



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Strategic Policy Committee Scheme

2019 - 2024

1. Introduction

The statutory basis for Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs) is set out in the Local Government Act, 2001 (Section 48) as amended by Section 41 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014, which provides that “*a Local Authority shall establish committees to be known as Strategic Policy Committees to consider matters connected with the formulation, development, monitoring and review of policy which relate to the functions of the Local Authority and advise the authority on those matters.*” Furthermore Section 48(1A) of the 2001 Act, as inserted by Section 41(a) of the Local Government Reform Act 2014, requires that at least one of the SPCs that is established shall be to consider matters which relate to the functions of the local authority in relation to economic development and enterprise support. Limerick City and County Council, at its Annual Meeting on 7th June, 2019, appointed 5 Chairs of Strategic Policy Committees.

In accordance with Guidelines issued by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, there is a requirement that Strategic Policy Committee:

- Meetings should normally be held four times yearly at suitable times for all SPC members, a calendar of meetings to be agreed
- Have an annual work programme which should be linked to the local authority's Corporate Plan and updated regularly as necessary
- Assist the Council in the formulation, development and review of policy
- Reflect the major functions or services of a local authority within a broader context
- Are tailored to the size, membership and administrative resources of the local authority
- Have a minimum one third of their membership drawn from sectors relevant to the committees' work
- SPC Chairs should hold office for a minimum of three years which could be renewed by the Council
- A Director of Service will attend meetings and provide support for each SPC

2. Role of Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs)

The Council is and remains the decision making Authority and it is the task of the SPCs, as committees of the Council, to advise and assist the Council in the formulation, development and review of policy. The remit of the SPCs is to deal only with policy matters and as such they are strategic in nature. They have no remit in relation to routine operational matters regarding the delivery of services. The SPC system is intended to give Councillors and relevant Sectoral Interests an opportunity for full involvement in the policy making process from the early stages.

3. Corporate Policy Group (CPG)

The Corporate Policy Group (CPG) comprises of :

- (a) the Mayor of Limerick City and County Council;
- (b) the Chairs of each of the Strategic Policy Committees;
- (c) in the case where a Municipal District is without an SPC chair, a representative of the District concerned.

Role of the CPG

- play a key role in preparing the budget ;
- provide input to the full council on any matter of general concern to the council either on its own initiative or following a request from the council;
- determine whether a function will be discharged at the municipal district or authority level, where reference in relation to this question is made to it;
- deal with overall issues in relation to service delivery plans, customer service, value for money, etc., (individual SPCs would deal with such issues in their work insofar as their particular service remit was concerned);
- co-ordinate the work of the SPCs and monitor their work programmes;
- request SPCs to consider particular policy issues where appropriate;
- provide feedback to the SPCs on council policy and views in areas relevant to the SPCs;
- Be consulted in the preparation of the Corporate Plan

4. Strategic Policy Committees 2019-2024 – Structure & Membership

Five Strategic Policy Committees are proposed as follows:

- Home and Social Development
- Travel and Transportation
- Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning
- Community, Leisure and Culture
- Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment

Each SPC shall consist of 16 Elected Members and 8 sectoral interest nominees except in the case of the Community, Leisure and Culture SPC whereby the sectoral interest nominees will be 10.

Each Councillor shall sit on 2 SPCs.

The Council appoint the Chairperson of each SPC. The Chairperson will hold office for a minimum period of 3 years and the overall spread of SPC Chairs must, in accordance with the guidelines, reflect the political representational spread on the full Council.

Membership of the SPCs (both Councillors and Sectoral Representatives) shall be for the lifetime of the Council. Casual vacancies which arise will be filled by the sector involved. Nominating bodies may also de-select their nominees.

Sectoral Representation

The following Sectors will provide representation on SPC Committees, where appropriate:

- Agriculture / Farming;
- Environment / Conservation;
- Development / Construction;
- Business / Commercial;
- Trade Union;
- Community / Voluntary;
- Social inclusion;

Sectors to be asked to bear in mind the objective of achieving a 40% gender balance in the making of appointments, as well as the need to foster social inclusiveness and equality when selecting their representatives.

The Nomination Process

The nomination process for the Agricultural/Farming, Business/Commercial, Development/Construction and the Trade Union sectors will be facilitated by the National Pillars. (For national pillar contacts, see **Appendix 1**). The Environmental/ Conservation sector will be facilitated by the Environmental Pillar and the associated Environmental College under the Public Participation Network (PPN) arrangements. The Environmental / Conservation, Community / Voluntary and Social Inclusion sectors will be determined on the basis of the local nomination process through the PPN.

Member Organisations when joining the PPN must opt to be a part of one of three electoral colleges within the PPN:

- Environment
- Social Inclusion
- Community and Voluntary

MEMBERSHIP

The following are the proposed SPCs and Membership.

Strategic Policy Committee	Elected Members	Sectoral Interests
Home and Social Development	16	8
Travel and Transportation	16	8
Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning	16	8
Community, Leisure and Culture	16	10
Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment	16	8
Total	80	42

SECTORAL REPRESENTATION ON STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES

Limerick City & County Council 2019	Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning	Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment	Travel and Transportation	Home and Social Development	Community, Leisure and Culture
Agriculture / Farming	1	2	1		1
Environment / Conservation	1	2	1		1
Development / Construction	1		1	1	1
Business / Commercial	2	2	1	1	1
Trade Union			1	1	
Community / Voluntary	2	2	2	4	4
Social Inclusion	1		1	1	2
TOTAL	8	8	8	8	10

5. **Adoption of SPC Scheme**

Following adoption by Limerick City and County Council of the new SPC scheme, with or without amendment, nominations will be sought for representatives to the SPCs. In the case of the National Key Stakeholder Pillars (i.e. Business/Employers Pillar, Trade Union Pillar, Farming/Agricultural Pillar and Environmental Pillar), Limerick City and County Council will write to the contact persons enclosing the adopted scheme and seek the nominations of those pillars for their particular SPCs as outlined in the adopted scheme. In addition, the Local Authority will write to the national contact of the environmental sector seeking the validation of nominees to the Environment Electoral College under the PPN.

With regard to the Community/Voluntary/Social Inclusion and Environmental/ Conservation Sectors, the Council will write to the PPN secretariat, enclosing a copy of the scheme and requesting selection of their representatives for the SPCs as set out in the adopted Scheme.

Appendix 1

National Contact Points of Key Stakeholders

Pillar	Name & Address	Telephone and e-mail
Farming	Gerry Gunning	01-4500266
	Irish Farmers Association (IFA) Irish Farm Centre Bluebell Dublin 12	gerrygunning@ifa.ie
Business	James Kiernan	01-4004300
	Chambers Ireland 22-24 Lower Mount Street Dublin 2	james.kiernan@chambers.ie info@chambers.ie
Trade Unions	Fiona Dunne	01-8171580
	Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU) Nerney' Court, Dublin 1	Fiona.dunne@onemovement.ie
Environment	Karen Cielsilski	
	Environment Pillar –Coordinator The Macro Building 1 Green St Dublin 7	karen@ien.ie