

## **WHAT DO GOVERNMENT REFORMS MEAN FOR OUR COMMUNITY?**

### ***What is South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd?***

- South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd is a non-profit organisation that delivers a range of programmes that tackle poverty & social exclusion, assists enterprise creation, supports the long term unemployed, offers education & training supports and supports the provision & development of community services & infrastructure.
- South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd works in partnership with Government Departments & agencies including the; Dept. of Social Protection, Dept. of Environment Community & Local Government, Dept. of Education & Skills and a wide range of community & voluntary organisations.
- The programmes delivered by South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd are; the Local & Community Development Programme, Rural Social Scheme, TUS, the Rural Development (LEADER) Programme, the Local Employment Service, Jobs Club, The Walks Scheme, Rural Alliances & South Kerry Skillnet.
- These programmes are delivered using the community-led, bottom-up approach that has been recognised as best practice at an EU level.

### ***What do the local government reforms mean?***

- Local Authorities, through newly formed Local Community Development Committee, will be responsible for the two core funding programmes of South Kerry Development Partnership, the Local & Community Development Programme & the Rural Development Programme (LEADER).
- The Local & Community Development Programme will be open to public tendering meaning for profit companies may end up being responsible for the delivery of it. The LEADER Programme will also be subject to tendering, details of which have yet to be announced by the Dept. of Environment, Community & Local Government.
- **Without these two core programmes, it will be difficult for South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd to survive and continue providing the range of other programmes/services it delivers to communities (such as Rural Social Scheme, TUS, Local Employment Services etc.)**
- With almost 30 staff employed directly and 220 employed indirectly through TUS & Rural Social Schemes, this could result in not only significant job losses, but also the loss of the extensive expertise these staff have built-up over the past 20 years.
- SKDP's voluntary Board of Management that makes the key decisions on how best to invest funds in their local areas while achieving the best return for the sustainable development of South Kerry Communities, could also be lost. The SKDP board is comprised of four pillars comprising the Community & Voluntary pillar, Social Partners, Statutory agencies and Local Government. The largest pillar is the Community & Voluntary sector with 8 representatives.

### ***Will these changes save money?***

- No. In fact these changes will cost money. A study commissioned by the Irish Local Development Network (ILDN) showed that in comparison, Local Development Company staff costs for five key comparable positions within local authorities, were lower in each case. (Smith Everett & Associates, July 2013).

### ***What should happen instead?***

- South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd should remain the designated organisation to design and deliver local development strategies for both the Rural Development Programme (LEADER) and the Local & Community Development Programme in South Kerry.
- South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd should be the EU recognised Local Action Group in South Kerry for the above funding streams, and not the Local Authority.
- 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 able to continue to leverage additional funding for South Kerry Communities to complete additional projects.