



Galway City Community Network
Lionra Pobail Chathair Na Gaillimhe

Galway City Community Network CLG

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Galway City Community Network, The Public Participation Network in Galway City

Draft Joint Policing Committee Guidelines GCCN Submission

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Preface

Established in 2014, **Galway City Community Network (GCCN)** is the Public Participation Network in Galway City. It represents groups and organisations in the community, voluntary and environmental sectors in Galway City.

GCCN Role

The role of GCCN is to:

- **Facilitate representation** of the community, voluntary and environmental sectors on relevant local government, local development bodies and any local, regional, national or international structures deemed appropriate by GCCN.
- Act as a platform for the community, voluntary and environmental sectors to **develop policy and positions** on issues of common concern and to advocate for these policies and positions to be implemented.
- **Strengthen capacity** of the community, voluntary and environmental sectors, including to represent GCCN on all relevant structures.
- **Provide information** relevant to the environmental, social inclusion and voluntary sectors and act as a hub around which information is received and disseminated.

GCCN welcomes the opportunity to make this submission to the consultation on the draft Joint Policing Committee Guidelines.

Recommendations

Community Based Representation

GCCN has concerns in relation to Point 47 'each JPC should decide the most appropriate community based representation'. This should not be at the discretion of each JPC but rather Public Participation Networks provide the most representative structure from which to elect community-based representation. PPNs represent a diverse range of community, social inclusion and environmental groups and are the structure which elects representatives to a variety of policy and decision-making structures including SPCs, LCDCs and JPCs.

PPNs also provide a structure to support representatives in their role by:

- Providing relevant training for the representative role.
- Ensuring regular Linkage Group meetings that support representatives to carry out the role.
- Proactively addressing barriers to participation.
- Supporting attendance at events where appropriate.
- Responding in a respectful, supportive and timely manner to any concerns or issues regarding their work as a representative.

The PPN supports representatives to represent community interests through engaging in linkage groups a mechanism which allows feedback between the wider community and representatives. These linkage groups also include the target groups mentioned. The Linkage Groups provide an opportunity for representatives to discuss issues with the broader community and ensures that representatives are representing these broader interests.

Gender Balance

GCCN welcomes the proposal in Point 49 in relation to gender balance however this should apply to Councillors and not just community-based representation.

Capacity Building and Evaluation

GCCN welcomes the proposal in Point 59 in relation to bi-annual evaluation of the JPC's effectiveness and would encourage guidance to be developed in relation to these evaluations. GCCN welcomes the focus on engagement with Local Fora and community groups and organisations in this process. Please refer to GCCN's [Guidelines for Successful Community Engagement](#) for good practice in this area.

Membership

The Appendix on Membership states; 'Community representatives on the JPC should reflect the community it serves, in all its diversity'. As previously highlighted representatives elected through PPNs ensures they are representing the diversity of local communities.

GCCN also supports 25% community representation.

Meetings of the JPC

Within 'Appendix 2 Meetings of the JPC' it states 'training of community members should seek to build confidence, leadership skills and their capacity to represent their communities'. PPNs provide training for representatives to support them to carry out their roles. GCCN welcomes training for all members of the JPC with a focus on co-operation and collaboration and what this looks like in practice. GCCN also welcomes facilitation training for chairs (of the JPC and sub committees).