**Notice of the Draft Strategic Policy Committee Scheme went on public display, through the SDCC Consultation Portal on July 15th until August 16th 2024. Nine submissions were received and are summarised as follows:**

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| **SUBMITTER** | **ISSUES RAISED** | **Relevant Section** | **Comment** | **Recommendation** |
| **1. Vinnie O’ Shea**  **National Coordinator of Healthy Ireland** | **Submission to encourage the inclusion of WELLBEING within the Strategic Policy Committees Scheme 2024-2029 across the 31 Local Authorities.**  By integrating wellbeing across the SPC scheme, Local Authorities are able to craft policies that enhance overall quality of life with greater focus on the wider broader determinants of health and wellbeing considering social, environmental, and economic factors in a more balanced way, leading to more sustainable outcomes. This would allow for more informed decision-making where policies that consider wellbeing are grounded in a genuine understanding of community needs.  Examples of SPC interdependencies include:   * Housing, Community and Wellbeing: * Economic Development and Wellbeing * Transportation, Environment and Wellbeing | **5.2** | Sláintecare / Healthy Ireland is a specific named policy area for the Social, Community and Equality SPC. | Consider amending the Scheme to include provision for all SPCs to consider wellbeing within their remit if agreed by Council. |
| **2. South Dublin Chamber** | **The following are the observations we would like to share regarding the SPCs:** |  |  |  |
| We fully support the 6 recommended SPCs as being the right number covering the right topics. | 5.1 | Noted | No change to Scheme |
| At the commencement of an SPC it would be beneficial if a more defined work program was agreed, noting that flexibility is also required for emerging topics. | 3.2 | Provided for in the draft Scheme | No change to Scheme |
| All members including those who join after the startup date should be encouraged to take on training, induction / onboarding and refresher courses relating to the work of the SPC | 4.3 |  | Consider amending the Scheme to include provision  for induction training for new members in the Scheme |
| Agenda, greater involvement of the SPC members in the formation of the agenda | Standing Orders | Not relevant to SPC Scheme so for consideration in a subsequent review of Standing Orders | No change to Scheme |
| Greater flexibility in the number and dates of SPCs meetings respecting the need to meet. | Standing Orders | Not relevant to SPC Scheme so for consideration in a subsequent review of Standing Orders | No change to Scheme |
| Ability to replace nonparticipating members | Standing Orders | Provided for in Standing Order 6 (c) | No change to Scheme |
| Visibility of impact of SPC work on policy, can sometimes be unclear what policies are being impacted. | 3.2 |  | Include provision for the Work Programme agreed for the year to include a clear link to the relevant policies where relevant |
| Greater focus on strategic issues and not day to day issues. | 1, 3, 5 | Provided for in the draft Scheme | No change to Scheme |
| Defined expectations of members for the work of the SPC | 3.2 | Clarity in expectations regarding the work is provided for through the process of agreement on the work programme. | No change to Scheme |
| **Enhancing the effectiveness of the interaction of SPCs with the Corporate Policy group:** |  |  |  |
| • Feedback from elected Council on how the work of SPCs links with the plenary Council Consideration should be given to non-elected members of the SPC being able to chair the SPC and or its sub committees or working groups. | 5.3 | This is a paid position with the criteria for payment set by departmental guidelines. This is a dual role of being and SPC Chair and a member of the Corporate Policy Group which has a broader remit than just the SPCs. This request is not implementable. | No change to Scheme |
| • Good use of external experts and openness to use then by the executive | 5.3 | The purpose of the SPC’s is to involve external experts and representatives in the Council’s policy-making process | No change to Scheme |
| • Good flow of information from executive relating to the SPC | 3.1 | Noted | No change to Scheme |
| • Good availability of key staff both at the SPC and to follow up appreciated. | 3.1 | Each SPC is supported by the relevant Director of Service and expertise from the executive as required | No change to Scheme |
| **3. John Kiberd - Litter Mugs/Dodder Action** | **Current SPCs are not fit for purpose.**  **In my experience SPCs withing SDCC operate as follows:** |  |  |  |
| 1. SPC meetings occur on a quarterly basis. | 4 | Noted. | No change to Scheme |
| 2.As far as I can ascertain the agenda is set by SDCC executives and it usually arrives via email three business days ahead of the meeting. My one attempt to have something placed on an agenda was refused. | Standing Orders | Standing Order 7 and 8 sets out the format and process for developing the agenda. | No change to Scheme |
| 3. Typically, an Agenda consists of  a) Minutes of the last meeting  b) Reports by SDCC executives  c) AOB | Standing Orders | Standing Order 7 and 8 sets out the format and process for developing the agenda. | No change to Scheme |
| 4. The agenda tends to be a selection of largely unrelated items. | Standing Orders | Standing Order 7 and 8 sets out the format and process for developing the agenda. | No change to Scheme |
