



Cross-Sectoral Group on Local and Community Development (2019 – 2024)

Call for Expressions of Interest – Community and Voluntary Sector Stakeholder Seats

Background

On August 28th 2019, Minister Michael Ring launched *Sustainable, Inclusive and Empowered Communities: A five-year strategy to support the community and voluntary sector in Ireland 2019-2024*. The publication of this Strategy is the culmination of a number of years work by the Department of Rural and Community Development, supported by the Cross-Sectoral Group on Local and Community Development. This work has built on the foundations laid by the 2016 *Framework Policy for Local and Community Development*, and has set a general direction of travel for Government policy in relation to community development, local development and the community and voluntary sector for the coming years.

The Strategy includes a commitment to review and re-establish a Cross-Sectoral Group on Local and Community Development to advance the objectives and monitor progress of the implementation of *Sustainable, Inclusive and Empowered Communities*.

To this end, we are now inviting expressions of interest from persons involved in the sector to participate in the Cross-Sectoral Group.

Role of the Cross-Sectoral Group

The primary role of the Cross-Sectoral Group will be to progress the implementation of the *Sustainable, Inclusive and Empowered Communities* Strategy. The role will involve inputting to annual work plans, monitoring progress on implementation and advising on any changes that may be needed to existing actions. The Group will comprise representation from relevant Government Departments, public bodies, and community and voluntary sector stakeholders.

Unassigned Seats on the Cross-Sectoral Group

The Department is committed to ensuring the voice and experience of community and voluntary sector practitioners is strongly reflected in the composition of the Cross-Sectoral Group. The overall composition of the Cross-Sectoral Group as outlined in the Draft Terms of Reference reflects a balance of representation of public bodies and community and voluntary sector and local and community development stakeholders. Two of these seats have been reserved for an open call for





expressions of interest from practitioners or persons involved in supporting community and voluntary sector or local and community development.

These seats will be assigned on the basis of this open call for expressions of interest. The Department will shortlist applicants against the criteria, outlined below.

Review Panel

A panel comprising three members (i.e. DRCD Libraries Development and Community Policy Unit, DRCD Community and Voluntary Supports Unit plus one independent, external member who possesses a record of commitment to public service values) will meet to consider the shortlisted applicants.

Indicative Criteria

Applicants will be required to meet the following criteria:

- Actively working in the community and voluntary sector for a period of no less than 2 consecutive years;
- Thorough understanding of the community and voluntary sector - including the challenges, opportunities, historical context and emerging trends in the Irish context;
- Strong motivation to provide a meaningful contribution to the group and to advance the development of the community and voluntary sector, and to local and community development;
- Willingness to represent the interests of the breadth of the community and voluntary sector in Ireland and not any individual organizational positions and/or interests.

Note: An objective is to ensure a good balance on the Group of both urban and rural stakeholder interests, with balanced gender representation and diversity insofar as is possible.

Membership of the Cross-Sectoral Group is entirely voluntary and unremunerated. However, reasonable expenses necessarily incurred in the attendance at meetings by members whose expenses are not ordinarily refundable from any other source may have such reasonable expenses refunded by the Department of Rural and Community Development in accordance with public sector guidelines.

How to apply?

Expressions of Interest must be submitted via email to lcdev@drcd.gov.ie by close of business on **Tuesday 3rd December 2019.**

It is anticipated that the first meeting of the Cross-Sectoral Group will take place on 10th December 2019 in Dublin.





Appendix 1

Establishment of Cross-Sectoral Group on Local and Community Development

Draft Terms of Reference

Context

In August 2019, the Minister for Rural and Community Development published *Sustainable, Inclusive and Empowered Communities: A five-year strategy to support the community and voluntary sector in Ireland 2019-2024*. The Strategy is focussed on eleven objectives, each with a number of sub actions.

The Strategy will entail far reaching changes across Government and the community and voluntary sector and will require an incremental building of supports over the strategy period and beyond. This will be the case particularly for those actions requiring larger scale sustained funding support. In this context actions are grouped into the categories of short, medium and long term. The Strategy aims to create an enabling environment for the community and voluntary sector to grow, and to continue to contribute to Ireland's progress.

Cross-Sectoral Group on Local and Community Development

The Strategy includes a commitment to revise the existing Cross-Sectoral Group:

“The current membership of the Cross-Sectoral Group,... will be reviewed to ensure appropriate stakeholder participation during implementation. The Group will advise and input to annual work plans, monitor progress on implementation, contribute to the mid-term review of the Strategy, and advise on any changes to existing actions or new actions that might be needed.”

The Cross-Sectoral Group on Local and Community Development will be a key vehicle to oversee and advise on the implementation of the *Sustainable, Inclusive and Empowered Communities Strategy*. Whilst responsibility for delivery of the Strategy measures remains with the Department, partnership with a wide range of community and voluntary sector, and local and community development stakeholders is key to the success and sustainability of the Strategy.

Composition of the Group

The Cross-Sectoral Group on Local and Community Development will comprise the following membership:

- Department of Rural and Community Development (Chair)
- Department of Health





- Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government
- Department of Children and Youth Affairs
- Department of Justice and Equality
- Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection
- Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment
- County and City Management Association
- C&V Pillar nominee
- ILDN nominee
- CWI nominee
- Community & Voluntary Sector Stakeholder
- Community & Voluntary Sector Stakeholder
- Academic Representative

Role and Responsibilities of the Cross-Sectoral Group on Local and Community Development

1. The Cross-Sectoral Group is primarily advisory in nature. It will be chaired by the Department of Rural and Community Development which has responsibility for community development policy in Ireland.
2. The role of the Group is to monitor the overall implementation of *Sustainable, Inclusive and Empowered Communities: A five-year strategy to support the community and voluntary sector in Ireland 2019-2024*; and, in particular, progress on the delivery of the individual actions (i.e. commitments) set out in the Strategy.
3. The Group will provide feedback, guidance and advice to the Department in relation to the implementation of the Strategy, as well as early warning regarding potential obstacles in delivery of the Strategy.
4. The Group will advise and input into annual work plans to progress the actions. These work plans should include expected outcomes, the timeframes for delivery of actions, performance indicators, and an appropriate monitoring and review mechanism.
5. The Group will also provide insights into developments, opportunities and emerging trends in the community and voluntary sector in Ireland and internationally (if appropriate).
6. The Group will contribute to the mid-term review of the Strategy.
7. The Cross-Sectoral Group may be invited by the Department of Rural and Community Development to lead on, or participate in, the delivery of some measures in the Strategy if appropriate. [In such cases, the Department will retain ultimate responsibility (including final editorial authority) for the output.]
8. The Cross-Sectoral Group may establish sub-groups to support its work. Sub-groups may include members external to the Cross-Sectoral Group, but must include at least one member of the Group who will be responsible for reporting back to the Cross-Sectoral Group.
9. Membership of the Cross-Sectoral Group is voluntary and unremunerated.
10. The role of members of the Cross-Sectoral Group is to represent the interests of the breadth of the Community and Voluntary Sector in Ireland and not any individual organisational positions and/or interests.





Frequency of Meetings

It is anticipated that the Cross-Sectoral Group will meet twice per year. The frequency may be adjusted by the Group. Any sub-groups which may be formed may determine the frequency of their own meetings.

Secretariat

Secretariat functions to the Cross-Sectoral Group will be provided by the Department of Rural and Community Development.

