

DLR PPN Workplan 2026

Introduction

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Public Participation Network (DLR PPN) is an independent umbrella network of community & voluntary, environmental and social inclusion groups active within the county. Public Participation Networks (PPNs) were established by the Irish government under the Local Government (Reform) Act 2014 to be the main link through which the Local Authority connects with these groups.

DLR PPN is governed by the Secretariat, a voluntary committee elected from the DLR PPN membership whose responsibility is to oversee the development of the network and ensure that the objectives of the PPN are carried out. The Secretariat are supported by one full time manager and a part-time support worker who manage the day-to-day running of the PPN.

Funding for DLR PPN is provided by both the Department of Rural and Community Development and by Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council through an annual allocation.

Government guidelines outline 3 main objectives for PPNs with additional community support responsibilities as required, with two additional responsibilities since the onset of the pandemic:

- Facilitate the participation and representation of communities in a fair, equitable and transparent manner through the environmental, social inclusion, community and voluntary sectors on decision making bodies.
- Strengthen the capacity of communities and of the environmental, social inclusion, community and voluntary groups to contribute positively to the community in which they reside/participate.
- Provide information relevant to the environmental, social inclusion, community and voluntary sector and act as a hub around which information is distributed and received.
- Community support and engagement as required
- Raising awareness about climate action initiatives

These Government guidelines also specify a number of principles and values that PPNs are expected to operate by; they should be inclusive, participatory, independent, valuing diversity, transparent and accountable.

DLR PPN’s 2026 Workplan incorporates the main objectives of PPNs listed above as well as actions assigned to DLR PPN in the Local Economic & Community Plan 2023-2028 relating to building the capacity of community groups to create positive change in their communities and having a voice in local authority decision-making.

The DLR PPN Workplan 2026 follows the objectives and action set in the DLR PPN Strategic Plan 2024-2029.

We look forward to working with all DLR PPN members and stakeholders to achieve the Workplan 2026.

DLR PPN Secretariat 2026:

Pillar	Name	DLR PPN Member Group
Community & Voluntary	Hope Adjenughure	All Saints Community Church
Community & Voluntary	Anne Harrington	Monkstown Tidy District
Environment Pillar	Bill O’Dea	Crann, Trees for Ireland
Environment Pillar	Gavin Harte	Friends of the Earth
Environment Pillar	Ronan Browne	BirdWatch Ireland South Dublin Branch
Social Inclusion Pillar	Viola Di Bucchianico	DLR Integration Forum
Social Inclusion Pillar	Sharon Perry	Women’s Collective Ireland DLR
Social Inclusion Pillar	Hilda Arenas	Filipino Multicultural Society of Ireland

Dún Laoghaire Rathdown Public Participation Network Workplan 2026

List of Abbreviations:

- DECC Department of Environment, Climate and Communications
- DLRC Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Chamber
- DLRCC Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council
- DLR PPN Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Public Participation Network
- DRCDG Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht GDPR General Data Protection Regulations

Strategic Priority 1 – Governance & Operations

Actions/Objectives	Measures of Success	By
Review policies and procedures annually against the National PPN Handbook and Mandatory Checklist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Update Constitution and membership criteria - Update Code of Conduct Charter 	Annually
Hold two plenary and the number of secretariat meetings as required in the PPN Handbook and DLR PPN Constitution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Meetings held and actions recorded 	Ongoing
Develop an annual workplan framed around the strategic objectives and report on it at the Secretariat meetings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Workplan in place -Manager’s reports delivered regularly (7 to 10 days) and monthly 	Annually
Continue to use the DLR PPN website as a medium to share, minutes of Secretariat and Plenary meetings and reports from PPN representatives. PPN monthly Activity Reports/ explore other communication alternatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Continuous Website Updates Update the Resources area as necessary 	Ongoing
Develop a DLR PPN Risk Register	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Risk Register in place 	2025
Work with DLR County Council to create a framework to reflect the synergies in the overarching DLR policy documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Common reporting framework in place that captures the outcomes common to the Community Wellbeing statement, LECP and County Development plans. 	2026
Undertake a stakeholder analysis and from this, identify collaborations and partnerships to be pursued.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Improved inter agency and collaborative working -Continue to develop relationships as staff rotate 	Ongoing
Demonstrate compliance with DRCD and DLR County Council MOU & contractual reporting requirements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -End of year activity and quarterly financial reports submitted to funders dlr co co, Annual Income and Expenditure Report submitted to dlr co co and DRCD 	Annually
Effective succession planning in place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Advertise for any Secretariat vacancy -New personnel in member groups 	2026
DLR PPN invest in their staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Training plans and Continuous Professional Development in place -DLR staff have access to supervision & appraisal 	Ongoing

