

**LEITRIM JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE
STRATEGIC PLAN 2021-2026**



Draft Plan

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INTRODUCTION

The main aim of Leitrim's Joint Policing Committee (JPC) is to provide a forum where Leitrim County Council and the senior Garda Officers responsible for the policing of Leitrim, with the participation of the local Oireachtas & Elected Members and community interests, can consult, discuss and make recommendations on matters affecting policing in the county.

The Garda Síochána Act 2005 – Section 36(2) - states that *'The JPC's function is to serve as a forum for consultations, discussions and recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the Local Authority administrative area and in particular to -*

(a) keep under review –

(i) the levels and patterns of crime, disorder and anti-social 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,

(e) Co-ordinate the activities of local policing fora

(f) A local authority shall, in performing its functions, have regard to the importance of taking steps to prevent crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour within its area of responsibility. "

The Department of Justice and Equality issued revised guidelines governing the operation of Joint Policing Committees in August, 2014. Leitrim's Joint Policing Committee has been re-established following the Local Elections of May 2019, in accordance with these guidelines and the following is a breakdown of the representation on the committee:

- 13 Elected Members of Leitrim County Council;
- 3 Oireachtas Representatives;
- 2 Local Authority Officials (Chief Executive shall be an ex-officio member);
- 2 Senior Garda Officials;
- 4 community and voluntary sector representatives nominated by the PPN
- 2 community representatives nominated by Chambers of Commerce/Town Teams

As provided for in the Guidelines, each JPC must prepare an Annual Work Plan and a 6-Year Strategic Plan. The inaugural plan covered the period 2015-2020 and this new Strategic plan covering the period 2021 – 2026 builds on the works carried out through the inaugural plan and aims to strengthen and develop the role of the Joint Policing Committee in matters affecting the policing of Leitrim County Council's administrative area.

The Six Year Strategic Plan is designed to link with the Local Economic and Community Plan for the County. Each year an Annual JPC Work Plan will be prepared which will include objectives derived from the Strategic Plan 2021 -2016 and relevant Annual Policing Plans as prepared by An Garda Síochána.

The JPC Work Plan serves as a statement of our intentions with regard to the manner in which we will address the relevant issues in accordance with our functions as set out in Section 36(2) Garda Síochána Act, 2005 as shown above.

In seeking to achieve the objectives outlined in this Strategic Plan, we will strive to ensure that County Leitrim is developed and enhanced in line with the mission statements of both Leitrim County Council and An Garda Síochána.

Leitrim County Council Mission Statement

'To build an economically strong, creative and inclusive county making Leitrim the best place to live, to work to invest and to visit'

An Garda Síochána Mission Statement

“An Garda Síochána: Ag Coinneáil Daoine Sábháilte – Keeping People Safe”

Councillor Enda McGloin
Chairperson Leitrim Joint Policing Committee

Lar Power,
Chief Executive, Leitrim County Council

Superintendent Amanda Gaynor
An Garda Síochána, Leitrim Policing District

DRAFT

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 favourable outcomes.

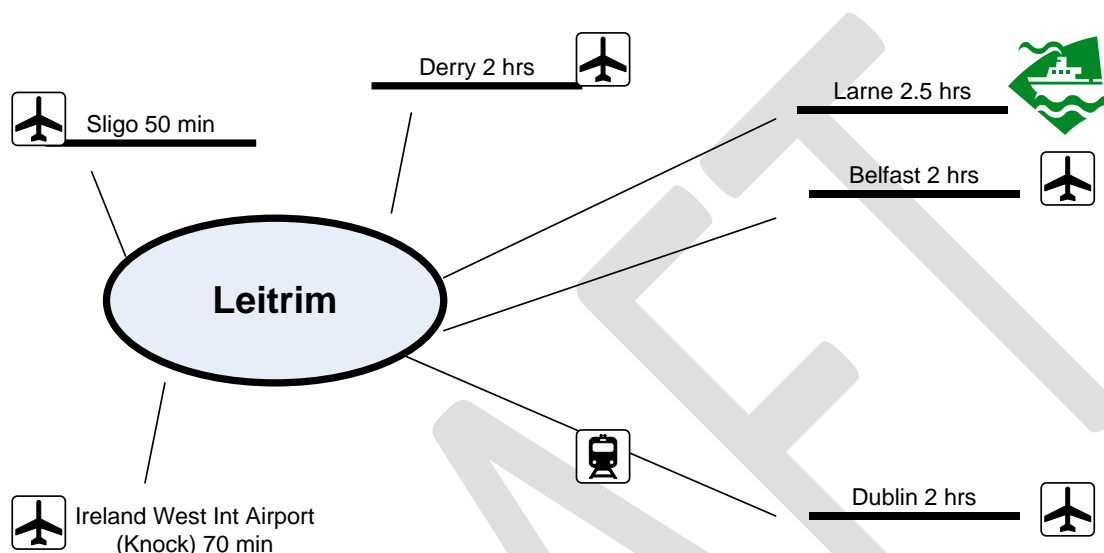
JPC's are guided by a set of Guidelines issued jointly by the Depts of Justice Equality & Law Reform and Environment, Community & Local Government. The Guidelines were revised following the 2014 Local Elections, and the new Guidelines focus on the achievement of actions and adding value to the work of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

