



**Oifig an
Rialaitheora Pleanála**
Office of the
Planning Regulator

The logo for the Association of Irish Local Government (AILG) consists of the letters 'AILG' in a large, dark blue, serif font.

Association of Irish Local Government
Aontas Rialtas Áitiúil na hÉireann

THE PLANNING PROCESS

Elected Members Training Programme

Module 1: 'The Planning Process, the Elected Member and the Office of the Planning Regulator'

The Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR), in conjunction with the Association of Irish Local Government (AILG), is delivering a training programme on the planning process specifically tailored for the elected members of planning authorities.

This programme will provide enhanced knowledge of the planning process, with a specific focus on the role and responsibilities of the democratically elected members.

Speakers will include Damien English, Minister of State for Housing & Urban Development; Planning Regulator, Niall Cussen, officials of the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government and experienced local authority officials.

10th October 2019 (Thurs) – Limerick, Radisson Hotel

(for Members in the Southern Region)

12th October 2019 (Sat) – Dundalk, Crowne Plaza Hotel

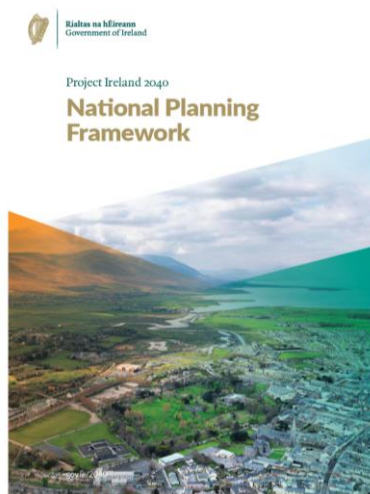
(for Members in the Border & Western Region and the Dublin, Midlands & Eastern Region)

(registration from 9:15, presentations start at 10:00, closes with lunch at 13:00)

EARLY BOOKING ADVISED

The members of local authorities and public officials perform critical statutory functions in the planning process. Carrying out these functions effectively, coherently, consistently and transparently in an evidence-based and plan-led fashion is critical to the quality and robustness of our planning process.

Understanding the roles, relationships and responsibilities of both elected members and officials will be an important aspect of the training programme. The regulatory and policy context for planning has also become more complex, driven in part by EU Directive requirements aimed at delivering action on inter-governmentally agreed climate and environmental objectives.



Publication of the National Planning Framework Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies and commencement of the functions of the OPR set a statutory policy context for the principally plan-making functions of elected members that the training programme is intended to develop and build over time.

The OPR is rolling out a programme of training for the elected members of Ireland's 31 planning authorities in conjunction with the AILG.

The first introductory module, Introducing the Planning Process, the Office of the Planning Regulator and the Role of the Elected Member, will be presented this October.



The October component will be the first of three inter-related modules, which when taken together will provide a comprehensive introduction for elected members to the planning process including plan-making, planning applications, planning decisions, appeals, the respective roles of the elected members, the executive, the public and the interrelationships between all stakeholders.

Module One: which is being presented this October, will provide an introductory overview of the planning system. This module is intended to help elected members understand the planning process and the components and interrelationships between the parts of the process operated by the elected members and officials as well as exploring in more detail the statutory duties and responsibilities of the members in the formulation of policies and the identification of priorities for the sustainable development of their towns and cities. Furthermore, the purpose of the OPR in the planning system will be outlined.

Module Two: which will be presented in early 2020, will build on module one with a specific focus on the plan-making process, in particular and how elected members work within the regulatory framework and bring together a wide range of views from statutory consultees, the observations from the public and outputs from environmental assessments in arriving at policy decisions that are consistent with wider regulatory and policy requirements and that will be robust in the event of legal challenge.

The requirements of Ministerial guidelines and directions, Government policy and European environmental directives will be explored in this context.

Module Three: will elaborate on the development management process, outlining information on the processing of planning applications and decisions, through to planning appeals and judicial reviews, as well as the provisions for public participation in the planning process.



It is recommended that participants attend all three complementary modules