



Department of Rural and  
Community Development



*An Roinn Forbartha  
Tuaithe agus Pobail*

23 November 2017

Issued via email

Dear Member

The Department of Rural and Community Development is currently conducting a review of the Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs). The overall objective of the review is to inform the ongoing development of the structures.

The approach includes a review of documentation (such as the LCDC annual reports, LCDC meeting minutes and other relevant reports and documents), questionnaires, on-line surveys, one-to-one interviews and consultations with stakeholders and workshops with key stakeholders.

The review is being progressed across four themes: -

***Governance and Structure***

The review will consider the LCDCs' decision-making capacity and processes, the appropriateness of the regulatory framework underpinning the structures and the extent to which these facilitate collaborative working, the support and management role of local authorities, reporting and accountability arrangements and other relevant governance issues such as transparency and risk management. The review will also look at issues related to membership, sectoral representation, participation, collaboration and local partnerships and the extent and effectiveness of the regional dimension to the structures.

***Strategic effectiveness***

It will consider the extent to which a more collaborative approach has been developed in planning and delivery arrangements - the joint development and delivery of actions by local actors and whether these have delivered a more efficient use of resources. It will examine if overlap and duplication of effort and funding has been reduced.

***Participation and Engagement***

The review will consider the formal arrangements that are and should be in place to facilitate on-going individual and community engagement with the work of the LCDC and whether public participation processes provide participants with the information they need to participate in a meaningful and accessible manner.

***Administrative Support and Development***

It will examine the extent of support required by LCDCs and assess the level of need for capacity building within the system. It will review the effectiveness of the supports available to the LCDC with a focus on the role of the Department of Rural and Community Development, the role of the Inter-Departmental Group on Local and Community Development. At a local level, the review will explore the extent of the preparatory work carried out in advance of meetings, the communications processes around meetings, the follow up on actions, the monitoring of progress, whether training needs are being handled locally.

Neal Sullivan Smyth is conducting the review and he will be guided in his work by the Steering Group which comprises an external Chairperson, local authority and Department officials.

At this stage we would appreciate your input into the review; you may wish to provide a general comment on how you see the work of the LCDCs and consider if within the themes identified above, there are any aspects that you feel require particular attention. Please provide any input you may have by 1 December 2017 to Neal at [lcdcreview@drcd.gov.ie](mailto:lcdcreview@drcd.gov.ie)

Yours sincerely



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