



Coiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Áitiúil
Chathair Chorcaí
Cork City Local Community Development
Committee

Cork City Local Community Development Committee (LCDDC)



Annual Report 2025



Table of Contents

Joint Statement by the Chairperson and Chief Officer.....	1	Meeting the Annual Targets.....	9
Introduction and Background	1	Adherence to Budget Parameters.....	10
Purpose and Functions of Cork City LCDC.....	1	Lot level performance.....	10
Cork City LCDC Membership 31 st December 2025	2	Case Study.....	10
New members of the Cork City LCDC 2025.....	3	New Arrivals Programme (SICAP) 2025	11
Induction Programme Delivered to the new LCDC in 2025	3	Overview	11
Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2024-2029	3	Empowering Communities Programme (ECP) 2025	11
Community Associations Seminar 2025.....	4	Approach.....	12
Annual Implementation and Evaluation Section of the LECP 2024-2029	5	Achievements of 2025	13
LECP Lead Partners (Inter-Agency) Annual Implementation Review Workshop.....	6	Sláintecare Healthy Communities.....	15
Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme 2024-2028	9	Healthy Ireland.....	18
Key Achievements of Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2025	9	LCDC Community Funding Schemes	22
		Local Enhancement Programme 2025	22
		Cork City Public Participation Network (PPN)	23
		Appendix 1	24
		Appendix 2	25
		Appendix 3	26



Joint Statement by the Chairperson and Chief Officer Cork City Local Community Development Committee for 2025

As Chairperson and Chief Officer of the Cork city Local Community Development Committee we want to express our immense gratitude to each member of the board. The hard work, dedication, commitment and achievement was evident throughout 2025. We wish to make a special mention of thanks to Cllr Shane O'Callaghan, former Garda Chief Superintendent Thomas Myres and Public Participation Network representative, Melissa Cotter, for their contribution as they stepped down in 2025. The members understand the statutory functioning, the responsibility, the high-level trust and privilege it is to serve on such a dynamic committee. They are dedicated to serving the people of Cork city, especially those on the margins, those disadvantaged and those who through their own organisations create the conditions for a better quality of life for all who live and work in this fantastic city of ours. We welcomed two new LCDC members who joined us in 2025. It is a measure of this successful inter-personal engagement and relationship development across the membership that integration of new members continues to be seamless.

This year's report outlines in detail the overall work achieved and delivered. The implementation and evaluation of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 'Let's Plan Together' 2024-2029 passed its first full year on the 30th May 2025. This culminated in a high-level stakeholder annual review held in City Hall in November 2025. Cork City continues to build on the success of Inter-Agency collaboration, and this is demonstrated in the delivery of the first year of the LECP 2024-2029. We cannot thank enough, all those leaders and visionaries who attended the event. The statistics displayed on the day evidenced the work completed in 2025. What is more heartening is the level of collaboration, focus, comradeship, and compassion to deliver for the people who

deserve to be heard, to be enabled, to have access to education, whichever type they wish to engage in. Education that suits their capabilities and their interests and lets their talents flourish, their skills grow, and their artistic or caring nature enhance our city life. A true city of learning, a city of health and health care, one that is positively impacting citizens lives through the delivery of new climate actions initiatives.

A major responsibility for the LCDC is to deliver the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) in collaboration with the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht (DRCDG) and the contracted programme implementor, Cork City Partnership. 2025, saw yet again, the impressive delivery of SICAP in our communities by Cork City Partnership. We congratulate their community development and administrative staff on a very successful year. The reach into the Local Priority Target Groups was met and they exceeded the SICAP Key Performance Indicators (KPI). The LCDC SICAP Sub-Group members deserve special mention for their due diligence, their commitment and insights in their reviews of SICAP throughout 2025. We thank Pobal for their continuing support and advice.

This annual report for 2025 is an insight into the work of the LCDC. It highlights the extensive programme delivery, allocation of grants, policy development and innovative responses to the economic and community strands we are tasked to deliver on. The report outlines the impactful work of the LCDC and its host organisation, Cork City Council. We recognise the value of collaboration with professional organisations, statutory, civic, business and the community and voluntary sector to deliver for the people of Cork city and thank them for responding to the changing needs of an evolving city.

Ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann na daoine.



**Denis Leamy Chairperson
Cork City LCDC**



**Rebecca Loughry Chief
Officer**



Introduction and Background

Purpose and Functions of Cork City LCDC

Purpose: ‘Section 49A of the Local Government Act 2001 provides for the establishment of LCDCs in all local authority administrative areas “for the purposes of developing, coordinating and implementing a coherent and integrated approach to local and community development”. In this regard, each LCDC will bring together local authority members and officials, state agencies and people actively working with local development, community development, and economic, cultural and environmental organisations to implement a joined-up, cross-sectoral approach to local and community development programming’. (*Revised Guidelines for the Operation of Local Community Development Committees, 2016*).

Functions: Section 128B of the Local Government Act 2001 sets out the functions of LCDCs. These functions include:

- To deliver a Local Economic and Community Plan every six years.
- To coordinate, manage and oversee the implementation of local and community development programmes.
- To improve the coordination of publicly funded local and community development programmes and reduce duplication, and to coordinate generally local and community development programmes within the LCDC’s operational area, and
- To prepare an annual report on the performance of its functions.

As per section 66, promoting community interests includes actions that promote:

- Social inclusion or the social, environmental, recreational, cultural or community development, or
- The general development, including enterprise and economic functions arising from local and community development activities, within the local authority administrative area.

The SICAP Sub-Group: Perform additional responsibilities and additional meetings to review, in detail, the additional programmes covered by the LCDC, including SICAP, ECP, LCDC Grants Review, Sláintecare and Healthy Ireland Programmes.

This Annual Report outlines in detail the performance of Cork City LCDC functions for the year, 2025.



Cork City LCDC Membership 31st December 2025

The Cork City LCDC has a maximum membership of 19 representatives across elected, statutory and non-statutory bodies. As of the 31st of December 2025, the Cork City LCDC had 17 members. Two new members will fill their respective membership in 2026. The day-to-day management of the LCDC is carried out by the Cork City LCDC Chief Officer, Rebecca Loughry supported by the Cork City Council Community Team. Appendix 1 below gives an overview of the level of attendance of the members at the monthly meetings in 2025.

