



Strategic Plan

2018 - 2021

“

Rather than submit to cynicism and disillusion, we must rekindle our conviction that people and communities have a deep and instinctive desire to work for social and political participation and transformation.... Much is at stake when citizens are reduced to the status of passive recipients of policy and services

”

- NI Roundtable on Wellbeing

We are delighted to introduce Carlow PPN's first strategic plan. The PPN is a network of groups and organisations in Carlow; community and voluntary, social inclusion and environmental. Our role is to ensure that the voice of local people is heard in local decision and policy-making processes. We believe passionately in the importance of participative democracy and that communities should have a say in matters that affect them.

The PPN contributes to Carlow's growth by promoting civic engagement, i.e. the involvement of citizens in the development of public policy and services. Our aim is to facilitate meaningful engagement between local citizens, local government and other agencies.

We are committed to building the capacity of local groups and organisations to contribute positively to their own communities and to County Carlow.

This document outlines our vision for the future of participative democracy in Carlow, as well as our goals and objectives in achieving this vision. We look forward to engaging with all our stakeholders in its implementation.

Carlow PPN Secretariat, January 2018

What we do



- We hold regular meetings of our membership to discuss current and emerging issues, to share information and to ensure a diverse range of views are heard
- We elect representatives to sit on Local Government and other committees, to represent our members' views on important local matters
- We work with Carlow County Council and other agencies to conduct meaningful consultation with communities
- We formulate submissions and positions in response to strategic and policy matters which impact local communities
- Through our website and digital media, we keep Carlow communities informed on local issues, activities and events
- Through training and outreach, we help to build the capacity of local community groups and organisations to engage and participate actively
- We commission and participate in research which strengthens citizen engagement
- We work with other organisations and agencies at local, regional and national level to promote active citizenship in Carlow

Our Vision

An inclusive County where its people are active and involved in its wellbeing and sustainable growth

Our Mission

We promote and facilitate inclusive and effective participation in decision and policy-making in Carlow. We build the capacity of communities to engage by promoting best practice in community consultation and public participation

Our Values

The work of Carlow PPN is underpinned by the core values of Participation, Inclusion, Diversity, Respect, Equality, Empowerment, Transparency, Accountability, Collaboration



Goals

Objectives

GOAL 1

Policy and Decision Influencing

Be a key decision and policy influencer on issues that shape Carlow communities

- Facilitate public participation in local decision and policy-making
- Ensure the PPN plenary is an informed, engaged and inclusive decision-making structure
- Ensure robust, accountable, transparent structures and processes underpinning the PPN

GOAL 2

Membership

Build a vibrant, active and inclusive membership

- Strengthen the PPN by promoting it as a representative voice for local communities in County Carlow
- Encourage and build members' capacity to influence policy and to engage effectively in public participation
- Be an information resource on community engagement and public participation in Carlow

GOAL 3

Partnership

Build strong, effective working partnerships with all stakeholders

- Work in partnership with Carlow County Council and other decision-making bodies to foster meaningful community engagement and public participation
- Collaborate with community stakeholders to build cohesive approaches to engagement and public participation
- Support national, regional and local initiatives which promote active citizenship

GOAL 4

Organisational Effectiveness

Be an effective PPN working to best practice standards

- Ensure the ongoing professional development and well-being of PPN staff
- Ensure compliance with governance, legislative and national budgetary requirements
- Develop procedures which capture the impact and effectiveness of the PPN's role and activities

GOAL 1

Policy and Decision Influencing

Be a key decision and policy influencer on issues that shape Carlow communities

Objective 1.1

Facilitate public participation in local decision and policy-making

Objective 1.2

Ensure the PPN plenary is an informed, engaged and inclusive decision-making structure

Objective 1.3

Ensure robust, accountable, transparent structures & processes underpinning the PPN

