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## **Dublin City Council Strategic Policy Committees 2024 - 2029**

### **Scheme for the establishment and operation of Strategic Policy Committees**

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#### **Introduction**

Under Section 48 Local Government Act 2001, (as amended by Section 41 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014), a local authority shall establish by resolution committees to be known as Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs). These committees are to consider matters connected with the formulation, development, monitoring and review of policy which relate to the functions of the local authority and to advise the local authority on those matters.

Following the Local Elections, it is necessary for each local authority to establish new SPCs in line with the revised Guidelines for the establishment and operation of Corporate Policy Groups and Strategic Policy Committees published by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in June 2024. SPCs are intended to be strategic in nature while the operational matters are 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. All policies formulated by an SPC must go to Council for adoption or amendment.

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage Guidelines state that the SPCs should:

- assist the Council in the formulation, development 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
- be chaired by one of the councillor members.
- have a minimum total membership of nine.
- have at least 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
- Each sector will select its own nominee(s) via the PPN, where appropriate.
- Local authorities are statutorily required to have an SPC for Economic Development and Enterprise.
- All SPCs should consider climate action as a cross-cutting issue in their work programmes.
- Each SPC must have regard to the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSES) prepared by the Regional Assembly.
- The Corporate Policy Group (CPG) should decide on the work programmes of the SPCs and recommend issues to be considered by SPCs.

## **Commitment to Inclusive Community Engagement**

Dublin City Council is committed to collaborative and inclusive processes in policy development and will have regard to available resources in developing consultation and engagement processes. The Council will ensure that a diverse range of views and interests are represented from other sectors to ensure that all SPCs are inclusive and effective.

## **Membership – Nomination Process**

### **Elected Members:**

### **The Role of SPC Chairs**

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 Lord Mayor supported by the Chief Executive)

### **Appointment of Chairs Designate**

Dublin City Council at its meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2024 established seven SPCs and appointed Councillors to be the Chairs Designate to each SPC as follows:

<b>Strategic Policy Committee</b>	<b>Chair</b>
Community, Gaeilge, Sport & Culture	Cllr. Darragh Moriarty
Climate Action and Urban Resilience	Cllr. Naoise Ó Muirí
Economic Development and Enterprise	Cllr. Tom Brabazon
Finance	Cllr. Séamas McGrattan
Housing	Cllr. Deirdre Heney
Mobility and Public Realm	Cllr. Janet Horner
Planning and Urban Regeneration	Cllr. Catherine Stocker

Ideally each Chair should serve for the term of the Council but at least for a minimum period of three years.

The proposed areas of responsibility for each of the seven Strategic Policy Committees are set out in **Appendix A**. This list is indicative but not exhaustive.

The Council Members will nominate elected members to the SPCs and this membership will reflect the proportionality and the distribution of elected representation on the full Council as required under the Departmental Guidelines.

It is proposed that the City Council now appoint the Elected Members to each of the SPCs as outlined in **Appendix B**

Under this scheme each elected member will become a member of at least one SPC and shall not be a member of more than two Committees. According to Standing Orders all Councillors are free to attend and participate in any SPC that interests 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.

### **Sectoral Representation:**

Local sectoral interests, including the Public Participation Network (PPN), trade unions, along with the business community and related sectors will constitute one third of the membership of any SPC. It is a matter for the City Council to fix the numbers but it has been practice in Dublin City Council to maintain a ratio of 2/3 Councillors and 1/3 Sectoral Interests, as set out in Standing Orders.

The nomination process for:

- the business/commercial and development/construction sectors will be facilitated by the business and employers organisations pillar; however not all nominations for related sectors will be through this pillar;
- the trade union sector will be facilitated by the trade union pillar;
- the environmental/conservation, community / voluntary and social inclusion sectors will be determined on the basis of the local nomination process through the PPN
- the environmental/conservation sector will be facilitated by the environmental pillar and the associated Environmental College under the PPN arrangements. To join the Environment Electoral College under the PPN, an organisation's primary objectives and activities must be environmental (i.e. ecological) protection and/or environmental sustainability. Membership of this Electoral College will be validated by the environmental pillar at a national level.

It is desirable that sectoral nominees retain membership of the SPC for the lifetime of the Council. Repeated non-attendance will be taken as a resignation from the SPC.

Following adoption of the SPC Scheme the Scheme shall be circulated to each sector to seek nominations.

