**South Dublin LECP Consultation**

**Report to the SPC (July 8th 2015)**

**Introduction:**

The LECP consultation phase commenced with a briefing for Council Members on April 20th, 2015. This was followed by an advertisement in a national newspaper, local newspapers, South Dublin County Council’s website and through social media. Submissions were requested by post, email or by online form. Information was also circulated through the membership of the LCDC and the Economic Development SPC, the Public Participation Network county register, and through other databases and contact lists.

A series of 6 themed focus groups were held, along with 2 public meetings. At each meeting details of the vision, themes and high level goals were presented. Although the meetings were poorly attended overall, some strong feedback did emerge. For the purposes of this report this feedback has been summarised and divided into *Issues Raised* and *Opportunities* under each of the 14 goals. This approach has been followed with a view to developing a series of objectives for each of the goals, and a series of actions to meet these objectives.

Given the current level of engagement of some potential partners it may be useful at this stage to consider focussing on developing a work programme for 2016, that is Year 1 of the plan rather than attempting to develop a more complete action plan for the 6 year duration. Consideration will also need to be given to the ongoing implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the plan.

Along with the issues raised and the potential opportunities identified, 3 areas for ongoing development were highlighted consistently. Theses are:

* There is a need for more **research** and data gathering to be built into programmes and services to assist in developing more evidence based practice
* There is great potential for improved **collaboration**
* The provision of **information** about services, programmes and opportunities needs to be improved. Opportunities such as increasing the use of social media should be explored.

Consideration should be given to including these 3 areas for development across all objectives of the plan, and to engaging with partners to secure commitment in these three areas.

Details of submissions received, and groups and organisations represented at the meetings are included at the end of this report.

**Summary of Findings:**

**The Vision**

To improve the economic, social and cultural life of our people and our communities

**Recommended change:**

*A plan to improve the economic, social and cultural life of our people and our communities*

**High Level Goals:**

**Goal 1:** Maintain and develop existing enterprise to support and improve the economic infrastructure of South Dublin County

**Issues raised:**

* Water is a big issue, the importance of water quality and water supply should be reflected in the plan
* Housing is vitally important to attracting and maintaining new business to the County
* Education - attracting students to study and then stay and work in the County is very important to attracting jobs and supporting enterprise
* Special supports required by marginalised groups to develop enterprises

**Opportunities:**

* Develop key area improvements based on County Economic Strategy 2012 Character areas- Technology Crescent; Rail Corridor; Tallaght; Luas Corridor; Towns and Villages and County Economic Profile 2014 to include:
  + Unique Development/ Selling Points.
  + Infrastructure supports.
  + Collaboration models.
* Support promotion of quality of life as part of the Economic Development message
* Support the development of the Dublin Technical University and Ryan Institute as a centre for third level education and development within the County. In particular areas for support include incubation space; campus company development based on key areas of activity such as food
* Targeted enterprise supports for enterprise and ethnic enterprise initiatives including role modelling and mentoring (to include initiatives for the Traveller and Roma communities)
* Establish a register of potential business and service opportunities – as a starting point for potential entrepreneurs looking for ideas
* Agriculture / Food / Rural areas of the County (LEADER)
* English Language Schools

**Goal 2:** Transform older industrial areas into high quality centres for enterprise, residential and mixed uses

**Issues raised:**

* The situation with older estates is urgent (example of the absentee landlord in Cookstown)

**Opportunities:**

* Explore the potential to set up more BID schemes in older industrial areas
* Develop collaboration models between existing business, chamber and other stakeholders.
* Step up spaces for enterprise
* Develop programme of works based on business Support grant model to support the redevelopment of underutilised industrial estates.
* Explore linkage with Dublin Technical University (Tallaght) and other stakeholders to develop incubation/ start-up space within adjacent industrial estates
* Develop the Tallaght Medical quarter proposals

**Goal 3:** Strengthen the economic fabric of our towns and villages

**Issues raised:**

* Public transport connectivity and accessibility is a major concern for the County

**Opportunities:**

* Support permeability and wider improvements to mobility plans and smart travel initiatives
* Develop models of co-operation and support for retailing within the County, particularly in towns and villages- Village initiative, Shop Front grant, Way finding strategy.
* Support the development of tourism initiatives within the County arising from the County tourism strategy
* Consider particular supports for larger retailing centres within the County
* Arts / Crafts / Tourism centres

**Goal 4:** Develop new and existing enterprises with significant employment, capital, income or growth potential

**Issues raised:**

* Links between employers and community services for the unemployed need to be improved

