



OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL

Strategic Policy Committees Scheme

Offaly County Council

July 2009

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Background

- “Better Local Government – A Programme for Change” was launched in December 1996. This programme sought to enhance the electoral mandate within Local Government by strengthening the corporate position of Councillors through the formulation of a restructured committee system to be called Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs) and Corporate Policy Groups (CPGs) within each County Council.
- The statutory basis for SPCs is set out in the Local Government Act, 2001. Following local elections each county and city council are required to establish SPCs in line with the 1999 guidelines published by the Department: *Strategic Policy Committees Guidelines for establishment and operation*, and Department Circular Letters.
- The system recognises that elected representatives should be engaged in policy formulation at an early stage. It also seeks to broaden the level of involvement in Local Government through the participation of a wide range of sectoral interests.
- Offaly County Council established four (4) Strategic Policy Committees during 1998. The Strategic Policy Committees Scheme 2009, while re-categorising the SPC areas, supports this number of SPCs.
- In accordance with Circular Letter LG 10/09 and Circular Letter LG 12/09 the Strategic Policy Committee Scheme will be considered by the Council at its ordinary meeting in July 2009. (Circulars appended to scheme.)

Corporate Policy Group (CPG)

As part of the reform process a Corporate Policy Group (CPG) will be established:

- The Corporate Policy Group (CPG) will comprise the Cathaoirleach of the County Council as its chair together with the chairs of each of the Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs).
- The CPG will link the work of the different SPCs, act as a sort of cabinet and provide a forum where policy decisions affecting the whole Council can be agreed for submission to the full Council.
- The CPG will be supported by the County Manager.
- The CPG will be represented at meetings of the Council by the Cathaoirleach.
- The CPG is a committee of the Council – its task is to advise and assist the Council who will be the decision making authority.
- The Cathaoirleach will report to the full Council on the work of the CPG.
- The Council in co-operation with the Manager will determine the range of responsibilities and tasks of the CPG.
- The allocation of business between the SPCs is a matter for the elected members, on the proposal of the CPG. An indicative list is set out in Appendix 1.
- The CPG will act in accordance with Sn. 133 Local Government Act, 2001 and in doing so will:
 - Provide input to the full Council on any matter of general concern to the Council on its own initiative or following a request from Council.
 - Monitor the overall performance of the Council in specific areas, such as overall Strategic Management Initiative issues, customer service, value for money etc.
 - Play a key role in preparing the budget where an Estimates Committee does not exist.
 - Co-ordinate the work of the SPCs and monitor their work programmes.
 - Request SPCs to consider particular policy issues where appropriate.
 - Provide feedback to the SPCs on Council Policy and views in areas relevant to SPCs.
 - Act on behalf of the SPCs in contributing to the strategic process which will be carried out at County Development Board level.

Role and Objectives of Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs)

The SPC approach is designed to strengthen the policy development role of the members of Offaly County Council and to improve policy formulation. A clear focus on significant policy and strategic issues is fundamental to the SPC concept.

The objectives of the SPCs have been clearly defined in the Department's guidelines. These guidelines set out the process for the establishment of Strategic Policy Committees. In particular the following should be noted:

- The County Council will remain the decision-making authority and it is the task of the SPCs, as committees of the Council, to advise and assist the Council in its work.
- While it is the task of SPCs to assist in the formulation and development of policy, the final policy decisions will rest with the twenty one (21) members of Offaly County Council.
- The SPC system is intended to give Councillors and relevant sectoral interests an opportunity for full involvement in the policy making process from an early stage, when policy options are more fluid and open.
- If the SPC system operates satisfactorily much of the preliminary background work, discussion and recommendation will be comprehensively conducted at SPC level for final approval by the full Council.
- SPCs can provide advice and reports directly to the Council on any matter within their remit or other related issues, either on their own initiative or as decided upon by the Council as a whole.
- The SPCs will be represented by the Cathaoirleach at Council meetings. It would be open to the Council to meet with the membership of the SPCs at the request/initiative of the Council or of any one or more of the SPCs in question.

