

# Sligo Joint Policing Committee



## Strategic Plan 2017-2022

**Draft**

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## Introduction

The aim of Sligo JPC is to provide a forum where Sligo County Council and the senior Garda officers responsible for the policing of County Sligo can consult, discuss and make recommendations on matters affecting policing in the county with the participation of the local Oireachtas members and community interests.

The Garda Síochána Act 2005 states that ‘the joint policing committee’s function is to serve as a forum for consultations, discussions and recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the local authority’s administrative area, and in particular to—

(a) keep under review—

- (i) the levels and patterns of crime, disorder and antisocial behaviour in that area (including the patterns and levels of misuse of alcohol and drugs), and
- (ii) the factors underlying and contributing to the levels of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in the area,

(b) advise the local authority concerned and the Garda Síochána on how they might best perform their functions having regard to the need to do everything feasible to improve the safety and quality of life and to prevent crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour within the area,

(c) arrange and host public meetings concerning matters affecting the policing of the local authority’s administrative area,

(d) establish, in consultation with the local Garda superintendent, as the committee considers necessary within specific neighbourhoods of the area, local policing fora to discuss and make recommendations to the committee concerning matters that it is to keep under review under paragraph (a) or on which it is to advise under paragraph (b), in so far as those matters affect their neighbourhoods, and

(e) co-ordinate the activities of local policing fora established under paragraph (d) or otherwise.’

The Department of Justice and Equality, following a review of the operation of JPC’s, issued Revised Guidelines governing the operation of the Joint Policing Committees in August 2014. Sligo Joint Policing Committee has been established in accordance with these guidelines (***See Appendix 1***).

## Background

Joint Policing Committees were introduced under the Garda Síochána Act 2005 as a mechanism for identifying and addressing policing issues where adopting a partnership approach between An Garda Síochána, the Local Authority and the community is desirable to achieve a favourable outcome.

JPC's are guided by a set of Guidelines issued jointly by the Departments of Justice & Equality and Environment, Community & Local Government. The Guidelines were revised following the 2014 Local Elections, and the new Guidelines focus on the achievement of actions and adding value to the work of the various partner organisations.

The purpose of the Guidelines is to set out in detail the functions, composition and operation of JPC's in accordance with the Garda Síochána Act 2005. The Act (section 36) provides for the establishment of a JPC in each local authority administrative area. The purpose of these JPC's is to provide a forum where a Local Authority and the senior Garda officer responsible for the policing of that area, with the participation of Oireachtas members and community interests can consult, discuss and make recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the area.

It is intended that the JPC's will be partnerships which are co-operative in nature and operate with the minimum of formality to identify, raise awareness of and find solutions for issues impacting on, or causing concerns for the local community. Through the work of a JPC both partners - the local authority and the Garda Síochána - along with Oireachtas members and community interests have the opportunity to contribute to the improved safety and quality of life of the community. It is essential that JPC's take a strategic approach to their work so that issues arising can be dealt with in a considered and properly co-ordinated manner.

Conversely, the business of a JPC cannot be progressed by simply having an exchange of views on relevant An Garda Síochána or local authority reports. It is imperative that local issues are addressed collectively and strategically and in this regard each JPC must have strategic plans which are focused on achieving co-ordinated actions to support enhanced policing and crime prevention. This Strategic Plan is produced in accordance with the guidance issued by the Department of Justice & Equality and the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government.

Sligo Joint Policing Committee was established on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2015. The purpose of the Committee is to serve as a forum to discuss matters affecting the policing of Sligo County Council's administrative area. The JPC offers local authority representatives, the An Garda Síochána, members

of the Oireachtas and the public, an opportunity to work in partnership to improve the quality of life for the citizens of the county.

