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Wicklow PPN: Local Authority Structures

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Structure of the Local Authority and Committees.

Structure and role of each element

Policy areas covered by the Local Authority

Stakeholders and their role

How the PPNs can support local Government to shape policy for communities

Local Authority

- **Local Government** functions are carried out by thirty-one local authorities
- The principal decision-making body
- Local electoral areas and the number of members
- The local authority is both the closest and most accessible form of Government to people in their local community.

Functions of the Local Authority

Wicklow County Council has a remit in relation to housing, planning, community services, libraries, environment, climate action and biodiversity, roads & transport, water & waste water, arts, heritage & archives and maintaining the register of electors.

These responsibilities are divided into two areas:

- reserved functions (for the elected council)
- executive functions (for the chief executive)

Functions of the Local Authority

Policy decisions are made by way of majority resolutions passed by the elected councillors during council meetings. These are reserved for the elected council and are 'reserved functions'. Some of the reserved functions include, passing an annual budget, housing policy decisions and policies on environmental protection.

These decisions may be made at 2 levels:

- full council (plenary level) or
- municipal/metropolitan/borough district level

Functions of the Local Authority

The municipal district members serve as a sub formation in the decision-making of the overall council in respect of their particular municipal district area.

The chief executive, along with the directors of services and other members of the local authority management team, will advise and assist the elected council while they carry out 'executive functions.

Elected Councillors

- Adopting the Annual Budget
- Adopting the LECP
- CEO oversight
- Decision-making on Economic Development
- District Level Functions
- Oversight of Community Development Programmes

Elected Councillors

- Meet Monthly (public can attend)
- Adopt Corporate Plan
- Disposal of Land
- Making Co Development Plan / variations
- Adopting Annual Budget / level of property tax / rates
- Bye laws
- Nominating / ratifying people re committees

Council Staff

- CEO
- Directors of Services (Community and Economic Development etc)
- Executive functions
- Processing planning applications
- Allocating houses
- Making small grants
- Everything that is not reserved

Local Government in Municipal Districts

- Subset of Councillors
- Meet independently and feed into main council
- Locally based funding – Tidy Towns, Graveyards, Local Roads etc.
- Locally based services
- Headed by
 - Engineer
 - Administrator