Strategic Policy Committee Structure

The SPC structure provides for the establishment of four SPCs as follows:

1. Planning, Economic and Local Development
 2. Transportation and Emergency Services
 3. Environment and Water Services
 4. Housing, Corporate and Cultural Services
- Each member of Offaly County Council to be a member of at least one SPC.
 - The SPCs will also include representation from the Town Councils of Birr, Tullamore and Edenderry. Such representation will be determined by the Town Councils and approved by the County Council.
 - The SPCs will meet as frequently as necessary and at least once every quarter.
 - Each SPC to have at least one third of its membership from sectors relevant to the committees remit.
 - Each committee will arrange its own business and proceedings (including the fixing of dates and times of meetings) subject to any, if necessary, amendment of the Council's Standing Orders.
 - The full Council will appoint the Chairperson of each SPC from amongst the elected members appointed for the SPC in question.
 - The Chairperson of each SPC will hold office for a minimum period of three years which may be renewed by the Council.
 - Membership (both Councillors and representatives of sectoral interests) of SPC will be for the lifetime of the Council.
 - Each SPC will prepare annually a draft work plan for the approval of the Council and will formally report on this work plan at least annually.

SECTORAL INTERESTS

The Scheme provides for Sectoral Interests to be represented as follows:

- 2 no. Agriculture / Farming
- 4 no. Business / Employer / Construction / Tourism
- 1 no. Environment
- 2 no. Trade Union
- 3 no. Community / Voluntary
- 1 no. Culture

The nomination process for representatives from the

- Agricultural / Farming,
- Business / Employer / Construction / Tourism,
- Trade Union

sectors will be facilitated and agreed by the National Social Partners Pillars for those sectors while the nomination for the Environment Pillar will be carried out in accordance with the provisions of Circular LG 12/09.

The nomination process for the Cultural and Community / Voluntary sectors will be determined on the basis of a local nomination process via the County Offaly Community and Voluntary Forum. Regard will be had in making nominations to the remit of the SPC concerned

SPC MEMBERSHIP

Planning, Economic and Local Development 11 Members
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Chairperson Designate	=	Councillor Eamon Dooley	1
Members	=	Councillors	5
Town Councils	=	_____ Town Council	1
Sectoral Interest	=	Agriculture / Farming	1
		Business / Employer / Construction / Tourism	1
		Community / Voluntary	1
		Trade Union	1

Transportation and Emergency Services 9 Members
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Chairperson Designate	=	Councillor Tony McLoughlin	1
Members	=	Councillors	4
Town Councils	=	_____ Town Council	1
Sectoral Interest	=	Business / Employer / Construction / Tourism	1
		Community / Voluntary	1
		Trade Union	1

Environment and Water Services 9 Members

Chairperson Designate	=	Councillor Eddie Fitzpatrick	1
Members	=	Councillors	4
Town Councils	=	_____ Town Council	1
Sectoral Interest	=	Agriculture / Farming	1
		Business / Employer / Construction / Tourism	1
		Environment	1

<p>Housing, Corporate and Cultural Services 9 Members</p>

Chairperson Designate	=	Councillor Molly Buckley	1
Members	=	Councillors	4
Town Councils	=	_____ Town Council	1
Sectoral Interest	=	Business / Employer / Construction / Tourism	1
		Community / Voluntary	1
		Culture	1

IMPLEMENTATION AND SUPPORT MEASURES

The Council will provide ongoing training and support for members of the SPCs to support them in their work:

- Workshops of policy to cover the areas within the remit of the SPCs
- Briefings on reform of local government
- Briefings on the role and functions of local government
- Skills orientated training such as team building

Process of Establishment of Strategic Policy Committees

<i>Sequence of Events</i>	<i>Timescale</i>
Draft Scheme to be considered by Council	July 2009
Council to seek nominations from National Pillars and Town Councils	July 2009
Council to facilitate nomination of representatives from community / voluntary / disadvantaged sector and the environment / conservation / cultural sector.	July 2009
Advise Council of nominations from the sectors to SPCs and Council to adopt membership	September 2009
First meeting of Strategic Policy Committees	October 2009

