Public Document Pack

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Phone: 8905000

P.O. Box 174
County Hall
Swords
Fingal
Co. Dublin

Deadline(pubagenda)

To Each Member of the CommitteeName

Dear Councillor

The Meeting of the **CommitteeName** will be held in the **MeetingLocation** at **MeetingTime** on **MeetingDateLegal** to consider the following Agenda:

Yours Faithfully

S. Peppard
Meetings Administrator
Corporate Services Division

This meeting may be filmed for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's website. At the start of the meeting the Chair will confirm if all or part of the meeting is being filmed.

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Therefore by entering the Council Chamber and using the seats around the meeting tables, you are consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for webcasting. Members of the public and press should confine themselves to the area provided so that their image is not captured on film. If you have any queries regarding this, please contact the Corporate Services Department on ext 5795.

A G E N D A

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Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall
Fingal County Council

Minutes of the County Council Meeting held on Monday, 9th March, 2015 in the Council Chamber - County Hall, Swords, at 5.00 pm

MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillors:	**Councillors:**
Browne, J.P.	McCamley, Mary
Butler, Darragh	McDonagh, Brian
Chambers, Jack	McGuinness, David
Coppinger, Eugene	Mulville, Paul
Dennehy, Brian	Murphy, Tony
Dennison, Kieran	Murray, Mags
Donnelly, Paul	Newman, Joe
Farrell, Ken	Ni Laoi, Daire
Guerin, Jimmy	Nolan, Lorna
Healy, David	O'Brien, Eoghan
Henchy, Adrian	O'Callaghan, Cian
Kavanagh, Sandra	O'Connor, David
Lavin, Anthony	O'Gorman, Roderic
Leddy, Ted	Quinn, Malachy
Loftus, Eithne	Redmond, Keith
Lukusa, Edmond	Sinnott, Justin
Lynam, Philip	Smith, Duncan
Maguire, Grainne	Treacy, Natalie
Martin, Barry	Waine, Matthew

Apologies for inability to attend were received for Councillor Annette Hughes and Anne Devitt.

The Mayor, Councillor Mags Murray, presided.

OFFICIALS PRESENT

Paul Reid (Chief Executive), Mick Lorigan (Director of Operations), Gilbert Power (Director of Planning & Strategic Infrastructure), Ann Marie Farrelly (A/Director of Housing & Community, Culture, Sports and Libraries), Ethna Felten (A/Director of Economic Development Services), Des Bruton (A/Head of Finance), Stephen Peppard (Senior Executive Officer), Ide De Bairtiseil (Senior Executive Officer), Brendan Fleming (Senior Executive Officer), Noeleen McHugh (Senior Executive Officer), John Daly (Senior Engineer), Fergus Healy (Systems Analyst), Michael Kelly (Administrative Officer), Naomi Weir (Senior Staff Officer), Alan Clarke (Senior Programmer), Mary O' Hara (Assistant Staff Officer), Mary O'Neill (Clerical Officer) and Barbara Hegarty (Clerical Officer)

VISITORS TO THE CHAMBER
Lee Payton, Nuway, Mark Kavanagh, Sord, Noel Sweeney, Dr. Sheila Flanagan, TTC. (Tourism and Transport Consultation).

F/96/15 (Agenda Item No)

Mobile Phones.

The Mayor advised the Members that the use of mobile phones was prohibited for the duration of the meeting.

F/97/15 (Agenda Item No)

Webcasting.

The Mayor advised the Members that the meeting was being filmed for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's website.

F/98/15 (Agenda Item No)

Request for Suspension of Standing Orders-Emergency Motions.

The Mayor advised the meeting that there were four emergency motions to hand. It was **agreed** that these motions be revisited at 7.45pm or when all other items on the agenda had been dealt with, whichever was earlier, to decide if the motions should, in fact be tabled.

F/99/15 (Agenda Item No 1)

Confirmation and Re-Affirmation of Minutes.

(a) Minutes of County Council Meeting held on Monday 9th February 2015, which had been circulated, were **submitted**, **approved** as a true record and signed.

F/100/15 (Agenda Item No 2a)

Appointments-Nomination of Members to Hansfield SDZ Steering Group

The attached report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was **considered**.

In the course of a discussion on this item, it was proposed by a number of Councillors that the Elected Members from the Local Electoral Area of Castleknock, should also be appointed to this Steering Group. Following a further discussion, this was **agreed** by the Executive.

It was then proposed by Councillor M. Murray, seconded by Councillor T. Leddy and **resolved:**

"That Councillors Kieran Dennison, Paul Donnelly, Annette Hughes, Edmond Lukusa, Mary McCamley, David McGuinness, Lorna Nolan, Matthew Waine, Jack Chambers, Sandra Kavanagh, Ted Leddy, Eithne Loftus, Mags Murray, Roderic

O'Gorman and Natalie Treacy be **appointed** members of the Hansfield SDZ Steering Group."

F/101/15 (Agenda Item No 2b)

Appointment of two Councillors to the Board of Newbridge House and Farm Limited.

The attached report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated was **considered**.

It was proposed by Councillor E. O'Brien, seconded by Councillor J. Chambers and **resolved**:

"That Councillor Adrian Henchy be appointed member to the Board of Newbridge House and Farm Limited."

It was then proposed by Councillor L. Nolan, seconded by Councillor P. Mulville and **resolved**:

"That Councillor Paul Mulville be appointed member to the Board of Newbridge House and Farm Limited."

F/102/15 (Agenda Item No)

Questions.

It was proposed by Councillor E. Loftus, seconded by Councillor K. Dennison and **resolved**:

"That in accordance with Standing Order No. 65, Questions numbered 3-17 inclusive be **adopted** and **approved**."

F/103/15 (Agenda Item No 3)

Councillor A. Devitt - Security Costs

F/104/15 (Agenda Item No 4)

Councillor A. Henchy - Crime

F/105/15 (Agenda Item No 5)

Councillor A. Henchy - Disability and Adaptation

F/106/15 (Agenda Item No 6)

Councillor D. Butler - Security Costs

F/107/15 (Agenda Item No 7)

Councillor D. Butler - Local and regional roads funding

F/108/15 (Agenda Item No 8)

Councillor R. O'Gorman - Fingal County Council compliance with BER certificates

F/109/15 (Agenda Item No 9)
Councillor K. Dennison - Motor Taxation

F/110/15 (Agenda Item No 10)
Councillor M. Quinn - Private Contractors Warranty

F/111/15 (Agenda Item No 11)
Councillor D. McGuinness - InFill Housing Development in Fingal's Local Authority Housing Estates

F/112/15 (Agenda Item No 12)
Councillor D. McGuinness - NAMA lands in Fingal

F/113/15 (Agenda Item No 13)
Councillor J. Sinnott - Green Energy Initiatives

F/114/15 (Agenda Item No 14)
Councillor J.P. Browne - RAS properties

F/115/15 (Agenda Item No 15)
Councillor D. Smith - Defibrillators

F/116/15 (Agenda Item No 16)
Councillor D. Healy - Derelict Sites Act

F/117/15 (Agenda Item No 17)
Councillor P. Mulville - Public toilets - Portmarnock

F/118/15 (Agenda Item No 18a)
Report of Balbriggan/Swords Area Committee Meeting (Services A) held on 12th February 2015

It was **noted** that there was no report under this heading.

F/119/15 (Agenda Item No 18b)
Report of Balbriggan/Swords Area Committee Meeting (Services B) held on 12th February 2015

The attached report of the Balbriggan/Swords Area Committee Meeting (Services B) held on 12th February 2015, which had been circulated was **considered**.

It was proposed by Councillor K. Farrell, seconded by Councillor G. Maguire and **resolved**:

"That the recommendations contained in the attached report of the Balbriggan/Swords Area Committee Meeting (Services B) held on 12th February 2015 be **adopted** and **approved**."

F/120/15 (Agenda Item No 18c)

Report of Castleknock/Mulhuddart Area Committee Meeting (Services A) held on 26th February 2015

It was **noted** that there was no report under this heading.

F/121/15 (Agenda Item No 18d)
Report of Howth/Malahide Area Committee Meeting (Services A) held on 4th March 2015

It was **noted** that there was no report under this heading.

F/122/15 (Agenda Item No 18e)
Report of Howth/Malahide Area Committee Meeting (Services B) held on 4th March 2015

The attached report of the Howth/Malahide Area Committee Meeting (Services B) held on 4th March 2015, which had been circulated was **considered**.

It was proposed by Councillor A. Lavin, seconded by Councillor C. O'Callaghan and **resolved**:

"That the recommendations contained in the attached report of the Howth/Malahide Area Committee Meeting (Services B) held on 4th March 2015 be **adopted** and **approved**."

F/123/15 (Agenda Item No 18f)
Report of Castleknock/Mulhuddart Area Committee Meeting (Services B) held on 5th March 2015

The attached report of the Castleknock/Mulhuddart Area Committee Meeting (Services B) held on 5th March 2015 which had been circulated was **considered**.

It was proposed by Councillor D. McGuinness, seconded by Councillor K. Dennison and **resolved**:

"That the recommendations contained in the attached report of the Castleknock/Mulhuddart Area Committee Meeting (Services B) held on 5th March 2015 be **adopted** and **approved**."

F/124/15 (Agenda Item No 19a)
Proposed disposal of a site and an option on a further site (3 years), to Montjeu Ltd. at College Business & Technology Park, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15

The attached report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated was **considered**.

It was proposed by Councillor D. McGuinness, seconded by Councillor K. Dennison and **resolved**:

"That the site referred to in the attached report be disposed of in accordance with the terms specified therein and also that the option on a further site as set out, for a period of three years be approved."

F/125/15 (Agenda Item No 19b)
Proposed disposal of land at Seagrange, Baldoyle to Baldoyle Boxing Club

The attached report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated was **considered**.

Following a brief discussion on this item, during which issues raised by the Members were responded to by Mr. Stephen Peppard it was proposed by Councillor B. McDonagh, seconded by Councillor K. Redmond and **resolved**:

"That the land referred to in the attached report be disposed of in accordance with the terms specified therein."

F/126/15 (Agenda Item No 19c)
Proposed Disposal Fee Simple Interest - 1 Seamount Drive, Malahide, Co. Dublin

The attached report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated was **considered**.

It was proposed by Councillor A. Lavin, seconded by Councillor E. O'Brien and **resolved**:

"That the Fee Simple Interest in dwelling referred to in the attached report be disposed of in accordance with the terms specified therein."

F/127/15 (Agenda Item No 19d)
Proposed disposal of Fee Simple Interest - 2 Cannon Rock Cottages, Upper Cliff Road, Howth, Co. Dublin

The attached report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated was **considered**.

It was proposed by Councillor C. O'Callaghan, seconded by Councillor K. Redmond and **resolved**:

"That the Fee Simple Interest in dwelling referred to in the attached report be disposed of in accordance with the terms specified therein."

F/128/15 (Agenda Item No 19e)
Proposed Disposal of Fee Simple Interest - 3 Main Street, Lusk, Co. Dublin

The attached report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated was **considered**.

It was proposed by Councillor M. Quinn, seconded by Councillor D. O'Connor and **resolved:**

"That the Fee Simple Interest in dwelling referred to in the attached report be disposed of in accordance with the terms specified therein."

F/129/15 (Agenda Item No 19f)
Proposed lease of land at Seagrange, Baldoyle to Trackside Lawn Tennis Club

The attached report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated was **considered**.

It was proposed by Councillor C. O'Callaghan, seconded by Councillor A. Lavin and **resolved**:

"That the land referred to in the attached report be disposed of in accordance with the terms specified therein."

F/130/15 (Agenda Item No 20a)
Declaration of Roads to be Public Roads - Footpath at Beechpark Avenue, Castleknock, Dublin 15

The attached report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated was **considered**.

It was proposed by Councillor M. Murray, seconded by Councillor D. McGuinness and **resolved**:

"That the roads referred to in the attached report be and are hereby declared to be public roads."

F/131/15 (Agenda Item No 21)
Chief Executives Report

The attached reports by the Chief Executive which had been circulated was **considered**.

The Chief Executive summarised this report for the Members and responded to issues raised in relation to same. Mr. Des Bruton summarised the Financial Reports and again responded to issues raised by the Members in relation to same. In the course of a discussion on the Chief Executive's report, and under the heading 'Community', the following motion in the names of Councillors, Paul Mulville, Lorna Nolan and Barry Martin was proposed by Councillor Paul Mulville, seconded by Councillor Lorna Nolan:

"That no decision be taken on the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) until after the Community representatives have been elected to the Fingal Local Community Development Committee, at the Fingal Community Network plenary meeting on the 25th April and that adequate time be given to the newly elected Community representatives to consider any proposed decisions."

Ms Ethna Felten responded stating that the timescales involved were set as part of a national process. Following further discussion it was **agreed** that this motion be held over until 7.45pm and then dealt with along with the remaining emergency motions.

The Chief Executive's report was then **noted**.

F/132/15 (Agenda Item No 22)

Draft Corporate Plan 2015-2019

The attached report by the Chief Executive together with the Draft Corporate Plan 2015-2019 which had been circulated was **considered**.

The Chief Executive summarised the process by which the Draft Corporate Plan 2015-2019 had been compiled. It was then proposed by Councillor M. Murray, seconded by Councillor T. Leddy and **resolved**:

"That the Draft Corporate Plan 2015-2019 as presented be **adopted** and **approved**."

F/133/15 (Agenda Item No 23)

Fingal Tourism Strategy

The attached Fingal Tourism Strategy 2015-2018 Draft Final Report which had been circulated was **considered**.

A presentation was made on the Tourism Strategy by Noel Sweeney and Dr. Sheila Flanagan from T CC Consultants. A number of comments were made and noted and the report was **noted**.

F/134/15 (Agenda Item No 24)

Report on Schedule of Uncollected Rates for year ended 31st December, 2014

The attached report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated was **considered**.

Mr. Des Bruton summarised this report for the Members following which the report was **noted**.

F/135/15 (Agenda Item No 25)

Application for financial assistance by North & East Housing Association under the Capital Assistance Scheme-Call for CAS 2014, to provide 9 units of living accomodation in Ringfort, Darcystown, Balrothery, County Dublin.

The attached report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated was **considered**.

It was proposed by Councillor D. O'Connor, seconded by Councillor D. Smith and **resolved**:

"That the recommendations contained in the attached report be **adopted** and **approved**."

F/136/15 (Agenda Item No 26)

Conference Report.

The attached report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated was **considered** and **noted**.

F/137/15 (Agenda Item No 27)

Mayor's Business: Councillor M. Murray

It was **noted** that there was no business under this heading.

F/138/15 (Agenda Item No 28)

Departmental/Ministerial Correspondence

It was **noted** that there was no business under this heading.

F/139/15 (Agenda Item No 29a)

Correspondence - Motion from Wicklow County Council regarding "Firearms Licensing System"

The attached letter dated 11th February 2015 from Wicklow County Council which had been circulated was **considered** and **noted**.

F/140/15 (Agenda Item No 29b)

Correspondence - Motion from Limerick City & County Council regarding "alleged movement of sex offenders from Northern Ireland to the twenty six County Republic"

The attached letter dated the 13th February 2015 which had been circulated was **considered** and **noted**.

F/141/15 (Agenda Item No 29c)

Motion from Offaly County Council regarding "condemnation of protests or demonstrations targeting President Michael D. Higgins"

The attached letter dated the 24th February 2015 from Offaly County Council which had been circulated was **considered** and **noted**.

F/142/15 (Agenda Item No 29d)

Letter dated 27/2/15 regarding Greater Dublin Drainage Project

The attached letter dated the 27th February 2015 from Irish Water regarding the Greater Dublin Drainage Project which had been circulated was **considered** and **noted**.

F/143/15 (Agenda Item No)

LAMA Spring Conference.

The Mayor advised the Members that the Local Authority Members Association Spring Conference would take place on the 9th and 10th of April next.

F/144/15 (Agenda Item No)

Visit to Chengdu.

Councillor Jimmy Guerin requested clarification on the selection process of the Elected Members on the delegation to visit Chengdu. In response to a question from Councillor Sandra Kavanagh, Ms. Ethna Felten clarified that the cost of the five day trip was approximately six and a half thousand euro. In the course of further discussion the Chief Executive clarified that as it stood the Mayor and the Chair of the Economic Development and Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee would be part of the delegation. It was then **agreed** that the matter be referred to the Economic Development and Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee for further consideration.

F/145/15 (Agenda Item No)

Emergency Motions.

The Mayor advised the Members that as the time had now reached 7.45pm, and as earlier agreed it was now a matter for the Members to decide if the Emergency Motions were to be tabled.

EMERGENCY MOTION 1.

The following motion in the names of Councillors, Adrian Henchy, Darragh Butler, Brian Dennehy, Eoghan O'Brien, Jack Chambers, David McGuinness and Mags Murray was proposed by Councillor Adrian Henchy, seconded by Councillor David McGuinness:

"That this Council resolves in relation to the Additional Information Response reference 06F. PA0037 from the HSE to highlight the fact that the issues addressed by both Fingal County Council and those by the local community groups have not been dealt with to demonstrate that the proposal is in accordance with the proper planning and development of the area. In addition the serious shortcomings raised by the HSE independent Road Safety Audit regarding upgrades to the entire local road network are addressed in full as to who carries these out, at what cost and when they are carried out. I also ask that the offer of the use of the land within their application for the creation of a separate Haul Road is again offered to the applicants as originally suggested by Fingal County Council's response to an Board Pleanala as it is now felt by the local community that the goodwill offered by them in support of the principle of this application will have to be rescinded given the limited and very much subjective response that the applicants have made in this regard to the original concerns of both Fingal County Council and that of the 30 community groups that have engaged in this process with very limited response to date."

This motion was **agreed** without discussion.

EMERGENCY MOTION 2.

The following motion in the names of Councillors, Paul Mulville and Adrian Henchy was proposed by Councillor Paul Mulville, seconded by Councillor Adrian Henchy:

"We resolve that the Health Service Executive must provide a temporary construction access road, off the New Road/Corballis Road, through Council owned lands at Ballymastone, before any demolition/construction works commence for the planned National Forensic Mental Health Service facility in St. Ita's, Portrane ;we further resolve to give consent to the HSE to use the Council owned lands at Ballymastone for the purpose of a temporary construction access road; and we finally resolve to withhold our support for this project until the temporary construction access road is provided."

This motion was **agreed** without discussion.

EMERGENCY MOTION 3.

The following motion in the names of Councillors, Darragh Butler, Jack Chambers, Brian Dennehy, Adrian Henchy, David McGuinness, Mags Murray and Eoghan O'Brien was proposed by Councillor Darragh Butler, seconded by Councillor Brian Dennehy:

"That Fingal County Council is opposed to the proposal to bring the Dublin Fire Brigade Ambulance Service under the control of the HSE."

In the course of a discussion on this item, the Chief Executive advised the meeting as follows:

Patricia King, Vice President, SIPTU and Shay Cody, General Secretary, IMPACT met with Owen Keegan, Chief Executive Dublin City Council and Brendan Kenny, Assistant Chief Executive DCC on Friday 6th March 2015.

At the meeting management-side confirmed agreement between all parties on the following principles:

- the Control Centre Reconfiguration Project, as recommended in the HIQA Report, and including integrated emergency ambulance call taking and dispatch will be pursued;
- Dublin Fire Brigade will continue to be fully involved in emergency ambulance service delivery as part of this reconfiguration project and;
- there will be no diminution in emergency ambulance service delivery to the population of the Region.

It was agreed that a Joint Forum within Dublin City Council, inclusive of Management and SIPTU and IMPACT representatives, will be established under an independent chair, Mr. Stephen Brady, former Dublin Chief Fire Officer. All matters arising from this reconfiguration project will be addressed in this Forum.

The motion was then **agreed**.

EMERGENCY MOTION 4.

The following motion in the names of Councillors, Natalie Treacy, Paul Donnelly, Philip Lynam, Daire Ni Laoi, Malachy Quinn, Matthew Waine, Sandra Kavanagh, Eugene Coppinger, Grainne Maguire, Justin Sinnott, Cian O'Callaghan, Edmond Lukusa, Adrian Henchy, David O'Connor, Eoghan O'Brien and Brian Dennehy was proposed by Councillor Natalie Treacy, seconded by Councillor Paul Donnelly:

"This motion calls on the Minister for Environment to ensure that there will not be any job losses or loses to services as a result of the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) funding that was announced recently."

Following a brief discussion, this motion was **agreed**.

EMERGENCY MOTION 5. (Relation to Item No 21 Chief Executive's Report.)

The following motion in the names of Councillors, Paul Mulville, Lorna Nolan and Barry Martin was proposed by Councillor Paul Mulville, seconded by Councillor Lorna Nolan and **read** into the record of the meeting by Mr. Stephen Peppard:

"That no decision be taken on the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) until after the Community representatives have been elected to the Fingal Local Community Development Committee, at the Fingal Community Network plenary meeting on the 25th April and that adequate time be given to the newly elected Community representatives to consider any proposed decisions."

In response, both the Mayor an Ms Ethna Felten clarified that the contract had already been awarded to the successful applicant and accordingly, the motion could have no effect.

On this basis the motion was **withdrawn**.

F/146/15 (Agenda Item No 30)
Councillor P. Mulville - Recruitment Moratorium

The attached motion in the name of Councillor P. Mulville, was proposed by Councillor Paul Mulville, seconded by Councillor Mags Murray.

The attached report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was **considered**.

Following a brief discussion on this item, during which issues raised by the Members were responded to by the Chief Executive, the motion was **agreed**.

The Meeting concluded at 8.10 pm

MAYOR _____ DATE _____

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COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

13th April, 2015

Item 2A

Appointment of Member to Nuclear Free Local Authorities

The Council at its meeting held on 18/09/2014 appointed Councillor Eithne Loftus to be a member of Nuclear Free Local Authorities. Councillor Loftus has now resigned from this body and it is now a matter for the Council to appoint one replacement member.

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NORTH DUBLIN
Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force

Mr. Paul Reid
CEO Fingal Co council
Civic Office
Swords
Co Dublin
25/3/2015

Dear Paul
I am writing to you on behalf and at the request of the North Dublin Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force. As you may know, we have undertaken significant reviews of our services and processes in the last 18months. A key aspect of this process was the reinvigoration of our management structures including the Task Force membership

At a recent Task Force meeting members noted that the national review of Task Forces contained a number of recommendations in relation to the composition of Task Force management committees including public representation and it is in relation to this that I now write to you

The Task Force recognizes that public representatives have a key role to play in the planning and implementation of the Regional Drug & Alcohol Strategy and would like to invite additional public representatives to join the committee. At present, Cllr Grainne Maguire (Balbriggan Ward) and Cllr Adrian Henchy (Swords Ward) sit on the committee. We are however underrepresented in the areas of Malahide, Portmarnock, Kinsealy, Lusk, Rush, Skerries and the rural parts of North Fingal.

I would be very grateful if you could bring this to the attention of the Council with a view to nominating 3 public representatives to the North Dublin Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force Management Committee
Please do not hesitate to contact me or the Regional Coordinator Brid Walsh should you require further information

Yours sincerely

Senator Darragh O' Brien
Chairperson, North Dublin Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force

Unit 25 Town Centre Mall, Swords Village, Co Dublin | T: 01 813 1786 | www.ndublinrdtf.ie
The North Dublin Regional Drugs Task Force Ltd is registered in Dublin No 544852
Directors: D O'Brien, R Palmer, B Manton

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FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

13TH APRIL 2015

ITEM NO. 2C

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Council at its meeting held on 09/06/2014 appointed Councillors Jack Chambers, Cian O'Callaghan and Kieran Dennison to the Audit Committee. Councillor Dennison has resigned from the Committee and it is now a matter for the Council to appoint a replacement member.

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COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

MONDAY, 13th APRIL, 2015

Item No. 3

Health & Safety reporting

Question: Councillor M. Quinn

"In the case where the Council's Environmental Health identify breaches of Health & Safety Legislation in the Rented Accommodations under the RAS Scheme, is there a process in place to notify relevant Authorities?"

Reply:

The Council currently have lease agreements with Landlords in respect of 722 Rental Accommodation Scheme properties. Prior to the signing of a lease agreement each property is inspected to ensure compliance with the Housing (Standards for Rental Houses) Regulations, 2008.

Ongoing repair and maintenance arising during the lease period is a matter for the Landlord, and issues arising between the Landlord and tenant may be resolved by the Private Residential Tenancies Board.

Where a property on inspection by an Environmental Health Officer is found not to comply with the Regulations a notice is sent to the Landlord requesting that the required works be carried out within an appropriate time frame. If defects listed in the notice are not rectified court action against the owner is recommended.

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COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Council meeting.

Monday, 13th. April, 2015

Item No. 4

Irish Men's Shed Association

Question: **Councillor D. Butler**

"To ask the Chief Executive to work with the Irish Men's Shed Association to attempt to get as many Men's Sheds up and running in Fingal as possible, with the aim of ensuring that all have the opportunity to improve and maintain their health and well-being by participating in a community Men's Shed."

Reply

The Council is very supportive of the Men's Shed movement and is working with a number of groups throughout the County. These groups are being supported by Community Development staff who provide them with advice and training in an attempt to ensure their long term sustainability. The training provided is intended to build the capacity of the group to allow them develop to an extent where they could manage or part manage a facility. Having worked through this capacity building programme with groups it would be the preferred option of the Community Development Section that they then move into space that offers multi use potential, sharing with possibly youth facilities and other community uses, while having dedicated space in which to house their equipment etc. The movement is as much about the company and social contact as it is about woodworking etc. In the long term therefore any building needs to be capable of being operated in some sort of sustainable fashion.

At present there is a group operating, very successfully, in a former builders yard in Mulhuddart (donated to the them by a local business). Another group from Swords, in existence for over a year, meet at present in the Riasc Centre at Kinsealy where they also

have a small workshop. Financial support was recently provided to them to purchase equipment. The Baldoyle group which is in existence for a couple of years and which has completed a range of training currently meet in the local resource centre from where they organise a range of activities. The Community Division is currently examining how best use could be made of a premises in Baldoyle which may come into the ownership of the Council for community use. The Baldoyle Men's Shed group's need is one of the range of uses under consideration. The Council will continue to engage with and support any groups that become established.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Monday 13th April, 2015

Item No 5

Question **Councillor D. Butler - Crèche, Sports Clubs and rates**

"To ask the Chief Executive what Fingal County Council can do to reduce rates for Crèches / Child Care Centres, and Sports Clubs, either as part of the next Development Plan or otherwise?"

Reply:

The Commissioner of Valuation is responsible for the implementation and interpretation of the Valuation Act 2001 in relation to the determination of rateable valuations.

Local Authorities are obliged to assess commercial rates on the basis of the rateable valuations of properties as determined by the Commissioner of Valuation and on the Annual Rate on Valuation (ARV) as determined by the Elected Members at the Annual Budget Meeting.

The Valuation (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill 2012 which is currently before the Oireachtas has amending provisions relating to the use of buildings for the provision of early childhood care/education and in respect of the valuing, for rating purposes, buildings used exclusively for community sport.

Once the legislation has been enacted a further report will be presented to the Members setting out the implications for crèches/child care centres and community sports clubs in respect of liability for commercial rates.

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COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Monday 13th April 2015

Item No. 6

Cycling Initiatives/Routes

Question: Councillor J.P. Browne

"To ask the Chief Executive due to provide an update on all proposed new cycle routes/developments within the county, and to provide an estimated completion date for each?"

Reply:

The development of cycle routes in the County is largely dependent on the receipt of funding from the NTA. The preliminary design of two schemes is currently being funded;

Sutton to Swords Greenway
It is a primary objective of the Council to develop a Greenway cycle route between Sutton and Swords via Malahide. In this regard, a preliminary design is nearing completion with a view to placing the scheme on public display.

Royal Canal Greenway
A feasibility study and preliminary design is currently being prepared for the section from the 12th Lock to the County boundary with Kildare.

Balbriggan to Skerries Cycle Route
The Balrothery to Balbriggan section of the cycleway, running parallel to the R132 was completed in December 2012. The completion of the scheme along the R127 from Barnageeragh to Balbriggan involved land acquisition and the CPO process is not yet fully complete.

The Council will shortly engage the services of a Consulting Engineer with a view to amending existing design drawings and putting the scheme on public display / inviting submissions under Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001.

The Council is currently funding land acquisition and associated costs. At present, however, there are insufficient funds to allow construction to resume.

Other Cycle Routes
Funding is being sought for the preliminary design of cycle facilities at the following locations;

- Harry Reynolds Road
- Brackenstown Road
- Tyrellstown to Ongar Road

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COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Monday 13th April 2015

Item 7

QUESTION: Councillor K. Dennison - Fire Brigade Call-Out Charges
"To ask the Chief Executive the income from domestic and commercial call-out charges for the Dublin Fire Brigade Service for each year since 2011 and to indicate the number and amount that remain unpaid?"

REPLY:
The following information has been received from Dublin City Council:

YEAR	DOMESTIC AMOUNT PAID	DOMESTIC AMOUNT OUTSTANDING	DOMESTIC NUMBER INVS OUTSTANDING	COMMERCIAL AMOUNT PAID	COMMERCIAL AMOUNT OUTSTANDING	COMMERCIAL NUMBER INVS OUTSTANDING
2011	N/A	N/A		317,754	90,265	95
2012	197,803	130,917	246	408,322.50	99,470	97
2013	271,002	145,290	272	369,782	158,620	94
2014	274,982	241,156	469	310,601	410,735	171

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COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

MONDAY, 13th APRIL, 2015

Item No. 8

St Patrick's Day Festival Economic Boost

Question: Councillor D. Smith

"To ask the Chief Executive is there any indication, in monetary terms, what economic boost, the Saint Patrick's Day festival is to the County of Fingal in terms of spending in local businesses?"

Reply:

The holding of the parades attracted 25,000 visitors to Swords, 15,000 to Blanchardstown and 7,500 to Balbriggan. There is no data available to the Council to verify additional spending in local businesses due to the holding of the St. Patrick's Day festival, however, the Fingal Dublin Chamber of Commerce has reported that businesses have reported increased footfall and turnover in businesses arising from the parades and in Swords, some restaurants and eateries reported their best ever St. Patrick's Day with large numbers of families visiting their premises. In Dublin 15, where the St. Patrick's Day parade was held in 2015 for the first time, the Blanchardstown Centre reported a 30% increase in footfall in Blanchardstown Centre over previous years.

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Fingal County Council Meeting

13th April 2015

Item No. 9

Communications Strategy

Question: Councillor J Sinnott
"To ask the Chief Executive if there are plans to develop a new or updated communications strategy for Fingal County Council. Can officials examine the possibility of developing a Citizens Service Charter so as to build on the excellent work and achievements already in this area?"

Reply:
Fingal County Council has a strong competence in communications and a very public presence on social media. To assess how we can strengthen and improve on this we have recently engaged Consultants to carry out a review of the Council's Communications Section to determine its future structure and areas of responsibilities. This review comprises the areas of internal & external communications and online & social media as well as evaluating how to more strongly market the Council.

The elected members will be kept informed of progress on this review through the monthly Chief Executive report.

Fingal County Council has a Citizens Charter in place. This charter is in place so that each citizen is clear on the quality of service they can expect from the Council and how they as citizens can exercise their responsibility in improving quality of life in Fingal.

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COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Monday 13th April 2015

Item No. 10

EASTER HOLIDAYS/FREE PARKING

Question: Councillor P. Lynam

"To ask the Chief Executive due to the Easter holidays with schools off there will be an increase with parents using the towns across Fingal, could the Council as an incentive look at the possibility of giving any free parking to help local small and medium businesses?"

Reply:

Free parking already exists on the two bank/public holidays over the Easter weekend. There are no proposals to introduce additional free parking at Easter.

Parking concessions are provided in relation to the Saturdays preceding the Christmas period to support local businesses and are seen as the preferred option for small businesses.

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COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Monday 13th April 2015

Item No. 11

SKERRIES CYCLE PATH

Question: Councillor R. O'Gorman

"To ask the Chief Executive to give a report as to the cost of the cycle path between Balbriggan and Balrothery and in particular, the cost of compulsory purchase orders along the Balbriggan to Skerries section of the cycle path?"

Reply:

Early in 2010, Fingal County Council entered into a Project Funding Agreement with the NTA to provide some €750,000 in grant-aid towards the design and construction of the Skerries-Balbriggan Cycleway.

Between 2010 and the end of December 2012, the Council expended some €503,000 of these monies on the planning, design and construction of the Balrothery to Balbriggan section of the cycleway, running parallel to the R132.

In 2013, the estimated cost of completing the scheme along the R127 from Barnageeragh to Balbriggan was €500,000 which includes the cost of Compulsory Purchase Orders for land acquisition along the route. Neither Fingal County Council nor the NTA were in a position to provide the necessary additional €250,000 to complete this section, however a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) for the acquisition of a number of properties was submitted to An Bórd Pleanála in July 2013. The Bórd confirmed the CPO in October 2013 and Fingal County Council served the last remaining Notices to Treat in November / December 2014. As this process has not yet completed, the full cost of CPO cannot be confirmed.

Fingal County Council will shortly engage the services of a Consulting Engineer with a view to amending the Design Drawings and putting the scheme on public display / inviting submissions under Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001.

The Council is currently funding land acquisition and associated costs. At present, however, there are insufficient funds to allow construction to resume.

At the end of each year, Fingal County Council enters into discussions with the NTA with a view to funding projects for the following year. The NTA has indicated that no funding would be available for this scheme in 2015.

Fingal County Council remains committed to the delivery of this project.

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COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Monday 13th April 2015

Item No.12

Provision of Graffiti Removal Kits

Question: Councillor C. O Callaghan

"To ask the Chief Executive, will the Council resume supporting local resident groups, voluntary clean ups and tidy towns groups through the provision of graffiti removal kits?"

Reply:

In early 2014 the Environment Division switched from supplying graffiti removal kits (costing €156 each) to supplying graffiti wipes (costing €18 each). The decision was made as part of a wider cost saving exercise having regard to the cost effectiveness of the materials provided to residents associations and tidy towns groups.

It should be noted that Fingal County Council continue to provide high visibility vests, gloves, bags, litter pickers and paint to groups upon request. The current situation will pertain and can be reviewed at the end of 2015.

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COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Monday 13th April 2015

Item No. 13

CYCLE PATH AUDIT

Question: Councillor C. O'Callaghan

"To ask the Chief Executive will the Council carry out an audit of existing cycle paths in Fingal (such as at Dublin Airport, Airside, Swords, Holywell bypass Swords) to ascertain what alterations are necessary to make the existing cycle path infrastructure user friendly for cyclists and will the Council give an undertaking that all future cycle path infrastructure is designed so that it can be easily and safely used by cyclists?"

Reply:

All new cycle lanes in Fingal are being designed and built in accordance with the National Cycle Manual published by the National Transport Authority. Prior to publication of the Manual, a wider variety of cycleways in terms of type and quality were built. Earlier cycleways included the Swords Cycleway between Santry and Cloghran roundabout.

Each year the Council reviews the need for new cycleways and applies to the National Transport Authority. Recent Cycleways completed by the Council include the Royal Canal Greenway between Ashtown and the 12th Lock and also the Ongar Castaheany Cycle scheme.

The configuration of existing cycle lanes along the Swords Road will be improved as part of the Swords Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Scheme, if that scheme progresses to construction.

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COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 13th April 2015

Item no. 14

Tenancy Arrears, Processing Delays.

Question: Councillor B. Martin.

"To ask the Chief Executive how many Council tenancies have been put into arrears through delays in assessing their annual returns and to list the actual amount of arrears for each tenancy, while maintaining the privacy of individual tenancies?".

Reply:

The effective date for the application of rents assessed in the annual rent review is the last Saturday in April each year.

The 2015 rent review is currently underway and 55% of forms were returned by the designated return date.

Delays in submitting forms for assessment will increase the possibility of retrospective debits being applied to the accounts, however, the effect will be limited by the April effective date.

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COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Monday 13th April 2015

Item No.15

Illegal Dumping

Question: Councillor T. Leddy

"To ask the Chief Executive, on how many occasions has the maximum fine of €3000 for illegal dumping been enforced in Fingal over the past five years?"

Reply:

Fingal County Council is empowered to issue €150 fines for littering under the Litter Pollution Acts 1997 – 2009. Where a fine is not paid and if the case proceeds to Court, a judge may impose a fine not exceeding €3,000 on summary conviction.

The maximum fine of €3000 has not been imposed by the Courts in the last five years.

