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## Draft Strategic Policy Committees 2024-2029

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The statutory basis for Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs) is set out in Section 48 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended by Section 41 of the 2014 Act. The making of an SPC scheme is a reserved function.

SPCs are intended to be strategic in nature while the operational matters are mainly dealt with at Area Committees. The City Council is, and remains, the decision making authority and the final decision on strategic issues rests with the full Council.

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage's Guidelines advise that SPCs should:

- assist the Council in the formulation, development, monitoring and review of policy and strategy.
- reflect the major functions or services of a local authority within the broader context.
- take account of the Council's overall corporate policy and objectives, integrate with statutory plans and link realistically to financial resources.
- be tailored to the size, membership and administrative resources of a local authority but generally be four in number.
- have one third of their membership drawn from sectors relevant to the Committees' work. At least one of those members on each committee should be drawn from the Public Participation Network Membership.
- Meet twice yearly at a minimum. SPCs in Dublin City Council have traditionally met four to six times a year.
- The Corporate Policy Group (CPG) should decide on the work programmes of the SPCs and recommend issues to be considered by SPCs. All subgroups of SPCs should be sanctioned by the CPG to ensure clarity on brief, reporting and to avoid overlap between Committees.

Dublin City Council's SPC Scheme 2019-2024 provided for 7 SPCs and I am proposing a similar structure for 2024-2029 as follows:

1. **Community, Sport & Culture SPC**  
21 members: 14 Councillors, 7 Sectoral Members  
Policy Areas  
Archive and Libraries  
Biodiversity  
Commemorations  
Arts  
Culture  
Galleries & Museum  
Irish Language  
Music  
Parks, open spaces & natural environment  
School Meals  
Sports and Recreation Centres  
Sports Development  
Control of Horses & Dogs  
Casual trading & street performers
  
2. **Climate Action & Urban Resilience SPC**  
15 members: 10 Councillors, 5 Sectoral Members  
Policy Areas  
Air/Water (Raw) Quality  
Climate Change  
Environmental Protection  
Environmental sustainability  
Flood Protection  
Surface Water Drainage
  
3. **Economic Development & Enterprise SPC**  
15 Members: 10 Councillors, 5 Sectoral Members  
Policy Areas  
Economic Development  
Enterprise support  
Local Economic Community Partnership (LECP)  
Events & Festivals  
Local Enterprise Office  
Tourism  
Markets  
International Relations & Smart Cities
  
4. **Finance SPC**  
18 Members: 12 Councillors, 6 Sectoral Members  
Policy Areas  
Budget – Capital & Revenue  
Finance  
Local Property Tax  
Motor Tax

Procurement  
Income generation  
Rates  
Risk Management

**5. Housing SPC**

24 Members: 16 Councillors, 8 Sectoral Members

Policy Areas

Housing Policy  
Homelessness  
Housing Delivery  
Affordable and Cost Rental Housing  
Housing and Disability  
Housing Maintenance and Estate Management  
Refugees  
Traveller Accommodation Programmes  
Housing Welfare  
Rent Collection & Assessment  
Senior Citizens

**6. Mobility and Public Realm SPC**

18 Members: 12 Councillors, 6 Sectoral Members

Policy Areas

Commercial & Goods Movement  
Cycling  
Environmental Traffic Planning  
Facilitation of Public Transport  
Parking Control & Enforcement  
Pedestrian Facilities  
Roads & Road Safety  
Traffic Control & Management  
Litter & Waste Management

**7. Planning & Urban Regeneration SPC**

15 Members: 10 Councillors, 5 Sectoral Members

Policy Areas

Archaeology  
Building Control  
Conservation  
Development Management  
Heritage  
Forward Planning  
Planning Services  
Property Management  
Regional Planning Guidelines  
Strategic Projects and Urban Renewal

The Departmental guidelines on the Corporate Policy Group (CPG) task that Group with budget preparation, value for money, service delivery plans and corporate planning. I propose that the CPG should delegate these functions to the Budget Consultative Group.

Under this proposal each Councillor will be member of one SPC and shall not be a member of more than two Committees. The Guidelines advise that membership should reflect the proportionality and the distribution of elected representation on the full Council. According to Standing Orders all Councillors are free to attend and participate in any SPC that interest them even if they are not a member. However, only Members of the SPC can vote on issues raised. It should be noted that any increase in the number of Councillors on an SPC will necessitate an increase in the external membership as the ratio of one third external members to two thirds Councillor members must be maintained.

It is also recommended that a diverse range of views and interests are represented from other sectors to ensure that all SPC's are inclusive and effective.

I recommend that the City Council approves the establishment of 7 SPCs as outlined above and now appoint 7 Chairpersons Designate to work with my Department over the coming weeks to formulate a more detailed draft Strategic Policy Committee Scheme 2024 – 2029 for presentation to Council at its September meeting. This will finalise, names, functions of each SPC and also specify the desired mix of sectoral representation required as per the guidelines. **Ideally each Chair should serve for the term of the Council but at least for a three years minimum**

The role of the SPC Chairs is regarded as pivotal to the success of both the SPCs and the Corporate Policy Group (CPG). Accordingly, local authorities are asked to ensure that SPC Chairs are selected on the basis that:

- they have an interest in the work of the SPCs
- they are fully aware of the leadership role of SPC Chairs
- they appreciate the need to work with the relevant Director of Service to facilitate the smooth and effective operation of the SPCs and the CPG (which comprises the SPC Chairs along with the Mayor/Cathaoirleach supported by the Chief Executive)

If the draft Scheme is approved in July, it is envisaged that a report and final draft SPC Scheme will be put out for consultation and sent to the PPN for comment. The final report will be presented to the September meeting of the City Council for adoption. At that stage Dublin City Council can invite interested parties to express an interest in participating. The PPN will be obliged to elect at least one member from their membership to each SPC. Sectoral members should be in place by October 2024.

**Richard Shakespeare**  
**Chief Executive,**  
**26<sup>th</sup> June 2024.**