

# COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL DARA



## KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Strategic Policy Committee Scheme 2024-2029

Adopted by Kildare County Council on 21 October 2024

## Table of Contents

1. Introduction .....	3
1.1 Statutory basis and objectives.....	3
2. Role of the Strategic Policy Committee .....	3
2.1 SPCs and the Council .....	3
2.2 A Strategic Role .....	4
2.3 Advice and Information from the Chief Executive.....	4
2.4 Views of elected members .....	4
2.5 Requirement to have regard to the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy .....	4
3. Corporate Policy Group.....	5
3.1 Statutory basis.....	5
3.2 Structure.....	6
3.3 Role.....	6
4. Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015– Transparency Code & Ethics Framework .....	6
5. SPC Framework.....	8
5.1 Consideration of proposed number of SPC's .....	8
5.2 SPC Configuration and Functions .....	9
5.3 SPC Configuration –representation.....	10
6. The Strategic Policy Committee Scheme .....	10
6.1 Preparation of the Draft Scheme .....	10
6.2 Formation of Strategic Policy Committees .....	11
6.2.1 Membership.....	11
6.2.1.1 Councillors.....	11
6.2.1.2 Sectoral Representation.....	12
6.3 Nomination Process – Sectoral representation .....	12
6.4. Sectoral Representatives – Principles.....	13
7. Adoption of SPC Scheme and Nominations.....	14
8. SPC Meetings and Procedures .....	15
8.1 Work Programme .....	15
8.2 Meetings.....	15
9. Training and Support.....	16
10. Expenses Incurred by Members.....	17
Appendix 1 Representation: Members and Sectoral Interests .....	17
Appendix 2: SPCs and Indicative Areas of Responsibility.....	19
Appendix 3 – National Contact Points of Key Stakeholders .....	22

## 1. Introduction

Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs) strengthen the policy development role of the elected members of Kildare County Council, by bringing together both elected members, and people actively working with social, economic, cultural and environmental bodies to develop and review policies related to council services.

Following the work of a Stakeholder Working Group<sup>1</sup>, and the Institute of Public Administration<sup>2</sup>, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage published revised Guidelines for the establishment and operation of Corporate Policy Groups and Strategic Policy Committees in June 2024.

Following the local elections in June 2024, it is necessary for Kildare County Council to review its SPC scheme and make a new Scheme.

### 1.1 Statutory basis and objectives

The statutory basis for SPCs is set out in section 48 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended by section 41 of the 2014 Local Government Reform Act (the Act).

In accordance with the provisions of Section 48(1) of the Act, local authorities are required to establish “*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 to advise the authority on those matters*”.

## 2. Role of the Strategic Policy Committee

### 2.1 SPCs and the Council

While the task of each SPC includes assisting the council in the formation and development of policy, the final policy decisions will rest ultimately with the plenary council. 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, when policy options are more fluid. Therefore, much of the preliminary and background work, discussions and recommendations should be completed at SPC level for final consideration by the plenary council.

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<sup>1</sup> [Review and Report of Strategic Policy Committees – Stakeholder Working Group](#)

<sup>2</sup> [IPA Report on a Review of Strategic Policy Committees](#)

SPCs are not concerned with individual representational or operational issues.

## 2.2 A Strategic Role

SPCs have an important role in assisting and advising the council in relation to functions of a strategic statutory nature.

They are involved in policy formulation, by assessing alternatives to address challenges or maximise opportunities. In the area of policy development, they are involved in the earliest stages, to ensure that in order that a policy can be effectively implemented that all relevant matters are considered, including: ownership for delivery, resources, timeframes and measurable anticipated outcomes or results. Given that many of the policy cycles of the local authority sector cover many years, and incorporate statutory reviews, the SPCs will also at times have a monitoring and review role, to evaluate whether the policy objectives are being achieved and the outcome of the policy approach taken.

## 2.3 Advice and Information from the Chief Executive

In accordance with statutory provisions, the Chief Executive is required to advise and assist the SPC generally as regards the performance of the functions of the SPC.

Normally the SPC Chair will make arrangements with the relevant Director of Services to have this advice available for the relevant meeting of the SPC.

The SPC must have regard to the advice or assistance of the Chief Executive in the exercise of the performance of the functions of the SPC.

