

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETINGS

The reserved functions of the local authority are performed by the Elected Members by way of resolution passed at **County Council** meetings. They involve decisions on major matters of policy and finance such as:-

- Adopting the Annual Budget;
- Determining the annual level of commercial rate to be charged;
- Borrowing money;
- Increasing or decreasing Local Property Tax;
- Making or varying a development plan;
- Making a special amenity area order;
- Adopting the Allocations Scheme for local authority dwellings;
- Demanding expenses from any other local authority;
- Making, amending or revoking bye-laws;
- Bringing enactments into force in the functional area of the local authority;
- Nominating persons to act on committees or other public bodies;
- Nominating a candidate for the Presidency.

All 40 Elected Members of the Council are entitled to attend meetings of the County Council, which take place each month apart from in August.

AREA COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council is divided into two Area Committees as follows:-

- **Dún Laoghaire Area Committee** containing electoral areas Blackrock, Dún Laoghaire and Killiney-Shankill.
- **Dundrum Area Committee** containing electoral areas Dundrum, Stillorgan and Glencullen-Sandyford.

The Dún Laoghaire and Dundrum Area Committee meetings concentrate on issues of a local nature and are structured as follows:-

- Municipal Services (MUN)
- Housing, Economic, Community and Cultural Development, Planning and Organisational Innovation & Infrastructure and Climate Change Business (HEPI)

Issues which could be categorised as either information / progress / operational / representational and specific to the Local Area should be listed on the Area Committee agendas.

STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Better Local Government – A Programme for Change 1996 introduced an enhanced role for Councillors in policy making for local services. To strengthen the Councillors policy role this Council established the following **Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs)** for this Council term:

- Community Development, Culture & Ageing
- Environment, Climate Change & Energy
Economic Development & Enterprise
- Housing
- Planning
- Transportation & County-wide Movement

A Strategic Policy Committee Scheme for this Council term was adopted by Council on 8th December 2014.

Sectoral interests are represented on the SPCs giving the broader community a chance to be involved in policy issues.

A **Corporate Policy Group** has also been established comprising of the Chairpersons of each SPC and An Cathaoirleach. The Corporate Policy Group co-ordinates the activities of the individual SPCs and provides a forum for discussion of policy affecting the whole Council and shall report to the Council.

ORGANISATIONAL, PROCEDURE & PROTOCOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The **Organisational, Procedure & Protocol (OP&P) Committee** consists of twenty Members of the Council, plus the Cathaoirleach, and meets quarterly. The OP&P Committee deals with Council protocol and other matters not dealt with at other Council/Committee meetings. A function of this Committee is also to fix periodically the dates and times of meetings of the Council and its Committees. The press are excluded from Organisational, Procedure & Protocol Committee meetings.

DEPUTATION MEETINGS

A formalised series of deputation meetings is organised on the second Wednesday of each month (except July, August and December) from 2.15p.m. To 5.00p.m. Residents Associations/Community Groups meet with Councillors and County Council officials in the Council Chamber or in the Dundrum Office. Three deputations are received separately on the Wednesday afternoon, each lasting for forty-five minutes. Each organisation presents an agenda with a maximum of five items pertaining to their area, examples would be public lighting, traffic management, grass cutting etc. The relevant County Council Officials make themselves available to answer queries.