Key Actions We Will Deliver

- Work with Carlow County Council to conduct community consultations which enable local people to have their say on emerging policies, plans and initiatives
- Nominate representatives to sit on Local Authority decision-making committees, such as Strategic Policy Committees and the Local Community Development Committee
- Bring our members together, through regular “Linkage Group” meetings, to consider matters of importance to them and to mandate our representatives
- Through our representatives, ensure the diverse views of our members are articulated and help to shape local policies and decisions
- Provide training and other supports to our representatives to help them to fulfil their representative role effectively
- Develop policy positions on issues of importance to our members and engage with relevant agencies to further these positions
- Develop a Consultation Toolkit – ‘Consultation-Bridging the Gap’ to ensure best practice in community consultation and engagement in Carlow
- Hold regular meetings of the PPN Secretariat and Sub-Committees to oversee the work of the PPN

GOAL 2

Membership

Build a vibrant, active and inclusive membership

Objective 2.1

Strengthen the PPN by promoting it as a representative voice for local communities in County Carlow

Objective 2.2

Encourage and build members' capacity to influence policy and to engage effectively in public participation

Objective 2.3

Be an information resource on community engagement and public participation in Carlow

Key Actions We Will Deliver

- Deliver training programmes which build the capacity of our members to engage in participative democracy in Carlow
- Provide our members with quality, user-friendly information about the PPN and their role within it
- Run an outreach programme to grow our membership and strengthen members participation
- Use our website, digital media and our monthly E-Bulletin to keep members up-to-date with community and social inclusion issues, activities and events in Carlow



GOAL 3

Partnership

Build strong, effective working partnerships with all stakeholders

Objective 3.1

Work in partnership with Carlow County Council and other decision-making bodies to foster meaningful community engagement and public participation

Objective 3.2

Collaborate with community stakeholders to build cohesive approaches to engagement and public participation

Objective 3.3

Support national, regional and local initiatives which promote active citizenship

Key Actions We Will Deliver

- Provide training and support to local policy and decision-making agencies to build understanding of the PPN's role
- Continually engage with key personnel in local policy and decision-making agencies to build relationships and foster meaningful partnerships
- Network with local community stakeholders to build relationships
- Develop partnership projects to promote community engagement and public participation
- Commission, or participate in, local research which strengthens understanding of community engagement and promotes improved consultation