## 2.4 Views of elected members

In accordance with Section 147 (7) of the 2001 Act as inserted by Section 54 of the 2014 Act, the Chief Executive is required to have regard to the views of the elected members in the discharge of the executive functions of the council including as expressed at a meeting of the SPC. In practical terms where this arises the Chair of the relevant SPC, shall identify these views and communicate them to the Director of Service relevant to the SPC.

## 2.5 Requirement to have regard to the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy

In accordance with Section 48 (3B) of the 2001 Act as inserted by Section 41 of the 2014 Act, each SPC will be required to have regard to Regional Spatial and

Economic Strategies (RSES) prepared by the Regional Assembly.

## 2.6 Assistance from Public Authorities

Section 48 (3A) of the 2001 Act (inserted by Section 41(d) of the 2014 Act) empowers an SPC to seek the attendance of public authorities at a meeting solely for the purpose of assisting it in developing policy. This function exists to enable the SPC to have an additional resource to assist in policy formulation.

Where a public authority is unable to attend, the SPC Chair may report this to the Director of Service, with that authority's reasons for non-attendance.

## 2.7 Service Delivery Plans

The development of Service Delivery Plans will facilitate the identification of objectives and the preparation of strategies for individual services. SPCs can provide advice and assistance to the council in the preparation of Annual Service Delivery Plans.

## 2.8 Consultation

In view of the important strategic role which SPCs have in the development and review of policy, consultation with relevant sectors and interest should be an ongoing part of the SPC process. It is a matter for the SPC to decide on the appropriate consultative arrangements, subject to any relevant guidelines issued by the local authority and in consultation with the Director of Service.

# 3. Corporate Policy Group

## 3.1 Statutory basis

The statutory basis for Corporate Policy Groups (CPGs) is set out in section 133 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended by section 48 of the 2014 Act. This provides that the CPG may:

- (a) *“advise and assist the elected council in the formulation, development, monitoring and review of policy for the local authority and for that purpose propose arrangements for the consideration of policy matters and the organisation of related business by the elected council”, and*
- (b) *“make proposals for the allocation of business as between strategic policy committees and for the general coordination of such businesses”*

## 3.2 Structure

The Corporate Policy Group (CPG) comprises the Cathaoirleach of the authority as its chair together with the chairs of each of the SPCs. Kildare County Council appointed the Chairs of its SPCs, at its Annual Meeting on June 21, 2024.

The configuration of the CPG in Kildare County Council ensures that there is representation of each Municipal District.

## 3.3 Role

The CPG acts as a link between the SPCs, and the plenary council.

It acts as a form of cabinet, to advise and assist the council, with full decision-making authority remaining with the council. It provides a forum where policy decisions affecting the whole council can be agreed for submission to the full council.

The Cathaoirleach reports to the plenary council on the work of the CPG in the same way that each SPC Chair reports back to their committee.

The Chief Executive supports the work of the CPG.

The role and functions of the Corporate Policy Group are contained in Section 133 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended by Section 41 of the 2014 Act and include, inter alia, the following, *in terms of their interaction with SPCs*:

- Co-ordinate the work of the SPCs
- Approve (new) and monitor their work programmes
- Request SPCs to consider policy issues where appropriate, and
- Provide feedback to the SPCs on council policy and views in areas relevant to the SPCs.

The agendas and the minutes of CPG meetings, when adopted, will be uploaded to the online system used by elected members to access all other minutes of plenary and municipal district meetings.

## 4. Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015– Transparency Code & Ethics Framework

The Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015 (the Act) is designed to provide information to the public regarding who is lobbying whom about what. Individuals and

organisations who participate in Strategic Policy Committees established by local authorities may have obligations under the Act.

A critical element of public policy formulation by the Strategic Policy Committees is the availability to the local authorities of expertise, skills and knowledge from persons outside of the public service. Where membership of the Committee comprises of at least one person who, for the purposes of the Act is a Designated Public Official, it may be the case that communications within the group could be considered lobbying communications. The person *making* these communications may be required to register as a lobbyist and to submit a return of this communication to the Lobbying Register.

However, the Act provides for an exception from the requirement to register in such cases once specified transparency criteria have been put in place. A Transparency Code was published by the Minister for Finance and Public Expenditure and Reform to address this situation. Communications between members of Strategic Policy Committee about the work of the Committee would be exempt where the group in question complies with the Transparency Code.

