



Association of Irish Local Government
Aontas Rialtas Áitiúil na hÉireann

Local Authority Elected Members Training Programme 2021



Oifig an
Rialaitheora Pleanála
Office of the
Planning Regulator



An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage



An Roinn Comhshaoil,
Aeráide agus Cumarsáide
Department of the Environment,
Climate and Communications



An Ghníomhaireacht
Tithíochta
The Housing Agency

Ministerial Foreword



Since my appointment last July as Minister of State with responsibility for Local Government and Planning, I have been immensely impressed by the degree to which local government has continued its front line work; looking after our communities' needs throughout a pandemic.

It is a credit to AILG and their training partners, including the OPR, the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications, the Housing Agency and my own department, that despite all the headwinds of the pandemic, you have constantly kept the focus on moving forward, planning ahead and delivering these training sessions for the State's 949 City and County Councillors, so many of which were elected for the first time in the 2019 local elections. Every Councillor knows both the importance of and the particular spotlight on planning in their local communities, and it is vital that you are properly informed and supported to deliver on your statutory planning duties.

One of the key functions of AILG is to ensure that elected members receive appropriate and relevant training and development as they govern Irish local authorities currently and into the future. As a beneficiary of AILG training in the past, I know the importance of being confident in your pursuits as a local representative and the trust that is placed in you by your electorate to serve them efficiently and knowledgeably.

The world of planning at local authority level is a much changed landscape than in decades past. Government places a huge value on and invests considerable capital in proper planning and sustainable development. A €116bn National Development Plan backing the implementation of the National Planning Framework, Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies, Development Plans and Local Area Plans is testament to the Government's commitment to planning.

The OPR was established to provide independent oversight and to ensure that local planning processes are "doing what they say on the tin" in relation to implementing national policy and legislation.

You have had six events in 2019 and 2020 and I note that in total, 518 Councillors attended in person at the events in 2019. There have been 617 online registrations for the webinars in 2020. While the total number includes attendances over multiple events by individual Councillors, these are remarkable figures to report on given Covid-19 restrictions. Clearly, this training has struck a chord with Councillors. I applaud your commitment to your front line work as a local representative, and for constantly investing time and energy into delivering the best results for your local communities.

Peter Burke TD

Minister of State for Planning and Local Government

Foreword



The development of the 2021 AILG Local Authority Elected Members Training Programme, would not have been possible without the work, involvement and support from key partners and contributors.

Following the review of the 2020 planning training programme which included a feedback survey with our membership, AILG, the OPR and other partners have worked together to move towards a more detailed and focused training programme for the remainder of 2021.

This moves AILG closer to our goal of developing an accredited Continuous Professional Development (CPD) internal training programme for our Elected Members.

I'm looking forward to continuing to build our relationship with the OPR into 2021 to deliver this tailor-made planning training programme for all members and to work with our other training partners to deliver this very ambitious training plan. Their collective contributions will encourage further engagement, enhance knowledge and strengthen the influence of local authority Elected Members in making a difference at local and community levels.

The AILG have put together our 2021 AILG Training programme in conjunction with our training partners including the OPR, the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications, the Housing Agency and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. This year's programme will build on our current strong training programme where we have delivered a number of training modules on the planning and development plan process and will see our training branch out into other areas including a comprehensive housing module, a communications module and a climate action module on renewable energy. While this training is scheduled to be delivered on-line due to the ongoing public health restrictions our training programme will be populated with additional modules once we are able to re-commence our physical training days.

I encourage each of our 949 Local Elected Members to partake in the training. While current public health guidelines are restricting us to on-line training, we are fully committed to resuming our physical training programme as soon as possible in 2021 once public health measures permit us to. We will keep our members fully informed of our training delivery over the next number of weeks and months as public health measures are reviewed.

Cllr. Mary Hoade
AILG President 2020-21

Local Authority Elected Members Training Programme for 2021

The 2021 training programme builds on the 2020 programme which gave members a strategic overview of the structure of Ireland's planning process and the role of the OPR.

For 2021, the programme will give members a more in-depth level of training in relation to topical matters relevant to their development plan preparation functions. We are conscious that many members will be reviewing their plans over the course of the year and into 2022.

For 2021, four topical themes will be explored in a new City and County Development Plan Policy Series. Presentations and Supporting Material will cover:

1.Communications, including the roll-out of the National Broadband Plan and key local authority enablers;

2.Housing, including a four part webinar on settlement policy, rural planning, social and affordable housing delivery and quality delivery;

3.De-carbonisation, including the implications of the implementation of national climate policy and the roll-out of new energy sources; and

4.Active Travel, including innovative development plan practice and wider local authority led enablers to promote public transport, walking and cycling.