| 5. Each agenda item usually consists of a report by an SDCC executive followed by comments and questions from SPC committee members. |  | Noted. | No change to Scheme |
| 6. As the SPC meetings last just 90 minutes invariably there is no time for AOB. | Standing Orders | For consideration in a subsequent review of Standing Orders | No change to Scheme |
| 7. In my experience there has never any been any committee discussion, or the opportunity to have any |  | Noted. | No change to Scheme |
| **4. South Dublin County Public Participation Network** | **Observations on 4.1 SPC Meeting Procedures.**  Identify the person to whom agenda items (or motions) should be submitted to. Identify a time frame for the submission of agenda items (or motions), i.e. at least 2/3 weeks before the meeting is due to take place. Identify parameters / format for the submitted items.  This is in the best interests of empowering sectoral participation in the SPC Scheme. | Standing Order 8 | Not relevant to the scheme but can be included for consideration in a subsequent review of Standing Orders | No change to Scheme |
| **Observations on 3.2 SPC Work Programme.**  Section 3.2 of the proposed scheme, notes the adopting and agreement of the work programme linked to the corporate plan. It is most welcome that SPC members are provided with time to consider and respond to the draft work programme. The PPN suggests that a report on submissions is returned to the SPCs following consideration by the CPG (i.e. The CPG will notify SPC members on the submissions received, any changes that arose, the agreed matters for inclusion, and the priority of work programme issues to be explored.). | 3.2 | Provided for in Section 3.2. | No change to Scheme |
| **Observations on 5.3 Membership.**  The PPN requests the following changes to the membership of the SPCs:  Economic Development, Enterprise & Tourism (PPN x 2 (community pillar, environmental pillar)(increase of 1).  Land Use Transportation and Planning (PPN x 2 (environmental pillar, community pillar) (increase of 1).  Arts, Culture, Gaeilge, Heritage and Libraries PPN x 2 (social inclusion pillar, community pillar) (increase of 1).  Environment, Public Realm and Climate Change PPN x 2 (environmental pillar, community pillar)increase of 1) | 5.3 | The draft scheme currently provides for 1 PPN rep on all SPCs except for 2 on the Housing SPC and 2 on the Social, Community and Equality SPC. | Amend scheme to provide for the nomination of 2 PPN representatives to all 6 SPCs |
| **5. Lucan Planning Council** | **The submission is made in the context of the dual Climate and Biodiversity emergencies and the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals, and the response of South Dublin County Council to these challenges.**  Community stakeholder representation on SPCs is key to their success and the inclusion of the Public Participation Networks (PPNs) in each SPC will be vital to this success. It is easy to assume that the people living in the county are sufficiently represented by the councillors but the PPN reps are selected from their communities to provide the experience and knowledge of the public. Through the Linkage groups that are built around each SPC, the PPN reps have the support of the whole community.  The overarching driver of policy creation in the county must be for sustainable development. This requires the integration of social, environmental and economic considerations in all aspects of decision-making.  Inclusion of representatives with knowledge and expertise in climate and biodiversity are paramount for the creation of policies that are working towards a sustainable future. | 5.2, 5.3 | The existing proposed representation is considered capable of taking on these considerations in their remit. | Inclusion of the SDGs in the remit of all SPCs under section 5.2 Policy Configuration |
|  | **The SPC Scheme.**  I agree with the general scheme, however I believe that the PPN is under-represented on each scheme.  There should be a minimum of two PPN reps on each SPC, with one of the reps being sourced from the Environmental college of the PPN.  At a very Minimum, there should be an environmental PPN rep on the:  Economic Development, Enterprise & Tourism  Land use Transportation and Planning  Environment, Public Realm & Climate Change  Housing | 5.2 | Also requested by the PPN | Amend scheme to provide for the nomination of 2 PPN representatives to all 6 SPCs |
| **6. Childhood Development Initiative** | **CDI welcomes the establishment of Strategic Policy Committees to drive improvements and developments for the County.**  **In order to maximise the investment of time and expertise, we share the following reflections:** |  |  |  |
| The work of the SPCs should both inform and reflect that of the LCDC and the CYPSC. This requires clear and regular communication, with agreed responsibilities and where appropriate, opportunities. | 4.2, 5.1, 5.5 | The Scheme provides for regard to be had to the LCDC in terms of membership and remit but not to be represented on the SPCs as this would be duplication in representation. The ongoing need for communication and engagement in opportunities is considered to be current practice. | No change to Scheme |
| The work commenced in 2023-24 regarding child poverty in the county should be further progressed by the relevant SPCs. This is a cross-cutting matter and should be reflected in the work of not only the SPC on economy but also that of the housing, and social and community SPC. | 3.2 |  | Include provision for child poverty as a cross-cutting issue for all SPC’s in Section 5.2 Policy Configuration |
