

the  
wheel

Stronger Charities.  
Stronger Communities.

# EFFECTIVE ENGAGEMENT FOR LOCAL DECISION-MAKING

Colette Bennett, Director of Advocacy and Research



# AGENDA

- Welcome and Introductions
- Local Government Policy-making
- PPNs and Local Government
- Making Your Case
- Questions



# WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

# What is your role in the PPN?



Resource  
Worker

Support Worker

Secretariat

Representative

Other

Responding is off  
Press **C** to allow new responses



# LOCAL GOVERNMENT DECISION-MAKING

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT – SPHERE OF INFLUENCE

- Powers are Limited
- One of the most centralised countries in Europe
- Limited amount of public affairs under LA control
- Limited financing
- Lack of formalised and regular engagement with central Government
  
- However:
- Local Economic and Community Development plans have improved
- LAs are connected with local citizens
- “citizens’ participation in local public affairs is well developed through various forms of participatory democracy.”

Council of Europe Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

<https://rm.coe.int/cg-2023-45-17prov-en-monitoring-of-the-application-of-the-european-cha/1680acd809%20e>

## POLICY AREAS WITHIN LOCAL AUTHORITY REMIT

- Housing
- Environment
- Planning
- Roads and transport
- Economic development
- Community services
- Tourism
- Parks and open spaces
- Libraries
- Arts and culture
- Climate action

## LOCAL AUTHORITY COMMITTEES

- Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs)
  - Housing
  - Arts, Culture, Leisure and Recreation
  - Finance
  - Climate Action, Environment and Energy
  - Planning
  - Transport
- Corporate Policy Groups (CPGs)
- Joint Policing Committees (JPCs)

There may also be other Council subcommittees, or area-based committees, depending on the council



# PPNS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

## PPN ENGAGEMENT WITH LA COMMITTEES

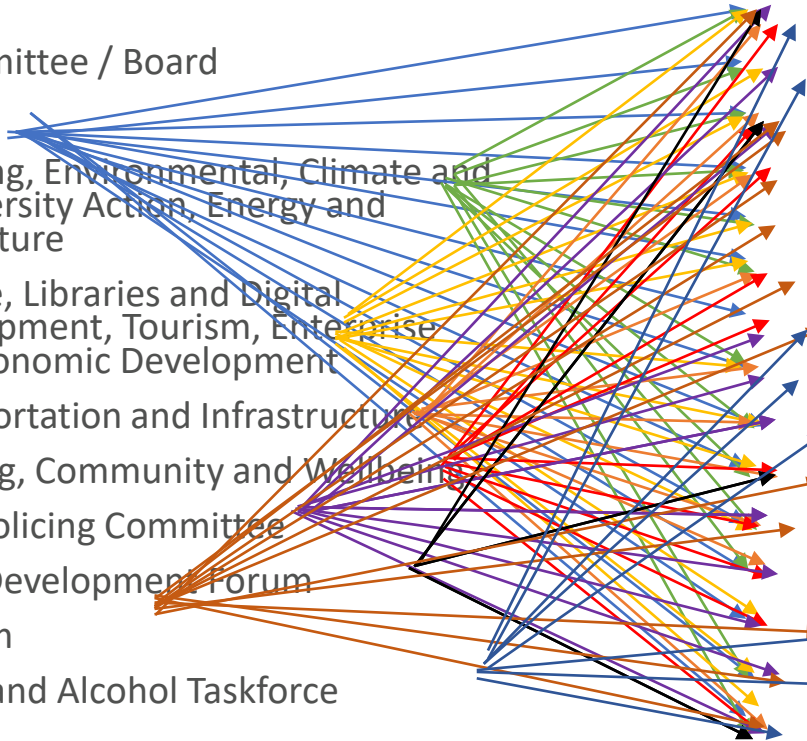
- Have a place on Committees and can nominate Representatives
- Feed into Agenda and prepare discussion points
- Establish Linkage / Thematic Groups and use these groups as a conduit for information to / from Committees

# COMMITTEES /BOARDS



- 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
- Town Development Forum
- Tourism
- Drugs and Alcohol Taskforce

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



# MAKING YOUR CASE

## POSITIVE REPRESENTATION – BEFORE YOU START!

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



## MAKING YOUR CASE

- What is important to you and why?
- What does your PPN, the groups you represent, and the people they serve, need?
- How can you evidence that need?
- What's your solution? – Can you cost it?
- How does your solution help the Local Authority meet its need?

## WHAT WOULD SUCCESS LOOK LIKE?

- Do you want to...
- Change something?
- Keep it the way it is?
- Get a policy implemented?
- Get more resources for an existing programme?



## WHAT WOULD SUCCESS LOOK LIKE? MAKING PROPOSALS

<b>Strategic</b>	Researched and planned
<b>Series of Actions</b>	Containing, where possible, a set of coordinated activities
<b>Targeted</b>	Aimed ultimately at the people with the power, but also the general public
<b>Designed to Persuade</b>	Arguments should be framed in a manner that convinces people that the change is necessary, and describes valid alternatives
<b>Build Alliances</b>	Working with more stakeholders will increase the impact. But be strategic
<b>Results in Change</b>	The campaign should result in positive change for the people who are affected

# DEALING WITH OBSTACLES

# BACK TO THE POLLS!

Join at [menti.com](https://menti.com) | use code 4438 2224

 Mentimeter

## What's the biggest challenge engaging with Local Authorities?

0 responses



## WHAT ARE THE OBSTACLES?

- Timing / Venue of meetings
  - Access to documentation
  - Timelines too tight
  - Budget
  - Lack of opportunity
  - Getting issues onto the agenda
- 
- How do you “go through” them?

## GROUP EXERCISE

- In your breakout rooms, discuss an issue that you would like tabled and what you think the obstacles might be.

## EXAMPLE

- **PPN Proposal to Local Authority**
- To commit to an additional 1,000 social housing units in 2024
  
- **Key Considerations**
- Tabling item for agenda on relevant committees
- Budget discussions
- Getting the votes
- Having the evidence of need

## ARE THERE ALTERNATIVES?

- Look for alternative options which can be considered
  - Parallel situation / pilot project/existing
  - New ideas
  - Proposals from other groups / counties
  - Ideally start with a few options
- 
- Know the history of policy solutions which worked and ones which didn't
  - Project the outcomes / impacts
  - Why should we change?

## POLICY IMPACTS

- Be clear on the change you want to see
- Have relevant research ready
- Identify who the key stakeholders are (+/-)
- Analyse and understand current policy.
- Build alliances
- Frame alternative policy
- Decide how best to present it
- Follow up and persist (step by step)



## USEFUL RESOURCES

- Central Statistics Office – [www.cso.ie](http://www.cso.ie)
- Government Department website – [www.gov.ie](http://www.gov.ie) (or individually)
- Local Authority Budgets
- Comparative LA Budgets - <http://www.localauthorityfinances.com> (up to 2018)
  
- Government Budgets – [www.budget.gov.ie](http://www.budget.gov.ie)
- Specific State agencies / NGOs / Journals

**QUESTIONS?**

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wheel**

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48 Fleet Street  
Dublin 2, D02 T883

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+353 (0) 1 454 8727  
[info@wheel.ie](mailto:info@wheel.ie)

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[www.wheel.ie](http://www.wheel.ie)