**Opportunities:**

* Provide businesses with lists of employment ready people
* Link business and community employment services to ensure that services are up to date on the types of employment that will be available in the future.
* Consider particular supports for continued inward investment into the County, particularly large scale foreign direct investment opportunities, including site availability and development of necessary supporting infrastructure.
* Further tap in to CSR opportunities with larger companies

**Goal 5:** Improve the quality and diversity of employment in the County

**Issues raised:**

* Keep the focus on attracting high level jobs – they lead to a trickle down effect and the creation of service type jobs while at the same time developing strategies to provide service level jobs with a career path
* Enable local companies/ firms to hire local people

**Opportunities:**

* Develop links with education providers and industry to identify future skill needs and support their provision within the County.

**Goal 6:** Actively engage with other Authorities and Agencies in the continued economic development of the Dublin region

**Opportunities:**

* Support the continued collaboration with other agencies and authorities particularly the IDA and Enterprise Ireland.
* Support the identification and development of regional infrastructure provision.
* There is a good model of engagement in the County - Continue to develop and improve

**Goal 7:** Develop micro enterprise, community economic development and start ups

**Issues raised:**

* There is a need to change the culture for entrepreneurs – its ok to try and fail
* We need hubs of activity similar to the digital hub in Dublin 8
* There is a lack of small business and start up accommodation (example of short term leases in Rua Red)

**Opportunities:**

* Ensure ongoing engagement with, and development and promotion of the LEO
* Role models and mentoring are essential, especially to young people who are surrounded by unemployment - Businesses in the County to develop a mentoring programme for DEIS and other disadvantaged secondary schools
* Identify potential hubs, e.g., craft, digital, creative, retail based on a consideration of the use of existing enterprise centres and development of new models for their future provision
* Establish a network to inform people of small enterprise spaces as they become available – the possibility of SDCC providing this information online could be explored

**Goal 8:** Empower our communities to improve their health and wellbeing and quality of life by providing information and improved services

**Recommended changes:** *Empower our communities to improve their health and wellbeing and quality of life by providing relevant information and improved accessibility to quality services*

**Issues raised:**

* An analysis of current resources should be carried out to inform future planning
* Barriers to accessing services should be examined, eg, childcare, language, cultural issues etc.
* Information sharing about services needs to be improved – for service users and between different services
* Supporting people to remain in their homes
* Sport should feature here – physical, social, mental and job opportunities
* Young people and mental health – peer pressure and low expectations
* Alcohol – link with Healthy Cities
* Physical Activity - link with Healthy Cities
* Community Safety – link with Joint Policing Committees
* Older people – link with Age Friendly County
* Healthy workplaces

**Opportunities:**

* Multi agency agreement on information provision through a joint website / resource
* Development of a directory by the Children’s Services Committee
* Address waiting lists and inappropriate referrals through the development of a triage assessment system
* Accredited programme for organisations to become *mental health assured*.
* Support Asist and Safetalk training for leaders in sports clubs and youth groups
* Continue to develop reporting relationships between Local Policing Forums and the Joint Policing Committee
* Assisted technology for independent living for older people
* Tackling loneliness and isolation through voluntary programmes, text alert services etc.
* Health Impact Assessments / Integrated Social Impact Assessments

**Goal 9:** Protect and enhance our environment by providing information that is accessible to all and applying the principles of sustainable development

**Issues raised:**

* Dumping and littering
* Dog fouling
* Information provision could be improved
* Anti social behaviour in parks prevents usage

**Opportunities:**

* Support further development of gardens and allotments by allocating more public spaces and areas within parks
* Develop a directory of spaces for community gardens
* Develop a how to manual for those interested in setting up a community garden
* Increase publicity for Eco week and involve partners
* Improve the available information (example of GAP education programmes in Ballymun)
* Upcycling furniture workshops, furniture exchanges, pre Halloween collections
* A learning hub in the County – composting, solar energy, water conservation, reusing materials – a place to showcase opportunities
* Park wardens on bikes
* Cafes in Parks – making public spaces more attractive
* More Park Runs
* Create an environment that supports healthy living

**Goal 10:** Reduce poverty, social exclusion, and disadvantage, and increase levels of income for all our people including children and families

**Recommended changes:** *Reduce poverty, social exclusion, and disadvantage, and improve levels of income for disadvantaged communities, including children and families*

