



An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail
Department of Rural and
Community Development



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Libraries Development and Community Policy
DRCD





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Government policy on LCDs

- **Putting People First: role of LAs**
“leading economic, social and community development”
- **Local Government Reform Act, 2014**
“developing, coordinating and implementing a coherent and integrated approach to local and community development”
- **Our Public Service 2020 – Action 9**
“the primary vehicle for collaboration between all national public service providers at local level”



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THE PURPOSE OF LCDCS

“developing, coordinating and implementing a coherent and integrated approach to local and community development”.

LCDs bring together

- local authority members and officials
- State Agencies
- People actively working with Local Development and Community Development
- Economic, cultural and environmental organisations

with a view to

- implementing a joined-up, cross-sectoral approach to local and community development programming

through the medium of

- Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

CITY OR COUNTY LOCAL COMMUNITY AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

STATE OR PUBLIC SECTOR MEMBERS

ELECTED
MEMBERS

LOCAL
AUTHORITY
OFFICIALS

STATE
AGENCIES

CHAIRPERSON

SELECTED BY THE MEMBERS FROM AMONG THE
MEMBERS TO GUIDE AND MANAGE THE STRATEGIC
DIRECTION OF THE LCDC

NON-STATE OR PRIVATE SECTOR MEMBERS

LOCAL
DEVELOPMENT
COMPANIES

PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION
NETWORKS

BUSINESS,
FARMING,
OTHER CIVIL
SOCIETY
INTERESTS

COMMUNITY &
VOLUNTARY PILLAR

SOCIAL INCLUSION
PILLAR

ENVIRONMENTAL
PILLAR

CHIEF OFFICER (LOCAL AUTHORITY OFFICIAL)

SUPPORTS THE ADMINISTRATION AND STRATEGIC OPERATION OF THE LCDC



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Vision for LCDCs

- Co-ordinating & managing local funding, including EU programmes
- Leading on inter-agency planning & collaboration in communities
- Input (via LECF) on the strategic approach for local and community development in the local authority area
- Enabling increased participation in decision making by communities
- Facilitating more sustainable approaches to service provision
- Leading & co-ordinating Government policy initiatives at local level e.g. *SDGs, Climate Action, Healthy Ireland, - Creative Ireland, Action Plan on Rural Development etc.*





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THE ROLE OF THE PPN

- Public Participation Networks (PPNs) serve as the nominating structure for community and voluntary interests to local authority structures and committees such as SPCs and LCDCs
- PPN nominees are required to represent the PPN as a whole on the LCDC
- The PPN will be the main link through which the Local Authority (LA) connects with the community, voluntary, environmental and social inclusion sectors
- 5 members of LCDC are drawn from the PPN
 - 2 C&V
 - 2 Social Inclusion
 - 1 Environmental



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LCDC REVIEW



- Approved by Minister July 2019
- The purpose of the review was to –
 - establish an understanding of the LCDC landscape,
 - identify opportunities to strengthen LCDCs, and
 - make recommendations to build upon existing strengths and support future development.
- The review examined 4 themes –
 - Governance and Structures,
 - Strategic Effectiveness,
 - Participation and Engagement
 - Administrative Support and development



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KEY FINDINGS



- Good progress in short period since LCDCs established
 - Collaboration has improved
 - Better interagency working
- Number of consistent messages emerged
 - Lack of clarity re: LCDC role and role of individual members
 - need for comprehensive training and development
 - need for stronger, more consistent and more formalised communication between DRCD and LCDCs.



