

Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly

Review – Local Economic
and Community Plans
(LECPs)

Malachy Bradley

Assistant Director

LECP Review

- Introduction

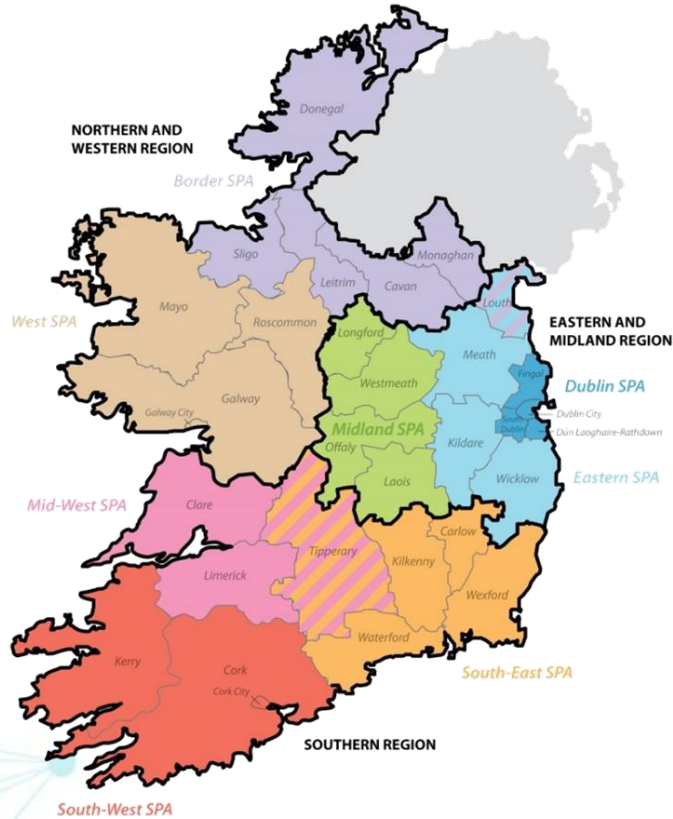
- EMRA
- LECPs
- Review process

- Key lessons

- LECP Process
- LECP Plans
- LECP Implementation, Monitoring and Review

Our Region in Ireland

REGIONS and Strategic Planning Areas (SPAs)

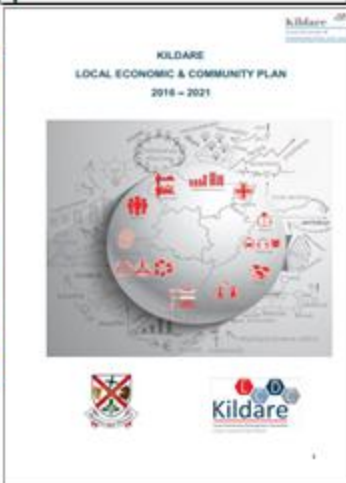
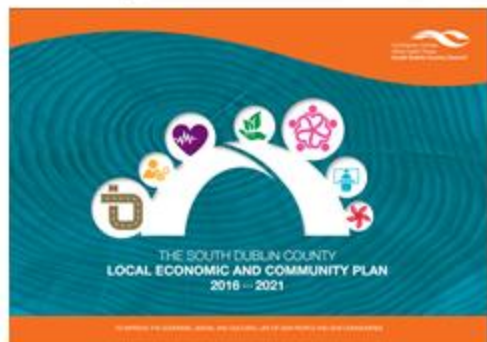
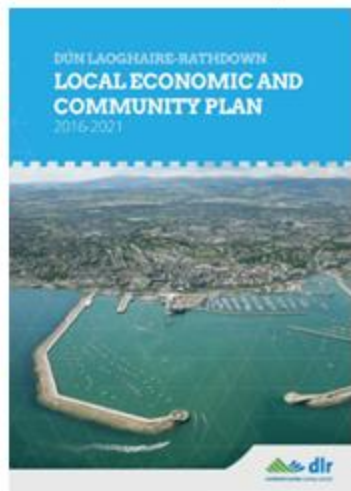
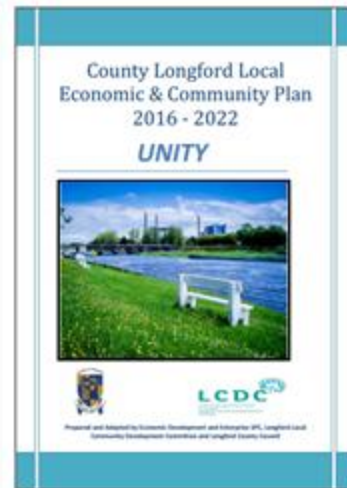
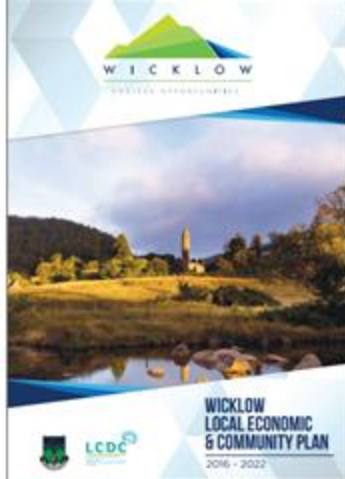


