



## Minutes of LCDC Meeting 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026, 4 p.m.

### In-Person Meeting, Multimedia Room, Floor 3, NCO, Cork City Council.

- In attendance:** Denis J. Fitzpatrick (Vice Chair), Cllr. Kenneth Collins, Dermot Crosby, Eoin Gunn, Gabrielle O’Keeffe, Martin Davoren, Michael Delargey, Niall O’Keeffe, Rebecca Loughry, (Quorum Achieved).
- Online:** Bernadette Connolly, Cllr. John Maher, Katherine Harford.
- Apologies:** Denis Leamy, Cliona Barnes, Cllr. Tony Fitzgerald, Konrad Im, Cllr. Gary O’Brien.
- Also in attendance:** Kieran O’Connell (CCC), Busie Mhlophe (CCC).  
Fiona Collins (Night Time Economy Advisor, CCC).

### 1. Welcome and Apologies.

Denis J. Fitzpatrick (Vice Chair) welcomed the committee members.

Apologies were noted.

### 2. Declaration/conflict of interest.

The vice chairperson reminded the committee of the need to declare any conflicts of interest.

### 3. Presentation: Night Time Economy Advisor, Cork City Council.

The vice chairperson welcomed Fiona Collins, the Night Time Economy Advisor in Cork City Council to the committee members.

Fiona Collins presented to the committee highlighting the positive feedback from the public regarding the Night Time Economy (NTE). The NTE strategy is also accessible online. Fiona recommended the importance of making sure that NTE is included in policies, including the LECP 2024-2029. Fiona also spoke about various campaigns such as the Purple Flag, Safe and Sound, and Éanna and the magic of the night – *“an initiative to help young people (especially children) feel more comfortable in the dark. This project also promotes appreciation for dark spaces, night-time biodiversity, and events that take place after sunset”*.



The committee members were very engaged. They asked questions and provided suggestions at the end of the presentation.

The vice chair thanked Fiona for her presentation.

#### **4. Draft Minutes and Actions of LCDC Meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2026.**

Minutes of the meeting on **26<sup>th</sup> February 2026** were approved.

**Proposed by:** Cllr. Kenneth Collins.

**Seconded by:** Martin Davoren.

#### **5. Matters Arising.**

Regarding actions of LCDC meeting on 26th February 2026, Healthy Ireland and Sláintecare reports will be circulated by Martin Davoren in due course.

#### **6. LCDC Draft Annual Report 2025.**

Kieran O’Connell acknowledged all involved in the preparation of the draft LCDC Annual Report 2025. He also acknowledged the contribution of the LCDC membership who play a huge part in its development over the year. Kieran O’Connell updated the LCDC that the Community, Culture, & Placemaking Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) approved the draft report on the 19<sup>th</sup> March 2026. Rebecca noted that there was positive feedback from the SPCs.

Committee members also provided positive feedback regarding the draft of the LCDC Annual Report 2025.

The draft LCDC Annual Report 2025 was adopted.

**Proposed by:** Eoin Gunn.

**Seconded by:** Michael Delargey.

The LCDC Annual Report 2025 will now be sent to the DRCDG for their final approval ahead of the deadline for same on 31st March 2026.

#### **7. For Information:**

##### **a. Cork City Council Community Development Grants.**

Martin Davoren gave an update to the committee. The Community Development Grants applications are closed and have gone for a review by the SPC.



**b. LCDCC Local Enhancement Programme Grants.**

Martin Davoren updated the committee. The LCDCC Local Enhancement Programme grants applications are now closed and in review process. The next stage is for the SICAP Sub-Group to do a full review. This year's LCDCC LEP grants were capital grants only.

**c. LCDCC Communications Campaign – Ministerial Launch on 01<sup>st</sup> May 2026.**

Kieran O'Connell gave an update to the LCDCC. The LCDCC members will meet with the Minister of State on Friday 01<sup>st</sup> May 2026 for the LCDCC communications campaign launch. The LCDCC full attendance is recommended.

**d. Community Development Quality Standards Framework for SICAP.**

The vice chair, Denis J. Fitzpatrick gave an update to the LCDCC. Denis J. Fitzpatrick attended an online session on this framework which was very informative.

**8. PPN Report.**

Katherine Harford presented the PPN report to the LCDCC. Katherine Harford also reported on the development of the linkage groups and gave a very good overview of the current workings of the PPN.

**9. Strategic Items.**

**a. SICAP + ECP Programmes – CCP Report.**

Cllr. Ken Collins presented the report to the LCDCC members on all developments of the SICAP and ECP programmes. Report is on file.

**b. Sláintecare Healthy Communities (SHC).**

Martin Davoren updated the committee. The programme is progressing. The post is currently in process to employ a Sláintecare Healthy Communities Coordinator, Grade (VII). SHC is working with Dublin College University around the implementation of Sláintecare.



**c. Healthy Ireland Fund.**

Martin Davoren presented updates to the LCDC. Transport Mobility Fund held their annual meeting. The Psyched recognition event will take place in May 2026.

**d. LECP 2024-2029 Update.**

Kieran O’Connell updated the LCDC. The 2-year review of the LECP will take place in September 2026. KO’C illustrated the overview of this event to the LCDC. Kieran O’Connell said that the final date of the LECP 2-Year Review will be circulated in due course.

**10. AOB**

Dermot Crosby advised the committee about the Work Placement Experience Programme (WPEP). The WPEP is free of charge to employers if they can provide 30 hours of work experience to a jobseeker for 6 months. Intreo will pay the jobseeker each week, the single rate is €369. The employer is not obliged to hire the jobseeker at the end of work placement, but there are financial supports available to help the employer if they wish to do. The WPEP is available to employers in all sectors and many of the jobseekers are progressing into employment following placement. All the employers of the LCDC members are eligible for the WPEP. More information is available at [www.gov.ie/wpep](http://www.gov.ie/wpep).

Gabrielle O’Keeffe informed the committee that she will be retiring from her role in HSE and hopeful that somebody will be nominated soon. Denis J. Fitzpatrick acknowledged and thanked Gabrielle O’Keeffe for her contribution in the LCDC. Rebecca Loughry also thanked and appreciated Gabrielle O’Keeffe’s contribution to the LCDC on behalf of Cork City Council and wished her well in the future.

Niall O’Keeffe highlighted the Lord Mayor’s Community & Voluntary Awards event which will be held on the 10<sup>th</sup> of June 2026. The closing date for nominating groups closes on 03<sup>rd</sup> April 2026.



### Decisions arising from Meeting.

Decision	
The draft of the LCDC Annual Report 2025 was adopted.	LCDC Consensus.

### Action items arising from meeting.

Action Item from Meeting	
Circulate the webinar to the LCDC	Katherine Harford.
Circulate the Healthy Ireland consultation link to the LCDC.	Busie Mhlophe.
Janet O'Connor to link with Michael Delargey.	Martin Davoren.
Circulate the Work Placement Experience Programme (WPEP) to the LCDC.	Dermot Crosby.

### Next Meeting.

The next LCDC meeting will take place on **Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2026 4.00 p.m. online, Ms Teams.**

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**Denis Leamy**

**Chairperson**

**14<sup>th</sup> April 2026**