	Denis Leamy Chairperson Chief Executive of Cork ETB
	Rebecca Loughry Chief Officer Cork City Council
	Cllr. Gary O'Brien Cork City Council
	Cllr. John Maher Cork City Council
	Cllr. Tony Fitzgerald Cork City Council
	Dermot Crosby Department of Social Protection
	Gabrielle O'Keeffe Health Service Executive
	Martin Davoren Cork City Council
	Niall O'Keeffe (LEO) Cork City Council
	Bernadette Connolly Cork City Public Participation Network
	Cliona Barnes Cork Business Association
	Cllr. Kenneth Collins Cork City Partnership
	Denis J. Fitzpatrick Cork City Public Participation Network
	Eoin Gunn IBEC
	Katherine Harford Cork City Public Participation Network
	Konrad Im Cork City Public Participation Network
	Michael Delargey ICTU



New members of the Cork City LCDC 2025

Konrad Im, representing the Social Inclusion Pillar of the Cork City Public Participation Network and Cllr Gary O'Brien representing Cork City Council were welcomed to the membership of the LCDC in 2025. Their contribution, skill sets, advocacy and collaborative nature add real value to the work of the LCDC.

Induction Programme Delivered to the new LCDC in 2025

The LCDC members induction programme was delivered to the new members again in 2025. This induction is an intensive but engaging day. It is designed to give the new LCDC members an understanding of their obligations, their responsibilities, the statutory context, the programme and granting oversight and the decision-making process among other elements. See Appendix 2 for the Induction Programme Template.

Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2024-2029

The Local Economic and Community Plan for Cork City guides community and economic development in our city over the next 5 years. The LECP's goals and actions have a special focus on communities experiencing exclusion and disadvantage across the city.

Every effort was made during the public consultation process to seek out and listen to the seldom heard voices in our city. In this way, it is hoped that the plan reflects their needs and demonstrates policymaking where no one is left behind. The plan also reflects a shared



vision within Cork City Council and with our external partners, who have come together to commit to the collaborative delivery of 122 actions over the course of the plan. These actions in 2025 directly improved the neighbourhoods and communities of Cork City and assisted and empowered people to access education and employment opportunities. It also supported and strengthened Cork cities many community and voluntary groups and associations across the city. Cork city thrives on the collaborative work between all these agencies. The LECP 2024-2029 enhanced this collaboration and cooperation to deliver on the plan in 2025.



Community Associations Seminar 2025

On Tuesday, 23rd September 2025, the LCDC and Cork City Council hosted the first annual Community Associations Seminar in Cork City as part of the Local Economic and Community Plan (2024–2029). This seminar was designed specifically for Community Associations with buildings — a direct response to a strong demand during our LECP consultation in 2023.

The seminar participants consisted of the following:

- Community Association representatives from across the city.
- 25 exhibitors offering a wide range of community supports.
- Cork City Council elected members and officials.
- Expert speakers covering key topics including succession planning, climate action, insurance, and funding opportunities.

A highlight of the day was a Community Case Study presented by Roy Watson, manager of the Glen Resource and Sports Centre, showcasing his work with the South Parish Community Centre.

We also shared the results of our ‘Community Associations Self-Assessment Survey’, which asked associations to reflect on their work. The survey gathered data on board membership size and demographics, staffing, and the top three priority topics for each community association. Each association received an individual report comparing their results to sector averages, providing a valuable resource for both local development and city-wide strategic support. The engagement throughout the day was fantastic, and the group discussion at the end was especially insightful. This seminar will now be an annual event, and the LCDC is excited to continue building this platform in collaboration with Community Associations to ensure it meets their evolving needs and challenges.





The Lord Mayor of Cork, Cllr Fergal Dennehy, former Chairperson of the LCDC and the secretary of the Togher Community Association, is pictured above delivering his opening address to the seminar attendees.



Cork City Council's (LCDC) Social Inclusion Development Officer, PJ Murphy, delivering his presentation of the findings of the Community Association's Survey to the seminar.

Annual Implementation and Evaluation Section of the LECP 2024-2029

The annual implementation and evaluation of the LECP 2024-2029 is a key corner stone of the plan's delivery. The Implementation plan requires a minimum of six projects to present on their progress to the LCDC annually. This continued throughout 2025 with the following progress presentations being delivered to the monthly LCDC meetings of 2025.

- **January Meeting:** Janet O'Connor, Healthy Ireland Co-Ordinator presented to the committee. Janet outlined her role as a Healthy Ireland Co-Ordinator. She gave an overview of the 2025 activity workplan and budgeting profile. She also gave details of reporting structures and timelines. **(LECP Action 1.1.4 and 1.3.7)**
- **February Meeting:** Donna O'Keeney, Cork Child Friendly City Development Worker presented to the LCDC Committee on the development of the Child Friendly Inter-Agency work and the progress of the application to UNICEF Child Friendly City Status for Cork City. **(LECP Action 2.3.5 and 2.3.5a)**



- **April Meeting:** Jamie Cuthbert Dindabure, Administrative Officer, Cork City Council, presented on 'Recreate Shandon CLG' progress and publication of their plan for the Shandon area under the Economic High-Level Goal 4. **(LECP Action 4.2.4.)**
- **May Meeting:** Meadhbh Furlong, Day Service Co-ordinator, L'Arche Community Cork, welcomed the LCDC members to their Day Service Centre. Meadhbh gave the LCDC members present an overview of the work of the centre. The LCDC members were invited to use the Coffee shop. They also got an overview of sensory garden. This was enlightening experience for the LCDC members of how grant funding can impact so positively on the ground. The L'Arche Community Cork facilitated the LCDC to hold their meeting in the centre after Meadhbh's presentation and tour. **(LECP Action 2.3.4)**
- **June Meeting:** Kieran O'Connell, Social Inclusion Specialist, reported the update on the progress of the work to the LCDC members. He also reported on a significant development on the delivery of the LECP to the LCDC of the recent recruitment of PJ Murphy to Cork City Council as a Social Inclusion Development Worker. PJ will be collaborating on the implementation of the LECP's High Level Goals. **(Implementation Section of the LECP)**
- **September Meeting:** William O'Brien, founding member of 'See My Skills', made a presentation to the LCDC meeting on "See My Skills" (SMS) Organisation. See My Skills supports people with neurodivergence and/or a physical disability into education and employment. William outlined how they build skills, boost confidence, and open doors. **(LECP Action 4.3.4)**
- **October Meeting:** LECP 2024-2029 Presentation by PJ Murphy, Social Inclusion Development Worker to update committee members on the LECP 2024-2029 action tracker. PJ gave a demonstration of the tracker and invited the members feedback. **(Implementation Section of the LECP)**

