

Kildare LECP 2016-2021 Consultation Plan

Background to the LECP

Kildare is a place which over 200,000 people call 'home'. It is one of the youngest, fastest growing counties in Ireland. Kildare is changing from a rural to a more urban based county and its' location close to Dublin is driving this change.

The population of Kildare is made up of distinct groups and communities who have differing needs and requirements when it comes to their quality of life. To try and meet these demands all local authorities in Ireland are required to produce a six year Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2016-2021. This is linked to Local Government Reform, and is outlined in the Local Government Act 2014.

Kildare LECP 2016-2021 will be the economic and community plan for the county. The aim of this plan is to set out and implement the objectives and actions needed to promote and support economic development and local and community development in the County for this period. The LECP will be the framework for relevant plans, resource allocation and will inform existing work across community, local and economic development over the next six years. The plan commenced its statutory process in January 2015. There are 5 stages as detailed below:

- 1. Preparation: May/June 2015. Completed**
- 2. Public Consultation: July/August/September 2015. In Progress**
- 3. Develop Objectives and Actions September/October 2015.**
- 4. Finalise Plan: November/December 2015**
- 5. Monitoring & Review: 2016-2021**

What has happened to date?

Early in 2015, the council working jointly with economic and community stakeholders identified **twelve key social and economic goals (DRAFT) for Kildare**, to be addressed over the lifetime of the plan. Maynooth University and an Economic Advisor have been contracted to assist in developing this plan.

The LECP Steering Group, have recently approved the Draft High Level Goals for the LECP, which is now out for public feedback and comment. At this point, these draft high level goals are deliberately broad and high level but over the coming months through

research, consultation and engagement with local communities, businesses, representative organisations and state bodies, more specific objectives and actions to achieve the goals will be agreed.

The 12 draft goals are

- **Population**
- **Urban/Rural County in the Greater Dublin Area**
- **Economic and Employment**
- **Housing**
- **Education**
- **A commuting county**
- **Health and Wellbeing**
- **Safe Communities**
- **Children and young people**
- **Community, Recreation, Arts & Culture**
- **Environmental Quality**
- **Economically Sustainable County**

Consultation

Phase 2 of the LECP (consultation) has commenced. The public will be invited to input into the plan on the week commencing August 10th and will run to Friday September 11th. Consultation involves the following:

- a) Advertising and promotion through the PPN, local media and KCC/LCDC contact lists including elected members
- b) An online and submission based, LECP consultation process commencing on the week starting August 10th until September 11th
<http://kildare.ie/countycouncil/KildareLECP/>
- c) Targeted stakeholder consultation (e.g. business, education, health interests) which has commenced.
- d) Considering the relevant outcomes from recent community engagement in the County Development Plan. This was an extensive process that involved five locally based meetings in the Municipal Districts that resulted in 119 submissions.

This consultation will also help to inform the development of the Rural Development LEADER 2014-2020 plan for the county, which is also currently being developed.

Next Steps

Following consultation, the next stage (3) is to develop objectives and actions. This stage will also consider implementation and engagement of key stakeholders including communities in that process.

In accordance with ministerial guidelines, The LECP needs to be finalised and adopted by Kildare County Council in December 2015.

Contact Us

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