Functions of Regional Assembly

- To manage **Regional Operational Programmes** under the Partnership Agreement as well as monitoring and making proposals in relation to the general impact in their regions of all **EU programmes** of assistance from the EU.
- To co-ordinate, promote or support **strategic planning and sustainable development** of the regions
- To prepare and oversee the implementation of the Regional Planning Guidelines, to be replaced by new **Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies**, and providing statutory observations on local authority development plans and variations.
- To promote **effectiveness in local government** and public services in the region, in conjunction with the National Oversight & Audit Commission.

Local Economic and Community Plans (LECPs)

- Local authorities given expanded economic role in the preparation of 6 year LECPs
- Integration of local economic and community objectives
- Establishment of new structures - Local Community Development Committees (LCDC) and Public Participation Networks (PPNs)
- Facilitate collaboration between agencies, business and the community and voluntary sector
- First round of plans launched by Minister Sept '16



Role of Regional Assembly

- Stronger Regional role in economic development and linking to national– RSES
- Statutory function in preparation of LECPs and in ensuring policy consistency
- Regional coordination
- Assist in plan formulation and facilitate collaboration

EMRA Review of LECPs

- RAs undefined role in monitoring the LECPs.
- EMRA committed to an review of first round of LECPs once all adopted
- Local Authorities are key stakeholder – opportunity for input into review process and the new Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSES) process
- Inform DHPCLG review process and guidance

Local Authority workshops



October 2016, Dublin SPA

A series of workshops were facilitated by the (EMRA) to gather insights from Local Authority staff involved in driving LECs and identify **key lessons** and **recommendations for review** of LECs.