LECP Lead Partners (Inter-Agency) Annual Implementation Review Workshop

The implementation of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2024-2029 requires an annual Inter-Agency (Lead Partners) review to take place. The LCDC and Community Team in Cork City Council, PJ Murphy, Kieran O'Connell and Sibusisiwe Mhlophe organised the first Lead Partners Inter-Agency Implementation Review Workshop. The venue for the day was the Concert Hall in City Hall, and the objective of the day was to honestly look at the plan and discuss its progress.



There were two group workshop elements. Firstly, the 67 attendees, representing various agencies, were grouped by the High-Level Goal they are most associated with and examined several actions at various stages of completion.

Kieran O' Connell, Social Inclusion Specialist, presented on how the LECP is monitored continuously, yearly and biennially. The workshop then heard about three different actions, all at different stages of progression. They offered insight into what has worked, what barriers they faced and what major challenges presented. These included presentations from Catherine Kelly, (SEO) Karen Duke (Access Education Officer) and Chris Dorgan, Irish Language Officer. Chris delivered his presentation bilingually, as Gaeilge agus as Béarla.

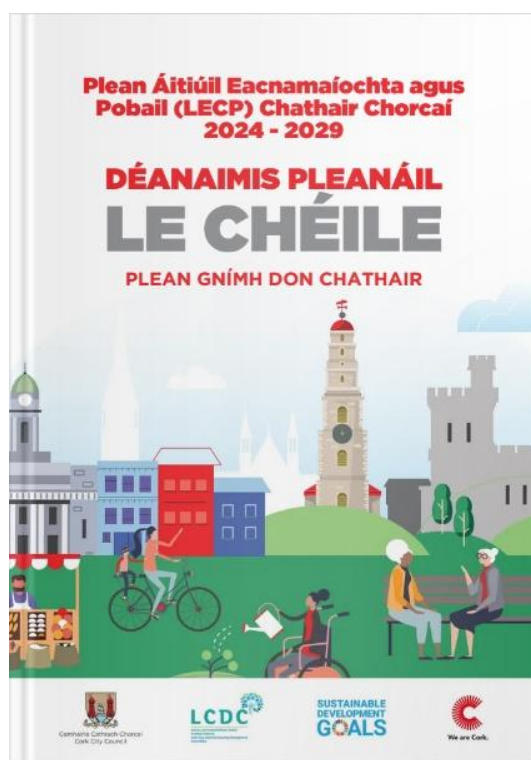
Secondly, discussions saw a cross-pollination of the High-Level Goal leads, where the groups collectively discussed several actions that were prioritised in the first workshop. The workshop looked at solutions, how to help projects that are being held back by challenges, identify good practices that could be replicated and asked all participants what was missing from the plan.

The day finished with two great performances from the Sauti Studio Project and Céili Cois Locha. Both were recent nominees for the Pride of Place awards. The LECP Social Inclusion Team reviewed all the content from workshop which will help in our planning for the first full 2-year review to be held in 2026.

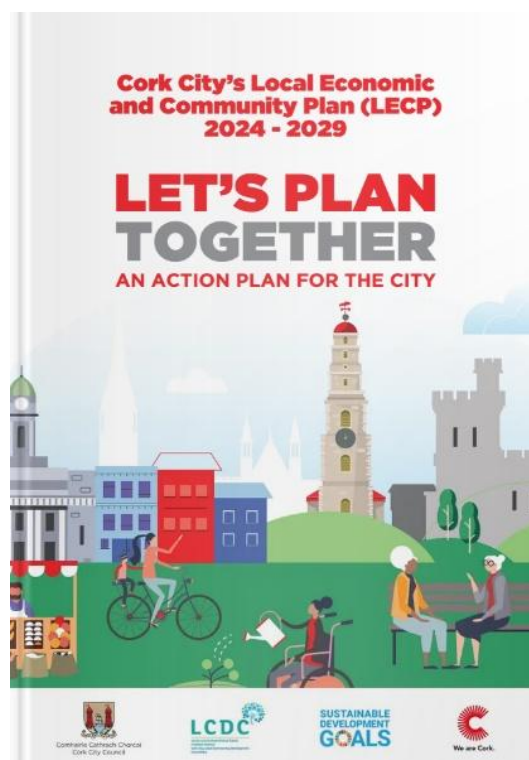
Tá an LCDC tiomanta do chur chun cinn na Gaeilge ó thaobh an Fhorbairt Pobail de agus thacaigh sé le Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí i rith na bliana ach go háirithe ar Sheachtain Ná Gaeilge i mí an Mhárta 2025. Cuirfidh an LCDC an teanga chun cinn tríd an PÁEP a bhfuil gníomh tiomnaithe aige do chur chun cinn na teanga thar na sé bliana amach romhainn. Faoin Sprioc Ardleibhéil, Cathair atá tógtha ar Chomhpháirtíocht, Cuimsiú agus Comhionannas, Gníomh 2.5.4 'Forbairt straitéise teanga a sheachadadh.

The LCDC is committed to the promotion of the Irish language in terms of its community development and supported Cork City Council across the year but also on Seachtain Ná Gaeilge in March 2025. The LCDC will promote the language through the LECP which has an action dedicated to the promotion of the language over the next six years.





Chun an PAEP a léamh i nGaeilge, cliceáil [anseo](#)



To read the LECP in English, click [here](#)



Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme 2024-2028

Key Achievements of Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2025

Meeting the Annual Targets

2025 was the second year of the new SICAP programme. The LCDC reviewed the Mid-Year Performance Review in June 2025 and as Cork City Partnership had successfully reached all mid-year performance indicators, the LCDC approved that stage of the SICAP programme. Over the period of January and February 2026 the LCDC SICAP Sub-Group and the broader LCDC members reviewed and reported that it, alongside Pobal's own high-level review, approved both the End-of-Year Annual Performance review for 2025 having met all the programme annual targets and financial adherence to all parameters. The LCDC would like to congratulate Cork City Partnership for the level of performance ensuring the programme was delivering in the areas and with the people most in need of this excellent programme of inclusion and community education, training and development.