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COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

MONDAY 13th APRIL 2015

ITEM NO. 16 a

REPORT OF COMMITTEE BALBRIGGAN/SWORDS AREA COMMITTEE SERVICES (B) – 12th MARCH 2015

The following report, by the Manager, which had been circulated, was **CONSIDERED:**

Application for Arts Funding

Applications for funding under the Council's Community Arts Funding Scheme has been received from this organizations listed below. It is proposed to make funding available to these organizations, in accordance with the conditions of the scheme, up to the amount set out hereunder:-

GROUP	**CATEGORY OF FUNDING**	**AMOUNT**
Balbriggan Dramatic Society	Production of "Michael Collins Messenger"	€2,500.00
Pop Up Artists	Exhibition of Work	€ 530.00
Artists Rest Group	"The Face of Fingal" Exhibition	€1,500.00
Rush Musical & Dramatic Society	Production of "Curtains"	€3,000.00
	TOTAL:	**€7,530.00**

***** The award of funding should represent the difference between income and expenditure for each event, up to the amounts recommended.

It was proposed by Councillor K. Farrell, seconded by Councillor B. Dennehy:

"That this Committee recommends that the County Council **APPROVE** of the grants in the foregoing report".

Signed: Councillor G. Maguire
Area Chairperson

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COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

13TH APRIL, 2015

ITEM NO 16c

REPORT OF COMMITTEE HOWTH/ MALAHIDE AREA COMMITTEE SERVICES (B)

(A) Applications for Arts Funding

Applications for funding under the Council's Arts Funding Scheme have been received from the organisations listed below. It is proposed to make funding available to this organisation, in accordance with the conditions of the scheme, up to the amount set out hereunder:-

GROUP	CATEGORY OF FUNDING	AMOUNT
Portmarnock Arts Group	Arts Exhibition	**€750.00**
	TOTAL:	**€750.00**

***** The award of funding should represent the difference between income and expenditure for each event, up to the amounts recommended.

(B) Application for Community Funding

An application for funding under the Council's Community Activities Funding Scheme has been received from the organisation listed below. It is proposed to make funding available to this organisation in accordance with the conditions of the scheme up to the amount set out hereunder:-

GROUP	CATEGORY OF FUNDING	AMOUNT
Forget Me Nots Choir	Organisational Running Costs	**€4,000.00**
	TOTAL:	**€4,000.00**

“It was proposed by Councillor Anthony Lavin and seconded by Councillor David Healy.

“That this Committee recommends that the County Council **APPROVE** of the grants in the foregoing report.

Signed: Councillor Anthony Lavin
Area Chairperson

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

MONDAY 13TH APRIL 2015

ITEM NO. 16B

REPORT CORPORATE POLICY GROUP MEETING 9TH MARCH 2015

QUORUM FOR SPC MEETINGS.

Current Standing Order No. 15 states as follows " At meetings of the Strategic Policy Committees, five of the total number of Members, two of whom shall be Councillors, shall constitute a quorum "

The Council at its meeting held on 10/11/14 approved a new scheme which provided for the following number of members.

A. Economic Development and Enterprise - 15 (10 Councillors)
B. Housing – 15 (10 Councillors)
C. Planning and Strategic Infrastructure Policy Committee – 12 (8 Councillors)
D. Transportation – 9 (6 Councillors)
E. Water and Environment Services – 9 (6 Councillors)
F. Arts, Culture, Heritage and Community – 9 (6 Councillors)

The following proposed revised Quorum was considered:

Committees A & B = 5

Committees C, D, E & F = 4

In each case at least 2 Councillors must be present to constitute a quorum.

Following discussion it was agreed that this revised proposal be recommended to the Full Council for approval.

_____ _____

MAYOR **DATE**

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COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

MONDAY 13TH APRIL 2015

ITEM No.16 (e)

Report of Corporate Policy Group Meeting held 08th April 2015

The following report was considered by the Corporate Policy Group:

"Signing of Sister City Agreement

Between Fingal and Chengdu, China

Report to the Economic Development and Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee, March 2015

1. BACKGROUND/CONTEXT

Chengdu is the provincial capital of the Sichuan province in Southwest China, as well as a major city in Western China. With a population that has surpassed 15 million people in May 2012, Chengdu is the fourth largest city in China. Chengdu is designated by the State Council as the very centre of commerce, logistics, finance and science and technology, and the hub for transportation and communication in Western China.

The fertile Chengdu Plain, on which Chengdu is located, is also known as the "The Land of Abundance" which reflects Sichuan's prosperous agricultural sector. Sichuan is one of the major agricultural production bases in China, particularly for citrus fruits, peaches, sugar cane, and sweet potatoes. The socialist market economy of China is the world's second largest economy by nominal GDP and by purchasing power parity after the United States. It is the world's fastest-growing major economy, with growth rates averaging 10% over the past 30 years and China is poised to overtake the U.S. as the world's biggest economy possibly before the end of 2015.

<u>Key Economic Facts About Chengdu</u>

- From January to April 2012, Sichuan foreign trade totalled €12 billion - rising 35.4% year-on-year. The corresponding national average growth rate was only 6%.
- Sichuan gross export value reached €7.6 billion - up 62.8%. This gross export value was much higher than the national average of 6.9% in the same period.
- Foreign direct investment in Sichuan reached €2 billion - a 28.5% year-on-year increase.
- In 2012, Sichuan province focused on promoting 500 major projects, which involve a total investment of €310 billion. The stimulus plan is one of the largest of any provincial plan in the country.

<u>Key Economic Facts about Trade between Ireland and China</u>

- Two-way trade increased by 13.2% in 2013 to €4.95bn.
- For seven consecutive years China has been Ireland's largest trading partner in Asia.
- In the past five years, Ireland has run a surplus in its trade with China.
- The Chinese Government is striving for sustainable economic growth and more balanced development.
- Ireland now hosts over 10,000 Chinese students.
- Both governments have recently reached an agreement on Ireland's plan to set up an Irish Consulate General in Hong Kong later this year – a testament to the strength and vitality of China-Ireland relations.
- It is of particular importance to tap the co-operation potential in high technology, food and agriculture, education, tourism and increase two-way trade and investment.

2. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CHENGDU AND FINGAL

fingal.ie

In 2011 the inaugural delegation from Chengdu visited Fingal and a delegation from Fingal visited Chengdu to participate in the 2011 Chengdu International Sister Cities Week. This visit provided the opportunity for the Fingal delegation to engage at first hand with the Municipal Authorities and to gain an appreciation of the business and Government cultures. The Chinese Government place very particular emphasis on establishing and building up relationships and it is particularly important to gain access to key decision makers. This was an important outcome of the visit. In 2012 a delegation from Fingal attended the First Convention of International Sister Cities Tourism Alliance in Chengdu. The visit included a formal dinner with the Mayor of Chengdu and the Fingal delegation.

A Chengdu City delegation, led by the Vice Mayor, Dr. Fu Yonglin visited Fingal in August 2013. The Vice-Mayor emphasised that Chengdu wished to extend and develop the relationship with Fingal in practical and tangible ways. Resulting from this visit there was a commitment on both sides to develop the partnership between Fingal and Chengdu towards full Sister City status. The following areas of priority have been identified:-

1. **Local Government** – significant opportunities for exchange of expertise and experience across a wide range of local government functions, including exchange of internships.
2. **Business** – Fingal Dublin Chamber of Commerce to establish direct liaison with the Chamber of Commerce in Chengdu.
3. **Horticulture** – Fingal is the main centre for horticulture and food production in Ireland. The area around Chengdu is also a very important area for food production in China and the group see great synergies between the municipalities here.
4. **Cleantech** – It is intended to promote job creation and green economic growth through the stimulation of the Cleantech sector in Dublin City Region to take advantage of this emerging market. We consider that there are great opportunities due to the existence of clustered technology companies in Fingal to engage with partners in Chengdu for mutual benefit.
5. **Education** – DIT is already linked with the University of Electronic Science and Technology of China and PhD and undergraduate students from Chengdu come to DIT to study computing and communications.
6. **Tourism** – We group welcomes the opportunity to develop co-operation between Tourism Ireland and Chengdu to encourage two-way tourist flow between our countries.
7. **Cultural Exchange** – Fingal County Council holds a number of cultural events throughout the year and there are opportunities for cultural exchanges between Chengdu and Fingal.

The seven opportunities listed above were issued to the Chengdu Municipal Foreign Affairs Office (CMFAO) who has indicated that they are very excited at the proposal and a draft Sister City Agreement was issued (copy attached in Appendix 1). The Sister City Agreement (SCA) is a five year agreement, after which time the effectiveness of the agreement and the future relationship with Chengdu would be re-evaluated. A delegation from Chengdu visited Fingal in November 2014 and it was agreed that the aapproval of the Council would be sought to signing a formal SCA with Chengdu. A decision to sign this agreement was made by the authorities in Chengdu in April 2014 and it must be signed within a year.

3. ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP

The economic benefits of sister city relationships is difficult to quantify. It is difficult to identify and attribute specific economic benefits to any sister city relationship. Rather than attempting to quantify the total economic benefits of a sister city relationship in Fingal it may be more appropriate to consider how the sister city relationship could generate economic gains. There is substantial potential for extracting economic benefits from sister city relationships but if Councils and businesses wish to experience greater economic gains from their sister city relationship they need to better take advantage of the opportunities that such links provide.

Local Government in China

In China, local government offices exert a significant amount of influence on foreign companies' operations in China. The influence can stretch beyond expected areas—such as product and investment approvals, customs clearance, and taxation—to touch on matters such as land use, human resources, and marketing. Fingal's relationship with Chengdu at a local government level can smooth the way for Fingal companies to develop trade links with Chengdu.

Tourism

In March 2014 the Irish Times reported that Ireland has been named "best potential destination" for 2014 at an awards ceremony in Shanghai, organised by Ctrip - the country's largest online travel agent and offering services to more than 90 million members. Ireland fended off competition from Turkey, Sweden, South Africa, Dubai, Kenya and Queensland. China is becoming one of the most important travel markets in the world, and outbound travel from China has grown at an exceptionally high rate over recent years, with the number of international trips growing significantly and forecasts for the next decade suggesting an even greater rise.

Access to Chengdu

Etihad Airways operates from Beijing, Shanghai and Chengdu to Dublin – via Abu Dhabi, and Etihad doubled its daily service to Dublin, from July 2014. Emirates also connect Dublin with four Chinese cities – Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Hong Kong – transferring via Dubai. Emirates also doubled its daily flights to Dublin, from 1st September 2014.

Education

Education links with China have grown significantly. There are more than 200 formal bilateral agreements in place between Irish & Chinese institutions for student/staff exchanges and the development of joint programmes and research activities. There are currently over 10,000 Chinese students studying in Irish Higher Education Institutions.

Exchange Learning Programme

CMFAO has offered Fingal two student exchange programmes, one for third level at undergraduate and PhD levels and one for Local Government. Both Dublin and Cork City Councils have availed of this initiative under their SCAs on the inward leg only to date.

English Language

English is increasingly becoming a language of the young in China and its influence is transitioning beyond basic communication. English is also influencing Chinese culture, and even the way the young think and act. Today, there are more people studying English in China than there are people living in the US. The government decided that having its citizenry speak the English language would allow it to better communicate with the international community, especially in matters of business, trade and technology. China feels that English is the international language of business and that by speaking English, China will be more effective in its business dealings with the West. As the only English-speaking member of the Eurozone, Ireland and Fingal is ideally positioned to market itself to the Chinese SME and larger sectors as a gateway to Europe and the ideal place to locate a European Headquarters.

4. PROPOSAL

A two-year programme should be considered to bring the relationship between Fingal and Chengdu to a trade level and give indications of value to the Fingal economy from this relationship.

2015

In 2015 a small Fingal delegation consisting of two elected members (the Mayor, Cllr Mags Murray and the Chairperson of the Economic Development and Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee, Cllr Kieran Dennison) and two officials, should visit Chengdu by the end of April, 2015 and the Mayor (or her representative) should sign the Sister City Agreement and agree headings for co-operation with the Chengdu municipality. The Chief Executive/Director of Economic Development will meet with the organisation in Chengdu that advises Chinese companies who want to develop a European Headquarters and they can promote Fingal as an investment destination for SMEs or larger companies seeking a home for their European base.

In addition, the 2015 ITLG Silicon Valley Global Technology Summit will be hosted by the Dublin Fingal Region in partnership with Fingal County Council, Dublin City University, Institute of Technology Blanchardstown and Fingal Dublin Chamber. The summit will take place on 26th May 2015. The ITLG delegation will bring thought leadership on the latest innovations coming out of Silicon Valley, and will have a clear focus on investment in the next disruptive technologies and will include investor pitch sessions, technology conference, and Gala Awards Dinner. This would a good opportunity to invite a delegation from Chengdu and we could use this occasion to share some of our expertise regarding Cleantech industry and also share our experience of managing planning and development of the Fingal area over the strong growth period of the last 10 years.

2016

2016 would require a return trip to Chengdu and could be considered as a larger trade delegation subject to the identification of funding, and possibly include some local businesses with the potential to trade with China, the Fingal Dublin Chamber of Commerce as well as some State Agencies such as IDA Ireland, Enterprise Ireland, ESBI, DAA, etc.

5. COST

In total, a budget of €6,500 will be required for the visit including flights, accommodation and expenses and this funding is included in the Economic Development Services budget in 2015.

6. NEXT STEPS

The approval of the Economic Development & Enterprise SPC is sought for the visit to Chengdu of the Mayor, Mags Murray and the Chairperson of the Economic Development and Enterprise SPC, Cllr. Kieran Dennison and the signing of the Sister City Agreement. Two officials will accompany the delegation.

APPENDIX 1 – DRAFT SISTER CITY AGREEMENT BETWEEN FINGAL AND CHENGDU

AGREEMENT ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FINGAL AND CHENGDU

In accordance with the principles of the Joint Communiqué on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the Public of Ireland and the People's Republic of China, through friendly negotiation, Fingal and Chengdu have reached an agreement on establishing sister-city relationship to enhance mutual understanding and friendship between the Irish and Chinese peoples, and to consolidate and develop friendly co-operation between the two cities.

The two cities agree to make concerted efforts on the basis of equality and mutual benefit. Particular focus will be on cooperation in the following areas.

- Information – to exchange information on key events and commit to participating in the international events held in the other city.
- Government – to strengthen contacts and exchanges between municipal governments and encourage contact, exchanges and cooperation among local politicians and officials.
- Education – to encourage cooperation and exchanges between schools, colleges and universities in both cities in the way of joint programs and exchange visits by teachers and students.
- Business – to carry out events and activities beneficial to the economic growth of both cities and promote business-to-business contacts and cooperation.
- Culture and Tourism – to explore cooperation opportunities in culture and tourism for mutual learning and jointly-organized events and activities.

This agreement shall come into force from the date of signature and will be valid for an initial period of five years. After five years both Fingal and Chengdu will evaluate the effectiveness of the agreement and decide about the future relationship. The agreement will remain in place until terminated by either side.

The Environment Business & Enterprise Department of Fingal County Council and Chengdu Municipal Foreign Affairs Office are the co-ordination units responsible for facilitating dialogue, exchange and co-operation on issues of common concern.

This agreement, signed in Chengdu on**of **, 2013, is done in duplicate in the English and Chinese, both texts being equally authentic.

****** (signed)
Mayor of Fingal
Republic of Ireland

****** (signed)
Mayor of Chengdu
People's Republic of China

The Chief Executive summarised the report. He outlined that the executive recommend that we should proceed as outlined and that a full evaluation of the potential for future collaboration should be considered, following the planned visit.

The Members of the CPG asked for clarification on some points and following a request from Councillor O'Callaghan it was agreed that a Legal Opinion would be sought on whether signing any agreement at this stage should be a Reserved Function.

Councillor O'Callaghan also requested that the figure quoted of 10,000 Chinese students studying in Irish Higher Education Institutes be verified.

Subject to these clarifications the Members of the CPG **agreed** to recommend the Report of the SPC to the Council.

AREA COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN JULY

Following a discussion it was **agreed** by the Members of the CPG that no Area Committee Meetings would be held in July and that this would be reviewed at the time of the next Local Elections as happened in 2014.

COMMERCIAL RATES – VACANCY REFUND RATE

The Chief Executive and Mr D. Bruton updated the Members of the CPG on proposals to commission an independent review and following a discussion the Members of the CPG **agreed** the following Report.

"The Corporate policy Group agreed at their meeting on the 9th March 2015, the Terms of Reference relating the commissioning of an independent review of the impact of any change to the proportion of refund of rates to be applied in respect of vacant commercial property in the Fingal area having regard to the reserved function of the Elected members under Section 31 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014.

Following the meeting, discussions were had with representatives from Dublin City University and Mr. Toney Foley, Senior Lecturer in Economics and Head of Economics, Finance and Entrepreneurship in DCU has been engaged to undertake work on this project. The proposal submitted by Mr. Foley is as follows:

Proposal for **Research Analysis of Fingal County Council Strategy on "Commercial Rates-Vacancy Refund"**

1. Objectives: The objectives of the research project are to independently examine the current strategy of Fingal County Council on the provision of refunds of commercial rates on vacant premises and to make recommendations on the future operation of the scheme. Specifically the project will:

1. undertake an empirical analysis of the vacant commercial property in Fingal County with the assistance and data of the Council's commercial rates collection staff on both a longitudinal and current basis
2. undertake a range of interviews with property owners and/or leaseholders, and other property stakeholders including Fingal officials, councillors and other property specialists and consider the possibility of issuing a more extensive internet survey
3. assess the short and medium term economic prospects at both national, regional and Fingal levels
4. assess the arguments for and against vacancy rates refunds, notably the resource tax incentive argument and any ~~the additional negative~~ impact on the commercial sector and apply these to Fingal
5. review what other local authorities are implementing on commercial rates refunds
6. assess the financing implications of the refund measure(s)
7. make recommendations on the level of refund and possible differentiation between areas within Fingal
8. Make recommendations in relation to the timing for phasing of changes to the refund process if appropriate

(Changes agreed by the members of the CPG are highlighted)

2. Project Leader: The project leader is Mr Anthony Foley, senior lecturer in economics and head of economics, finance and entrepreneurship at Dublin City University Business School. He is currently chairperson of the DCU Discipline Committee. Prior to joining DCU, Mr Foley was employed in Dublin Corporation, the Economic and Social Research Institute, Department of Finance, National Economic and Social Council (regional economist) and Industrial Development Authority (economic planning). Mr Foley has undertaken economics research, advisory and consultancy projects for the World Bank, EU Commission, Government departments, Forfas, IDA, Enterprise Ireland, Failte Ireland, Irish Hotel Federations, Licensed Vintners Association, Vintners Federation of Ireland, Restaurants Association of Ireland and Drinks Industry Group of Ireland. Mr Foley is an associate economics lecturer at the Institute of Public Administration lecturing on public and local finances and industrial development. He has been an extensive contributor on the post 2007 economic crisis in the print and electronic media.

3. Background to project: Local authorities are legislatively allowed to refund commercial rates paid on certain vacant properties under conditions. The 2014 Local Government Reform Act increased the relevant powers of local authorities and allowed them to grant less than 100% refunds and to distinguish between different electoral areas in terms of the rate of refund. Hitherto, Fingal had given a 100% refund with no distinction between different areas as required by legislation. For the 2015 financial year Fingal continued with the 100% refund with no distinction between different areas. The Corporate Policy Group of the Council wishes to examine the appropriate form of the refund scheme for the 2016 financial year.

4. Methodology: As noted above, the methodology includes analysis of the commercial rates database, interviews with relevant stakeholders, examination of the basis for the programme and evaluation of the coming economic situation.

5. Reporting and Schedule: The project will be completed in time for consideration at the September meeting of the Corporate Policy Group. Mr Foley will attend the June meeting of the Corporate Policy Group to discuss the project and the rates refund programme with members. On approval of the proposal a data request will be made to the Council rates staff for empirical data. It is envisaged that in addition to tasks related contacts the project leader and a designated Council official (possibly Mr Martin Allidine) would meet/contact at least every two weeks to monitor progress. Interim reports will be presented as agreed.

6. Cost: the cost of the project including all expenses, personal interviews, materials (excluding the data and interviews supplied by the Council), communications, research assistance and professional fees is €5500.00. Should it be felt desirable to undertake an extensive representative survey of the properties there would be an additional cost of €900.00. VAT is not payable. Income tax number is XX

The proposal is in line with the Terms of Reference as agreed and it is proposed to proceed on this basis. "

A.O.B

It was agreed that a Special meeting of the Council would be held in May (date to be confirmed) to deal with outstanding business prior to the June Council Meeting.

_____ _____

MAYOR **DATE**

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COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
(Fingal County Council)

Economic Development Services,
County Hall,
Swords,
Fingal,
Co. Dublin.

26th March, 2015

TO: Each Member of the Council

Proposed disposal of a site at Damastown Industrial Park, Mulhuddart, Dublin 15 to D.G. McArdle International ltd.

An application was received from D.G. McArdle International Ltd., for the purchase of a site comprising 2.13 hectares (5.27 acres) approximately, at Damastown Industrial Park, Mulhuddart, Dublin 15, for the purpose of construction of an International Logistics Hub, Transport Base, & Office facilities.

It is proposed, in accordance with Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, subject to the provisions of section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 to dispose of a site comprising 2.13 hectares (5.27 acres) approximately, at Damastown Industrial Park, Mulhuddart, Dublin 15, to D.G. McArdle International ltd. as shown on Drawing No. 11_050B_900 by way of an agreement for lease and lease on the following terms and conditions: -

1. The leasehold disposal of 250 years is for 2.13 hectares (5.27 acres) approximately for a consideration of €620,000.00 (six hundred and twenty thousand euro) excluding V.A.T. and subject to an annual rent of €12.70 an acre, or part thereof, to be reviewed on a 5 year basis.

2. The proposed purchaser to be responsible for the payment of any V.A.T. and/or stamp duty which may arise on the completion of the transaction.

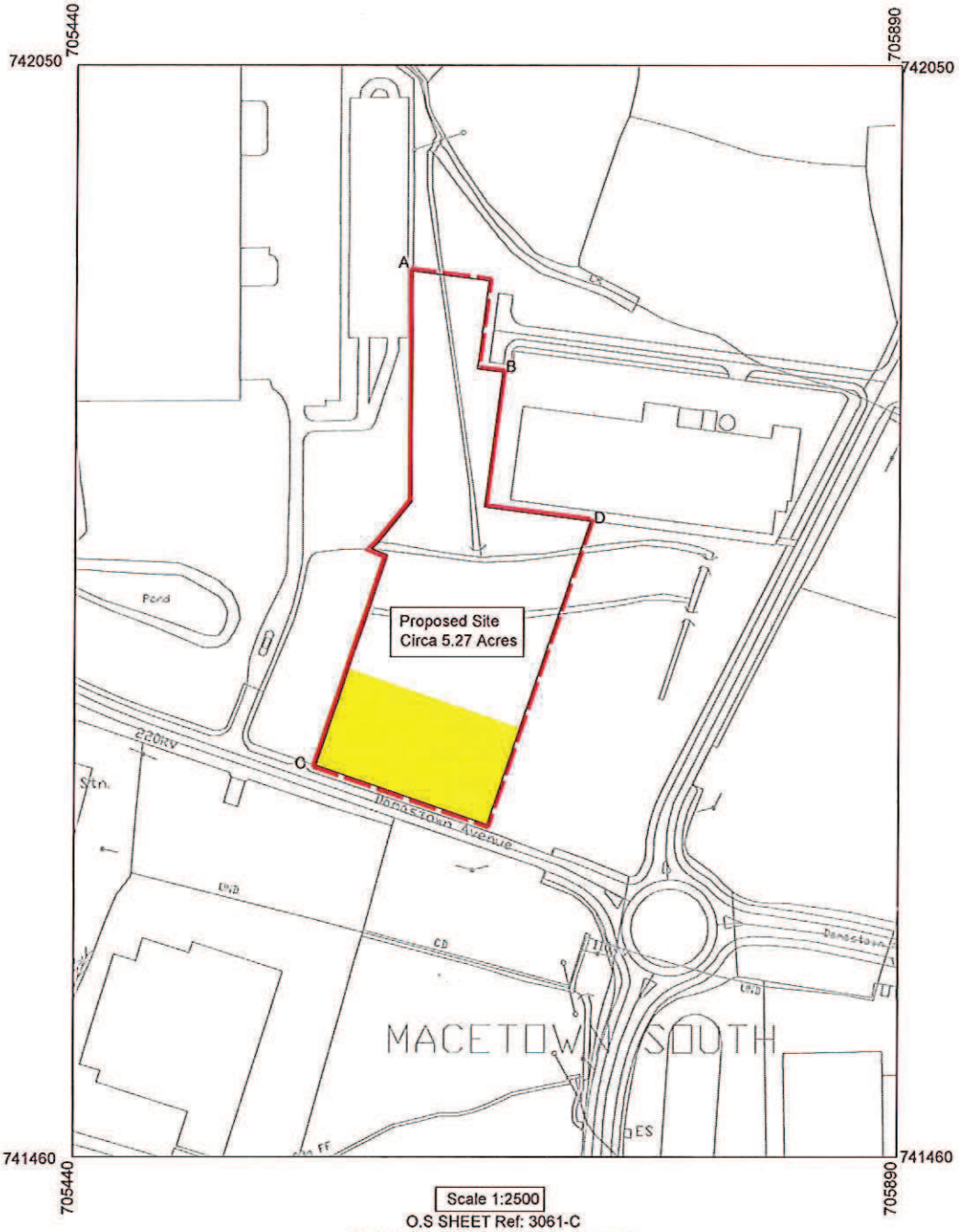
3. Each party to be responsible for their own legal costs.

A report on this matter will be brought before the Castleknock/Mulhuddart Area Committee Meeting (Services B) to be held on the 2nd April, 2015.

Ethna Felten,

Director of Economic Development Services.

This drawing is produced using the
Irish Transverse Mercator (ITM)
Geographic Coordinate System



Scale 1:2500
O.S SHEET Ref: 3061-C
Co-Ordinates to Irish Transvers Mercator.
THIS IS A COMPUTER GENERATED MAP

Note:

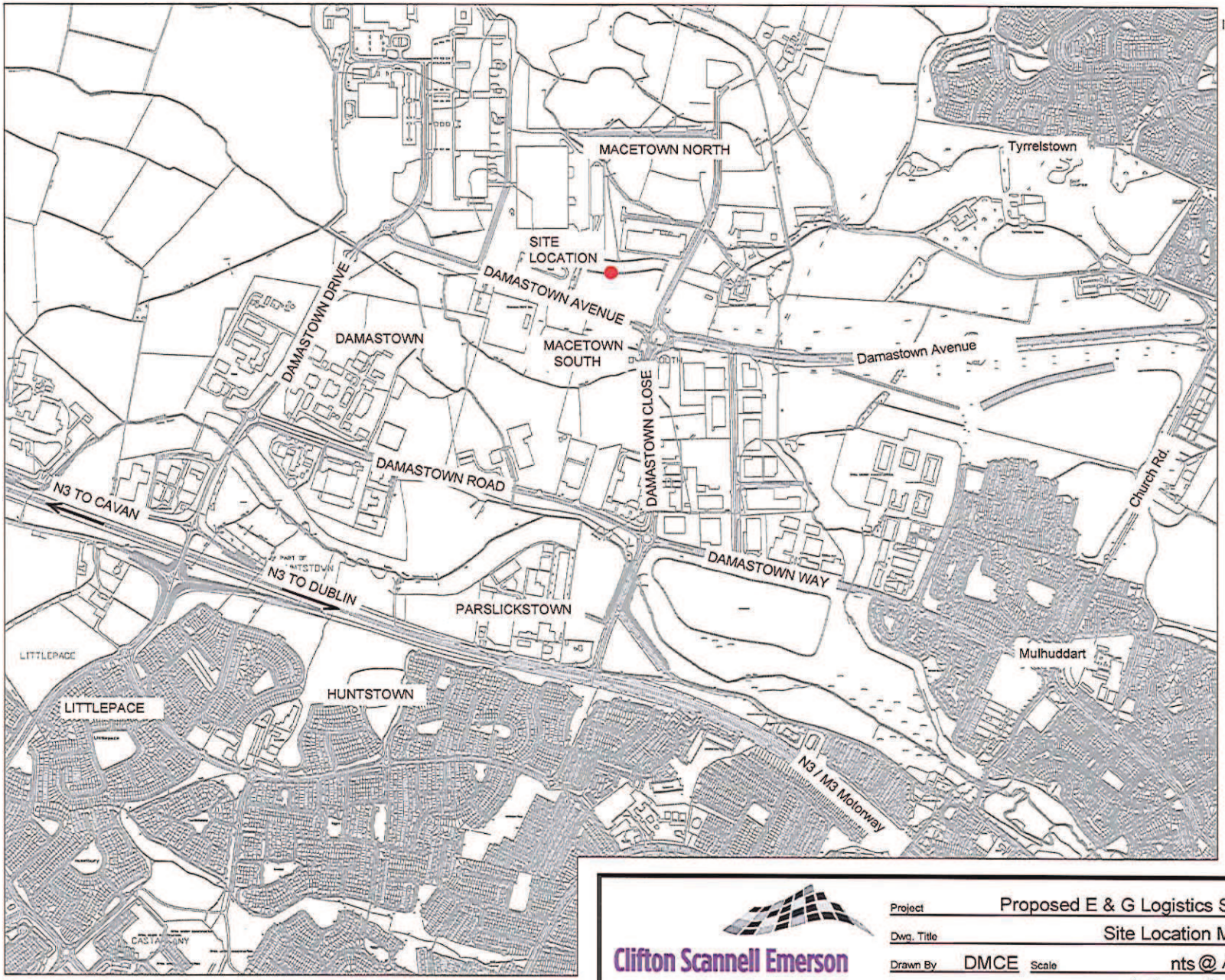
1. Property boundary outlined in RED.
2. The boundaries marked A-B, C-D are not ordnance survey detail.
3. Services Wayleave Shown Yellow.

OSI Licence No.: EN 0042415 © OSI/GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND A3 - © CSEA 2015 - Rev 00

Clifton Scannell Emerson Associates

Project	D.G. McArdle International, Damastown				
Dwg. Title	Land Disposal / Land Registry Compliant Map				
Drawn By	DMCE	Scale	1:2500 @ A3	Date	03/11/14
Checked by	MC	Dwg. Progress	Land Registry	Dwg. No.	11_050B_900

Clifton Scannell Emerson Associates Limited, Consulting Engineers, Seafort Lodge, Castledawson Avenue, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland
T. +353 1 288 5006 F. +353 1 283 3466 E. info@csea.ie W. www.csea.ie



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Clifton Scannell Emerson Associates

Project	Proposed E & G Logistics Site Damastown				
Dwg. Title	Site Location Map				
Drawn By	DMCE	Scale	nts @ A3	Date	27/03/15
Checked by	MC	Dwg. Progress	Information	Dwg. No.	11_050B_004

Clifton Scannell Emerson Associates Limited, Consulting Engineers, Seafort Lodge, Castledawson Avenue, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
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COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
(Fingal County Council)

Economic Development Services,
County Hall,
Swords,
Fingal,
Co. Dublin.

26th March, 2015

TO: Each Member of the Council

Proposed disposal of a site at Stephenstown Industrial Park, Balbriggan, Co. Dublin to Grimme Ireland Equipment Limited.

An application was received from Grimme Ireland Equipment Limited, for the purchase of a site comprising 0.90 hectares (2.23 acres) approximately, at Stephenstown Industrial Park, Balbriggan, Co. Dublin, for the purpose of Offices, Sales/Service and Stores (Farm Machinery).

It is proposed, in accordance with Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, subject to the provisions of section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 to dispose of a site comprising 0.90 hectares (2.23 acres) approximately, at Stephenstown Industrial Park, Balbriggan, Co. Dublin, to Grimme Ireland Equipment Limited as shown on Drawing No. 06_030D_900 by way of an agreement for lease and lease on the following terms and conditions: -

1. The leasehold disposal of 250 years is for 0.90 hectares (2.23 acres) approximately for a consideration of €250,000.00 (two hundred and fifty thousand euro) excluding V.A.T. and subject to an annual rent of €12.70 an acre, or part thereof, to be reviewed on a 5 year basis.

2. The proposed purchaser to be responsible for the payment of any V.A.T. and/or stamp duty which may arise on the completion of the transaction.

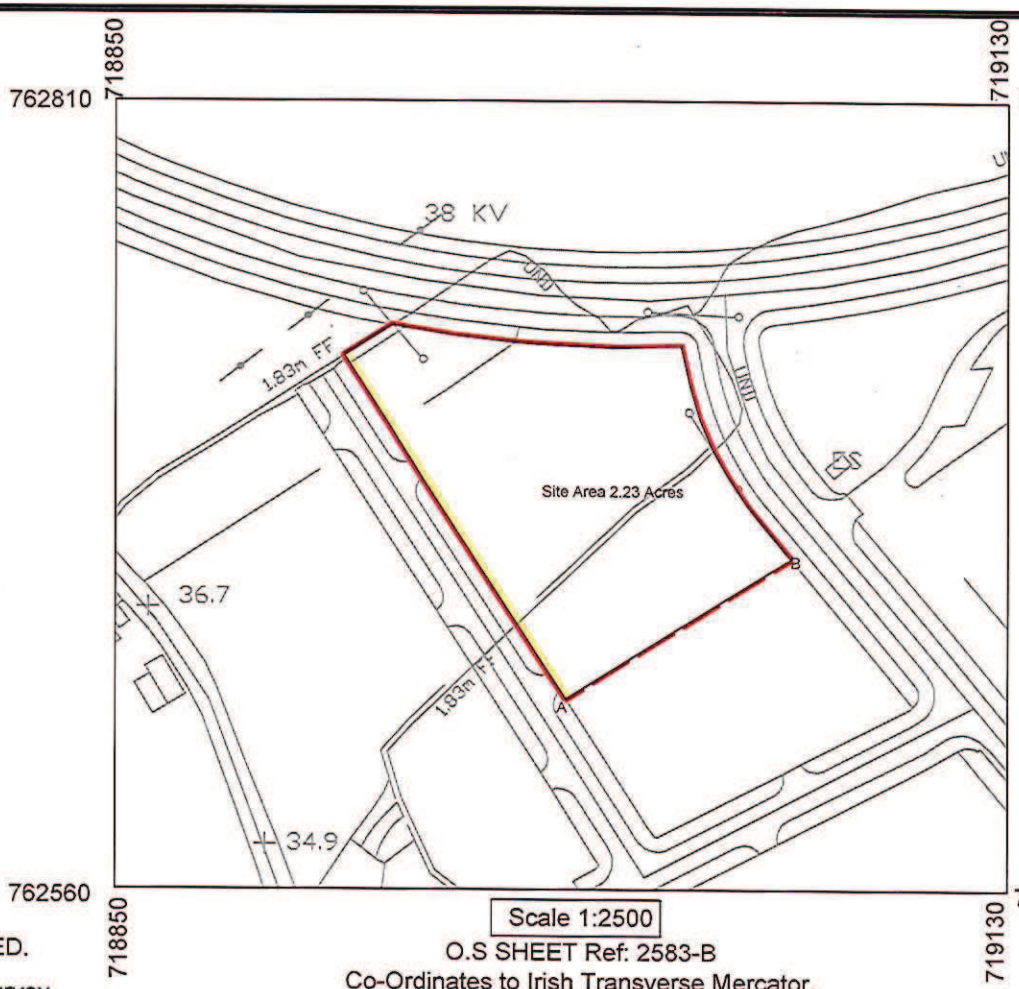
3. Each party to be responsible for their own legal costs.

A report on this matter will be brought before the Balbriggan/Swords Area Committee Meeting (Services B) to be held on the 9th April, 2015.

Ethna Felten,

Director of Economic Development Services.

This drawing is produced using the Irish Transverse Mercator (ITM) Geographic Coordinate System



Scale 1:2500

O.S SHEET Ref: 2583-B

Co-Ordinates to Irish Transverse Mercator.

THIS IS A COMPUTER GENERATED MAP

Note:

Property boundary outlined in RED.

Boundary A-B is not ordnance survey detail.

Wayleave shown yellow.