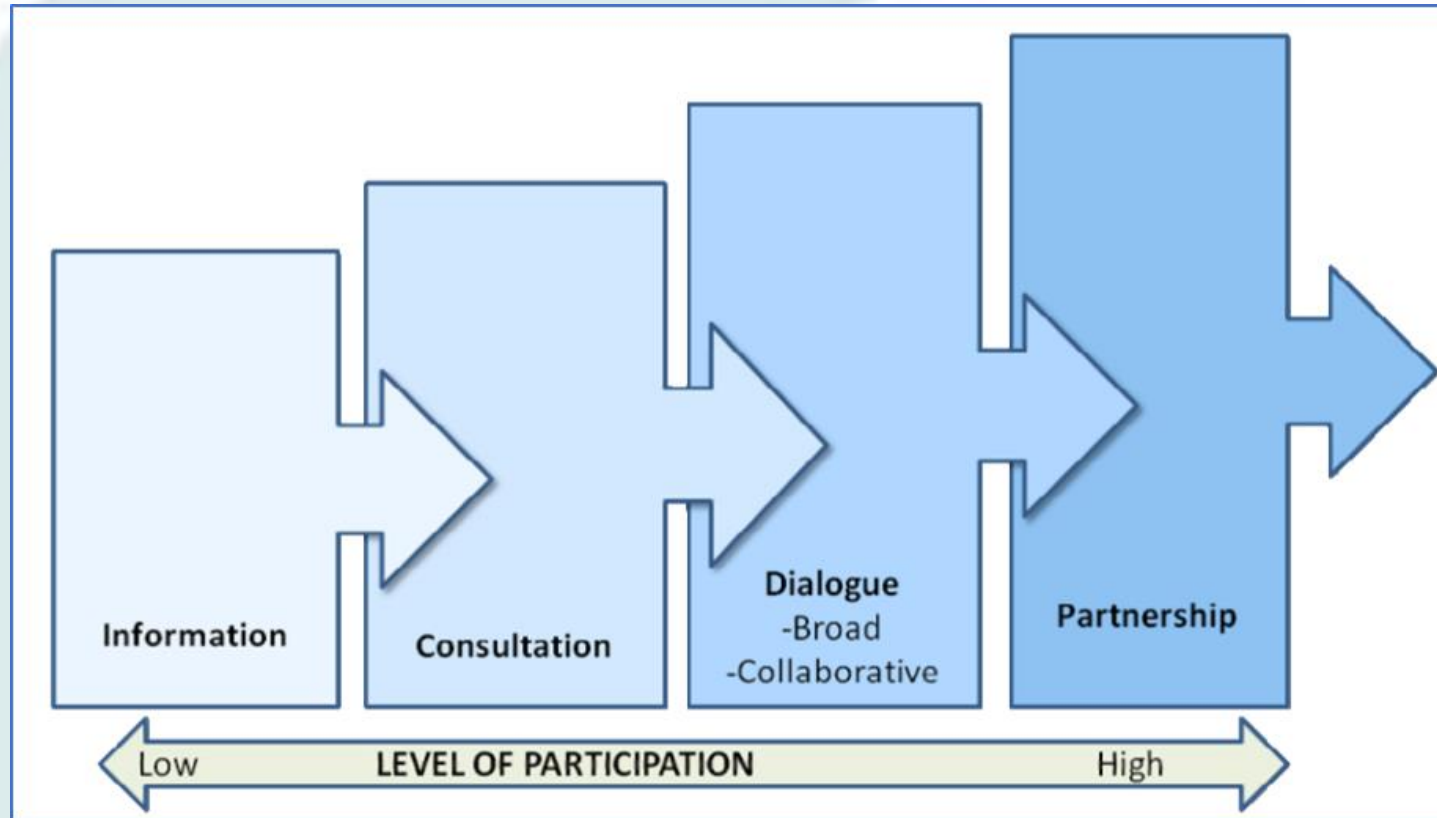
Policy Areas for Local Authorities

- Housing and Building
- Environmental Protection
- Development and Incentive Controls
- Road Transport and Safety
- Recreation and Amenities
- Citizens / Community Engagement
- Other

Why Local Committees?

“Rather than submit to cynicism and disillusion, we must rekindle our conviction that people and communities have a deep and instinctive desire to work for social and political participation and transformation. **Much is at stake when citizens are reduced to the status of passive recipients of policy and services**” – NI Roundtable on Wellbeing

Why Local Committees?



What are Local Committees?

- Established by the Local Authority or other State body
- Bring a “community voice” to local government decision-making
- Ultimate policy decisions taken by whole Council



Wicklow County Council – Committees and Boards



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Local Community Development Committee



Local Community
Development
Committee

- To prepare, adopt, implement, monitor and review the community elements of a 6 year Local Economic and Community Plan.
- To consider and adopt a statement of the economic elements of the Local Economic and Community Plan.
- To improve the co-ordination of publicly funded programmes including the Local Community Development Programme Rural Development Programme (LEADER) and Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP).
- Oversight of local and community development programmes

