



LCDC Information Sessions

Cavan, 22nd July 2015

Local Community Development Committees

Approaches and Challenges

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Coillte signs deal with OCMS to market properties for film, tv and event business

See page 8



DLRCC's Winter Road Casualty Reduction Programme

See page 9



Peter Tyndall nominated as Ombudsman and Information Commissioner

See page 11

RADICAL COUNCIL REFORM

Phil Hogan, TD, Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, has introduced the Local Government Bill 2013 to fundamentally reform the local government system in Ireland.

"This is the first time in over 100 years that we have attempted such a radical reform but it is necessary to bring our local government system up to date and to provide the kind of services our citizens deserve," the Minister said.

The Bill provides for the necessary changes to local authority functions, structures, funding, performance and governance to achieve the overall vision of a local government system that is the main vehicle for public service delivery at local level, leads economic, social and community development and represents citizens and citizens' interests effectively and accountably.

The Minister said "The whole point of local government reform is to ensure that local Councils deliver better services to their citizens."

The Bill provides that in future no separate structures will be established outside of local government for the delivery of public services, unless clearly justified.

"For too long local government has been bypassed by quangos. I want councils to do more for citizens and local communities. But I accept that local government must regain public trust," the Minister said, adding "This will take time but the reforms will facilitate by helping to restore the relationship between the citizens and their local council. This is critical and will be achieved in two main ways.

Firstly, citizens will have better engagement with their council members on how and where money is spent through the LPT. And this engagement will be strengthened once further local

and benefit from," said the Minister. The main provisions of the Bill set out the structural reform of local government for greater efficiency, improvements to local government funding, accountability and governance, as well as providing for local government being the lead in economic and community development.

functional, territorial and operational scope. The creation of new unified local authorities in Limerick, Tipperary and Monaghan is in accordance to the existing city and county councils. New regional assemblies, with a more focused role in spatial and economic planning, will be established to replace the current eight regional authorities and two assemblies and a single set of councillors for district and county levels, replacing the existing dual mandate for county councils.

Local Councils will be

city development activities. There will also be a new Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) for Economic Development in each council to prepare local action plans to guide and foster economic activity and stimulate job creation within the area, and provide the planning, oversight and accountability of the new Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs), which will replace the County Enterprise Boards.

The Bill provides for a rebalancing of responsibility between the elected members and the council executive, to further strengthen the decision-making powers of councillors for the benefit of the community and citizens they represent. Specific provisions are as follows:

The establishment of a new post of chief executive to replace the former city and county managers. The Bill provides for greater involvement by the council in guiding the appointment of the chief executive; A standardised council rate across each county to be introduced over a period of 10 years. Also, the level of vacancy refund of rates will be standardised at a rate of 50% nationally in line with current practice in Dublin, Cork and Limerick cities. Greater involvement in and oversight of local authority budgets by members.

In particular municipal district assemblies will have delegated powers to decide programmes of works to be carried out within their district. A new National Oversight and Audit Commission for Local Government (NOAC) will be established to provide independent scrutiny of local government performance and in providing advice for money for service delivery. NOAC reports will be made public and the Chief Executive will prepare an implementation plan to address any issues raised by the NOAC.

The Bill also provides for a programme in 2014 to allow the people of Dublin to decide for themselves if an office of a directly elected mayor should be established for the greater Dublin area.



Members of the Institute of Referendum Political Institutions: Ireland in Comparative Perspective' was David Farrell, Professor of Politics at UCD and President of the Political Studies Association of Ireland, Dr Brian Czerley, Director IRI and Professor John Coakley, author. (See full story on page 5)

Bill enacted when consultation will be given the power to vary the LPT. Secondly, citizens will be better able to judge how well their council is doing at providing local services, how well they are performing relative to other councils, and citizens will also be asked how satisfied they are with the services they get. It is only through this consultative form of assessment that we will be able to demonstrate that we have real reforms that citizens can see

given a greater say in local enterprise and economic development and in local and community development activities. The reform provides for the alignment of the local community development sector with local government through the establishment of Local Community Development Committees, which will be mandated to prepare Local Community Plans to bring strategic coordination to the millions of euro spent each year on local and commu-



Purpose

Thinking and discussion

Structure

1. Change
2. Context
3. Challenge & opportunity

Fundamental or Radical Change

“.....an episodic change that involves a large-scale re-imagining of an organization’s vision, organizing principles, processes, way of working as well as it’s products and services”

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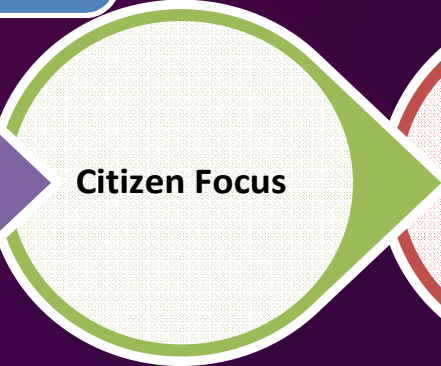
Putting People
First 2012