The following factors, will be considered in determining sectoral representation on and across each SPC:

- the need to foster economic and social development generally;
- a stated commitment to working towards gender balance and to encouraging as full as possible gender balance in representation from the sectors;
- the need to ensure a pro-active approach to having as many relevant sectors as possible across the SPC system;
- the need for balance between divergent interests;
- the need for a comprehensive audit of groups within the local authority area to facilitate the fullest possible consultation with each sector;
- the priority concerns of each sector and the appropriateness of the SPCs to these concerns;

- the relationship between the number of SPCs and the range of interests which can be represented;
- a commitment to the fostering of social inclusiveness and equality;
- a commitment to have a pro-active information strategy to inform the public on the renewal of local government;
- the desirability of facilitating relevant organisations to be part of the nominating constituencies.
- groups/associations should be active in the area of the authority and, where possible, have a countrywide impact or at a minimum a relevance in a number of localities in the area
- groups/associations should be open to new members, hold AGMs and regular meetings, and should be broadly representative and accountable.
- whereas in some instances it may be appropriate to consider single interest groups (such as those campaigning on behalf of the elderly or people with disabilities), groups formed around a specific local single issue will not be considered for inclusion. Single issue groups should affiliate with their relevant PPNs to ensure that they are also represented.

### **SPC Meetings – Procedures**

- Procedures for SPC meetings are set out in Dublin City Council Standing Orders
- A calendar of SPC meetings should be agreed at the start of each year. This should be structured in such a way as to fit in with policy making timeframes, including statutory timeframes to allow SPCs to perform their role
- SPCs are generally held 4-6 times per year at suitable times for SPC members. It should be noted that some SPC meetings may be held more frequently as appropriate. Documentation concerning SPC meetings should be sent five clear days in advance of meetings
- One third of the total membership of an SPC shall constitute a quorum, the majority of whom must be members of the City Council
- Meetings generally take place during the day but the timing of the meeting will be decided by each SPC

### **SPC Meetings – Training and Support**

Additional training will be provided for SPC members as appropriate to their needs. This may include:

- Effective meeting skills for SPC Chairs
- Briefings on policy to cover the various areas within the remit of the SPCs, particularly in respect of climate action;
- Briefings on public sector / local government reform programmes;
- Legal and ethical responsibilities of SPC members, including but not limited to GDPR, lobbying, etc.;

Training requirements for each SPC may be identified by the membership of an SPC.

## **External Expertise / Consultation**

In view of the important strategic role which SPCs have in the development and review of policy, consultation with relevant sectors and interests should be an ongoing part of the SPC process. This may be of additional significance where an SPC covers a number of services with limited opportunity for direct sectoral participation on the committee or where it was not possible to accommodate fully the range of relevant interests. It is a matter for the SPC, taking account of the range of interests already represented, to decide on the appropriate consultative arrangements subject to whatever guidelines might be issued by the Council

## **Public Consultation**

In July the City Council consented to the Draft SPC Scheme 2024 – 2029 going out for public consultation. Submissions and expressions of interest were also invited from the PPN and from the relevant Pillars - Business and Employers, Trade Unions and Environmental. The Draft Scheme was also posted on the Dublin City Council website and submissions invited.

41 submissions were received from:

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
1.	Catherine O'Toole	The Environmental Pillar
2	Julian de Spáinn	Conradh na Gaeilge
3	Vincent Lyons	
4	Ruth Powell	PPN
5	Dr Robert Sinnott	PPN
6	Gary Kearney	PPN
7	Odran Reid	TU Dublin Irish Planning Institute
8	Éilís Mhic Craith	Bí ag caint
9	Maria Curtis	
10	Brendan Dalton	Lorcan Estate Residents Association
11	Rachel Coyle	National Women's Council
12	Mícheál Halton	
13	Kristin Hadfield	
14	Oisín O'Reilly	Outhouse LGBTQ+ Centre
15	Daithí Doolan	Sinn Fein
16	Bernard Mulvany	Access For All Ireland
17	Sean Higgins	Dublin Commuters Coalition
18	Lochlann Gallagher	Dublin Commuter Coalition
19	Oisín Benson	
20	Cian Brennan	
21	Robbie Mc Guinness	
22	Cian Dowd	
23	Shane Moloney	
24	Conor Gavin	
25	Seamus Markey	
26	Eoin O'Brien	
27	Noel Faherty	
28	Andrei Balcanasu	
29	Thomas Robertson	

