

20th September, 2017.

To: The Mayor and Each Member of Limerick City and County Council

DRAFT AMENDED STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE SCHEME 2017-2019

A Chomhairleoir, a chara,

I attach herewith Draft Amended Strategic Policy Committee Scheme 2017-2019 which has been prepared, in accordance with Guidelines received from the Department, following the establishment of a Cultural Strategic Policy Committee at the July Meeting of the Council.

A resolution is now required to adopt the Draft Amended Scheme. Following adoption, the Scheme will be placed on public display for a period of one month. Any submissions received can be considered by the Corporate Policy Group before final adoption of the Scheme by the Council.

Is mise le meas,

Christy O'Connor

Christy O'Connor,
Senior Executive Officer,
Corporate Services.

COMHAIRLE CATHRACH & CONTAE LUIMNIGH



Draft Amended

SPC SCHEME 2017 - 2019

1. Introduction

The Council adopted an SPC Scheme at a Council Meeting held on 24th November 2014 which provided for the following five Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs);

- Home and Social Development
- Travel and Transportation
- Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning
- Community, Leisure and Emergency Services
- Environment

The purpose of this amended SPC Scheme is to provide for an additional Cultural SPC without change to the structure or representation of the existing five SPCs above. The role of the Cultural SPC will be to look at policies relating to culture of national, regional and local significance and align strategies for effective development of culture in Limerick. The Cultural SPC will operate within the structure outlined in Appendix 2.

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 Inaugural Annual Meeting on 6th June, 2014, 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 Committees :

- 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 committee’s 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 Cathaoirleach 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 2017 - 2019 – Structure & Membership

Six Strategic Policy Committees are now proposed as follows with the addition of a Cultural SPC to the five SPCs agreed in 2014 :

- Home and Social Development
- Travel and Transportation
- Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning
- Community, Leisure and Emergency Services
- Environment
- Culture

Each SPC shall consist of 16 Elected Members and 8 sectoral interest nominees.

Each Councillor shall sit on at least 2 SPC.'s. with 16 Councillors sitting on 3 SPCs.

The Council will 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.

In accordance with the Guidelines, 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

To join the Environment Electoral College, an organisation's primary objectives and activities must be environmental protection and/or environmental sustainability.

To join the Social Inclusion Electoral College, an organisation's primary objectives and activities must focus on social inclusion/social justice/equality.

Organisations whose primary objectives are other than those listed above will be members of the Community and Voluntary Electoral College.

MEMBERSHIP

The following shows the membership of the existing five SPCs and the proposed membership of the proposed new Cultural SPC.

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 Emergency Services	16	8
Environment	16	8
Culture	16	8
	96	48

SECTORAL REPRESENTATION ON STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES

Limerick City & County Council 2017	Economic Development, Enterprise & Planning	Environment	Travel & Transportation	Home & Social Development	Community, Leisure & Emergency Services	Culture
	Existing	Existing	Existing	Existing	Existing	Proposed
Agriculture / Farming	1	2	1		1	
Environment / Conservation	1	2	1		1	1
Development / Construction	1		1	1	1	1
Business / Commercial	2	2	1	1	1	2
Trade Union			1	1		
Community / Voluntary	2	2	2	4	2	2
Social Inclusion	1		1	1	2	2
TOTAL	8	8	8	8	8	8

5. Circulation of Draft Amended SPC Scheme and Consideration of Submissions

In accordance with Guidelines issued by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, following consideration by the Council of this Draft Amended SPC scheme, the scheme will be forwarded for consideration to the PPN and the appropriate contact points of the key national stakeholder pillars. A notice to the effect that the Council has considered a draft scheme and has issued the draft scheme for consultation will be published in the local media and on the Council's Website. A period of one month will be allowed for the making of submissions on the scheme.

Following receipt of submissions on the draft scheme, the Chief Executive, with the Mayor and Chairs of the SPCs will consider the submissions and make any amendments to the draft scheme as deemed appropriate for submission to the Council. The Council will then adopt the revised scheme as presented or amended for the implementation of the SPC system. While every effort will be made to accommodate the views and preferences of organisations as to the assignment of sectors to SPCs, and the number of representatives from each sector for each SPC, final designation of sectors and SPC places will rest with the Authority.

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.

One month will be allowed for receipt of all nominations by Limerick City and County Council.

Appendix 2