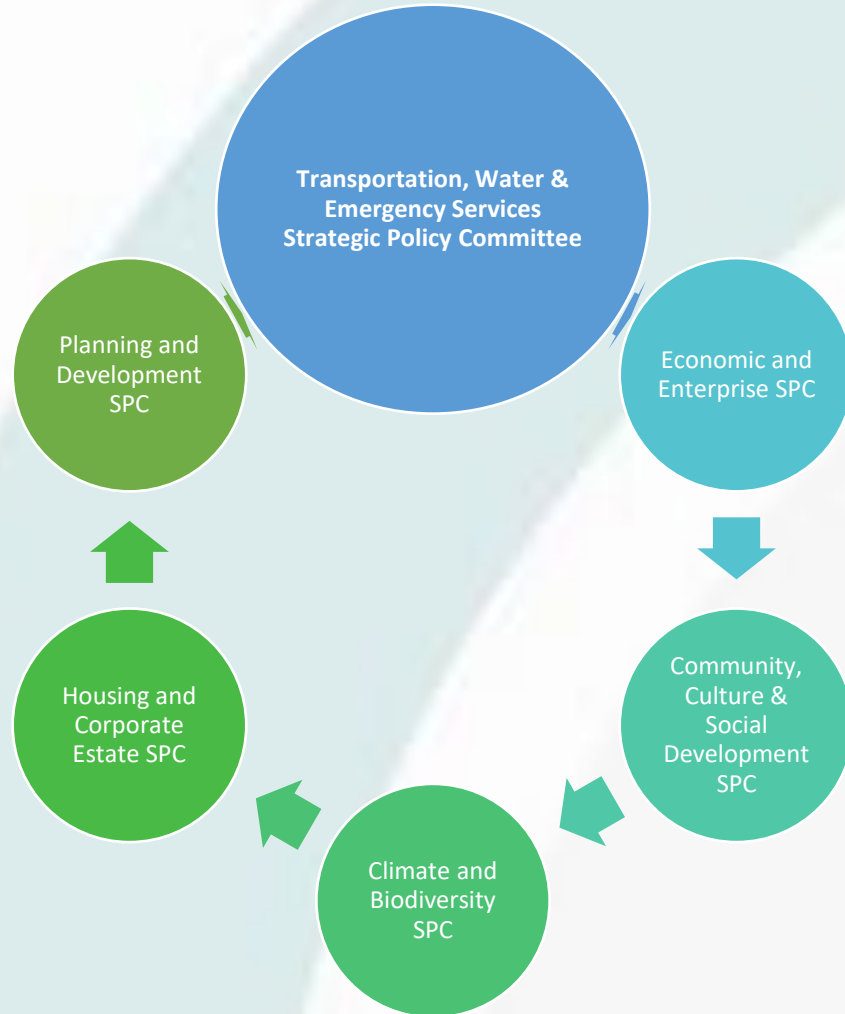
Joint Policing Committee



Joint Policing
Committee

- Joint Policing Committee
 - Communications and Effective Engagement
 - Community Policing & Rural Isolation
 - Crime Prevention and Education
 - Road Safety
 - Public Safety

Strategic Policy Committees



• **Transportation, Water & Emergency Services SPC**

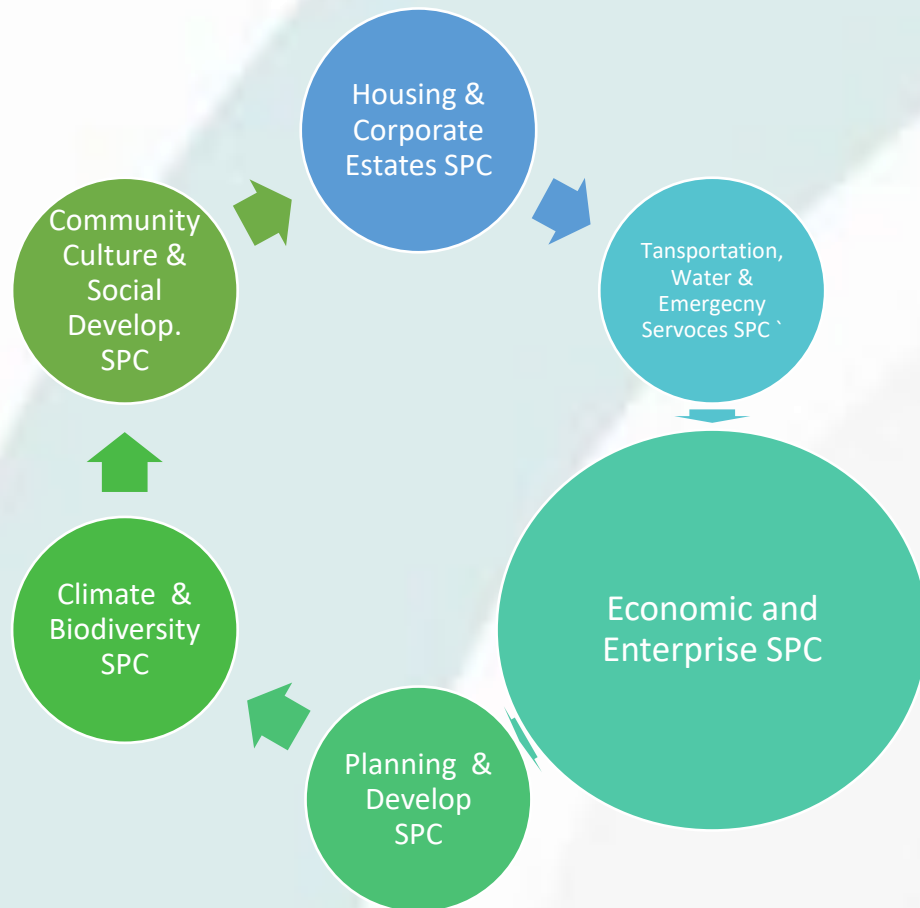
- Road construction and maintenance
- Traffic management
- Noise pollution
- Public lighting
- Maintenance of hedgerows
- Motor taxes
- Driver licences & taxi licensing
- Waste management & recycling centres
- Burial grounds
- Bathing water quality & waste water treatment
- Fire services.