**Issues raised:**

* Solas focuses on training for employment – the group who are not at that level are being pushed further out of the loop, are the ETBs engaging with this group?
* Cuts to non mainstream education
* Lack of resource teachers for travellers
* More women are presenting to projects with drug use and early school leaving
* The availability of transport is a major issue leading to much exclusion
* Homelessness and housing – needs to be included
* Roma communities need to be supported
* Early intervention should be at the heart of policies and plans

**Opportunities:**

* Restore funding to women’s projects
* Tailoring courses and interventions to the individual is essential – while it is time consuming and expensive it can lead to results
* Transportlinks between villages, to hospital and other services such as the LUAS are needed
* Homeless forum of service providers – information is not available , are NAMA properties a potential solution? Training and information sessions
* Mapping of small areas; child poverty, homelessness and food poverty
* Sports, catering and other courses to cater for local needs

**Goal 11:** Continue to improve opportunities for our people to participate in life long learning

**Issues raised:**

* School attendance, parental involvement in schooling, literacy, library use and the home learning environment needed to be addressed
* Strengthening collaboration is particularly important to this theme
* Literacy supports and development required
* Cultural entitlement of all citizens

**Opportunities:**

* Promote library services
* Right to Read and NALA campaigns – encourage other agencies to carry out literacy audits?
* Learning to support creative industry development
* Community education

**Goal 12:** Develop and empower our local workforce through improving skills and access to further and educational opportunities

**Opportunity:**

* Possibility of a skills committee – strengthening the connection between employers and training providers

**Goal 13:** Support our communities to influence decisions that matter in their areas and lives and encourage political, economic and cultural citizenship

**Recommended changes:** *Support our communities to influence decisions that matter in their areas and lives, to volunteer, and encourage political, economic and cultural citizenship*

**Issues raised:**

* Access to community centres
* Volunteering should be celebrated and supported more – it can exist side by side with employment schemes etc.
* New and improved ways of providing information are needed

**Opportunities:**

* Volunteer awards for South Dublin
* Forum / Network for Volunteer Managers could be supported by the Volunteer Centre
* Removing barriers to volunteering
* Improving information provision – finding better ways to inform people about what is happening
* Re-establish and reinvigorate former networks which worked well such as West Tallaght Resource Centre

**Goal 14:** Strengthen connections, cooperation and coordination between service providers and between service providers and service users

**Recommended changes:** *Strengthen connections, cooperation and coordination between service providers and between service providers and communities*

**Issues raised:**

* Who is in charge of improved cooperation?

**Opportunities:**

* A citizenship charter – for groups and agencies in the County – along the lines of a customer service charter?
* Children and young people should be involved and considered more in all decision making processes
* Develop a map of existing networks and partners and identify gaps
* Better information provision through PPN and Council database

**Next Steps:**

LCDC Meeting – July 2nd (To agree objectives and actions)

SPC Meeting – July 8th (To agree objectives and actions)

Meetings with potential partners to agree actions – July / August

Advisory Steering Group to meet if necessary

Draft plan to be agreed and presented to the LCDC and SPC by early September

**Submissions received from:**

South Dublin Children’s Services Committee

The Yellow Flag Programme

South Dublin Healthy City Working Group

Mary Lyons (Tús Nua, the Older Persons Council)

South Dublin Volunteer Centre

Civic Theatre

South Dublin Libraries

Declan Hanley

Cllr. Francis Timmons

Rua Red – The South Dublin Arts Centre

Pavee Point

Right to Read Campaign

Foróige

Disability Federation of Ireland

Hines Real Estate Ireland Ltd.

Childhood Development Initiative

Music Generation South Dublin

South Dublin County Partnership

Jigsaw Tallaght

South Dublin Age Friendly County Alliance

Health Services Executive

Comhairle na nÓg

**Consultation sessions attended by representatives of:**

An Garda Síochána

Women Together Tallaght

Dodder Valley Anglers

South Dublin County Partnership

South Dublin County Libraries

Jigsaw Tallaght

Foróige

South Dublin Chamber

Roadstone Ltd.

Rua Red

Four Districts Day Care Centre (Rathcoole)

Fettercairn Community Health Project

Childhood Development Initiative

Clondalkin Drugs Task Force

Lucan Disability Action Group

St. Kevin’s Family Resource Centre

Balgaddy Working Together Group

South West Clondalkin Safety Forum

St. John’s Church of Ireland

Bawnogue Women’s Development Group

Residents of the County

**Additional meetings held with:**

Brian Ó Gábhín (Áras Chrónáin)

Enterprise Ireland

South Dublin Chamber

Tara Wilson

Ciara Scully (Fáilte Ireland)

Connect Ireland

Rowena Cooper (AIB Clondalkin)