

STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE SCHEME 2014-2019

Better Local Government – A Programme for Change was launched in December, 1996. Among its provisions was a wider role for the local authority member through the formulation of a restructured Committee system – Strategic Policy Committees.

The statutory basis for SPCs is set out in section 48 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended by section 48(1a) of the Local Government Reform Act 2014.

The Council has decided to retain the same SPC structure as the 2009-2014 SPC Scheme with some minor modifications.

Role of the Council

Cork County Council delivers a wide range of services and provides infrastructure to all of the citizens of the County. The day to day delivery of services is the responsibility of the Chief Executive, Management Team and Staff, while 55 Elected Members, representing 8 Electoral Areas, perform the Council's Democratic/Representational Role.

Role of the SPCs

The Council is and will continue to be the decision making authority. It is the SPCs' task to assist the Council in the formulation, development and review of policy. It is intended that the SPC system will give Councillors and sectoral interests an opportunity to be fully involved in the policy making process from an early stage when policy options are more fluid. SPCs prepare the groundwork for policies which are then decided on by the Council, including as appropriate at municipal district level.

Proposed Structure

- The Scheme provides for the establishment of eight Strategic Policy Committees having a county wide remit;
- Committees will have a maximum of 24 members, a minimum of one third of whom will be drawn from relevant sectoral interests;
- Each Member of Cork County Council will be a Member of two SPCs;
- Each SPC will meet at least once every three months and will regulate its own business and proceedings subject to the Council's Standing Orders;
- The appointment of SPC Chairs and membership of the SPCs (both Councillors and sectoral representatives) shall be for the lifetime of the Council.

The proposed structure is set out in Appendix I.

Participants

SPC Councillor Membership will reflect the proportionality and distribution of elected representation on the full Council.

External representation on the SPCs will reflect the following:-

- The need to represent a spread of relevant interests;
- The need for balance between divergent interests;
- The range of groups within each sector;
- A commitment to foster social inclusiveness;
- Gender balance;

Groups/Associations/Organisations represented on the SPC structure should be active in the local authority area, be broadly representative and accountable and should have a broad sectoral remit.

It is proposed that the following sectors will be represented on the Council's SPC structure:

- Agriculture/Farming (Rural Authorities)
- Development/Construction
- Business/Commercial
- Trade Union
- Environment/Conservation
- Community/Voluntary
- Social Inclusion
- Other groups relevant to the business of an SPC.

The nomination of representatives from the Agriculture/Farming, Business Commercial, (including Development/Construction), Trade Union and Environment sectors was facilitated by the National Pillars. The contact points for those sectors are set out in Appendix II.

Nominations from the other sectors was facilitated by Cork County Council.

Groups/Associations/Organisations who wished to register their interest in participating in the SPC process did so on the attached form (Appendix III).

Public Consultation

Submissions in relation to the draft SPC Scheme were made in writing to the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services or by email to corporate.affairs@corkcoco.ie by Tuesday the 22nd of July 2014.

APPENDIX I

SPC Structure

SPC 1 Planning & Strategic Development

Elected Members

Members of Cork County Council	14
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Sectoral

Agriculture	1
Business & Employers	1
Trade union	
Environment/Conservation	1
Development/Construction	1
Community/Voluntary	1
Social Inclusion	1
Others	1
	7
Total Membership	21

SPC 2 Environment

Elected Members

Members of Cork County Council	14
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Sectoral

Agriculture	1
Business & Employers	1
Trade union	
Environment/Conservation	2
Development/Construction	1
Community/Voluntary	1
Social Inclusion	
Others	2
	8
Total Membership	22

SPC 3 Economic Development & Enterprise

Elected Members

Members of Cork County Council	14
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Sectoral

Agriculture	1
Business & Employers	1
Trade union	1
Environment/Conservation	
Development/Construction	1
Community/Voluntary	1
Social inclusion	
Others*	4
	9
Total Membership	23

SPC 4 Tourism

Elected Members

Members of Cork County Council	14
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Sectoral

Agriculture	1
Business & Employers	2
Trade union	
Environment/Conservation	
Development/Construction	
Community/Voluntary	1
Social Inclusion	
Others*	4
	8
Total Membership	22

SPC 5 Housing

Elected Members

Members of Cork County Council	14
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Sectoral

Agriculture	
Business & Employers	
Trade union	1
Environment/Conservation	
Development/Construction	2
Community/Voluntary	2
Social Inclusion	2
Others	
	7
Total Membership	21

SPC 6 Roads & Transport

Elected Members

Members of Cork County Council	14
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Sectoral

Agriculture	1
Business & Employers	1
Trade union	1
Environment/Conservation	1
Development/Construction	1
Community/Voluntary	1
Social Inclusion	1
Others	4
	10
Total Membership	24

SPC 7 Social Inclusion & Community

Elected Members

Members of Cork County Council	13
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Sectoral

Agriculture	
Business & Employers	
Trade union	1
Environment/Conservation	1
Development/Construction	1
Community/Voluntary	4
Social Inclusion	1
Others	
	8
Total Membership	21

SPC 8 Arts, Culture & Languages

Elected Members

Members of Cork County Council	13
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Sectoral

Agriculture	
Business & Employers	1
Trade union	
Environment/Conservation	
Development/Construction	
Community/Voluntary	2
Social Inclusion	1
Others	4
	8
Total Membership	21

APPENDIX III

Sector Contact Details

Pillar	Name & Address	Telephone and email
Farming	Gerry Gunning	01-4500266
	Irish Farmers Association (IFA) Irish Farm Centre Bluebell Dublin 12.	gerrygunning@ifa.ie
Business	Kim Mulligan	01-4004300
	Chambers Ireland 17 Merrion Square Dublin 2.	kim.mulligan@chambers.ie
Trade Unions	Fergus Whelan	01-8897777
	Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU) Head Office 31-32 Parnell Square Dublin 1	Fergus.whelan@ictu.ie
Environment	Michael Ewing	071-9667373
	Environment Pillar – Social Partnership Coordinator Knockvicar Boyle Co. Roscommon	michael@ien.ie

APPENDIX III

CORK COUNTY COUNCIL

**APPLICATION FORM FOR NOMINATION TO
STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES**

Name of applicant body: _____

Address: _____

Date of Establishment: _____

State aims and purpose of your organisation:

With which sector would you most readily identify your organisation (tick one only please)

Agriculture/Farming

Environment/Conservation/Culture

Development/Construction

Business/Commercial

Trade Union

Community/Voluntary/Social Inclusion

Name and address of person to whom correspondence is to be sent:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel. No: _____

How often does your organisation hold meetings: _____

Date of your last AGM: _____

State your total membership: _____

Names of Officers Chairman : _____

 Treasurer: _____

 Secretary: _____

Please specify the type of Strategic Policy Committee on which your organisation seeks representation:

1st preference: _____

2nd preference: _____

[While every effort will be made to accommodate preferences, final decisions will ultimately rest with the local authority, having regard to the likely degree of interest, the limited number of S.P.C. places available and the need to have a balanced constituency for each S.P.C.]

Signed: _____
(Secretary)

Completed application form must be returned to the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, Cork County Council, County Hall, Cork or emailed to corporate.affairs@corkcoco.ie by Tuesday the 22nd of July 2014.