Rev	Description	Initials	Date

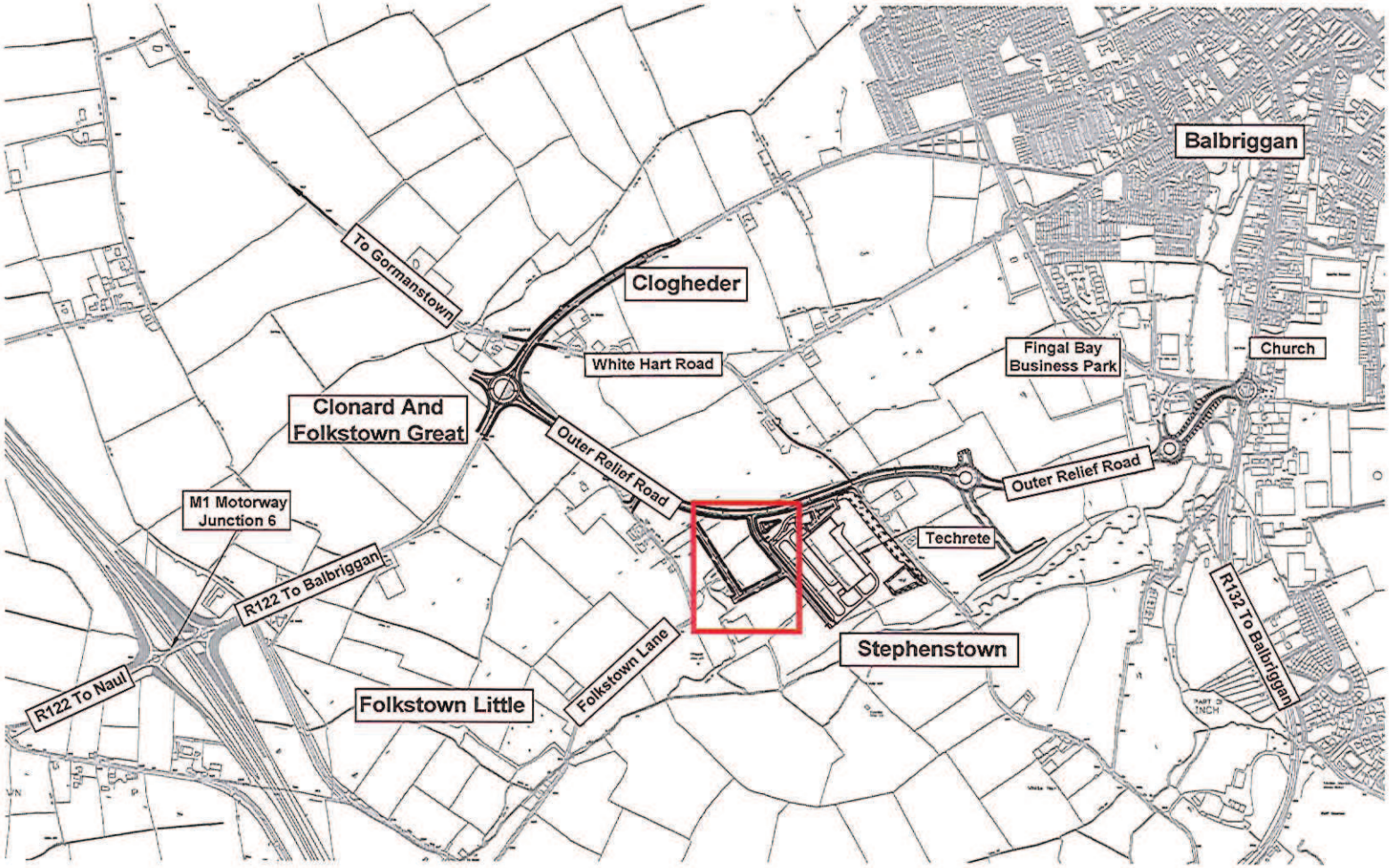
OSI Licence No.: EN 0042413 © OSI/GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND
A4 - © CSEA 2013

Clifton Scannell Emerson Associates

Project	2.23 Acre Agri Business Site				
Dwg. Title	Site Disposal and Land Registry Map				
Drawn By	DMcE	Scale	1:2500 @ A4	Date	01/10/14
Checked by	MC	Dwg. Progress	Issue	Dwg. No.	06_030D_900

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This drawing is produced using the
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Geographic Coordinate System





LEGEND:

SITE LOCATION

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Clifton Scannell Emerson Associates

Project	Disposal to Grimme Ltd.				
Dwg. Title	Site Location Map				
Drawn By	DMCE	Scale	NTS @ A3	Date	27/03/15
Checked by	MC	Dwg. Progress	Information	Dwg. No.	06_030D_002

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FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

MONDAY 13TH APRIL 2015

SEAMOUNT VIEW, SWORDS, CO. DUBLIN

ITEM NO. 18 a

DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE PUBLIC ROADS

Statutory Notice has been given in the press of the Council's intention to consider the making of a declaration that the roads set out hereunder be public roads. No objections have been received and it is recommended that the roads be taken in charge.

ED – Swords/Seatown TL –Mountgorry

Road Name	**Length (m)**	**Description**
Seamount View, Swords	197m	From the point where Malahide Road meets southeast end of boundary wall of house No. 1A for 15m northeast; then 57m to the east and 65m to northwest; then 60m northeast to the end of carriageway adjacent to house No.18.
Total length of road = 197m Number of Units = 31		

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FOUL SEWER				SURFACE WATER SEWER			
MANHOLE NO	COVER LEVEL	INVERT LEVEL	DIAMETER	MANHOLE NO	COVER LEVEL	INVERT LEVEL	DIAMETER
F2	23.06	20.55		S21	23.93	21.56	
			225				–
F1	24.12	20.28		S22	21.77	20.31	
			225				–
F21	23.55	20.18		To Outfall	–	–	
			225				
F22	23.66	20.13					
			225				
F23	22.53	19.90					
			225				
F24	20.78	19.71					
			225				
F25	21.96	19.57					
			225				
F26	22.57	19.24					
			225				
F27	19.60	18.84					
			225				
F28	21.50	18.52					
			225				
F29	23.66	18.11					
			–				
To Outfall	–	–					

REVISIONS			
THIS DRAWING DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A RECOMMENDATION TO HAVE ESTATES TAKEN IN CHARGE/INTO MAINTANCE			
FOR INFORMATION ON SAME SEE LETTER DATED			
THIS MAP REFERS TO TAKING INTO MAINTANCE ONLY THOSE ROADS AND SERVICES AS INDICATED IN COLOUR			
BRENDAN COLGAN SENIOR ENGINEER			
PLANNING AND STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE DEPARTMENT			
DATE January 2014	SURVEYED BY GEOMAP LTD.		NOTE ALL FOUL AND SURFACE WATER SEWERS ARE 225mm.DIA UNLESS STATED.
CHECKED BY COLIN GALLAGHER	DRAWN BY A POPOVIC		
	BC No. 1641		SCALED DIMENSIONS NOT TO BE USED.
CAD FILE REF:	SCALE 1:250		LENGTH OF ROADS ARE AS ON THE ATTACHED ROAD SCHEDULE.
	OS Ref. No. 2994/04		WATER MAINS 100mm DIA. UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED.
Fingal	Comhairle Chontae Fhine Gall		
	Fingal County Council		
	INSPECTORATE DIVISION		
	TAKING IN CHARGE		
	SEAMOUNT VIEW		
	ED– Swords/Seatown TL– Moungorry		
FOUL SEWER			Foul Sewer
SURFACE WATER			Surface Water
WATER MAINS			Watermains
OTHER			Hydrant H Stoke Valve SV Water Meter WM

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MANHOLE No.	COVER LEVEL	INVERT LEVEL	PIPE DIA	MANHOLE No.	COVER LEVEL	INVERT LEVEL	PIPE DIA
F1A	78.955	76.780	150mm	---	---	---	---
F1	78.690	77.199	150mm	S1	78.830	77.425	100mm
F2	78.640	77.211	150mm	S2	78.850	76.094	1200mm
F3	78.570	77.290	150mm	surface water gully			
F4	78.600	77.363	150mm	G1	78.660	77.910	100mm
F5	78.630	77.528	150mm	G4	78.710	77.650	100mm
F6	78.730	77.756	150mm				

LEGEND:-

- FOUL SEWER
- STORM WATER
- WATERMAIN

REVISIONS

THIS DRAWING DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A RECOMMENDATION TO HAVE ESTATES TAKEN IN CHARGE/INTO MAINTANCE

FOR INFORMATION ON SAME SEE LETTER DATED

THIS MAP REFERS TO TAKING INTO CHARGE/MAINTANCE ONLY THOSE ROADS AND SERVICES AS SHOWN IN COLOUR

BRENDAN COLGAN SENIOR ENGINEER
PLANNING AND STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE DEPARTMENT

DATE	January 2014	SURVEYED BY	John Kearns
CHECKED BY	DECLAN GORMLEY	DRAWN BY	P. Murray
CAD FILE REF:		BC No.	BC 1642
		SCALE	1:250
		OS Ref. No.	2649/12

NOTE
FOUL WATER SEWERS ARE 225mm DIA UNLESS STATED.
SURFACE WATER SEWERS ARE 225mm DIA UNLESS STATED.
SCALED DIMENSIONS ONLY TO BE USED.
LENGTH OF ROADS AND AREAS ON THE ATTACHED ROAD SCHEDULE.
WATER MAINS 100mm DIA UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED.

Fingal

Comhairle Chontae Fhine Gall

Fingal County Council

INSPECTORATE DIVISION

TAKING IN CHARGE

WESTON AVENUE

ED - Hollywood TL - Westown

FOUL SEWER	
SURFACE WATER	
WATER MAINS	
OTHER	

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FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

MONDAY 13TH APRIL 2015

WESTON AVENUE, THE NAUL, CO. DUBLIN

ITEM NO. 18 b

DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE PUBLIC ROADS

Statutory Notice has been given in the press of the Council's intention to consider the making of a declaration that the roads set out hereunder be public roads. No objections have been received and it is recommended that the roads be taken in charge.

ED – Hollywood **TL –Westown**

Road Name	**Length**	**Description**
Weston Avenue, The Naul	95m	From junction with R108 (Main street) west for 95m to end of carriageway.
Total length of road= 95m Number of units = 14		

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FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

MONDAY 13th APRIL 2015

COIS TRÁ, RUSH, CO. DUBLIN

ITEM NO. 18 c

DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE PUBLIC ROADS

Statutory Notice has been given in the press of the Council's intention to consider the making of a declaration that the roads set out hereunder be public roads. No objections have been received and it is recommended that the roads be taken in charge.

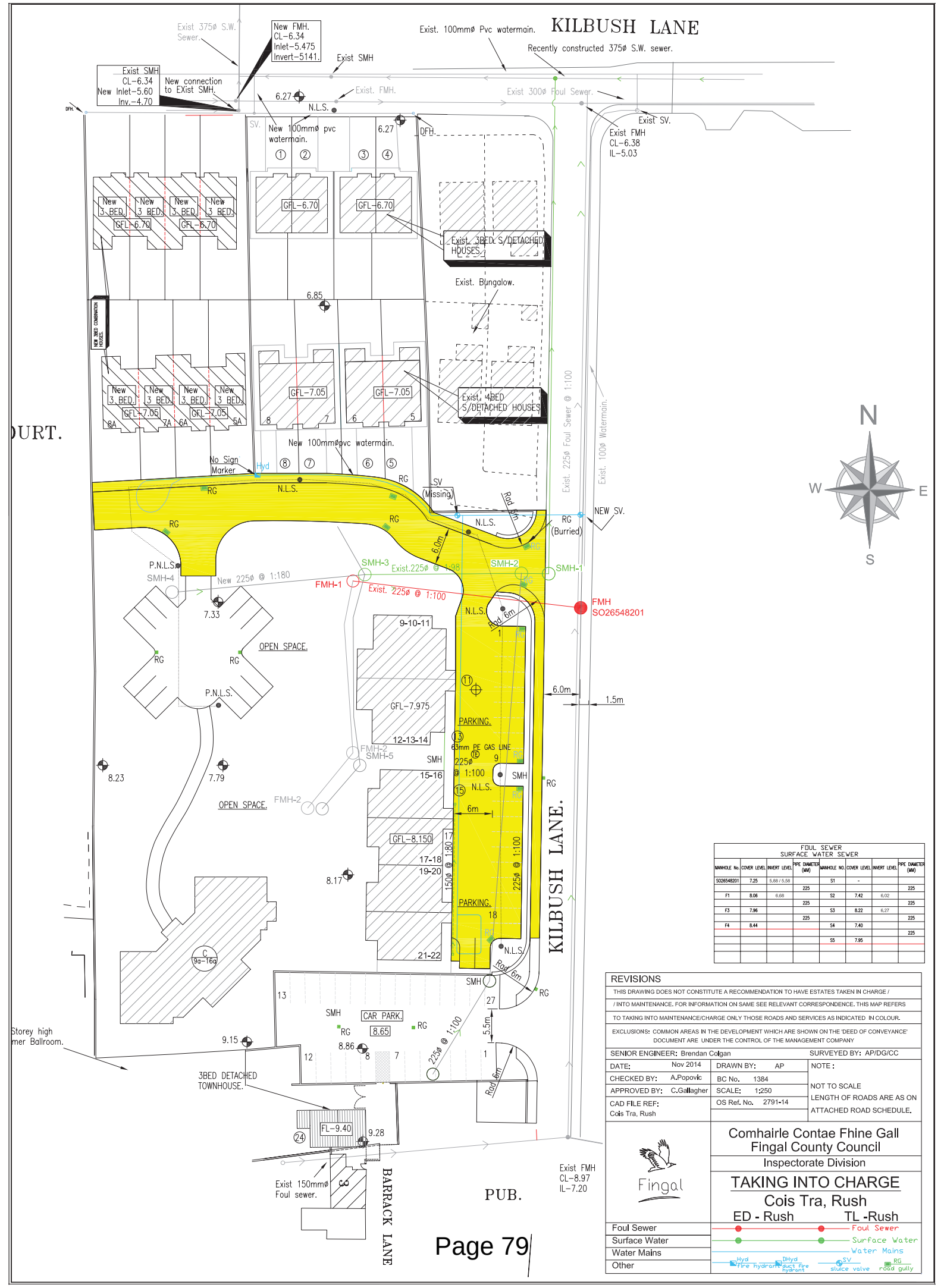
Road Schedule

ED – Rush TL – Rush

Road Name	**Length**	**Description**
Cois Trà, Rush	160m	From the point where entrance of the estate meets Kilbush Lane, for 9m westward towards the centre of the first junction, then for 48m northwest to centre of second junction then for 9m west to the end of the carriageway. Then from centre of second junction for 31m southward to include the parking spaces. Then from centre of first junction for 63m southward to the end of carriageway
Total length of road= 160m		

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FOUL SEWER				SURFACE WATER SEWER			
MANHOLE No.	COVER LEVEL	INVERT LEVEL	PIPE DIAMETER (MM)	MANHOLE NO.	COVER LEVEL	INVERT LEVEL	PIPE DIAMETER (MM)
SO26548201	7.25	5.88 / 5.58		S1	-		
			225				225
F1	8.06	6.88		S2	7.42	6.02	
			225				225
F3	7.96			S3	8.22	6.27	
			225				225
F4	8.44			S4	7.40		
							225
				S5	7.95		

REVISIONS		
THIS DRAWING DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A RECOMMENDATION TO HAVE ESTATES TAKEN IN CHARGE / / INTO MAINTENANCE. FOR INFORMATION ON SAME SEE RELEVANT CORRESPONDENCE. THIS MAP REFERS TO TAKING INTO MAINTENANCE/CHARGE ONLY THOSE ROADS AND SERVICES AS INDICATED IN COLOUR.		
EXCLUSIONS: COMMON AREAS IN THE DEVELOPMENT WHICH ARE SHOWN ON THE 'DEED OF CONVEYANCE' DOCUMENT ARE UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE MANAGEMENT COMPANY		
SENIOR ENGINEER: Brendan Colgan		SURVEYED BY: AP/DG/CC
DATE: Nov 2014	DRAWN BY: AP	NOTE :
CHECKED BY: A.Popovic	BC No. 1384	NOT TO SCALE
APPROVED BY: C.Gallagher	SCALE: 1:250	LENGTH OF ROADS ARE AS ON ATTACHED ROAD SCHEDULE.
CAD FILE REF: Cois Tra, Rush	OS Ref. No. 2791-14	

Fingal

Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall
Fingal County Council
Inspectorate Division

TAKING INTO CHARGE
Cois Tra, Rush
ED - Rush TL -Rush

Foul Sewer	Foul Sewer
Surface Water	Surface Water
Water Mains	Water Mains
Other	Hyd Fire hydrant; DHyd Duct Fire hydrant; SV sluice valve; RG road gully

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Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall
Fingal County Council

Chief Executive's Management Report

Fingal County Council Meeting

Monday 13th April 2015

Item No: 19

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Local Economic and Community Plan

- The LECP (Local Economic & Community Plan) is on target for completion by end June 2015. The socio-economic statement was brought to the SPC and the LCDC and was approved to go to public consultation and submissions can be made on the discussion document until 22nd April, 2015. Meetings with focus groups and stakeholders are also taking place together with meetings with the Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly to coordinate between the Dublin local authorities.

Operation and progress of the LCDC

- The SICAP contract was recently signed by the Chief Executive, the chairperson of the LCDC and the CEO of the Blanchardstown Area Partnership. This enables the continuation of service delivery throughout the County from April 1st, 2015.
- Expressions of Interest have been sought for implementation of LEADER Rural Development Programme 2014 – 2020. LEADER in Ireland will be programmed under Priority 6 of the EU Rural Development policy in the 2014 – 2020 programming period – "Promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas". The focus areas of Priority 6 are facilitating diversification, creation of new small enterprises and job creation; promoting local development in rural areas; and enhancing accessibility to, and use and quality of ICT in rural areas. The Fingal LCDC has decided to submit an Expression of Interest to be the Local Action Group. The closing date for making this application is 15th May, 2015.

Tourism

- The three year County Tourism Strategy was brought to the Economic and Enterprise Development SPC and to the March County Council meeting. Following comments made by the elected members, the strategy will be modified to reflect these comments and will be brought to the May County Council meeting for noting.
- Applications for funding were requested from community groups in Fingal for the Community Tourism Diaspora Initiative. The initiative, launched last year, builds on the community involvement legacy of The Gathering 2013, and is a joint partnership between Fingal County Council, IPB Insurance and Fáilte Ireland. Now in its second year, the scheme provides a national fund of €1m – a Fingal fund of €33,000 - to support local community-based events and festivals each year. Last year, a total of 18 local events were supported in Fingal attracting over 750 visitors from overseas. The closing date for applications was 31st March, 2015 and 10 applications were received.

Business Interface:

- The Business Promotion Grants scheme was launched as a pilot scheme in late 2014. Below are the figures for the 2014 allocation.
    - 15 applications were received.
    - 10 applications were successful.
    - €52,000 was awarded to successful applicants.
    - Initiatives approved included Fingal Film Festival, Portmarnock Village Christmas event, Business Information Seminar and Business Awards competition in Howth, new village signs in Balrothery, Economic Conference in Balbriggan, promotion of Fingal Activity Breaks, Establishment of the Mulhuddart Business Association and website, an online marketing campaign for a business sector, and support to the Dublin Bay Prawn Festival, Howth.

  The 2015 scheme is currently being finalised and will be publicised shortly. A fund of €100,000 will be available under this scheme in 2015 (€20,000 per electoral area).
- The Brand for the Dublin 15 Enterprise Zone has been finalised and the brochure will be available shortly. Quotations have been sought for a marketing strategy and it is hoped to launch the new branded offering at the ITLG Conference in May.
- Work is continuing with the Fingal Dublin Chamber of Commerce to plan the ITLG event, taking place on 25th and 26th May, 2015.
- Economic Development Services has collaborated with the Balbriggan Chamber to develop a value proposition, brand and video to market Balbriggan as an investment location http://balbriggan.ie. The Balbriggan Chamber launched this new value proposition as part of its 2020 Vision for Balbriggan on Friday 27th March, 2015.
- Work is continuing on the application for a Purple Flag for Swords in collaboration with Fingal Dublin Chamber and local business and community stakeholders. The application is due to be submitted in July 2015.

Local Enterprise Office– Activities Report month ending 31st March 2015

Fingal Student Enterprise Awards programme. The Student Enterprise Awards grand finale took place on 12th March 2015 in the Crowne Plaza Hotel Blanchardstown. 2,268 students from 28 Fingal schools participated in the SEA programme in 2014/15, making this the biggest programme of its kind in Ireland. The winning businesses were:

Sutton Park School (Senior Category winner "Holly's Pet Patisserie")
Skerries Community College (Intermediate winner "Book Snaps")
Santa Sabina Dominican College, Sutton (Junior winner "LOK")

These finalists will represent Fingal at the National Enterprise Awards in Croke Park on 22nd April 2015.

Online Trading Vouchers. The third call for applications got underway on the 25th March with an OTV training seminar held for ca. 60 potential applicants. Closing date is 15th April 2015. The drawdown documentation submission period for the second call concluded on the 22nd March. The drawdown process for that round is now underway. Total drawn down to date is €35,034 (from the first call).

IBYE: The €10,000 prize fund for Joseph Kuye (winner of the Best New Category Not Yet Established) was drawn down based on verified expenditure. €30,000 in prizes drawn down to date. Contact ongoing with Dan Davern (winner of the Best Existing Business with Add-on Category) regarding the drawdown of his €20,000 prize.

Enterprise Centres:

- Drinan: Currently 82% of Available Units occupied. Conversion of Unit J2 into 3 new own-door food-grade units underway, to be available in June.
- BASE: Currently 100% of Available Units occupied. National Learning Network Training facility now open. Pobal Grant Application for Salary Costs submitted.
- Beat: Currently 100% of Available Units occupied. Internal conversion works completed with addition of new kitchen and toilet facilities in common areas.

Start Your Own Business programme. Two SYOB programmes continued in March, with a third one commencing at the end of March, totalling 33 participants between the three courses.

Mentoring: 11 Mentoring assignments were approved in March, the total approved year to date now stands at 42.

Management Development Workshops: 7 workshops took place in March; total year to date is 17 (with 170 participants).

Business Clinics: Clinics are offered to citizens and those that wish to start or expand their business and are provided by skilled mentors from the LEO mentor panel and qualified business advisory staff. They are typically of one hour duration. 130 business clinics were undertaken in March (318 clinics year to date)

A new all-Dublin Hi-Start programme commenced with 10 participants, two of which are Fingal LEO clients. The Hi Start programme is a 6 month management development programme geared at high potential start-ups with prospects for significant growth and expansion.

Other LEO activities/events included:

- A PLATO Business seminar was held in the Carlton Hotel Swords, with over 90 businesses in attendance;
- LEO Fingal presented to 40+ potential exporters at an EI "First time exporters" event in Eastpoint;
- International Women's Enterprise Day was held in Dublin City on 5th March with Fingal female-owned businesses represented;
- Enterprise Europe Network: UK and Ireland, London conference to plan the rollout of this new EU-funded programme to be led by LEO Fingal in the Dublin region;
- Head of Enterprise participating on inter-agency group established to address the Mandelez redundancies in the Cadbury plant. The chair of the group is Michael Broughan of Enterprise Ireland and Fingal's Head of Enterprise has been invited to participate due to the proximity of the plant to the Fingal border.

Lastly, all Councillors and Senior FCC staff are invited to join LEO Fingal in a special celebratory first birthday business networking event. Venue is Malahide Castle. This will take place exactly on **15th April 2015 (5.30pm to 7.30pm),** exactly one year since the establishment of the Local Enterprise Office in Fingal. This will provide Councillors with an opportunity to network with clients of the LEO & other stakeholders and celebrate the many successes of the new unit since its establishment.

PLANNING & STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE

Requirements and progress in respect of the introduction/roll out of Government policy through the local government system.

- Continuing engagement with Construction 2020 Dublin Housing Supply Task Force.

<u>Development Plans and Local Area Plans</u>

- National Forensic Mental Hospital proposal for St. Ita's, Portrane. Submission made by planning authority re further information, and circulated to Swords/Balbriggan Elected Members.
- NTA Fingal/North Dublin Transport Study & Swords BRT. Background work continuing.
- Development Pan Review – public notice in newspapers 20th March 2015. 4 public information meetings in April.
- Donabate LAP – draft available end April 2015.

- Airport LAP – work on review to commence shortly.
- Airport Masterplan completed.
- Kinsealy LAP – draft availability date under review.

ENVIRONMENT & WATER SERVICES

Environment:
The Council has submitted a list of nine identified bathing waters to the EPA for the 2015 Bathing Water Season. There is no change from 2014. The identified bathing waters are:- Balbriggan Front Beach, Skerries South Beach, Loughshinny Beach, Rush South Beach, Portrane Brook Beach, Donabate Balcarrick Beach, Portmarnock Velvet Strand Beach, Sutton Burrow Beach and Howth Claremont Beach. While the EPA has not yet published the water quality status for 2015, the provisional status for Rush South Beach is "poor" (based on water quality results for the 2011 – 2014 period). A Beach Management Plan for Rush South Beach has been submitted to the EPA dealing with the sources of pollution, the measures to improve water quality and a communications strategy. It will be necessary to put in place an Advisory Notice against bathing at Rush South Beach for the 2015 Bathing Water Season.

The Draft Eastern Midlands Regional Waste Management Plan 2015 – 2021 is currently being updated following receipt of 60 submissions during the public consultation phase. It is envisaged that the final Plan will be adopted by the Chief Executives of the constituent Local Authorities in the near future. Dublin City Council is currently establishing the Regional Office to oversee implementation of the Plan. In addition, a business case is currently being developed by the CCMA to establish a Lead Regional Waste Enforcement Office.

Water Services:
Fingal County Council's Letter of Representation/Balancing Statement reflecting the financial position of Water Services at 31st December 2013 was signed by the CE, Head of Finance and Director of Environment & Water Services on 27th March 2015.

Water Services continue to adhere to the DECLG programme of asset transfer to Irish Water for 3rd, 4th & 5th ministerial orders (through 2015).

Further to last month's CE report, the closing date for submissions for the Water Services Strategic Plan (WSSP) for the delivery of water services in Ireland, is 17th April 2015 and can be made through https://consult.water.ie.

HOUSING & COMMUNITY

Housing:
Annual Rent Assessment.
The 2015 rent review is underway. Rent assessment forms issued in respect of c 5,200 tenancies and 55% of forms were returned by the designated March date. Reminders will issue to those who have not yet returned forms. The effective date for the rent review is 25th April 2015.

National Social Housing Strategy
The Dublin Social Housing Delivery Taskforce has been established and is preparing the regional response to the delivery of social housing in the Dublin Region. The Chief Executives of the four Dublin Authorities are members of the Task Group.

Mr Alan Kelly, T.D., Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government recently announced targets for the delivery of social housing to 2017 for each local authority. The announcement indicated a target of 1376 housing units to be delivered in the period 2015-2017 in Fingal with a provisional funding allocation (Current and Capital) of €81,041,413.

Call for Capital Assistance Scheme 2015
The Department of Community and Local Government recently announced the above Call. Approved Housing Bodies are invited to submit proposals to the Council to build and/or acquire properties in Fingal which may be funded under the Scheme. All proposals are to be submitted to the Housing Department by 20th April 2015.

New Units
The planning process is underway for the delivery of additional 114 social units across the County. In addition the Council continues to acquire units with an initial budget allocation of €2M.
Voids
There were 43 void social housing units at the end of March; pre-let repair works will be completed as soon as possible to ensure their early letting.

Housing Need Assessment:
A letter of update recently issued to each applicant informing them of their list position with an estimated period to an offer of housing. A similar update will continue to be issued annually to each applicant.

Community:

Integration Conference

The Mayor's Conference "Immigration to Integration" will take place on the 19th May 2015, in the Castleknock Hotel, the subjects covered will include The Receiving Communities, Mental Health and Education. Other issues covered in workshops will be Enterprise, Youth and Education, Civic Participation. Details of key note speaker will follow.

The Fingal Community Network (FCN)

Fingal County Council's Public Participation Network the FCN will hold its second Plenary on Saturday 25th April from 9am to 3pm in the Radisson Hotel, Dublin Airport. Election will be held at the plenary to fill the places on various committees, the 11 seats on the Strategic Policy Committees, 7 seats on the Joint Policing Committee, 5 seats on the Local Community Development Committee and 12 seats on the FCN Secretariat.

Pre Memory Makers Workshops

A joint initiative between the Community Office and Libraries will start in April to support the over 55s to participate in the Memory Maker Event. Workshops have been scheduled which will encourage the participants to share their memories in story, music and song. The workshops will run from 6.45 to 7.45 at the following Venues:

Library	Date
Howth	1st April
Swords	2nd April
Rush	8th April
Baldoyle	9th April

1916 Commemoration Working Group Progress Report

The Commemoration Working Group continues to make progress on the development of the 1916 Commemoration Programme for Fingal which will showcase the Fingal Connections to 1916. The County has a unique story to tell and the programme will reflect this in its content. The National Programme of Commemoration Events was launched March 31st in Collin's Barracks. A full presentation will be made to the Council today.

The Age Friendly Alliance Housing Sub-Committee

Members of the Fingal Age Friendly Housing Sub-Committee met on Wednesday 1st April. The Group are collating current data on older people in Fingal to develop a clear picture of the housing needs of older people in Fingal.

Fingal Senior Citizen's Forum

Under the Age Friendly Initiative, the Fingal Senior Citizen's Forum was supported by Age & Opportunity to develop a "Calling Card". The work has been completed; a copy of the Calling Card will be circulated to all Councillors. Members of the Fingal Senior Citizens have collaborated with Dublin City University to develop a Newsletter for Seniors in the county. A copy of the completed eZine will be forwarded to all Councillors.

Sport:

The Soccer Sister Easter Camps took place during the Easter School Holidays around the country. There are 23 camps throughout Dublin Fingal hosted the majority - 12 Camps took place throughout the county catering for in excess of 340 girls. This is as a result of our prioritising the development of women / girls sports.

In addition the Balbriggan Ladies Rugby Team won the Div 4 finals.

The Primary and Secondary School Athletics finals will take place in Morton Stadium on Tuesday 28th April. In excess of 1,500 young people are expected to attend.

The Leprechaun Cup (Cricket) will take place in 26 National Schools throughout the county. Four new schools have joined this year's programme.

We are piloting table cricket for people with disabilities in two venues.

We have launched a Football For All programme in conjunction with Skerries Town FC, 35 boys and girls of varying abilities ages between 8-18 years are participating in the programme.

Arts:

Youth Film Club

The Arts Office is offering young people in Fingal the opportunity to establish a Youth Film Club in Draíocht. An eight week course will be delivered on Tuesday evenings by multimedia experts *CreateSchool* in the form of a pilot project to ascertain interest levels among those aged 12-18 years in establishing something more long term.

Room 13
Room 13 is an innovative arts-in-education programme that establishes art studios in primary schools in Fingal. The programme was initiated this academic year and includes a student-run art studio, a student management committee, and an artist-in-residence. Two schools are currently participating with more to be invited to express an interest shortly.
Music Appreciation
Initiated two 12 week programmes 'Music for life' in partnership with the Libraries Dept.
Swords Castle Architectural Master Plan
In collaboration with the Architect Depts. facilitated consultation with professional artists for the Swords Castle Master Plan.
The Hide Sculpture, Balleally Landfill
E- Tender completion and competition assessment with architects &, procurement section
Tolka Flood Defence Commission
DCC, FCC, OPW and Meath Co Co awarded the public art commission to a group of artists who will begin delivering workshops and research activities in the Mulhuddart area, gathering suitable contacts and arranging meetings

Grants Awarded (Arts Act 2003)

- Face of Fingal Exhibition , Balbriggan
- Phoenix Writers Group, D. 15
- Pop up Artists exhibition , Naul
- Portmarnock Arts group
- Rush Musical & Dramatic Group

Carnegie Library Swords initiative;
Meeting with B Marks, upgrading computer equipment, roof fix, grant award, discussions on future destination of contents of museum.
Balbriggan Cultural Quarter initiative;
Collaborating with Economic Development and The Crafts & Design Council of Ireland in relation to 'craft pods' for Balbriggan town, as part of the Balbriggan Public Realm Project.
Swords Cultural Quarter Initiative;
Meeting with local artists, office space has been arranged in Drinan. Information meeting organised for 26th April for Swords Artists to outline supports available.
Floraville Public Garden Skerries 'Stone Seals' sculpture / film documentary. Arts office making documentary of the jointly commission public art work for the public garden space in Skerries.

Arts Centres:
Seamus Ennis Arts Centre - New Office space under construction and outdoor courtyard is complete.
Full programme of events
Draiocht Arts Centre - Full programme of events.

Libraries:
Technology

- **Library Management System**
  Libraries have started the process of moving to a new library management system for staff and borrowers. The new system is being supplied by Innovative Interfaces and will go live from mid to late June 2015.
- **Apple devices in Fingal Libraries**
  Ipads with literacy and numeracy software will be installed in junior libraries in the coming weeks.
  A Mac PC will be installed in each of the larger branch libraries. Apple Mac will be useful for community groups considering the high cost of publishing brochures/posters etc. for community groups e.g. Swords men's sheds. The library will organise training from graphic designers to help community groups familiarise themselves with the system with a view to producing community literature.

Events:
Irish Design 2015 (ID15)
ID2015 will promote Fingal's events on their website http://www.irishdesign2015.ie/
Ashleigh Myles: Creative skill of Millinery: Two workshop with in Rush library 18th April & 9th May'
Jennifer Rothwell -Established fashion designer and creative director and mentor with the Design & Crafts Council of Ireland, Dublin City Local Enterprise Office LEO) and Intertrade Ireland. Workshop, Fashion Show and Exhibition on the Art of dress with Balbriggan Community School.

One City One Book *Barrytown trilogy* in collaboration with Dublin City Libraries: An initiative to encourage everyone to read a book connected with Dublin. Fingal's events will include:

- **Pete Holidai** member of The Troubled Pilgrims, songwriter and producer a series of talks on the development of the Irish music industry in the '80s and '90s, Blanchardstown 14th April, Balbriggan 15th April, Rush 22nd April, Baldoyle 28th April, Malahide 29th April, all at 6.45pm

- **Exhibition** - photographic celebration of Dublin's youth culture, street style and teen life, from the 1950s to the late 1990s By Garry O'Neill: Swords Library 13th – 17th April, Rush 20 – 24th April, Baldoyle 27th April – 1st May.
- **Author Donal Fallon** examines the historical context and backdrop to Roddy Doyle's *A Star Called Henry* and *The Commitments* Blanchardstown Library, 15th April and Baldoyle 27th April at 6.45pm.

Memory Makers

John Carpenter – Painting Sessions and craft sessions have taken place in library branches across the County and have been well received.

Bealtaine events

- Murder mystery CSI sessions for adults: Donabate Library 5th May at 11am, Blanchardstown Library 11th May at 11am.
- Joyce: A musical tale of three citizens: 6th May at 6.30pm, Rush Library
- Carnation Theatre: Blow Dry: 11th May at 4.00pm, Baldoyle Library

Easter events for children including science and art workshops took place in branch libraries and proved to be very popular.

OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT

Flooding:

Byrne Looby Partners have been appointed as Consulting Engineer's on the Howth Flood Relief Scheme. A public consultation meeting with the engineering consultants on the Offington Court/Old Castle Ave. Flood Alleviation Study took place recently in Baldoyle Library.

Speed Limits in Residential Estates:

Approximately 100 submissions of interest have been received to be considered for inclusion in the pilot phase of the introduction of 30 km speed limits in residential estates. The submissions have received initial consideration at the Transportation SPC 8th April 2015 and it is now intended to bring them to the Area Committee A meetings for information and consideration.

Joint Policing Committee (JPC)

A series of 4 regional meetings are being held to which the public are invited to attend and raise issues or ask questions. The meetings are attended by Senior Garda Management for the Region and Senior Staff in Fingal County Council and are chaired by the Chairperson of the Joint Policing Committee. Meetings to date have been held in Mulhuddart Community Centre (25th March), Royal Marine Hotel, Sutton (1st April) and Combined Clubs Hall, Balbriggan (8thApril).The fourth meeting is scheduled for Malahide Library (7-9pm 15th April).

FINANCE

- Circular Fin 04/2015 Accounting for Development Contributions following the transfer of Water Services functions to Irish Water in the Financial Statements of the Local Authorities (attached)
- Report on "Overview of the work of the Local Government Auditors". This report, produced by DECLG in March 2015, relates to the accounts of Local Authorities for the year ending 31st December 2013 (attached)

Financial Reports – Appendix 1 attached

- Revenue Account Income & Expenditure to 31st March 2015
- Capital Account Income & Expenditure to 31st March 2015
- Summary of Corporate Debtors to 31st March 2015

CORPORATE AFFAIRS:

Review of the Communications Section:

Consultants have been engaged to carry out a review of the Council's Communications Section to determine its future structure and areas of responsibilities. This review comprises the areas of internal & external communications and online & social media as well as evaluating how to more strongly market Fingal County Council. The elected members will be kept informed of progress on this review through the monthly Chief Executive report.

Forthcoming Events:

Spring Break- Blanchardstown	02nd April
Dublin Bay Prawn Festival- Howth	23rd- 26th April
Ireland V England ODI Malahide	08th May
Darkness into Light- Malahide & Skerries	09th May

Audit Committee:

The next meeting of the Audit Committee is scheduled for 27th April.

