



Welcome to the PPN

Your Voice in Local Government — a national network connecting community groups with the decisions that shape your area.

What is the PPN and Why Does it Matter?

The **Public Participation Network (PPN)** is a vital structure that connects community groups directly with local authorities — ensuring that the voices of ordinary people are heard where decisions are made.

Facilitate Participation

Creating meaningful pathways for community engagement in local government.

Share Information

Keeping member groups informed about consultations, funding, and policy changes.

Build Capacity

Providing training and resources so groups can participate more effectively.

Provide Representation

Placing elected reps on local authority policy and decision-making bodies.



Why Join Your Local PPN?

Whether you represent a community group, environmental organisation, or social inclusion body, the PPN offers tangible benefits for your work and your community.



Amplify Your Voice

Gain a direct channel to influence local policies, plans, and spending decisions that affect your community.



Connect & Collaborate

Network with community, environmental, and social inclusion groups across your county.



Access Resources

Benefit from training, capacity-building workshops, and information-sharing opportunities.




Strengthen Democracy

Help build a more inclusive, participatory, and representative form of local government.

Understanding the PPN Structure

A FLAT & INCLUSIVE MODEL

The PPN is built on a **flat structure** — meaning no single group or individual holds authority over others. Power is shared, leadership is elected, and every member group has an equal voice in shaping direction.

 A flat structure means decisions flow from the membership up — not from the top down. The Plenary is the highest authority.

Plenary

The main decision-making assembly of all member groups.

Secretariat

The administrative and support team keeping the PPN running.

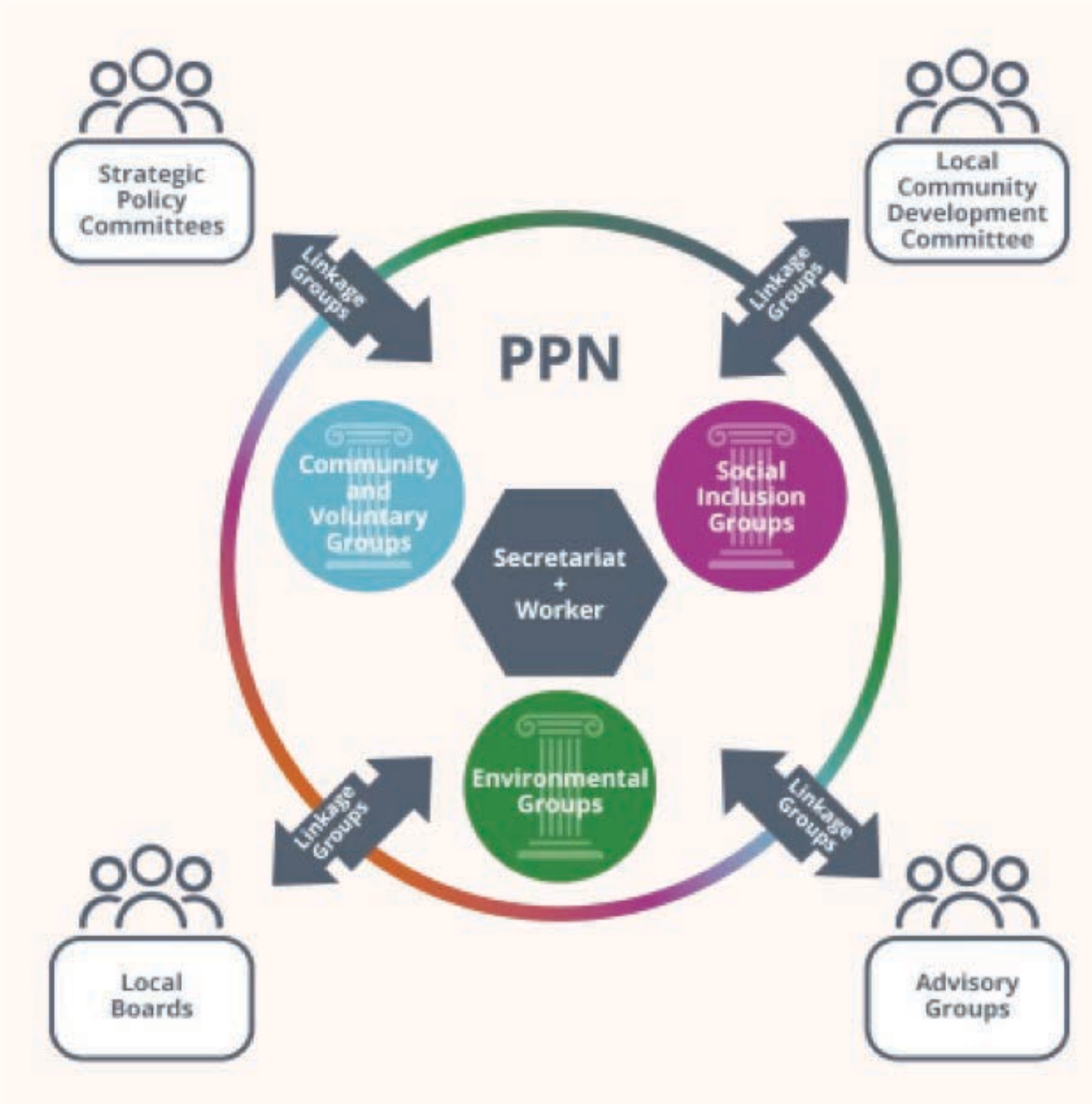
Linkage Groups

Thematic working groups focused on specific policy areas.