Strategic Policy Committees



- **Community, Culture and Social Development SPC**
- Library Services
- Arts
- Playgrounds and community infrastructure
- Development of policies to expand Wicklow County Council's role in community, cultural and social matters in the county.

Strategic Policy Committees

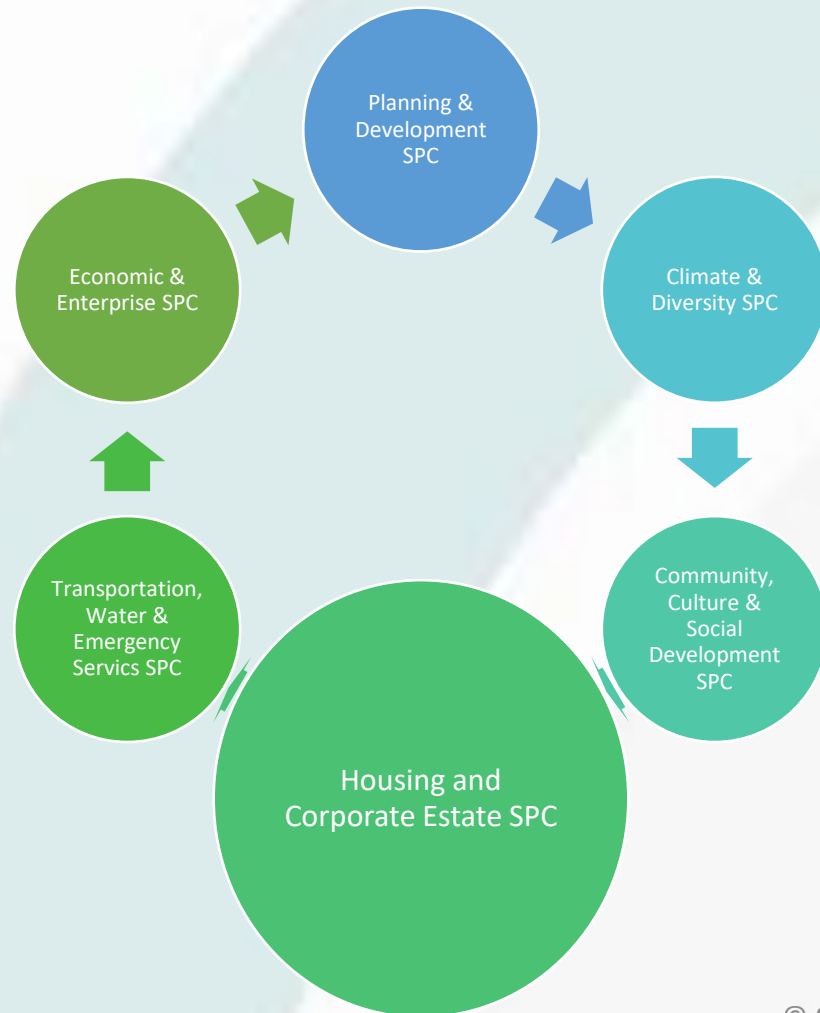


Economic and Enterprise SPC

This SPC draws upon the work of the County Wicklow Economic Think Tank, which has identified five core areas of focus:

- Branding – The Big Idea
- Marketing and Communications
- Film
- Retail and Recreation
- and Industry and Infrastructure.