Strategic Priority 2 – Participation & Representation

Actions/Objectives	Measures of Success	By
Ensure full PPN representation on the 7 SPC's, the LCDC, new Local Community Safety Partnership Rural Taskforce, dlr Age Friendly Forum, Comhairle nÓg and others as requested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Run elections in 2026 for new SPC members should vacancies arise - All seats filled by PPN representatives. -Supports in place to assist and brief DLR PPN representatives on decision making bodies (Training, Mentoring, Reps Network) -Reports submitted by Reps on the outcomes of meetings -Examples where Reps have had a material impact on decisions captured and showcased in the DLR PPN annual impact report 	Ongoing with measures of success reported on to the Secretariat.
Engage with DLR County Councillors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Invite Councillors to open events 	Annually
Expand the Network Group Establish a DLR PPN Linkage Group (LG) with different themes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Representatives Network meeting to continue (3 per annum) -Plenary Meetings now referred to a Network Meetings will enable linkage between Reps and members to take place - Facilitation resources in place for LG themes -Reports on each completed theme submitted to DLRCC 	Continues for 2026
Participate in all public consultations relevant to the DLR community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Number of consultations that members engaged in -Number of events (workshops, public meetings) facilitated as part of the consultation process -Impact of consultation on policy development tracked and reported 	Ongoing
Profile the current DLR PPN membership (inc. Secretariat) and based on the findings developed a strategy for inclusion of underrepresented groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Profile of current membership completed -Strategy for inclusion of underrepresented groups in place and being actioned 	End of 2026
Reflect the voice of young people by engaging directly with youth organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Number of member groups working with children & young people aged 10-24 -Number of young person's policy initiatives championed -Collaborations with Comhairle na nÓg 	Ongoing
Ensure all DLR PPN participation & representation activities are inclusive and accessible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Ensuring DLR PPN activities are accessible and inclusive and where barriers are identified supports are promptly put in place 	Ongoing

Strategic Priority 3 – Capacity Building

Actions/Objectives	Measures of Success	By
Deliver effective training, workshops, seminars based on member capacity building needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Training plan in place that reflects DLR PPN needs. -Number of trainings, workshops, seminars delivered -Number of DLR PPN members attending -Evaluation of the training impact (New Reps & Secretariat members, funding secured by member groups) and the extent to which capacity building needs have been met -Continue increased outreach and increased networking & engagement between member groups. 	Ongoing - Measured through annual survey
Collaborate with community, statutory and corporate organisations to enhance the capacity of member groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Number of trainings, workshops, seminars delivered in partnership with other agencies. -PPN to participate in Festival of Inclusion 	Ongoing
Hold a minimum of two plenary meetings annually with the agenda facilitating capacity building for member groups.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Number of plenary meetings held -Attendance at plenary meetings -Outcomes from the meetings are reported and actioned 	Ongoing
Use the Vision for Community Wellbeing statement to shape and inform capacity building for groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Document where DLR PPN outputs contribute to the 6 community wellbeing themes in the DLR annual impact report -LG topics relating to the 6 community wellbeing themes. 	End of 2025 and ongoing
DLR PPN articulates its role in respect of Climate Action, Biodiversity, and the Rights of Nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -A minimum of one climate action event annually in partnership with DLR County Council over the next five years 	End of 2026
Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hold information event on funding available 	Annually
Census of member groups and training needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Update the membership directory in terms of number of members and participants in DLR member groups. - Survey of training needs circulated to member groups. 	End of 2026

Strategic Priority 4 – Information & Communication

Actions/Objectives	Measures of Success	By
Formalise the DLR PPN communication strategy and review annually	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Communication Strategy & Key Performance Indicators in place -Alignment with National PPN strategy -Improved brand, identity, awareness, and reach - Establish connections with underrepresented groups - Attendance at County and Community events 	End of 2026
Build presence on social media platforms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Facebook, twitter 	Ongoing
Ensure relevant and accessible information is disseminated to members and stakeholders through mediums with maximum reach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Bi-monthly e-zine circulated -Number of initiatives advertised for member groups in the e-zine -Number of Community Connections radio shows and topics discussed with guests 	Ongoing
Conduct an annual review of the DLR PPN website and its effectiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Review of relevant posts 	Annually
Explore the resources required to develop DLR PPN as an information hub for the DLR community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> --DLR PPN recognised as an information hub for groups working across the 6 Community Wellbeing thematic areas 	2026
Members Directory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Organisation - Member groups are requested to update their organisation contact details such as social media, website, and organisation email address these details will be published in the Directory. Member groups are requested to update their primary and secondary contact details these remain private unless specific request received to publish. 	Annually
Work with DLRC on Directory of Services for Older People & Resident's Association Directory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Directory of Services for Older People in place -Resident's Association Directory in place 	End of 2026
Appraise the benefits and implications of Artificial Intelligence for DLR PPN's work.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Increased awareness of AI -Report on implications of AI tabled and discussed 	2026

Promotion and awareness of DLR PPN in the county	-Coffee Morning-for new members and new contacts of existing groups, opportunity for informal introduction and Q&A -Continue outreach to community groups and attending events, seminars and workshops.	2026
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Adopted by the plenary at Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Spring Network (Plenary) Meeting 24 March 2026
Signed on behalf of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Public

Rotating Chair / Facilitator Sharon Peery Date: 24-3-2026

Representative /Secretariat Member: Faith Burke Date: 24-3-2026