



Draft Strategic Policy Committees 2019-2024

Report No.202/2019 on Proposed Strategic Policy Committees went to Council on 17th June 2019. It was agreed by Members to defer consideration of the report to the July 2019 City Council meeting. Further to Report 202/2019 the following report sets out a proposed Draft Strategic Policy Committees Scheme 2019-2024.

The statutory basis for Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs) is set out in Section 48 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended by Section 41 of the 2014 Act. The making of an SPC scheme is a reserved function

SPCs are intended to be Strategic in nature. Operational matters which are mainly dealt with at Area Committees. The Council is, and remains the decision making authority and the final decision on strategic issues rests with the full Council.

The Department's Guidelines state that 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, comply with statutory provisions 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
- have 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(PPN) membership.
- Meet at least 4 times a year.
- The Corporate Policy Group (CPG) should decide on the work programmes of the SPCs and recommend issues to be considered by SPCs. All subgroups of SPCs should be sanctioned by the CPG to ensure clarity on brief, reporting and to avoid overlap between Committees

Circular LG 07/2014 also states as follows:

'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 Corporate Policy Group CPG (which comprises the SPC Chairs along with the Lord Mayor supported by the Chief Executive).
- Ideally they remain as chair for the duration of the Council if not for a minimum of three years.

The Corporate Policy Group oversees the work of the Strategic Policy Committees and addresses gaps and overlaps in jurisdiction. It can also direct an SPC to undertake a piece of work. The Corporate Policy Group also has a role in the preparation of the budget and the Corporate Plan and in overseeing customer service in the Council. The Lord Mayor chairs the Corporate Policy Group. The CPG meets at least 4 times a year.

Dublin City Council's SPC Scheme 2019-2024 is proposing 7 Strategic Policy Scheme roughly in line with the remit of the SPCs in the last Council.

Indicative areas of responsibilities for the SPCs

1. Arts, Culture, Leisure and Recreation SPC

Archive and libraries
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 Change, Environment & Energy SPC

- Air/Water (Raw) Quality
- Casuals 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 Guideleins
- 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

Dublin City Council would therefore have 7 SPCs with revised memberships as follows:

- **Arts, Culture, Leisure & Recreation** (14 Councillors and 7 Sectoral Members = Total 21)
- **Climate Change, Environment and Energy** (10 Councillors and 5 Sectoral Members = Total 15)
- **Economic Development and Enterprise** (10 Councillors and 5 Sectoral Members = Total 15)
- **Finance** (12 Councillors and 6 Sectoral Members = Total 18)
- **Housing** (16 Councillors and 8 Sectoral Members = Total 24)
- **Traffic and Transport** (10 Councillors and 5 Sectoral Members = Total 15)
- **Planning and Urban Form** (10 Councillors and 5 Sectoral = Total 15)

*Total - 82 Councillor places (19 Councillors on 2 SPCs)
41 Sectoral Members
103 Members in total*

Under this proposal each Councillor will be member of at least **one** SPC with 19 being members of two SPCs. The Guidelines advise that membership should be divided proportionately to the make-up of the Council. It is advised that Councillors remain on the SPC for the duration of the Council. According to Standing Orders all Councillors are free to attend and participate in any SPC that interest them even if they are not a member. Although only Members of that SPCs 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 as the ratio of one third external members to two thirds Councillor members must be maintained.

External Membership:

Invitations will be given to the following sectors to be represented on the SPCs

Development/Construction
Business/Commercial
Trade Union
Community/Voluntary
Social Inclusion

(Public Participation Network Pillar)
(Public Participation Network Pillar)

Environmental/Conservation

(Public Participation Network Pillar)

SPC	Councillors	Sectors	Total
Arts , Culture, Leisure and Recreation	14 Councillors	7 as follows 2 PPN City wide remit 5 Business /Commercial from Arts, Sports, Culture, Heritage, Irish Language organisations etc	21
Climate Change, Environment and Energy SPC	10	5 as follows 2 from PPN (Environmental Pillar, Social Inclusion Pillar - Citywide remit) 2 X Business/Commercial organisation 1x Development/ Construction	15
Economic, Development & Enterprise	10 Councillors	5 as follows 1 X PPN citywide remit 1 X Development/Construction 3 X Business/Commercial	15
Finance	12 Councillors	6 as follows 1 x PPN (Citywide remit) 2 x Business/ Commercial 1 X Trade Union 1 X Development/Construction 1 X Academic	18
Housing	16	8 as follows 2 X PPN with Citywide remit 4 X Business/Commercial 1 X Development/ Construction 1 X Trade Union	24
Planning and Urban Form	10	5 as follows 2 X Commercial/ Business 1 X Development /Construction 1X Environment/Conservation (PPN) 1 X Community/Voluntary (PPN City Wide remit)	15
Traffic and Transport	10	5 as follows 1 X PPN city wide Environmental pillar 1 X PPN (Social Inclusion city wide remit) 2 X Commercial /Business 1 X Development/ Construction	15

As this draft Scheme does not differ substantially from the 2014-2019 scheme it is not envisaged that that the report will be put out for extensive consultation. The report will be sent to the PPN for observations for a 30 day period. The final report will be presented to the

September meeting of the City Council for amendment and or adoption. At that stage Dublin City Council can invite interested parties from the above pillars to express an interest in participating. The PPN will be obliged to elect from their membership. Sectoral and PPN members should be in place during October 2019.

The City Council agrees:

- **To send the Draft Strategic Policy Scheme for consultation to the Public Participation Network.**
- **To appoint the following seven Councillors as Chairs designate of the above proposed Strategic Policy Committee**
- **To appoint the above named with the Lord Mayor as Corporate Policy Group**
- **To appoint the following Councillors as members of the proposed Strategic Policy Committees**

Owen P. Keegan
Chief Executive
24th June 2019