Representatives

Elected individuals who bring the PPN's voice to local authority bodies.

The PPN Structure: A Visual Overview



All authority flows from the **Plenary**. The Secretariat and Representatives are elected from within membership — keeping the structure accountable and democratic at every level.



Key Roles and Terms Explained

Plenary

The general assembly of **all PPN member groups**. This is the PPN's highest authority — where major decisions are made, policies are debated, and representatives are elected.

Secretariat

The operational team responsible for **day-to-day running** of the PPN. This includes administration, communications, supporting Linkage Groups, and organising Plenary meetings.

Representatives

Individuals **elected by the Plenary** to sit on local authority committees and decision-making bodies — bringing the community's voice directly into formal policy spaces.

Focus on Linkage Groups



Linkage Groups are the **engine room of PPN policy work**. Each group focuses on a specific thematic area — such as Environment, Social Inclusion, or Community & Voluntary — and develops positions that feed into the Plenary and local authority.

- **Deep dives:** Explore issues most relevant to your organisation in detail.
- **Specialist input:** Contribute your group's expertise to shape meaningful policy positions.
- **Direct influence:** Linkage Group outputs are formally presented to local government decision-makers.

✔ Joining a Linkage Group is the most direct way to shape policy from the ground up.

Getting Involved: Your Path to Participation

There are many ways to engage with the PPN — from first-time members to active leaders. Find your level and grow from there.

01

Register Your Group

Become a formal member of your local PPN to access all participation rights and resources.

02

Attend Plenary Meetings

Engage in collective discussions, vote on key decisions, and stay informed about local policy.

03

Join a Linkage Group

Contribute your expertise to the thematic group most relevant to your organisation's mission.

04

Become a Representative

Stand for election at the Plenary to represent the PPN on local authority committees.

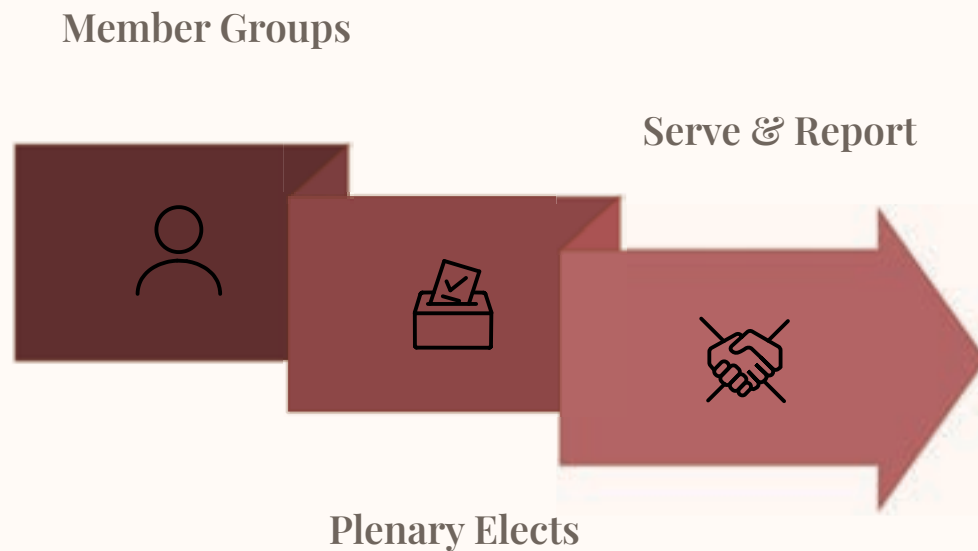
The Flat Structure in Action

ELECTED LEADERSHIP FROM THE PLENARY

The PPN's flat structure is not just a principle — it's built into how leadership is chosen. Both the **Secretariat** and **Representatives** are elected or appointed directly from within the Plenary membership.

This means **accountability flows directly to member groups** — not to external bodies or appointed officials. Every person in a leadership role can be questioned, supported, or replaced by the Plenary.

- ❏ No hierarchy. No gatekeepers. Leadership serves the membership — always.





Your Voice, Our Future

Get Involved Today

The PPN is your platform to shape local development, influence policy, and build a stronger community. Every group that joins makes the network more representative, more powerful, and more effective.

Join a Linkage Group

Drive policy from the inside on issues that matter most to your organisation.

Attend the Plenary

Have your say on local decisions and elect the people who represent the PPN.

Register Today

Contact your local PPN Secretariat to register your group and take the first step.