30	Andrew Holt	
31	Sunil Sharpe	Give Us The Night
32	Christopher Hapka	
33	Peter Kearns	Independent Living Movement Ireland (ILMI)
34	Brian Greene	Dublin Community Television
35	Colm Ryder	Irish Cycling Campaign (formerly Cyclist.ie)
36	John Quigley	Dublin Commuter Coalition
37	James Quigley	
38	Niamh Moran	WALK PEER Programme
39	Thomas Davidson	
40	Gary Marshall	
41	Medha Subramanian	

The following observations were made:

Topic	Issues raised
<b>Process</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultation lacked transparency as details of Sectoral Member seats available in each SPC was not included</li> <li>• Unclear from Draft Scheme how SPCs will be populated with individuals representatives and organisations</li> <li>• Clarification required on the distinction between single issue groups and single interest groups.</li> <li>• A consortium of businesses who own car parks should not be allowed to join as they are single issue (i.e. profitability of their car parks.</li> <li>• Some groups may be considered single issue” when in fact their input and ideas spreads beyond they main known area of expertise.</li> </ul>
<b>Remit of SPC</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Role and remit of each SPC needs to be established at the outset. Elected members often use SPC as an extension of Council and Area Committee meetings and seek to hold the executive to account. Changing this dynamic may facilitate the SPC becoming more strategic and more policy oriented.</li> <li>• The role of the PPN needs to be clarified</li> <li>• The inclusion of Irish on the SPC was welcomed</li> <li>• Climate Change and Climate Action (including Biodiversity) are cross-cutting themes and should be included in work plan and deliberations of all SPCs.</li> <li>• CPG should ensure that all proposed policies from SPCs are Climate and Biodiversity proofed.</li> <li>• Biodiversity seems incongruous as a topic in the Community, Gaeilge, Sport and Culture SPC</li> <li>• All projects presented to all SPCs to be disability-proofed through DPRO’s at an early stage as per UNCRPD</li> <li>• That all SPCs consider the rights of disabled people as a cross-cutting theme.</li> <li>• Suggested that Social Enterprise be added to the functions of the Economic Development &amp; Enterprise SPC</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suggested that Litter &amp; Waste Management would sit more suitably with Climate Action &amp; Urban Resilience SPC as this SPC broadly deals with environmental issues</li> <li>• The placing of Senior Citizens should be reconsidered as it is a broader issue than just housing</li> </ul> <p><b>Social Inclusion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for re-establishment of DCC SPCs towards the promotion of social inclusion and diversity throughout the DCC points of contact</li> <li>• Establish an SPC to promote social inclusion and diversity with a strong emphasis on direct dialogue with Dublin’s disabled people and their collective</li> <li>• Calls for prioritising SPC to address Social Inclusion and Diversity given current social climate and incidents and wide range of social issues. Broad representation from wide range of communities. Clear mandate to develop, monitor and review cross-cutting and intersectional policies promoting social inclusion. Proposal for working group or task force would not have the resources or statutory weight an SPC.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Meeting Processes</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That a meeting protocol be developed with PPN input</li> <li>• That all documentation for meetings be circulated at least 1 week in advance to facilitate representatives Be in an accessible format Safe environment free from bullying, harassment</li> <li>• In line with Revised Guidelines 2024 call for improvements in the management of the SPC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Adoption of a multi annual work programme</li> <li>- Greater involvement of SPC members in the work of the SPC, including input into the setting of the agenda</li> <li>- Sending agenda, minutes and discussion documents ‘well in advance’ of the SPC meetings to enable SPC members to study the adequately. The Guidelines suggest 4 weeks advance notice. In the recent past only 1 weeks notice has been given. Members need time to prepare and consult in advance</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Changes to schedule of meetings must only be made following consultation with all members</li> <li>• Timing and location of meetings should be by agreement to facilitate maximum participation, proximity to public transport.</li> <li>• Meeting times should be flexible, potential for evening meetings</li> <li>• All members should be able to add items to the agenda. Items automatically added to next meeting agenda if not reached.</li> <li>• Recommendations from an SPC to Council may, where consensus is not possible, include a minority report or statement to give the Council benefit of full range of expertise and opinion</li> <li>• Details on the Operation of the Scheme and the SPCs be included in the Scheme e.g. meeting protocol and training for SPC members Outline of training plan be included in the scheme</li> </ul>