The purpose of the Guidelines is to set out in detail the functions, composition and operation of Joint Policing Committees 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 the JPC is to provide a forum where a local authority and the senior Garda officers 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 JPCs are partnerships which are co-operative in nature and operate in accordance with paragraph 2.1 below 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 the JPC takes a strategic approach to its work so that issues arising can be dealt with in a considered and properly coordinated manner.

Conversely, the business of a JPC cannot be progressed by simply having an exchange of views on relevant Garda 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 focussed on achieving coordinated actions to support enhanced policing and crime prevention. This Strategic Plan is produced in accordance with the guidance issued by the Department of Justice and the Department of the Housing, Planning & Local Government.

LEITRIM DEMOGRAPHICS & GEOGRAPHY

County Leitrim located in the North West of Ireland, in the Northern and Western Regional Assembly Area and occupies an area of 1,876 sq. km (613 sq. miles) and has a population of 32,044 (2016 Census). The County is strategically located and very accessible with road rail and air links to the major cities of Dublin, Belfast, Derry and Sligo.



Demographics

Key demographic facts for County Leitrim:

- The population of the county is now at its highest since 1961.
- The 2016 Census identified a marginal population growth of 246 persons – an increase of 0.77% on the 2011 Census.
- The largest increase in population from 2011-2016 occurred in Manorhamilton (107 persons) and Carrick-on-Shannon (99 persons).
- As the Census defines 'urban' as having a population of greater than 1,500 population, only Carrick on Shannon with a population of 4,062 people is classified as urban. This includes the adjoining village of Cortober in Co. Roscommon. Co. Leitrim has therefore the highest percentage of people living in rural areas than any other county in the country.
- Leitrim's Age Dependency Rate (the proportion of the population that is outside the normal working age of 15 to 64) is 62.6%, the highest in the country.
- Non-Irish nationals account for 11.8% of the population of Leitrim compared with a national average figure of 12%.
- 60% of students in County Leitrim progress to Third Level Education, the joint highest % nationally.

OVER-VIEW OF JPC REVISED GUIDELINES

The former guidelines for the operation of Joint Policing Committees 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 review of the operation of the Committees commenced in 2012, to see 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 and Local Government and An Garda Síochána.

The revised guidelines for the operation of Joint Policing Committees were published in August, 2014 and copies of the revised guidelines have been made available to all of the Members of the JPC.

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 documentation for meetings, be the point of contact for co-operation and joint action with other JPCs and with any subcommittees of the JPC.

AN GARDA SIOCHANA'S DATA ON CRIME IN LEITRIM

Leitrim consists of one Garda District - Leitrim District -with the District Headquarters located in Carrick on Shannon, Co. Leitrim. There are two 24- hour Garda Stations in Co. Leitrim, Carrick on Shannon Garda Station in south Leitrim, and Manorhamilton Garda Station in north Leitrim.

In addition there are another 5 Garda sub district stations located in the following towns:

Mohill, Ballinamore, Carrigallen, Drumshanbo, and Kinlough.