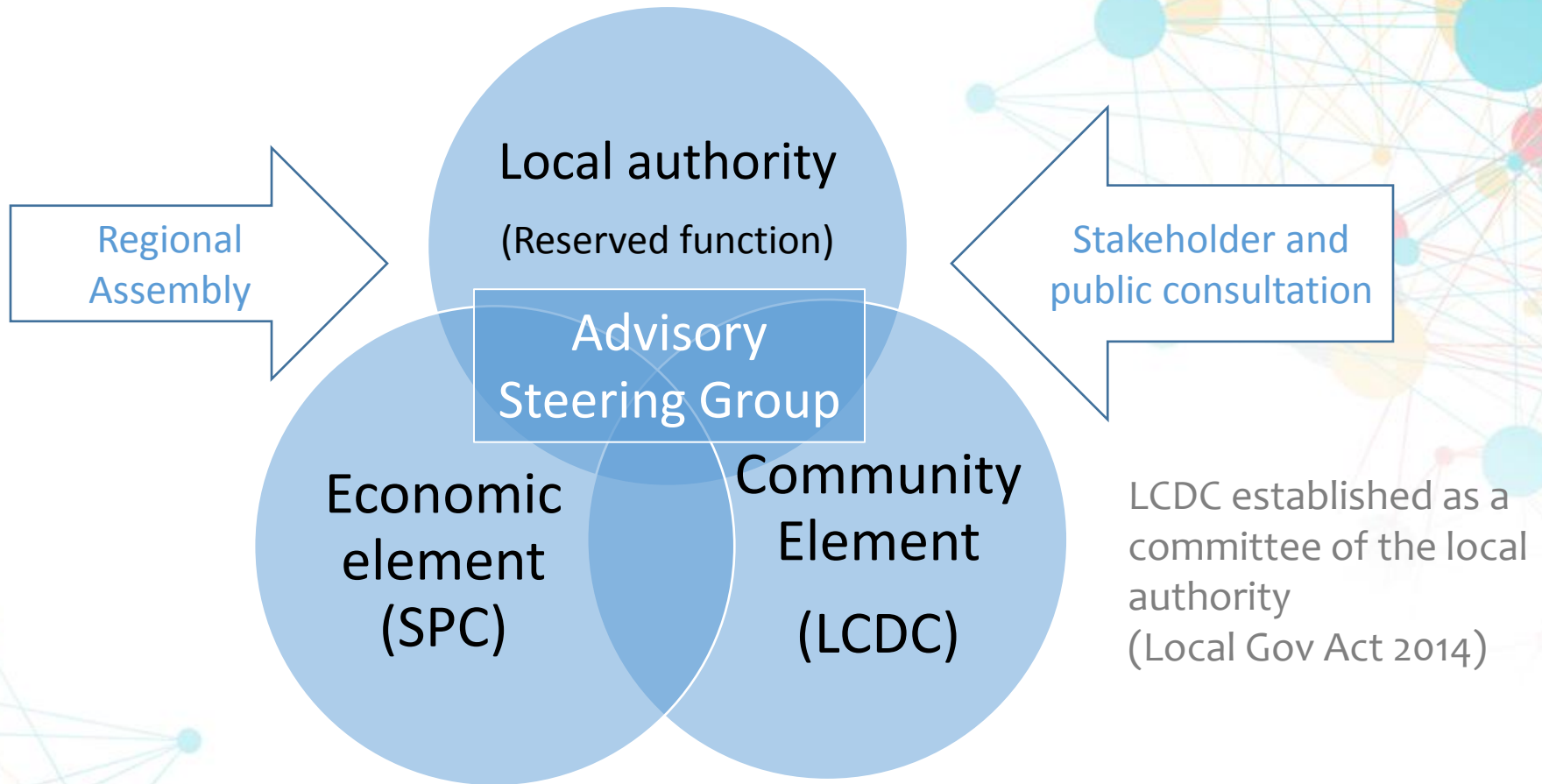
LECP Review

1. LECP Process
2. LECP Plan
3. LECP Implementation, Monitoring and Review
4. Recommendations

Feedback - Guidance and timelines

- Awaiting DHPCLG guidance on implementation
- Act and Guidance was top down process driven
- Steep learning curve to embed new statutory framework
- Evolving guidance AL 02/2014, LG 1/2015 and LG 06/2015 led to LAs working to different timelines and challenge in developing consistent plans
- Timelines kept process moving but created challenges around policy and data alignment; consultation; plan formulation and getting buy in for actions

Roles and governance



Feedback - Roles and governance

- Positive interagency/ cross-sectoral collaboration
- Plans were most successful where there was strong leadership
- Complicated structures led to confusion
- Inconsistent buy-in from stakeholders
- Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs); learning a new culture

Alignment

IRELAND PLANNING POLICY HEIRARCHY 2016+



Feedback - Alignment

- Separate Economic and Community Streams; Guidance, Processes, Structures and Oversight
- Emerging mutually supportive economic and community activities
- Cross-referencing other relevant cross sectoral plans
- Confusion around policy alignment/hierarchy
- Missed opportunity to link European (EU2020) policy with national, regional and local plans

