

**SCHEME FOR  
STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES  
Adopted by An Chomhairle at its meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2009)**

## **1. Background**

Section 48 of the Local Government Act 2001 requires local authorities 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.

Following Local Elections, it is necessary for each local authority to put in place a scheme for the operation of Strategic Policy Committees. In creating a scheme for the operation of Strategic Policy Committees, the Local Authority is to have regard to guidelines as may be issued by the Minister in relation to the establishment of Strategic Policy Committees. Guidelines have been published by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government entitled “*Strategic Policy Committees Guidelines for Establishment and Operation*” (October 1999)” and further guidance was given in Departmental Circular LG 10/09 issued on 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2009. This Draft Scheme is framed having regard to these guidelines.

## **2. Operation of Strategic Policy Committees in Cork City Council**

Cork City Council adopted a Scheme to establish Strategic Policy Committees at its meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2000. This Scheme created five Strategic Policy Committees as follows;

- *Housing and Community*
- *Roads and Transportation*
- *Environment*
- *Planning and Development*
- *Recreation, Amenity and Culture*

The five Strategic Policy Committees were re-established following the 2004 Local Elections. The areas of responsibility for each of the five Strategic Policy Committees, which are indicative not exhaustive, are set out in *Appendix A*.

The Strategic Policy Committees operate in parallel with the Functional Committees and have been used to consider matters of policy before having them submitted on to full Council. The Strategic Policy Committees have operated reasonably well within the overall structure.

### **3. Proposed Scheme for Strategic Policy Committees**

Having regard to Guidelines as set out above, the need for an effective structure for the carrying out of functions, and the experience gained over the previous two Councils, it is proposed that the existing five Strategic Policy Committees would again be established as follows:

- *Housing and Community*
- *Roads and Transportation*
- *Environment*
- *Planning and Development*
- *Recreation, Amenity and Culture*

### **4. Membership of Strategic Policy Committees**

The membership of each of the above Strategic Policy Committee, shall be nine, comprising of 6 members of Cork City Council, one of whom will be the Chairperson and 3 from Sectoral interests nominated from organisations or groups recommended to and approved by Cork City Council.

### **5. Nominations**

Nominations for the Strategic Policy Committees will be sought from the following;

- Business and Employers and Trade Union Pillars (*Appendix B*)
- Community and Voluntary representatives in accordance with local arrangements including the Community and Voluntary fora.
- Environmental (*Appendix C*)
- Conservational/Cultural organisations or groups not included in the above. (*Appendix D*)

### **7. Duration of Membership**

The membership of each Committee shall be for the duration of the City Council and the Chairmanship of each Committee shall be for a minimum period of three years.

To ensure a gender balance as recommended in government directives each outside agency will be asked when making a nomination to supply two names, one male and one female where possible.

Joe Gavin,  
City Manager,

August 2009.

Cork City Council.