

# Alignment Proposals



Overview of the Government's Alignment  
Proposals and the potential impact on S.K.D.P  
Ltd

Noel Spillane  
Chief Executive Officer - SKDP

# SKDP - Current Programmes



RDP - Leader

Local  
Employment  
Service

TUS

Local and  
Community  
Development  
Programme

Skillsnet

Walks Scheme

Rural Alliances

Jobs Club

# Background



- Local Government/Local Development Alignment Steering Group Established by Minister Phil Hogan in September 2011
  - Terms of Reference
    - Review role of Local Government in Local and Community Development
    - Review the role and contribution of Local and Community Development Programmes in order to determine the scope for greater synergy with local government
    - Make recommendations on how the alignment of local government and Local and Community Development should be progressed

# Background



- Interim report published by the steering group in November 2011
- Final report published in October 2012 as part of Minister Hogan's overall reform programme for Local Government.
  - *'Putting People First – Action Programme for Effective Local Government'*
  - *Proposals for Reform of Local Government*
  - *Proposals for alignment of Local Government & Local Development*



# Proposals



- Establish Socio Economic Committee's (SEC's)
  - Public Private Partnership structure
  - Proposed Membership of 15
  - Convened by County Manager and secretariat provided by Local Authority
  - Responsible for Planning and Oversight of all local and community development programmes
  - SEC structure *'should be considered as the vehicle through which the LEADER approach is implemented for the 2014-2020 round of funding'*
  - Established on a statutory basis
  - Alignment with Local Authority Boundaries (One SEC Per County)
  - Abolish County Development Boards

# ...Proposals



- National policy on local and community development to be developed
- 5 year Local & Community Plan
  - *'encompassing all State funded local and community development interventions, should be developed for each city/county area'*
  - To be developed by the SEC
  - *'Oversight responsibility for the management & disbursement of local and community development programme funds, the matching of resources to priorities and achievement of value for money in accordance with the County Local and Community Plan should be vested in the SEC'*
- Significant changes for Councils
  - Subdivisions of existing Counties based on Municipal Districts

# SKDP Concerns



- SEC and not SKDP will be the applicant for next round of EU LEADER Funding and SEC will hold the contract
- Without core funding programmes, SKDP as an organisation cannot continue to function
- The planning and delivery of local development programmes by SKDP, a community led organisation, will come to an end.

# Key Issues



SKDP

- 8 Community
- 6 Agencies
- 5 Local Government
- 5 Social Partners

SEC

15 ?

# Key Issues:



- SKDP currently leverage significant levels of funding from alternative sources which are not accessible to local authorities.
- The huge voluntary input and local knowledge inherent in the Board, Committees and activities of SKDP, will be lost.

# In Response - SKDP:



- SKDP held four Community Meetings in South Kerry in February 2013
- Arising from these meetings – Large Public Meeting held in CYMS Hall Killorglin in May 2013 – attended by public representatives (M.E.P, TD's, Cllrs)
- Local media coverage
- SKDP Supported National Lobbying effort of ILDN

# Developments Since



- Minister Hogan - National Alignment Working Group Formed in March/April 2013
  - Consisting of Dept. Reps, C.C.M.A. Reps, Pobal Reps & ILDN Reps
  - Purpose – to advance Alignment Proposals
  - ILDN agreed to participate - subject to conditions
  - Ten meetings held of this Group between April 2013 to September 2013
  - No Progress on core issues
  - At last meeting in September 2013 – AWG agreed to develop three proposals
    - The Local & Community Development Programme and any successor Programme
    - The LEADER Programme
    - A general operating Framework setting out working arrangements between LCDC's and Local Development Companies.

# Developments Since



- ‘Frontrunner’ SEC’s established in 10 Local Authority areas in early autumn 2013. (*Dublin City Council, South Dublin Co Council, Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown, Leitrim, Roscommon, Mayo, Galway County, Offaly, Limerick & Cork County*)
- Frontrunner SEC’s to act as a pilot for the rollout of SEC’s in all Local Authority areas
  - Trial approaches to SEC Operation
  - Capture learning from the frontrunners to inform both the legislative process and the full roll-out of SEC’s.
- No real progress by frontrunner SEC’s by the end of 2013/early 2014 (half never held a meeting)

# Local Government Reform Act 2014



- Local Government Reform Act 2014 – Signed into law on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2014.
  - SEC's – Name change to LCDC's (Local Community Development Committees)
  - Main Provisions of the Act relating to LCDC's -Section 36 of the Act. It provides for
    - » Establishment of the LCDC's by resolution of the local authority
    - » Functions of the LCDC's & LCDC Membership
    - » Support for LCDC's by Local Authorities
    - » Co-operation with the work of LCDC's
    - » Provides for Ministerial regulations and the issuing of policy guidelines relating to the governance and work of LCDCs.
  - Provision for the preparation of Local Economic and Community Plans by local authorities and LCDC's.

