**Kilkenny Local Economic and Community Plan 2015-2021:**

**We need your views on this plan**

Kilkenny County Council and the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) for Kilkenny are preparing a Local Economic and Community Plan for the county. We would like to hear your views on what actions should be in the plan by **5pm on 30th June 2015**. See overleaf the ways in which you can give your views.

**What is the Local Economic and Community Plan?**

By law[[1]](#footnote-1), all local authorities must prepare a six-year Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) for their area by the end of December 2015.

The County Kilkenny LECP will consist of a series of actions based on the views of organisations, communities and people like you. This plan will influence the economic, social and community development of County Kilkenny until 2021.

**What is the purpose of the LECP?**

The LECP will:

* list actions to develop and strengthen the local economy, and improve the well-being and quality of life of people and communities throughout County Kilkenny;
* provide a framework to guide and co-ordinate all publicly-funded local and community development programmes; and
* target funding and resources where they are most needed and where they can make the greatest impact.

All funding that Kilkenny County Council receives between 2015 and 2021 will be spent on the economic, community and social priorities identified in the Local Economic and Community Plan.

**What will be in the Plan?**

The LECP will have two main elements:

1. **economic development elements,** developed by Kilkenny County Council’s Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) for Economic Development. These will include goals and actions to help boost job creation and to promote the county as a great place to invest, set-up and develop a business; and
2. **local and community elements,** developed by the Kilkenny Local Community Development Committee (LCDC). These will include goals and actions to address issues such as education provision, energy efficiency, poverty and social inclusion, and research and innovation.

**What is the SPC for Economic Development?**

Kilkenny County Council has a number of Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs) which develop, monitor and review Council policies. The SPC for Economic Development will develop the economic elements of the LECP for County Kilkenny. You can see the current members of the SPC on our website, http://[www.kilkennycoco.ie](http://www.kilkennycoco.ie).

**What is the LCDC?**

The Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) is a public-private partnership made up of representatives of:

* the local authority,
* State agencies such as the Department of Social Protection, Teagasc and the Education and Training Board,
* the community and voluntary sector, and
* economic and social partners, such as the Kilkenny Chamber of Commerce, the Irish Farmers Association and the Family Resource Centres.

The LCDC was set up to improve the management of local development and community funding. It is responsible for:

* strategic planning and oversight (supervising delivery) of local and community development programmes in County Kilkenny;
* management and oversight of the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme, which tackles poverty and social exclusion; and
* development of the local and community development elements of the LECP.

You can see the current members of the Kilkenny LCDC on our website, http://[www.kilkennycoco.ie](http://www.kilkennycoco.ie).

**What is involved in preparing the LECP?**

There are five main phases involved in the preparation of the LECP:

1. **Preparation:** A draft community and economic statement (describing the social and economic situation) and the goals are prepared using the best available evidence.
2. **Public consultation:** The public and interested organisations are invited to give their views on the draft community and economic statements and main goals during June 2015.
3. **Development of actions:** Clear, measureable actions are developed to achieve the community, social and economic priorities identified for County Kilkenny over the next six years.
4. **Finalising the plan**: The LCDC and SPC consider feedback from the public and interested organisations before finalising the plan by December 2015.
5. **Monitoring and review of the implementation of the plan:** There will be regular (at least quarterly) reviews of the implementation of the LECP by the SPC and LCDC until 2021 This phase is perhaps the most important part of the plan.

**When must the LECP be ready?**

The plan must be in place by the end of 2015.

**What has been done so far?**

The SPC has prepared a draft economic statement and main goals and the LCDC has prepared a draft community statement and main goals. Each statement is based on:

* a detailed socio-economic profile of County Kilkenny;
* initial consultations with some of the key players (such as the small business community and the third level institutions with a presence in the county);
* a review of other national, regional and local plans; and
* draft economic and local and community statements, each with main goals.

While the SPC and LCDC have prepared separate statements, the economic development elements and the local and community elements will be combined into a single integrated plan by the end of the process.

**What are the main goals that have been identified?**

The SPC has developed 9 main economic goals as follows:

Goal 1: Support for Enterprise Economy

Goal 2: Facilitate Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Goal 3: Enhance the Visitor Experience

Goal 4: Provide for Enhanced Education Attainment and Skills Development

Goal 5: Develop the Rural Economy

Goal 6: Improve Access and Communication Infrastructure

Goal 7: Foster Leadership and Local Capacity

Goal 8: Protect and Utilise the Natural, Built and Cultural Environment

Goal 9: Contribute to Regional Growth and International Potential

The LCDC has developed 4 main local and community goals as follows:

Goal 10: Address Area based Poverty and Disadvantage

Goal 11: Address Poverty and Social Exclusion (targeted approaches)

Goal 12: Enhance Community Facilities and Participation

Goal 13: improve Health and Well-being

These goals provide a broad framework to guide the development of more specific actions for inclusion in the plan.

**Where can I read the draft statements and main goals?**

You can read the draft statements and main goals at:

* County Council Headquarters, County Hall, John Street, Kilkenny;
* Council Area Offices;
* County Council Libraries; and
* on the web at <http://consult.kilkenny.ie>.

**Why do you want my views?**

We want to make sure that the LECP reflects the needs and priorities of the people of County Kilkenny. This is why it is important that as many local communities and people as possible take part in the preparation of the LECP. We will consider everyone’s views.

**How can I give my views?**

We have organised public meetings so that you can give your views in person. At these meetings we will provide an overview of the community and economic statements and the draft goals. These meetings will be held in:

* **Castlecomer**: Castlecomer Community Hall on **Tuesday** **23rd June** **2015** from 7.00pm to 9.00pm.
* **Piltown**: Piltown Community Centre on **Thursday 25th June 2015** from 7.00pm to 9.00pm
* **Kilkenny City**: Rivercourt Hotel, John Street on **Monday 29th June 2015** from 7.00pm to 9.00pm.

You can also submit your views in writing to: Local Economic and Community Plan, County Hall, John Street, Kilkenny or online at <http://consult.kilkenny.ie>.

We have prepared guidelines and a submission template to assist you make a submission. You can access these at http://[www.kilkennycoco.ie](http://www.kilkennycoco.ie) and <http://consult.kilkenny.ie>.

We must receive your views on the draft economic and community statements (outlining the social and economic situation in the county) and the main goals by **5.00pm on Tuesday 30th June, 2015.** A report will be prepared on all submissions received and this report will be considered by the SPC and LCDC at their meetings in July. The final LECP will be published and made available on our website in December, 2015.

We look forward to receiving your views.

* *

1. [The Local Government Reform Act 2014](http://goo.gl/WLYKtG) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)