadvantaged groups. In 2020, allocations totalling over €200,000 were made under the Programme.
- 3) To **co-ordinate all local and community development programmes and funding** within its functional area. As part of this role, the LCDC receive presentations from other Committees and Programmes, for example, at its April 2021 Meeting, the LCDC focused on the topic of 'Youth' and received presentations from Comhairle na nÓg, the Planet Youth project, and GRETB Youth Services.
- 4) To prepare an **annual report** on the performance of its functions. In 2020, the LCDC programmes were targeted at mitigating the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## How often do the LCDC meet?

The LCDC meets a minimum of 6 times per year. A schedule of meetings and times is agreed at the beginning of each year. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, meetings were held in the Boardroom of Centrepoint Offices, Liosban Industrial Estate, Tuam Road, Galway, with every second meeting on Tuesdays at 6.30 p.m. or Wednesdays at 10.30 a.m. for a maximum of 2 hours duration.

As a result of public health measures, all meetings are now held virtually via **Microsoft Teams** and the times of the remaining meetings are decided with the LCDC Members, these can be in the morning or evening.

Sub-Groups may be established to work on key areas or to discuss the operation of programmes, such as **SICAP**, in detail and meeting times/dates for any such Sub-Groups are agreed in advance with the relevant Members.

A mechanism is in place to **reimburse** PPN Representatives for any travel & subsistence expenses incurred in attending LCDC Meetings or other related events or functions, in accordance with National Circulars governing Travel & Subsistence (a **Circular** is a written statement that provides information and guidelines on laws and procedures).

### How long is the appointment for?

The initial term is 3 years, however, the PPN Representatives may apply for re-nomination and re-election for a second term of 3 years. Following this maximum term of 6 years, there must be a compulsory break of a minimum 3 years prior to any further nomination of that individual.

### PPN Representatives :

In accordance with statutory requirements, PPN representation is comprised of:

- 1 representative from Groups in the Environment Pillar
- 2 representatives from Groups in the Community & Voluntary Pillar
- 2 representatives from Groups in the Social Inclusion Pillar

The role of the PPN Representatives is to **represent citizens and communities** effectively. Their appointment to the LCDC ensures that the **community voice** is heard in **local decision-making** following a model of **participatory democracy** pursued by the Irish Government nationally. PPN representation on the LCDC ensures **meaningful community participation** in identifying priorities, solutions and initiatives across the wide range of local, community and rural development programmes and funding under the remit of the LCDC.

Therefore, the LCDC requires a **strong voice to represent communities**, and the marginalised within communities, and the ability to put forward ideas to support sustainable communities and build their capacity and infrastructure. PPN representatives have the relevant skills and capacities to deliver this role, for example, through their work with their own group or community in the area of community development, social inclusion or environmental action.

On a rotational basis, Representatives nominated through the PPN will be asked to **write a brief report** providing feedback to be shared with the PPN Membership.

### Other Considerations regarding eligibility:

Elected representatives to the LCDC are required to represent the interests of communities, **in a broad, collective, sense and are accountable to the PPN Membership** – they do not represent their own group, body or interests on the LCDC.

No more than one Board Member or employee of any single Community or Voluntary Organisation, Community Development or Local Development Body represented on the LCDC may be a member of the LCDC.

Local Authority Members and Officials, who are Board Members of any Community or Voluntary Organisation, Community Development or Local Development Body represented on the LCDC, cannot be members of the LCDC.

An individual will be ineligible for election or may be disqualified from membership if they are;

- Convicted or sentenced to a term of imprisonment.
- Convicted of an offence involving fraud or dishonesty.
- Disqualified or restricted from being a Director of a Company.

Members will be required to make a formal declaration to the Chief Officer that they are not disqualified on any of the grounds listed above and will notify the Chief Officer in the event that these circumstances change.

All LCDC Members are required to maintain proper standards of integrity, conduct and concern for the public interest.

### **Do you want more information?**

The LCDC is supported by the following staff members:

- Kieran Coyne, A/Senior Executive Officer, is appointed to the role of Chief Officer, which is the primary role for supporting the strategic and operational work of the LCDC. Contact: 087 952 0999.
- Mary McGann is the Administrative Officer with responsibility for the efficient administration of the programmes within the remit of the LCDC. Contact: 087 1044 820.