Appendix 1

INDICATIVE ALLOCATION OF POLICY ISSUES

Planning, Economic and Local Development SPC
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- Ongoing review and monitoring of economic development policies and objectives.
- Industrial development policies
- Gateway Implementation Forum
- Job Creation / Maintenance Policies
- Policy linkage – I.D.A., Enterprise Ireland, County Enterprise Board, FÁS, SFADCo – other local development initiatives.
- Tourism promotion / development.
- Regional policy aspects:
 - Midlands Regional Authority
 - Border, Midlands and West Region
- Impact of national policies.
- Forward Planning
- Heritage and Conservation issues.
- Sustainable development issues.
- Linkages with other policy committees.
- Linkages with County Development Board, Offaly County Enterprise Board and Offaly Local Development Company
- Review on an ongoing basis of overall strategy for rural development.
- Programme and policies of urban and rural initiatives:-
 - Urban and Village Renewal
 - Village improvements
 - Town Renewal
- To liase national/local tidy towns/village competitions/initiatives
 - Social
 - Economic
 - Environment

Transportation and Emergency Services SPC

- Ongoing review of National / Regional / Local Policies – Roads
- Policies relating to role of transportation system:-
 - Social
 - Economic
 - Environment
 - Employment
- County wide implementation policies
- Rural / Urban transportation issues
- Public Private Partnership arrangements
- Role of public transport – road, rail, taxis and hackneys
- Traffic management policies
- Road Safety Issues
- Major Emergency Management
- E.U. policies
- Fire and Emergency Services
- Civil Defence
- Linkages with other policy committees.
- Building Control
- Public Lighting

Environment and Water Services SPC

- Waste Management Strategies
 - Recycling
 - Disposal
 - Education

- Environmental Awareness Policies
 - Public participation
 - Business participation

- Pollution prevention strategies
 - Water
 - Air
 - Litter
 - Other

- Environmental sustainability issues.
- Agenda 21 initiatives – Environmental forum
- Consideration of EU control policies
- Ongoing review of policy outcomes
- Linkages with other policy committees
- Infrastructural Services including Urban and Rural Water Services strategies and Capital Programme priorities
- Consideration of cemeteries policies
- Water Services Policy
- Water Quality

Housing, Corporate and Cultural Services SPC

- Review of social housing policies
- Role of L.A. Housing / Joint Ventures / Voluntary / Private
- Integrated policies
 - Social inclusiveness
 - Affordable Housing
 - Shared Ownership
- Housing Estates Management / Tenant Participation Policies.
- Housing Design and Construction Policy issues.
- Traveller accommodation policy (subject to provisions re. Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee)
- Land acquisition policy
- Quality of life issues – urban and rural
- Social Inclusion
- Linkages with other policies
- Policies regarding libraries, arts, cultural recreational and amenity facilities
- Corporate policy Development
- Corporate Performance



Circular letter LG 10/09

10 June, 2009

Dear Manager

Strategic Policy Committees

1. I am directed by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government to refer to circular letter LG 05/09 of 15 May to county and city managers regarding certain matters to which local authorities are required to attend following the local elections. The circular letter indicated, inter alia, that a further communication may be issued in relation to Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs) taking account of the information gathered from the responses to the recently completed survey. This circular provides guidance in relation to the establishment and operation of SPCs following this month's local elections.
- 1.2 A copy of this circular, which is available on the sharepoint system should be given to each elected member.

Establishment of New SPCs

- 2.1 The statutory basis for SPCs is set out in the Local Government Act, 2001. Following the local elections, it is necessary for each county and city council to establish new SPCs in line with the guidelines published by the Department in October 1999 entitled: *Strategic Policy Committees Guidelines for establishment and operation* and the guidelines set out in this circular – both are now underpinned by the Act. The 1999 guidelines are available for viewing or download from the Department's website (<http://www.environ.ie/en/Publications/LocalGovernment/Administration/FileDownload,1951,en.pdf>).
- 2.2 As a first step, each council should, at the earliest opportunity, select the Chairs-designate for each SPC. These together with the Cathaoirleach/Mayor will assist the Manager in drafting the SPC scheme and to advance the process of establishing the SPCs. In this regard, it is important that every effort is made to have an SPC scheme that ensures participation and support from all political representatives as required by the guidelines. The chairs are appointed by the full council for a minimum period of three years and the overall spread of SPC chairs must, in accordance with the guidelines, reflect the political representational spread on the full council. Paragraph 6.2 of the 1999 guidelines refers.



