



Dublin City Council Strategic Policy Committees 2019 - 2024 Scheme for the establishment and operation of Strategic Policy Committees

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 Guidelines published by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in Circular LG07/2014. SPCs are intended to be Strategic in nature. SPCs have no role in staffing, industrial relations or operational matters. The Council is and remains the decision-making authority and the final decision on all strategic issues rests with the full Council. All policies formulated by an SPC must go to Council for adoption or amendment.

The 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
- take account of the Council's overall corporate policy and objectives, comply with statutory provisions and link realistically to financial resources
- be tailored to the size, membership and administrative resources of a local authority
- have one third of their membership drawn from sectors relevant to the Committees' work
- meet at least 4 times a year

Appointment of Chairs Designate

Dublin City Council at its meeting on the 1st of July 2019 established seven SPCs and appointed Councillors to be the Chairs Designate to each SPC as follows:

Gary Gannon	Arts Culture, Leisure & Recreation SPC
Claire O'Connor	Economic Development & Enterprise SPC
Michael Pidgeon	Climate Change, Environment & Energy SPC
Séamas McGrattan	Finance SPC
Alison Gilliland	Housing SPC
Ray McAdam	Planning & Urban Form SPC
Christy Burke	Traffic & Transport SPC

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

Appointment of Members to the SPCs

It is proposed that the City Council now appoint the Elected Members listed to each of the SPCs. **See Appendix A (attached).**

Local sectoral interests, including the Public Participation Network (PPN), trade unions, along with the business community will constitute one third of the membership of any SPC. It is a matter for the City Council to fix the numbers but a ratio of 2:1 must be maintained between Councillors and sectoral members.

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

In July the City Council consented to the Draft SPC Scheme 2019 – 2024 going out for consultation. Submissions and expressions of interest were invited from the PPN and from the relevant Pillars - Business and Employers, Trade Unions and Environmental. (for details of the Pillars, See Appendix C) The Draft Scheme was also posted on the Dublin City Council website and submissions invited.

Submissions

16 Submissions were received from:

- The Environmental Pillar (31 National Environmental Organisations)
- National Women's Council of Ireland
- Make Ireland Sustainable for all (MESA Project)
- The Public Participation Network (PPN) (3 received)
- Mr Conor McQuillan (PPN)
- Paula Moore
- Rathgar Road Residents' Committee
- Rathgar Residents' Association
- Rathgar/Terenure Road East Residents' Group
- Cllr Alison Gilliland
- Cllr Claire Byrne
- Robbie Sinnot (PPN)
- Martin Hoey (PPN)
- Robert Moss (PPN)

The following observations were made:

Topic	Issues raised
Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation lacked transparency as names of chairs or Council member not included and full public consultation not undertaken
Remit of SPC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That biodiversity should be included under the Climate Change, Environment & Energy SPC • That all SPC policies reference and be proofed against UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) particularly those of the Economic & Development SPC • That sustainable social, and ethical design principles be incorporated into the terms of reference of each committee and that these be overseen by CPG • That the topic of community media be included in the remit of the Arts SPC
Size of SPC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the membership of the Climate Change, Environment & Energy SPC and Planning and Urban Form SPCs be increased to facilitate increase in PPN representation
Meeting Processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the agenda of each SPC be published 2-4 weeks in Advance to facilitate PPN representatives • That all SPC members receive adequate induction • Build in regular reviews of committee structures and operations • Encourage cross SPC input to emerging policy • That the SPCs take cognisance of the impact of strategic initiatives on local areas such as Rathgar
Public Participation Network Representation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased representation welcomed • 2nd PPN representative sought on Finance and Economic Development & Enterprise • That there be 4 PPN representatives on Housing SPC and reducing Business/Commercial representation to 2 • That there be a representative of all 3 PPN pillars on the Traffic & Transport and Planning & Urban Form SPCs • That all 3 pillars be represented on all SPCs (21 PPN representatives) • To increase proposed PPN representation overall from 12 to 14 • To either remove city-wide remit from PPN representatives to extend it to all sectoral members.
Name Change of SPC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was proposed that one SPC be renamed as Climate Action, Environment and Energy
Composition of SPCs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To increase sectoral representation on Climate Change SPC • To remove Construction/Development sector from Climate Change SPC

