



Comhshool, Pobal agus Rialtas Áitiúil  
Environment, Community and Local Government



22 November 2014

Dear Chief Executive Officer,

I refer to Circular Letter CVSP2/2014 issued on the 27<sup>th</sup> May 2014 regarding Public Participation Networks (PPNs), which are now being established in all Local Authority Areas. From 1 June 2014, community representation on Local Authority committees and structures must be sourced through the newly established PPN.

As outlined in CVSP2/2014, the PPN is a new framework for public engagement and participation with the aim of facilitating and enabling the local community to articulate a diverse range of views across three colleges of Community and Voluntary, Social Inclusion and Environment.

A core element of the establishment of this new framework is the engagement of organisations in a new registration process specific to the PPN Framework and that allows organisations to self-select into one of the three colleges. All groups must be registered in order to have voting rights within the PPN. Following the conclusion of this registration process, nominations are made and representation selected and structures such as the Municipal and County Plenary and County Secretariat can be established. Representation is also selected from the new PPN onto committees such as the LCDC, SPCs and other relevant bodies within the local authority.

A number of local authorities are continuing to use the current non-statutory Fora for community engagement with the local authority and are re-branding them as the PPN. However, it is important to note that the PPN is to be made up of all community and voluntary, social inclusion and environmental groups

in the community, not just those individuals and groups who currently take a lead in local matters under the existing non-statutory structures. The PPN does not have a board or a chair; as such it is quite different to the existing structure and arrangements.

The guidelines do not allow the existing Community and Voluntary Forum to become the PPN; however, there is no issue with the existing C&V Forum assisting with/facilitating the PPN set-up, which requires a secretariat and linkage groups to be put in place. It is critical that this nomination and selection process is open to all organisations that register under the new arrangements.

It should be noted that work is continuing on the development of regulations and final guidelines to under-pin the PPNs. While it is envisaged that the final guidelines will contain some changes to those issued on 27 May 2014, it is not anticipated that any significant or material changes will be made.

Pobal will contact your Chief Officer in the next few days regarding the second progress report on PPN set up and would be grateful for the return of this report on or before 6 November 2014. For your convenience we have attached the first progress report submitted from your Local Authority (which triggered the first payment of €6,000 to facilitate PPN set up costs). We would encourage all local authorities to provide a further overview of progress on the implementation of the PPN framework up to 6 November 2014; provision of the second report will trigger the final payment of €6,000 to facilitate set up costs for 2014.

Yours Sincerely,



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Sean McLaughlin

Community and Voluntary Supports and Programmes