



Local Economic and Community Plan Update

The Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) sets out, for a six-year period, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of each local authority area, both by the local authority directly and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders. The LECP is part of the overall process for national transformation, set out in Project Ireland 2040.

Dublin City Council developed the first LECP 2016 to 2021 where a series of actions were identified and implemented to further the objectives of the 12 High Level Goals, established through a consultation process, with a wide range of stakeholders. This plan has been reviewed using the 2016 census data and the outcome of this process will inform the development of a new LECP. The second iteration of the LECP should be completed by 2023, and in line with the requirements of the legislation, cover a period of six years.

The Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) in conjunction with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) launched the new LECP Guidelines on 11th November 2021.

DRCD has oversight of the community elements of the LECP and work closely with each Local Authority and the LCDC's to support this function. DHLGH has responsibility for the economic elements of the LECP and the Economic and Enterprise SPC's have a statutory role in the preparation of the LECP. The Local Government Reform Act 2014 requires that the Economic Elements of the LECP be developed by the Local Authority through their Strategic Policy Committees (SPC) for Economic Development and Enterprise.

The DRCD and DHLGH held an initial information session with over 340 attendees on 9th December 2022, all members of the SPC and LCDC were invited to attend this event. This information session provided an overview of the Guidelines, key changes to the Guidelines and the next steps in conducting a review of the existing plans and establishing an **Advisory Steering Group** to oversee the preparation of the new LECP's.

There were presentations on Background, New Approach and Economic and Community Elements including roles of LCDCs and SPCs; LECP's – A Local Authority Perspective; and Next Steps – Plan for further support events.

Details of the presentations and a recording of the event are available on [gov.ie - Community Development \(www.gov.ie\)](https://www.gov.ie/Community-Development).

Next steps:

There are 6 stages to the development of the LECP's. There is a statutory role for LAs, SPCs, LCDCs, Regional Assemblies and Municipal District Members. An **Advisory Steering Group** will be established made up of members of the SPC and the LCDC and others. It is advised to keep the membership of this group to a reasonable number so that it can effectively meet and discharge its work in shaping the LECP. The Chair of the Economic Development and Enterprise SPC will meet with the Chair of the LCDC to arrange the establishment of the Advisory Steering Group.

LECP Development Stages

The process for the development of the LECPs will initially consist of four broad phases:

Preparation, public consultation, development of the High-Level Goals objectives and outcomes, and finalisation of the LECP. The fifth stage involves the development of an Implementation Plan process and the sixth and final stage involves the monitoring, evaluation and review of the plan.

Advisory Steering Group (ASG)

Under Section 66C of the Local Government Reform Act each Local Authority is required to have regard to the need to integrate the economic and community elements of the LECP. In order to ensure that the preparation of the plans is co-ordinated and that duplication of efforts, in terms of engagement with stakeholders is avoided, an Advisory Steering Group (ASG) will be established to assist in the preparation, drafting, adoption, implementation and monitoring of the LECP.

The LA, LCDC and Economic Development and Enterprise SPC have statutory responsibility of the LECP and this should be reflected in the membership of the ASG, but the group may also seek inputs from other sources and other bodies and agencies in the delivery of the Implementation Plans.

Structure:

The Advisory Steering Group should include:

- At least one member of the LCDC
- At least one member of the Economic Development and Enterprise SPC
- The Chief Officer (or a nominee) of the LCDC
- The Director of Service supporting the SPC for Economic Development and Enterprise or a nominee; and

Subject to avoiding unwieldy size, any person that both the SPC and LCDC consider likely to make a significant contribution can be invited to join the group. This may include senior personnel from relevant public and private sector organisations, individuals with entrepreneurial expertise, expertise that can practically consider potential synergies between economic and community elements, third level institutions, members of the relevant Regional Enterprise Plan Steering Committee or other relevant interests.

LECP Framework Role

The specific role of the Advisory Steering Group will be to advise and assist on:-

- The development of the socio-economic statement setting out the High-Level Goals for the area;
- The arrangement and management of an inclusive consultation process for the development of the economic elements and the community elements of the framework LECP based on the High-Level Goals in the socio-economic statement, and the additional consultation identified for the community element;
- The particular areas of activity to be covered respectively by the economic elements and the community elements of the LECP, as well as areas of complementary and co-ordinated activity, taking account of the need to reduce duplication and unnecessary overlap and to maximise the use of available resources;
- The integration of both the economic and community elements into a single, coherent Framework LECP:
- Ensuring that, there is clarity as to where responsibility rests for leading/coordinating for each action detailed in the Implementation Plan;
- Ensuring the LECP is consistent with the relevant statutory City/County Development Plan; and
- Ensuring the LECP is consistent with any Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) or, as appropriate, National Planning Framework or other national policy, that may apply.