

1. The vision of the Limerick PPN is that it will be an effective:

1. Link through which the Local Authority connects with the community and voluntary sector and the community and voluntary sector connects with Local Authority policy-making processes
2. Link through which key stakeholders of the Limerick Local Economic Plan (LECP) may be able to engage with the community and voluntary sector in Limerick and vice versa.

2. Limerick PPN principles:

1. Good governance
2. Inclusive
3. Participatory, open, welcoming, respectful, collaborative & facilitory
4. Independence
5. Valuing of Diversity
6. Accountable and transparent
7. Clarity of purpose
8. Committed to the Sustainable Development Goals

3. Functions:

1. Operate in accordance with the spirit and provisions of Limerick PPN Constitution.
2. Linkage Group members nominate, elect and support PPN representatives.
3. Linkage Group members discuss and debate policy and strategy matters relevant to the work of the external committee (SPC/JPC/other) it is aligned to so as to inform the representative(s), and where relevant to prioritise and develop policy positions.
 - ✓ In the case of the Linkage Group attached to the LCDC: Linkage Group members discuss and debate policy and strategy matters relevant to the work of the LCDC, to inform the representative(s), and where relevant to prioritise and develop policy positions. The LCDC is responsible for preparing, implementing, reviewing and monitoring the community elements of the LECP. The focus of Linkage Group discussions should be on informing this process rather than on the routine decisions and decision-making processes of the LCDC.
4. The Linkage Group progresses agreed actions which advance priorities identified by the Linkage Group.

4. Term and meetings:

1. The Linkage Group runs for the life of the external committee(s) it is aligned to
2. There are 4-5 meetings a year. A meeting may also be called if there is a particular issue to discuss that is raised by the PPN representatives on the given committee, by the Facilitator or by the Secretariat
3. Meetings will be before a scheduled meeting of the committee(s) the Linkage Group is aligned to and agreed by its members
 - ✓ In the case of the Linkage Group attached to the LCDC: Meetings are quarterly. A meeting may be called if there is a particular issue to discuss that is raised by the PPN representatives on the LCDC, by the Facilitator or by the Secretariat
4. Where an issue is of relevance to another Linkage Group, a joint meeting of Linkage Groups may be called
5. The agenda will be prepared by the Facilitator who will work with the PPN representatives on the external committee
6. The primary focus in Linkage Group meetings will be the agenda of the upcoming SPC/JPC/other committee meeting or other topics relevant to the priorities of the committee – for instance, if there is an item that the PPN representatives are asked/wish to have added to an agenda.
7. Meetings will be at a time and place that suits most members - virtually, in person or a combination of both
8. The PPN staff provide administrative support for the group

5. Decision-making:

1. Where possible, decisions are made by consensus. It is not expected that full agreement will be had at all times. A diversity of perspectives is welcome and expected and the reasoning behind an opinion/stance is seen to be as important as the opinion/stance.
2. Where a formal vote is required – such as for the election of a new PPN representative on the external committee – a separate voting process will be arranged in accordance with the PPN constitution that ensures that each PPN member group/organisation has one vote only.

6. Communications:

1. A Linkage Group Facilitator is ideally selected by consensus from and by the Linkage Group membership to support the Linkage Group. This position is rotated on at least a four-monthly basis and is not a formal PPN representational role.
2. Salesforce Chatter is the primary means of ongoing communications between the PPN representatives and the Linkage Group membership and between Linkage Group members.
3. Elected PPN representatives on the external committee send agreed Statements of Outcomes from committee meetings to the Linkage Group via Salesforce Chatter. These will also be published on the Limerick PPN website.
4. The Facilitator keeps the PPN membership informed of the work of the Linkage Group through the Secretariat. This will be done by preparing and circulating a Statement of Outcomes after Linkage Group meetings and using Salesforce Chatter to communicate with the Secretariat and the Linkage Group.
5. All Linkage Group members are expected to follow a 'netiquette' in their Chattergroup or any other on-line communications that is informed by the principles of the PPN.

7. Review of Terms of Reference:

The Terms of Reference is to help the Linkage Group work well and to support effective public participation in Limerick. It is reviewed and updated by the Plenary as necessary and in accordance with the PPN Constitution.

8. Membership:

1. Details of the most up-to-date list of members is on the Limerick PPN website.
2. Any PPN member can join the Linkage Group at any time. There may be times when joining the Linkage Group is suspended temporarily, such as during elections.
3. PPN member groups/organisations are encouraged to send different representatives to multiple Linkage Groups (i.e. the representative of the PPN member group/organisation does not have to be the same person representing that group/organisation on all Linkage Groups).
4. More than one person can represent a PPN member group/organisation on the Linkage Group.