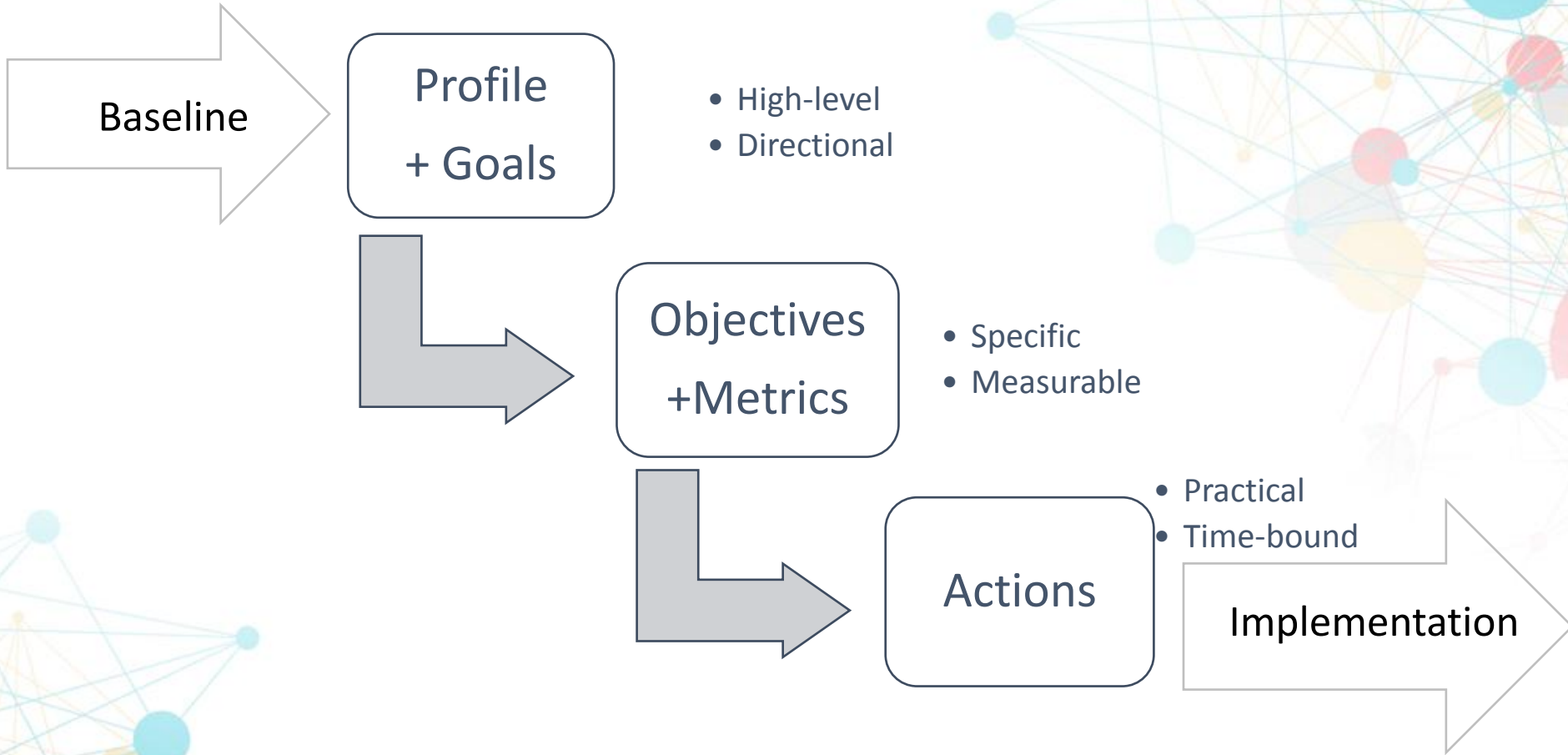
Recommendations -LECP Process

- **Clarify and Simplify** with more focus on implementation and better integration of economic and community development streams.
- **Streamline governance** arrangements to maintain capacity and avoid ‘meeting fatigue’.
- **Framework for collaboration** to ensure more consistency across LECPs
- **Build Interagency ownership**; Need a statutory framework for delivery of interagency actions.

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LECP Plan making



Socio-economic statements

Dublin SPA.

- Global Gateway Region
- National Economic driver
- Address infrastructure constraints
- To sustain smart creative growth
- Contrasting areas of advantage and disadvantage



Common trends and issues

Increasing urbanisation and diversity, address social exclusion through targeted services, education and community empowerment, increase access to information, location as key driver playing to local strengths, key infrastructure investment, importance of tourism.

