

**Wicklow PPN Response to National Review of Local Authority Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs) 2023**

**Please indicate whether you are:**

An elected member,  
sectoral representative,  
local authority official  
or other stakeholder.

**Through its engagement with policy issues, the SPC(s) has a positive impact on policy.**

Strongly Agree  
Agree  
Neither Agree nor Disagree  
Disagree  
Strongly Disagree

**Through its engagement with policy issues, the SPC(s) improves the quality of local services.**

Strongly Agree  
Agree  
Neither Agree nor Disagree  
Disagree  
Strongly Disagree

**How satisfied are you with the level of engagement from elected members and sectoral representatives on policy issues at SPC meetings?**

Very Satisfied  
Satisfied  
Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied  
Dissatisfied  
Very Dissatisfied

**How satisfied are you with the management and operation of SPC meetings?**

Very Satisfied  
Satisfied  
Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied  
Dissatisfied  
Very Dissatisfied

**How satisfied are you with the capacity building/training opportunities made available to you to help you perform your SPC role?**

Very Satisfied  
Satisfied  
Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied  
Dissatisfied  
Very Dissatisfied

**The governance and administrative arrangements in place for the Corporate Policy Group (CPG) to coordinate and monitor the work of the SPC(s) are operating well.**

Strongly Agree

Agree

**Neither Agree nor Disagree**

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

**Is it clear that the SPC(s) is working to an agreed annual or multiannual work programme?**

Yes

**No**

Don't Know

**Is the SPC(s) closely following the 2014 departmental guidelines on the establishment and operation of CPGs and SPCs?**

Yes

**No**

Don't Know

**Should a dedicated climate action-only SPC be established in each local authority? \*\*Please briefly explain your answer\*\***

All councils should have a Climate & Biodiversity Action SPC. It is important to include biodiversity in climate action as both are in crisis and biodiversity action will enhance many climate action measures. There should be links from this SPC to all other SPCs to ensure that all work is environmentally proofed.

**Overall, how satisfied are you with the performance of the SPC(s)?**

Very Satisfied

Satisfied

Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied

**Dissatisfied**

Very Dissatisfied

**Please outline, below, any suggestions you have to help improve the operation, role and impact of the SPCs? \*\*Please try to keep your answer as brief as possible\*\***

A facilitated workshop should be ran to enable all members of the SPC to develop the annual workplan. The workplan should be used to form the basis of the SPC Agendas. SPC members should have the opportunity to set the Agenda. The workplan should be assessed and reviewed at each meeting.

Strategic Policy Committees must become more Strategic with more opportunities for constructive discussions at the outset. Often decisions appear to be made in advance of the meetings and the meetings are therefore briefings rather than a space for deliberative democracy.

The SPC's should send out their Agendas and Minutes earlier, so SPC members can consult with their communities.

The public should be more aware of the SPCs and there should be more communication on the work of the SPCs and how policies link to direct action in communities.

Training/information provided to support elected representatives to understand local and national policies and plans should be extended to all SPC members.

SPCs need to ensure equality of opinion as PPN Reps sometimes feel that the opinions of the Chairs & Elected members are given precedence/value over other sectors. All SPCs should have seats for each of the Community & Voluntary, Environment and Social Inclusion sectors