

To all PPNs

Public Participation Networks (PPNs) were introduced in all local authority areas following the enactment of the Local Government Act, 2014. This Department has been fully supportive in the development of the PPN structure, providing funding and a range of circular letters containing guidance on the implementation of this important initiative.

To further assist in the roll-out of PPNs, the Department has developed, with the assistance of Social Justice Ireland, a draft PPN User Guide to provide practical advice to all stakeholders on the operation of PPNs. This guide addresses a number of relevant issues including membership of PPNs, PPN activities, database management and includes advice on topical areas such as how to manage a flat structure, or dealing with requests for PPN representation.

A copy of this draft guide is attached for your information. As this document is currently in draft form, we would welcome your feedback on any of the material contained therein or suggestions as to any other issues which should be addressed in this context. Ultimately, it is intended that this document will effectively be a "live" document, updated regularly to reflect emerging issues. Any feedback on this matter should be provided to Niall Hayden at Niall.Hayden@environ.ie

For your information, I would like to take this opportunity to advise you that a National PPN Advisory Group is also being established, chaired by this Department, which will include invited representative of relevant stakeholders. The first meeting of this group will take place on Friday 13 May. This group will address any PPN issues arising from the User Guide or from other sources. The Department will, of course, keep you informed regarding the work of the Advisory Group and all PPNs will have the opportunity to input into the work of this Group.

The Department also intends to provide a consolidated version of the existing PPN Circulars which have issued to date from this Department, updated to reflect recent developments. This may contain more detailed information on a range of relevant issues.

I hope you will find the draft User Guide to be a useful resource to you in your dealings with PPNs.

Thank you

Emer Connolly

Community and Voluntary Supports and Programmes

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