Annual Declarations:

The Annual Declarations are now available on the Council website.

Councillors' Representations System

The Councillors' Representations System has now been up and running successfully for three months. To date 133 Representations have been submitted via the system. As indicated when the system was implemented, all future Representations should be submitted via the online system.

HR:

Gateway:

There are currently 191 participants of the Scheme who are engaged in different projects across the county.

JobBridge:

There is currently 1 intern working in Fingal under the above scheme. This scheme is a National Internship scheme that provides work experience placements for interns for a 6 or 9 month period.

APPENDIX 1 – FINANCIAL REPORTS 31/03/2015

REVENUE ACCOUNT
INCOME & EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION TO 31/03/2015

		EXPENDITURE			INCOME			NET
		Expenditure €	Adopted Full Year Budget €	% Budget Spent to date	Income €	Adopted Full year Budget €	% Budget Raised	
A	Housing & Building	8,816,519	36,714,600	24%	7,235,376	34,943,800	21%	1,581,143
B	Road Transport & Safety	4,705,650	21,172,100	22%	408,568	2,235,400	18%	4,297,082
C	Water Services	4,028,644	16,530,000	24%	3,864,604	20,327,700	19%	164,040
D	Development Management	2,295,469	11,407,300	20%	779,027	3,014,900	26%	1,516,442
E	Environmental Services	10,267,478	38,651,900	27%	692,086	3,064,400	23%	9,575,392
F	Recreation & Amenity	6,803,501	28,427,300	24%	454,187	2,037,300	22%	6,349,314
G	Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	384,723	1,324,800	29%	309,719	761,100	41%	75,004
H	Miscellaneous Services	1,475,396	12,609,200	12%	444,627	1,929,600	23%	1,030,769
J	Central Management Charge	10,155,595	39,772,000	26%	1,326,734	4,546,300	29%	8,828,861
LG	Local Government Fund / GPG				2,543,225	10,172,900	25%	-2,543,225
PL	Pension Levy				813,912	3,335,700	24%	-813,912
RA	Rates				30,055,000	120,220,000	25%	-30,055,000
		48,932,974	**206,609,200**	**24%**	**48,927,065**	**206,589,100**	**24%**	5,909

SUMMARY OF CORPORATE DEBTORS TO 31/03/2015

	Balance at 01/01/2015 €	Balance at 31/03/2015 €	Current debt €	> 1 Year €
RATES	9,982,050	105,891,381	97,668,577	8,222,805
LOANS	1,712,673	1,722,414	569,296	1,153,118
RENTS	2,307,284	2,315,305	1,704,586	610,719

Figures for rents and loans are unadjusted by credits/prepayments

CAPITAL ACCOUNT
INCOME & EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION TO 31/3/2015

		Balance at 01/01/2015 €	Expenditure YTD €	Income YTD €	Balance at 31/03/2015 €
A	Housing & Building	-40,365,700	6,475,423	-5,785,853	-39,676,130
B	Road Transport & Safety	7,529,836	2,124,397	-1,414,091	8,240,142
C	Water Services	-15,086,455	601,780	-376,182	-14,860,857
D	Development Management	25,511,729	666,346	-6,178,603	19,999,472
E	Environmental Services	-10,070,784	59,693	-1,194,705	-11,205,796
F	Recreation & Amenity	3,211,807	837,821	-789,615	3,260,013
H	Miscellaneous Services	-20,573,552	147,060	-675,204	-21,101,696
	Total	**-49,843,119**	**10,912,520**	**-16,414,253**	**-55,344,852**

Comhshaol, Pobal agus Rialtas Áitiúil
Environment, Community and Local Government

Circular Fin 04/2015

Chief Executive
cc. Head of Finance

30th March 2015

Accounting for Development Contributions following the transfer of water services functions to Irish Water in the financial statements of the local authorities.

A Chara,

I am directed by the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government to refer to the accounting for development contributions following the transfer of water services functions to Irish Water and reporting in the Annual Financial Statements (AFS) of the local authorities for the year ended 31 December 2014.

1. Overview

The Water Services Act 2013 and the Water Services (No. 2) Act 2013 provided for the establishment of Irish Water as an independent subsidiary within Ervia (formerly Bord Gáis Éireann Group). From 01 January 2014, the legislation provides:

- For the transfer of Local Authority water services assets and liabilities to Irish Water
- That all functions of a Local Authority relating to water services, shall transfer to Irish Water other than those related to flood alleviation, rural water services, notably group water schemes and individual domestic wastewater treatment systems
- Those Local authorities will operate services on behalf of Irish Water through service level agreements in line with agreed annual service plans. It is provided that these agreements will run for an initial 12 year period with reviews after two years and seven years. This has been reflected in Local Authority revenue budgets adopted for 2015

The Water Services Act 2014 states that the transfer of property is not a disposal but a statutory transfer.

2. Development Contributions Accounting Treatment & AFS Disclosure

Circular Fin 02 2015 "Accounting for the transfer of water services functions to Irish Water in the financial statements of the local authorities" outlined the accounting treatment to be applied to reflect the transfer of water services functions to Irish Water and reporting in the Annual Financial

Statements (AFS) of the local authorities for the year ended 31 December 2014 with the exception of accounting for development contributions.

Following clarification on some outstanding policy issues, the General Accounts Working Group (GAWG) have now agreed the accounting treatment for development contribution debtors and related cash in hand. The following additional journals are required at year end.

a. Development Contribution Short Term Debtors

Cr. Creditor Account with Irish Water related gross debtors less bad debt provision as at 31 December 2014

Dr. Capital Job (Income)

b. Development Contribution Cash collected from 1 January 2014 and not paid over to Irish Water

Cr. Creditor Account

Dr. Capital Job (Income)

c. Disclosure Requirements

The following disclosure is to be included as a note in AFS 2014.

Short Term water related development contribution debtors balances (less bad debt provision) as at 31 December 2014 are being shown with an equivalent creditor in the AFS to reflect the transfer of water and waste water services to Irish Water. Cash collected in 2014 but not paid over to Irish Water in 2014 is also shown as a creditor.

Mise, le meas,

Sinead Kehoe

Local Government Finance

Local Government Audit Service

Overview of the work of the Local Government Auditors

Comhshaol, Pobal agus Rialtas Áitiúil
Environment, Community and Local Government

March 2015

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The website of the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government is the primary means of publishing reports of the Local Government Audit Service. Should any errors arise, they will be corrected and noted in the report published at http://www.environ.ie/en/Publications/LocalGovernment/AuditService/

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Foreword

This report sets out the work of the Local Government Audit Service (LGAS) in delivering on its statutory remit of providing the external audit of local government in accordance with sections 114 to 126 of the Local Government Act, 2001. It highlights the main findings contained in the local government auditors' statutory reports issued to the elected members of the city and county councils on the audits of the annual financial statements for 2013, which are published on the Department's website at http://www.environ.ie/en/Publications/LocalGovernment/AuditService/#d.en.26979 .

The Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government approved, in December 2014, a new Code of Audit Practice for the LGAS.

Local government is in the process of significant consolidation of its functions following the enactment of the Local Government Reform Act, 2014, which provides for the:

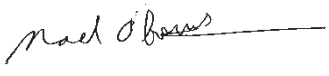
- merger of town and borough councils with their respective county councils
- amalgamations of Limerick City and County, Waterford City and County and South and North Tipperary County Councils.

There will be additional challenges for the LGAS in 2015 in the audit of the transfer of local authorities' water service assets and liabilities to Irish Water in accordance with the statutory provisions. These are major reforms for the sector to deliver. The financial impact of these fundamental changes will only become apparent following the preparation of the councils' draft annual financial statements for 2014. I have made reference in this report to the delays in the production of 2013 draft accounts by some authorities, which had an adverse impact in the delivery of a timely and efficient audit programme.

The finance function in local authorities must be adequately supported to deliver the significant demands arising from the reform programme.

The LGAS is committed to delivering an efficient and effective external audit service for local government, including on-going improvement in its audit procedures and reporting.

My thanks to local authority management and staff for the assistance given to the LGAS over the past year. Considering the pressures on our staff resources in 2014, another successful year's work was delivered, well done to all the team throughout the country.



Noel O'Connell
Director of Audit
Local Government Audit Service
March 2015

Introduction

The Local Government Audit Service provides the independent external audit of local government, as established by the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government. Local Government Auditors are recruited following open public competitions and are all qualified accountants.

The LGAS, in its role of providing an independent scrutiny of the financial stewardship of local authorities, has continued to develop its policies and procedures to meet the requirements of the Code of Audit Practice, which takes account of the principles underpinning public sector audit. This report provides an overview of local authority finances drawing on the results of audit and the engagement with local authorities through the audit process. Further information on the organisation and role of the LGAS is included in Appendix 13.

The Local Government Act, 2001 sets out the primary duties of the auditor as follows:

"In the course of the audit of accounts of the local authority or other body, the local government auditor shall carry out such audit tests as he or she considers appropriate in order to be satisfied as to:

(a) whether the annual financial statement is prepared in accordance with section 107 or with the accounting requirements otherwise applicable to the body concerned,
(b) whether the annual financial statement presents fairly the financial position of the authority or other body and of its income and expenditure for the period in question,
(c) whether the transactions of the audited body conform with the statutory or other authorisation under which they purport to have been carried out."

In discharging their responsibilities, local government auditors must take account of matters arising from previous audit reports and management letters. Auditors should also:

- Plan the audit and allocate resources to achieve a balance of work between the various aspects of the audit, having due regard to availability of resources, and carry out cyclical reviews of financial systems
- Take a broad and analytical view of the audit work based on an assessment of the risk of material error in the annual financial statement
- Ensure that the audit has, as one of its aims, to assist members and management of the audited body
- Perform the audit in a professional manner and conclude it without undue delay
- Develop, with the Director of Audit, measures to ensure a standard audit approach.

Audit Opinion

It is the local government auditor's main statutory duty, following completion of the financial audit, to give his/her independent audit opinion on the annual financial statement of the audited body, which has been prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice and Accounting Regulations for local authorities, as to whether it presents fairly, the financial position of the audited body and of its income and expenditure for the period under audit.

Audit Reports
In addition to the audit opinion, it is custom and practice to issue statutory audit reports on the major audits covering any matter or matters which the auditor considers should be reported. The Chief Executive of a local authority is required to respond to this report and his/her comments may be included as part of the final report. This procedure has enhanced public scrutiny of local government as management responses, to address the issues raised at audit, now form part of the published audit reports.

Management Letters
In accordance with professional audit practice, an auditor may issue a management letter drawing attention to any weaknesses in financial procedures and / or internal controls identified during audit, and make appropriate recommendations. A management letter may incorporate audit memoranda already issued to functional officers and line managers during the audit. Management letters, issued in respect of city and county councils in the course of the 2013 audits, referred to accounting and financial control issues identified in the course of audit tests carried out.

Role of the Elected Members
The role of the elected members in the governance of local authorities is vital. The approval and regular monitoring of revenue and capital expenditure and the consideration of the annual financial statement and auditor's report are important functions for the council members. Members' participation on the councils' audit committee is now an integral part of the oversight of corporate governance in the councils.

Priorities for the Local Government Audit Service

A number of developments in the local government sector have had a significant impact on the structures and the business of local authorities and will also present significant challenges to the LGAS. These initiatives are driven by the need for improved efficiency and effectiveness in the sector and are at varying stages of implementation. These developments include the following:

- Mergers and Unifications of Local Authorities
- Irish Water
- Increased engagement with Audit Committees
- Establishment of National Oversight and Audit Commission
- Local Government Efficiency Implementation
- Revision of the Accounting Code of Practice

Mergers and Unifications of Local Authorities
The Local Government Reform Act, 2014 contains provisions for the dissolution of town councils and the merger of city, county and town councils. The most immediate impact on the LGAS will be the transfer of all financial data and transactions from the town councils to the county councils during 2014 and the preparation of a combined AFS for 2014. The maintenance of an audit trail and the accessibility to accounts history and transactions will be of vital importance to audit and will be a focus issue in the 2014 audits.

Irish Water
The transfer of responsibilities for water services from local authorities to Irish Water will have an immediate impact on the work of the LGAS. Balances on the accounts of local authorities at 31

December 2013, including fixed assets, debtors, loans payable, reserve and capital projects will be transferred to Irish Water in 2014 and will have a significant impact on the AFS of all city and county councils.

Engagement with Audit Committee

The 2014 Act also provides for increased engagement by the auditor with local authority Audit Committees. Audit Committees are required to review any audited financial statement, auditor's report or auditor's special report in relation to the local authority and assess actions taken by its chief executive in response to audit findings and to report back to the relevant authority. The local government auditor will attend a meeting of the audit committee to present his or her report and clarify such issues as may be necessary in relation to the content of the report.

Under the new legislation Audit Committees are required to report to the elected members at their next practicable meeting following the Audit Committee's meeting with the auditor.

National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC)

The establishment of NOAC is provided for in the 2014 Act and its functions are set out in section 126(c) and include the following:

- to scrutinise the performance of local authorities;
- to support the development and enhancement of best practice;
- to oversee how national policy in relation to local government is implemented;
- to monitor and evaluate the implementation of public service reform; and
- to prepare reports to the Minister.

This commission, in the course of carrying out its remit, can take account of the reports prepared by the LGAS.

Local Government Efficiency Implementation

Following on from the efficiency review an implementation group was established and this has resulted in the local government sector, through its Programme Management Office (PMO), identifying means of achieving efficiencies identified. This involves a wide range of initiatives across the local government sector. The developments that will have the most immediate impact on the work of LGAS include the sharing of services across local authorities e.g. payroll, procurement and accounts payable.

Revision of the Accounting Code of Practice

The General Accounts Working Group (GAWG) is responsible for developing new accounting policies, providing guidance on implementation and addressing all issues relating to accounting policies. A revised Accounting Code of Practice was issued in December 2014 and implementation of the code will be on a phased basis. The LGAS is fully committed to assisting in this process at national and local level.

The objective of the revised code is to ensure, in so far is practicable, that local authority accounts reflect generally accepted accounting principles and in particular "*The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Ireland"* (FRS 102).

Financial Overview

The following is a review of some of the significant financial data included in the audited annual financial statements of the 34 city and county councils for the year ended 31 December 2013. The inclusion of data for previous years allows for comparisons / trends. The financial data referred to in this review is classified under the headings shown below:

- Revenue Income and Expenditure
- Capital Programme
- Balance Sheet

The main findings from the audits of the city and county councils' annual financial statements for 2013 are as follows:

- Net fixed assets of €92,512m
- Reduction in annual revenue expenditure of €770m (16%) over the last six years;
- Reduction in annual capital expenditure of €4,678m (76%) over the last six years;
- Long term borrowings (excluding voluntary housing loans) of €3,541m;
- Housing loans owed to local authorities of €1,282m;
- Unfunded capital balances of €412m;
- Increasing levels of arrears in housing rents and housing loans; and
- Deteriorating financial position in a number of local authorities; although seven local authorities had favourable revenue balances in excess of €2m.

Further financial data, including revenue collection accounts, is also referred to under the main issues included in the local government auditors' reports. More detailed information by individual city and county council is also included in the following appendices.

Appendices
1.General Revenue Balances
2. Revenue Expenditure
3. Revenue Income
4. Capital Expenditure
5. Capital Income
6. Fixed Assets
7. Non-Mortgage Loans
8. Mortgage Loans
9. Rates Collection
10. Housing Rents Collection
11. Commercial Water Collection
12. Housing Loans Collection

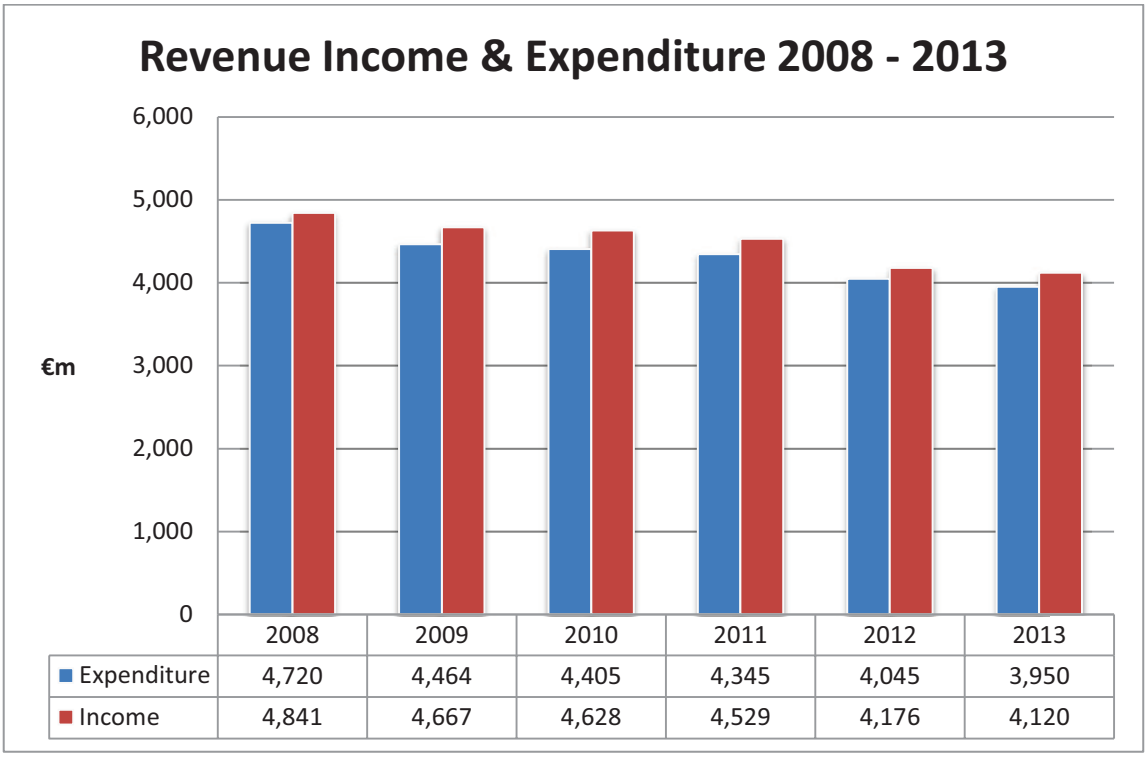
Revenue Income and Expenditure

The closing revenue balances in the 34 city and county councils totalled €9.8m (adverse) at the end of 2013, compared with favourable balances of €3m (2012), €23.4m (2011), €18.7m (2010), €8.9m (2009) and €6.9m (2008). It is noted that nine county councils had adverse balances on their revenue account in excess of €2m at 31 December 2013.

A list of the individual balances for each of the last four years is shown in Appendix 1.

The revenue income and expenditure account includes the day-to-day running costs of the local authority and includes payroll, operational, administration, establishment and financial expenditure. Income includes grants and subsidies as well as charges for the provision of goods and services, including commercial rates.

The chart below shows the level of revenue income and expenditure for 2013 with comparative figures for the previous five years.[1]



	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Expenditure	4,720	4,464	4,405	4,345	4,045	3,950
Income	4,841	4,667	4,628	4,529	4,176	4,120

All amounts shown are €m
(Excludes transfers to / from Reserves)

It can be seen from the above that the expenditure and income for 2013 showed a further decrease on the previous year. Revenue expenditure and income by local authority in 2013 is shown in Appendix 2 and Appendix 3. Expenditure in the table above excludes transfers to and from reserves of €183m which includes €82m relating to the repayment of the principal element of non-mortgage loans and transfers to capital and other reserves of €101m. These transfers are disclosed in Note 15 to the annual financial statement and are provided for in the Accounting Code of Practice for local authorities.

[1] All figures shown relate to city and county councils only

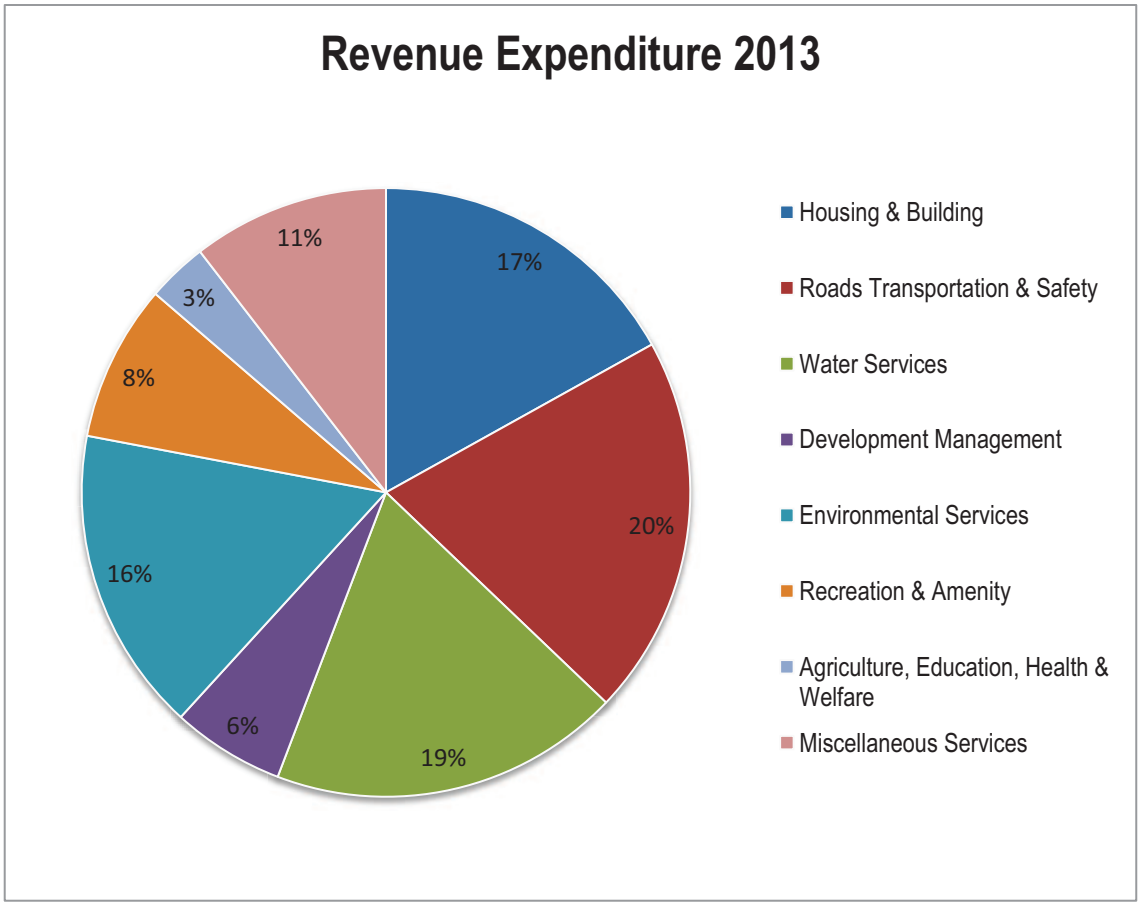
Expenditure

A breakdown of the revenue expenditure for 2013, with comparative figures for previous years, is as follows[2].

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Housing & Building	711	663	645	687	673	668
Roads Transportation & Safety	1,057	848	868	872	794	798
Water Services	732	743	722	722	721	737
Development Management	309	285	255	241	235	237
Environmental Services	901	848	769	730	670	640
Recreation & Amenity	394	368	336	332	328	329
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	335	399	429	369	196	127
Miscellaneous Services	282	310	381	394	428	413
	4,720	**4,464**	**4,405**	**4,345**	**4,045**	**3,950**

All amounts shown are €m

The revenue expenditure for 2013, analysed over the various divisions, is shown in the chart below.



[2] All figures shown relate to city and county councils only

Income

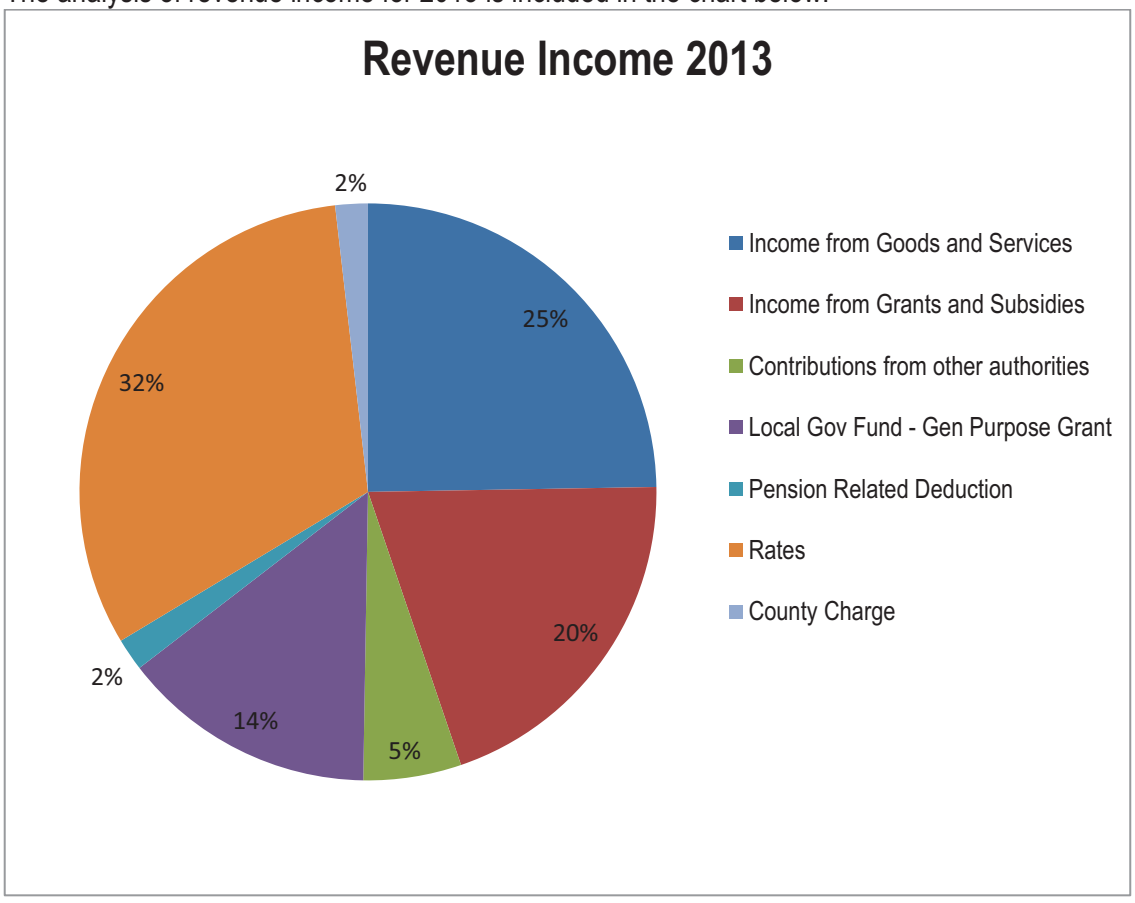
The main sources of revenue income for the major local authorities, as included in the annual financial statements for 2013, with comparative figures for previous years, are as follows:[3]

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Income from Goods and Services	1,289	1,203	1,104	1,105	1,000	1,019
Income from Grants and Subsidies	1,155	1,106	1,191	1,165	912	826
Contributions from other authorities	220	212	228	185	217	226
Local Gov Fund - Gen Purpose Grant	917	764	694	646	582	589
Pension Related Deduction	-	69	82	80	76	75
Rates	1,193	1,240	1,253	1,272	1,314	1,310
County Charge	67	73	76	76	76	75
	4,841	**4,667**	**4,628**	**4,529**	**4,176**	**4,120**

All amounts shown are €m

*Note: Rates Income is shown before the write-off of irrecoverable rates (See Appendix 9)

The analysis of revenue income for 2013 is included in the chart below.



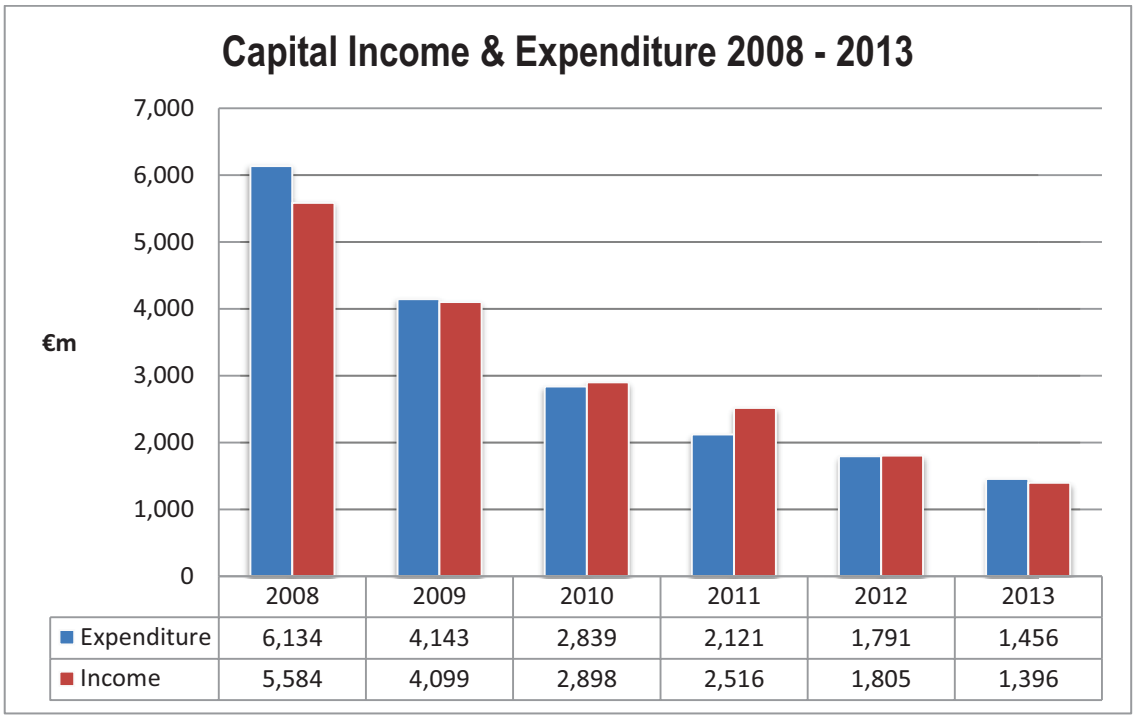
[3] All figures shown relate to city and county councils only

Capital Programme

The Local Government Act, 2001 requires Chief Executives to prepare and submit to the elected members a report indicating the programme of capital projects proposed by the local authority for the forthcoming year and the following two years.

The capital programme includes expenditure on the acquisition of fixed assets, infrastructure projects, work-in-progress and preliminary expenses. Total capital funding and expenditure for 2013, with comparative figures for previous years, is shown below. [4]

Capital expenditure and income by local authority is shown in Appendix 4 and Appendix 5.



	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Expenditure	6,134	4,143	2,839	2,121	1,791	1,456
Income	5,584	4,099	2,898	2,516	1,805	1,396

All amounts above are €m

[4] All figures shown relate to city and county councils only

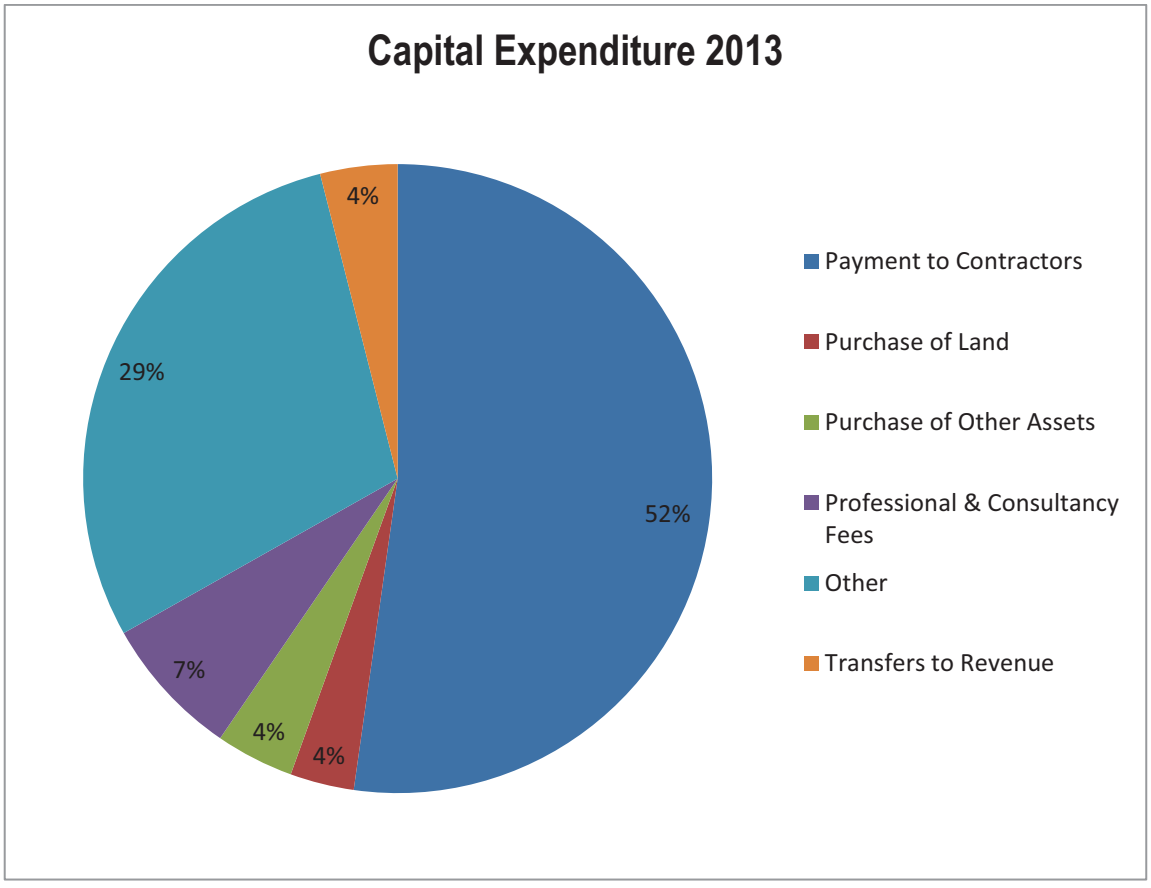
Expenditure

The further reduction in capital expenditure in 2013, when compared to previous years, is a reflection of the decrease in economic activity generally and in particular the reduced investment in infrastructure projects in the local government sector.[5]

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Payment to Contractors	3,425	2,144	1,369	933	969	760
Purchase of Land	530	484	308	174	110	48
Purchase of Other Assets	481	300	194	111	53	59
Professional & Consultancy Fees	353	275	188	155	119	106
Other	1,273	894	736	702	487	425
Transfers to Revenue	71	47	45	45	53	58
	6,134	**4,143**	**2,839**	**2,121**	**1,791**	**1,456**

All amounts above are €m

An analysis of the 2013 capital expenditure is shown in the chart below.



[5] All figures shown relate to city and county councils only

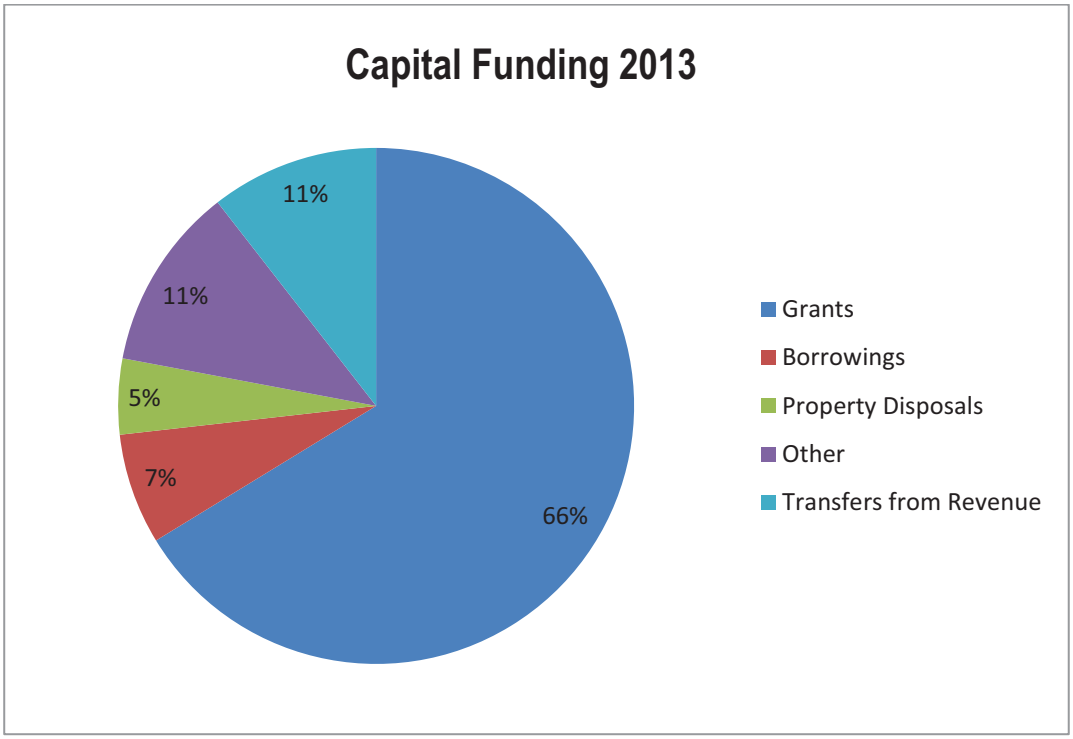
Funding

There was also a reduction in capital funding as shown in the tables below.[6]

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Grants	3,499	2,811	1,938	1,447	1,187	925
Borrowings	555	487	292	561	279	97
Development Contributions	460	158	117	135	45	0*
Property Disposals	299	120	58	52	30	66
Tenant Purchase Annuities	13	7	7	5	9	7
Car Parking	10	10	9	8	6	6
Other	583	336	307	174	139	148
Transfers from Revenue	165	171	170	133	109	147
	5,584	**4,099**	**2,898**	**2,516**	**1,805**	**1,396**

All amounts above are €m
***The nil development contributions income is due to the reversal of previously accrued income in some local authorities in 2013.**

Approximately sixty-six per cent of capital funding is derived from government grants in 2013, illustrating the dependence on central government funding for infrastructure projects. The proportion of funding from the various sources for 2013 is illustrated in the following chart.



