**Fingal PPN Constitution Explanatory Note**

The purpose of this note is to provide a summary overview of contents of the new PPN Constitution adopted on 8th May 2019 and a summary overview of how sections in the new Constitution differ from sections of the old constitution. Comments and proposals on the new constitution are welcomed from members of the PPN for consideration by the Constitution Steering Group until midday on 15th August 2019 to [ppn@fingal.ie](mailto:ppn@fingal.ie) or by post to Fingal PPN, Community Department, Civic Offices, Grove Road, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15, or by attendance at a Open Meeting (advertised on fingalppn.ie, registration required).

| **Section** | **Comment on new constitution** | **Difference from old constitution** |
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| 1. **Preamble** | Provides policy context for the establishment of PPNs. | Provides more detail, no material difference. |
| 1. **Name** | Provides for the name of the PPN. | No material difference. |
| 1. **Aims** | Outlines the aims of the PPN. | Retains original aims with added aims that reinforce the advocacy efforts of the PPN. |
| 1. **Vision, Values and Principles** | Outlines the vision, values and principles of the PPN. | Provides more detailed explanation. No material difference. |
| 1. **Membership** | Outlines:   * Full membership of the PPN, the criteria, term and registration process in relation to this. * Associate Membership of the PPN, the advantages, rights and criteria of associate members. * Membership electoral colleges, a definition for each college. | Provides more information. No material difference. |
| 1. **Structure and Management** | Outlines the role of each of the:   * Plenary, Secretariat and Linkage Groups. | Section 5 and section 6 merged into one section. Provides clearer and more comprehensive outline of structures, responsibilities and functioning. Provides for setting up of a General Purposes Subcommittee of the Secretariat. **N.B.** The Linkage Group section was discussed with each Linkage Group in September and November 2018. |
| 1. **Participation and Representation** | Outlines:   * Roles, rights and responsibilities of PPN Representatives. * Vacancies and elections. * Removal of representatives, complaints procedure, code of conduct. | Section 8 (voting) and 7 (Representatives) merged into one section,  Provides much more detail on the roles, rights and responsibilities of PPN Representatives.  Provides a disqualification mechanism for PPN Representatives, with appeals procedure.  Removes appeals process going to a full Plenary meeting of the PPN, proposes a new appeals process. |
| 1. **Financial Matters** | Outlines management of Financial Records and PPN Representative Expenses. | Did not exist in old constitution. |
| 1. **Services of Notices** | Outlines how the PPN serves information to PPN Member organisations. | Did not exist in old constitution. |
| 1. **Amendments to the Constitution** | Outlines how amendments can be made to the constitution. | Proposes that 30 members are required to propose an amendment within 10 days of the Plenary AGM with a simple majority required for its passing. Previously a single member could propose an amendment with a majority of two thirds required for its passing. |