By attending the presentations and/or viewing the supporting material it is our intention to give elected members an excellent grounding in the role of local authorities in these pressing areas, including the preparation of development plans.



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Local Authority Elected Members Training Programme 2021

Training Partners & Contributors

The development of the AILG Local Authority Elected Members Training Programme would not have been possible without the work, involvement and support from key partners and contributors.

A special word of thanks to Mary Murphy, Assistant Director at the OPR who has put tremendous work, along with AILG in preparing this training programme.



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County Development Plan Policy: Communications ***"Communications Infrastructure and Local Authorities"***

Friday 26th March 2021

10am - 11:30am

Course Description

Delivered through AILG, the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications and the Office of the Planning Regulator.

The individual presentations will deal with:

(1) *"Implementing Ministers Planning Guidelines on Telecommunications"*

Delivered by Niall Cussen, Planning Regulator.

(2) *"The roll-out of fibre to the home under the National Broadband Plan"*

Delivered by Fergal Mulligan, the Programme Director for Ireland's National Broadband Plan.

Training Duration

One and a half hours (delivered online)

Course Aims/Objectives

- Explain the roll-out of the National Broadband Plan.
- Develop an understanding of key enablers from a local authority perspective.
- Highlight content for development plans supporting broadband roll-out and high-quality communications development enabling the renewal of regional and rural economies.

Local Authority Housing and the Housing Agency *Introductory Module for Elected Members*

Friday 16th April 2021
10am - 11:30am

Course Description

Delivered through AILG and the Housing Agency. This module will:

Provide an Overview of Social Housing Delivery in Ireland; including

- Structure of social housing in Ireland;
- Role of Local Authorities and Approved Housing Bodies in social housing;
- Policy and legislative background;
- Social housing funding;
- Social housing management; *and*
- How the application & allocation process works.

Provide an Overview of the Housing Agency; including

- The Housing Agency's remit;
- How the Housing Agency, social housing and local government interact; *and*
- Housing Agency supports.

Training Duration

One and a half hours (delivered online)

Course Aims/Objectives

- Make elected members aware of the structure of social housing in Ireland and the relationship between different sections.
- Inform elected members of the policy and legislative context.
- Provide an overview of social housing management in Ireland and the role of the elected representative.
- Inform members of the role of the Housing Agency.

County Development Plan Policy: Housing.

Part 1: Housing Supply Targets and Core Strategies

***Friday 30th April 2021
10am - 11:30am***

Course Description

Delivered through AILG and the Office of the Planning Regulator.

The individual presentations will:

- Explain the purpose and rationale of local authority core strategies;
- Outline the implications of Ministerial Housing Supply Targets; *and*
- Include practical examples of how to structure the development plan core strategy in a balanced and pragmatic manner to both ensure local issues and national policies are implemented.

Training Duration

One and a half hours (delivered online)

Course Aims/Objectives

- Inform elected members about the planning law requirements for Core Strategy elements of Development Plans;
- Enable elected members to understand how housing supply targets are derived from nationally co-ordinated assessments and their implications for wider housing policies; *and*
- Provide worked examples that members can use in their deliberations on their own Development Plans.

County Development Plan Policy: Housing.

Part 2: Rural Planning and Development Policy

Friday 28th May 2021

10am - 11:30am

Course Description

Delivered through the AILG and the Office of the Planning Regulator.

The individual presentations will:

- Outline EU and national policies relevant to rural settlement objectives in the development plan;
- Highlight National Development Plan (NDP) and planning and housing programmes that can be used for the revitalisation of rural towns and villages; *and*
- Showcase examples of proactive land management and cluster housing initiatives.

Training Duration

One and a half hours (delivered online)

Course Aims/Objectives

- Make elected members aware of the relevant EU and national regulatory and policy requirements that impinge on rural settlement policies;
- Inform elected members about the range of national policy measures which have been developed to strengthen rural communities through plan-led development; *and*
- Provide examples of initiatives that members can take away and use in their deliberations on their own development plans.

County Development Plan Policy: Housing.

Part 3: Programme for Government and Affordable Housing Delivery

Friday 25th June 2021

10am - 11:30am

Course Description

Delivered through the AILG, and the Housing Agency.