The SPCs of Kildare County Council comply with the criteria set out in the Transparency Code in their operations and in accordance with the Regulation of Lobbying Act, 2015.

It is important for members of committees to be aware of and understand the Ethics Framework for the local government sector set out in Part 15 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended), in particular the following:

Section 168 of the Act

*In carrying out their functions under this or any other enactment, it is the duty of every member and every employee of a local authority and of every member of every committee to maintain proper standards of integrity, conduct and concern for the public interest.*

Section 170 (1)

*An employee or a member of a local authority or of a committee of a local authority shall not seek, exact or accept from any person, other than from the local authority concerned, any remuneration, fee, reward or other favour for anything done or not done by virtue of his or her employment or office, and a code of conduct under section 169 may include guidance for the purposes of this subsection.*

Section 170 (2) *Subsection (1) shall not be read so as to exclude the persons to whom that subsection relates from the application of the Prevention of Corruption*

*Acts, 1889 to 1995, and any Act which is to be construed together as one with those Acts.*

Councillors and sectoral SPC members must disclose at a SPC meeting any pecuniary or other beneficial interest, (of which they have actual knowledge) they or a connected person have in, or material to, any matter with which the local authority is concerned in the discharge of its functions, and which comes before the meeting. The councillor / committee member must withdraw from the meeting after disclosure and must not vote or take part in any discussion or consideration of the matter or seek to in any other aspect influence the decision making of the Council.

Where a councillor or committee member has actual knowledge that a matter is going to arise at a meeting at which s/he will not be present, but if s/he were, a disclosure would be necessary, then in advance of the meeting s/he must make such disclosure in writing to the Ethics Registrar.

The foregoing statutory requirements must be observed at all times, and failure to do so is an offence under Section 181 of the 2001 Act. Analogous statutory requirements also apply to employees, and to external members of committees with the exception of the annual declaration in their case.

The standing orders for the operation of meetings of SPCs, include provisions for the appropriate management and declaration of any conflicts of interests or pecuniary or beneficial interests, where this might arise related to any agenda item discussed.

Kildare County Council sets out the names and membership of each Strategic Policy Committee on its website, and also publishes the Agenda and Minutes of SPC Meetings on its website. It also published work programmes for each SPC at the start of the SPC's terms in 2020.

## 5. SPC Framework

### 5.1 Consideration of proposed number of SPC's

While the SPC Guidelines published aim to set out a general framework to ensure a level of consistency across the 31 local authorities, they allow a measure of discretion to individual local authorities in establishing an SPC structure which best meets local needs.



In determining the number of SPCs and the overall SPC framework, the following factors have been into account:

- The requirements of “Revised Guidelines for the Establishment and Operation of Corporate Policy Groups and Strategic Policy Committees” issued June 7, 2024, by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
- The total number of elected members on the council;
- The range of sectoral and other interests to be represented, including facilitating a reasonable spread of interests;
- The desirability of allowing adequate opportunity for participation by councillors and sectoral interests;
- The organisational arrangement of service groupings within the authority and the remit envisaged for each SPC;
- The need to ensure that the organisational and financial resources of the particular local authority is not over-stretched; and
- Integration with other meeting requirements and committee structures and ensuring streamlined procedures generally.
- Regard to the remit and membership of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC).

## 5.2 SPC Configuration and Functions

Having regard to the foregoing, it is proposed that Kildare County Council will have 6 Strategic Policy Committees which will be configured as follows:

- Climate Action
- Environment and Water Services
- Planning, Enterprise & Economic Development
- Housing and Regeneration
- Local Community, Culture and Integration
- Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces

While the Climate Action SPC shall have specific functions in relation to policy regarding climate change, all SPCs should consider climate action in their considerations of policy, without prejudice to the Climate Action SPC’s functions. Deliberations in this regard should operate in a cross-cutting manner and in the broader public policy context.

The Chairpersons of the SPCs will report directly to the plenary council and will also sit on the Corporate Policy Group.

A non-exhaustive list of functions of the proposed SPCs are set out in Appendix 2.

### 5.3 SPC Configuration –representation

The overall SPC configuration will comprise representation from the following sectors:

- Agriculture/Farming (for Rural Authorities)
- Environmental/Conservation
- Development/Construction
- Business/Commercial
- Trade Union
- Community/Voluntary
- Social Inclusion

Each SPC will have as a minimum a total membership of nine, comprising councillors and sectoral representatives.