	<p>Training for SPC members should be included in Training and Development Programme for Councillors. Training should take place before first meeting to ensure full participation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online meetings are not effective, leaving little room for members to engage with each other</li> <li>• Attendance and participation at SPC meetings decline significantly as 5 year term nears conclusion.</li> <li>• Non-attendance at meetings by Sectoral Representatives. Regular / mid-term reviews suggested. Suggestion that external member can nominate a replacement if existing member unable to attend</li> <li>• Meeting between full Council and collective Sectoral Reps be held once a year</li> <li>• SPC Chairs have not always had an interest in the work of SPCs or been fully aware of the leadership role of Chair</li> <li>• Suggestion for mixed forums between different SPC groups e.g. the Community &amp; Culture based SPC meeting with Economic Development &amp; Enterprise SPC or a yearly meet-up between all of the SPC groups.</li> <li>• Suggestion that the purpose of SPCs could be to help produce reports and vision documents on similar line to Oireachtas Committees which could lead to interesting results and help to develop the “community” aspect of these committees.</li> <li>• Local authorities could join forces more with local organisations in a collective call for increased funding/resources from central government.</li> <li>• All groups/individuals willing to help or make a difference should be allowed contribute to give a full overview and observations (disagree with single issue/interest groups not being considered)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Name Change of SPC</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To include Arts in title of Community, Gaeilge, Sport and Culture SPC</li> </ul>
<p><b>Composition of SPCs</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome the SPC Scheme following the well worked SPC approach in the past.</li> <li>• To ensure that representation on SPC provides the necessary sector expertise</li> <li>• Changes to the sectoral representation on SPCs</li> <li>• To increase percentage of other sectoral representation on SPCs as required</li> <li>• No reason why percentage of other sector reps could not be greater than in the Draft Scheme – See Departmental Guidelines</li> <li>• Collaborative working between external members, elected members and the executive is not being achieved on many SPCs. This needs to be developed if strategic objectives are to be achieved.</li> <li>• External Members should be used more constructively – role has been somewhat diminished</li> </ul>



- Disability Rights representatives should be representatives of broader organisations for persons with disability
- Dedicated Seats for Disabled Persons Representative Organisations (DPROs) – in particular on the Public Realm and Mobility SPC and Climate Action and Urban Resilience SPC
- Recommended that DPROs have the same status as trade unions in sectoral representation
- Recommend an advocate for children and families on all SPCs, but particularly Mobility and Public Realm SPC. Ideally a youth member (<18 years) who advocates for rights of young children. Often children and adolescents' voices are excluded
- That all 3 PPN pillars be represented on all SPCs (21 PPN representatives)
- To include Environmental seats on all SPCs re Climate Action
- Inclusion of rep from Environmental Electoral College of the PPN in all 7 SPCs
- Inclusion of Environmental Reps on the Climate Action and Urban Resilience SPC
- Strongly recommend the inclusion of 2 Environmental Reps on the Climate Action & Urban Resilience SPC
- In addition to Environmental representation on each SPC, also recommend at least one other SPC member have proven knowledge of climate and biodiversity issues on all SPCs
- Membership: structures can vary within community organisations e.g. may meet regularly but not hold an AGM. A previous track record on working groups, committees, input into policy development etc and a healthy level of engagement with the public should all be taken into consideration.

#### **Mobility & Public Realm SPC**

- Strong support for a group representing public transport users to be represented on SPC (21 submissions)
- Cycling advocacy groups should have a place on SPC
- Accurate proportional representation for all ways people commute and travel in the city – walking, cycling, scooting, bus, luas, trains, cars and motorcycles
- New title of this SPC welcome as represents broader portfolio

#### **Community, Gaeilge, Sport & Culture SPC**

- Request that a representative for the night time economy sit on SPC
- This SPC could benefit from presentations from more community groups and being open to expert international guests

<b>Communication</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPN would welcome opportunity to enhance communication between itself and the SPC on the work of the wider PPN</li> <li>• PPN invites Councillors and DCC staff to attend events and training sessions</li> <li>• No support from DCC management for PPN sectoral representation</li> <li>• Some Councillors and certain political parties have no understanding of PPN remit</li> </ul>
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**Proposals outside scope of SPC scheme:**

A number of suggestions received re bodies of work that might be undertaken by various SPCs. These will be brought to the attention of the relevant SPCs.