The data in Table 1 below enumerates the statistics from the Leitrim District on reported crime figures relating to 2019 and 2020 year to date. In interpreting the data, regard should be had to the following:

- Contrary to public perception, the actual level of crime in the county is relatively low and is not increasing at any noticeable rate.
- Offending is decreasing under the various categories of crime related to Assault Causing Harm, Sexual Assaults, Fraud and Drug Offences, and Criminal Damage.
- Minor assaults, Thefts theft from Shops, Thefts and Burglaries remain relatively static Y.T.D. 2019/2020 but are decreasing over the five-year period 2015/2020.
- A number of Burglaries of commercial premises have been prevented by Garda intervention, with those responsible being mobile organised Crime Gangs from other regions.
- In addition, there has been significant detections in the Cultivation of Drugs for sale or Supply, i.e. Growhouses
- Significant Garda resources have been expended on the Policing of the COVID-19 Pandemic with strong community engagement from the Leitrim Community Policing Unit.

TABLE No. 1 – CRIME TRENDS IN LEITRIM 2019 & 2020 YEAR TO DATE

Crime Trends in Co Leitrim	2019	Up to 13th Sept 2020
<i>Fatal Road Collisions</i>	1	0
<i>Rape of a female</i>	6	4
<i>Rape Section 4</i>	0	0
<i>Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Act 2006</i>	1	1
<i>Sexual Assault</i>	17	4
<i>Assault Causing Harm</i>	33	15
<i>Harassment</i>	5	7
<i>Assault Minor</i>	67	62
<i>Robbery from the Person</i>	1	2
<i>Burglary</i>	77	56
<i>Interfering with Mechanism of MPV</i>	1	1
<i>Theft of M.P.V.</i>	18	12
<i>Unauthorised Taking (Vehicle)</i>	18	12
<i>Theft from Person</i>	4	2
<i>Theft from Shop</i>	57	31
<i>Handling/Possession of Stolen Property</i>	1	0
<i>Theft (other)</i>	56	47
<i>Theft from MPV</i>	30	3
<i>Theft of a Pedal Cycle</i>	5	3
<i>Falsification of Accounts</i>	0	0
<i>Forgery/ False Instrument Offences</i>	1	2
<i>Fraud Deception</i>	51	25
<i>Possession of Drugs for Sale and Supply</i>	10	6
<i>Simple Possession</i>	51	26
<i>Criminal Damage Not by Fire</i>	154	64

STRATEGIC PLAN –RATIONALE

This Strategic Plan takes cognisance of the following documents:

- Garda Policing Plans for Leitrim for 2021
- The priorities highlighted by the national Policing Plan
- The Leitrim LECP (Local Economic & Community Plan)
- The North West Regional Homelessness Strategy
- The National Drugs Strategy 2017-2025 , which lists the inclusion of drug-related issues in a central way in the work of the JPC's as an action aimed at reducing supply

OUR MISSION

The Mission of the Leitrim Joint Policing Committee is:

‘To enhance the crime prevention and public safety work of An Garda Siochana, the community sector and Leitrim County Council by adopting a collaborative approach to make Leitrim a safe place to live particularly in rural parts of the county’.

OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

In the preparation of the JPC 6-Year Strategic Plan the Members identified the following key strategic priorities for inclusion in the Plan. The strategic priorities reflect the concerns of the JPC and the broader community and encompass 6 key themes. 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.

1. Communication and promotion of greater awareness of the role of the Joint Policing Committee
2. Promotion of Safe Communities in Leitrim particularly in rural areas.
3. Crime Prevention
4. Road Safety
5. Public Safety
6. Protecting and engaging our Youth

SUBMISSIONS ON THE LEITRIM JPC DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN 2021-2026

LEITRIM JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE STRATEGIC PLAN 2021-2026

OBJECTIVE 1: COMMUNICATION AND PROMOTION OF GREATER AWARENESS OF THE ROLE OF THE JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE

	Supporting Actions	Led by
1.1	Promotion of the JPC through Leitrim County Council's website www.leitrim.ie and the local media	LCC
1.2	Develop a Communication Strategy to inform the general public and the community sector about the Joint Policing Committee e.g. newspapers, local radio campaign, social media, PPN newsletter, and www.leitrim.ie	Sub Group – Garda Síochána / LCC
1.3	Facilitate JPC input to policy submissions as appropriate	JPC / LCC
1.4	Host a public Joint Policing Committee meeting	JPC