Each SPC shall have at least one-third of the membership drawn from sectoral interests, relevant to the committee's remit.

Full details of the numbers of elected members and sectoral representatives proposed in the Scheme are set out in Appendix 1.

## 6. The Strategic Policy Committee Scheme

### 6.1 Preparation of the Draft Scheme

The scheme for the establishment of Strategic Policy Committees in Kildare has been prepared having regard to the guidelines issued on June 7, 2024, by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, to relevant legislative requirements, the Transparency Code and the Councillor's Code of Conduct.

## 6.2 Formation of Strategic Policy Committees

### 6.2.1 Membership

#### 6.2.1.1 Councillors

- SPC councillor membership should reflect the spread of elected representation on the council, including, where practicable, the gender balance of the council and, also, in the case of Chairs, ensure a representative of each municipal district is selected. These principles remain if a replacement is sought for a councillor who ceases to be a member of the SPC.
- The chairs of the SPCs should be appointed by the full council from among the councillor appointees to the SPC, i.e. the chairs will be council members.
- The SPC Chairs should hold office for a minimum period of three years, which can be renewed by the council. Subsequent chairs should be appointed from among the existing councillor members of the SPC.
- In the third year of the electoral cycle, SPC membership should be reviewed by the local authority to give councillors an opportunity to leave an SPC and seek membership of another SPC, subject to the decision of plenary council in that regard.
- Every councillor should, as a matter of equity and good practice, have the opportunity to serve on an SPC.
- A person ceasing to be a Councillor will automatically cease membership of the SPC.
- A councillor should not serve on more than two SPCs insofar as possible, again for reasons of equity and good practice and workload, however any such decision regarding representation on SPCs, shall not prejudice the requirements of Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act 2001 (paragraph 19).
- Full participation in meetings of the SPCs should be confined to the members of the SPC. Where policy matters of particular interest to other councillors or local interest groups arise (for example, policy proposals affecting a local area), the SPC could meet with the relevant municipal district members or groups.
- Councillors may not be appointed to represent sectoral interests.

### 6.2.1.2 Sectoral Representation

- The formal appointment of sectoral interests to the SPC is a reserved function of the council (i.e. for decision by the elected members). This also applies where casual vacancies arise during the lifetime of the SPC. Appointment of the sectoral interests must have been nominated via the mechanisms set out in this Scheme.
- It is desirable that sectoral nominees retain membership of the SPC for the life of the Council. It would be open to each nominating sector to deselect its nominee, if felt necessary, and to notify the council accordingly whereupon the person would cease to be a member. In such cases the relevant sector will nominate a new representative, via the Public Participation Network (PPN), where applicable. Where a casual vacancy occurs, it should likewise be filled by the relevant sector.
- If there is a PPN vacancy to fill on any of its committees/ structures, the local authority should notify Kildare PPN and ask that the representative(s) to fill these seats be chosen by the PPN. Kildare PPN will notify relevant member organisations of the vacancy and nominations will be sought from the appropriate college, followed by elections if appropriate.

## 6.3 Nomination Process – Sectoral representation

External representatives to be nominated by the sectors set out in Section 5.3.

The nomination process for:

- the agricultural/farming sector will be facilitated by the farming and agricultural organisations pillar;
- the business/commercial and development/construction sectors will be facilitated by the business and employer's organisations pillar;
- the trade union sector will be facilitated by the trade union pillar.

The environmental/conservation, community/voluntary and social inclusion sectors will be determined on the basis of the local nomination process through the PPN.

The environmental/conservation sector will be facilitated by the environmental pillar and the associated Environmental College under the Public Participation Network arrangements.

Membership of this Electoral College will be validated by the environmental pillar at a national level. (For national pillar contacts, see Appendix 3).

Member Organisations when joining the PPN at a county level 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 (i.e. ecological) 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.

The responsibility for nominations is the sole responsibility of the sectors agreed in the Scheme. Each sector is also responsible for the putting in place of a structured feedback process between representatives and their nominating bodies.