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reduce the overall number of Business/Commercial representatives • That Economic, Development & Enterprise include one PPN member from the Environmental pillar • To increase sectoral members from 41 as proposed in the draft to 50 with a consequent increase in Councillor representation to 100 • Social inclusion representatives should sit on all SPCs • That community representation be included on all SPCs
Gender Composition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As far as possible there should be at least 40% of each gender on an SPC and that this should be indicated to nominating organisations • To conduct an equality audit on all committees when formed • The impact of Policies should be gender proofed

Proposals outside scope of SPC scheme:

Extensive submissions were received on the Bus Connects issue and the implications for areas in the Kimmage/Rathmines areas. Proposals were also received on suggested sub-committees of SPCs. Setting up sub-committees is a matter for each SPC, subject to it being within the remit of the relevant SPC and consent of CPG obtained. Sub-committees and working groups must have a focussed brief and a fixed duration.

Recommendation to Council:

1. That the overall numbers on SPCs remain as in the draft scheme.
2. It is recommended that the number of PPN representatives on the Finance, Economic Development and Housing SPCs be increased from the Draft. The overall PPN representation will be 14 representatives on 7 SPCs. This is nearly a three-fold increase on representation on the last Council. The PPN representation on other SPCs remains the same. In some cases the preferred PPN pillar for a particular SPC is specified. In other cases it is left open to the member organisations of the PPN.
3. To change the name of one SPC to Climate **Action**, Environment and Energy.
4. To look for gender balance when seeking all sectoral members.
5. Groups/associations wishing to sit on the SPC (including PPN representatives) should be active in the area or an area of the authority and have a City-wide impact or at minimum a relevance in a locality or number of localities in the area.
6. Groups/associations looking to sit on SPCs should be open to new members, hold AGMs and regular meetings, and should be broadly representative and accountable.
7. Single interest campaign groups are eligible i.e. those focused on the disabled or elderly etc. Single-issue groups should not be considered for inclusion in the SPCs.
8. To consider the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in setting goals for each SPC and in drawing up the Corporate Plan
9. 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.
10. 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 30th 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. The CPG has a role in Budget preparation, the formulation of the Corporate Plan and the oversight of service delivery by the Council.

Revised Sectoral Representation on SPCs

SPC	Councillors	Sectors	Change from Draft	Total
Arts , Culture, Leisure and Recreation	14 Councillors	7 as follows: 2 PPN 5 Business /Commercial from Arts, Sports, Culture, Heritage, Irish Language organisations etc.	No Change	21
Climate Action, Environment and Energy SPC	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	No change. PPN pillars specified	15
Economic, Development & Enterprise	10 Councillors	5 as follows: 2 X PPN 1 Development/Construction 2 X Business/Commercial	+1 PPN -1 Business / Commercial	15
Finance	12 Councillors	6 as follows: 1 x PPN 2 x Business/ Commercial 1 X Trade Union 1 X Development/Construction 1X Academic		18
Housing	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	+ 1 PPN. Pillars specified -1 Business Commercial	24
Planning and Urban Form	10	5 as follows: 2 X Commercial/ Business 1 X Development /Construction 1 X PPN Environmental	PPN representatives (Pillars specified)	15

		1 X PPN Social Inclusion or Community Voluntary)		
Traffic and Transport	10	5 as follows: 1 X PPN Social Inclusion 1 X PPN Community voluntary 2 X Commercial /Business 1 X Development/ Construction		15

The overall representation by sector of the 41 sectoral members will be 14 PPN; 18 Business/Commercial, 6 Development/Construction; 2 X Trade Union and on academic. 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 2019-2024, 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