## **Overview of Revised JPC Guidelines**

The initial guidelines for the operation of JPC's were issued in 2008 and heralded the establishment of these important partnership structures in all of the then existing local authority areas, as provided in the Garda Síochána Act 2005. A national review of the operation of the committees commenced in 2012, to examine if there were ways in which their operation could be enhanced and ensure that they were functioning as intended. The review process included a questionnaire to all existing members of Committees throughout the Country and the production of a discussion document which helped to facilitate a public consultation process. The review was managed in consultation with an Oversight Committee which included representatives of the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government and An Garda Síochána. The revised guidelines for the operation of the JPC were published in August 2014.

### **Steering Committee**

Each JPC must establish a steering group, consisting of the Chairperson of the JPC, a representative of An Garda Síochána, and the Chief Executive of the Local Authority or a person nominated by him or her. The function of the steering group will be to facilitate the efficient functioning of the JPC and in particular to ensure that it retains a clear focus on strategic and collaborative action. It will also arrange procedures for the appointment of any new or replacement members, draw up the agenda and arrange for documentation for meetings, be the point of contact for co-operation and joint action with other JPC's and with any subcommittees of the JPC.

The members of the steering committee of the Sligo JPC are:

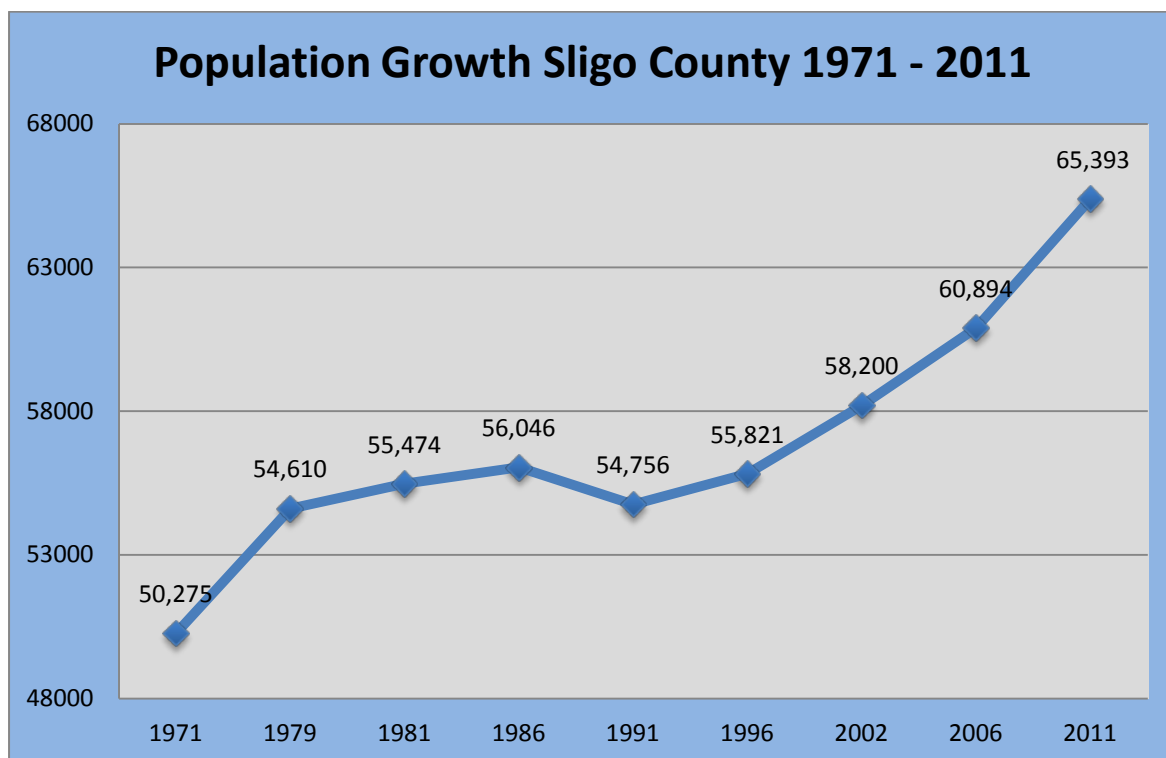
- Cllr Rosaleen O'Grady, Sligo JPC Chairperson
- Chief Superintendent, Michael Clancy, An Garda Síochána
- Ciarán Hayes, Chief Executive, Sligo Co. Council

## Demographics of County Sligo

The 2016 Census was carried out by the CSO on 24th April 2016. Preliminary results were published by the CSO on 14th July 2016. However, the official reports for the 2016 census will not be released until the second quarter of 2017. Therefore, the figures used in compiling this plan refer to Census 2006 and 2011.