Action Progress Report			
Year	2025		
Lot	Cork City (17-1)		
Annual KPI Targets & Actuals			
	Target	Actuals	%Achieved
KPI 1	96	155	161%
KPI 2	1047	1350	129%

The figures above show the extent of how Cork City Partnership exceeded on each Key Performance Indicator. Cork City Partnership supported 155 Community Groups (KPI 1) representing a 61% rise on the projected target and 1350 Individuals, (KPI 2) a 29% rise on the projected target at the start of the year for those who accessed the programme.

Pobal also reported, *'A comprehensive update on each action has been provided stating clearly what was delivered, who the beneficiaries were and the outcomes. Designated disadvantaged areas supported are referenced throughout the actions.'*

A good quality Annual Progress Report was submitted and completed in line with the guidance. The report details the prevailing needs and challenges facing each beneficiary type and corresponding



support and activities to address these. The APR reflects on supports to people with a criminal history and has used this as an example of a project approach that worked well in 2025. As this is a new target group for the programme there is good practical learning provided. The report notes various challenges in delivering the programme across various target groups, as well as the challenge pertaining to the Disadvantaged Communities as a target group. A growing demand for mental health supports is highlighted in the report. Practical examples of work delivered are used to articulate their approach to applying the horizontal principles into their work'. (Pobal High-Level Review 2025).

Adherence to Budget Parameters

The adherence to budget parameters is reflected across the SICAP programme. The administration percentage was 23.93% for the SICAP Programme and 6.98% for the New Arrivals Programme, both within the threshold allowed which is 25%.

The KPI splits were also both within the approved distribution from the Annual Plan 2025 for both SICAP and New Arrivals. This is reported as

- KPI 1 51.46% KPI 2 48.54%.
- KPI 1 22.14% KPI 2 77.86%.

The total grant amount reported is within the maximum allowed which is 7.5% of the total Action Costs percentage budget for the SICAP programme at 7.08% and the New Arrivals at 7.01%.

Both the SICAP and New Arrivals programme underspends were within the maximum 5% allowed.

Lot level performance

Taken in conjunction with the Action Progress Report, The Individual Caseload by Local Priority Target Groups and the Lot Summary Report and Dashboards on IRIS, all highlight the delivery of SICAP for 2025.

Case Study

The case study presented by Cork City Partnership (CCP) has met the guidelines issued by Pobal in 2025 and presented to the LCDC in October 2025. The case study was under the theme Community Education, Changing Lives. Cork City Partnership presented on two core areas of the work under this goal. Lifelong Learning and Education Objective KPI 2-1: SICAP target groups participate in lifelong learning and progress their formal education as well as 'Core Area of Work KPI 2-3: Soft Skills and Wellbeing, Objective KPI 2-3: Support SICAP target groups to improve their soft skills and wellbeing'.

It was noted that 'This case study highlighted the vital role that Community Education plays in supporting individual wellbeing and promoting positive mental health. Through a video case study, it



demonstrates the range of community education initiatives delivered by CCP under SICAP, focusing on their impact on participants' mental health, confidence, and social connection. Importantly, it included the voices of participants themselves, sharing how they became involved, the benefits they experienced, and the challenges they encountered along the way'.

New Arrivals Programme (SICAP) 2025

The end of year report outlines in detail the level of supports provided by the programme for those who accessed the New Arrivals element of the SICAP programme. The new arrivals' hub in the Cork Migrant Centre is progressing very well in its second year of contract with CCP as is the Ukrainian Hub, both continuing to add real value to the engagement of IPA and Ukrainian refugees. The excellent cooperation and collaboration between the SICAP Cork City Partnership Team and the Cork City Council Local Authority Integration Team enables quality work from several initiatives and interventions.

Cork City Councils Community Team continued to refer new groups and individuals to Cork City Partnership for governance training. English language classes, among other support for employment and training. Collaboration between both agencies is key to the success of all the elements of the SICAP programme each agency runs for people who flee wars and famine, persecution and discrimination. Long may this work continue.

Overview

The LCDC once again this year congratulate Cork City Partnership on its implementation and delivery of this important programme tackling such a wide variety of community development, social inclusion and social economic disparities and inequality. Delivering the programme for 2025, exceeding the KPIs and within budget, is a huge achievement on collaborative engagement between the LCDC, CCP, CCC, POBAL and the Department of Rural & Community Development and the Gaeltacht.

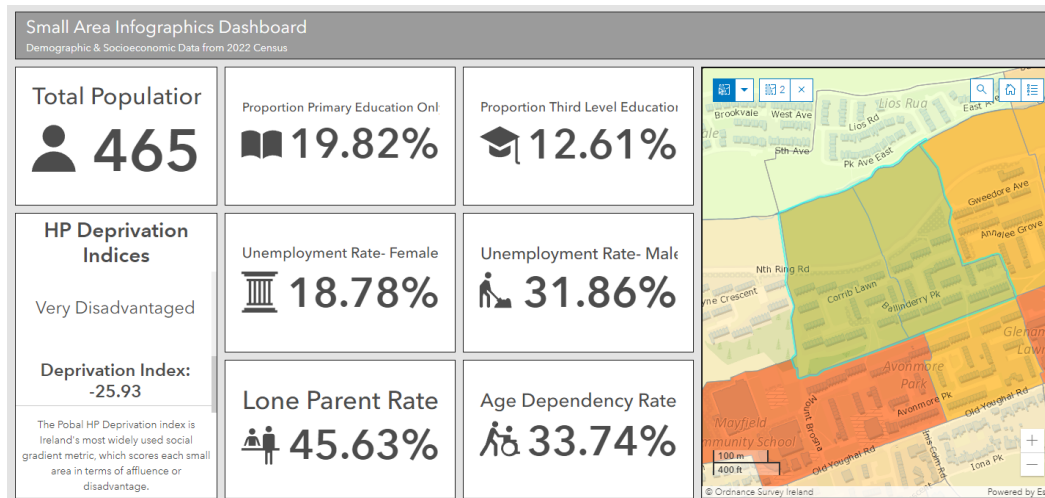
Empowering Communities Programme (ECP) 2025

The Empowering Communities Programme (ECP) aims to support communities experiencing disadvantage by strengthening local capacity and improving access to services, training, education using a community development model of intervention and support. The DRCDG fund this project to the value of €140,000 per annum. The LCDC administer this funding on behalf of the DRCDG and both CCP and the LCDC furnish mid-year and end of year reports to the DRCDG each year.