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KEY FINDINGS

- Other areas identified
 - Need for greater recognition at a strategic level for the role of LCDCs
 - Greater emphasis on the role of the LECP on a day to day basis
 - Burden of programme delivery especially LEADER.
 - More guidance and direction required to support engagement with marginalised communities
 - More improved engagement between LCDCs and CYPSCs



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SPECIFIC PPN RELATED FINDINGS

- respondents suggested more guidance and direction was required to improve engagement, particularly with more marginalised communities. Could be secured by improving engagement with PPNs
- respondents consider LCDC administration arrangements do not fully support participation by PPN representatives
- sense PPN members can feel isolated because of a lack of resources to support their full participation in decision-making and training and capacity development initiatives.
- respondents suggested tailored supports should be provided for PPN members to facilitate attendance and participation at LCDC meetings and training opportunities;
- communication between PPN representatives on LCDCs and the general PPN membership (and communities) was not adequate



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OBJECTIVES



Priority Objective

- secure cross-Government commitment to LCDCs and underpinning governance arrangements

General Objective 1

- secure more effective communication of the LCDC role to relevant local and national stakeholders

General Objective 2

- develop a comprehensive training and support programme for LCDC Chief Officers, LCDC members and local authority support staff

General Objective 3

- streamline support systems for LCDCs to ensure effective programme delivery and impact monitoring



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RECOMMENDATIONS



- a stronger role taken by the Department leading on cross Government engagement on local development and community development, including a restatement of intent by Government to LCDC structures.
- a programme to raise awareness and understanding of the LCDC and its purpose, online communication facilities for LCDCs, and annual networking event to showcase LCDC work.
- development modules for LCDC members and local authority staff in critical areas such as strategic planning and delivery, interagency working and coordination and effective governance and management.
- Consideration of options for a central resource to support and strengthen the developing LCDC and LECP functions in Local Government.
- Audit of existing LCDC supports to determine and meet optimum support requirements; and
- LECP monitoring and implementation guidance and strengthening existing guidance.



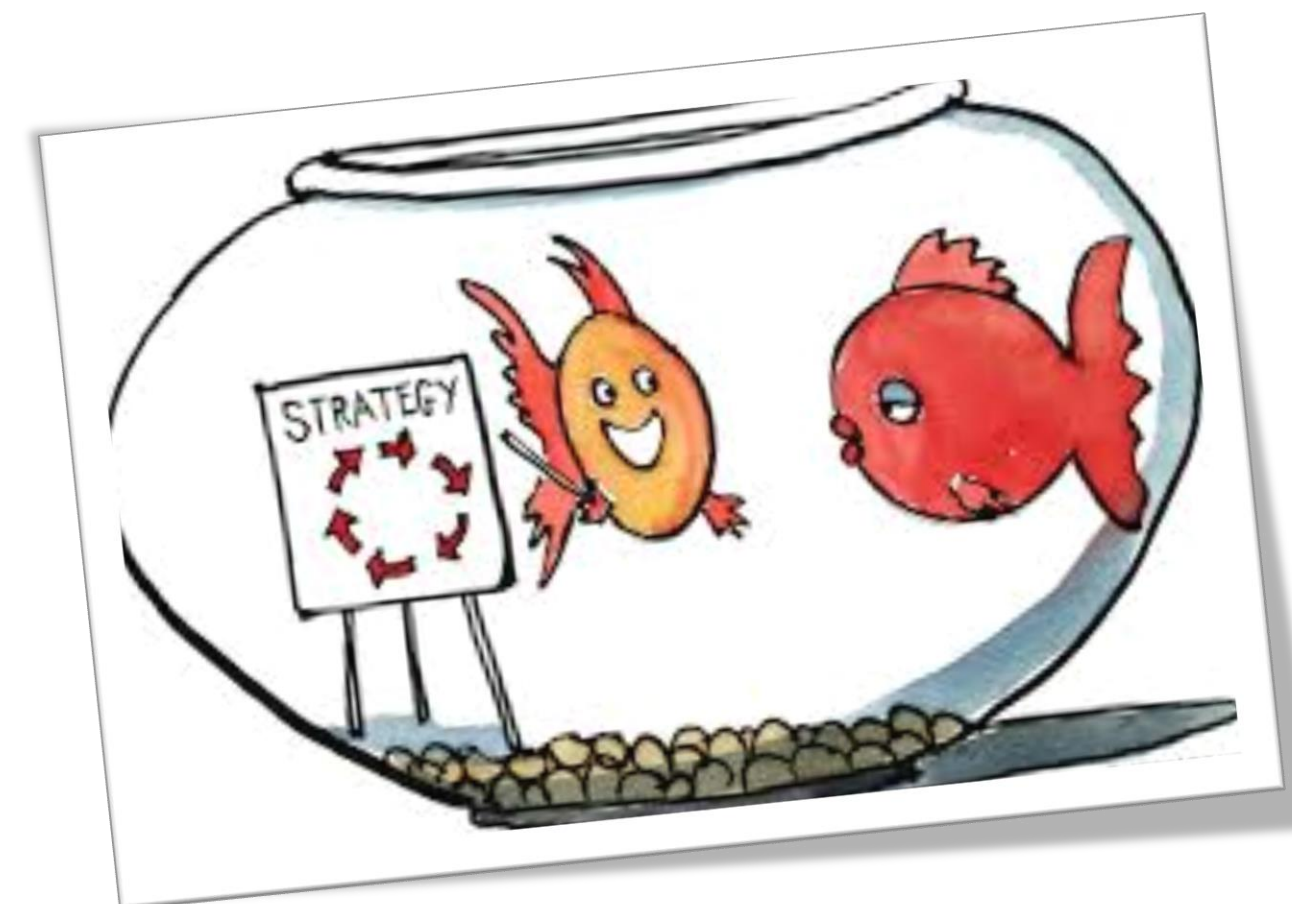
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STRATEGY TO SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY SECTOR IN IRELAND 2019-2024





