

**Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall**  
Fingal County Council



# Fingal County Council

Strategic Policy Committee Scheme

2019 -2024



## Introduction

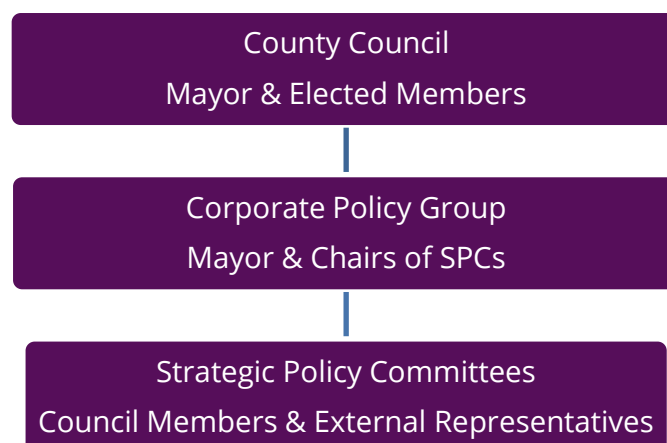
The statutory basis for Strategic Policy Committee's (SPC's) is set out in the Local Government Act, 2001 (Section 48) as amended by Section 41 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014, which provides that "*a Local Authority shall establish committees to be known as Strategic Policy Committees to consider 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.*"

## Policy Development & Governance Structure

Fingal County Council's Corporate Plan sets out the Objectives and Supporting Strategies that provide the framework within which Policies will be considered and developed by the Elected Members through the policy development framework of the Council.



The policy development structure, consisting of the full County Council, Corporate Policy Group and Strategic Policy Committees, provides a governance structure to develop and monitor the effectiveness of policy development within the local authority.



## **The role of the Elected Members of Fingal County Council**

The principal role of the elected council is to determine by resolution the policy of the local authority subject to and in accordance with the Local Government Act 2001, as amended, and the other enactments relating to that authority. The primacy of the elected members is expressed in “reserved” functions prescribed in a range of statutes for this purpose.

### **Role of the Corporate Policy Group**

The Corporate Policy Group, made up of the Chairs of the SPCs, fulfils a strategic role linking and monitoring the work of the different SPCs and providing a forum where policy positions affecting the whole council can be agreed for submission to the full council.

The role for the Corporate Policy Group is as follows:

- The preparation of the Annual Budget.
- The preparation of the 5 year Corporate Plan and associated oversight.
- Preparation, co-ordination and monitoring of SPC Work Programmes and policy proposals of the SPCs for recommendation to the full Council
- The supervision and oversight of the satisfactory operation of each SPC
- Consideration/Monitoring of matters of general strategic concern to the Council or matters relating to the support of Council Members

The CPG will meet at least quarterly following the meeting of the SPC quarterly meetings and in advance of the next available Council meeting, or as frequently as may be considered necessary by the CPG Members, to conduct its business, facilitate decision making and consideration of policy recommendations.

### **Role of the Strategic Policy Committee**

Strategic Policy Committees enable elected members to fulfil their role as policy-makers by providing a focus for their input into policy formation, opportunities for partnership with local interests and strengthening their role as leaders of their authority and the local community.

The SPCs are to consider and advise the Corporate Policy Group and the full Council on matters connected with the formulation, development, monitoring and review of policy which relate to the functions of the Local Authority and are linked to the Council's Corporate Plan. In their work, SPCs are not concerned with individual representational or operational issues.

In performing this role, the SPC will implement the Work Programme agreed by the CPG and will, through the Chair, report on same to the CPG and the full Council.

SPCs will meet at least quarterly or as frequently as is considered necessary by the SPC Members in order to deliver the Annual Work Programme.

### Structure of the Strategic Policy Committees

The Strategic Policy Committees are to be established in a way that:

- Reflects the major functions or services of a local authority
- Are tailored to the size, membership and administrative resources of the local authority
- Have membership drawn from sectors relevant to the committee’s work
- SPC Chairs must 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.