2.3 The role of the SPC Chairs is regarded as pivotal to the success of both the SPCs and the Corporate Policy Group (CPG). This was highlighted in the Review of the Operation of Strategic Policy Committees which was undertaken in 2004 by the Institute for Public Administration, and in many of the responses received to the recent survey. Accordingly, local authorities are asked to ensure that SPC Chairs are selected on the basis that –

- they have an interest in the work of the SPCs
- they are fully aware of the leadership role of SPC Chairs
- they appreciate the need to work with the relevant Director of Service to facilitate the smooth and effective operation of the SPCs and the CPG (which comprises the SPC Chairs along with the Mayor/Cathaoirleach supported by the Manager).

2.4 Local authorities are required to engage in public consultation on the draft scheme. However, it is not envisaged that the same level of public consultation in relation to the drafting of the scheme for the new SPCs as outlined in paragraph 5.7 of the 1999 guidelines will be needed in cases where the previous scheme is not being substantially altered. Local authorities are free, however, to engage in this more intensive consultation process where they feel it is appropriate.

2.5 In cases where local authorities are introducing major changes to the SPC scheme based on their experience of the operation of SPCs to date, the provisions of paragraphs 5.7 and 5.8 of the 1999 guidelines in relation to consultation will apply in such instances.

2.6 Local authorities should take the necessary steps to seek new nominations from the Business and Employers, Trade Unions and Farming Pillars in accordance with paragraphs 5.9 to 5.16 of the 1999 Guidelines. Details of the national contact points for the pillars will be forwarded to you shortly.

2.7 Local authorities must also facilitate the nomination process of community and voluntary representatives in accordance with local arrangements, including the Community and Voluntary Fora established by each council.

2.8 In relation to the nomination of town council representatives, SPC Schemes should provide for one town council representative on each SPC, subject to town councils not having more than two representatives on the SPC structure as a whole. See examples at Appendix I. Arrangements should be made with relevant borough or town councils to facilitate implementation of this provision. In accordance with the 1999 Guidelines, where the addition of a town nominee to a particular SPC would upset the relevant ratio between elected members and sectoral representatives, additional sectoral representatives should also be added (paragraph 5.6 of the 1999 Guidelines refers).

2.9 All necessary action for the establishment and commencement of SPC operations at an early date should now proceed.

Survey on operation of Strategic Policy Committees

3.1 In February of this year, each county and city council was requested to complete a questionnaire with a view to enabling the Department to gauge how SPCs have been operating. The questionnaire concentrated on the issues raised by the findings and recommendations of the review carried out by the Institute of Public Administration in 2004, which aimed at realising the full potential of SPCs. A summary of these recommendations is set-out at Appendix II.

3.2 Overall, the general picture that emerged from the questionnaire was that –

- SPCs are operating reasonably well in relation to their policy discussion, formulation and development roles
- the recommendations of the 2004 review are for the most part being applied
- SPCs are making a substantive and positive contribution to the work of local authorities.

However, it also appears that some of the recommendations have not yet been applied by some local authorities.

3.3 Accordingly, the Department wishes to remind local authorities of those recommendations and requests that the opportunity presented by the establishment of the new SPCs be taken to apply these recommendations. In particular, attention is drawn to the following recommendations -

- SPCs should adopt a multi-annual work programme linked to the local authority's Corporate Plan and updated regularly as necessary
- SPC meeting documentation should ideally be circulated to SPC members two weeks in advance of meetings, and additionally, agenda and minutes should be circulated to SPC members, other councillors and any town or borough councils in a county council area
- The CPG should decide the work programmes of the SPCs and recommend issues to be considered by the SPCs.
- The minutes of CPG meetings should be circulated to all members of the local authority as a matter of course.

3.4 The replies to the questionnaire highlighted the important contribution that the training of SPC Chairs, members and support staff can make to optimising the effectiveness of SPCs. The Department, in conjunction with local authorities, the local authority members associations and the Institute of Public Administration will consider this matter, and will be in further contact with authorities in this regard in due course.

Section 54(2) of the Local Government Act 2001

4.1 Section 54(2) of the Local Government Act 2001 applies for the purposes of this Circular.

Queries

5.1 Any queries may be directed to Mr Pat Martin (telephone 01-888 2728 or e-mail pat.martin@environ.ie) or Mr David Moloney (telephone 01-888 2701 or e-mail david.moloney@environ.ie).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joe Allen".