In 2011, there were 65,393 people living in County Sligo, consisting of 32,435 males and 32,958 females and representing 1.4% share of the national population.

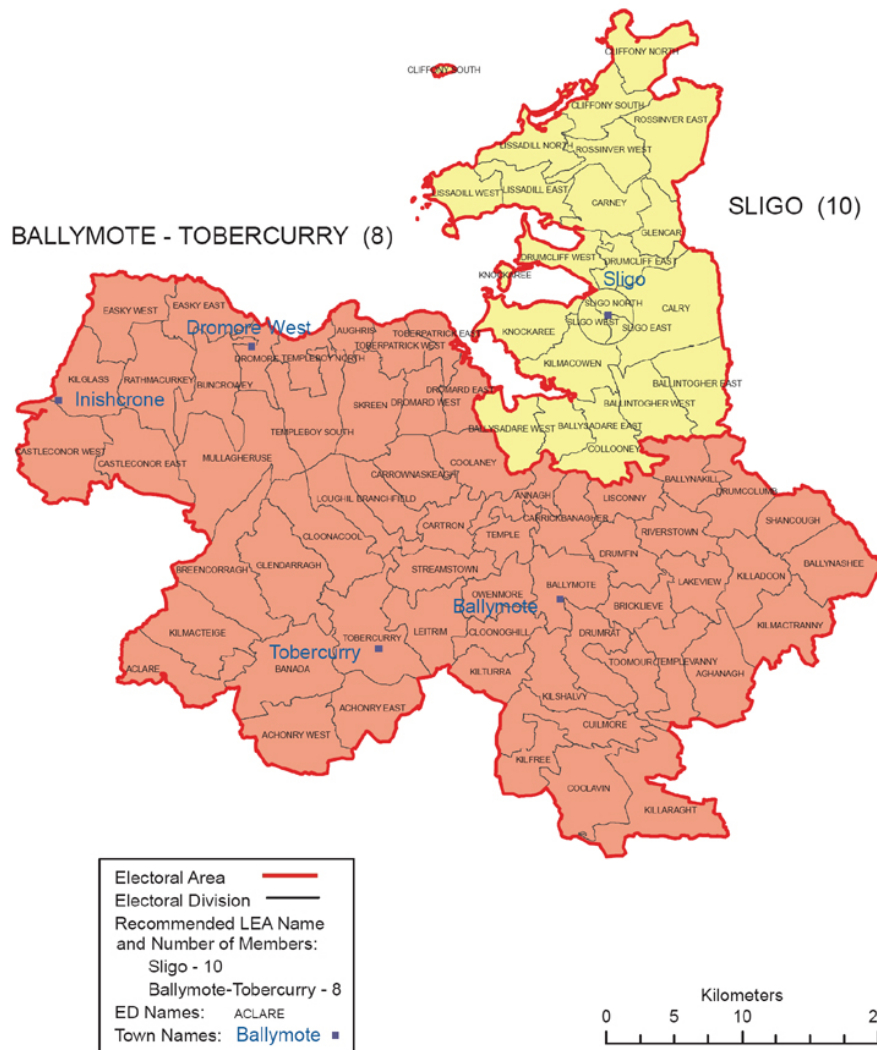
Since 1971, the population of the County increased by 30% with the Border Region growing at a marginally lower rate (27.8%). Notwithstanding the recent recession the population has grown by 7.4 % between 2006 and 2011. In something of a parallel, Ireland's population has also continued to grow by 8.2% between 2006 and 2011, albeit at a marginally faster rate than County Sligo. The table below illustrates the population growth since 1971.