A number of suggestions were made that related to individuals/groups expressing an interest in being involved in SPCs or putting forward names of organisations they would like to see included. The nomination process for the selection of external representatives is outlined above and will commence following adoption of the scheme.

**Recommendation to Council:**

1. To change Community, Gaeilge, Sports and Culture SPC name to include Arts
2. To include Social Enterprise under the Economic Development and Enterprise SPC
3. To change the Housing SPC name to include Social Inclusion
4. That the overall numbers on SPCs remain as in the draft scheme
5. To proceed to invite expressions of interest from interested Sectoral Members and to ask the PPN to organise their election process to fill the vacancies below.
6. To agree that the Councillor representatives on each SPC meet by early October to assess expressions of interest and select sectoral members. This will enable induction to take place for all SPC members in October before scheduled SPC meetings commence.

**Corporate Policy Group (CPG)**

The Corporate Policy Group comprising the Lord Mayor and the chairpersons of the SPCs was re-established by the July City Council meeting and is scheduled to meet on the 30<sup>th</sup> of August. The CPG will continue to provide a forum for policy issues which transcend the remit of individual SPCs and where policy positions affecting the whole Council can be agreed for submission to the full Council. All subgroups of SPCs should be sanctioned by the CPG to ensure clarity on brief, reporting and to avoid overlap between Committees.

The Departmental Guidelines on the Corporate Policy Group (CPG) task that Group with budget preparation, value for money, service delivery plans and corporate planning.

## Sectoral Representation on SPCs

SPC	Councillors	Sectors	Total
<b>Community, Gaelige, Sport, Arts and Culture</b>	14 Councillors	7 as follows: 2 PPN (social inclusion; community/voluntary) 5 Business /Commercial from Arts, Sports, Culture, Heritage, Irish Language organisations etc.	21
<b>Climate Action and Urban Resilience</b>	10	5 as follows: 1 X PPN Environmental Pillar 1 X PPN Social Inclusion or Community/voluntary) 2 X Business/Commercial organisation 1x Development/ Construction	15
<b>Economic, Development &amp; Enterprise</b>	10 Councillors	5 as follows: 2 X PPN 1 Development/Construction 2 X Business/Commercial	15
<b>Finance</b>	12 Councillors	6 as follows: 2 x PPN 2 x Business/ Commercial 1 X Trade Union 1 X Development/Construction	18
<b>Housing and Social Inclusion</b>	16	8 as follows: 3 X PPN (Two from social inclusion, one from community/ voluntary) 3 X Business/Commercial 1 X Development/ Construction 1 X Trade Union	24
<b>Planning and Urban Regeneration</b>	10	5 as follows: 2 X Commercial/ Business 1 X Development /Construction 1 X PPN Environmental 1 X PPN Social Inclusion or Community Voluntary)	15
<b>Mobility and Public Realm</b>	12	6 as follows: 1 X PPN Social Inclusion 1 X PPN Community voluntary 3 X Commercial /Business 1 X Development/ Construction	18

The overall representation by sector of the 42 sectoral members will be 15 PPN, 19 Business/ Commercial, 6 Development/Construction, 2 Trade Union. Arts groups, most housing bodies, cultural groups, professional and other bodies are treated as Business /Commercial under the scheme.

The Council hereby approves the SPC Scheme 2024-2029, the nominations included therein and consents to the invitations of expressions of interest from sectoral members who wish to participate in the SPCs. The Council also approves the granting of an SPC Chair allowance of €6,000 per annum

**Richard Shakespeare**  
Dublin City Chief Executive

**29<sup>th</sup> August 2024**

## **APPENDIX A**

### **INDICATIVE AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SEVEN SPCs**

#### **1. Community, Gaelige, Sport, Arts & Culture**

21 members: 14 Councillors, 7 Sectoral Members

- Arts
- Culture
- Archive and Libraries
- Community Development
- Biodiversity
- Commemorations
- Galleries & Museum
- Irish Language
- Music
- Parks, open spaces & natural environment
- Sports and Recreation Centres
- Sports Development
- School Meals
- Control of Horses & Dogs
- Casual trading & street performers

#### **2. Climate Action & Urban Resilience SPC**

15 members: 10 Councillors, 5 Sectoral Members

- 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

- Economic Development
- Enterprise support
- Local Economic Community Partnership (LECP)
- Events & Festivals
- Social Enterprise
- Local Enterprise Office
- Tourism
- Markets
- International Relations & Smart Cities