In the term of this Council there will be 6 Strategic Policy Committees which will have responsibility as follows –

SPC	Remit
Climate Action, Biodiversity and the Environment	<p>Fingal Climate Action Plan 2019 - 24            Flood Risk &amp; Water Quality Management            Coastal Erosion            Recycling , Waste Minimisation and Management            Control of Animals            Tree Management Policy            Biodiversity Policy</p> <p><i>While elements of the Climate Action Plan fall within the remit of all SPCs, the Climate Action, Biodiversity and the Environment is the lead SPC in this regard and can engage with DOS and staff across all Departments identified as ‘Lead Departments’ for various action points across the Plan.</i></p>
Community Development, Heritage, Culture and Creativity	<p>Community Development            Creative Ireland            Fingal Libraries Development Plan 2018-2023            Creative Ireland Programme            Arts Plan 2019-2025            Promotion of Arts Culture and Heritage.</p>

Housing	Social Housing delivery and supports. Homeless Strategy Strategy Estate Management Accommodation Programme for Travelling People Allocations / Transfers Architecture and Design of Social Housing. Refurbishment Programme Models of delivery
Economic, Enterprise & Tourism Development	Tourism Strategy and Economic development. Enterprise support functions. Preparation of the economic elements of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP), Implementation and review of the economic elements of the LECP. Local Enterprise Office (LEO).
Planning, Strategic Transport and Infrastructure Development	Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023. Development of New Strategic Infrastructure – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic Greenway Infrastructure</li> <li>• Strategic Transport Routes</li> <li>• Recreational open space</li> <li>• Metrolink</li> </ul> Building Control and Building Standards Planning and Development Urban Design Conservation Development Contribution Scheme
Transport & Infrastructure Management	Sustainable Transport Modes & Cycling policy Movement & Open Space related Strategy & Bye-Laws Permeability & Retrofitting Pedestrian and Cycling Facilities Public Transport, Road Safety issues and Traffic Management Electric vehicle charging points Car sharing schemes, Park and Ride provision Burial Grounds Strategy & Management Bye-Laws

### Membership of the Strategic Policy Committees

Fingal County Council, at its Inaugural Annual Meeting on 7th June, 2019, appointed 6 Chairs designate of Strategic Policy Committees. These Chairs must hold office for a minimum period of 3 years.

The Council Members will nominate elected members to the Strategic Policy Committees and this membership will reflect the proportionality and the distribution of elected representation on the full Council as required. Under this scheme, each elected member will become a member of one SPC.

The following Sectors will be asked to provide representation on SPC Committees, as and where appropriate:

- Agriculture / Farming;
- Environment / Conservation;
- Development / Construction;
- Business / commercial;
- Trade Union;
- Community / Voluntary;
- Social inclusion;

Membership of the SPCs (both Councillors and Sectoral Representatives) shall be for the lifetime of the Council and casual vacancies which arise will be filled by the sector involved.

Nominating bodies are to bear in mind the objective gender balance in the making of appointments, as well as the need to foster social inclusiveness and equality when selecting their representatives.

Nominating bodies may also de-select their nominees.

The Membership of the SPCs will be as follows –

Membership by Committee	Elected Members	Sectoral Interest	Total
Climate Action, Biodiversity and the Environment	6	3	9
Community Development, Heritage Culture and Creativity.	6	3	9
Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development	8	4	12
Housing	8	4	12
Planning and Strategic Transport and Infrastructure Development	6	3	9
Transport & Infrastructure Management	6	3	9
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>60</b>

Sectoral Nominees by Committee	Environment Pillar	Chambers /Business	ICTU	IFA	PPN	Total
Climate Action, Biodiversity and the Environment	1	1		1	1	3
Community Development, Heritage Culture and Creativity.					2	3
Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development	1	1	1		1	4
Housing	1	1			2	4
Planning and Strategic Transport and Infrastructure Development	1	1			1	3
Transport & Infrastructure Management	1	1			1	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>20</b>

## **Nominations Process**

Fingal County Council will seek nominations of representatives of Agriculture/Farming, Business, Trade Unions Pillars in accordance with national arrangements.

Nominations will be sought from Construction Industry Federation (CIF) in relation to representatives from the Development/Construction Sector under the Business Pillar.

Fingal County Council will work with the Public Participation Network (PPN) to facilitate the selection of sectoral representatives for the Environment, Social Inclusion and Community/Voluntary sectors.

Once the Scheme is adopted each sector will be circulated with same and given a period of 4 weeks from the date of agreement of this draft scheme to make nominations.

