

## **Framework For The Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Community Forum**

- 1 Name Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Community Forum
2. The Forum shall be voluntary, non-party political and non-sectarian.
3. Interpretation  
In this Framework, the following expressions shall have the following meanings:
  - (a) "The Forum" shall mean the Community Forum of Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown.
  - (b) "Working Group" shall mean the members for the time being elected by the Forum.
  - (c) "Board" shall mean the County Development Board of Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown
- 4 The Aims and Objectives of the Forum
  - (a) To provide an inclusive Framework for all Community and Voluntary organisations in the County.
  - (b) To provide an effective, independent, representative structure through which all community and voluntary organisations can participate in and influence decision -making which impacts on the lives and opportunities of people within the County.
  - (c) To gather and disseminate information on issues of concern to organisations in the community and voluntary sector.
  - (d) To be adequately and effectively represented on the County Development Board (CDB) and relevant sub-structures and receive reports on the work of the CDB.
  - (e) To consult with people in the community and voluntary sector in order to identify issues of concern and, following such consultation, to formulate priorities, policies and objectives.
  - (f) To carry out any research which is deemed necessary or advantageous.
  - (g) To promote and make known the Forum and its aims and objectives.
  - (h) To facilitate and promote synergies between community and voluntary organisations.
- 5 Membership of the Forum
  - (a) Membership of the Forum shall be open to each organised group, in existence for at least one year, which fulfils any additional criteria for membership as may be determined by the Working Group from time to time. Each member organisation may send two representatives to a General Meeting of the Forum or other special meeting. Each member organisation shall have one vote only at any such meeting.

- (b) An application for membership shall be approved or rejected by the Working Group.
- (c) A database of member organisations shall be maintained and developed by the Working Group in association with Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council (DLRCC).
- (d) An organisation's membership of the Forum may be reviewed by the Working Group if, at any time, the said organisation claims to speak on behalf of or to the represent the Forum.
- (d) A member organisation shall cease to be a member of the Forum forthwith if,
  - i) the organisation ceases to qualify for membership under the conditions laid down for membership, or
  - ii) at any time, the said organisation engages in any activity which, in the opinion of the Working Group, may be contrary to the interests of the Forum.

## 6 Membership of the Working Group

- (a) Membership of the Working Group will be for a two-year period, and shall be a total of 20 people, representing the two clusters, with 10 members from each cluster representing the community and voluntary sector and taking into account specific interest representation.
- (b) Cluster 1 focuses on the economic, social development and anti-disadvantage measures.
- (c) Cluster 2 focuses on cultural, sporting, environment, youth/other and residents issues.
- (d) To ensure continuity in the operations of the Working Group, only half of the members shall be required to stand down at each election. Elections shall be held each year at the Annual General Meeting.

Cluster 1 representatives are drawn equally from Community Platform and non-Platform organisations. For fair representation, three members from the Platform Group will step down at the first election and two from the non-Platform Group. The following year the proportions will be reversed, the remaining two from The Platform Group and the remaining three from the non-Platform Group standing down. In this way each representative will serve for two years after the first election.

Cluster 2 representatives are elected in pairs to represent five sub-clusters. One representative of each sub-cluster will stand down one year after each election and the other at the following election, thus ensuring that each will serve for two years after the first election.

All those standing down shall be eligible for re-election.

In case of dispute as to which member shall stand down the decision will be by drawing lots.

7 Officers

The officers of the Forum will be elected by and from the Working Group.

8. Local Issue Consultative Group (LICG).

To further the aims set out in Section 4 and facilitate representative communication the Working Group shall also establish a Local Issue Consultative Group. This will comprise representatives elected from 8, roughly equal, combinations of adjoining electoral areas. Each Local Area Group shall elect three representatives, each of whom will represent a different sectoral interest.

The LICG shall meet the Working Group at quarterly intervals to further mutual understanding of problems and solutions. The LICG will also play an important part in the identification of subjects for local information meetings, and will facilitate their establishment.

An important function of the LICG will be the promotion of co-operation among organisations with shared objectives for their mutual benefit.

The LICG shall appoint a Convenor and Deputy Convenor who will communicate with the WG through the officers when urgent matters arise.

The LICG may consult local opinion and expertise in each area when appropriate.

9. Disbandment

Any decision to disband the Forum shall be taken by the Forum.

10. Framework

No addition, alteration or amendment shall be made to or in the provisions of this Framework document in force for the time being, unless same has been approved by two thirds of those present and voting at a general meeting of the Forum