

# **Proposal to Kildare LCDC**

## **Re: RAPID National Capital Grants Programme 2017**

**20<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

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### **1. Context (from guidelines)**

On November 2<sup>nd</sup> the Minister for Rural and Community Development announced the launch of the recast RAPID Programme. This grants programme will run from November to December 2017.

It is a capital scheme that focuses on supporting projects that improve the quality of life for residents in disadvantaged urban areas.

The Programme will be administered by the LCDC along with the Municipal Districts under the remit of the local authority.

Each LCDC/Local Authority has been allocated € 64,500. The LCDC and local authority will direct funding at the areas most in needed and this approach removes the need to designate any specific areas as RAPID.

The funding should operate in a complementary manner with other schemes or programmes. There is no maximum amount to be approved and the funding can be used to lever/match fund other initiatives. The Local Economic Community Plan should be used to guide priority areas for funding.

The guidelines outline that a call for applications should take place closing on November 24<sup>th</sup>. The applications will be considered and recommended by the LCDC and then submitted to the Municipal District for final decision.

The funding will be administered by the local authority with all commitments paid in 2017. (National guidelines and application process attached).

### **2. Considerations**

There are substantial challenges in successfully administering an open call for proposals in a three week time period. In addition, there is an open call through the LEADER Programme for community facilities at present. Therefore, an openly advertised process led by Kildare LCDC/Local Authority could confuse the general public/community groups and the process currently underway more generally.

There is also a risk of double funding, creating expectations and not progressing LECP priorities.

In addition RAPID designation was previously focused nationally on specific areas. In Kildare Athy was the only designated RAPID area. While poverty and social exclusion exists across the county, RAPID has distinct connotations and making changes without agreement is not conducive to collaborative working.

There was no awareness that this process was going to be announced or run through the LCDC with MD approval. Therefore these considerations have led to the following proposal.

### 3. Proposal to Kildare LCDC

The unsuccessful applications for the Community Facilities Scheme administered in July 2017 were reviewed. Following discussion by the LCDC Co-ordinator (Susan Bookle) with the KCC Community Division Administrative Officer (Anne Marie Conneelly) in consultation with KCC community staff working in Athy, and the General Manager of CKLP the following is proposed.

- The funding available through this allocation for RAPID should focus on progressing actions in Athy due to a) Athy being the former designated RAPID area in the county b) the strongest applications for the community facilities scheme 2017 came from the Athy MD, c) Athy is a strategic priority geographic area of the LCDC.
- While future funding of this sort under RAPID could be diverted into other areas experiencing poverty/disadvantage **it is proposed that the €64,500 available in 2017 should be used to progress actions in Athy.** The following projects are proposed:

A. An unsuccessful Community Facilities Scheme applicant by Kildare Youth Service to prepare a new facility for use by KYS and other services targeting young people in Athy should be approved. **This application is for €8,000. This fits with the LCDC priority placed on supporting youth development in 2018 and the LECP priorities Goal 9.** This will be administered through Kildare Youth Service.

B. Two buildings which are currently used by CKLP in conjunction with KCC and other partners require capital investment. These buildings could be used to develop their work and to house a Family Resource Centre in Athy in the short term should applications to Tusla be successful. If the application is not successful at this time, the buildings will continue to be used by CKLP and other partners but will pave the way for ongoing work to establish and FRC in Athy. These two buildings are: The community house in Townspark and porta-cabins ancillary to the Enterprise Centre. **This application is for € 45,500. This fits with LCDC and CYPSC work to highlight the need for a Family Resource Centre in Athy to Minister Zappone and the LECP priorities Goal 9.** This will be administered by County Kildare LEADER Partnership.

C. Work to progress environmental works in Athy is underway to provide employment opportunities for a small number of CE/TUS workers. Funding is required to purchase equipment to support this progression. **This application is for €12,000 and fits with LECP priorities Goal 3.** This will be administered by County Kildare LEADER Partnership.

It is proposed that the above is considered by Kildare LCDC at their meeting on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. If recommended, work will progress to propose for agreement by Athy MD at their meeting on December 11<sup>th</sup>.