OBJECTIVE 2: PROMOTION OF SAFE COMMUNITIES IN LEITRIM PARTICULARLY IN RURAL AREAS

	Supporting Actions	Led by
2.1	Promote the availability of new technology to establish Community Text Alert Groups throughout the County, energise existing groups.	An Garda Síochána
2.2	Promote awareness of the vulnerability of the elderly in the community particularly those living alone, ensuring that they are identified by local gardai who will engage with them providing reassurance.	An Garda Síochána
2.3	Consider initiatives to increase community interaction between the elderly and the Gardai e.g. members of An Garda Síochána to call to specific organisations to assist members of the public with form filling etc.	An Garda Síochána/Leitrim County Council
2.4	Participate on the Age Friendly Alliance and work towards alleviating the fear of crime amongst the elderly.	An Garda Síochána/Leitrim County Council
2.5	Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy Ensure implementation of Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy in Council Housing Estates	Leitrim County Council
2.6	Continue to support adopted Estate Management strategies and initiatives with a view to developing a co-ordinated approach between Leitrim County Council, An Garda Síochána and HSE where particular circumstances arise.	Leitrim County Council / An Garda Síochána / HSE
2.7	Carry out review of existing Neighbourhood watch schemes and promote greater crime prevention and security awareness, promoting community engagement with the property marking scheme, and fraud prevention.	An Garda Síochána
2.8	Leitrim Garda District to actively participate in Garda National Community Relations Bureau roll out of their “Supporting Safer Community” campaigns and “Crime Prevention Days of Action”.	An Garda Síochána/JPC
2.9	Leitrim County Council and An Garda Síochána to work in partnership to develop an inter-agency approach in managing and resolving repeated incidences of anti-social behaviour on estates.	An Garda Síochána/Leitrim County Council

OBJECTIVE 3 : CRIME PREVENTION

3.1	Operation Thor – Disrupt the activities of highly mobile Organised Crime Gangs Targeting business premises for Burglaries.	An Garda Síochána
3.2	Support public awareness campaign about crime prevention initiatives	JPC
3.3	Promote the awareness of reporting all incidents of crime.	JPC
3.4	Reduce assaults/possession of offensive weapons in public through to roll out of operation “Soteria “ In schools and community youth groups.	An Garda Síochána
3.5	Active engagement of community policing with local community groups including briefing of PPN on Crime Prevention initiatives by Crime Prevention Officer	An Garda Síochána / Leitrim County Council
3.6	Liaise with the North West Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force (NWRDTF)	JPC
3.7	Newly formed Divisional Protective Services Bureau to provide comprehensive support for victims of crime including victims of domestic and sexual violence.	An Garda Síochána
3.8	Identify crime and trend patterns in relation to the farming sector liaising with farming groups and Promoting the property marking Scheme and Crime Prevention Advice at Marts/Agricultural Shows.	An Garda Síochána/JPC
3.9	Roll out of Costal Watch Strategy to Enhance collaboration with national policing and security partners	An Garda Síochána

OBJECTIVE 4: ROAD SAFETY

4.1	Implementation of Road Traffic legislation and enforcement, participation in National Roads Policing Operations for 2020 to include various operations including school bus, seatbelt, motorcyclist, mobile phone, learner permit, PSV/taxi, pedestrian/pedal cyclist. Participation in European Tispol- operations including alcohol/drugs, speed, seatbelt, truck/bus/commercial vehicle.	An Garda Síochána
4.2	Road Safety Working Together Group comprised of An Garda Síochána, Leitrim Co Council, HSA, RSA and TII to make annual reports to J.P.C.	An Garda Síochána/Leitrim County Council
4.3	Ensure traffic management issues relating to traffic congestion and the impact of special events on the flow of traffic are reported in the local media in a timely manner to minimise disruption.	An Garda Síochána / Leitrim County Council
4.4	Continue to support, develop and introduce Road Safety Education and Awareness initiatives in association with the RSA, Leitrim County Council and Garda National Traffic Bureau.	An Garda Síochána / Leitrim County Council/RSA
4.5	Continue to support Road Safety Education programmes with specific focus on pre-schools, Primary schools, Secondary schools and youth communities/programmes in the County.	An Garda Síochána / Leitrim County Council
4.6	Adoption of the various Speed Limits across the county and including all housing estates taken in charge by Leitrim County Council and enforcement of speed limits across the county. Continue on-going consultation and review of parameters of speed zones with Roads and Transportation Department Leitrim County Council.	An Garda Síochána/Leitrim County Council
4.7	Carry out review of collision prone zones in the County on a quarterly basis with An Garda Síochána Roads Policing Unit and Area Engineers from the Road and Transportation Department at Leitrim County Council.	An Garda Síochána/Leitrim Co Council
4.8	Coordinate the implementation of Road Safety Strategy by engaging with Road Safety Authority, Leitrim Co Council, Department of Social Welfare, HSA, Department of Agriculture and other relevant stakeholders.	An Garda Síochána/RSA/Leitrim Co Council