The pilot programme made successful interventions and supports for the first two years in Killala Gardens, Knocknaheeny. The rationale is evidenced below for moving the Empowering Communities Programme (ECP) from Killala Gardens to Ballinderry Park and Corrib Lawn in Mayfield. This decision was based on Cork City Partnerships identification on the high need for such a supportive intervention. Cork City Partnership (CCP) as the programme implementer had completed a two-year programme in



Killala Gardens and agreed to stay involved in Killala Gardens with a limited background support as part of their exit strategy. The move was clearly defined and was agreed with the LCDC.

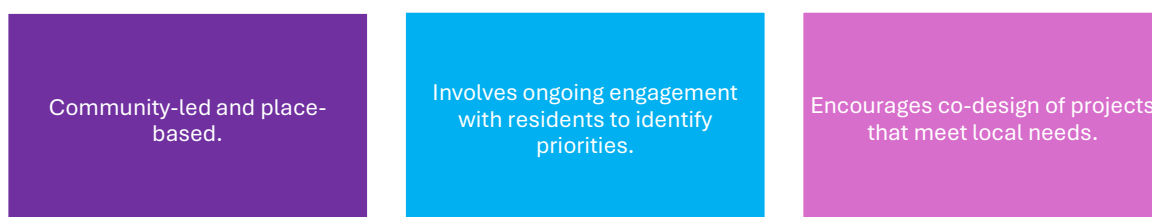


These statistics show the area has not benefited from the general economic development's other areas of the city have benefited from.

Core Goals



Approach





Achievements of 2025

Community Clean-Ups: Regular litter-picking and use of funded SKIPS increased pride and ownership of shared spaces.

Painting Projects: Creative art work projects in various spaces within the estate has added vibrancy.

New Street Signage: Clear, updated signs improved navigation and community visibility.

Local Authority & Councillor Engagement: Improved dialogue, responsiveness, and visibility of community concerns.

Sports on the Green: Encouraged youth engagement, physical activity, and community cohesion.

Pop-Up Workshops: Skill-building and creative sessions promoted learning and participation.

Health & Wellbeing Events: Focus on mental and physical wellness through accessible, local initiatives.

Family Fun Days: Brought residents together, strengthened neighbourly ties, and fostered inclusivity. (See the report below in the Photograph in the local Echo newspaper from the 18th August 2025)

Community Bus Trips: Facilitated social inclusion and provided positive shared experiences.



Photographs above taken from the local newspaper The Echo, 18th August 2025.



Community Gardens

The ECP Community Engagement Worker, Yvonne Quilligan's most successful work is often hidden. To Yvonne's credit she has, as she did, in Killala Gardens, built up the trust of the neighbours.

This trust building is crucial to the successful engagement of the residents in the above events, empowerment training opportunities, etc.

This was witnessed recently by a visit Cork City Council (CCC) staff made to the area with the older residents who continually called to the CCP office in the area during the hour the staff were present.



Sláintecare Healthy Communities

Sláintecare Success of 2025

The Sláintecare Healthy Communities (SHC) Programme is a national cross-government effort focused on reducing health inequalities in communities experiencing the highest levels of deprivation. It delivers targeted wellbeing supports through partnerships between local authorities, the HSE and community groups. Coordinated on behalf of Cork City Council by Local Development Officers, the Sláintecare areas in Cork City are the northwest and northeast of the city.

A Grief and Loss project, in conjunction with Creative Ireland. This project connected schools, older people's groups and community artists. This work culminated in public exhibitions in Mayfield and Hollyhill Libraries, showcasing installations, music, storytelling, and children's artwork.



Grief & Loss Project in conjunction with Creative Ireland. Photo Credit: Cork City Council



Significant progress was made under Enhancement Fund projects. Tinker's Cross Park was launched, and footfall counters were installed as part of a co-funded initiative with Cork Sports Partnership, Cork City Council Parks and SHC.



The Kabin Studio Health Activity Hub was launched in October by the Lord Mayor of Cork, Cllr Fergal Dennehy. This community space is a huge addition to the Kabin and allows young people to record, mix and create on site.



The new cabin was installed over the summer. IMAGE: Kabin Studio

"The expansion was funded by Healthy Communities, Sláintecare, Cork City Council, the City Northwest Quarter Regeneration Fund and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage" (The Journal, 17th October 2025.)



Other programmes that the Sláintecare Healthy Communities (SHC) Programme supported throughout 2025 were the first Cork-based Foróige Leadership for Life programme in July 2025, the commencement of a 21-month Health Literacy Module involving ETB and DCU, and a collaboration with the HSE Sláintecare Healthy Communities Coordinator and the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Food & Nutrition Worker on a food-mapping consultation in the northwest and northeast communities.

Sláintecare Healthy Communities (SHC) Programme also began the administration and rollout of the Genio Trust Fund to address the social determinants of health for Travellers in association with the Traveller Integration Group.



Healthy Ireland



Éire Shláintiúil
Rialtas Áitiúil
Healthy Ireland
Local Government

Healthy Ireland Cork City continues to strengthen local capacity and contribute to long-term, sustainable wellbeing outcomes. The programme remains an integral part of the LCDC's ambition to build a healthier, more equitable, and more connected Cork City.

In 2025 €75,000 in grant funding supported six groups including Cultural companions, Green Spaces for Health, Let's Play Cork and Transport Mobility Forum, Psyched (Positive steps you can have every day) and The Sexual Health Network.