[6] All figures shown relate to city and county councils only

Balance Sheet

The annual financial statements of a local authority include a balance sheet, which is a statement of the assets, liabilities and reserves of the local authority at the end of the financial year. The following is a summary of the balance sheets for the city and county councils for 2013, with previous years for comparison purposes.[7]

	2010	2011	2012	2013
	€m	**€m**	**€m**	**€m**
Fixed Assets	90,393	91,380	91,777	92,512
Work in Progress and Preliminary Expenses	5,536	4,452	3,493	3,171
Long Term Debtors	3,027	2,837	2,676	2,585
Currents Assets	2,613	2,019	1,992	1,881
Current Liabilities	(1,407)	(1,196)	(1,148)	(1,131)
Long Term Liabilities	(5,077)	(5,016)	(4,974)	(4,768)
Net Assets	**95,086**	**94,477**	**93,816**	**94,251**
Capitalisation Account	90,393	91,380	91,777	92,512
Income - Work in Progress	5,407	4,362	3,378	3,019
Specific Revenue Balance	70	106	105	104
General Revenue Balance	19	23	3	(10)
Other Balances	(803)	(1,395)	(1,447)	(1,375)
Total Reserves	**95,086**	**94,477**	**93,816**	**94,251**

An analysis of the fixed assets as at 31 December 2013, with comparative figures for previous years, by asset type is shown in the table below.

	Net Book Value 2010	Net Book Value 2011	Net Book Value 2012	Net Book Value 2013
	€m	**€m**	**€m**	**€m**
Land	2,238	2,274	2,244	2,222
Parks	66	65	64	66
Housing	17,933	18,078	18,053	18,425
Buildings	4,033	4,183	4,281	4,329
Plant and Machinery	108	99	85	73
Computers etc	30	24	18	12
Heritage	397	403	404	407
Roads	54,310	55,133	55,378	55,574
Water and Sewerage	11,278	11,121	11,249	11,402
	90,393	**91,380**	**91,777**	**92,512**

[7] All figures shown relate to city and county councils only

Valuation of Fixed Assets

Fixed assets were included in the annual financial statements for the first time in 2003. Assets held at that date were valued in accordance with guidelines issued from the Department, using a number of valuation models. All assets purchased and constructed since 2003 are included at cost. A revaluation of fixed assets should now be carried out under the direction of the General Accounts Working Group.

A summary of the net book value of fixed assets by local authority is shown in Appendix 6.

Loans Payable

The totals of loans payable by city and county councils, categorised by type, at the end of 2013 are shown below.[8]

	2013
	€m
Non-Mortgage Loans	2,281
Mortgage Loans	1,260
Voluntary Housing Loans	1,077
Total Loans Payable	**4,618**

Non-mortgage loans include loans for the purchase / construction of assets, bridging finance and loans for other purposes. The repayment of principal and interest on these loans are generally funded from the revenue account. An analysis of non-mortgage loan balances by city and county council for the last three years is shown in Appendix 7

Mortgage loans are annuity type loans from financial institutions which are used as funding for equivalent annuity loans issued to customers. The repayments on these loans are funded by the corresponding repayments from the borrowers. It is important that the profile of these loans is matched to the customer loan book to avoid any impact on cash flow. A comparison of mortgage loans payable and receivable by city and county council at the end of 2013 is included in Appendix 8.

Voluntary housing loans relate to expenditure on the construction of houses for external social agencies, which is recouped in full from the Department. The balances on these loans are offset by an equivalent amount included in the long term debtors in the balance sheet.

[8] All figures shown relate to city and county councils only

Auditor Opinions and Reports

Audit Opinions

It is the local government auditor's main statutory duty, following completion of the financial audit, to give his/her independent audit opinion on the council's annual financial statement. The vast majority (32) were given a clear audit opinion which is testament to the diligence of the Chief Executives, Heads of Finance and their staff.

- Louth County Council was the only authority where the audit opinion was modified due to concerns as to the adequacy of the provision for bad debts.

- The audit opinion on Sligo County Council contained two "emphasis of matter" paragraphs in relation to financial standing and significant legal costs likely to be incurred.

Audit Reports

Financial Standing

All Local Government Auditors' reports refer to the financial standing of the local authority. This normally includes a reference to the outturn for the year and the revenue account balance. In some cases there are also references to the capital account balance at the year-end. A summary of the closing revenue account balances is included in this report (Appendix 1) and a number of significant adverse balances have been highlighted and commented on in audit reports, including Sligo (€21.7m) and Donegal (€17.8m).

Income Collection

Audit reports generally include a reference to the main collection accounts included in Appendix 7 to the AFS i.e. Rates, Housing Rents, Commercial Water Charges and Housing Loans. Auditors comment on the collection performance and highlight cases of deteriorating collection levels. A summary of the main collection accounts is shown below.

	Arrears at 31/12/2013	Arrears at 31/12/2012	% Collected 2013	% Collected 2012
	€m	**€m**		
Rates	343	356	77%	76%
Housing Rents	58	56	83%	83%
Commercial Water	142	139	56%	56%
Housing Loans	41	37	69%	71%

Rates

The rates collection performance of each city and county council is shown in Appendix 9 and the following comments are noted:

- There was a decrease of €13m or 4% in arrears from €356m in the previous year to €343m in 2013;
- Write-offs of rates amounted to €164m in 2013 compared to €143m in 2012; and
- The percentage collected for each city and county council ranged from the lowest of 53% to the highest of 94%; with an overall percentage collection of 77%.

Housing Rents

Housing rents collection summaries for each city and county council are included in Appendix 10 and the following is noted:

- Arrears of rents increased from €56m in 2012 to €58m in 2013;
- Write-offs amounted to €1.7m in 2013 compared to €1.9m in 2012;and
- The percentage collected for each city and county council ranged from the lowest of 75% to the highest of 100%; with an overall percentage collection of 83%.

Commercial Water

Collection summaries for commercial water charges are included in Appendix 11. The following are noted from these schedules:

- Arrears of commercial water charges increased from €139m in 2012 to €142m in 2013;
- Write-offs amounted to €18m in 2013 compared to €16m in 2012; and
- The percentage collected for each city and county council ranged from the lowest of 34% to the highest of 74%; with an overall percentage collection of 56%.

The responsibility for the collection of non-domestic water charges transferred to Irish Water with effect from 1 January 2014.

Housing Loans

Housing loans collection summaries are included in Appendix 12 and a number of relevant comments are included below:

- Arrears of housing loans increased from €37m in 2012 to €41m in 2013;
- Write-offs amounted to €478k in 2013 compared to €400k in 2012; and
- The percentage collected for each city and county council ranged from the lowest of 42% to the highest of 98%; with an overall percentage collection of 69%.

Governance and Internal Audit

Auditors frequently commented on the governance arrangements and, in particular, the operation of the internal audit functions in the local authorities. These comments included references to the following:

- In cases where the internal audit function was operating satisfactorily, auditors placed reliance on or took account of the work carried out by them;
- In many cases the internal audit function was under-resourced with a number of posts being left vacant for extended periods. The most serious cases included Limerick City and County Council, Mayo County Council, Roscommon County Council, Sligo County Council, Waterford City Council and Westmeath County Council;
- The lack of a properly resourced internal audit function had serious implications on the effectiveness of audit committees in local authorities: and
- In some local authorities arrangements had already been made or were planned to outsource some or all of the internal audit function.

Auditors also referred to the fact that they had met with audit committees since the previous audits to discuss the contents of their audit reports and follow up actions required.

Capital Balances

Note 11 in the Annual Financial Statements (AFS) includes totals for unfunded balances and these are split between project balances (i.e. those relating to completed assets) and other non-project balances. Unfunded balances are defined as those where a source of funding has not yet been identified. Specific unfunded balances are regularly referred to in the auditors' reports and totals for the city and county councils are shown below.[9]

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m
Unfunded Balances	416	442	637	579	539	412

There was a significant reduction in unfunded balances in 2013 and future possible sources of funding identified in responses to auditors' reports include the following:

- Future development levies;
- Transfers from revenue account;
- Sales of related assets; and

[9] All figures shown relate to city and county councils only

- Amounts to be recouped from the Department.

It is important that these balances be monitored and where the funding status changes that the accounting systems be properly amended.

Capital Projects

While activity on the capital account has reduced significantly since 2008 (see financial overview) over 50% of capital expenditure relates to payments to contractors, amounting to €760m in 2013. Audit reports include references to the progress on major capital projects and the 2013 reports referred to the following:

- Claims for additional costs, some of which have been referred to conciliation or arbitration process, and delays or other problems with the delivery of projects; and
- Outstanding loans and adverse balances in respect of unsold affordable housing units, which in many cases are being leased or used for social housing purposes.

Development Contributions

The procedures for monitoring, raising, collecting and accounting for development contributions because of their complexity are frequently referred to in audit reports. Amounts due within one year are generally accrued, regarded as capital income and included in current debtors. Amounts expected to be collected after one year are raised as capital income but deferred for AFS purposes. These are treated as long term debtors and are offset by an equivalent long term creditor (i.e. deferred income) in the balance sheet. Matters specifically referred to in 2013 reports include:

- The split of development contributions between long term and short-term debtors;
- The likelihood of particular developments progressing and the need for regular inspections; and
- The need for regular review of debtor balances and the adequacy of the related bad debts provisions.

The table on page 14 of this report shows the breakdown of capital funding and the income in respect of development contributions is shown as nil. This is due to the reversal of previously accrued income in some local authorities in 2013.

Procurement

There have been significant changes in the area of procurement; including the establishment of the Office of Government Procurement (OGP) and the appointment of procurement officers in most local authorities. Consequently auditors have reviewed the operation of this function in local authorities. Some of the findings in the audit reports include:

- The need to expand or improve the operation of Procurement Units;
- Local authority guidelines and policies requiring update;
- Examples of non-compliance with procurement guidelines identified at audits;
- Recognition that procurement procedures had improved in many authorities; and
- The identification of areas of activity requiring particular attention e.g. the outsourcing of legal services.

Fixed Assets

City and county councils control assets with a net book value of over €90bn and while approximately two thirds of this relates to water (€11bn) and roads (€55bn) infrastructure, other property holdings, including housing, land and buildings, are substantial. While assets have been included in the annual financial statements since 2003 auditors have identified a number of issues including:

- Land and property registers incomplete;
- Land and properties not registered with the Property Registration Authority; and
- Land and property records in council departments not agreeing to fixed assets in financial system.

Significant progress has been achieved in some local authorities through the use of GIS mapping and corporate asset management records.

Local Authority Companies

The interest of local authorities in companies is disclosed in Appendix 8 to the annual financial statements. As part of a review of the Local Authority Accounting Code of Practice, the accounting treatment of these companies has been identified as an area requiring review and guidance. To facilitate this, a number of changes have been made to the format of Appendix 8 in 2014 and it is intended that further amendments will be made to the 2015 AFS.

Auditors' comments on these companies included the following:

- The need to review and, in some cases, improve governance arrangements in relation to companies under the control of the local authority;

- Accumulated losses being incurred by companies, including losses of over €14m in the case of Kilkenny County Council;
- The unavailability of the current audited accounts of some companies at the time of local authority AFS preparation; and
- A specific commitment to purchase a car park in 2015 for €6.7m in the case of Cavan County Council.

Loans Payable

Loans payable by local authorities were referred to in a number of audit reports. In particular the existence of substantial loans in respect of land purchases where the interest had been rolled up over a number of years was noted. These included Cork City (€37m), Dublin City (€33m) and Wicklow County Council (€25m). Some local authorities had already converted or were about to convert these loans to annuity loans and this will create an additional financial burden on the revenue account. Original plans to use or sell the related land were referred to by management. Changes in relation to the Land Aggregation Scheme, which had been seen as a possible means of resolving this issue, were also quoted in management responses.

Annual Financial Statement Completion Dates

The Code of Practice and Accounting Regulations states "The accounting year will end on the 31st of December and the AFS should be prepared and submitted to the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government by 31st March of the year following the end of the accounting year." Delays in the completion of the AFS for some local authorities have caused serious problems for auditors. A table showing the number of draft AFS for 2013 approved by the Chief Executives and Heads of Finance each month in 2014 is shown in Appendix 14.

Accounting for Local Authority Staff Pension and Gratuity Costs

The Code of Practice and Accounting Regulations for local authorities provides for the accounting treatment of staff pensions as follows:

"Local Authorities in Ireland similar to central government departments operate and are governed by the state defined benefit scheme. Payments in respect of pensions and gratuities are treated as current expenditure and are charged to the revenue account in the accounting period in which the payments are made. Pension contributions from employees are treated as part of current receipts. The cost of salaries and wages in the accounts includes deductions in respect of superannuation (including Widows and Orphans) benefits. Such deductions are credited as receipts to the Statement of Comprehensive Income (Income & Expenditure Account). This represents a departure from generally accepted accounting principles. The accounts do not reflect the true cost of pensions or the future potential liabilities and therefore local authorities should include a statement outlining their policy in the notes to the AFS. The requirements of current accounting standards relating to pensions and their application to local authority accounting remains under consideration at central government level."

From 2009 an additional pension related deduction was introduced for all public sector employees and income from this source is included in the income and expenditure account of local authorities in the annual financial statements. Deductions from payroll for this contribution in the city and county councils amounted to €75m in 2013. In addition, normal staff pension contributions, as disclosed in the annual financial statements of the city and county councils, amounted to €55m in 2013. These amounts are not ring-fenced to meet future pension liabilities in the accounts of local authorities.

Pension costs, including the cost of gratuities for staff retiring in the current year, included in the annual financial statements of all city and county councils amounted to €273m in 2013.

Value for Money (VFM) Audit

Value for money (VFM) audit has long been recognised as an important addition to financial audit. VFM reviews provide a means to assist local government at authority and sectoral level to learn from best practice and enhance their effectiveness and efficiency. It also provides the Department with useful insights into the operation of specific policy areas. It is very important that VFM reports are fully utilised by authorities. The follow-up to VFM reports is an area that is being actioned by the LGAS.

It is the responsibility of local authority management to ensure that value for money is achieved by establishing and maintaining sound arrangements, including procedures for planning, appraisal, authorisation and control of resources. The Local Government (Financial Provisions) Act, 1997 widened the role of the local government auditors. Under the Act, auditors are empowered to examine economy and efficiency in the use of resources and the adequacy of management systems to appraise the effectiveness of their own organisations. The Unit carries out VFM studies on local authority operations, with a view to identifying best practice and recommending ways of improving existing procedures, practices and systems and thereby promoting efficiency and cost effectiveness.

The VFM audit unit of the LGAS currently consists of a central research team, staffed by a principal local government auditor and a local government auditor, together with further audit days provided by assistant auditors at district level.

A VFM audit consultative committee representing the main stakeholders, and chaired by the Director of Audit, has been established. It has an advisory role in the selection of VFM projects and in reviewing the quality of draft reports before publication. Also, an advisory group is established for each VFM study, comprising representatives from local authorities, the Department and/or individuals with expertise in a particular field.

The work of the VFM Unit has mainly focused on undertaking national studies on single-issue topics and publishing reports thereon. The Unit has produced 28 national reports to date and is currently carrying out a study on the oversight role of local authorities in the funding of social housing via Approved Housing Bodies. The Unit will issue a national report on this subject in 2015.

The Unit has broadened its sphere of activity by preparing and issuing progress reports on the implementation, by local authorities, of the recommendations and/or performance indicators contained in the national reports issued by the Unit. Six progress reports have been issued to date. In 2014 the Unit issued a progress report, Progress Report No. 6 - Progress Report on the implementation of the performance indicators contained in VFM Report No. 28 (Management of Sickness Absence in Local Authorities)

The website of the Department is the primary means of publishing reports of the VFM Unit and national reports and progress reports issued by the Unit can be downloaded at http://www.environ.ie/en/Publications/LocalGovernment/AuditService/

Motor Taxation Audits

Twenty-nine local authorities operate motor taxation offices. Authorised officers, in these motor tax offices, are responsible for the issue of vehicle, driving and other licences and certificates to the public, on behalf of the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport and the Road Safety Authority. Monies collected are transferred to the Local Government Fund administered by the Department and allocations are made from this fund to finance local authority activities.

The audit of these local motor taxation offices includes an examination of a sample of licensing transactions to ensure that they have been properly accounted for in the financial and stock control records of the licensing authorities. The amount collected by these offices in 2013 was €529.8m.

The motor tax on-line service which collected an additional €605.8m is located in the Driver and Vehicle Computer Services Division of the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport and is not subject to audit by the LGAS.

The LGAS has recently commenced work on a joint Value for Money Study on Motor Taxation Offices. This is a new initiative, undertaken jointly with the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General, and is expected to contribute to more effective governance and enhanced accountability in respect of the collection and administration of motor taxation.

External relationships

The LGAS has, over many years, developed relationships with a number of external bodies. These include the following:

Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG): Copies of all LGAS reports are made available to the C&AG as part of his audit of the Department. There has been continued co-operation between the two offices in a number of areas including professional training and development, value for money, financial audit methodology and approach, standards development and quality assurance.

Northern Ireland Audit Office, Audit Scotland and Wales Audit Office: Staff from the LGAS have met their counterparts in the Northern Ireland Audit Office, Audit Scotland and Wales Audit Office on a number of occasions over the years and in recent times discussed audit approach and VFM matters. Representatives of these bodies have also attended the LGAS annual conference.

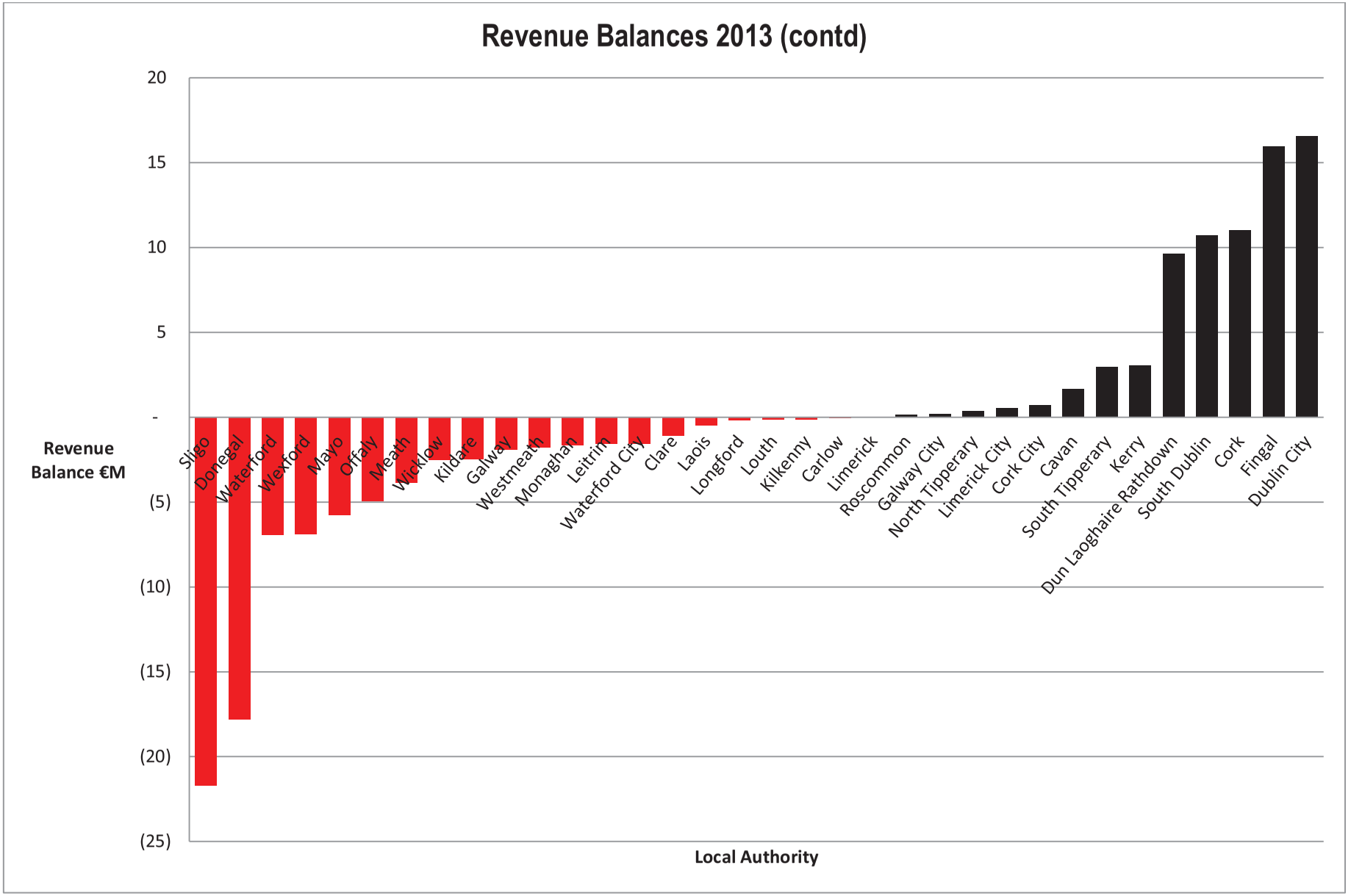
The European Organisation of Regional Audit Institutions (EURORAI): The LGAS has been a member of this organisation for many years, which provides useful contact with other European Regional Audit Bodies.

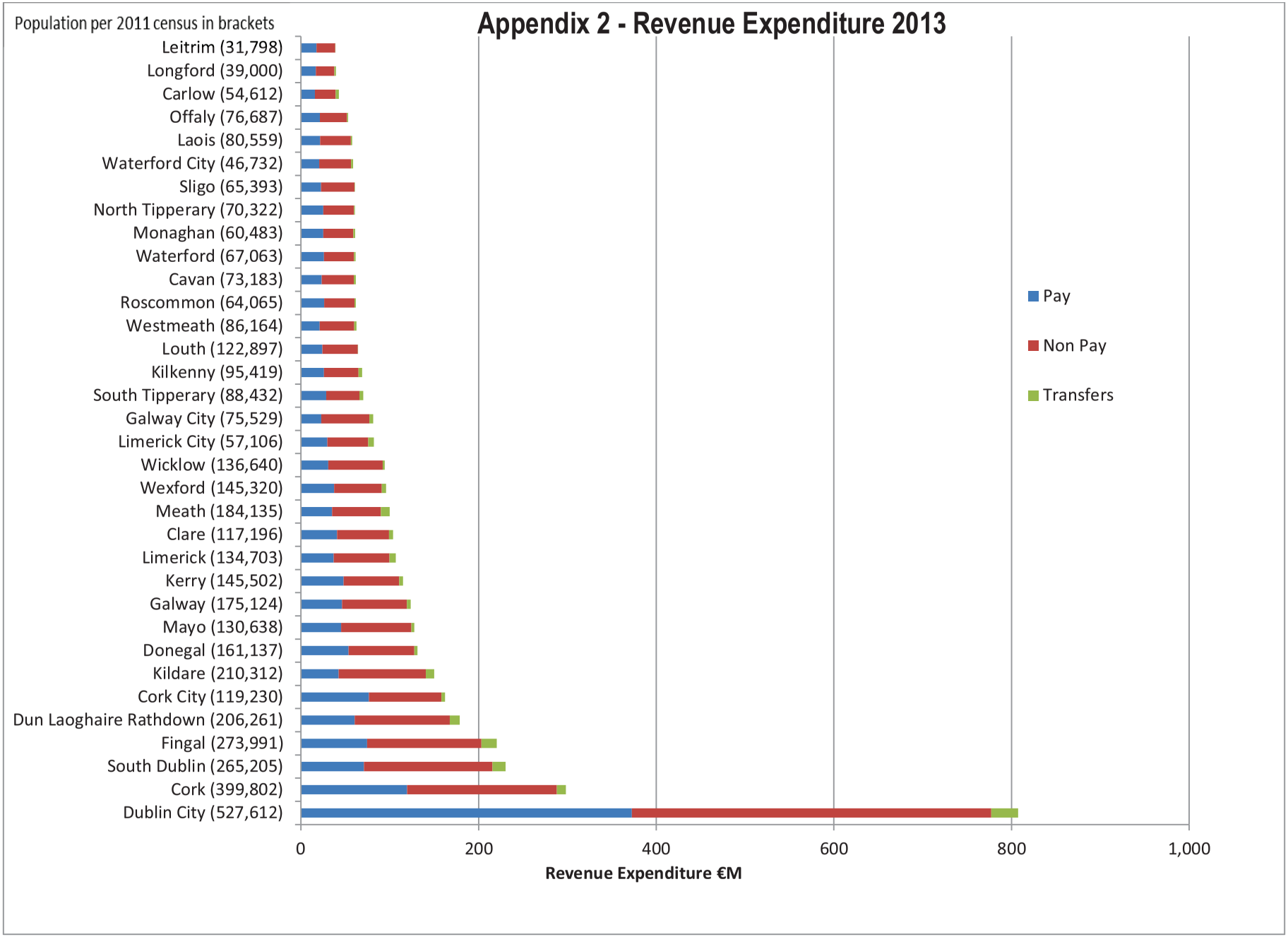
Working Groups and Committees: The LGAS continues to be represented on a number of the Department's working groups and committees, which included the following:

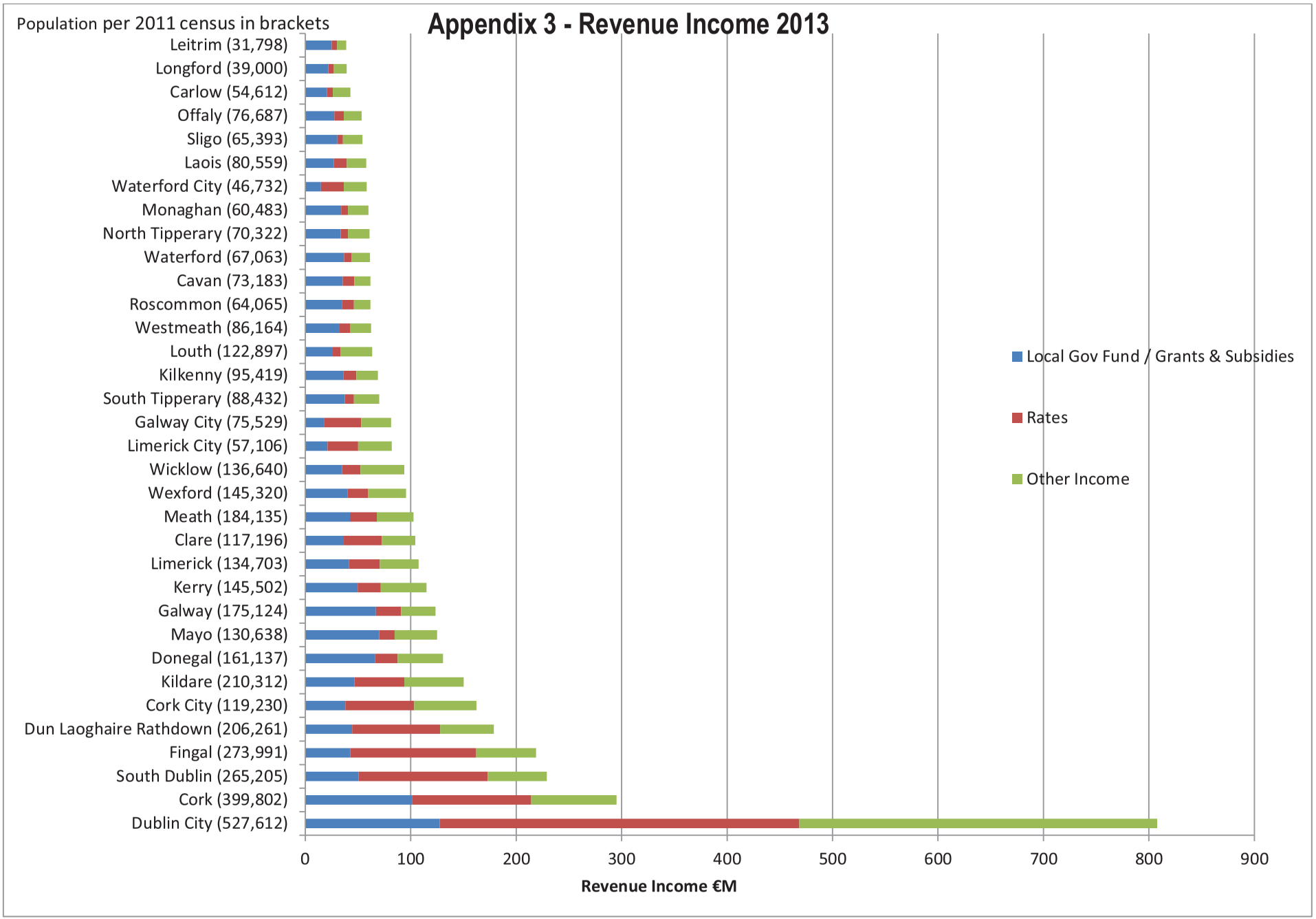
- General Accounts Working Group; and
- Finance and Business Project Board.

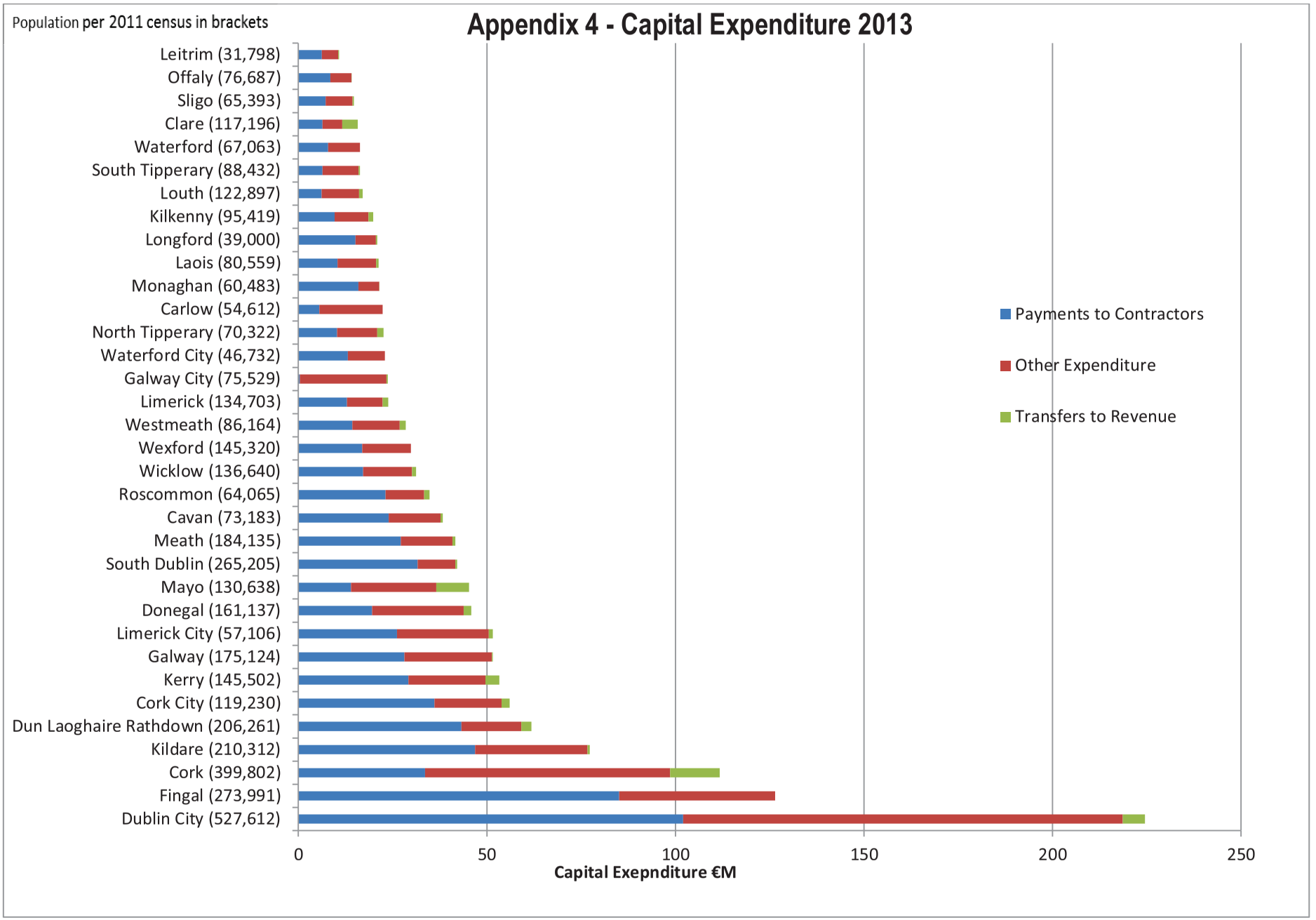
Appendix 1 **General Revenue Balances**

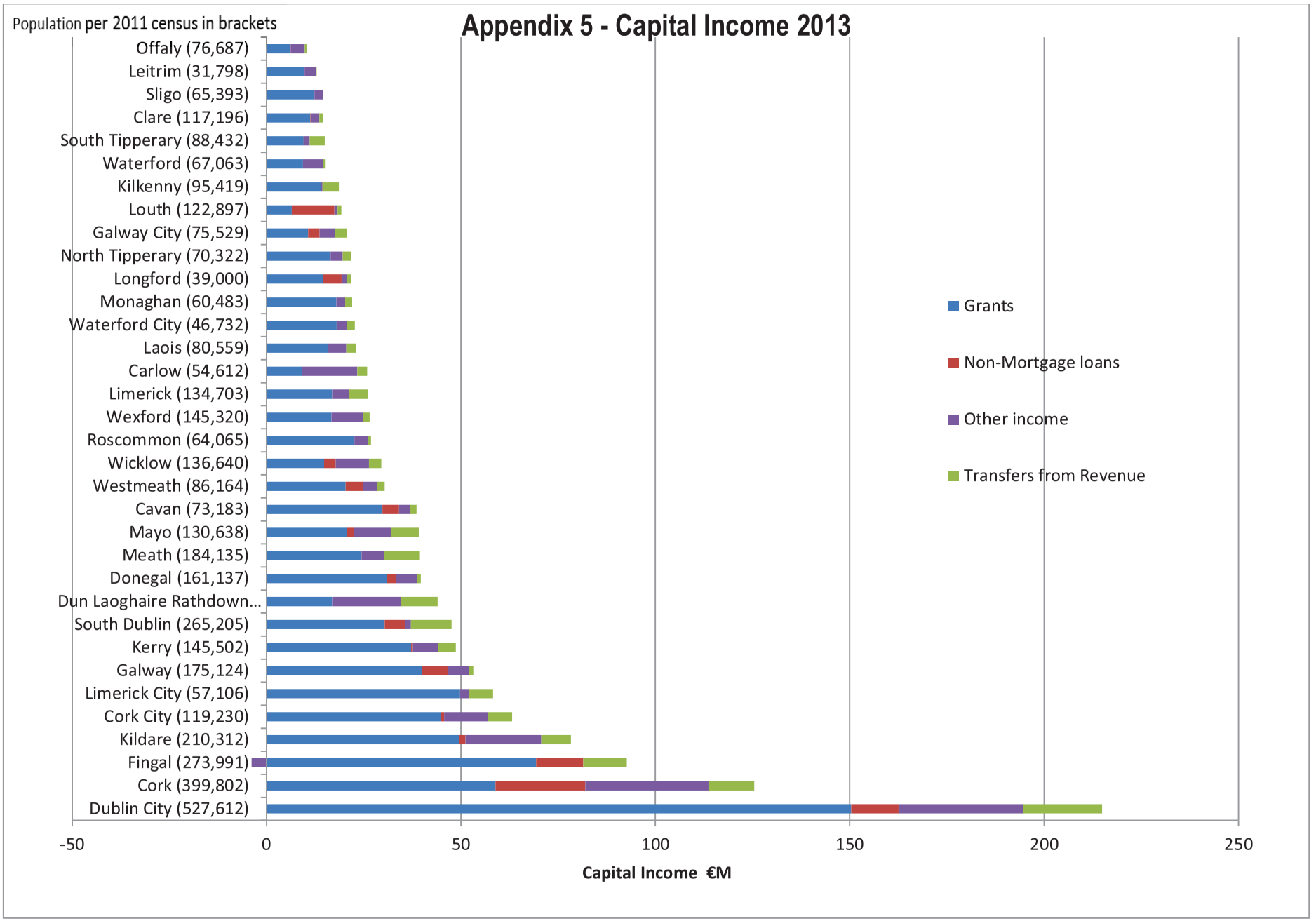
	2011	2012	2013
County Councils	€	€	€
Carlow	(22,033)	(56,634)	(22,516)
Cavan	1,662,375	1,662,575	1,662,690
Clare	(1,791,517)	(1,719,342)	(1,076,611)
Cork	18,337,539	14,001,103	11,017,477
Donegal	(12,303,342)	(17,103,244)	(17,796,835)
Dun Laoghaire Rathdown	9,500,465	9,601,932	9,648,544
Fingal	17,673,622	17,476,010	15,947,276
Galway	(1,402,328)	(1,896,307)	(1,898,994)
Kerry	2,813,213	2,952,728	3,035,261
Kildare	(2,998,447)	(2,747,146)	(2,493,285)
Kilkenny	(602,062)	(154,325)	(140,093)
Laois	(499,963)	(494,536)	(493,025)
Leitrim	(117,645)	(1,479,205)	(1,579,451)
Limerick	(384,924)	(549,283)	29,361
Longford	(432,357)	(301,044)	(196,029)
Louth	1,442,127	717,540	(154,872)
Mayo	(2,507,781)	(3,133,354)	(5,781,646)
Meath	(6,856,234)	(6,753,881)	(3,850,905)
Monaghan	(79,086)	(473,567)	(1,656,011)
North Tipperary	155,913	161,952	367,253
Offaly	(4,071,703)	(5,372,433)	(4,963,337)
Roscommon	99,816	110,589	149,312
Sligo	(12,954,069)	(15,409,269)	(21,716,204)
South Dublin	12,093,402	12,095,146	10,729,454
South Tipperary	2,966,708	2,969,020	2,971,633
Waterford	(6,907,082)	(6,901,042)	(6,919,222)
Westmeath	(1,870,066)	(1,816,710)	(1,790,272)
Wexford	(6,329,683)	(6,465,889)	(6,867,900)
Wicklow	(2,039,008)	(1,995,146)	(2,521,895)
City Councils			
Cork City	458,945	549,743	734,369
Dublin City	20,113,211	16,186,509	16,576,645
Galway City	44,603	61,283	192,170
Limerick City	497,471	526,299	544,462
Waterford City	(305,390)	(1,182,124)	(1,560,669)
	23,384,690	**3,067,948**	**(9,873,865)**