The County Development Plan for Sligo provides for the growth of Sligo towards a target population of up to 74,000 by 2017 or almost 76,000 by 2020 based on the population projections in the Regional Planning Guidelines (RPGs). It should be noted however that population targets need to be

reviewed in the context of the 2016 Census as preliminary projections from the CSO (2013) would indicate a much slower rate of growth than envisaged in the RPGs.

Sligo has two Municipal Districts (MD) established under the Local Government Reform Act 2014. The population of Sligo Municipal is 38,579 and the Ballymote-Tubbercurry Municipal District is 26,814. The map illustrates the boundaries of the MDs.



Sligo County Council is made up of 18 elected members, 10 from the Sligo Municipal District and 8 from the Ballymote-Tubbercurry area. The main administrative centre for the County is Sligo City with offices at Teach Laignhe in Tubercurry, Enniscrone, Ballymote and Grange. Library services are in Sligo, Tubercurry, Ballymote and Enniscrone.

Whilst overall Sligo’s population density is relatively low, with 35 persons per square kilometre, compared to 67 nationally, almost 30% of people live in Sligo City (Borough) and Environs. Sligo City

is designated as a Gateway city under the National Spatial Strategy meaning its location and scale support the desired critical mass necessary to sustain strong levels of economic growth and prosperity in the North West. It is regional headquarters to a number of regionally significant public and private sector organisations. Key support towns include Tubbercurry, Enniscrone and Ballymote whilst the principal gateway satellites are Ballisodare, Collooney, Grange, Rosses Point and Strandhill.

Between 2006 and 2011, significant growth can be seen in areas such as Coolaney, Ballygawley, Ballintogher and Carney, whilst the populations of Sligo City, Mullaghmore and Rosses Point have reduced. The table below illustrates the population change in the key towns in Sligo.

#### Population change in key Sligo towns and villages

Town/Village	2006	2011	Population Change (%)
<b>Tubbercurry</b>	<b>1421</b>	<b>1747</b>	<b>22.9</b>
Strandhill	1413	1596	13.0
<b>Ballymote</b>	<b>1229</b>	<b>1539</b>	<b>25.2</b>
Collooney	892	1369	53.5
<b>Ballisodare</b>	<b>971</b>	<b>1344</b>	<b>38.4</b>
Enniscrone	829	1223	47.5
<b>Coolaney</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>866</b>	<b>316.3</b>
Rosses Point	872	824	-5.5
<b>Grange</b>	<b>383</b>	<b>578</b>	<b>50.9</b>
Cliffoney	425	483	13.6
<b>Cliffoney</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>483</b>	<b>13.6</b>
Ballincar	526	444	-15.6
<b>Riverstown</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>20.6</b>
Gurteen	269	349	29.7
<b>Carney</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>59.4</b>
<b>Ballygawley</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>72.6</b>
<b>Ballintogher</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>72.0</b>
Easkey	240	245	2.1
<b>Dromore West</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>N/A</b>
Bellahy	115	159	38.3
<b>Mullaghmore</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>-12.9</b>



## Crime Trends in Sligo District

<b>Recorded Crime Offences</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
Theft and related offences	566	455	376
Public order and other social code offences	476	402	347
Damage to property and to the environment	346	318	318
Burglary and related offences	177	177	157
Attempts/threats to murder, assaults, harassments and related offences	125	156	144
Controlled drug offences	122	110	108
Dangerous or negligent acts	72	59	65
Offences against government, justice procedures and organisation of crime	70	85	130
Fraud deception and related offences	51	42	62
Weapons and Explosives Offences	39	37	29
Robbery, extortion and hijacking offences	7	5	12
Kidnapping and related offences	0	1	4

**Source:CSO**

## **Mission Statement**

The mission of Sligo Joint Policing Committee is:

*“to enhance the crime prevention and public safety work of An Garda Siochana, Community Groups, and Sligo County Council by adopting a collaborative approach.”*

## **Strategic Priorities**

The implementation of the Strategic Priorities for the JPC is formulated by the identification of key objectives relating to each strategy. The format adopted is that each Strategic Priority will have a number of key objectives to be delivered over the life-time of the Plan as detailed below. The JPC will over-see the implementation and delivery of the strategic objectives and a progress report will be prepared on an annual basis. Under each objective key actions have been identified and have been assigned to a lead agency, a number of objectives will be delivered in a collaborative partnership approach by a number of the stakeholders.