Sexual Health Network

The Sexual Health Network encompasses eighteen organisations comprising of statutory and non-statutory agencies with an interest of focus on the sexual health, sexuality, and wellbeing of clients. It is the only Sexual Health Network in Ireland, providing a forum for knowledge and information sharing, capacity building, awareness raising and streamlining referral opportunities.

The Sexual Health Network ran a highly successful marketing campaign on the 22nd of September to 9th of October 2025. With a 25% increase in direct searches and website traffic. Advertisements were displayed at eight commuter points on suburban rail lines, 15 bus super sides, 30 x A2 posters were displayed inside city and suburban bus routes, 1 trans vision at Kent station and 1 x 48 sheet on Glanmire road.



Psyched

Psyched Steering Group comprises of representatives from HSE Mental Health Services, Health Promotion & Improvement, Cork City Council, Cork County Council, UCC and community workplace partners. Psyched is committed to promoting better mental health in workplaces.

On 13 May 2025, forty workplaces across Cork and Kerry were officially recognised at the annual Psyched Recognition and Celebration Ceremony for their outstanding commitment to promoting mental health and wellbeing in the workplace. Hosted in the Millennium Hall, City Hall, by Deputy Lord Mayor Cllr. Honore Kamegni and Deputy County Mayor Cllr. Dominic Finn, the event brought together



leaders from across the public, private, and community sectors. Deepening workplaces understanding of mental health and reducing the stigma towards mental ill health in our workplaces and communities. Keynote speakers Andy Philips, HSE Southwest REO and Professor Brian Dolan emphasised the vital role of kindness, compassion, and human connection at work.

Psyched delivered several mental health awareness training workshops to over 160 staff of workplaces”. Workshops were delivered in person and online.



Cultural Companions

Cultural Companions are a Muintir na Tire project with a steering committee made up of public sector and community partners. Connecting older adults with a shared interest in cultural and arts events throughout Cork City and County.

In 2025 they facilitated 58 inclusive cultural events and workshops. Recording 915 individual attendances, engaging a membership of 940+ older people. Evidence from 2025 shows that regular independent networking increased from 9% to 17%, and occasional networking from 24% to 33%, demonstrating enhanced social connectivity. These activities provide participants with meaningful, shared experiences, reinforcing community belonging and wellbeing. Cultural Companions also offer a Culture Call. A proactive check in initiative designed to support members.

When surveyed 97.5% of members surveyed reported a positive member experience impact on their health and wellbeing *“Cultural Companions has opened my life up and I don't feel isolated anymore. It's changed my life, and I'm so grateful”* Member in Cork City.





Let's Play Cork



Let's Play Cork strives to create inclusive play opportunities for all ages and abilities across Cork. Play Development officer is a part time post co-funded by Healthy Ireland Cork City and Healthy County, employed by community partners, Meitheal Mara with a steering committee made up of public sector and community partners.

2025 included a calendar of popup play events, with an estimated combined reach of more than 5000 people as well as supporting Cork City Council's initiative 'Open Streets' in Ballincollig and Cork Summer Show. Let's Play Cork also delivered National Play Day activities in Blackpool Underpass featuring circus skills workshop and spray paint jam along with traditional street games.

Seventy-two new Community Play Leaders were certified in 2025 through a collaboration with MTU Students studying Sport & Exercise and Recreation & Leisure. Yielding 177% increase on the number of Play Leaders trained in 2024.

In April 2025, Let's Play Cork's new model to incorporate Play into community planning consultation processes, called PlaysMaking was designated an official URBACT Good Practice at an award ceremony in Wroclaw, Poland.



Green Spaces for Health

Green Spaces for Health is co funded by Healthy Ireland, Cork City Council, HSE and Social and Health Education Project (SHEP). Greenspaces coordinator Maria runs two gardens, Togher Community Garden located in Clashduv Park Togher, and Park Eoin off Quaker Road, a garden for biodiversity which the project have been co-managing with City Council since 2019.

In February, the project opened The Biodiversity hub in Ballincollig, hosting regular public talks from ecologists and specialists working in the area of biodiversity and nature. Volunteer numbers have gone from 10 to 84 since inception. GSFH works with over twenty schools including students on placement from MTU and UCC. GSFH developed a cookbook 'Togher Community Garden's Cookbook' is now on sale in the Ballymaloo shop.



Transport Mobility Forum

Transport Mobility Forum (TMF) Coordinator is part funded by Healthy Ireland. TMF aims to increase the number of people travelling through sustainable and active travel in Cork. The TMF plays a key role in communicating, coordinating & facilitating the dissemination of best practice between members which in turn increases the capacity effectiveness & efficiency of members' work.

TMF seek additional funding for other projects to deliver transport infrastructure, provision and or seek to effect behaviour change within transport. Allowing them to be a partner in the EMBRACER INTERREG EU project bringing best practice from all over Europe to our members in Cork, to deliver thirty seven bike week and six walking week events.



TMF participating in the Embracer Project with a staff exchange event in Cagliari in 2025.



LCDC Community Funding Schemes

Local Enhancement Programme 2025



The Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht's (DRCDG) Local Enhancement Programme (LEP) 2025 provided capital and running costs funding to support community groups across Ireland.

This capital fund supported groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas to carry out necessary repairs and improvements to their facilities, purchase equipment such as tables and chairs, tools and signage, laptops and printers, lawnmowers, canopies and training equipment etc.

This funding helped communities, community groups and committees, allowing them to continue to provide valuable services to the people in their area, and in the process strengthen the bonds that tie communities together. The fund also aimed to support local strategic priorities through linkages with the Local Economic Community Plans (LECPs).

The Cork City LCDC LEP 2025 allocation: Total €284,887.00

This total amount comprised of:

- **€244,189.00** capital funding for the Local Enhancement Programme to use towards carrying out necessary repairs and improvements to facilities, energy efficiency type projects, purchase of equipment etc.
- **€40,698** current funding to be used to cover running costs e.g. rental/lease costs, utility bills, insurance costs.

The oversight and evaluation in this LCDC LEP grant application process involved mutual evaluation by the Grants Assessment Team within the Community Section of Cork City Council. This was presented to the LCDC SICAP Sub-Group, who in turn made their recommendations to the full membership of the LCDC. The final list of successful applicants (See Appendix 3 below) was then agreed with the DRCDG. All the successful applicants received their funding by the end of year, 2025.