Joe Allen
Local Government Policy Section

To each County/City Manager and copy to each Town Clerk

Copy for information to: Town Clerk, AMAI,ACCC,LAMA

Appendix I

Borough/Town Council Representation on SPCs

Example A

In a county with 5 SPCs and 4 borough/town councils, each borough/town council will nominate one representative to participate in the scheme and in addition will agree a 5th town council representative from among the 4 borough/town councils.

Example B

In counties with 5 SPCs and 2 borough/town councils, each borough/town council will nominate 2 representatives to the scheme. This will result in four of the SPCs having a borough/town representative. However, agendas, minutes etc in relation to any SPC without a borough/town representative must still be circulated to all borough/town councils in the county.

Appendix II

Summary of Key Recommendations of the Review of the Operation of the Strategic Policy Committee (Institute of Public Administration – 2004)

- Each SPC should have an annual work programme and the work programme should be linked to the local authority's corporate plan.
- The SPC chair and relevant Director of Service should meet well in advance of an SPC meeting to clarify the agenda for the forthcoming meeting and to agree on objectives and what they would like as expected outcomes.
- A calendar of SPC meetings should be agreed at the start of each year. SPCs should normally be held about 4 times yearly at suitable times for all SPC members.
- SPC meetings should be conducted in a much less rigid and formal way than full council meetings in order to create an informal and collaborative atmosphere that would allow honest views and opinions on policy issues.
- The Local Authority should provide a key contact person (other than the Director of Service) for all SPC members and particularly for sectoral representatives to deal with SPC matters.
- Local Authorities should also consider the most appropriate locations for holding SPC meetings perhaps making greater use of community halls and centres.
- Local Authorities should ensure that documentation concerning SPC meetings is sent well in advance of the meetings. Four weeks has been suggested.
- The agenda and minutes of SPC meetings should also be circulated well in advance to all SPC members.
- Directors of Service should undertake appropriate research on relevant policy options when SPC members are formulating policy. These options should be presented to the Chairs and members of SPCs in a clear, concise, and brief manner.
- Local Authorities should develop as practicable as possible the policy support role for SPCs. This could include making greater use of the research capacity within local authorities and also making greater use of external agencies such as the LGMSB, Local Government Anti-Poverty Network, third level institutions etc.
- Once the SPC members have analysed all the potential policy options and avenues open to them and have come to a consensus conclusion the policy can be drafted for presentation at the next SPC meeting.
- In general guidelines coming from the central Government Departments should be interpreted as guidelines rather than as a prescriptive set of instructions in order to allow Local Authorities flexibility in determining and implementing plans and programmes locally.

- Different types of training programmes would be very valuable for SPC members. For example Policy development/research skills and facilitation skills would be very valuable for Directors of Service and their support staff. Effective meeting skills would be very useful for SPC chairs and training on policy areas (such as housing etc) would be significant for all SPC members.
- SPC chairs should introduce SPC recommendations for full approval by full council.
- SPC chairs, who are represented on the County/City Development Board (CDB), could provide a useful link between the needs identified by the SPCs and the activities of other public bodies in the area.
- SPC chairs should report back to SPC members on the activities of the CDB that affect their SPC.
- The SPCs sectoral representatives should provide feedback to their nominating organisations on the activities of the SPC.
- Town councils should be provided with appropriate feedback in relation to SPC matters.
- Members of SPCs should be provided with automatic feedback on the outcome of the council's decisions on SPC recommendations.



Comhshaol, Oidhreacht agus Rialtas Áitiúil
Environment, Heritage and Local Government



LG 12/09

9 July, 2009

Dear Manager,

Nomination of Sectoral Representatives to the Strategic Policy Committees

I am directed by the Minister for Environment, Heritage and Local Government to refer to circular LG 10/09 in relation to the establishment and operation of the Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs) and to inform you of –

(a) new arrangements for the nomination of representatives of the environmental sector to SPCs, and

(b) the national contact points for the nomination of sectoral representatives.

Both circulars should be read together, copies of which are available on the Sharepoint system.