- Crime Prevention
- Community Policing
- Road Safety
- Public Safety
- Communication & Promotion of JPC

## County Sligo JPC 6 Year Strategic Plan

*The implementation of the actions outlined in the Plan is subject to the necessary resources being made available.*

### Priority Area 1: Crime Prevention

Priority	Action	Lead Agencies & Partners	Timeframe
1.1	Audit of current status of CCTV in Sligo Town and encourage the provision of CCTV in other towns	An Garda Síochána, SCC.	
1.2	Encourage all businesses to install CCTV and/or engage in a Business Watch Scheme	SCC, An Garda Síochána, Chamber of Commerce, LEO	
1.3	Highlight through the media the key precautions & simple steps that should be taken by homeowners	SCC, An Garda Síochána.	
1.4	Identify areas where additional public lighting is required.	SCC, An Garda Síochána	
1.5	Encourage the reporting of anti social behaviour	An Garda Síochána, PPN	
1.6	Ensure that there is a visible policing presence in areas associated with anti social behaviour	An Garda Síochána	
1.7	Target local crime reduction and prevention initiatives, working with communities and business groups	An Garda Síochána	
1.8	Implement measures to combat serious crime	An Garda Síochána	
1.9	Support public awareness campaign about crime prevention initiatives	An Garda Síochána	
1.10	Liaise with the North West Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force (NWRDTF)	An Garda Síochána, NWRDTF	
1.11	Identify crime and trend patterns in relation to the farming sector and consider measures to address crime affecting the farming sector as appropriate	An Garda Síochána	
1.12	Examine initiatives to address fear of crime	An Garda Síochána	
1.13	Examine initiatives to address hate crime and sectarianism	An Garda Síochána	

## Priority Area 2: Community Policing

Priority	Action	Lead Agencies & Partners	Timeframe
2.1	Promote awareness within the farming community of new preventive activities to reduce farm thefts	An Garda Síochána	
2.2	Promote the establishment of Community Alert Groups throughout the County, energise existing groups and promote the use of Community Text Alerts.	An Garda Síochána, SCC & PPN	On-going
2.3	Adopt the Crime Prevention Ambassador Programme, or similar alternative programme for Older people	An Garda Síochána, Age Friendly Ireland	On-going
2.4	Engage with Age Friendly Ireland and work towards alleviating the fear of crime amongst the elderly	An Garda Síochána, SCC & Age Friendly Ireland	On-going
2.5	Examine adopted Estate Management strategies and initiatives with a view to developing a co-ordinated approach between Sligo County Council, Garda Síochána and HSE	An Garda Síochána, SCC & HSE	On-going
2.6	Hold a series of community meetings to raise awareness of anti social behaviour	An Garda Síochána, PPN	On-going
2.7	Support the retention of a Garda presence in rural areas	JPC	On-going
2.8	Interagency networking with communities to respond to urban and rural community safety concerns	An Garda Síochána, JPC, PPN	
2.9	Research into the community safety concerns and crime to inform evidence-based planning	An Garda Síochána	
2.10	Set up youth engagement initiatives	JPC, SCC, Youth organisations	
2.11	Explore the potential of cross-border collaboration in relation to community safety initiatives.	An Garda Síochána, SCC, PSNI	