Cork City Public Participation Network (PPN)

The Cork City Public Participation Network continue to play a pivotal and influential role in the annual work of the LCDC. The LCDC has a total of five members representing the three pillars of the PPN:



The PPN representative members on the LCDC report back, at each monthly meeting, to and from the wider PPN network and linkage groups who they represent on the LCDC. This ensures public empowerment, public participation, decision making and public influence in the LCDC.

The PPN members are also very active on the SICAP Sub-Group which is tasked to review many of the programmes and funding in detail for the full members of the LCDC. This involves participation in several additional meetings through the year. The LCDC is extremely proud of its engagement, interaction and collaboration with this representative body ensuring our commitment to real and meaningful public participation in all the LCDC obligations and workloads.

Appendix 1

Name	Jan '25	Feb '25	Mar '25	Apr '25	May '25	Jun '25	Jul '25	Sep '25	Oct '25
Bernadette Connolly	✓	Apologies	✓	✓	Apologies	✓	Apologies	✓	✓
Cliona Barnes	✓	✓	Apologies	✓	✓	Apologies	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Gary O'Brien	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	Apologies	✓
Cllr. John Maher	Apologies	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Kenneth Collins	Apologies	Apologies	Apologies	Apologies	✓	✓	Apologies	Apologies	Apologies
Cllr. Shane O'Callaghan	Apologies	✓	✓	✓	Apologies	Apologies	★	★	★
Cllr. Tony Fitzgerald	Apologies	✓	✓	✓	Apologies	Apologies	Apologies	✓	✓
Denis Leamy	✓	✓	Apologies	✓	Apologies	✓	Apologies	✓	✓
Denis J. Fitzpatrick	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dermot Crosby	Apologies	✓	✓	Apologies	✓	✓	✓	✓	Apologies
Eoin Gunn	✓	✓	Apologies	✓	✓	Apologies	✓	✓	✓
Gabrielle O'Keeffe	Apologies	✓	✓	Apologies	✓	✓	Apologies	✓	✓
Katherine Harford	Apologies	✓	✓	✓	Apologies	✓	Apologies	✓	✓
Konrad Im	★	★	★	★	★	★	✓	✓	✓
Majo Rivas	✓	✓	✓	Apologies	Apologies	Apologies	★	★	★
Martin Davoren	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Apologies	Apologies	✓	✓
Michael Delargey	★	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Melissa Cotter	Apologies	Apologies	✓	Apologies	Apologies	Apologies	Apologies	Apologies	★
Niall O'Keeffe	✓	✓	✓	Apologies	Apologies	✓	✓	✓	Apologies
Rebecca Loughry	Apologies	✓	✓	Apologies	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Thomas Myers	✓	✓	Apologies	Apologies	Apologies	✓	Apologies	Apologies	Apologies

There was no meeting held in August, November, and December 2025.



Appendix 2

LCDC Induction Day Template

Venue

Date

13.00-14.00 p.m. Lunch and network	
14.00-14.45 (45 mins)	<u>Section 1 – Cork City LCDC History, Statutory Standing and LCDC Guidance Q&A</u> Topic author to introduce themselves and topic 1) LCDC Chief Officer, (10 mins) 2) LCDC Admin (15 Mins) 3) LCDC Members Introduce themselves, the agency they represent and briefly speak to how they can bring their skills sets to bare on the work of the LCDC. (20 mins)
14:45-15:30 (45 mins)	<u>Section 2 – LECP In Action</u> Topic author to introduce themselves and topic 1) LECP and its implementation; (15 Mins) 2) A City of Learning & Culture (15 mins) 3) A City Leading on Sustainability and Climate Action (15 mins)
15:30-15.45 Tea/Coffee Break	
15:45-16:30 (45 mins)	<u>Section 3 – SICAP, ECP, Sláintecare and Healthy Ireland & PPN Overview plus Q&A</u> Topic author to introduce themselves and topic 1) LCDC Programme Supports (2 mins) 2) CCP's (SICAP) and (ECP) (18 mins) 3) HI & Sláintecare (15 Mins) 4) PPN (10 mins)
16:30-17:00 (30 mins)	LCDC members reflections, hopes and challenges. Open discussion –CCC to Facilitate

Appendix 3

Below are the recipients of Cork City LCDC Local Enhancement Programme (LEP) 2025 funding.

There were two funding streams available - Capital Funding and Running Costs Funding.

Group/Organisation LEP 2025	Awarded under Capital Fund
Ard na Rí Day Centre	€3,000.00
Ballincollig Community Bridge Club	€1,500.00
Ballincollig Scout Group	€5,430.00
Ballyphehane Community Association CLG	€2,311.55
Ballyphehane Tidy Towns	€3,040.00
Bishopstown Scouts	€1,000.00
Blackpool Community Centre	€2,311.55
Blarney Street & Surrounding areas Community Association	€2,311.54
CDYS The Hut	€2,311.54
Citadel / Project of International Community Dynamics CLG - County area	€2,117.00
Clogheen/Kerry Pike Community Association	€2,311.54
Co Cork Beekeepers Association	€825.00
Community Connect	€1,000.00
Coolmine TC	€7,500.00
Coolmine TC - North	€1,500.00
Cork Academy of Music	€1,000.00
Cork Biodiversity Hub	€1,500.00
Cork Cat Action Trust	€500.00
Cork City Community Radio	€7,000.00
Cork Community Art Link	€9,295.00
Cork Community Bikes	€800.00
Cork Community Media Hub	€1,000.00
Cork Counselling Services	€3,200.00
Cork Deaf Association	€1,500.00
Cork Foyer	€2,500.00
Cork Nature Network	€1,843.80
Cork Samaritans	€5,000.00
Douglas Community Association	€2,311.54
Douglas Tidy Towns	€800.00
Douglas/Frankfield Men's Shed	€1,500.00
Down Syndrome Cork	€4,029.65
Eating Disorder Centre Cork	€2,000.00
Edo State Community Cork	€1,000.00
Gender Rebels Ltd	€800.00
Glanmire Mens Shed	€10,000.00
Glen Community Association	€1,000.00
Good Shepherd Cork, Baile an Aoire Supported Housing	€5,000.00
Graffiti Theatre Company	€5,000.00
Grange/Frankfield Active Retired Group	€1,500.00
Gurranabraher Parochial Hall	€5,000.00
IECOCORK	€2,500.00
Irish Bee Conservation Project	€600.00
Kilcully Campsite	€2,375.00
LINQ Ireland (formerly LINC)	€2,000.00
Mahon Association CLG	€7,311.54
Mahon CDP	€3,518.50
Mahon FRC	€5,000.00
Mahon Tidy Towns	€2,497.50
Mayfield East Community Association	€2,311.55
Mayfield Integrated Community Development Project	€3,131.50
Mayfield Men's Shed	€1,000.00
Mayfield Youth Café	€1,000.00
Meitheal Mara	€999.80