Revenue Balances 2013 (contd)
20
15
10
5
-
(5)
(10)
(15)
(20)
(25)
Revenue Balance €M
Sligo
Donegal
Waterford
Wexford
Mayo
Offaly
Meath
Wicklow
Kildare
Galway
Westmeath
Monaghan
Leitrim
Waterford City
Clare
Laois
Longford
Louth
Kilkenny
Carlow
Limerick
Roscommon
Galway City
North Tipperary
Limerick City
Cork City
Cavan
South Tipperary
Kerry
Dun Laoghaire Rathdown
South Dublin
Cork
Fingal
Dublin City
Local Authority


Appendix 2 - Revenue Expenditure 2013
Population per 2011 census in brackets
Leitrim (31,798)
Longford (39,000)
Carlow (54,612)
Offaly (76,687)
Laois (80,559)
Waterford City (46,732)
Sligo (65,393)
North Tipperary (70,322)
Monaghan (60,483)
Waterford (67,063)
Cavan (73,183)
Roscommon (64,065)
Westmeath (86,164)
Louth (122,897)
Kilkenny (95,419)
South Tipperary (88,432)
Galway City (75,529)
Limerick City (57,106)
Wicklow (136,640)
Wexford (145,320)
Meath (184,135)
Clare (117,196)
Limerick (134,703)
Kerry (145,502)
Galway (175,124)
Mayo (130,638)
Donegal (161,137)
Kildare (210,312)
Cork City (119,230)
Dun Laoghaire Rathdown (206,261)
Fingal (273,991)
South Dublin (265,205)
Cork (399,802)
Dublin City (527,612)
Pay
Non Pay
Transfers
0
200
400
600
800
1,000
Revenue Expenditure €M


Appendix 3 - Revenue Income 2013
Population per 2011 census in brackets
Leitrim (31,798)
Longford (39,000)
Carlow (54,612)
Offaly (76,687)
Sligo (65,393)
Laois (80,559)
Waterford City (46,732)
Monaghan (60,483)
North Tipperary (70,322)
Waterford (67,063)
Cavan (73,183)
Roscommon (64,065)
Westmeath (86,164)
Louth (122,897)
Kilkenny (95,419)
South Tipperary (88,432)
Galway City (75,529)
Limerick City (57,106)
Wicklow (136,640)
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Meath (184,135)
Clare (117,196)
Limerick (134,703)
Kerry (145,502)
Galway (175,124)
Mayo (130,638)
Donegal (161,137)
Kildare (210,312)
Cork City (119,230)
Dun Laoghaire Rathdown (206,261)
Fingal (273,991)
South Dublin (265,205)
Cork (399,802)
Dublin City (527,612)
Local Gov Fund / Grants & Subsidies
Rates
Other Income
0
100
200
300
400
500
600
700
800
900
Revenue Income €M


Population per 2011 census in brackets
Appendix 4 - Capital Expenditure 2013
Leitrim (31,798)
Offaly (76,687)
Sligo (65,393)
Clare (117,196)
Waterford (67,063)
South Tipperary (88,432)
Louth (122,897)
Kilkenny (95,419)
Longford (39,000)
Laois (80,559)
Monaghan (60,483)
Carlow (54,612)
North Tipperary (70,322)
Waterford City (46,732)
Galway City (75,529)
Limerick (134,703)
Westmeath (86,164)
Wexford (145,320)
Wicklow (136,640)
Roscommon (64,065)
Cavan (73,183)
Meath (184,135)
South Dublin (265,205)
Mayo (130,638)
Donegal (161,137)
Limerick City (57,106)
Galway (175,124)
Kerry (145,502)
Cork City (119,230)
Dun Laoghaire Rathdown (206,261)
Kildare (210,312)
Cork (399,802)
Fingal (273,991)
Dublin City (527,612)
Payments to Contractors
Other Expenditure
Transfers to Revenue
0
50
100
150
200
250
Capital Exepnditure €M


Appendix 5 - Capital Income 2013
Population per 2011 census in brackets
Offaly (76,687)
Leitrim (31,798)
Sligo (65,393)
Clare (117,196)
South Tipperary (88,432)
Waterford (67,063)
Kilkenny (95,419)
Louth (122,897)
Galway City (75,529)
North Tipperary (70,322)
Longford (39,000)
Monaghan (60,483)
Waterford City (46,732)
Laois (80,559)
Carlow (54,612)
Limerick (134,703)
Wexford (145,320)
Roscommon (64,065)
Wicklow (136,640)
Westmeath (86,164)
Cavan (73,183)
Mayo (130,638)
Meath (184,135)
Donegal (161,137)
Dun Laoghaire Rathdown...
South Dublin (265,205)
Kerry (145,502)
Galway (175,124)
Limerick City (57,106)
Cork City (119,230)
Kildare (210,312)
Fingal (273,991)
Cork (399,802)
Dublin City (527,612)
Grants
Non-Mortgage loans
Other income
Transfers from Revenue
-50
0
50
100
150
200
250
Capital Income €M

Appendix 6 Fixed Assets

	LAND	PARKS	HOUSING	BUILDINGS	PLANT & MACHINERY	COMPUTERS ETC	HERITAGE	ROADS	WATER & SEWERAGE	TOTAL
Carlow	23,785,985	4,188,029	124,772,505	34,490,310	1,026,059	116,114	39,303	681,981,644	123,112,545	993,512,494
Cavan	49,080,053	0	141,996,169	54,382,859	788,147	196,648	12,698	1,201,124,219	144,841,248	1,592,422,041
Clare	53,527,705	0	180,933,256	111,429,457	2,830,253	642,364	503,737	2,177,299,249	407,501,698	2,934,667,719
Cork	387,191,097	166,626	990,376,919	212,734,563	5,900,625	3,996,494	3,038,238	5,766,605,529	829,474,988	8,199,485,079
Donegal	32,580,616	109,926	406,220,063	177,761,535	3,087,048	161,830	1,340,538	2,544,592,239	342,638,061	3,508,491,856
Dun Laoghaire Rathdown	149,598,179	4,208,497	1,119,200,972	193,253,522	1,059,476	355,873	577,684	1,669,191,120	282,318,842	3,419,764,165
Fingal	405,391,336	15,552,672	903,403,970	285,669,025	2,083,739	35,635	974,179	1,040,130,550	778,831,757	3,432,072,863
Galway	19,684,280	0	203,772,552	64,992,410	2,772,201	127,717	194,368	3,239,001,382	222,757,360	3,753,302,270
Kerry	66,440,407	29,803	244,565,247	92,788,342	3,384,212	689,525	908,530	2,632,937,511	471,212,307	3,512,955,884
Kildare	38,369,649	940,863	463,589,700	111,105,573	2,070,471	0	874,565	1,735,279,274	419,952,423	2,772,182,518
Kilkenny	30,146,934	3,339,992	182,541,078	42,071,504	3,596,827	755,558	395,371	2,266,210,000	128,030,283	2,657,087,547
Laois	27,110,148	0	253,639,035	85,164,554	1,103,359	6,929	10,946,522	1,522,127,700	77,249,710	1,977,347,957
Leitrim	1,435,027	2,878,241	66,745,685	33,047,959	880,637	190,925	363,592	734,173,996	107,515,543	947,231,605
Limerick	63,681,882	0	241,022,037	88,105,339	2,388,952	79,940	552,748	2,098,870,969	277,606,976	2,772,308,843
Longford	7,079,001	0	165,737,576	11,566,967	897,376	73,184	189,223	755,287,116	126,567,616	1,067,398,059
Louth	27,854,662	33,527	153,066,077	81,478,440	1,417,507	236,242	581,788	1,178,242,432	161,463,105	1,604,373,780
Mayo	87,914,488	630,307	139,184,042	139,425,255	1,678,731	84,141	2,304,569	2,839,796,684	565,996,907	3,777,015,124
Meath	59,152,226	185,250	342,865,756	103,481,604	1,748,198	104,815	392,162	2,108,619,886	318,017,154	2,934,567,051
Monaghan	9,259,594	126,023	86,535,464	41,120,775	1,044,729	84,008	222,882	1,157,713,737	122,583,640	1,418,690,852
North Tipperary	13,361,172	0	110,600,886	44,105,532	1,574,649	161,625	193,480	1,193,030,000	163,744,561	1,526,771,905
Offaly	34,767,821	0	120,131,837	48,748,256	1,621,060	222,168	136,000	1,110,497,027	219,700,999	1,535,825,168
Roscommon	30,512,979	174,672	128,313,750	39,295,389	1,461,562	14,820	1,082,400	1,615,664,454	203,902,397	2,020,422,423
Sligo	14,309,877	0	127,676,860	120,196,627	1,069,733	116,222	8,900,308	1,129,130,000	269,806,460	1,671,206,087
South Dublin	51,876,087	2,794,134	1,575,494,736	353,595,336	2,795,538	541,060	544,180	976,042,809	635,373,171	3,599,057,051
South Tipperary	35,962,484	0	154,949,423	56,803,203	3,185,250	198,128	538,294	1,652,093,284	247,276,768	2,151,006,834
Waterford	14,186,419	87,000	128,404,925	42,120,681	3,022,975	81,310	452,849	1,027,840,370	170,104,466	1,386,300,995
Westmeath	40,756,120	389,581	197,112,477	85,006,408	2,374,123	124,170	1,149,378	1,826,426,338	248,879,659	2,402,218,254
Wexford	53,065,271	36,014	284,289,464	224,677,148	4,438,072	292,166	1,165,770	1,720,873,929	231,979,722	2,520,817,556
Wicklow	74,334,486	0	444,015,503	66,769,685	2,649,732	171,665	403,475	1,327,443,042	191,392,242	2,107,179,830
Cork City	30,989,736	2,146,540	1,693,649,628	174,688,070	1,157,623	468,348	83,000,191	1,117,199,637	359,806,531	3,463,106,304
Dublin City	153,697,306	27,243,070	5,925,494,739	848,949,283	4,750,817	576,954	275,711,232	2,462,865,891	1,999,559,530	11,698,848,822
Galway City	86,097,467	92,231	413,720,040	135,799,113	360,798	478,504	629,707	393,608,624	150,397,095	1,181,183,579
Limerick City	27,234,701	0	304,762,630	38,215,320	996,354	949,069	5,778,189	390,951,000	263,672,893	1,032,560,156
Waterford City	21,722,365	1,042,273	406,643,983	86,314,037	2,191,487	156,887	2,840,463	281,000,226	139,157,204	941,068,925
	2,222,157,560	**66,395,271**	**18,425,428,984**	**4,329,354,081**	**73,408,320**	**12,491,038**	**406,938,613**	**55,573,851,868**	**11,402,425,861**	**92,512,451,596**

Appendix 7 Non-Mortgage Loans

	2010	2011	2012	2013
Local Authority	**€**	**€**	**€**	**€**
County Councils				
Carlow	13,600,406	20,409,208	20,473,597	19,472,322
Cavan	9,622,705	12,319,463	12,841,514	15,897,883
Clare	96,148,526	90,439,708	102,955,796	95,623,683
Cork	354,668,309	327,794,986	344,583,219	337,395,687
Donegal	51,891,902	76,879,443	95,833,070	93,630,852
Dun Laoghaire Rathdown	62,871,300	70,138,554	65,505,208	60,607,395
Fingal	190,005,215	214,655,631	209,872,613	207,720,575
Galway	73,604,637	80,855,958	75,926,829	79,327,317
Kerry	63,697,526	63,667,186	63,564,017	60,216,115
Kildare	73,419,285	60,461,482	58,077,213	55,191,555
Kilkenny	15,334,583	13,948,685	12,518,849	11,110,178
Laois	24,813,487	21,894,209	22,075,949	22,933,511
Leitrim	9,947,655	9,304,686	8,617,182	7,907,208
Limerick	48,200,869	41,084,806	40,856,260	37,211,889
Longford	16,462,374	15,625,955	14,785,306	18,542,373
Louth	16,599,687	16,552,076	16,504,049	27,247,557
Mayo	65,691,781	61,710,767	82,705,379	78,327,612
Meath	61,236,204	57,550,760	56,360,210	54,308,414
Monaghan	11,586,126	10,256,688	9,273,496	8,638,855
North Tipperary	19,780,173	15,929,253	15,344,080	14,540,481
Offaly	38,026,751	36,549,308	34,698,514	33,264,386
Roscommon	10,553,275	11,539,208	23,955,209	21,860,968
Sligo	55,262,549	48,529,150	57,105,985	60,819,120
South Dublin	84,598,412	69,998,309	70,087,123	69,423,456
South Tipperary	22,557,583	22,409,035	23,265,841	22,095,148
Waterford	28,679,149	29,617,777	33,760,761	31,948,139
Westmeath	76,975,492	75,522,540	74,843,252	77,201,194
Wexford	100,139,916	95,457,013	92,237,372	88,838,912
Wicklow	57,938,602	68,725,937	83,257,908	85,036,973
City Councils				
Cork City	119,951,084	115,493,876	113,362,322	109,462,790
Dublin City	315,565,758	299,598,757	307,078,825	265,667,357
Galway City	78,562,245	70,318,369	71,733,367	61,913,486
Limerick City	12,545,653	10,918,870	9,665,163	8,486,129
Waterford City	43,102,424	41,187,309	40,088,604	38,907,284
Total City and County Councils	**2,323,641,644**	**2,277,344,962**	**2,363,814,082**	**2,280,776,804**

Appendix 8 Mortgage Loans

2013	Mortgage Loans Payable including Rented Equity	Mortgage Loans Receivable including Rented Equity
Local Authority	**€**	**€**
County Councils		
Carlow	10,246,896	10,471,952
Cavan	5,655,366	6,734,587
Clare	13,243,272	14,120,367
Cork	92,598,997	95,348,922
Donegal	32,807,198	32,940,560
Dun Laoghaire Rathdown	20,244,184	15,497,555
Fingal	158,482,985	159,367,790
Galway	27,054,190	26,910,470
Kerry	14,366,647	15,250,217
Kildare	46,041,694	53,310,080
Kilkenny	33,548,819	33,006,694
Laois	66,820,183	66,583,383
Leitrim	1,290,643	2,091,682
Limerick	12,251,135	12,992,233
Longford	10,604,590	13,973,509
Louth	3,268,010	2,926,800
Mayo	35,334,874	37,813,482
Meath	20,034,105	20,061,193
Monaghan	14,563,052	13,431,936
North Tipperary	7,511,464	7,255,855
Offaly	7,654,160	6,926,561
Roscommon	2,380,044	2,540,669
Sligo	12,568,919	12,949,959
South Dublin	64,123,811	63,389,035
South Tipperary	11,204,943	10,907,733
Waterford	14,231,257	14,805,949
Westmeath	30,534,959	30,466,118
Wexford	48,141,445	51,287,337
Wicklow	26,132,088	18,993,674
City Councils		
Cork City	32,429,053	32,589,493
Dublin City	323,888,044	336,529,205
Galway City	19,314,283	17,787,752
Limerick City	7,214,740	8,285,481
Waterford City	34,648,237	34,995,384
Total City and County Councils	**1,260,434,287**	**1,282,543,617**

Appendix 9 Rates Collection

Local Authority	Arrears at 01/01/2013	Accrued	Write Off & Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Arrears at 31/12/2013	2013%	2012%
County Councils	€	€	€	€	€	€		
Carlow	2,285,542	5,703,956	185,030	7,804,468	5,662,045	2,142,423	73%	70%
Cavan	3,611,492	11,161,294	1,350,126	13,422,660	9,547,936	3,874,724	71%	71%
Clare	9,814,406	36,245,152	1,340,856	44,718,702	35,781,114	8,937,588	80%	78%
Cork	26,383,089	113,468,590	13,674,551	126,177,128	101,444,286	24,732,842	80%	79%
Donegal	10,146,835	21,306,610	2,536,979	28,916,466	16,828,925	12,087,541	58%	62%
Dun Laoghaire Rathdown	24,997,531	83,345,888	7,777,926	100,565,493	78,121,345	22,444,148	78%	75%
Fingal	22,532,759	119,258,645	12,024,553	129,766,851	117,054,598	12,712,253	90%	83%
Galway	8,336,795	23,905,615	4,084,539	28,157,871	18,183,451	9,974,420	65%	69%
Kerry	3,935,068	21,729,400	3,479,574	22,184,894	18,329,177	3,855,717	83%	82%
Kildare	12,626,660	47,194,065	11,952,277	47,868,448	35,934,498	11,933,950	75%	73%
Kilkenny	1,736,776	12,058,348	2,284,949	11,510,175	10,293,860	1,216,315	89%	85%
Laois	3,185,016	12,273,101	2,833,495	12,624,622	8,829,032	3,795,590	70%	74%
Leitrim	1,997,904	4,982,914	650,451	6,330,367	4,141,356	2,189,011	65%	64%
Limerick	5,174,029	29,070,113	4,614,792	29,629,350	24,229,527	5,399,823	82%	82%
Longford	852,888	4,696,445	802,640	4,746,693	3,817,962	928,731	80%	82%
Louth	5,042,202	8,036,634	1,384,017	11,694,819	6,589,934	5,104,885	56%	55%
Mayo	2,724,384	14,699,264	3,202,946	14,220,702	11,134,966	3,085,736	78%	80%
Meath	5,610,883	25,346,531	4,544,500	26,412,914	21,535,803	4,877,111	82%	79%
Monaghan	2,290,962	6,597,586	1,363,327	7,525,221	5,188,572	2,336,649	69%	68%
North Tipperary	1,815,829	6,853,951	633,248	8,036,532	6,088,049	1,948,483	76%	77%
Offaly	584,258	9,009,532	1,946,585	7,647,205	7,151,970	495,235	94%	92%
Roscommon	2,398,419	11,195,305	2,458,072	11,135,652	8,527,522	2,608,130	77%	78%
Sligo	2,407,266	5,188,603	979,738	6,616,131	3,889,700	2,726,431	59%	62%
South Dublin	39,940,231	122,440,818	11,189,046	151,192,003	116,610,117	34,581,886	77%	74%
South Tipperary	1,393,197	8,604,888	946,441	9,051,644	7,401,621	1,650,023	82%	85%
Waterford	3,003,844	7,253,827	1,466,342	8,791,329	5,913,849	2,877,480	67%	66%
Westmeath	2,165,820	8,529,318	469,669	10,225,469	8,049,691	2,175,778	79%	79%
Wexford	7,673,932	19,497,357	2,575,060	24,596,229	16,977,391	7,618,838	69%	68%
Wicklow	5,479,638	17,503,213	3,575,356	19,407,495	13,658,447	5,749,048	70%	71%

Appendix 9 Rates Collection

Local Authority	Arrears at 01/01/2013	Accrued	Write Off	Total for Collection	Collected	Arrears at 31/12/2013	2013%	2012%
City Councils	**€**	**€**	**€**	**€**	**€**	**€**		
Cork City	18,558,716	65,214,509	5,147,867	78,625,358	56,979,228	21,646,130	72%	76%
Dublin City	76,298,631	341,150,111	37,789,463	379,659,279	305,666,229	73,993,050	81%	80%
Galway City	17,121,329	34,820,670	5,464,322	46,477,677	28,751,323	17,726,354	62%	62%
Limerick City	19,142,496	29,020,604	5,406,834	42,756,266	22,650,976	20,105,290	53%	55%
Waterford City	4,668,200	20,943,532	3,929,423	21,682,309	16,347,137	5,335,172	75%	78%
Total City and County Councils	**355,937,027**	**1,308,306,389**	**164,064,994**	**1,500,178,422**	**1,157,311,637**	**342,866,785**	**77%**	**76%**

Appendix 10 Housing Rents Collection

Local Authority	Arrears at 01/01/2013	Accrued	Write Off & Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Arrears at 31/12/2013	2013%	2012%
County Councils	€	€	€	€	€	€		
Carlow	290,656	3,512,782	5,879	3,797,559	3,461,129	336,430	91%	92%
Cavan	755,600	3,385,580	15,491	4,125,689	3,301,003	824,686	80%	80%
Clare	914,257	4,203,979	6,165	5,112,071	4,203,046	909,025	82%	82%
Cork	970,156	11,965,554	177,289	12,758,421	11,376,473	1,381,948	89%	92%
Donegal	1,115,129	8,827,773	38,148	9,904,754	8,707,091	1,197,663	88%	88%
Dun Laoghaire Rathdown	3,321,195	12,753,879	54,661	16,020,413	12,413,520	3,606,893	77%	79%
Fingal	1,847,768	16,255,173	54,450	18,048,491	16,097,979	1,950,512	89%	89%
Galway	713,031	5,919,472	4,578	6,627,925	5,800,972	826,953	88%	89%
Kerry	144,317	6,640,036	16,769	6,767,584	6,616,262	151,322	98%	98%
Kildare	1,439,210	7,165,000	75,632	8,528,578	7,093,850	1,434,728	83%	83%
Kilkenny	690,949	5,080,117	27,857	5,743,209	5,157,107	586,102	90%	88%
Laois	274,112	4,708,924	44,530	4,938,506	4,659,299	279,207	94%	94%
Leitrim	199,331	1,989,836	4,170	2,184,997	1,982,705	202,292	91%	91%
Limerick	819,929	5,958,727	9,789	6,768,867	5,834,119	934,748	86%	88%
Longford	603,338	4,126,054	-1,702	4,731,094	4,018,701	712,393	85%	87%
Louth	639,445	2,790,536	28	3,429,953	2,612,523	817,430	76%	81%
Mayo	1,078,775	4,441,135	36,735	5,483,175	4,396,096	1,087,079	80%	80%
Meath	1,025,582	7,135,850	43,647	8,117,785	7,059,258	1,058,527	87%	87%
Monaghan	145,795	3,466,651	2,014	3,610,432	3,426,647	183,785	95%	96%
North Tipperary	43,286	3,049,961	8,393	3,084,854	3,088,830	-3,976	100%	99%
Offaly	342,307	3,173,067	12,716	3,502,658	3,076,481	426,177	88%	90%
Roscommon	447,547	3,960,877	32,763	4,375,661	3,998,852	376,809	91%	89%
Sligo	603,819	2,875,225	5,690	3,473,354	2,731,323	742,031	79%	82%
South Dublin	7,306,575	21,439,857	153,242	28,593,190	21,342,959	7,250,231	75%	74%
South Tipperary	437,938	3,338,215	4,330	3,771,823	3,268,633	503,190	87%	88%
Waterford	620,199	3,205,166	31,743	3,793,622	3,094,933	698,689	82%	82%
Westmeath	362,107	4,085,291	36,149	4,411,249	4,210,289	200,960	95%	91%
Wexford	802,306	8,775,963	12,087	9,566,182	8,689,620	876,562	91%	91%
Wicklow	676,326	6,662,587	20,157	7,318,756	6,765,228	553,528	92%	90%

Appendix 10 Housing Rents Collection

Local Authority	Arrears at 01/01/2013	Accrued	Write Off	Total for Collection	Collected	Arrears at 31/12/2013	2013%	2012%
City Councils	**€**	**€**	**€**	**€**	**€**	**€**		
Cork City	2,756,218	19,693,822	0	22,450,040	19,108,277	3,341,763	85%	87%
Dublin City	20,604,904	72,817,732	642,406	92,780,230	72,493,323	20,286,907	78%	77%
Galway City	2,332,190	7,207,219	53,153	9,486,256	7,284,853	2,201,404	77%	76%
Limerick City	671,937	7,940,684	42,404	8,570,216	7,890,995	679,221	92%	92%
Waterford City	1,518,894	7,381,042	39,481	8,860,455	7,060,288	1,800,167	80%	82%
Total City and County Councils	**56,515,128**	**295,933,766**	**1,710,844**	**350,738,049**	**292,322,664**	**58,415,386**	**83%**	**83%**

Appendix 11 Commercial Water Collection

Local Authority	Arrears at 01/01/2013	Accrued	Write Off & Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Arrears at 31/12/2013	2013%	2012%
County Councils	€	€	€	€	€	€		
Carlow	511,221	921,284	143,388	1,289,117	724,911	564,206	56%	60%
Cavan	1,744,410	1,986,387	415,397	3,315,400	1,819,472	1,495,928	55%	47%
Clare	8,186,212	9,120,289	829,879	16,476,622	6,626,721	9,849,901	40%	50%
Cork	12,572,202	17,739,981	573,586	29,738,597	18,342,402	11,396,195	62%	59%
Donegal	11,289,265	7,245,261	1,311,657	17,222,869	7,196,093	10,026,776	42%	36%
Dun Laoghaire Rathdown	6,290,392	6,055,316	1,603,329	10,742,379	5,762,795	4,979,584	54%	50%
Fingal	7,063,653	14,685,531	1,115,561	20,633,623	14,291,332	6,342,291	69%	63%
Galway	4,082,935	3,754,905	384,877	7,452,963	4,007,985	3,444,978	54%	48%
Kerry	1,983,468	7,320,004	166,003	9,137,469	6,595,652	2,541,817	72%	78%
Kildare	7,196,468	9,110,360	1,831,610	14,475,218	8,909,455	5,565,763	62%	51%
Kilkenny	781,735	4,189,056	329,018	4,641,773	3,382,572	1,259,201	73%	82%
Laois	1,375,204	1,852,652	150,682	3,077,174	1,854,955	1,222,219	60%	57%
Leitrim	1,370,449	924,123	103,202	2,191,370	752,049	1,439,321	34%	27%
Limerick	1,914,414	9,554,052	488,539	10,979,927	5,938,245	5,041,682	54%	78%
Longford	1,062,954	1,788,601	99,942	2,751,613	1,736,337	1,015,276	63%	61%
Louth	5,440,193	4,642,949	12,002	10,071,140	4,647,826	5,423,314	46%	54%
Mayo	5,039,979	5,123,214	0	10,163,193	4,836,847	5,326,346	48%	50%
Meath	3,579,230	4,968,591	1,274,766	7,273,055	3,786,721	3,486,334	52%	50%
Monaghan	1,094,813	1,524,580	92,464	2,526,929	1,496,000	1,030,929	59%	56%
North Tipperary	1,802,059	3,738,559	193,613	5,347,005	3,013,841	2,333,164	56%	58%
Offaly	1,200,833	2,552,015	503,091	3,249,757	2,326,747	923,010	72%	67%
Roscommon	2,759,958	3,367,652	276,201	5,851,409	2,562,936	3,288,473	44%	43%
Sligo	3,018,861	2,779,644	0	5,798,505	2,846,324	2,952,181	49%	50%
South Dublin	8,176,487	7,898,193	443,435	15,631,245	8,178,527	7,452,718	52%	46%
South Tipperary	494,679	4,851,919	341,839	5,004,759	2,514,403	2,490,356	50%	83%
Waterford	1,366,827	2,082,994	164,640	3,285,181	1,576,812	1,708,369	48%	52%
Westmeath	2,315,042	1,511,997	201,522	3,625,517	1,698,397	1,927,120	47%	48%
Wexford	8,356,663	4,360,739	421,286	12,296,116	4,584,558	7,711,558	37%	32%
Wicklow	2,211,840	1,668,775	435,251	3,445,364	1,469,959	1,975,405	43%	39%

Appendix 11 Commercial Water Collection

Local Authority	Arrears at 01/01/2013	Accrued	Write Off	Total for Collection	Collected	Arrears at 31/12/2013	2013%	2012%
City Councils	**€**	**€**	**€**	**€**	**€**	**€**		
Cork City	1,372,804	7,584,325	356,247	8,600,882	6,343,469	2,257,413	74%	82%
Dublin City	15,970,773	28,470,219	2,496,553	41,944,439	25,441,908	16,502,531	61%	60%
Galway City	2,698,604	4,271,726	664	6,969,666	4,100,369	2,869,297	59%	59%
Limerick City	2,823,306	7,899,437	714,991	10,007,752	5,578,654	4,429,098	56%	68%
Waterford City	1,428,472	3,144,110	130,119	4,442,462	3,064,764	1,377,698	69%	74%
Total City and County Councils	**138,576,405**	**198,689,440**	**17,605,354**	**319,660,490**	**178,010,038**	**141,650,452**	**56%**	**56%**

Appendix 12 Housing Loans Collection

Local Authority	Arrears at 01/01/2013	Accrued	Write Off & Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Arrears at 31/12/2013	2013%	2012%
County Councils	€	€	€	€	€	€		
Carlow	244,318	671,732	712	915,338	648,672	266,666	71%	72%
Cavan	176,817	488,578	4,839	660,556	444,619	215,937	67%	74%
Clare	686,716	1,122,711	39,434	1,769,993	1,003,433	766,560	57%	60%
Cork	3,651,622	7,134,975	114	10,786,483	6,448,410	4,338,073	60%	61%
Donegal	1,053,141	2,056,025	5,303	3,103,863	2,045,555	1,058,308	66%	67%
Dun Laoghaire Rathdown	695,739	1,415,823	0	2,111,562	1,349,789	761,773	64%	64%
Fingal	1,243,297	14,452,307	0	15,695,604	15,454,286	241,318	98%	90%
Galway	669,983	2,312,346	17	2,982,312	2,263,237	719,075	76%	78%
Kerry	179,055	1,284,953	9,499	1,454,509	1,260,103	194,406	87%	88%
Kildare	3,240,142	3,660,394	9,773	6,890,763	3,011,199	3,879,564	44%	49%
Kilkenny	936,468	2,428,327	18,832	3,345,963	2,475,389	870,574	74%	67%
Laois	1,086,232	3,704,644	53,786	4,737,090	3,185,878	1,551,212	67%	76%
Leitrim	96,572	197,698	575	293,695	184,441	109,254	63%	65%
Limerick	368,456	1,105,004	7,494	1,465,966	1,074,062	391,904	73%	75%
Longford	445,440	1,049,081	11,303	1,483,218	904,770	578,449	61%	67%
Louth	194,132	232,490	-2	426,624	205,157	221,467	48%	54%
Mayo	1,791,512	3,089,762	52,887	4,828,387	3,060,507	1,767,880	63%	61%
Meath	345,816	1,258,780	0	1,604,596	1,105,955	498,641	69%	77%
Monaghan	167,667	895,962	12,532	1,051,097	845,379	205,718	80%	84%
North Tipperary	161,978	503,021	-223	665,222	515,489	149,733	77%	78%
Offaly	419,569	589,512	0	1,009,081	609,858	399,223	60%	59%
Roscommon	275,790	269,106	1,078	543,818	227,081	316,737	42%	50%
Sligo	703,925	816,044	1,000	1,518,969	703,024	815,945	46%	51%
South Dublin	83,915	5,130,893	0	5,214,808	5,012,648	202,160	96%	98%
South Tipperary	374,884	901,108	16	1,275,976	969,588	306,388	76%	70%
Waterford	518,747	1,075,587	840	1,593,494	1,008,525	584,969	63%	64%
Westmeath	2,086,011	1,321,133	10,908	3,396,236	1,844,809	1,551,427	54%	47%
Wexford	738,913	3,785,711	-2	4,524,626	3,564,966	959,660	79%	84%
Wicklow	475,562	1,370,839	486	1,845,915	1,376,138	469,777	75%	74%

Appendix 12 Housing Loans Collection

Local Authority	Arrears at 01/01/2013	Accrued	Write Off	Total for Collection	Collected	Arrears at 31/12/2013	2013%	2012%
City Councils	**€**	**€**	**€**	**€**	**€**	**€**		
Cork City	897,724	3,201,064	209,685	3,889,103	3,030,456	858,647	78%	76%
Dublin City	10,264,170	23,222,183	0	33,486,353	20,334,203	13,152,150	61%	68%
Galway City	588,636	1,462,920	23,122	2,028,434	1,577,507	450,927	78%	72%
Limerick City	193,243	750,848	4,239	939,852	733,743	206,109	78%	79%
Waterford City	1,450,530	2,245,048	0	3,695,578	2,013,945	1,681,633	54%	53%
Total City and County Councils	**36,506,722**	**95,206,609**	**478,247**	**131,235,084**	**90,492,821**	**40,742,264**	**69%**	**71%**

Appendix 13 – The Local Government Audit Service

Introduction

The LGAS provides independent scrutiny of the financial stewardship of local authorities. Its role is to:

- Carry out audits of local authorities and other bodies in accordance with its Code of Practice, thereby fostering the highest standards of financial stewardship, governance and public accountability;
- Promote the achievement of value for money in local authorities by undertaking Value for Money (VFM) studies and publishing reports thereon.

The Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government appoints auditors, known as local government auditors, to carry out or assist in the carrying out of audits of local and other bodies. The Local Government Audit Service (LGAS) audits the accounts of city and county councils, including regional authorities, motor taxation offices and other bodies. The total number of bodies under its remit in 2013 was 178.

The Director of Audit is the organisational head of the service. This post is a statutory position and the main functions, as prescribed in section 116 of the Local Government Act, 2001 are to:

a) Organise, direct and allocate resources within the LGAS;
b) Assign audits of local authorities and other bodies to Local Government Auditors;
c) Provide such advice and assistance as the Minister may, from time to time, require for the purposes of maintaining a Code of Audit Practice;
d) Direct the Local Government Value for Money Unit established by section 14 of the Local Government (Financial Provisions) Act, 1997, and to ensure that the work of the unit is incorporated into local government audit practice.

Each local government auditor is assigned an audit district under warrant of authority from the Director of Audit. Local government auditors are independent of the Department when discharging their professional functions. This independence is protected in legislation in accordance with section 116(2) of the Local Government Act, 2001.