Feedback – Evidence to HLGs

- Positive shift towards evidence based plan making – Dublin Economic Monitor
- Pressure for EB and variance in data
- Evidence did not always inform HLGs
- Goals often ‘aspirational’ rather than ‘directional’
- Emerging common themes with a focus on local place-making

Common themes:

- Economy and employment
- Innovation and entrepreneurship
- Skills and education
- Transport and connectivity (ICT)
- Environment and infrastructure
- Heritage, tourism and recreation
- Potential of places, urban & rural
- Health and well-being
- Poverty, equality and social inclusion
- Participation and active citizenship

Make places attractive to...	Dublin SPA	Eastern SPA	Midland SPA
Live in (Places for People)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to information (South Dublin Economic & Community Monitor) Good culture and heritage Address institutionalised deprivation and city centre drug problem Activating Dublin (Youth) Key commuting destination Address transport and housing bottlenecks to retain competitiveness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to information (Kildare Data Hub) Leverage good quality of life and natural environment Address emerging skills gaps between in county/out bound workers Improve quality of life for all and address car based commuting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Linked Gateway Renewal (Tullamore, Mullingar) Address population decline, deprivation and rural isolation Good quality of life and environment Leverage natural assets and local opportunities
Work in (Sectoral opportunities)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial Services Pharma ICT/software Data analytics and IoT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tourism Equine (Kildare-Meath) Film/Creative (Wicklow) Food (Boyne Valley) Maritime/Port development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green Economy/Renewable Energy Tourism Rural Economy Agri-business
(Skills development)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Technological University for Dublin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dundalk IT (DKIT) Wicklow Campus (with Carlow IT) Maynooth Knowledge Corridor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Athlone IT
Invest in (Economic Development)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International gateway Dublin-Belfast Corridor Joint Economic Strategy Smart Dublin initiative International Benchmarking ‘Dublin Economic Monitor’ Dublin Airport Zone Port expansion South Dublin industrial upgrade (Grangecastle) Digital Dun Laoghaire ‘Silicon Docks’ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proximity to capital Dublin-Belfast Corridor Dundalk “Digital Payments Corridor” Kildare Meath Economic Strategy Attract large scale and second site FDI Meath FDI “Atlas Database” Kildare “Digital Hub” Port development (Wicklow, Drogheda, Dundalk, Bremore) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good road infrastructure and location Offaly “Regional Energy Strategy” (synergy with Kildare) Offaly Digital Economy/Innovation Hub Reuse of Bord na Mona/Co. Wicklow sites
Visit (Tourism, Culture and Heritage)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dublin City of Literature (Proposed world heritage status for historic city) Dublin Bay UNESCO biosphere designation Grow Dublin Tourism Alliance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Louth-Meath Tourism Strategy Bru na Boinne World Heritage site Proposed world heritage monastic (Kells, Glendalough) and Royal sites (Tara, Dún Ailinne Hill of Uisneach) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ancient East/Midlands Initiative Dublin-Galway Greenway Proposed world heritage site Clonmacnoise

Feedback – Objectives to Actions

“Each objective within the economic and community elements will be achieved through the implementation of specific, time-bound and measurable Actions” LG 01-2015

- Lack of regional strategy to better frame/align LECs
- Extensive consultation resulted in high no. of interagency actions (79-399) and raised expectations
- Pressure to deliver (LAs seen as lead), *but*;
 - no mechanisms in place for interagency actions
 - no additional budget or resources
- Actions were local in scale and from existing plans (and budgets) with a lack of new, strategic or long term actions

Recommendations - Plan Content

- **Collaborative approach** towards a robust shared evidence base and common indicators
- **Alignment** with policy and timelines of relevant plans.
- **Complement** spatial vision of Development Plans
- **Embed within policy hierarchy.** Opportunity with new regional strategies (RSES) to frame LECPs and leverage new funding streams.
- **Focus on delivery.** Identify and prioritise new strategic actions, working with partner agencies.

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Feedback –Implementation and Monitoring

- No mechanisms in place; some Annual Action Plans
- Pressure to deliver quickly but without dedicated resources
- Some LCDCs coordinated SICAP and LEADER funding - agency confusion
- Missed opportunity to develop new initiatives and leverage national, regional and EU funding streams
- Challenge in terms of perceived relevance
- How to measure ‘impact’ not ‘actions’?
- How to determine ‘cause and effect’?
- Case for shared evidence base and standard metrics/ indicators to allow for cross evaluation of LECs

Summary - Key recommendations

- **Standardised approach** to improve efficiencies and ensure greater consistency of plan content
- **Funding follows Policy.** Clarity around management of funding mechanism and new funding streams.
- **Interagency collaboration** with the RSES, Regional APJs and Skills Fora and other partner agencies
- **Leadership** from Interdepartmental Working Group
- **Framework for Review.** A midterm review would allow for iteration of the LECPs with the RSESs

Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly



Thank you

Malachy Bradley
Assistant Director