| Induction for SPC members should include presentations on recent consultation undertaken by the CYPSC, and findings from the Trinity College HANA research. | 4.3 | Provided for in Section 4.3 through the consultative process on training needs. | No change to Scheme |
| 7. Conradh na Gaeilge | We strongly support your proposal to include the Irish language specifically and in the title of the SPC as follows: ‘CBS Ealaíona, Cultúir, Gaeilge, Oidhreacht agus Leabharlanna’  SDCC will play a vital role in providing / facilitating its services through Irish, (e.g. in sport, community development, etc..) for the Irish-speaking community, and of course for people who would be interested in learning and using Irish more. The additional recognition of Irish on this SPC will help accomplish that.  For your information, an independent survey carried out by Ireland Thinks in 2024 found that more than three out of five respondents would like to have more opportunities to use Irish, and the SPC will have the opportunity to take this into account in its work with the Official Languages Act 2021 (amendment) now in force, the following additional duties are to be completed by Local Authorities in relation to Irish, and the SPC will be able to monitor the Council's progress in fulfilling these duties:  20% of the Authority's advertising to be done through Irish.  have the Authority’s recruitment target at 20% for people who are competent in Irish and English by the end of 2030.  Marketing of the Authority to fall under the Languages Act.  The companies that the Authority uses to provide services to the public on behalf of the Authority to fall under the Languages Act.  We recommend that 'Pobal na Gaeilge' (the Irish Language Community) be included in the list for External Membership on this SPC to ensure that someone dealing specifically with Irish in the county will be included in future discussions of the SPC. | 5.3, 5.4 | An Irish version of the SPC Scheme will be produced which will give the names of all 6 SPCs in Irish  The executive is aware of its responsibilities under the Irish Language Acts and is actively implementing measures to ensure our compliance  The mechanism for nominating a representative for Pobal na Gaeilge is not proposed so it is not possible to develop this within the current scheme. | No change to Scheme  No change to Scheme |
| **8. Cllr Francis Timmons** | Re Social, Community and Equality SPC, I’d like it changed to Social, Community,  Equality and Integration SPC | 5.1, 5.3 | Integration is a named policy area of this SPC in the Scheme. | Amend the name of the of the SPC to include Integration ‘to Social, Community,  Equality and Integration SPC’ |
| Re times I’d like to propose they are increased to 2 hours! | Standing Orders | Not relevant to the scheme but can be included for consideration in a subsequent review of Standing Orders | No change to Scheme |
| Re agenda - I’d like to see more discussion with members re agenda! | Standing Orders | Not relevant to the scheme but can be included for consideration in a subsequent review of Standing Orders | No change to Scheme |
| Re headed items – I’d like it agreed that these are sent out and read beforehand and a just a quick summary is given and members ask questions! | Standing Orders | Not relevant to the scheme but can be included for consideration in a subsequent review of Standing Orders | No change to Scheme |
| And vitally anyone, Cllr or not, should be able to propose a piece of policy. A policy is needed on this! | 3.2 | A four week consultation process with SPC members is proposed in Section 3.2 on the agreement of a work programme | No change to Scheme |
| **9. The Environmental Pillar** | **Proposed Changes to the Draft Scheme:** |  |  |  |
| **1. Inclusion of Climate Action and Biodiversity Protection across all SPCs:** To reflect this, we strongly recommend that ‘Biodiversity Action’ is also included in the remit  under all SPCs. This will help to ensure that these vital and cross-cutting issues are not overlooked in the work of the SPCs. Even though, as mentioned above, they are both linked, we believe it is helpful to name both separately so as to ensure one is not forgotten over the other. | 1, 4.3, 5.1 | Provided for within the Draft Scheme | No change to Scheme |
| **2. Effective Representation for Climate and Biodiversity:** Climate action and impacts need to be effectively considered in the discussion of policies across all SPCs, and so we would strongly suggest the inclusion of Environmental seats on all  SPCs. | 5.3 |  | See recommendation following consideration of the PPN and Lucan Community council submissions |