1. Nominations from the environment sector

Nominations will be arranged by the Environmental Pillar through its Social Partnership Coordinator, Mr. Michael Ewing (Contact details at Appendix I to this circular)

The local authority should, when it is advertising the draft SPC scheme in the normal course, also invite those who are interested in representing the environment sector on an SPCs to get in touch directly with the Social Partnership Coordinator for the Environmental Pillar in this regard. The Coordinator will in turn provide each city and county council with the required number of nominations in accordance with each local authority's SPC scheme. The public advertisement(s) seeking such expressions of interest should clarify the arrangements for the nomination and appointment process for the environment sector. Appendix II contains sample material in this regard for inclusion in such advertisement(s).

Heretofore, nominations in respect to the environment sector were arranged through a local process. However, the environmental sector has now been accorded recognition under the National Partnership arrangements. Arising from this, the following arrangements now apply in relation to the nomination of environment sector representatives to SPCs:

2. Nomination of Representatives from Other Sectors

Nomination for the farming, business and trade union sectors should be arranged as heretofore and as set out at paragraphs 5.9 of the SPC Guidelines; details of the contact points for these sectors are also outlined at Appendix I. The nomination process for the community and voluntary sector, including the involvement of the community and voluntary

forum, is the same as previously. In this context, local authorities are requested to make arrangements for the public advertisement regarding the draft SPC scheme to be brought to the attention of the community and voluntary forum.

3. Other Related Matters

As set out in paragraph 6.5 of the SPC Guidelines, each sector is responsible for selecting its own nominees and this process is the sole responsibility of the sector concerned. Every effort should be made by a local authority to accommodate the preferences of each sector, having regard to the degree of interest expressed for particular SPCs, the limited number of places available and the need to have balanced representation across SPCs. However, responsibility for final decisions on the appointment of sectoral representatives ultimately rests with the local authority.

4. Environmental and Sustainable Development

The Minister also wishes to emphasise the importance of environmental/sustainable development issues informing the work of the SPCs as a whole. Such matters should not be viewed as being the concern of the Environment SPC alone. On the contrary, issues relating to the environment and sustainable development are relevant to the work of each SPC. It is considered that the Corporate Policy Group has a significant role to play in ensuring a harmonised approach in this context. In addition, the Minister has also asked that the respective County/City Development Board be kept informed of the SPCs work on environment /sustainability matters, with particular reference to the work of SPCs on Planning/Development/Environment/Transport.

5. Section 54(2) of the Local Government Act 2001 applies for the purpose of this circular.

6. A copy of the SPC guidelines can be found at <http://www.environ.ie/en/Publications/LocalGovernment/Administration/FileDownload,1951,en.pdf>.

Yours sincerely

Joe Allen
Local Government Policy Section

To each City and County Manager and copy to each Town Clerk
Copy for information to: Town Clerk, AMAI,ACCC,LAMA

APPENDIX I
Sector Contact Details

Pillar	Name & Address	Telephone and e-mail
Farming	Gerry Gunning	01-4500266
Irish Farmers Association (IFA) Irish Farm Centre <u>Bluebell</u> <u>Dublin 12</u>	gerrygunning@ifa.ie	
Business	John Hickey	01-4004300
Chambers Ireland 17 Merrion Square Dublin 2	john.hickey@chambers.ie	
Trade Unions	Fergus Whelan	01-8897777
Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU) Head Office 31-32 Parnell Square Dublin 1	fergus.whelan@ictu.ie	
Environment	Michael Ewing	071-9667373
Environment Pillar – Social Partnership Coordinator Knockvicar Boyle Co Roscommon	michael@ien.ie	

APPENDIX II
Nominations from the Environment Sector
Sample text for inclusion in the advertisement in respect of
the Draft SPC scheme

Environment Sector

Members of environmental groups interested in representing the environment sector on the SPCs for _____ County/City Council are now invited to contact the **Environmental Pillar**, through its **Social Partnership Co-ordinator, Mr Michael Ewing** -

(i) by post at Knockvicar, Boyle, Co Roscommon, or

(ii) by e-mail at michael@ien.ie

Expressions of interest (including a description of the qualities the applicant will bring to the role and incorporating a short curriculum vitae), and no more than one page in all, should be forwarded to the Social Partnership Co-ordinator by 31 July 2009. The name of _____ County/City Council should also be specified. The Environmental Pillar will, from the expressions of interest received, provide the Council with the required number of nominations in accordance with the SPC scheme.

Expressions of interest **should not** be sent to the Council.