Owen P Keegan
Dublin City Chief Executive

28th August 2019

Appendix A - Councillor Membership and Numbers of SPCs 2014 - 2019

Name of Committee	Councillor	Cllrs	Sectoral Members	Total
Finance SPC Daryl Barron Neasa Hourigan Anthony Connaghan Noeleen Reilly Nial Ring Dermot Lacey Alison Gilliland Mary Callaghan James Geoghegan Paddy McCartan Daithí de Róiste	Seamas McGrattan (Chair)	12	6	18
Traffic and Transport SPC Keith Connolly Patrick Costello Caroline Conroy Larry O'Toole Chris Andrews Mannix Flynn Marie Sherlock Janet Horner Anne Feeney	Christy Burke (Chair)	10	5	15
Planning & Urban Form SPC Sophia Nicollaud Daithí de Róiste Tom Brabazon Neasa Hourigan Anthony Connaghan Dermot Lacey Jane Horgan Jones Patricia Roe John Lyons	Ray McAdam (Chair)	10	5	15
Economic Development & Enterprise SPC Racheal Batten Sophie Nicollaud Janet Horner Nial Ring Mary Freehill Mary Callaghan Terence Flanagan Danny Byrne Micheal MacDonncha	Claire O'Connor (Chair)	10	5	15

Appendix A - Councillor Membership and Numbers of SPCs 2014 – 2019 (continued)

Name of Committee	Councillor	Cllrs	Sectoral Members	Total
Arts, Culture, Leisure & Recreation Deirdre Conroy Deirdre Heney Claire Byrne Lawrence Hemmings Micheál MacDonnacha Séamas McGrattan Damian O'Farrell Vincent Jackson Rebecca Moynihan Mary Freehill Anne Feeney Ray McAdam Hazel De Nortúin	Gary Gannon (Chair)	14	7	21
Housing SPC Paul McAuliffe Mary Fitzpatrick Michael Watters Hazel Chu Donna Cooney Críona Ní Dhálaigh Daithí Doolan Pat Dunne Anthony Flynn Cieran Perry Kevin Donoghue Mary Callaghan Declan Flanagan Colm O'Rourke Tina MacVeigh	Alison Gilliland (Chair)	16	8	21
Climate Change Environment & Energy SPC Michael Watters Tom Brabazon Claire Byrne Janice Boylan John Lyons Joe Costello Catherine Stocker Naoise Ó Muirí Independent Nomination	Michael Pidgeon (Chair)	10	5	15

APPENDIX B

INDICATIVE AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SEVEN SPCs

1. Arts, Culture, Leisure and Recreation SPC

Archive and libraries
Biodiversity
Commemorations
Arts
Culture
Events & Festivals
Galleries & Museums
Irish Language
Music
Parks, open spaces & natural environment
School Meals
Sports and Recreation Centres
Sports Development

2. Economic Development, and Enterprise SPC

Economic Development
Enterprise support
Local Economic Community Partnership (LECP)
Local Enterprise Office
Tourism
Markets
International Relations
Smart Cities

3. Climate *Action*, Environment & Energy SPC

Air/Water (Raw) Quality
Casual trading & street performers
Climate Change
Control of Horses & Dogs
Environmental Protection
Environmental sustainability
Flood Protection
Litter & Waste Management
Surface Water Drainage

4. Finance SPC

Budget – Capital & Revenue
Finance
Local Property Tax
Motor Tax
Procurement
Rates
Risk Management

5. Housing

Housing Policy
Homelessness
Housing Delivery
Affordable and Cost Rental Housing
Housing and Disability
Housing Maintenance and Estate Management
Refugees

Traveller Accommodation Programmes
Housing Welfare
Loans and Grants
Rent Collection and Assessment

6. Planning and Urban Form SPC

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

7. Traffic and Transport SPC

Commercial & Goods Movement
Cycling
Environmental Traffic Planning
Facilitation of Public Transport
Fleet Management
Parking Control & Enforcement
Pedestrian Facilities
Roads & Road Safety
School Wardens
Taxi Ranks
Traffic Control & Management
Public Lighting

APPENDIX C

National Contact Points of Key Stakeholders

Pillar	Name & Address
Business	
	Chambers Ireland 22-24 Lower Mount Street Dublin 2
Trade Unions	
	Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU) Head Office 31-32 Parnell Square Dublin 1
Environment	
	Environment Pillar – Coordinator Knockvicar Boyle Co Roscommon