


Role and function of SPC



The statutory basis for Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs) is set out in section 48 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended by section 41 of the 2014 Act. Local authorities are required to establish “strategic policy committees to consider matters connected with the formulation, development, monitoring and review of policy which relate to the functions of the Local Authority and to advise the authority on those matters”.



A cityscape at sunset with buildings and a boat on the water. The sky is a mix of orange, pink, and purple. The buildings are silhouetted against the sky, and some have lights on. A boat is visible on the water in the foreground, with its reflection in the water.

A key role for SPCs is to focus on strategic issues and in taking a strategic overview of relevant policy areas in the wider context:

- Each SPC agree its annual programme, linked to the strategic policies in the Galway City Council Corporate Plan.
- SPC Chairs report to the Council on the proceedings of the Committee.
- Each SPC's work will take into account the Council's overall corporate policy and objectives, comply with statutory provisions, integrate with statutory plans where relevant, and link realistically to financial resources.
- Each SPC may decide on appropriate consultative arrangements, having regard to statutory provision, the interests already represented on the SPC, and any guidelines provided by the Council; and
- The Corporate Policy Group (CPG) should co-ordinate the work and monitor the work programmes of the SPCs.

Next Steps for SPC

1. Galway City Council adopts its Corporate Plan (Dec 2024)
2. Tourism SPC agree a 2025 work programme that reflects the objectives of the Corporate Plan (Q 1 2025)
3. Lobbying Act 2015 and Transparency Code
4. Draft Standing Orders (Respond by December 14)