Audit districts comprise a number of audits grouped, as far as possible, in convenient geographical areas, and these districts are further grouped into four regions, Western, Southern and two Eastern. Principal auditors lead in the regional organisation and supervision of audits. In addition they have direct responsibility for the major audits in their region. One principal auditor has responsibility for managing the Value for Money Unit.

Staff Resources

The following is the current audit staff numbers in the LGAS.

Staff Grades	**Current No.**
Director of Audit	1
Principal Local Government Auditors	5
Local Government Auditors	15
Assistant Auditors	12
Total	**33**

All audit staff are professionally qualified accountants and have for many years been recruited externally, having worked in industry, professional accounting practices, public sector bodies, and this mix of skills enhances the organisation.

Local Government Audit Framework

The statutory audit of local government is provided for in sections 114 to 126 of the Local Government Act, 2001. The revised Code of Audit Practice was approved in December 2014 by the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, which covers:

- Framework for Local Government Audit;
- Professional Audit Service;
- Financial and Performance Audit;
- Local Government Audit Reporting.

The LGAS is committed to the on-going improvement of its financial audit procedures. This involves the development of audit guidance on many aspects of the audit process and the implementation of an electronic working papers system (TeamMate). Some of the features of the TeamMate software as implemented by the LGAS are:

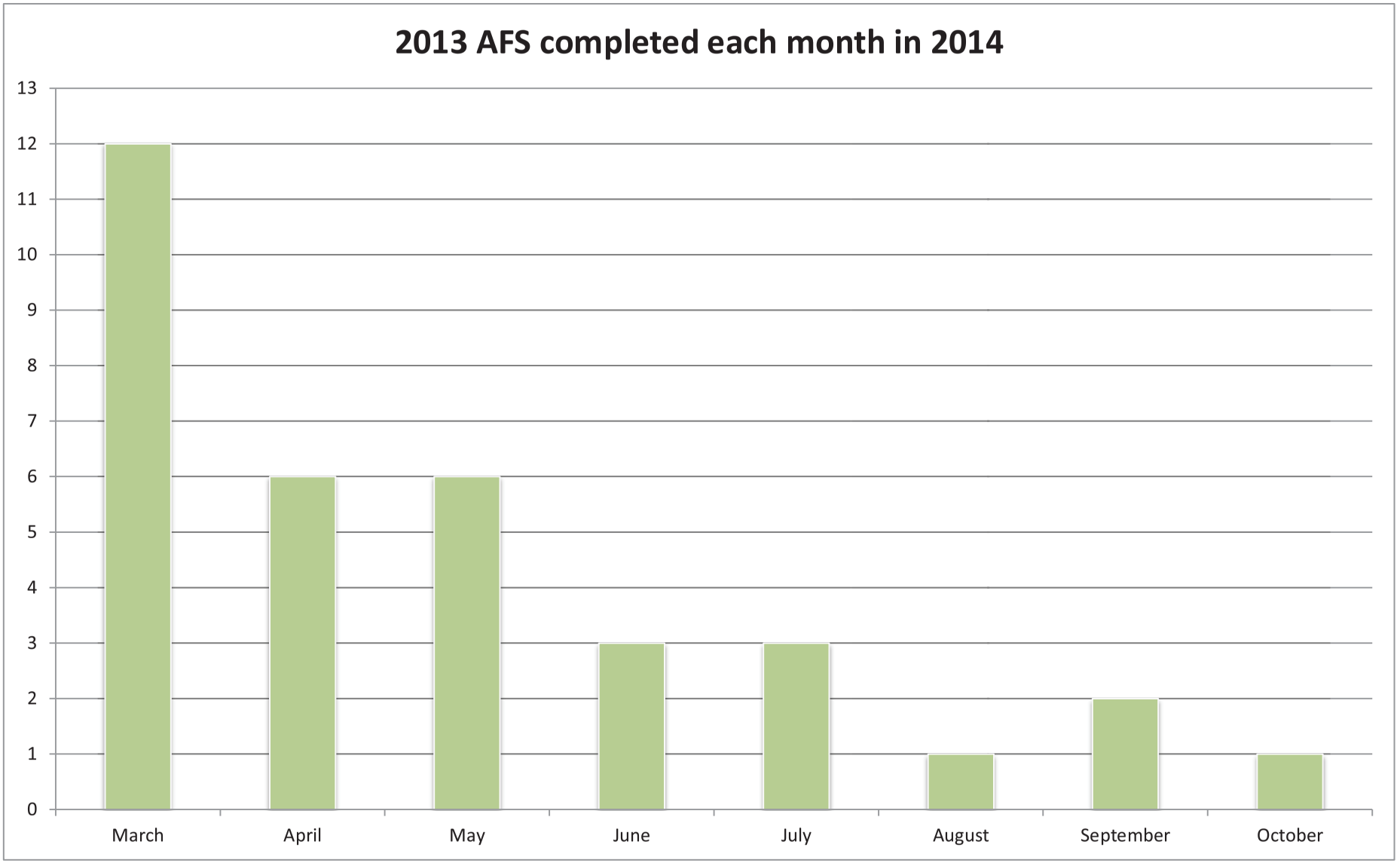
- Risk Assessment module
- Standard format of audit files
- Standard audit tests
- Improved tracking of matters arising at audit
- Guidance notes for audit staff
- Audit file and data encryption
- Centralised retention of audit files.

This system has been fully implemented in the LGAS, with auditors now using this software on all audits. It is intended to further develop and improve the standard audit approach, including the use of TeamMate, on an on-going basis. All electronic audit working papers on the TeamMate system are automatically encrypted. In order to mitigate the risk of the loss of sensitive client data, all audit data is held on a centralised database.

Audit Work Programme

The financial statements of local authorities are prepared to 31 December each year. Due to the time lag between the end of the financial year and the finalisation of the draft accounts, the work cycle of the audit service runs from April to the following March e.g. all audits for the year ended 31 December 2013 are to be completed by 31 March 2015. Priority is given to the city and county council audits, of which 32 were completed in 2014.

Appendix 14 AFS Publication Dates



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Fingal County Council Meeting

13th April 2015

Item No. 20

Draft Annual Report 2014

Section 221 of the Local Government Act 2001(as amended by Section 36 (1) (49A (7) and Section 44 (66G) of the Local Government Reform Act 2014) provides for the preparation of an Annual Report.

The Draft Annual Report is to be submitted to the Elected Members for approval not later than 30th April. The adoption of the Annual Report is a Reserved Function and following the adoption the report shall be published not later than 30th June.

The annual report shall include the following:

- Details of the policies, programmes, services and other activities undertaken by the Local Authority.
- Details of Performance Indicators
- Financial Statements
- Any other particulars that the Local Authority deems relevant

The Draft Annual Report 2014 is hereby submitted for the approval and adoption of the Elected Members.

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Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall
Fingal County Council

Dréacht - Tuarascáil Bhliantúil 2014

Draft Annual Report 2014



fingal.ie

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Information Technology Department

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Appendix

Mayor's Introduction



The Annual Report gives us the opportunity to reflect on the activities and achievements of Fingal County Council during the year 2014. I have had the unique privilege of being an official with Fingal County Council, and being elected in 2004, 2009 and 2014. I am now honoured to hold the office of Mayor, and to represent Fingal as its first citizen.

During my term I have had the pleasure of attending a number of significant events for the County. In June 2014 I attended the official opening of the Royal Canal Towpath (Ashtown to Castleknock). In July, I attended the official opening of new Tourism office, in Howth and had the privilege of launching the Swords Castle Conservation Plan in September, whilst also officiating at the Fingal Enterprise Awards in October.

On 3rd November I met with a delegation from Chengdu, China, where we visited Fingal's Drinan Enterprise Centre in Swords. During the month I also attended the signing ceremony for the Dublin Declaration on Age Friendly Cities and Communities in Europe. Later in November it was a pleasure to launch the Dunsink Horse Club Calendar.

To celebrate the 20th Anniversary of Fingal County Council a Business & Community Network Event which held in Farmleigh, which brought together Leaders from both sectors and which was a great success.

There are many more events and openings over which I had the pleasure of officiating during my term. As I look forward I am sure that Fingal will continue to develop and grow over the coming years. I would like to thank my fellow Councilors in Fingal County Council for their invaluable support during my term as Mayor of Fingal, and also to thank my Deputy Mayor, Cllr Ted Leddy. I wish to thank Peter Caulfield, Interim County Manager, and in particular I must express my gratitude to the Chief Executive, Mr. Paul Reid for the valuable guidance and support he has given me. Finally to all our Council staff both indoor and outdoor for all their hard work in representing the people of Fingal and delivering a wide range of services. And to all the people who contribute to the economic, social, cultural and sporting life of our County, building communities and making Fingal a great place to live and work in, I acknowledge the value of your contribution.

Mags Murray
Mayor

Message from the Chief Executive



2014 proved to be another year of change in Fingal County Council. I was appointed as County Manager in April 2014 and subsequently as Chief Executive. I would like to thank Mr. Peter Caulfield, who was acting as County Manager, for his support in the transition process.

The Local Government Act 2014 set out a very ambitious agenda of reforms. Local Government now h strengthened role in developing economic and community plans. In Fingal we have embraced this opportunity. With the elected members we have engaged in a continuous and extensive engagement process with a wide range of stakeholders to support economic growth in Fingal.

In 2014 there has been continuous and strong macroeconomic indicators demonstrating that the economy has returned to growth. We are also experiencing positive indications in Fingal, with increased construction activity across the County and an increase in the level of planning applications.

Fingal is well placed to progress now based on these improving economic conditions. We have a young, diverse and well educated population with a good business community providing employment across a wide range of sectors. We also have many great resources in the County that can help to distinguish us so that we can lead the way in economic growth, social development and tourism.

To support this, the Council agreed one of the most progressive budgets we have been able to put together in a number of years. This focused our investment in three key areas.

1. Strengthening the services that we deliver to the citizens of Fingal;
2. An increased investment and focus on Housing;
3. Stimulating economic and tourism activity through investments in some of our key strategic assets and heritage sites.

The Fingal Local Enterprise Office (LEO) officially opened in May and forms part of a national network that will be the frontline in delivering business growth and jobs, providing direct support to everyone with a good business idea. During 2014 the Fingal Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) was established and work commenced on Fingal Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) which sets out over a six year period objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic and community development of the Fingal area.

In Fingal we recognise the scale of the housing problem and we welcome the Social Housing Strategy 2020 to tackle emergency and short term homelessness.
In 2014 Fingal County Council celebrated twenty years as a local authority with a number of events including 20th Anniversary Arts Showcase and Business & Community Networking Event. Other events held through the year included Swords 1014 Viking Exhibition, Blanchardstown Spring Break Music Festival, Fingal Enterprise Week, St Patrick's Day Festival, Giro d'Italia, Fingal 10K Road Race and the Mayor's Economic Conference .

We launched the Swords Castle Conservation Plan and, the Swords Castle Cultural Quarter Masterplan. The Council Chamber was re-designed to accommodate the additional Councillors. Fingal newest library also opened at Donabate Portrane Community and Leisure Centre.

Preparations are underway for the Fingal Development Plan with the current plan being in effect now for almost four years. The Planning Department as part of Construction 2020 Dublin Housing Supply and Coordination Task Force worked with various agencies to respond to the short-term housing market requirements. Sustainable transport projects included Ongar Castaheaney Cycle Network that was completed in 2014, design work continued during

2014 to develop new sustainable transport schemes including Dublin 15 Priority Cycle routes, Swords to Sutton Cycle route, Royal Canal Greenway and public transport improvements from Swords to the Dublin City.

The above is just a brief snapshot of some of the activities in the past year.

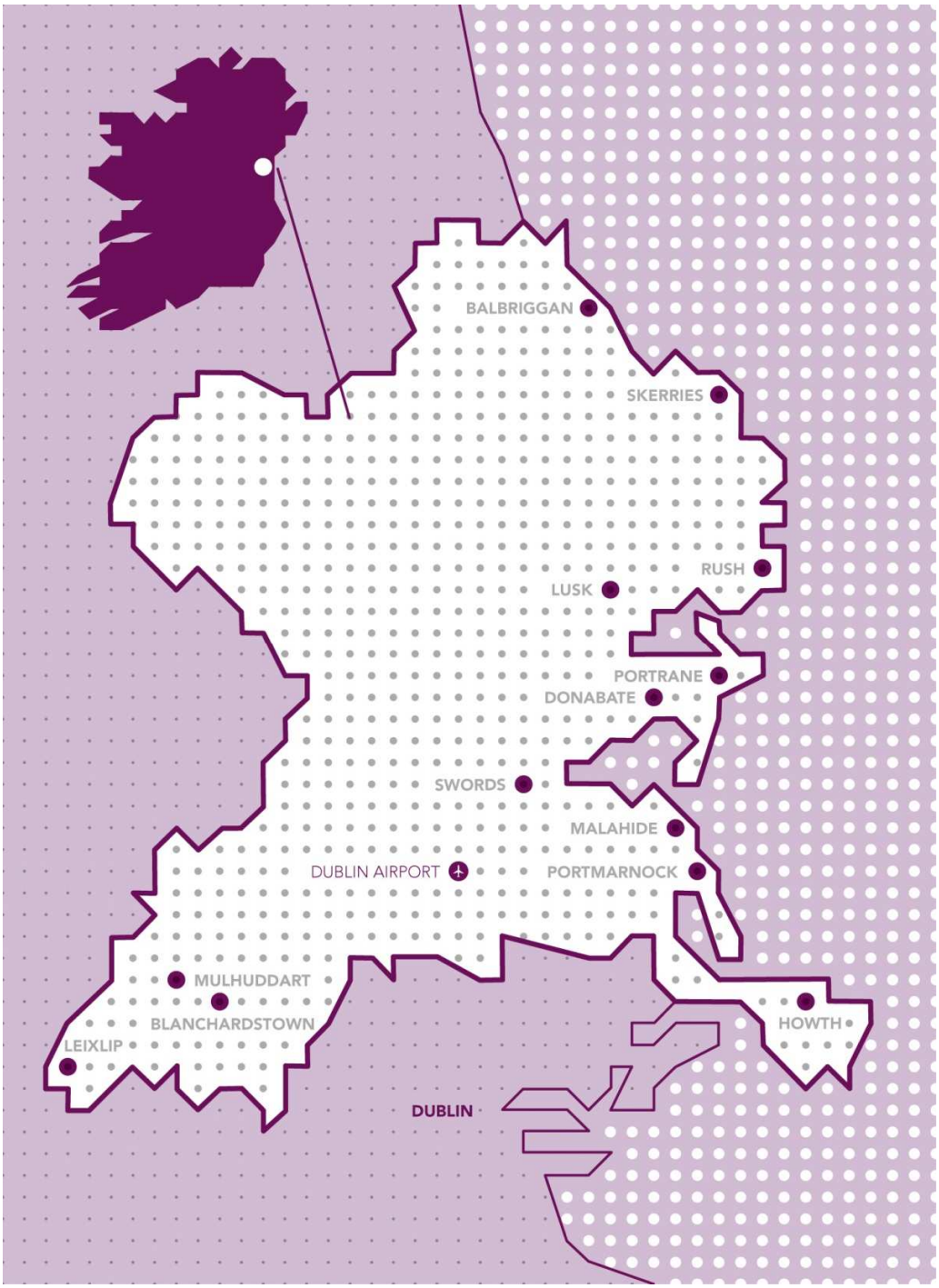
In 2014 with the enactment of the Local Government Reform Act Balbriggan Town Council ceased to exist and I would like to acknowledge the work of the Balbriggan Town Councilors and staff of the Town Council for all they have done over the years.

In 2014, we said farewell to some Councillors and welcomed some newly elected public representatives following the Local and European Elections in May which increased the membership of Councillors from 24 to 40. I would like to thank the Mayor, Councillor Mags Murray and her predecessor Councillor Kieran Dennison and each of the Members of the Council for their co-operation and support on so many issues during 2014. I look forward to a continuation of this co-operation in 2015.

I would like to pay a special tribute to all Council staff for their commitment and enthusiasm in the delivery of services to the people of Fingal. I look forward to us all working together for the future of Fingal in 2015.

Paul Reid
Chief Executive

Fingal County Council Electoral Map



FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL - ELECTED MEMBERS
Position prior to Local Elections held on 23rd May 2014
(January – June 2014)

Mayor



Kieran Dennison
January – June 2014

Deputy Mayor



Joan Maher
January – June 2014

BALBRIGGAN ELECTORAL AREA

Ken Farrell, (Labour), 4 The Drive, Orlynn Park, Lusk, Co. Dublin
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John Walsh, (Labour),10 Ashleigh Court,Blanchardstown,Dublin 15.
Mobile : 087 6486228 E-Mail **:** john.walsh@fingalcoco.ie

STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL

AREA COMMITTEES

Balbriggan/Swords	Members of Balbriggan & Swords Electoral Areas & Cathaoirleach of Balbriggan Town Council
Castleknock/Mulhuddart	Members of Castleknock & Mulhuddart Electoral Areas
Howth/Malahide	Members of Howth/Malahide Electoral Area

ORGANISATION & PROCEDURE COMMITTEE

(All Members of Fingal County Council are Members of this Committee)

CORPORATE POLICY GROUP

Kieran Dennison (Mayor) – January 2014 – June 2014
Mags Murray (Chairperson) Transportation Strategic Policy Committee
Tom Kelleher (Chairperson) Planning & Development Strategic Policy Committee
Eithne Loftus (Chairperson) Environment Strategic Policy Committee
David O'Connor (Chairperson) Community & General Strategic Policy Committee
Ruth Coppinger (Chairperson) Housing Strategic Policy Committee

MEMBERS OF COMMUNITY AND GENERAL STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Councillors
David O'Connor (Chairperson)
Darragh Butler
Judy Dunne
Anne Devitt
John Walsh
Mary McCamley
Cian O'Callaghan
Matthew Waine
Non Councilllor Members
Frank Snowe
Padraig McMahon
Brendan Sherlock
Paul Holden
Myles Caulfield
Clodagh O'Donovan
Joseph Kuye

MEMBERS OF ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Councillors
Eithne Loftus (Chairperson)
Judy Dunne
Eugene Coppinger
Kieran Dennison
Anthony Lavin
John Walsh
Gerry McGuire
Grainne Maguire
David O'Connor
Eoghan O'Brien

Non Councillor Members
Olive Byrne

Valerie Henderson
David Rogers
Maire O'Brien
Stephen Malone
Ms. Terry Cummins

MEMBERS OF HOUSING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Councillors
Ruth Coppinger (Chairperson)
Eugene Coppinger
Kieran Dennison
Ken Farrell
Joan Maher
Mary McCamley
Gerry McGuire
David McGuinness
Cian O'Callaghan
Michael O'Donovan

Non Councillor Members
Andrew McCann
Sylvester Greally
Paula Kenny
Roderick O'Gorman
Howard Mahony

MEMBERS OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Councillors
Tom Kelleher, (Chairperson)
Ciarán Byrne
Anne Devitt
Anthony Lavin
Joan Maher
David McGuinness
Mags Murray
Michael O'Donovan
Tom O'Leary
Matthew Waine

Non Councillor Members
Rory Bannon
Terry Kelleher
Kieran O'Neill
Terry Cummins
Ciaran Corcoran
Brian McKeon
Terry Kelleher

MEMBERS OF TRANSPORTATION STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Councillors
Mags Murray (Chairperson),
Darragh Butler

Ciarán Byrne
Ruth Coppinger
Ken Farrell
Tom Kelleher
Eithne Loftus
Eoghan O'Brien
Tom O'Leary
Grainne Maguire

Non Councillor Members
Rory Bannon
Brendan Doorley
Raymond Ryan
Paddy Kavanagh
Jean Fay Brady
Cathal Boland
Tom O'Malley

COUNCILLOR MEMBERSHIP OF OTHER BODIES

MEMBERS OF BLANCHARDSTOWN COMMUNITY FORUM
Councillors
Eithne Loftus
Mary McCamley

MEMBERS OF SWORDS COMMUNITY POLICING FORUM
Councillors
Darragh Butler
Ann Devitt
Gerry McGuire

AUDIT COMMITTEE
Councillors
Judy Dunne
Ciaran Byrne
Joan Maher

Non-Councillors
Dr. Philip Byrne
Sean Carey
Joe Harford
Ashley Connolly

COUNTY DUBLIN VOCATIONAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE
Councillors
Ken Farrell
David McGuinness
Joan Maher
Gerry McGuire
Michael O'Donovan

Non-Councillors
Deirdre Doherty Ryan
Don Tipping
Pat Ward
Liz Kelly

ASSOCIATION OF CITY AND COUNTY COUNCILS
Councillors
Eithne Loftus
Tom Kelleher
Michael O'Donovan

DUBLIN REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Councillors
John Walsh
Grainne Maguire
Anne Devitt
Ciarán Byrne
Judy Dunne

SOUTHERN AND EASTERN REGIONAL ASSEMBLY
Councillors
Ciarán Byrne
Anne Devitt

FINGAL COUNTY ENTERPRISE BOARD
Councillors
Judy Dunne
Kieran Dennison
Gerry McGuire
Grainne Maguire

IRISH PUBLIC BODIES MUTUAL INSURANCES LIMITED
Councillor
Mags Murray

LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERS ASSOCIATION
Councillor
Mags Murray (Chairperson)

FINGAL TOURISM LIMITED
Councillors
Kieran Dennison (Mayor) – January 2014 – June 2014
Tom O'Leary

NORTH DUBLIN DEVELOPMENT COALITION (NORDUBCO)
Councillors
Kieran Dennison (Mayor) – January 2014 – June 2014
Anne Devitt

FINGAL LEADER PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Councillors
Gerry McGuire
Ciaran Byrne
Anne Devitt

DUBLIN EMPLOYMENT PACT – STRATEGIC POLICY GROUP
Councillor
Michael O'Donovan

BLANCHARDSTOWN AREA PARTNERSHIP
Councillors
Kieran Dennison
John Walsh
Matthew Waine

LOCAL TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
Councillors
Anne Devitt
Eugene Coppinger
Cian O'Callaghan

BLANCHARDSTOWN DRUG TASK FORCE
Councillors
Mary McCamley
David McGuinness

JOINT FINGAL AND SOUTH DUBLIN LIFFEY VALLEY MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Mayor: Kieran Dennison (Mayor) – January 2014 – June 2014

Castleknock Electoral Area:
Councillors
John Walsh
Mags Murray
Matthew Waine
Eithne Loftus
Mulhuddart Electoral Area:
Councillors
Ruth Coppinger
Michael O'Donovan
David McGuinness
Mary McCamley

NATIONAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT FORUM
Councillor
Ciarán Byrne

BALLEALLY LANDFILL LIAISON COMMITTEE
Councillors
Ken Farrell
Grainne Maguire
Anne Devitt
Gerry McGuire

COUNTY HERITAGE FORUM

Councillors
David O'Connor
Judy Dunne
Kieran Dennison
Grainne Maguire
Mags Murray

NORTH FRINGE AREA FORUM

Councillors
Cian O'Callaghan
Joan Maher
Judy Dunne
Eoghan O'Brien

REGION HEALTH FORUM DUBLIN AND NORTH EAST

Councillors
Grainne Maguire
Mags Murray
Eithne Loftus
Gerry McGuire
Anne Devitt
Kieran Dennison

HANSFIELD SDZ STEERING GROUP

Councillors
Ruth Coppinger
Michael O'Donovan
Mary McCamley
David McGuinness
Kieran Dennison

FINGAL INTEGRATED TRANSPORT GROUP

Councillor
Mags Murray

JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE

Councillors
Kieran Dennison (Mayor) – January 2014 – June 2014
Mags Murray
John Walsh
David O'Connor
Eithne Loftus
Matthew Waine
Michael O'Donovan
Mary McCamley
Judy Dunne
Anthony Lavin
Eugene Coppinger

FINGAL SPORTS PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE
Councillors
Anne Devitt
Eoghan O'Brien
David O'Connor

DRINAN ENTERPRISE CENTRE
Councillors
Gerry McGuire
Anthony Lavin

EDGE CITIES NETWORK
Councillor
Joan Maher

BALBRIGGAN COMMUNITY POLICING FORUM
Councillor
Ciarán Byrne

DRAÍOCHT
Councillor
John Walsh

DUBLIN NORTH-EAST DRUGS TASK FORCE
Councillor
Cian O'Callaghan

AIRPORT REGIONS CONFERENCE (ARC)
Councillor
Ciaran Byrne

NUCLEAR FREE LOCAL AUTHORITY
Councillor
Michael O'Donovan

LES RENCONTRES
Councillor
Tom Kelleher

GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF DCU
Councillor
Ciaran Byrne

BLANCHARDSTOWN COMMUNITY POLICING FORUM
Councillors
Mary McCamley
Mags Murray

MALAHIDE CASTLE & GARDENS LTD
Councillor
Anthony Lavin

MONITORING BOARD FOR INTERREG IVc PROJECT
Councillor
Tom Kelleher

BALBRIGGAN PUBLIC REALM IMPLEMENTATION GROUP
Councillor
Ciaran Byrne

Position Post Local Elections held on 23rd May 2014 (June – December 2014)



New Council June 2014



Mags Murray - Mayor
June 2014 – December 2014



Ted Leddy – Deputy Mayor
June 2014 – December 2014

BALBRIGGAN ELECTORAL AREA

	Ken Farrell, (Labour), 4 The Drive, Orlynn Park, Lusk, Co. Dublin Mobile: 087 7551927 E-mail: ken.farrell@cllrs.fingal.ie
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	Barry Martin, (People before Profit Alliance) 15 Kenure Lawns, Rush, Co. Dublin Mobile: 087 1387216 E-Mail: barry.martin@cllrs.fingal.ie
	J.P. Browne, (Fine Gael), 36 Hillside Gardens, Skerries, Co. Dublin Mobile: 087 3819045 E-Mail: jp.browne@cllrs.fingal.ie

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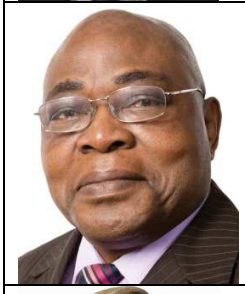
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	Daire Ní Laoi, (Sinn Féin), 'Ros Nuala' Bóthar Chill Roc, Binn Éadair, Co. Átha Cliath Mobile: 086 3977719 E-Mail: daire.nilaoi@cllrs.fingal.ie
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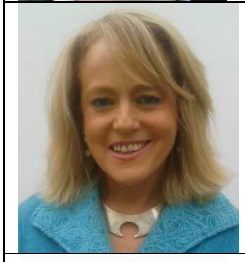
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CASTLEKNOCK ELECTORAL AREA

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	**Eithne Loftus,** (Fine Gael), 6 Deerpark Avenue, Castleknock, Dublin 15 Mobile: 087 6223419 E-Mail: eithne.loftus@cllrs.fingal.ie

	**Ted Leddy**, (Fine Gael), 42 Kavanagh Hall, Collegewood, Castleknock, Dublin 15 Mobile: 087 3276630 E-Mail: ted.leddy@cllrs.fingal.ie
	**Mags Murray,** (Fianna Fáil), 13 Lohunda Close, Parkview, Clonsilla, Dublin 15 Mobile: 086 0651419 E-Mail: mags.murray@cllrs.fingal.ie
	**Sandra Kavanagh**, (AAA) 5 Sheepmore Grove, Blakestown, Dublin 15 Mobile: 087 2635695 E-mail: sandra.kavanagh@cllrs.fingal.ie

STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL

AREA COMMITTEES

Balbriggan/Swords	Members of Balbriggan and Swords Electoral Areas Area Chairperson – Councillor Grainne Maguire
Castleknock/Mulhuddart	Members of Castleknock and Mulhuddart Electoral Areas Area Chairperson – Councillor Eithne Loftus
Howth/Malahide	Members of Howth/Malahide Electoral Area Area Chairperson – Councillor Anthony Lavin

ORGANISATION AND PROCEDURE COMMITTEE

All Members of Fingal County Council are Members of this Committee

CORPORATE POLICY GROUP

Kieran Dennison (Mayor) - January 2014– June 2014
Mags Murray (Mayor) – June 2014 – December 2014
Arts, Culture, Heritage and Community Strategic Policy Committee
Anne Devitt (Chairperson)
Transportation Strategic Policy Committee
Eoghan O'Brien (Chairperson)
Economic Development and Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee
Kieran Dennison (Chairperson)

Housing Strategic Policy Committee
Ken Farrell (Chairperson)
Water and Environmental Services Strategic Policy Committee
Paul Donnelly (Chairperson)
Planning and Strategic Infrastructure Strategic Policy Committee
Cian O'Callaghan (Chairperson)

MEMBERS OF ARTS, CULTURE, HERITAGE AND COMMUNITY STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Councillors
Anne Devitt (Chairperson)
Joe Newman
Adrian Henchy
Mary McCamley
J.P. Browne
Daire Ní Laoi

MEMBERS OF TRANSPORTATION STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Councillors
Eoghan O'Brien (Chairperson)
Darragh Butler
Ted Leddy
Roderic O'Gorman
Annette Hughes
Natalie Treacy

MEMBERS OF HOUSING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Councillors
Ken Farrell (Chairperson)
Duncan Smith
Adrian Henchy
Paul Mulville
Barry Martin
Malachy Quinn
Kieran Dennison
Matt Waine
Lorna Nolan
Sandra Kavanagh

MEMBERS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Councillors
Kieran Dennison (Chairperson)
Keith Redmond
Anthony Lavin
Tony Murphy
Lorna Nolan
Edmond Lukusa
Jimmy Guerin
Mags Murray
David McGuinness
Jack Chambers

Non Council Member

Eric Fleming

MEMBERS OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Councillors
Paul Donnelly (Chairperson)
Natalie Treacy
Anne Devitt
Mary McCamley
Eugene Coppinger
Eithne Loftus

MEMBERS OF PLANNING AND STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE POLICY COMMITTEE

Councillors
Cian O'Callaghan (Chairperson)
David Healy
Brian Dennehy
Brian McDonagh
Justin Sinnott
Philip Lynam
Gráinne Maguire
David O'Connor

Non Council Member
Deirdre Fox

COUNCILLOR MEMBERSHIP OF OTHER BODIES

MEMBERS OF BLANCHARDSTOWN COMMUNITY FORUM

Councillors
Mary McCamley
Jack Chambers

MALAHIDE CASTLE AND GARDENS LTD.

Councillors
Eoghan O'Brien
Anthony Lavin

MEMBER OF GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF DCU

Councillor
Keith Redmond

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Councillors
Jack Chambers
Kieran Dennison
Cian O'Callaghan

BLANCHARDSTOWN DRUG TASK FORCE

Councillors
Ted Leddy
Annette Hughes

DUBLIN & DUNLAOIRE EDUCATION & TRAINING BOARD

Councillors
Ken Farrell
Eithne Loftus
Mags Murray
Roderic O'Gorman
Justin Sinnott

AILG ASSOCIATION OF IRISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Councillors
Darragh Butler
Eithne Loftus
Gráinne Maguire
Daire Ní Laoi
Mary McCamley

The following Members are also Members of:

STANDING POLICY COUNCIL OF THE A.I.L.G

Councillors
Gráinne Maguire
Eithne Loftus
Daire Ní Laoi

SOUTHERN AND EASTERN REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

Councillors
Kieran Dennison
David Healy
Brian McDonagh

IRISH PUBLIC BODIES MUTUAL INSURANCES LIMITED

Councillor
Anthony Lavin

LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERS ASSOCIATION

Councillor
Mags Murray (Chairperson)

FINGAL TOURISM LIMITED

Councillors
Mags Murray
Kieran Dennison

LOCAL TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Councillors
Eugene Coppinger
Ted Leddy
Lorna Nolan

JOINT FINGAL AND SOUTH DUBLIN LIFFEY VALLEY MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mayor: Kieran Dennison (Mayor) – January 2014 – June 2014
Mags Murray (Mayor) – June 2014 – December 2014

All Councillors from Castleknock and Mulhuddart Electoral Areas

MULHUDDART ELECTORAL AREA:
Councillors
Kieran Dennison
Paul Donnelly
Annette Hughes
Edmond Lukusa
Mary McCamley
David McGuinness
Lorna Nolan
Matthew Waine

CASTLEKNOCK ELECTORAL AREA:
Councillors
Jack Chambers
Sandra Kavanagh
Ted Leddy
Eithne Loftus
Mags Murray
Roderic O'Gorman
Natalie Tracey

BALLEALLY LANDFILL LIAISON COMMITTEE
Councillors
Brian Dennehy
Ken Farrell
Barry Martin

COUNTY HERITAGE FORUM
Councillors
Mags Murray
David Healy
Ted Leddy
Eithne Loftus
Dáire Ní Laoi

NORTH FRINGE AREA FORUM
Councillors
Brian McDonagh
David Healy
Cian O'Callaghan
Keith Redmond

REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM DUBLIN AND NORTH EAST
Councillors
Adrian Henchy
Jack Chambers
Eithne Loftus
Lorna Nolan

Kieran Dennison
Mary McCamley

DRINAN ENTERPRISE CENTRE
Councillors
Eoghan O'Brien
Anthony Lavin

EDGE CITIES NETWORK
Councillor
David McGuinness

AIRPORT REGIONS CONFERENCE (ARC)
Councillor
Anne Devitt

NORDUBCO
Councillors
Mags Murray
Anne Devitt

NUCLEAR FREE LOCAL AUTHORITIES SECRETARIAT (NFLA)
Councillor
Eithne Loftus

DRAÍOCHT
Councillors
Natalie Treacy
Mary McCamley

JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE
Councillors
J.P. Browne
Gráinne Maguire
Malachy Quinn
Adrian Henchy
Paul Mulville
Anthony Lavin
Jimmy Guerin
Jack Chambers
Mags Murray
Eithne Loftus
Roderic O'Gorman
Natalie Treacy
Annette Hughes
Kieran Dennison
Mary McCamley

FINGAL LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC)
Councillors
Tony Murphy
Duncan Smith

Natalie Treacy

BALBRIGGAN TOWN COUNCIL

Balbriggan Town Council (Town Commissioners as it was prior to 2002) has a long history of service as a Local Authority, which began in 1860. The Town Hall, Civic Offices and Library were re-developed during 2005-2006 as part of the successful Urban Renewal Scheme for the town centre together with the re-design of Georges Square. The Town Council provided civic leadership for the people of Balbriggan representing their concerns and needs with Fingal County Council and Government Departments and promoted the town as a good place to live, work and visit.

The town boundary was extended in February 2009 to reflect the growth of the town and the population today is over 20,000.

The Public Realm Plan *"The Heart of Balbriggan"* was published in 2012 and one of the actions in the Plan was to produce a strategy for Railway Street. A public consultation process commenced in 2012 and the "*Railway Street, a new beginning*" document was published in November 2012. Work continued in 2013 to promote Railway Street as an historic place in Balbriggan.

In 2014 under the Local Government Reform Act the Town Council ceased to exist. The former town council office is being retained as a local area office and the establishment of a Community Liaison Committee for Balbriggan, comprising of local Councillors and representatives from local interest groups and businesses demonstrates Fingal County Council's commitment to Balbriggan.

Successful events run previously by the Town Council will continue to be organised by Fingal County Council –the St. Patrick's Day parade, the Christmas Lights Festival and the long running Town Awards which were held in December 2014.

The members of Balbriggan Town Council 2009 – 2014 were:

Peadar O'Kelly, Cathaoirleach
Monica Harford
Frank Snowe
Grainne Kilmurry
Sean Brown
Grainne Maguire, Leas-Cathaoirleach
Larry Dunne
Terry Kelleher
Dermot Murray

The staff of Balbriggan Town Council in 2014 were;

Ide de Bairtiseil, Town Manager; Brian Murray, Town Clerk; Maureen Finn, Margaret Wilde and Rosemary Moonan.