# Further Developments in 2014



- January 31<sup>st</sup> 2014 - *Document entitled 'Local Community Development Committees - Progress Update'* issued by DECLG to frontrunner Local Authorities
- February 4<sup>th</sup> 2014 - Slightly amended version issued to all Local Authorities
- Contents of both documents of huge concern to SKDP and all Local Development Companies
- ILDN – Completely unaware that these documents were being issued

# Further Developments in 2014



- *‘Local Community Development Committees - Progress Update’* – Documents set out
  - Key Action and Milestones for frontrunner LCDC’s
    - Already behind and realistically undeliverable
  - Membership
    - Recommendations on changes in order to be eligible for LEADER - creating exact replica of LDC Board
  - Local Economic & Community Plans
  - Local Development Programme Implementation Arrangements
    - LEADER - stated intent that LCDC is applicant
    - LCDC’s would develop the new two year Local & Community Development Programme Plan
  - Boards of Partnership Companies
    - “need to reduce the number and size of committees”

# Further Developments in 2014



- February 4<sup>th</sup> - Letter issued by the DECLG to local development companies (Incl SKDP) advising that on foot of advice from the AG's office – the successor programme to the Local Community Development Programme will be required to be Publicly tendered.
- Public Tendering Process – Commercial/For Profit organisations can submit tenders.
- No Guarantee – that SKDP will implement/or have any role in the design and delivery of future LCDP programmes in South Kerry

# Further Developments in 2014



- March 6<sup>th</sup> 2014 - ILDN Meeting with Minister Hogan to discuss concerns
- Minister confirmed
  - Successor programme to the current LCDP – will be subject to public procurement
  - It is his Dept's intention that the LCDC's will become the 'LAG' for the next round of LEADER funding (Therefore the LCDC will hold the contract and be responsible for programme delivery)
  - Local Authorities will have a role in the financial management of the next LEADER programme, including project payments
  - Outlined that his Dept. expects the Local Development Companies (incl SKDP) to have a role focusing on animation and capacity building and developing projects

# Key Concerns for SKDP



- LCDP & LEADER Programmes are core funding programmes for SKDP
- Current proposals mean that SKDP may have no role in their future delivery, the result being that
- SKDP will not be viable and will not be able to continue in operation

# Key Concerns for SKDP



- The result
  - SKDP will no longer be able to continue to provide the range of other programmes/services it delivers to communities (such as Rural Social Scheme, TUS, Local Employment Services)
  - Significant job losses - SKDP employs 30 staff directly and 230 indirectly through the TUS & Rural Social Scheme.
  - Loss of extensive expertise and experience that SKDP staff have built up over the past 20 years
  - SKDP's voluntary board of management could be lost
  - Greater difficulty by Communities and Enterprises in South Kerry in accessing future LEADER & LCDP funding
  - The SKDP community led bottom-up approach will be lost.
  - Additional Leveraged funding opportunities for South Kerry Communities will be lost

# ILDN Response



- ILDN - in response - National Campaign
  - Legal Advice
  - Agreed to respond positively to Labour Relation Commission process instigated by SIPTU
  - Engaging with key national stakeholders on issues of concern
  - Instructed that All ILDN regions should determine at a regional and local level appropriate actions and feedback to ILDN as soon as possible.
  - Agreed that LDCs should engage with drafting of Local Economic Community Plan at a high level, however low-level plans should remain as internal documents to LDCs only.
  - Online petition launched - Agreed that ILDN petition should be signed by all CEOs & Chairs, and shared with staff and community members. Details on the SKDP website [www.southkerry.ie](http://www.southkerry.ie)

# SKDP Response



- In response to recent developments – SKDP
  - Written to all Kerry TD's.
  - Met with all Kerry TD's to discuss its concerns
  - Circulated details of the on-line petition to all Kerry TD's, senators and Munster MEP's requesting their support
  - Agreed to hold four public meetings to inform our communities of recent developments and widely circulate details of the on-line petition.

# What Can South Kerry Communities



- Fight to retain their Local Development Company – SKDP
- How ?
  - Make ye’r voices heard - Lobby ye’r local elected representatives
  - Write to Minister Phil Hogan T.D, Minister for the Environment Community & Local Government
  - Log-in and sign the on-line petition – encourage family, friends and neighbours to do the same
  - Inform those who have not attended this evening’s meeting of the current developments and their potential impact
  - Contact and raise the issue with local media

# What Should happen ?



- South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd should be the decision maker when investing funds in local communities, enterprises and initiatives in South Kerry based on its local development strategies
- South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd should be the contract holder and delivery body for future Local Community Development Programme and LEADER Programme funding – not the Local Authority
- The next LEADER programme should be adequately resourced
  - Current Programme €370 Million Nationally (Irish Government & EU funding)
  - Next Programme – EU Funding €153 Million, Irish Government ??????? - Not Yet finalised.
  - With maximum co-financing by the Irish Government of 45% - Programme Size €280 Million
- No further cuts to SKDP's funding



Thank You