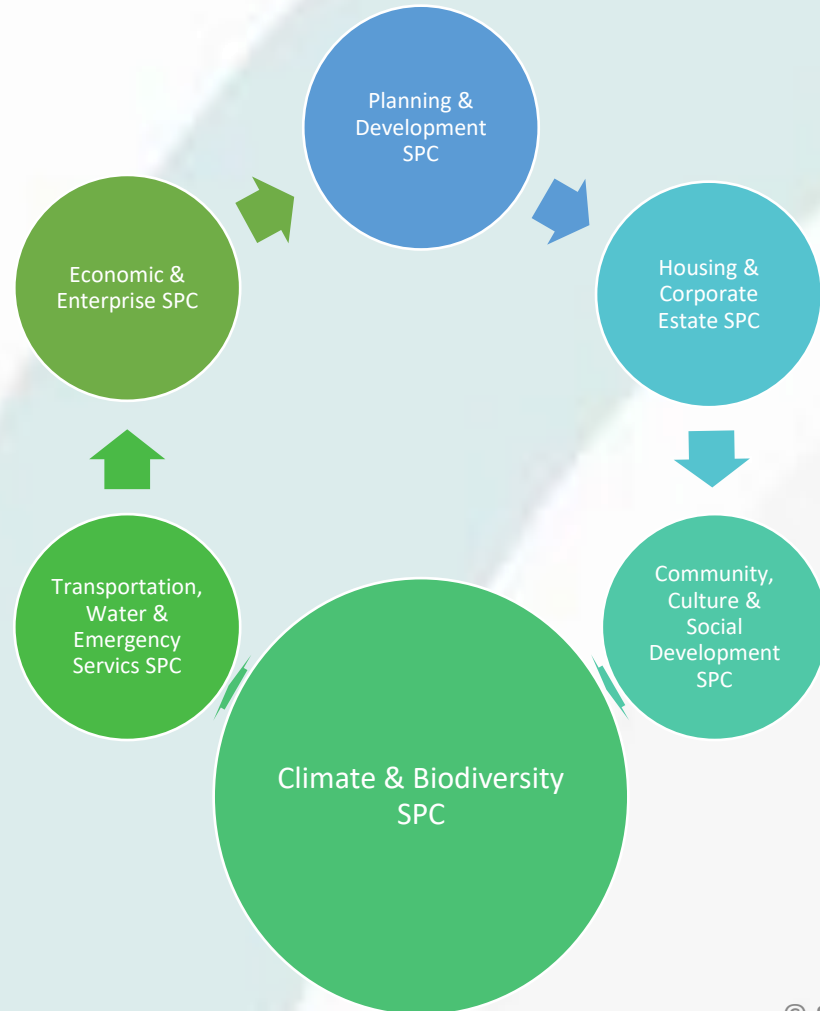
Strategic Policy Committees



Housing & Corporate Estates SPC

- the provision of social housing
- assessment of housing needs
- housing strategies
- Homelessness
- housing loans and grants
- Traveller accommodation
- voluntary housing
- private rented sector
- housing standards
- estate management.