GOAL 4

Organisational Effectiveness

Be an effective PPN working to best practice standards

Objective 4.1

Ensure the ongoing professional development & well-being of PPN staff

Objective 4.2

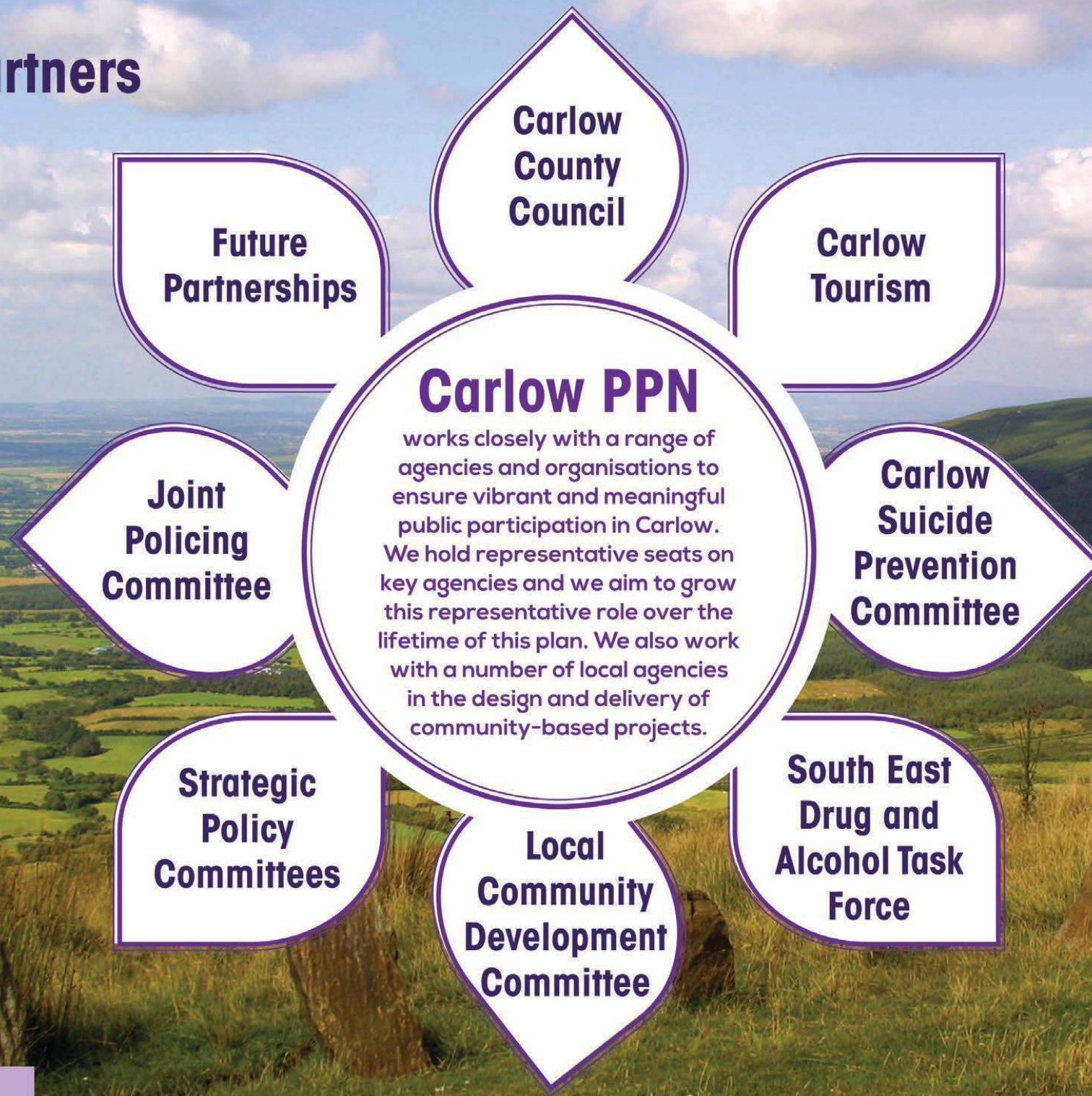
Ensure compliance with governance, legislative and national budgetary requirements

Objective 4.3

Develop procedures which capture the impact and effectiveness of the PPN's role and activities

- Maintain our staffing levels to enable the growth and sustainability of Carlow PPN
- Provide ongoing support and training to our staff
- Produce an annual programme of work and budget to underpin this Strategic Plan, with an integrated performance monitoring system
- Submit regular financial and activity reports to the relevant Government Department, as required
- Produce annual report which detail our progress and achievements
- Ensure compliance with the Charities Regulator Authority
- Manage our budget to ensure we grow in a financially viable way and secure the long-term sustainability of the PPN
- Ensure best practice in governance by complying with the Governance Code

Our Partners



Annual Planning and Performance Monitoring

On an annual basis, Carlow PPN develops a programme of work for the year ahead, with corresponding key performance indicators (KPIs).

We are committed to assessing our progress through continuing monitoring and evaluation of our role and activities. This will enable us to measure how effective we are at fulfilling our role and to identify ways to strengthen our programme of work.

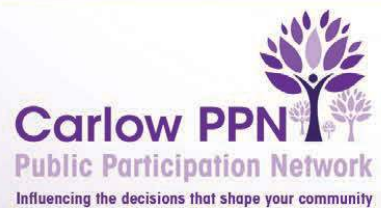
Outcomes



By successfully implementing this strategy, we will achieve the following:

- The PPN will be the recognised mechanism for public participation in Carlow
- There will be stronger engagement between local communities and Carlow County Council
- Carlow citizens will feel that their views are more valued
- Our representatives will have a stronger voice on committees and boards across Carlow
- Our members will be well-informed, motivated and actively participating in the PPN
- There will be effective structures and processes underpinning a well-managed PPN





Tel: 059 917 2495
Mobile: 087 276 0139
Email: carlowppn@carlowcoco.ie
Website: www.carlowppn.ie  