## 6.4. Sectoral Representatives – Principles

Decisions by local authorities will be informed and strengthened by more effective community/citizen engagement and increased public participation in local government. The following factors will be considered in determining sectoral representation on and across each SPC:

- The need to foster economic and social development generally.
- A stated commitment to working towards gender balance and to encouraging as full as possible gender balance in representation from the sectors.
- The need to ensure a pro-active approach to having as many relevant sectors as possible across the SPC system.
- The need for balance between divergent interests.
- The need for a comprehensive audit of groups within the local authority area to facilitate the fullest possible consultation with each sector.
- The priority concerns of each sector and the appropriateness of the SPCs to deal with these concerns.
- The relationship between the number of SPCs and the range of interests which can be represented.
- A commitment to the fostering of social inclusiveness and equality.

- A commitment to have a pro-active information strategy to inform the public on the renewal of local government.
- The desirability of facilitating relevant organisations to be part of the nominating constituencies.
- Groups/associations should be active in the area of the authority and, where possible, have a countywide impact or at a minimum a relevance in a number of localities in the area.
- Groups/associations should be open to new members, hold AGMs and regular meetings, and should be broadly representative and accountable.
- Whereas in some instances it may be appropriate to consider single interest groups [such as those campaigning on behalf of the elderly or disabled], groups formed around a specific *local* single issue will not be considered for inclusion. Single issue groups should affiliate with their relevant PPNs to ensure that they are also represented.

## 7. Adoption of SPC Scheme and Nominations

Following public consultation, submissions will be considered, and the Corporate Policy Group will make any amendments to the draft scheme as deemed appropriate for submission to the Council

The Draft Scheme will be brought to the elected members at plenary council, who will then adopt the Scheme as presented or amended.

Following adoption of the SPC Scheme, the Scheme shall be circulated to the contact persons of the National Key Stakeholder Pillars to see nominations.

The mechanism for selecting nominees is a matter for the relevant pillars and enquiries regarding the mechanism used should be referred to the relevant contact points contained in Appendix 2.

The Scheme shall also issue to the Public Participation Network (PPN) Secretariat for community/voluntary, social inclusion and environmental nominations as appropriate.

Statutory State and Local Development Agencies should not be included as nominating bodies to the sectors and should not be represented on an SPC. However, sectors may nominate persons from a non-statutory local development organisation to sit on an SPC.

Each sector shall nominate the appropriate number of representatives as set out in the adopted scheme to the SPCs.

All sectors should bear in mind the objective of achieving at least 40% male and 40% female representation in the making of appointments, as well as the need to foster social inclusiveness and equality when selecting their representatives.

Selected members should be representative of local organisations active in the county.

Final decisions on membership will ultimately rest with the elected members as a reserved function.

A period of one month will be provided for the nomination process, in the interests of progressing the establishment of the new SPCs.

## 8. SPC Meetings and Procedures

### 8.1 Work Programme

- Each SPC will adopt a multi-annual work programme, linked to the Corporate Plan and updated regularly as necessary.
- SPC members should be fully involved in the process of preparing the SPC work programme, which should commence after the Scheme is approved and membership determined, and a period of 4 weeks should be given for observations.
- Having considered any observations, the programme shall be submitted to the Corporate Policy Group for decision. The CPG, may, as appropriate, recommend issues to be considered by the SPCs from time to time.
- A review of SPC work programmes should be carried out by the CPG in the third year of the term of Council.

### 8.2 Meetings

- Meetings of SPC's will normally be held on a quarterly basis or as often as is deemed necessary and a calendar of meetings should be agreed at the start of each year.
- A Director of Services will attend meetings and provide support to each SPC. The Director will work closely with the committee and be entitled to speak and participate at meetings.
- The SPC chair and relevant Director of Service should meet well in advance of an SPC meeting to clarify the agenda, and should involve, as far as possible, members of SPCs in drawing up the agenda.

- The Director of Service and Chair of the SPC should consult, in advance of preparation of preliminary briefing papers for the purposes of the SPC considering development or amendment of policies.
- Where practicable the agenda, and any relevant documentation will issue 4 weeks in advance of the meeting. Where applicable documentation of a confidential nature shall be identified as such.
- Meetings shall be conducted in an informal but efficient manner at venues and times to be decided annually in advance by the committee.
- The local authority will provide a key contact person (other than the Director of Service) for all SPC members and particularly for sectoral representative to deal with SPC matters.
- External nominees should be familiar with the subject area of their committees.
- Where agreement is reached on recommendations of an SPC to the plenary council the Chairperson of the SPC or his/her nominee shall present the recommendation to plenary council. The outcome of the council considerations of the SPC's recommendation should likewise be reported back to the SPC and sectoral representatives should also report to their relevant nominating bodies.
- Kildare County Council has in place standing orders for the operation of all SPCs, and shall provide same to elected members and sectoral representatives, upon their appointment to the SPC, prior to commencement of the first meetings of SPCs.