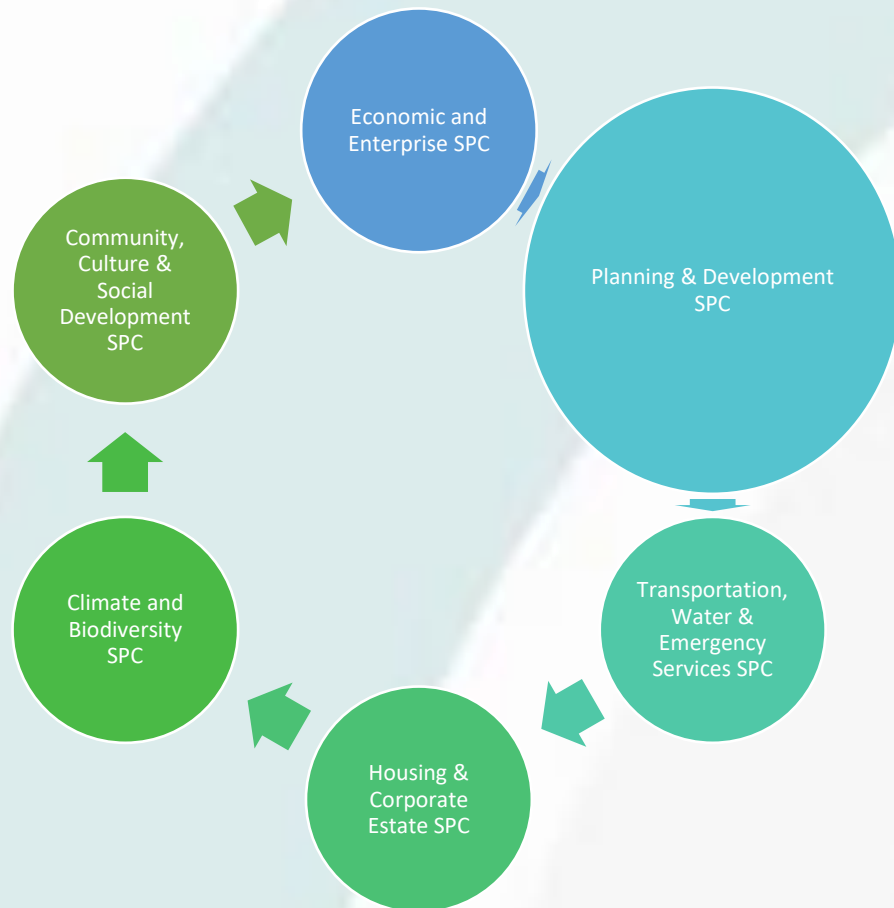
Strategic Policy Committees



Climate & Biodiversity SPC

Wicklow County Council Climate Change and Adaptation Strategy, 2019 – 2024, adopted by WCC in September 2019 has committed Wicklow County Council to mainstreaming climate change, both mitigation and adaptation.

Strategic Policy Committees



Planning & Development SPC

- Planning
- Preparation
- Review
- County Development Plan
- Local Area Plans
- Town Plans
- Heritage and Protected Structures.

Wicklow Tourism



Wicklow Tourism

- Promote Wicklow
- Support local businesses
- Develop events and attractions

Bray Local Drugs and Alcohol Taskforce

Bray Local Drugs and Alcohol Taskforce



- To co-ordinate the implementation of the National Drugs Strategy in the context of the needs of the area
- To implement the actions in the National Drug Strategy where Task Forces have been assigned a role
- To promote the implementation of evidence-based local/regional drug and alcohol strategies and to exchange best practice
- To support and strengthen community-based responses to drug and alcohol misuse
- To maintain an up-to-date overview on the nature and extent of drug and alcohol misuse
- To identify and report on emerging issues and advocate for the development of policies or actions needed to address them
- To monitor, evaluate and assess the impact of the funded projects and their continues relevance to the local/regional drugs task force strategy and to recommend changes in the funding allocations as deemed necessary.

Effective Representation = Making Connections

Committee / Board

- LCDC
- Planning, Environmental, Climate and Biodiversity Action, Energy and Agriculture
- Culture, Libraries and Digital Development, Tourism, Enterprise and Economic Development
- Transportation and Infrastructure
- Housing, Community and Wellbeing
- Joint Policing Committee
- Wicklow Tourism
- Bray Drugs and Alcohol Taskforce

Area of Interest / Concern / Issue

- Local Area Development
- Civic Engagement
- Planning and Infrastructure
- Environmental Protection
- Heritage
- Tourism
- Community Safety
- Community Support
- Vulnerable Groups
- Local Economy
- Rural Development
- Housing
- Recreation / Sports
- Education and Training
- LA Budget

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Positive Representation on a Committee

- Know what the Committee can and cannot do
- Manage expectations
- Be clear on what you want the Representative to achieve at each meeting
 - Listen and learn
 - Make specific input
 - Influence others on specific topic
 - Network
 - Set agenda
- Be constructive
- Build alliances

Our Vision for Community Wellbeing

What is Community Wellbeing?

Although we often think about wellbeing in terms of good physical and mental health, it can also describe the wider conditions we need as individuals and communities to have a better quality of life, healthier environment and increased prosperity.

Considering all the aspects of community wellbeing together helps us to identify actions that can be undertaken by communities alongside local and national governments.



Thank you.

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