### Priority Area 3: Road Safety

Priority	Action	Lead Agencies & Partners	Timeframe
3.1	Examine the enforcement of legislation with regards to double parking, parking in disabled parking areas and loading bays.	An Garda Síochána, SCC	
3.2	Implementation of Road Traffic legislation and enforcement	An Garda Síochána	On-going
3.3	Continue to support Road Safety Education and Awareness Initiatives	An Garda Síochána, SCC	On-going
3.4	Continue to review speed limits across the county with a particular emphasis on housing estates.	An Garda Síochána, SCC	On-going
3.5	Review road accidents in the county for the last two years.	An Garda Síochána, SCC, NRA	On-going
3.6	Road Safety Authority to make regular reports to JPC	RSA, JPC	On-going
3.7	Organise distribution points for free RSA Hi-Viz vests.	SCC, JPC, RSA	3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter, annually

## Priority Area 4: Public Safety

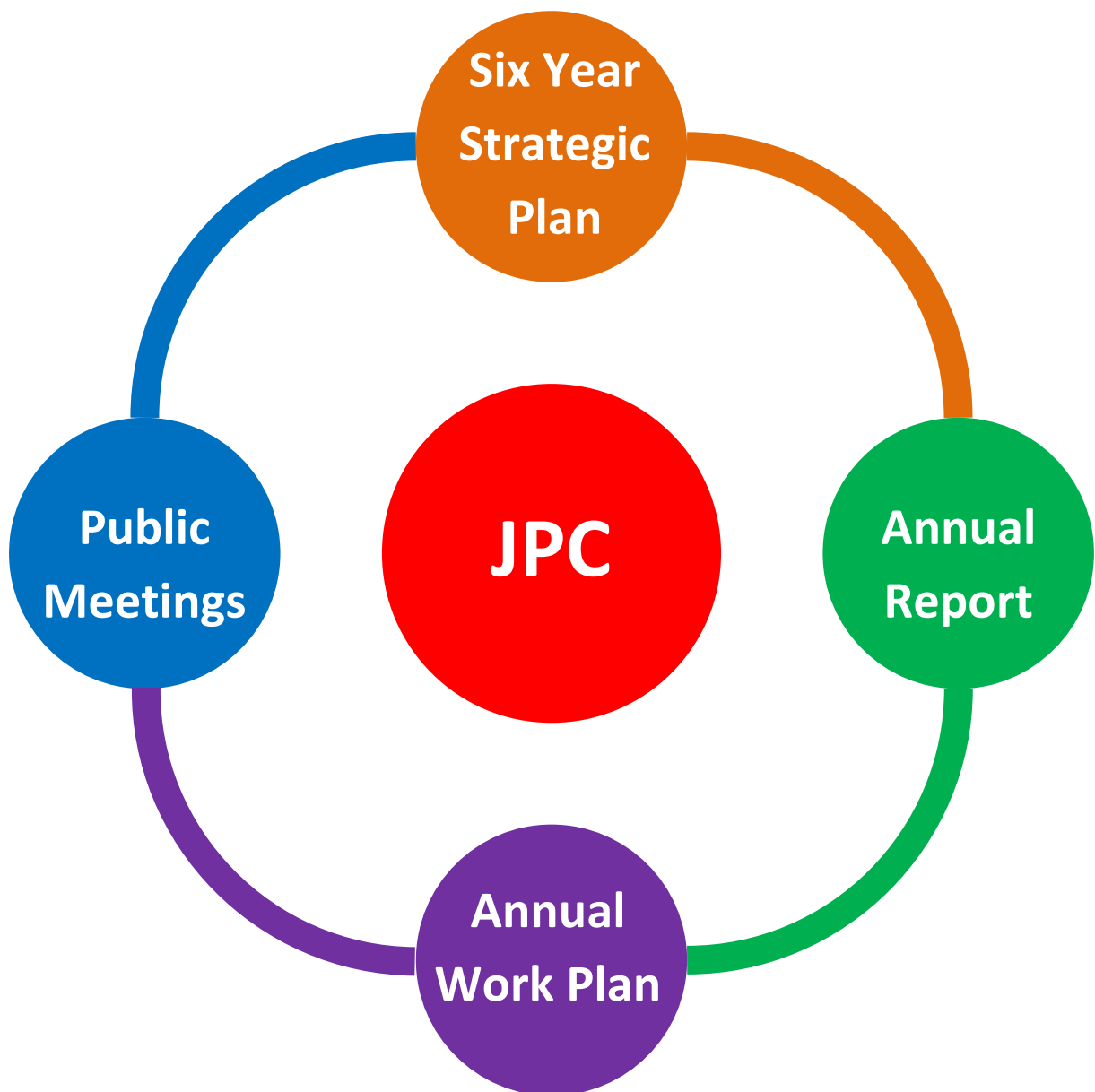
Priority	Action	Lead Agencies & Partners	Timeframe
4.1	Review lighting in public areas	SCC	
4.2	Examine the enforcement of legislation with regards to litter with the aim of creating a better environment for our citizens and those visiting the country	SCC	
4.3	Enforce and review the operation of derelict site laws	SCC	
4.4	Increase the number of Gardaí in rural areas	An Garda Síochána	
4.5	Develop protocols for addressing anti-social behaviour in public open space areas and parks	An Garda Síochána	
4.6	Develop protocols in respect of public events between An Garda Síochána and Sligo County Council	SCC, An Garda Síochána	