## 9. Training and Support

Training will be provided for SPC members as appropriate to their needs, in consultation with them. These may include, subject to funding;

- Workshops on policy to cover the various areas within the remit of the SPCs, particularly in respect of climate action;
- Briefings on public sector / local government reform programmes;
- Briefings on the role and functions of local government;
- Legal and ethical responsibilities of SPC members
- Effective meeting skills for SPC Chairs

Induction of all new members can be facilitated by the Chair and Director of Services providing summary of the work programmes and activities heretofore of the relevant SPC, when the member joins same.



It is noted from Guidance that it is intended that the Local Government Management Agency is tasked with developing a virtual network of SPC Chairs to act as a resource in their role.

In addition, the local authority will, subject to resources, seek to support SPCs, by utilising research resources such as the LGMA, third level institutions or, for example, NOAC, if deemed appropriate.

## 10. Expenses Incurred by Members

In general, any travel expenses arising for an SPC member would be met by the organisation that the SPC member represents. However, in exceptional circumstances, where the nominating body is unable to pay such travel expenses, the member would be entitled to claim travel for attendance at SPC meetings, at the rate applicable to elected members of the council.

## Appendix 1 Representation: Members and Sectoral Interests

<b>Climate Action</b>			
Chair	=	County Councillor	1
Members	=	County Councillors	5
Sectoral Interest	=	Environmental/Conservation	4
		Business/Commercial	
		Agriculture/Farming	
		Community / Voluntary	

<b>Environment and Water Services</b>			
Chair	=	County Councillor	1
Members	=	County Councillors	5
Sectoral Interest	=	Environmental/Conservation	4
		Business/Commercial	
		Agriculture/Farming	
		Community / Voluntary	

<b>Planning, Enterprise, Economic Development</b>			
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Chair	=	County Councillor	1
Members	=	County Councillors	6
Sectoral Interest	=	Business/Commercial Development/Construction Social Inclusion Environmental/Conservation	4

<b>Housing and Regeneration</b>			
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Chair	=	County Councillor	1
Members	=	County Councillors	6
Sectoral Interest	=	Development/Construction Community/Voluntary Trade Union Social Inclusion	4

<b>Local Community, Culture and Integration</b>			
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Chair	=	County Councillor	1
Members	=	County Councillors	6
Sectoral Interest	=	Environmental/Conservation Business/Commercial Community/Voluntary Social Inclusion	4

<b>Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces</b>			
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Chair	=	County Councillor	1
Members	=	County Councillors	6
Sectoral Interest	=	Agriculture/Farming Business/Commercial Development/Construction Community/Voluntary	4

## Appendix 2: SPCs and Indicative Areas of Responsibility

### Climate Action

- Climate Adaptation and Mitigation
- Ongoing performance review of Kildare County Council Climate Action Plan
- Oversight of Covenant of Mayors
- Building climate change capacity internally and externally (elected members, staff, wider community)
- Interpreting and assessing national (e.g. All of Government Plan), regional, local and EU policies
- Promoting innovation particularly at local level
- Assessing business opportunities arising from Climate Action
- Linkages with other policy committees

### Environment and Water Services

#### Environmental Services

- Waste Management and Enforcement
- Landfill Remediation Scheme
- Preparation and implementation of Litter Management Plan
- Cemeteries
- Horse and Dog Control and related bye-laws
- Environmental Awareness
- Air Quality
- River Basin Management
- Assessment of related local, regional, national and EU policies.
- Linkages with other policy committees
- [Climate Action and Biodiversity Action as applicable to the remit of this SPC](#)

#### Water Services

- Rural water
- Private water supplies
- Catchment related flooding
- Linkages with other policy committees