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WHAT IS IN THE STRATEGY

- The Strategy describes a long-term vision for our communities and sets a general direction of travel for government policy in relation to supporting communities and the community and voluntary sector in the coming years.
- It also copper-fastens the renewed partnership between government and the community and voluntary sector, which has developed during a very extensive consultation and in the course of preparing the strategy.
- It comprises **11 high level objectives** with **43 associated actions**.



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AIM OF THE STRATEGY

- The Strategy seeks to —
 - change how decisions are made for and about communities, providing a stronger voice for the most marginalised communities.
 - Strengthen community resilience and capacity to meet emerging challenges posed, for example by Brexit and Climate Change.
 - Renew the community statutory partnership crucial to developing and delivering outcomes for communities, with a better use of resources and more sustainable and long-term change, and
 - support governance and operational capacity in groups and organisations



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WHAT THE STRATEGY WILL DO

- The Strategy will support communities and the community organisations that support them by
 - providing communities with means and opportunity to be involved with decisions that affect them
 - ensuring that processes and structures, at local and national level, are fit for purpose
 - developing capacity in community groups to support communities to participate and engage fully
 - providing training and education opportunities for community groups, professional community workers, volunteers working in community groups and for voluntary board members.
 - develop a suitable funding model for the sector
 - developing capacity in communities and across-government, for example, to implement important policy initiatives including the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Government's Climate Action Plan.



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TIMEFRAME OF IMPLEMENTATION

- All actions will commence as early as possible in the Strategy
- actions are categorised as
 - short-term, or those to be completed by end-2021
 - medium-term, or those to be completed by end-2023, and
 - long-term that can commence immediately but will take time to scope, develop and implement.
- Some actions are categorised as long-term, not because they aren't a priority, but because they are more complex and dependent on funding secured through annual Estimates processes.





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TIMEFRAME OF IMPLEMENTATION

- Actions will be progressed through annual work plans and will be prioritised on the basis of stakeholder input and available funding. The first annual work plan will be agreed by the Cross-Sectoral Group on Local and Community Development in Q4, 2019 and will cover the period to end-2020.
- The Department of Rural and Community Development will lead implementation, working collaboratively with relevant Government Departments to develop and implement actions and, where appropriate, with relevant stakeholders.
- Local Authorities will be important partners in the implementation of the actions in the Strategy.



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