#### **4. Finance SPC**

18 Members: 12 Councillors, 6 Sectoral Members

- Budget – Capital & Revenue
- Finance
- Local Property Tax
- Motor Tax

- Procurement
- Income generation
- Rates
- Risk Management

## **5. Housing & Social Inclusion SPC**

**24 Members: 16 Councillors, 8 Sectoral Members**

- Housing Policy
- Community Development
- Social Inclusion
- 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

- 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

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

**Appendix B - Councillor Membership and Numbers of SPCs 2024 - 2029**

Name of Committee	Councillor	Cllrs	Sectoral Members	Total
Community, Gaelige, Sport, Arts & Culture SPC	Darragh Moriarty (Chair)	14	7	21
Climate Action and Urban Resilience SPC	Naoise Ó Muirí (Chair)	10	5	15
Economic Development and Enterprise SPC	Tom Brabazon (Chair)	10	5	15
Finance SPC	Séamas McGrattan (Chair)	12	6	18

<b>Appendix B - Councillor Membership and Numbers of SPCs 2024 – 2029 (continued)</b>				
<b>Name of Committee</b>	<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Cllrs</b>	<b>Sectoral Members</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Housing &amp; Social Inclusion SPC</b>	<b>Deirdre Heney (Chair)</b>	16	8	24
<b>Mobility and Public Realm SPC</b>	<b>Janet Horner (Chair)</b>	12	6	18
<b>Planning and Urban Regeneration SPC</b>	<b>Catherine Stocker (Chair)</b>	12	6	15

## **APPENDIX C**

### **Lobbying Act 2015**

The Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015 (the Act) is designed to provide information to the public regarding:

- Who is lobbying

- On whose behalf is lobbying being carried out
- What are the issues involved in the lobbying
- What is the intended result of the lobbying
- Who is being lobbied

Councillors are Designated Public Officials (DPOs) in accordance with the Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015. Councillors must have regard to the Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015.

Individuals and organisations who participate in Strategic Policy Committees established by local authorities may have obligations under the Act.

A critical element of public policy formulation by the Strategic Policy Committees is the availability to the local authorities of expertise, skills and knowledge from persons outside of the public service. Where membership of the Committee comprises at least one person who, for the purposes of the Act, is a Designated Public Official, it may be the case that communications within the group could be considered lobbying communications. The person making these communications may be required to register as a lobbyist and to submit a return of this communication to the Lobbying Register.

However, the Act provides for an exception from the requirement to register in such cases once specified transparency criteria have been put in place. A Transparency Code was published by the Minister for Finance and Public Expenditure and Reform to address this situation. Communications between members of Strategic Policy Committee about the work of the Committee would be exempt where the group in question complies with the Transparency Code.

### **Ethics Framework**

It is important for all members of committees to be aware of and understand the Ethics Framework for the local government sector set out in Part 15 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended), in particular the following:

Section 168 of the Act

*In carrying out their functions under this or any other enactment, it is the duty of every member and every employee of a local authority and of every member of every committee to maintain proper standards of integrity, conduct and concern for the public interest.*

Section 170 (1)

*An employee or a member of a local authority or of a committee of a local authority shall not seek, exact or accept from any person, other than from the local authority concerned, any remuneration, fee, reward or other favour for anything done or not done by virtue of his or her employment or office, and a code of conduct under section 169 may include guidance for the purposes of this subsection.*

Section 170 (2)

*Subsection (1) shall not be read so as to exclude the persons to whom that subsection relates from the application of the Prevention of Corruption Acts, 1889 to 1995, and any Act which is to be construed together as one with those Acts.*

Councillors and sectoral SPC members must disclose at a SPC meeting any pecuniary or other beneficial interest, (of which they have actual knowledge) they or a connected person have in, or material to, any matter with which the local authority is concerned in the



discharge of its functions, and which comes before the meeting. The councillor / committee member must withdraw from the meeting after disclosure and must not vote or take part in any discussion or consideration of the matter or seek to in any other aspect influence the decision making of the Council.

Where a councillor or committee member has actual knowledge that a matter is going to arise at a meeting at which s/he will not be present, but if s/he were, a disclosure would be necessary, then in advance of the meeting s/he must make such disclosure in writing to the Ethics Registrar.

The foregoing statutory requirements must be observed at all times, and failure to do so is an offence under Section 181 of the 2001 Act. Analogous statutory requirements also apply to employees, and to external members of committees with the exception of the annual declaration in their case.