

Corporate Services & Governance Department

Limerick Joint Policing Committee

August 2020

FUNCTIONS OF THE JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE

The overarching aim of the Joint Policing Committee is to develop greater consultation, co-operation and synergy on policing and crime issues between An Garda Síochána, Limerick City and County Council and Elected Local Representatives and to facilitate the participation of the community and voluntary sectors on the Committee.

The Garda Síochána Act 2005 (Section 36) provides for the establishment of a Joint Policing Committee (JPC) in each local authority administrative area. Each JPC to serve as a forum for consultations, discussions and recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the local authority's administrative area.

Each JPC has an input into policing plans and local authority plans and policies for the local authority administrative area and provides advice and make recommendations to the relevant agencies – An Garda Síochána and the local authority. They are also responsible for resourcing, establishing policy (and Bye Laws) and operational matters.

The Joint Policing Committee takes a strategic approach to it's work in addressing local issues collectively and strategically.

Legislation

- **An Garda Síochána Act 2005**
- **Joint Policing Committee Guidelines (amended August 2014)**

Membership of Limerick Joint Policing Committee

Local Authority Elected Representatives	15
Oireachtas Members	5
Local Authority Officials	2
An Garda Síochána	2
Community Representatives	7
Total	31

Community Representatives

The PPN have been asked to aim, if possible, to have representation on the JPC from a number of named areas of activity as per below :

- Suicide related services
- Youth services
- Muintir na Tire
- LGBT
- Drug and Alcohol support/information
- Ethnic minorities
- Childrens' services

Steering Group

The Steering Group consists of

- The Chairperson of the JPC
- A Representative of An Garda Síochána
- The Chief Executive of the local authority or a person nominated by the C.E.

The function of the Steering Group is to facilitate the efficient functioning of the JPC and in particular to ensure that it retains a clear focus on strategic and collaborative action.

It also arranges procedures for the appointment of any new or replacement members, draw up the agenda and arrange for circulation of documentation for meetings.

It is also the point of contact for co-operation and joint action with other JPC's and with any sub committees of the JPC.

Sub Committees of the JPC

The following are the Sub Committees of Limerick JPC :

- **Metropolitan District JPC**
- **Municipal District of Newcastle West JPC**
- **Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale JPC**
- **Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock JPC**

Chairperson of the JPC

- **Section 35(2)(C) of the Garda Síochána Act provides that the Chairperson of a JPC will be drawn from the Elected Members nominated to the JPC**
- **The Local Authority Elected Members of a JPC shall appoint the Chairperson of the JPC**
- **The term of office of a Chairperson shall be not less than two years and, in view of the central role of the Chairperson to the success of the JPC, Committees are encouraged to consider appointment of a Chairperson for a longer period.**

Meetings of the JPC and Public Meetings

JPC Meetings are usually held quarterly

- **JPC's hold public meetings at regular intervals and at least once a year**
- **Members of the public and representatives of the media are entitled to be present at a JPC Meeting.**
- **Where a JPC is of the opinion that the absence of members of the public and representatives of the media from the whole or part of a particular meeting is desirable, the JPC may decide to meet *in committee***
- **Members of the Oireachtas who is not a Member of the JPC is entitled to be present at a JPC Meeting**
- **The emphasis of public meetings is on general policing and on obtaining the co-operation of the public in preventing crime**
- **The decision to hold a public meeting is made by the JPC**
- **The venue for public meetings are varied, the meetings advertised to the public and provision made to ensure that marginalized and 'hard to reach' sections of the community are made aware of the meetings.**

- **Procedures at JPC Meetings should have a minimum of formality and should reflect the co-operative nature of the JPC's.**
- **It is envisaged that decisions are taken by agreement rather than by voting. However, in the exceptional event of a vote being taken at a JPC Meeting, each member present at the meeting shall have one vote.**
- **A member may abstain from voting and such abstention may be recorded in the minutes.**
- **Where there is an equality of votes, a matter before a meeting shall be determined by a second or casting vote of the person chairing the meeting.**
- **If considered appropriate by the JPC a non member may be invited to attend a meeting and speak to a specific agenda item or items.**
- **At JPC Meetings, a Garda Representative presents a report which includes general information and statistics in relation to the commission of crime and to crime prevention matters in the area.**

Strategic Themes

The JPC is based on four Strategic Themes as follows :

- **Enhancing governance and communication supported by information and effective use of data**
- **Enhancing the role of local communities in crime prevention and response**
- **Working with communities to improve cohesion, social inclusion and reduce anti social behaviour**
- **Improve traffic flows and road safety**

- **JPC Strategic Plan and Annual Work Plans**
- **Under the JPC Guidelines, JPC's are required to prepare a six year JPC Strategic Plan and Annual Work Plans which are linked to the objectives of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2016-2021**
- **Annual Work Plans must include relevant objectives from the Garda Annual Policing Plan(s) for the local authority area.**
- **The JPC Strategic Plan and Annual Work Plans should be linked to other elements of local authority or Garda strategies such as accommodation plans, particular crime prevention initiatives in the area, Drugs' Task Force Plans and other issues which the JPC considers important for crime prevention, policing and public safety including road safety.**
- **JPC Plans should focus on areas where co-operative and collaborative actions can add most value to the existing work of relevant stakeholders**
- **They must have at least three high priority objectives with objectives and actions listed in order of priority.**
- **An Annual Report on implementation and monitoring of the Plan is required.**

Annual Work Plans to include consideration of how JPC's can enhance overall efforts to address key issues affecting community life, including :

- **Crime prevention**
- **Anti social behavior and street crime**
- **Misuse of drugs and related crime**
- **Support for crime victims, including those affected by domestic violence**



Thank You For Your Attention
Any Questions?