Fingal County Council will approve the new members of the Strategic Policy Committees on receipt of completed nominations by the next available Council meeting.

## **CPG / SPC Operational Framework**

Guidelines for the establishment and operation of CPGs & SPCs were published in June 2014 to provide guidance on defining the roles and operational relationships for these committees in local authorities.

The Members of Fingal County Council have, under Standing Order No 125, provided that recommendations of SPCs shall come before the Corporate Policy Group in the first instance before being considered by the Council. To give effect to Standing Order 86 and the guidelines, the interaction between the full Council, the CPG and the SPC will operate as follows:

1. The Corporate Policy Group, supported by the Chief Executive, will agree Annual Policy Programmes for all relevant SPCs. Submissions will be sought from Council Members, SPC Members and the Council Executive. The CPG will consider submissions, agree matters for inclusion and determine the order of priority in which SPCs are to explore issues.
2. SPC Agenda formulation will be a matter for the SPC Chair and the relevant Director of Service and may include any matter relevant to the business of the SPC. Policy recommendations may only be made on matters included on the agreed Annual Policy Programme.
3. Any matters that arise that are considered to warrant inclusion on the Annual Policy Programme may be submitted for agreement to the CPG. Re-ordering of priority or addition to the Annual Policy Programmes will be a matter for the CPG.

4. Once agreed at SPC level, the Chair of the SPC, supported by the relevant Director of Service, will present policy recommendations to the CPG for initial determination. The CPG may allow a recommendation to go forward to the full Council with or without amendment or may refer it back to the SPC for further investigation.
5. Following approval by the CPG, the Chair of the SPC, supported by the relevant Director of Service, will present SPC Policy recommendations to the full Council which may be adopted, with or without modification or rejected.
6. Where an SPC Policy recommendation, once approved, gives rise to financial implications it can only become operational once an appropriate supporting budget is in place.
7. The Chair of the SPCs, supported by the Director of Service, will provide progress reports to both the CPG and the full Council on Annual Policy Programme.



## Appendix I – Corporate Plan 2014 / 19 – Corporate Objectives

Corporate Objective Ref	Corporate Objective
CO.1	To support and strengthen democracy, good governance, openness and transparency at local level
CO.2	To lead the creation of an environment in which sustainable development and growth of the Fingal economy is supported
CO.3	To address the needs of the county in relation to the provision of Infrastructure, Housing and the removal of Homelessness
CO.4	To develop, support and enhance the quality of life of sustainable, inclusive communities
CO.5	To respect, protect and enhance the natural and built environments
CO.6	To strengthen the proposition and marketing of tourism in Fingal
CO.7	To promote participation in and awareness of Council activities through effective communications, consultation and engagement
CO.8	To provide quality, effectiveness and value for money in our services and continually improve our approaches to service delivery
CO.9	To develop the capacity of the organisation through organisational and staff development and the promotion of Safety, Health and Welfare of employees

## Appendix II – Corporate Plan 2014 / 19 - Supporting Strategies as relate to the SPC Remit

The following Strategies are set out under the Principal Activity and set out the Corporate Objective to which they will contribute.

<b>Economic Development</b>		<b>Corporate Objective</b>
Provision of supports for structured and sustainable economic development of Fingal by planning for, initiating and managing projects that contribute positively to the county's ongoing economic and community development		
<b>ED 1</b>	Support local economic development by promoting Fingal as a location in which to invest and by developing and implementing sectoral policy initiatives.	CO 2 CO 6
<b>ED 2</b>	Facilitate the work of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and Economic, Enterprise and Tourism SPC.	CO 1 CO 4 CO 1
<b>ED 3</b>	Deliver the actions set out in Fingal's Local Community & Economic Plan and support the implementation of wider economic, enterprise and tourism policies at a regional and national level.	CO 2 CO 4 CO 4
<b>ED 4</b>	Co-ordinate, manage and oversee the implementation of local community development programmes including the government's Social Inclusion Community and Activation Programme (SICAP) and Leader.	CO 2
<b>ED 5</b>	Foster local enterprise development by delivering business advice, information and financial support through Fingal Local Enterprise Office and implement the Annual Enterprise Plan	CO 4 CO 2
<b>ED 6</b>	Implement Fingal's Tourism Strategy, 2015-2018 and other actions to promote tourism in the county.	CO 3
<b>ED 7</b>	Execute property acquisitions and disposals and ensure the Council's property portfolio, strategic land banks and enterprise centres are utilised to maximise social and economic benefit.	