Local Government
Reform Act 2014

Dissolution of County
Development Boards

Local Enterprise Offices

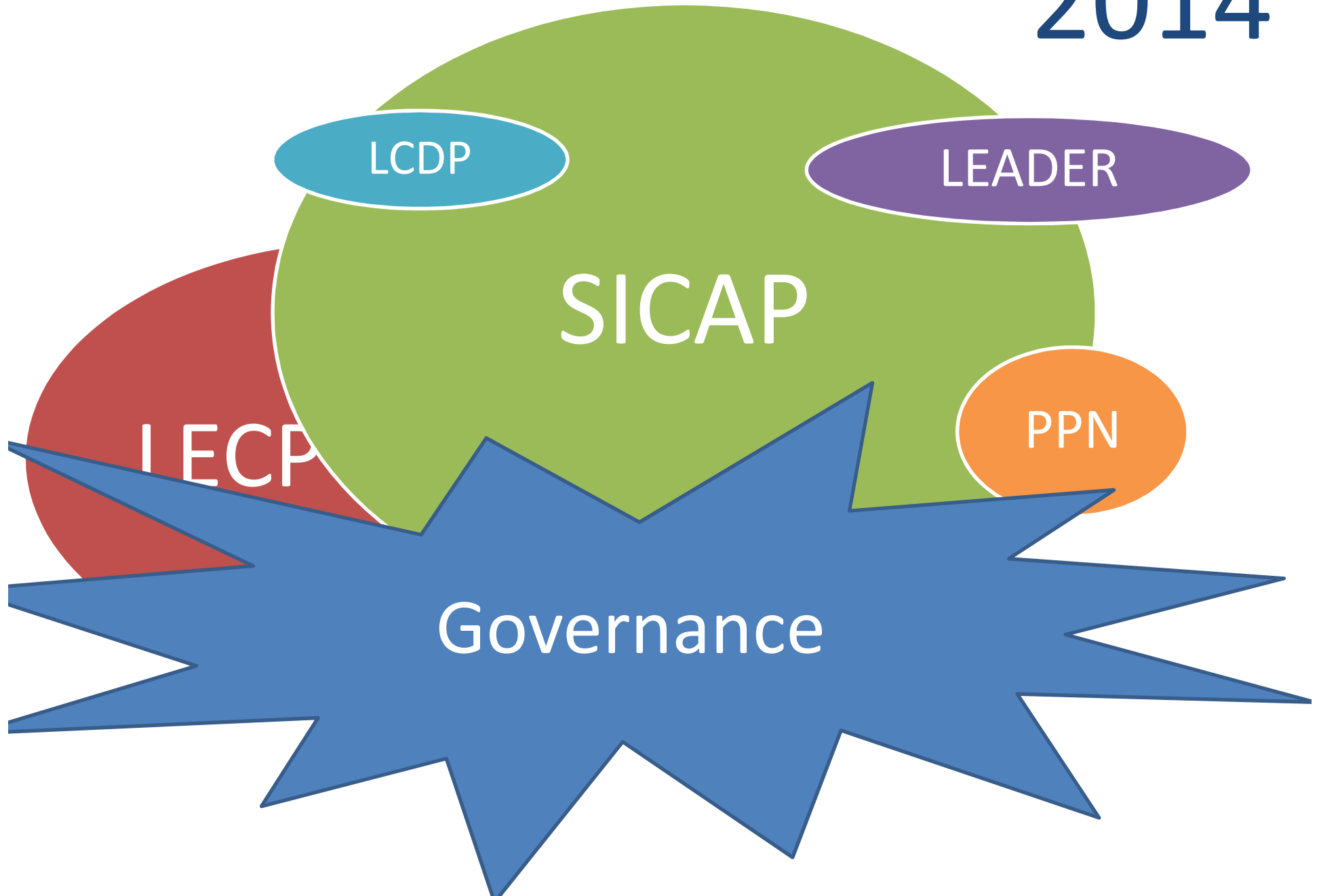
Local Community
Development
Committes



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2014



LCDP

LEADER

SICAP

IECP

PPN

Governance

Some responses to change. . .

- Critic - Victim - Bystander - Navigator -



Incremental or Continuous Change

“...Continuous improvements to an organization made in an on-going manner. This may be the result of either normal management processes or continuous improvement program’s”.

2015

LECP

SICAP

LEADER

Governance

Challenges

1. Stretching resources in the local authority.

2. Tension between the requirements of rapid change and public sector procedures.

3. Capacity of local community development committees.

4. Awareness and understanding

5. Integration, co-ordination, pursue other opportunities...

APPROACHES

1. Keep explaining change.
2. Listen to concerns.
3. Minimise uncertainty.
4. Create learning opportunities.
5. Celebrate shifts towards desired state.
6. Be as transparent as possible.





Independence,
Contracting,
Oversight.

Improve,
Involve,
Impact.

Fingal County Council

2015

Local Economic & Community Plan

LEADER

SICAP

X

Y

Z

Governance

Thank you for listening...

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www.fingalcoco.ie

Resources and quotes:
changeactivation.com