Group/Organisation LEP 2025 Cont'd.	Awarded under Capital Fund
Middle Parish Community Association	€2,311.55
Monard Rathpeacon Community Centre Ltd	€3,500.00
Nasc, the Migrant and Refugee Rights Centre	€1,986.90
Newbury House Family Centre CLG	€3,756.65
Northside Community Enterprises	€5,000.00
Polish Culture Centre & Library ABC EduLibrary CLG	€751.00
Respond Day Care for Older People	€10,000.00
Roches Buildings Resource Centre	€2,311.54
Roches Buildings Resource Centre	€1,200.00
Sample-Studios	€1,699.00
Sexual Health Centre	€1,319.48
Shandon Mens Shed	€700.00
South Parish Community Centre	€2,250.00
St Anne's Day Nursery CLG	€5,000.00
St Brendan's, The Glen, Senior Citizens CLG	€1,200.00
St Josephs Community Association Ltd	€2,311.54
St Luke's Charity & Home	€5,000.00
The Cottage Community Café at Rainbow Club Cork	€6,000.00
The Glen Resource Centre CLG	€2,210.42
Together-Razem Centre	€1,000.00
Togher Community Association CLG	€2,311.54
Togher Community Garden	€7,321.00
Togher Family Centre CLG	€5,000.00
Togher Men's Shed	€3,000.00
Togher Tidy Towns	€5,000.00
UP Cork LGBTI+ Youth Project	€2,000.00
Upper Glanmire Community Association	€2,311.54
Wellsprings t/a Huruma CLG	€5,000.00
Young Men Christian Association, Cork Branch	€4,941.74



“Minister of State, Jerry Buttimer T.D. at the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht at Togher Family Centre announcing the successful community and voluntary projects applicants across the state who will receive DRCDG, LCDC, Local Enhancement Programme Grants 2025” (Business Cork, 2025).



Group/Organisation Local Enhancement Programme 2025	Awarded under Running Costs
2nd Cork Ballyphehane Scout Group	€410.00
43rd / 70th Bishopstown Scouts	€410.00
BALANCE	€410.00
Ballincollig Mens Shed	€330.00
Ballincollig Scout Group	€410.00
Ballyphehane Community Association CLG	€650.00
Ballyphehane Pipe Band	€706.00
Ballyphehane Tidy Towns	€210.00
Ballyphehane Togher Community Development Project CLG	€491.95
Ballyvolane Community Association	€310.00
Ballyvolane Glen Dublin Hill Mens Shed	€922.00
Bishopstown Community Association	€410.00
Bishopstown Men's Shed	€650.00
Bishopstown Tidy Towns	€278.00
Blackpool Area Group C.E. Scheme	€722.32
Blackpool Community Centre	€410.00
Clogheen/Kerry Pike Community Association	€410.00
Cork City Community Radio	€410.00
Cork Community Bikes	€540.00
Cork Deaf Association	€810.00
Cork Disabled Persons Organisation	€410.00
Cork Dragons	€410.00
Cork Stroke Support CLG	€810.00
Covers of Comfort	€650.00
Douglas Park Community Garden	€310.00
Down Syndrome Cork	€810.00
Fairhill Fairfield Community Association	€590.38
Farranree Community Association CLG	€798.80
Farranree Family Resource Centre	€410.00
Friday Morning Drop in Group	€410.00
Gay Project CLG	€810.00
IECOCORK	€810.00
Irish Bee Conservation Project CLG	€330.00
Irish Sudden Infant Death Association T/A FirstLight	€410.00
Kilcully campsite	€410.00
Let's Grow Together! Infant & Childhood Partnerships CLG	€810.00
Mahon CDP	€410.00
Mahon Community Centre	€810.00
Mahon FRC	€650.00
Mahon Tidy Towns	€610.00
Mayfield Arts Centre, Newbury House Family Centre	€810.00
Mayfield East Community Association	€330.00
Mayfield Integrated Community Development Project	€410.00
Multicultural Ireland	€810.00
NASC the Migrant and Refugee Centre	€410.00
Northside Ladies	€210.00
Polish Culture Centre & Library ABC EduLibrary CLG	€410.00
Sample-Studios	€850.00
Saoirse Ethnic Hands on Deck	€810.00
Shandon Area Renewal Association	€491.95
Shandon Mens Shed	€730.00
Shine A Light Suicide and Mental Health Awareness CLG	€810.00
South Parish Community Centre	€410.00
South Parish Old Folks Club	€330.00
South Presentation Centre CLG / Nano Nagle Place (Cork Migrant Centre)	€810.00
St Brendan's Daycentre, The Glen, Senior Citizens, CLG	€970.00
St Johns Ambulance - Glanmire	€810.00



Group/Organisation Local Enhancement Programme 2025	Awarded under Running Costs
St Mary's Senior Citizens	€810.00
Sudanese Community Association Cork Ireland	€810.00
The Carraig Parish and Community Centre CLG (Amalgamated with previous application)	€810.00
The Glen Resource Centre	€410.00
The Sunday Afternoon Tea Dance	€610.00
Together-Razem Centre	€410.00
Togher Community Association CLG	€810.00
Togher Men's Shed	€653.03
Togher Tidy Towns	€500.00
Tower Active Retirement	€330.00
UP Cork LGBTI+ Youth Project	€610.00
Vision Community Support Services (VCSS)	€810.00
Waterloo Renewal Group	€533.57
Wilton Ladies Community Group	€610.00



"The Glen Community Garden, located in the grounds of The Glen Resource Centre" The Glen Resource Centre website.