

Kilkenny PPN Representative Report on Committee Meeting

Reporting Representatives Name: Paul O’Rahilly /Mary Mescal

Committee: **LCDC**

Date: **March 27th, 2026**

Time: 10am

Venue: Council Chamber

Were you in attendance at the last Committee meeting?

Yes

Did you consult with your Linkage Group /Wider PPN prior to this meeting?

Yes

Please outline the Key Issues discussed at the meeting?

Administrative

- attendance at LCDC meetings was highlighted as an ongoing concern.
- Lack of quorum prevents decision-making and may delay progress and impact deadlines.
- It was noted that Michael Walshe has resigned as PPN representative; a new representative is currently being selected through the PPN process.
- It is expected that a new PPN representative will be in place for the next meeting.
- Two additional vacancies remain to be filled.
- Anne Marie Shortall will follow up with members regarding attendance and submission of apologies.

Programme Updates

SICAP 2026 – Overview (KLP)

- High-level overview of SICAP Annual Plan 2026 provided by Martin Rafter.
- Focus on enterprise supports, community wellbeing initiatives, and engagement with disadvantaged groups.
- Continued emphasis on supporting new arrivals and targeted groups.
- The presentation was delivered at a strategic level, with limited detail provided at the meeting.
- It was noted that the full plan is a substantial document, and it will be circulated to members for review.

LECP Implementation Plan

- Anne Marie Shortall provided an update on the LECP Implementation Plan (2025–2027), now at mid-stage.
- Development of an electronic system to collect and collate data is underway to improve efficiency.
- System expected to be finalised shortly, with link to issue to partners.

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Information Items

PPN Report

- Update provided by Mary Harding.

CLÁR 2026

- Overview of programme and eligible project types provided.
- Newly eligible areas include Goresbridge, Castlecomer, Ballyragget, Johnstown, Urlingford and Freshford.
- Scheme expected to open shortly; closing date end of May.

Paint Scheme Grant

- Open for commercial premises/shopfront improvements.
- Closing date: 18th April.

Community Centres Investment Fund (CCIF) 2026

- New round announced to support refurbishment of community centres.
- Administered by the Department.
- Information event scheduled for 8th April.
- Council will support applications.

Healthy Ireland – Older People Small Grants

- €20,000 fund available.
- Grants from €1,000 to €5,000.
- Call expected to open shortly.

AOB

- Update provided on KTCM.
- Subgroup reviewed report and submitted recommended changes to Pobal and KTCM.
- Response from Pobal awaited.

Where any **decisions** made at the meeting? Yes:

LCDC Annual Report 2025

- Report circulated in advance; no comments raised.
- Proposed and seconded.

SICAP End of Year Review 2025

- Overview provided by Teresa Mahon.
- Strong performance noted, with targets exceeded across both group and individual supports.
- Supports delivered to key disadvantaged groups including jobless households and new arrivals.
- Subgroup recommendation presented.
- Proposed and seconded.

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SICAP Annual Plan 2026

- Overview provided by Teresa Mahon.
- Plan outlines actions under community and individual supports, aligned to LECP priorities.
- Focus on enterprise, employability, and targeted supports for priority groups.
- Proposed and seconded.

Local Enhancement Programme (LEP) Grants 2026

- Overview of grant process provided.
- LCDC role is to recommend awards, subject to Department approval.
- Conflicts of interest managed appropriately.
- Proposed and seconded.

Are there any actions to be taken as result of this meeting? Who by?

No

Did you or another PPN rep make any contributions to this meeting?

Mary Harding read the PPN report

Do you require feedback from the wider PPN/Linkage group on any issues raised? (Specify issue)

Not specifically

Are there any issues/difficulties for you as a representative of the PPN arising from this meeting?

No

Date of Next Meeting:

May 29th, 2026

Any other comments:

None

Signed (all reps present)

Signature: PO'R print name: Paul O'Rahilly