OBJECTIVE 5 : PUBLIC SAFETY

5.1	Develop protocols in respect of Public Events between the Gardai and Leitrim County Council	Garda Síochána / Leitrim County Council
5.2	Develop protocols for addressing anti-social activity in public open space areas.	Leitrim County Council
5.3	Consider introduction of byelaws in the context of promoting public safety	Leitrim County Council
5.4	Work with external stakeholders to maintain the community CCTV in Carrick on Shannon	Garda Síochána / Leitrim County Council

OBJECTIVE 6: PROTECTING AND ENGAGING OUR YOUTH

6.1	Develop a programme in conjunction with Comhairle na nÓg, local schools and youth groups to assist young people in dealing with issues such as crimes against children, bullying (incl. Cyber bullying), alcohol and substance abuse.	JPC
6.2	Engagement with the School Liaison Officer promoting internet safety among parents and teenagers.	An Garda Síochána
6.3	Promotion of school education programme “Use Your Brain Not Your Fists” by Leitrim Community Policing Unit	An Garda Síochána
6.4	Liaison with the North West Regional Drugs Task Force in regard to the awareness of the perils of drug and alcohol abuse/misuse amongst our young people.	JPC
6.5	Increase awareness of the safe use of social media sites.	JPC
6.6	Liaison with Leitrim Juvenile Liaison Officer to identify young person’s most at risk of reoffending and promote the benefits of Restorative Justice through the Garda Juvenile Diversion Programme.	An Garda Síochána
6.7	Consider initiatives to address juvenile abuse of intoxicants. Monitor junior discos to prevent abuse of intoxicants	North West Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force (NWRDTF)/ An Garda Síochána
6.7	Consider the introduction of a Youth Diversion Project having regard to the evidence-based data in relation to young offenders.	An Garda Síochána

APPENDIX 1 – MEMBERSHIP OF LEITRIM JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE 2019-2024

Local Authority Area Type	Local Authority Elected Members	Oireachtas Elected Members	Local Authority Officials	An Garda Siochana	Community
Counties with less than 25 Members	13	3	2	2	6
	<p>Carrick-on-Shannon MD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Sean McGowan • Cllr Finola Armstrong McGuire • Cllr Thomas Mulligan • Cllr Enda Stenson • Cllr Paddy Farrell <p>Ballinamore MD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Enda McGloin • Cllr Brendan Barry • Cllr Gerry Dolan <p>Manorhamilton MD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Sean McDermott • Cllr Mary Bohan • Cllr Felim Gurn • Cllr Justin Warnock • Cllr Pdraig Fallon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frank Feighan, TD. • Martin Kenny, TD. • Marc McSharry, TD. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lar Power (Chief Executive) • Mary Quinn (Director of Service) 	<p>Chief Superintendent Aidan Glacken</p> <p>Superintendent Amanda Gaynor</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bernie McGauran • Kenny Murtagh • Kathleen Flanagan • Breege Grimes • Janice Raine-Conick • Osazuwa Peter-Olabiyi

APPENDIX 2 – COMMUNITY ALERT AREAS

Leitrim Garda District Community Text Alert Groups

Carrick-on-Shannon Sub District

- Carrick-on-Shannon Business Text Alert
- Annaduff/Drumsna/Jamestown/Bornacoola/Dromod
- Hartley
- Leitrim Village
- Mohill
- Eslin
- Cloone
- Drumreilly/Aughawillian
- Carrigallen
- Ballinamore/Aughawillian/Kiltubrid/Fenagh
- Manorhamilton
- Dromahair
- Drumkeerin
- Glenfarne
- Kinlough
- Drumshanbo/Ballinaglera
- Cortober