The individual presentations will:

- Provide an overview of the Housing Commitments in the Programme for Government;
- Set out the housing institutional framework and the roles of respective agencies;
- Explain existing measures to support social and affordable housing delivery;
and
- Provide an overview of the Affordable Housing Bill including;
 - Cost Rental
 - Affordable Purchase Shared-Equity Scheme
 - Delivery of affordable homes by local authorities.

Training Duration

One and a half hours (delivered online)

Course Aims/Objectives

- Make elected members aware of the required content of their Development Plan's Housing Strategy as regards public housing programmes.
- Inform elected members of the housing commitments made in the Programme for Government, with an emphasis on the role of elected representatives.
- Provide members with an overview of the Affordable Housing Bill and other measures in place to support social and affordable housing provision.

County Development Plan Policy: Housing.

Part 4: Delivery of High Quality Housing Appropriate to its Setting

Friday 23rd July 2021

10am - 11:30am

Course Description

Delivered through the AILG, and the Office of the Planning Regulator.

The individual presentations will:

- Explain key principles of good urban planning and design;
- Highlight distinct approaches to cities, towns and villages and the best densities and forms of development; *and*
- Showcase examples of good quality place-making and will outline viability considerations in housing delivery.

Training Duration

One and a half hours (delivered online)

Course Aims/Objectives

- Make elected members aware of the key principles of good urban design;
- Explain to elected members how to apply the principles of good urban design to different urban development situations thereby securing sustainable development that is appropriate to its setting; *and*
- Provide examples of implementable place-making initiatives that members can take away and use in their deliberations on their own development plans.

County Development Plan Policy: Climate

Part 1: On and Offshore Renewables

Friday 24th September 2021

10am - 11:30am

Course Description

Delivered through AILG in conjunction with the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) and supported by the OPR.

The individual presentations will:

- Outline the targets for Ireland to 2030 in the context of the implementation of the binding 2015 Paris climate agreement;
- Explain what the targets above mean for renewables development in the short, medium and longer term; *and*
- Give elected members an overview of emerging policy scenarios for post 2030 and the implications for Ireland.

Training Duration

One and a half hours (delivered online)

Course Aims/Objectives

- Explain to elected members what is coming down the track for Ireland from legally enforceable EU and international climate action obligations;
- Inform elected members on the required future content of their development plans in relation to demonstrating in their local areas a development path for delivery of renewables consistent with the obligations above; *and*
- Make elected members aware of emerging policy scenarios post 2030 and their implications for (i) Ireland and (ii) their own local areas in the future.

County Development Plan Policy: Climate

Part 2: How to Implement National Renewable Energy Targets in Development Plans

Friday 29th October 2021

10am - 11:30am

Course Description

Delivered through AILG in conjunction with the OPR and the Climate Action Regional Offices. The individual presentations will:

- Outline how development plans can implement national renewable energy targets;
- Point to the future relationship between local authority climate action strategies and development plans; *and*
- Highlight good practice examples of local authorities putting climate action into practice.

Training Duration

One and a half hours (delivered online)

Course Aims/Objectives

- Make elected members aware of the mechanisms required to be contained in the development plans they make to demonstrate how they will support implementation of national climate action policy;
- Explain to elected members the intended interactions between statutory development plans and the local authority climate action strategies provided for under proposed legislation; *and*
- Give examples of pro-active climate action development plan policies and objectives in current local authority development plan reviews that members can take away and use in their deliberations on their own development plans.

County Development Plan Policy: Transport

Friday 26th November 2021

10am - 11:30am

Course Description

Delivered through AILG in conjunction with the Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) and the National Transport Authority (NTA)

The individual presentations will:

- Outline key current Government policy objectives in the transport sector relevant to the scope and content of statutory development plans;
- Explain key initiatives such as metropolitan area transport strategies, transport and mobility assessments in setting zoning objectives; *and*
- Highlight proactive measures that can be included in development plans to increase public and active travel take-up.

Training Duration

One and a half hours (delivered online)

Course Aims/Objectives

- Make elected members aware of current transport policy and programme initiatives relevant to development plan preparation and their wider linkages to climate action and other policies;
- Explain to elected members the intended interactions between statutory development plans and the metropolitan area transport strategies; *and*
- Provide elected members with examples of pro-active mechanisms used to increase public and active travel take-up in high-quality development plan policies that members can take away and use in their deliberations on their own development plans.



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AILG Local Authority Elected Members Training Programme 2021

For more information on the AILG Local
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