| We also strongly recommend the inclusion of 2 Environmental Representatives on the Environment, Public Realm and Climate Change SPC.  Representation for the PPN seats is very poor in the draft scheme.  In order for the PPN to function as intended, at least one seat for all three PPN Electoral Colleges (Environment,  Community/Voluntary, Social Inclusion), should be included on all SPCs, ie. At least three seats total on each SPC for the PPN.  Action for climate and biodiversity cannot be effectively considered without specific expertise in these areas on each SPC. Therefore, we would strongly recommend the inclusion  of a representative from the Environmental Electoral College of the PPN in all SPCs. In addition to the Environmental Representative(s) on each SPC, we would also recommend that at least one other SPC member on all SPCs, whether councillor or sectoral  representative, have proven knowledge or strong interest of climate and biodiversity issues.  There is also at the same time no reason why the percentage of other sector representatives could not be greater than in the Draft Scheme, given the flexibility outlined in ‘Revised  Guidelines for Establishment and Operation’ for CPGs and SPCs.  The PPN should have at least three seats on each SPC, one for each Electoral College (environment, social inclusion, community/voluntary).  It should also be noted that the positions for Sectoral Representation are vital for the inclusion of the community voice and expertise voices on the SPCs. Where seats for Sectoral Representatives cannot be filled, the seats should remain unfilled until a Representative is available. It is imperative that positions for Sectoral Representatives are not removed or reassigned if they are not able to be filled. The option for inclusion of these Representatives must always remain. | 5.3 | The Environment Pillar is part of the PPN but this request is contradictory to their submission. The PPN requests consideration be given to having 2 PPN representatives on each SPC, not 3. | See recommendation following consideration of the PPN and Lucan Community council submissions |
| **3. Operation of the Scheme and the SPCs**  **a. We strongly suggest the following points be added to the Draft Scheme:** |  |  |  |
| i. A meeting between the full Council and the collective Sectoral Representatives should be held once a year. |  | This proposal could be acted upon in the review in year Three of the SPC Scheme | No change to Scheme |
| ii. We support the Guidelines in their statement: “Local authorities should ensure that documentation concerning SPC meetings is sent well in advance of the meetings, ideally four weeks in advance. “We would recommend the inclusion of this timeframe in the final SPC Scheme.  It is essential that all SPC members are given sufficient time to prepare for the meetings and to consult with the members of their nominating bodies in order to create the best foundation for meaningful debate. |  | Standing Order 8 provides for SPC members to submit items for consideration in the preparation of the agenda 22 days in advance of the date of the meeting. Because of this it is not possible to implement this request without amending Standing Orders first. | No change to Scheme |
| iii. Meeting schedules are agreed by all members of the SPC. It must also be the case that changes in that schedule are also only made following consultation with all the  members of the committee. The timing and location of meetings should also be arranged by agreement amongst the committee members to facilitate maximum participation and, as far as is possible, proximity to public transport. Potential  meeting times should be flexible, with the potential for evening meetings available to accommodate voluntary representatives. | 4.1 | Can be included for consideration in a subsequent review of Standing Orders. However the meetings venues are determined by the need to provide hybrid meeting facilities, which is also requested in this submission, point v below. | No change to Scheme |
| iv. To facilitate the SPC in its policy making role, the SPC members should be consulted at an early stage and provided with all relevant background information. |  | Can be included for consideration in a subsequent review of Standing Orders. | No change to Scheme |
| v. Where nominated Other Sector representatives have difficulty participating in person, for good reason, it should be made possible for them to participate remotely. |  | Hybrid meeting arrangements in South Dublin County Council enable SPC members to participate remotely | No change to Scheme |
| vi. All members of the SPC should be able to add relevant items to the agenda of forthcoming meetings. Items that have not been reached should be automatically added to the next meetings agenda. |  | Provided for in Standing Order 8 | No change to Scheme |
| vii. Recommendations from an SPC to the Council may, where a consensus isn’t possible, include a minority report or statement. This will give the Council the benefit of the full range of expertise and opinion. |  | This is contrary to the collaborative process and not recommended for consideration in a review of the Standing Orders | No change to Scheme |
| **b. Training:**  We welcome the outline of training for all SPC members. Many of the Other Sector nominees, as well as some of the newly elected Councillors will be new to the SPCs and to committee structures and working. As the SPCs will generally only meet 4 times a year, some Committee Members may find it very hard to adopt to this new working environment, and consequently may feel unable to participate fully. In the case of the voluntary Other Sector Members may result in frustration and a tail off in attendance. Training in advance of the first meetings of the SPCs, on the role of the SPCs, meeting skills and policy creation processes, would be an essential foundation on which to build their success.  We recommend the inclusion of workshops for climate action, and that in light of climate action being relevant to all SPCs that this workshop is given to all SPC members across all  SPCs. As mentioned above, climate action should also include actions and impacts for biodiversity. | 4.3 | Provided for within the draft Scheme | No change to Scheme |