## Planning, Enterprise, Economic Development

- Oversight of the economic element of the Local Economic and Community Plan.
- Creation, review and oversight of economic development policies and business support policies.
- Policy actions & County Development Plan implementation
- Review of County Development Plan with respect to National Planning Framework revision
- Job Creation/Maintenance Policies.
- Policy linkage – I.D.A., Enterprise Ireland, Local Enterprise Office and other local development initiatives.
- Regional spatial and economic strategies.
- Impact of national policies.
- Sustainable development issues.
- Tourism promotion/development.
- Heritage Protection, biodiversity and conservation.
- [Drafting of Schemes under SI 349/2024 or section 15 of the Rates Act 2019, as applicable.](#)
- Linkages with other policy committees.
- [Climate Action and Biodiversity Action as applicable to the remit of this SPC](#)

## Housing and Regeneration

- Monitor the implementation of objectives of Housing for All, and any subsequent Government Housing Plan.
- Monitor targets for delivery set by Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, including delivery of social and affordable housing by both the local authority and approved housing bodies.
- Addressing Homelessness; including monitoring of objectives of the Mid-East Regional Homelessness Action Plan and any other relevant policies.
- Review of policies relating to functions of the Housing and Regeneration Directorate.
- Estate management/tenant participation policies.
- Housing design and construction, including implementation of Building Information Modelling [BIM].
- Monitor climate action objectives related to the work of the Housing and Regeneration Directorate.
- Monitor the renewal, refurbishment and maintenance of housing stock, including the implementation of the energy efficiency programme and asset management.

- Traveller Accommodation Programme.
- Monitor implementation of objectives of the Strategic Plan for Housing People with a Disability, together with delivery of grants programme.
- Monitor progress of the Strategic Policy and Public Realm [SPPR] work programme, particularly in the context of urban, village and rural regeneration and enhancement.
- Addressing Vacancy; to include Town Centre First, Croi Conaithe [and any other relevant schemes], Compulsory Purchase Orders [related to addressing vacancy], Derelict Sites.
- **Climate Action and Biodiversity Action as applicable to the remit of this SPC**
- Linkages with other policy committees.

### **Local Community, Culture and Integration**

- **Engagement and consultation regarding the preparation and implementation of the Local Economic and Community Plan.**
- Civic leadership issues, with reference to Section 63 of Local Government Act 2001(as amended).
- Policy in relation to support for community-based organisations and community development.
- Policy in relation to interaction with national tidy town/pride of place groups and initiatives.
- Access to and promotion of sport and other-leisure activities and facilities.
- Preparation and implementation of Sports Plan
- Policies in relation to the promotion of library services and the Arts, including the Library Development Plan, Creative Kildare, Arts Strategy, etc.
- Council's responsibilities with regard to youth affairs and services to young people.
- Council's responsibilities with regard to age friendly county programme.
- Integration of new communities
- **Climate Action and Biodiversity Action as applicable to the remit of this SPC**
- Linkages with other policy committees.

### **Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces**

- Ongoing review of National/Regional/Local Policies – Roads.
- Policies relating to role of transportation system.
- Regional spatial and economic strategies.
- County-wide implementation policies.

- Rural/Urban transportation issues.
  - Public Private Partnership arrangements.
  - Role of public transport – road, rail, taxis etc.
  - Sustainable travel policies
    - Cycle Infrastructure
    - Mobility corridors
    - Park and ride, park and stride and park and share measures
    - EV charging strategy
  - Road Safety Issues.
  - Car Parking Strategy
  - Public Lighting policies
  - Open Space Management Issues
  - Policies relating to climate change and transport decarbonisation
  - **Climate Action and Biodiversity Action as applicable to the remit of this SPC**
  - Linkages with other policy committees.
- 

## Appendix 3 – National Contact Points of Key Stakeholders

### **Pillar Name & Address, Contact information.**

#### **Farming**

Irish Farmers Association (IFA)  
 Irish Farm Centre Bluebell Dublin 12  
[info@ifa.ie](mailto:info@ifa.ie)

#### **Business**

Chambers Ireland  
 22-24 Lower Mount Street Dublin 2  
[info@chambers.ie](mailto:info@chambers.ie)

#### **Trade Unions**

Deirdre Mannion  
 Irish Congress of Trade Unions  
 (ICTU) Head Office 31-32 Parnell Square Dublin 1  
 01 889 7726  
[deirdre.mannion@ictu.ie](mailto:deirdre.mannion@ictu.ie)

#### **Environment**

Irish Environmental Network  
 Macro Community Resource Centre 1 Green Street Dublin 7  
 01 878 0116  
[office@ien.ie](mailto:office@ien.ie)