<b>Planning &amp; Strategic Infrastructure</b>		<b>Corporate Objective</b>
Planning for the medium to long term development of the county while managing the day to day development, enforcement and building control of development being undertaken in the county		
<b>PL 1.</b>	Conclude the review of the Fingal County Development Plan and set out the strategy and objectives for the sustainable development of the county.	CO 1 CO 2 CO 3

		CO 4 CO 5 CO 6 CO 3
PL 2.	Develop a programme that supports increased housing output to meet demand as set out in Construction 2020 A Strategy for a Renewed Construction Sector.	CO 2
PL 3.	Collaborate with other stakeholders and statutory providers in developing the essential infrastructure necessary for economic and social development.	CO 3
PL 4.	Contribute to the achievement of a sustainable transport system for all the citizens.	CO 2 CO 3 CO 4 CO 5
PL 5.	Deliver an effective and efficient development management and enforcement service to the public.	CO 5 CO 8

<b>Housing Services</b> Provision of Housing, Accommodation and Estate Management Services to council tenants, to those with a housing need and private householders		<b>Corporate Objective</b>
HS 1.	Implement the Government Housing Strategy in Fingal	CO 3
HS 2.	Address Homelessness in the county	CO 3
HS 3.	Adopt and Implement a progressive County Development Plan 2017-2023 that supports the roll out of the Fingal Housing Strategy.	CO 3
HS 4.	Maximise occupancy of social housing stock.	CO 8
HS 5.	Deliver the social housing procurement programme in line with the Fingal Housing Strategy.	CO 3 CO 8
HS 6.	Plan, administer and manage the Housing Assistance Payment	CO 3 CO 8
HS 7.	Implement the actions under the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014 - 2018	

<b>Community Services</b> Library, Community, Sports and cultural services		<b>Corporate Objective</b>
CS 1.	Review the Fingal Community Development Strategic Plan 2010-2015	CO 3 CO 4
CS 2.	Develop a strong Public Participation Network and implement a Well-Being Plan for the citizens of Fingal.	CO 7 CO 4
CS 3.	Implement the Arts Plan 2013- 2017	CO 4
CS 4.	Implement the "Opportunities for All - A strategy for Public Libraries 2013-2017.	CO 4 CO 4

CS 5.	Implement the Sports Strategy – Supporting Sport in Fingal, 2011-2016.	CO 4
CS 6.	Implement the actions under the Fingal Age Friendly Strategy Initiative 2012-2017	
CS 7.	Provide support and assistance to people, emerging and established communities to access services, participate in and contribute to their community.	

<b>Environment &amp; Water Services</b>		<b>Corporate Objective</b>
Develop and implement sustainable policies for the protection of our environment and to safeguard the provision and distribution of high quality drinking water supply and the treatment and disposal of waste waters		
ENW 1.	Develop an adaptation policy regime in line with the National Climate Change Adaptation Framework & Dublin's Climate Change Strategy	CO 5
ENW 2.	Protect and enhance the natural environment of Fingal through effective education, awareness, monitoring and enforcement of national and local legislation and policy.	CO 5
ENW 3.	Improve energy efficiency by 3% per year and an overall target of 33% by 2020.	CO 8
ENW 4.	Act as Irish Water's agents under the Service Level Agreement that was adopted on 1 January 2014.	CO 5
ENW 5.	Implementation of the Eastern and Midlands Region Waste Management Plan 2015-2021 and the River Basin Management Plan 2015-2021.	CO 8

<b>Operational Services –</b>		<b>Corporate Objective</b>
The general maintenance of regional and local roads, parks and public open spaces along with landscaping, tree maintenance, litter collection, beaches, harbours and public conveniences		
OP 1.	Improve accessibility for citizens	CO 4
OP 2.	Provide safe transport infrastructure	CO 3
		CO 8
OP 3.	Deliver core operational services in the most efficient and effective manner possible.	CO 8
OP 4.	Train and resource personnel to meet the demands of the citizens across all operational areas.	CO 9
OP 5.	Keep our beaches clean and free from pollution	CO 5
		CO 8
OP 6.	Manage and maintain the four Harbours in Fingal to an acceptable standard.	CO 8