



Circular CVSP 1/2026

6<sup>th</sup> February 2026

**Funding from the Department for PPNs in 2026**

**For the attention of PPN Members, PPN Secretariats, PPN Staff and Local Authorities**

We wish to advise that the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht (“the Department”) will provide total funding to each PPN of **€100,540** in **2026**.

We remind you that this funding must be spent to support the three key functions of PPNs:

- facilitate participation and representation in local government policy and decision-making fora,
- build the capacity of member groups to carry out this role,
- serve as a networking and information hub for member groups in the area.

Department-provided funding must also be spent in accordance with the PPN Financial Controls document, a revised version of which has issued with this Circular. Please note, changes have been made to the Financial Controls document, which means that Support Worker funding is no longer ring-fenced and some previous restrictions on certain spending no longer apply. All PPN stakeholders including PPN members, Secretariats and staff are urged to familiarise themselves with the new guidance.

Funding from the Department will issue in two tranches as follows:

- Tranche 1: €80,540 (payable in April/May approx.)
- Tranche 2: €20,000 (payable in October/November approx.)

In 2026, a Funding Agreement will be put in place between the Department and Local Authorities, as the disbursers of Department-provided funding to PPNs. The terms of the Funding Agreement are in line with the provisions made in the Financial Controls document.

To access Departmental funding, submission of the following documents is required **no later than 31 March 2026**:

- PPN Funding Agreement signed by the local authority
- MOU/SLA (the latter only where necessary; please refer to the PPN Handbook)
- Income & Expenditure report signed by the PPN and the Local Authority (template will be circulated in due course)
- PPN Core Workplan and agreed budget for 2026 (including timeframes for Plenary meetings).



Any delay in a return of the documentation listed above will result in a delay to the first tranche payment due to be paid in April/May 2026.

Please note, submission of a response to the National PPN Annual Report from each PPN is also a funding requirement for release of Tranche 2 payments. Details on the Annual Report template for the 2025 Annual Report will follow in due course.

### **Treatment of unspent funding**

If a PPN does not spend the funding allocated by the Department within the calendar year, the Department can no longer accept carryover requests unless they are accompanied by a well-evidenced business case.

In very exceptional circumstances if a PPN has a strong and specific reason why it was unable to carry out particular items on its work plan during the preceding year, it will be assessed by the Department on a case-by-case basis. The Department reserves the right to determine whether this reasoning is sufficient.

Unspent Core Funding from 2025 will be assessed and reconciled accordingly by the Department, taking any carryover agreements into account.

The previously ring-fenced Support Worker funding provided by the Department in the amount of €25,700 will be subject to reconciliation. **The reconciliation exercise for 2026 will be carried out on any unspent Support Worker funds provided in 2024.**

Queries in relation to any of the above may be addressed to [ppn@drcdg.gov.ie](mailto:ppn@drcdg.gov.ie).

For the avoidance of doubt, this Circular supersedes all previous documents on these matters.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JR', is written over a horizontal line.

Jake Ryan  
Principal Officer  
Community and Voluntary Supports and Programmes