## Priority Area 5: Communication and Promotion of Joint Policy Committee

Priority	Action	Lead Agencies & Partners	Timeframe
5.1	Adopt, publish and launch the Strategic Work Plan	JPC/SCC	Quarter 1, 2017
5.2	Host a public Joint Policing Committee meeting	JPC	Annually
5.3	Promotion of JPC through Sligo County Council website and the local media	SCC	On-going
5.4	Facilitate JPC input to policy submissions as appropriate	JPC/SCC	On-going

## Monitoring and Evaluation

Regular JPC meetings will be held to monitor progress on specific actions outlined in the strategy. An annual progress report on the overall implementation of the Strategy will be produced and a full evaluation of the plan will be carried out at the end of the six years.





## Appendices

### Appendix 1: Membership of County Sligo JPC (September 2016)

The Joint Policing Committee consists of 25 members (i.e.) 13 Elected Members of Sligo Co. Council, 2 Oireachtas Members, 2 Local Authority Officials, 2 nominees of the Garda Commissioner, and 6 community nominees.

#### Local Authority Elected Members

- Cllr Rosaleen O’Grady, Chairperson
- Cllr Keith Henry
- Cllr Paul Taylor
- Cllr Jerry Lundy
- Cllr Martin Baker
- Cllr Hubert Keaney
- Cllr Dara Mulvey
- Cllr Marie Casserly
- Cllr Thomas Healy
- Cllr Gino O’Boyle
- Cllr Margaret Gormley
- Cllr Michael Clarke
- Cllr Sean MacManus

#### Oireachtas Elected Member

- Deputy Eamon Scanlon TD
- Deputy Tony McLoughlin, TD

#### Local Authority Officials

- Ciarán Hayes, Chief Executive
- Margaret McConnell, Senior Executive Officer

#### An Garda Síochána Members

- Chief Superintendent Michael Clancy
- Superintendent Mary Murray

#### Public Participation Network (PPN) Members

- Vanessa Clarke
- David Tuffy
- Patrick Benson
- Tom McGettrick
- Pat Conway
- Alan McMEnamin



## Appendix 2: Acronyms & Abbreviations

JPC	Joint Policing Committee
CSO	Central Statistics Office
RPG	Regional Planning Guidelines
MD	Municipal Districts
SCC	Sligo County Council
PPN	Public Participation Network
HSE	Health Service Executive
TD	Teachta Dála
LEADER	an acronym in French meaning Links between actions for the development of the rural economy
LEO	Local Enterprise Office
NRA	National Roads Authority
RSA	Road Safety Authority
NWRDTF	North West Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force