NUMBER OF COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD IN 2014

Full Council	15
Balbriggan/Swords (Services A) Area Committee	10
Balbriggan/Swords (Services B) Area Committee	11
Castleknock/Mulhuddart (Services A) Area Committee	9
Castleknock/Mulhuddart (Services B) Area Committee	10
Howth/Malahide (Services A) Area Committee	10
Howth/Malahide (Services B) Area Committee	9
Joint Policing Committee	2
Strategic Policy Committees	6
Corporate Policy Group	7
Balbriggan Town Council	5

PAYMENTS MADE TO COUNCILLORS UNDER SECTION 142 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001

Total of Expenses paid to Members in respect of attendance at meetings of the County Council and its Committees	€223,054.34
Representational Payments Total	€563,559.65
Councillors/Town Councillors Gratuity Payments Total	€297,594.00
Strategic Policy Committee Chairpersons Allowance Total	€29,176.70
Mayors Allowance (January - May 2014)	€20,214.24
Mayors Allowance (June – December 2014)	€22,301.14
Deputy Mayors Allowance (January – May 2014)	€7,066.80
Deputy Mayors Allowance (June – December 2014)	€3,236.15
Total of Expenses paid to members in respect of attendance at meetings of Balbriggan Town Council	€6,213.54

MEMBERS EXPENSES AND REPRESENTIONS AT CONFERENCES IN 2014

	Home	Abroad	Total
Travel & Subsistence	€9,759.85	€1,438.45	€11,198.30*
Fees	€4,739.35	None	€4,739.35*

***See Appendix 1**

BALBRIGGAN TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS EXPENSES AND REPRESENTIONS AT CONFERENCES IN 2014

Name of Conferences	Venue	Date	Councillors who attended	Travel & Subsistence & Expenses	Conference Fee	Total
LAMA Spring Seminar	Four Seasons Hotel, Monaghan	31st Jan to 1st Feb 2014	M.Harford	€230.49	€150.00	€380.49
			G. Maguire	€192.91	€150.00	€342.91
AMAI Spring Seminar	Great Northern Hotel, Bundoran, Co. Donegal	14th & 15th Feb 2014	G. Maguire	€328.38	€200.00	€528.38
			P.O'Kelly	€383.62	€200.00	€583.62
			Total	**€1,135.40**	**€700.00**	**€1,835.40**

Corporate Affairs Department

This department comprises:

- Corporate Services Division
- Property Services Division
- Internal Audit Unit
- Events Unit
- Communications Unit
- Workplace Partnership

Higher Education Grants
All NEW Applications for Higher Education Grants for Academic year 2014/2015 are being processed by Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI). All RENEWAL Applications for Academic year 2014/2015 are being processed by Fingal County Council.

Number of Renewal Applications	217
Number of Renewal Grants Awarded	135

Total expenditure for 2014	€1,152,495

School Meals Scheme
Approximately 2,704 children in 10 Primary Schools in the Fingal area were catered for on a daily basis under this scheme. The Council administers the Scheme on behalf of the Department of Social Community and Family Affairs by funding the provision of the service and recouping 50% of the costs.

Register of Electors
The final Register of Electors for 2014/2015 was published on 01/02/2014
The total number of Electors on the final register was 177,655.

A draft register of electors for 2015/2016 was published on the 01/11/2014.
The total number of electors on draft register was 179,032.

Edited Register of Electors
The edited register of electors published on the 1st February 2014 contained 17,470 names.

Stock Control System
A computerised stock control system was rolled out to 2 of the 3 Operations Depots in 2014. This system will allow for centralised management of stock levels and improved procurement going forward.

Corporate Plan 2015 -2019
The Corporate Plan has been prepared involving consultation with internal and external stakeholders. It sets out the strategic direction for Fingal County Council for the next five years. This Plan, which is the governance framework for the Council, also provides for the delivery of Annual Reports to record details of progress in relation to the objectives outlined in the Corporate Plan and the delivery of our services between now and 2019.

PROPERTY SERVICES DIVISION

The Council's Property Services Division acquires and disposes of property on behalf of Fingal County Council and manages properties and lands owned by the Council.

Property Acquisition

Lands, properties and wayleaves are acquired for the various statutory purposes of the Council in one of the following ways:

- Agreement – The Property Acquisition Section continued in 2014 to progress the acquisition and disposal of school sites in accordance with Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Education and Skills and the County and City Managers Association. The Section also worked with the Office of Public Works in the provision of INTREO offices.
- Compulsory Purchase Order - Acquisitions in respect of Compulsory Purchase Orders continued in 2014.
- Motorway Order – Remaining acquisition in respect of Motorway Schemes continued in 2014.
- Deed of Waiver – Lands acquired from the Minister for Finance where companies have been dissolved.
- Deed of Dedication – Open Space acquired from developers.

Property Management

Holders of the Council's Property Register. Work on the new Property Interest Register continued in 2014.

Security and maintenance of Council lands/properties.

Letting of Council lands for tillage and grazing by con-acre agreements – approx. 836 acres let in 2014.

Caretaker's Agreements and Temporary Convenience lettings for properties and lands not required by the Council in the short term.

Collection of rents from the Council's residential shops.

Disposal of lands or properties/grant of wayleaves etc.

Lease of lands to Sporting Organisations and Utility Companies.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUESTS

Applications received/processed in	2014	2013	2012
Applications received	54	48	68
Decisions made	50	41	66
Applications on hand at 31 December	4	7	2

Nature of Information Sought	2014	2013	2012
Personal (to applicant)	16	14	24
Non-Personal	38	34	44
Mixed	0	0	0
Granted	34	27	35
Part-granted	13	8	19
Refused	5	6	13
Transferred	0	0	0
Withdrawn/Outside FOI	5	2	3

Appeals	2014	2013	2012
Appeals to Information Commissioner	0	0	0

Source of Requests	2014	2013	2012
Journalists	9	0	3
Business	7	16	17
Oireachtas/Local Authority members	0	0	1
Other/General Public	38	32	46
Staff	0	0	1

Ombudsman Complaints	2014	2013	2012
Complaints received during 201414	14	12	10
Complaints responded to	14	12	10

Subject of Complaints	2014	2013	2012
Planning & Strategic Infrastructure	1	1	0
Operations	1	0	1
Housing	5	8	3
Finance	2	0	0
Environment & Water Services	3	1	5
Community	1	0	0
Economic Development Services	0	0	0
Corporate Affairs	1	2	0
Libraries	0	0	0

Citizen Charter Complaints	2014	2013	2012

Complaints received	7	11	9
Complaints responded to	7	11	9

Subject of Complaints	2014	2013	2012
Planning & Strategic Infrastructure	1	0	0
Operations	3	1	0
Housing	1	6	1
Finance	0	1	0
Environment & Water Services	0	3	0
Community	0	0	0
Economic Development Services	0	0	0
Corporate Affairs	0	0	0
Libraries	2	0	0

INTERNAL AUDIT UNIT

During 2014, Internal Audit provided assurance to the Chief Executive on the existence, adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's Internal Control system. Internal Audit also assisted Departments through audits undertaken, by evaluating and reporting on the elements of the internal control systems, in addition to making recommendations for improvement where necessary. All these Reports included a "Risk Assessment" where appropriate.

2014, saw the establishment of the new Audit Committee by Fingal County Council. Under the newly enacted Local Government Reform Act 2014, and within a specific timeframe following polling day in May for the new Council. Section 59 of the Act provides for the establishment, and also sets out the statutory functions of Audit Committees, while Section 60 confers specific responsibility on audit committees to review the annual auditor's report and audited financial statement. Internal Audit, as part of its core activity continued to provide secretarial services to both the outgoing and the new Audit Committee. In regard to the new Audit Committee the Internal Audit Unit assisted in the provision of the induction programme and arrangements for training of the new members and facilitated in the preparation of the Audit Committee Charter and the Internal Audit Charter and Audit Committee meetings.

In addition Internal Audit:

- Completed a number of Special Investigations
- Continued to promote the concept of Risk Management
- Liaised with the Local Government Auditor
- Liaised with the Council's Audit Committee
- Promoted the concept of Value for Money and Efficiency initiatives
- Continued to emphasis the value of good Corporate Governance

EVENTS UNIT

The Events Unit promotes the Council to the wider community. Many community / voluntary groups approach the Council for advice / assistance to host events. Stemming from the Olympic Torch event, the Events Unit was presented with the "Investor in Events Award" at the Event Industry Awards for continued investment in the Events Medium as a means of achieving business objectives.

We have a skilled team who work and liaise with a number of departments within the Council along with community groups, voluntary groups and statutory bodies to make events happen.

Corporately Fingal County Council had an input / role in over 400 events within Fingal in 2014.
The following is a flavour of some of these:









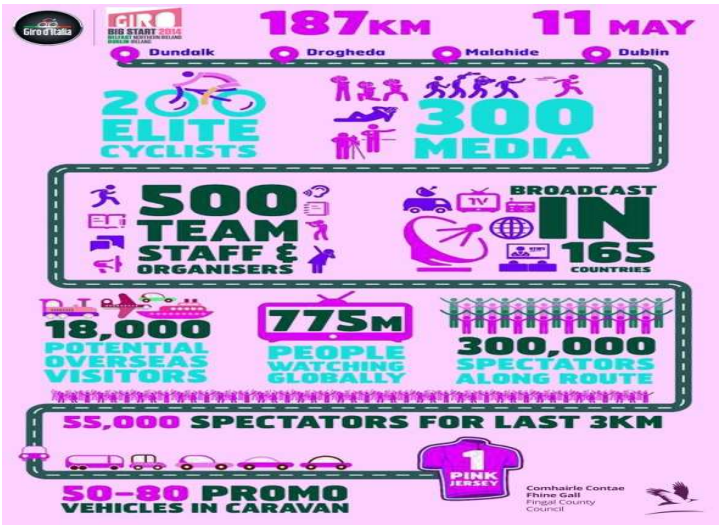


- St. Patrick's Day Festival's
- Flavours of Fingal- County Show
- Blanchardstown Spring Break Music Festival

- Dublin Bay Prawn Festival Howth
- Fingal 10K Road Race
- Giro d'Italia



- Fingal Legend's Adventure Race St Catherine's Park Dublin 15
- Swords 1014 Brian Boru Commemoration
- Powerchair Football
- Fingal Festival of Football



- International Cricket Match, Malahide
- Flavours of Fingal
- Autumn Jazz (Balbriggan)
- Swords/Balbriggan Christmas Lights







Swords Christmas Lights





Balbriggan Christmas Lights

SAFETY ADVISORY GROUP

Established at the end of 2011 Fingal's Safety Advisory Group (SAG) carries out the following:

- Provision of advice and support on crowd safety at events (in particular to community / voluntary groups)
- Makes recommendations on public safety at events
- Encourages event organisers to engage with the SAG
- Resourcing through education, guidance and good practice safer and more enjoyable mass gathering events

Follow the events unit on twitter@EVENTSinFingal

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

The Communications Office deals with local and national media queries, advertising, corporate pocket diary, website, social media and oversees corporate communications and internal communications on behalf of Fingal County Council. It advises staff on requirements as a public body under the Official Languages Act.

In 2014 the Communications Team issued press releases, news alerts, queries from local and national media and queries on Twitter and Facebook. 5 Staff newsletters (The Raven) were produced and distributed to all Council staff.

Use of corporate social media accounts has been developed to enhance and improve communication by the council, in particular at times of service disruption or extreme weather events i.e. water supply disruptions or flooding.

As part of the Council's Major Emergency Plan, Communications staff continue to fulfill the role of Media Liaison Officers for training and exercises to act on behalf of Fingal County Council in the event of a declared emergency, and in accordance with the National Framework.

The Communications Team continue to manage and review the implementation of the Fingal Brand.

The Communications Team continue to implement the Internal Communications strategy and action plan. As part of this information is shared with staff on thirteen Internal Staff Information Screens in canteens and break rooms throughout the Council, through a daily staff email message, through updates in the Comms Chat Community in Fingal Connections and through staff briefing sessions.

Fingal Local Authorities Irish Language Scheme

Fingal County Councils 2nd Irish Language Scheme 2015 to 2018 was prepared in accordance with the Official Languages Act 2003 and confirmed by the Minister at the end of 2014. The 2nd scheme is effective from February 2015.

During 2014 the Communications Office dealt with and responded to all queries from the Irish Language Commissioner.

WORKPLACE PARTNERSHIP

The Fingal Workplace Partnership Committee was engaged in the following projects and initiatives during 2014.

- Held the 4th Remembrance Ceremony for deceased Fingal Staff.
- Organised and managed events to help boost morale amongst staff which included Fingal County Council being represented in the Swords St. Patrick's Day Parade, designing and printing a staff calendar showcasing our staff at work helping to create a more positive image of Fingal County Council.
- Organised competitions for staff to help improve morale in the organization.

- Organised the Health & Safety Week which incorporated a sponsored walk to raise funds to buy a mini bus for "Abhainn" a local unit in Swords which is part of the St. Michaels House charity. Arranged for Corporate Wellbeing Stands to be set up and organised Corporate Health Checks for staff. Also organised and held the Children's competitions and party.

- Organised and developed courses to provide training for outdoor staff to further their careers and help them progress to better paid jobs in the council.

- Organised and Co-ordinated the Transition Year Programme for Fingal County Council. Two one week projects were held in 2014.

- Supported and facilitated the work of local Workplace Partnership Groups.

- Supported the continuing production of the staff newsletter "The Raven".

The Committee also facilitated & supported Working Groups and Sub-Groups in the following Activities throughout 2014:

- Bereavement Working Group.
- Health and Safety.
- Staff Morale/Let's Make it Better
- Equality
- Further Education

Architects' Department

The Architects' Department provided architectural design, conservation, urban design and building procurement and quantity surveying services to all departments of the Council during 2014. The pattern of work has continued to change over the last year; with renewed emphasis on the provision of new social housing and continuing efforts to best use our existing housing stock, in line with government policy; work on public and community buildings; and work on a shared services basis for a number of local authorities.

PROJECTS

CIVIC BUILDINGS

County Hall

A number of projects were completed in the building in support of the core values and objectives in the Council's Corporate Plan:

1. The re-design of the Council Chamber to accommodate the additional Councillors subsequent to the Local Government Act changes and the Local elections of 2014. This involved an increase from 24 to 40 Councillors, the re-organisation of Press and official seating and new communication and projection facilities. This work was completed on time and on budget in November 2014.
2. The installation of new Local Enterprise Office facilities on the first floor

3. The installation of a Fingal Tourism office in the Ground floor Atrium.
4. The conduct of a consultation with staff and visitors in June 2014 about the potential to enhance the use, appearance and comfort of the entrance Atrium
5. The facilitation of the development of an office and training facilities for INTREO in the County Hall and Mainscourt building.



The new Council Chamber at County Hall

Swords Castle

The Council has developed long-term strategic objectives related to an area of Swords around Swords Castle. These objectives recognise the requirement to seek out a new direction for this part of Swords and to facilitate the delivery of a new social and cultural destination centred on Swords Castle and linking back to the retail heart of the town. To this end several projects were initiated in 2014.

- Swords Castle Gatehouse Stabilisation Works & Excavation (Jan 2014 to mid-2014)
- Launch of Swords Castle Conservation Plan (Sept 2014)
- Swords Castle Cultural Quarter Masterplan
- Swords Castle Working Group and Swords Castle Steering Group

Schools Sites – Pilot projects – Enhanced facilities for Community usage

The Department continued to liaise with Community Recreation and Amenities Department dealing with post-completion issues of existing shared facilities and liaison in connection with 2 new facilities at Ardgillan Community College, Balbriggan and Luttrelstown Community College Dublin 15.

Malahide Castle

The Department oversaw the fire-safety upgrade of the second floor bedrooms in the castle and the fitting out of the rooms in authentic period style and completion of external lighting in the grounds and carpark. The refurbishment of the Steward's House was completed; and works on the refurbishment work of the North-East Gate Lodge tendered.

Donabate/ Portrane Library

This fit-out project was completed, on schedule in February 2014. The job won the "Fit-out of the Year" award for small public sector projects.

Devine's Cottage, Lusk

The Department obtained Part XI tenders for the alteration and extension of this house for use as a community facility; and Phase 1 was completed in 2014.

Depots

The Department continued to work with the Operations Department on the consolidation and re-organisation of the Council's services depot at Coolmine.

Drinan Sports Centre

Detailed design continued through 2014 and the project was tendered in November.

Ardgillan Castle

Tenders for a complete measured survey and condition report; and for a fire safety audit were sought and received in 2014. A project for the restoration of the large glasshouse on the rose garden was initiated.

Balgriffin Cemetery

Design work was started on this project in 2014, with a view to obtaining Part XI consent and tendering the project in 2015.

Newbridge Demesne

Design development took place on the reordering of visitor facilities at Newbridge House and Farm.re-organisation of the gift shop and tea rooms. Part XI planning consent will be sought for these works in 2015.

Howth Tourist Information Kiosk

This was opened to the public in July 2014.

Loughshinny Boathouse

A project for the restoration and fitting out of this historic structure for use by the life guard service and as an Artist's studio were completed in 2014.

Skerries Mills

A project for the provision of a new performance space was initiated in 2014.

HOUSING

The Architect's Department continued to offer professional services to the Housing Department in 2014.

New Build Schemes

The Department worked on the design and procurement of three housing schemes within the County in 2014:

1. A 14-house scheme at Cappagh Road, Dublin 11;

2. A 14-dwelling scheme at Glasmore Green, Swords;
3. A single house at St. Cronan's Avenue, Swords.

Development of the schemes from inception to acceptance of tenders was completed by the Department within the year 2014. Work on Glasmore Green was commenced on site in December. Work on the other two sites will commence in early 2015. Site feasibility work began on a number of further sites throughout the County, with the intention of developing these sites (some 200 dwellings) as part of the 2015 Housing Programme.

The Department advised and assisted with the development of two housing schemes: a 9-house scheme in Balrothery for North and East Housing Association; and a 9-house scheme, an extension of the St. Benedict's scheme in Malahide, for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. It is anticipated that work will start on site on these schemes in 2015.

A significant refurbishment scheme for the halting site at Moyne Park was designed and tendered during 2014.

Pyrite Remediation
The Architect's Department assessed pyrite remediation work at Corduff Park; and tendered this work for seven houses. Work on remediation of these infill houses will continue as they become available for repair.

Inspections
Advice continued to be given and inspections carried out for house purchases as requested by the Housing Department.

House adaptations, extensions and small works-
18 new accessible showers, 7 new and 1 replacement stair-lift installations and 5 external ramps were completed. One specially adapted extension was completed on site this year, with construction started on another 6. Tender documentation was prepared for a further 7 extensions.

Housing Maintenance
One of the most significant changes to housing maintenance within the council was the closure of the Watery Lane Housing Depot in April 2014; and the award of a contract for housing maintenance in the North County area to a private contractor.

The Department continued to manage the maintenance of the Council's stock of 4,476 council dwellings along with 92 Long Term Lease units; attending to just over 10,554 requests for repair (including requests from the Traveller Accommodation Unit), as well as scheduled external maintenance and repair to 668 dwellings; and heating maintenance to over 4000 dwellings. 212 vacant houses were repaired prior to re-letting in 2014 (This is an increase of 21% over 2013).

Energy Efficiency Works

The Architect's Department, together with the Housing Department carried out external insulation works to 24 dwellings and an apartment complex of 12 units.





External insulated render at Dublin Street Flats

In partnership with Airtricity Ltd. a boiler replacement programme was carried out of 69 houses targeting two estates in Blanchardstown & Swords.

In partnership with Bord Na Mona we carried out a window and boiler replacement programme of 12 houses for Traveller Group Housing.

An extensive Window and Door replacement programme was carried out of over 200 occupied dwellings in Blanchardstown and North County Dublin. The Council was granted in excess of € 1,200,000 for these works by the Dept. of Environment and Local Government.

Cavity and roof insulation upgrades were carried out in 108 houses including extraction of perished fibre insulation.

The Council's work in improving energy efficiency in 2014 led to an estimated energy saving of 2.8 Gigawatt/Hours for the year 2014.

CONSULTANCY SERVICES

The Architect's Department continued to provide architectural consultancy services in design development for access works and repairs to Ardee Castle for Louth County Council.

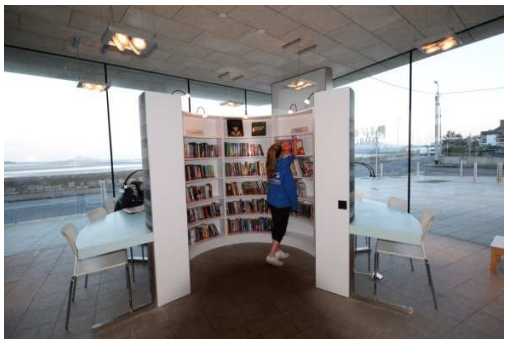
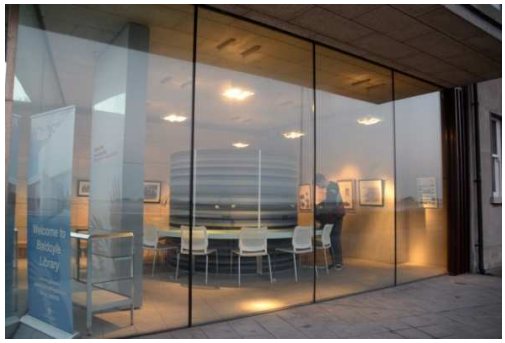
A 14-house scheme, the first phase of the regeneration of Aisling Park for Louth County Council was tendered in 2014, with work to commence on site in January 2015.

Scout Den at Portmarnock

The Architect's Department provided post-tender and contract administration services for this new building for Portmarnock Guide and Scout Troops. The building will be complete early in 2015.

Baldoyle Library

The department designed, procured and installed a combined study and shelving unit for young people.

Baldoyle Library study unit

QUANTITY SURVEYING, COST PLANNING AND COST CONTROL

The Quantity Surveying section of the Architect's Department provided a full range of cost advice and control services throughout 2014 including cost planning, construction procurement, contract administration, etc., associated with projects for a range of Council Departments. The range of work included new housing, relets, housing maintenance, housing energy efficiency upgrades, community and public building projects as set out here before in this report. In addition to this under the Government shared resources directive the Quantity Surveying Section and Department has undertaken works for other local authorities requiring similar services.

CONSERVATION

The Conservation Office within the Architects Dept. oversees projects and provides advice and reports that relate to architectural heritage matters.

Built Heritage Jobs Leverage Scheme 2014

The Conservation Officer administered, inspected and allocated the funding provided to Fingal under the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht's Built Heritage Jobs Leverage Scheme 2014. The scheme assisted the repair and conservation of Protected Structures and buildings within Architectural Conservation Areas that contribute to the character of the area. €127,061 in funding was allocated to 11 projects.



Examples of works funded under Built Heritage Jobs Leverage Scheme

Traditional Buildings Skills Training Scheme 2014

The Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DAHG) approached Fingal County Council to participate in a pilot project to develop and enhance skillsets in built heritage conservation. A training scheme on historic joinery was developed between the Architects, Operations and Human Resources Departments of Fingal County Council and the School of Trades, DIT Bolton Street which consisted of both theory classes on historic joinery and practical

workshops. The participants were carpenters/joiners from the Construction Crew of the Operations Dept. The training sought to advance their existing knowledge and skills to enable them repair and restore the historic timber glasshouse in Ardgillan Demesne, work on which is due to commence in 2015. Part of the course was also attended by students and staff from DIT.





Review of the Record of Protected Structures
A major review of the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) commenced in 2014 to examine potential additions, deletions and amendments to the RPS. The review will entail an examination of almost 1,200 structures.

Planning & Strategic Infrastructure
The Conservation Officer reported on planning application files, including strategic infrastructure projects, pre-planning consultations, queries in relation to unauthorised development, and investigated endangerment and/or neglect of protected structures. wrote reports or verbally commented on 151 planning files and compliances and attended monthly Planning Files meetings. The Conservation Officer also dealt with numerous pre-planning consultations in the form of meetings, site visits, emails and phone calls. Cases and queries relating to unauthorized development, endangerment and/or neglect of Protected Structures were investigated. Architectural conservation advice was also provided on strategic infrastructure projects such as proposed cycling routes, bus routes, and signage schemes.

Tourism & Commemorations
Through the Conservation Officer, the Architects Department contributed to the drafting of Fingal County Council's strategies and policies on tourism and commemorations. The Conservation Officer is a member of the Tourism and Events Steering Group and took part in the consultation for the forthcoming Fingal Tourism Strategy. The Conservation Officer was also a member of the Commemorations Group that organised the Swords 1014 event and is a member of the new Commemorations Working Group established to look at potential events during the decade of centenaries.

PLANNING AND URBAN DESIGN

Public Realm Studies
The Department prepared further studies on the public realm in Malahide, including work on a booklet on colour and painting buildings; and a study and proposal for the Green.

Architectural Reports on Planning Applications-
The Department has written reports on architectural content in respect of planning applications for significant private developments being proposed in the County and taken part in pre planning meetings on request from the Planning Department.

OTHER SERVICES

As well as the above, the Department offered varied advice, procurement or management services; dealing with pyrite; way leave applications; and permissions to carry out alterations by tenants; The Department continued to provide out-of-hours dangerous building inspections and reports, as required, in 2014.

The Department also attended the Green Infrastructure Group; the Branding and Signage Group; the Planning Files Review Group: and the Fingal Pyrite Panel.

The Department also took up membership of a subgroup of the Building Control Management System steering group dealing with the application of the new building control regulations in the state sector.

Housing Department

HOUSING PROCUREMENT

Social housing procurement includes Long Term Leasing Scheme and the Rental Accommodation Scheme. To this end 722 RAS properties have been secured to date, 54 in 2014 together with 92 Long Term Leasing properties, 17 in 2014.

In addition the Council entered into agreements to purchase 30 housing units for social housing purposes during 2014.

UNSOLD AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The Council continued to utilise the provision of Circular Letter AHS1 2009 which provides for the leasing of unsold affordable units to voluntary housing bodies, 272 of which are now occupied by families from the Council's housing list.

HOUSING ADAPTATION GRANTS SCHEME FOR OLDER PEOPLE AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY

There were 179 private grants approved totalling €2,025,999.

HOUSING STOCK

Rental

At 31st December 2014 the Council had 4,491 social properties and 92 long-term lease properties in its housing stock. The Rental income from these properties was €13,852,015.79. There are an additional 84 units of Traveller's housing stock and c. 96 Halting Site Bays with a Rental Income of €189,059.90.

Loans

At 31st December 2014, 1,700 live mortgage accounts yielded payment of €11,152,524.

ESTATE MANAGEMENT

€5.3m revenue expenditure was incurred on response maintenance and general upkeep of the Council' Housing Stock and estates and a further €1.1m revenue expenditure was incurred in respect of the Traveller's Accommodation Unit's response maintenance.

10,554 response maintenance requests were received during 2014.

In addition 3,979 boilers are part of the Council's Boiler Servicing Programme.

11 Tenant Induction Courses were held to assist tenants to settle into their new homes and communities.

The Estate Management Section attended 33 Residents Association meetings. Meetings held with An Garda Síochana on 10 occasions, concerning Community Policing and Estate Management issues.

719 allegations regarding Anti-Social Behaviour and breach of tenancy were received during 2014.

There are presently 7 excluding orders in place regarding anti-social individuals from Council tenancies and vacant possession of 4 anti-social tenancies was recovered.

Estate Improvement Works were completed in Ladyswell Park, Dromheath, Fortlawn, Whitechapel, Domville to deal with laneway issues and alleviate Anti-Social Behaviour at Anti-Social Behaviour black spots.

Garden maintenance and grass cutting dealt with in 455 dwellings (senior citizens and vulnerable tenants) under the grass cutting programme,

Capital expenditure of €6 m was incurred on planned maintenance programmes and other improvements as outlined below.

Pre-Let Repairs completed in 212 dwellings with grant funding from the DECLG to 163 dwellings in the amount of €1,938,780. The number of vacant dwellings was reduced by 70% in 2014 as a result of ongoing Business Process Improvements.

Central Heating installation and upgrading works carried out in 55 dwellings.

Painting and joinery works took place in 624 dwellings under the cyclical maintenance programme.

Windows and where necessary, doors, were replaced in 193 tenanted dwellings and 20 Traveller Accommodation Units under the window and door replacement programme.

Energy Efficiency Programme
Under the Building Fabric Upgrade Programme, wall insulation was upgraded in 146 tenanted dwellings.

External insulation works were carried out to 38 dwellings where the construction of the dwellings rendered them unsuitable for cavity wall insulation.

A central heating system upgrade programme was completed to 69 tenanted dwellings where the heating systems were approaching the end of the life cycle; part-funded by a grant from the SEAI.

ALLOCATIONS

A total of 366 dwellings were allocated in 2014 to applicants who had applied to Fingal County Council for Social Housing Support, as follows:

• Social Casual	163
• Purchases	45
• RAS	62
• Long Term Leasing	17
• Approved Housing Bodies	79
	366

TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION

The 2014 Annual Count of Traveller Families showed that a total of 456 families are resident in the County

The Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014 – 2018 and was approved by the Council in January 2014.

4 Group Houses were refurbished and 6 bays were refurbished.

20 Group Houses had window and doors upgrades.

In addition, Fingal County Council provided 42 units of accommodation to Travellers in 2014.

Indicator	2014	2013	2012
H: Housing			
H.1 Housing Vacancies			
Total Number of dwellings in local authority stock	4,491	4,482	4,478
Overall % of dwellings that are let	98.53%	96.9%	96.74%
Overall % of dwelling that are empty	1.47%	3.1%	3.26%
% of empty dwellings subject to major refurbishment schemes	4.5%	n/a	n/a
% of empty dwellings unavailable for letting	95.5%	83.5%	82.2%
% of empty dwelling available for letting	4.5%	16.5%	17.8%
H.2 Average time taken to re-let dwellings available for letting	17 days	23 days	35 days
H.3 Number of repairs completed as a percentage of the number of valid repair requests received	95%	91%	96%
H.4 Average time taken to inform applicants of Local authority's decision on applications for:			
The shared ownership housing scheme	n/a	n/a	n/a
Housing loan schemes	54 days	56 days	81 days
Local authority housing	30 days	30 days	30 days
H.5 Traveller Accommodation			
Total number of traveller families accommodated as a percentage of the targets set in the local traveler accommodation programme	106%	31%	40%

Rev: Revenue Collection			
Rev.1 House Rent			
a) Amount collected at year as a percentage of amount due:	88.97%	87.81%	87.28%
(b) Percentage of arrears			

- 4 – 6 weeks old	6.15%	5.28%	5.12%
- 6-12 weeks old	13.44%	14.59%	13.91%
- More than 12 weeks old	72.05%	75.45%	75.34%

Rev.2 Housing Loans			
(a) Amount collected at year as a percentage of amount due:	86.73%	88.45%	90.65%
(b) Percentage of arrears			
- 1 month old	4.61%	5.44%	6.46%
- 2-3 months old	2.53%	3.43%	4.94%
- More than 3 months	92.86%	91.13%	

Community, Culture & Sports Division

The activities and operational programmes of the Community, Sports and Arts Offices outlined below are closely interlinked as it is recognised that each of them is essentially involved in community development.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

The Division's Community Development Officers worked on a variety of programmes and supported a wide range of community organisations during 2014. A comprehensive support and advisory service was provided to voluntary community-based bodies throughout the County by a team of field staff who work in close liaison and help address the needs expressed by those groups. The 5 Units within the Community Office organised on a geographical basis were instrumental in the delivery of a number of programmes and activities in 2014. These units worked with 90 priority groups on a monthly basis.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

The Units play a key role in supporting the development of local management and operational structures that oversee the day to day operation of Standalone Community Facilities and Shared Community Facilities. In 2014 we supported the completion and opening of the Youth and Community Facility in Rush. In addition the Community Officers have provided both Quality Management support under the KPI Audit Programme and Community Development and Community Usage supports under the First Steps Programme. Two of our facilities, Donabate and Portrane Community Centre and the Mountview and Fortlawn Community Campus achieved the highest standards under EIQA Quality Management Awards Scheme.

Staff of the standalone Community Facilities working with the Community Officers and the local Community Committees continued to deliver the First Steps programme and the Quality Management Programme in 2014. The Community Officers support and enable voluntary management committees of Community Centres to carry out their roles effectively. They provided information, mentoring, advice and models of good practice in various disciplines. The Units worked with all community facilities that avail of the Council's management assistance funding.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENGAGEMENT

The main focus of our Community Development work is in supporting and enabling community and voluntary groups in Fingal to effect change and combat social exclusion within their own communities. In 2014, the Units delivered supports such as training, information and mentoring services to over 120 voluntary and community groups. The Units delivered or commissioned 84 Community Education programmes involving 714 for participants in the area of committee skills, tenant induction, First Steps, basic English, healthy eating and kitchen gardening.

In 2014 during the development of the Fingal Community County Register, over 1,600 community groups were contacted, their details verified and updated on the system.
The Community Office took the lead in the development and delivery of Fingal's Public Participation Network, the Fingal Community Network (FCN). The FCN membership stands at 280 and membership is expected rise significantly in 2015.



In 2014 we worked with the Ethnic, Senior Citizens, Disability and Environment Networks. The networks were supported in the development and delivery of action plans for the year.

FUNDING

Funding Provided to Community and Voluntary Organisations in 2014 under the Activity and Summer Project Programme was €96,056.60.

In 2014, it is estimated that over 4,000 young people participated in funded Summer Projects.

19 Facilities received financial assistance from a total amount of €335,000 allocated to Management Assistance Funding.

A grant in the sum of €172,752 was allocated to Fingal County Council from the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport under its Sports Capital Programme in respect of Ongar Community Centre. The monies were allocated towards the artificial surface, floodlighting, equipment and fencing of the Ongar All Weather Pitch and €108,363 was drawn down by Fingal County Council during 2014. Work is ongoing on the final claim following completion of the programme.

AGE FRIENDLY

In Sept 2011, Fingal County Council and Fingal County Development Board signed the Dublin Declaration of Age Friendly Counties and Communities a World Health Organisations (WHO) Initiative. Fingal was the first Local Authority in the Dublin Region to become an Age Friendly County. As part of the process, older people throughout the county were consulted on matters of concern to them. In June 2012, an Age Friendly Strategy for the county was developed and launched by Minister for Health, James Reilly T.D.

Since then a number of actions have been undertaken in the county including:

- In 2014 The Community Development Office continued to support the Fingal Age Friendly Initiative by developing and delivering age appropriate initiatives such as Digitise the Nation, the Health, Fitness and Well Being Programmes, the Stretch and Relaxation Programme.
- In 2014, Beaumont Hospital and DAA undertook to complete the Age Friendly Institutions and Communities Programme with the support of the Fingal Age Friendly Alliance. Older people from Fingal have supported both organisations participating in Walkability Surveys and Consultation Sessions. Feedback from these sessions will be included in Age Friendly Action plans in the Airport and the Hospital.
- The Fingal Senior Citizen's Forum has been very proactive during this period. To address issues of social exclusion and isolation, they have hosted Tea Dances and Information Seminars and supported the

establishment of Men's Sheds groups. The members were also first to voice their concerns to Irish Water and the Data Protection Commissioner and are keen to continue this work into 2015.



SPORTS OFFICE

The Sports Office was involved in a number of sports and physical activity programmes over the year and worked closely, and in parallel, with the Community Office and other Council Departments.

The Sports Office, which is part of the Irish Sports Council's network of Local Sports Partnerships, delivered 826 programmes to in excess of 61,000 participants, working with 580 clubs, organisations and schools. Some of the highlights were:

Sports Conditioning Programme (Sportscon)

Sportscon is a specialised training module developed for children of all ages and abilities. The aim of the programme is to improve children's basic movement skills through exercises and fun games. This helps to build confidence and self-esteem in the children. As with many of our sports programmes the intention is to leave a legacy behind, by training teachers and volunteers in the delivery of Sports Con allowing the programme to continue in many schools. During 2014, the programme was delivered in 25 primary schools some 4,108 pupils benefited from the programme. An additional 205 teachers from 16 schools participated in a specialised training workshop. 57 Community groups participated in the programme where 186 Volunteers and staff received training. A further 49 special need carers and volunteers receiving training in the delivery of Sports Con.

Sporting Facts

Sporting Facts is a sports and educational programme using Sports Con as the basis of all activity sessions alongside classroom modules consisting fun quizzes and competitions aimed at teaching primary school children the many benefits of sport, physical activity and healthy lifestyles. The programme was delivered in 31 schools to in excess of 4,000 children and 130 teachers participating in the programme.

In addition, we worked in partnership with the Libraries Department to deliver the Big Sports Quiz. This pilot programme aimed at two primary schools in Balbriggan combined participation in sports through Sporting Facts and Sports Con, while encouraging the children to read books. The author and illustrator visited both schools and met with the children. The programme culminated in the Big Sports Quiz where 90 children participated with both school awarded a trophy plus every child received a medal presented by the Mayor and the Chief Executive.



School & Youth Sport
During 2014, the Office organised and delivered a variety of sporting activities.

Soccer & Tag Rugby blitzes, indoor cricket leagues, top class throw competition (cricket). Primary School Athletics events, tennis programmes and a variety of sports school blitzes. In addition we introduced athletics in secondary schools including javelin and shot putt throwing. Another activity introduced was aimed at those who do not participate in team sports; SNAG (Starting New At Golf) introduced in schools give the pupils an opportunity to participate try out golf using brightly coloured easy to use equipment.



Late Night Soccer, which is run in partnership with the FAI and the Local Community Garda catered for 746 young people per week, in six venues. The programme is run between 9 – 11 pm on a Friday night gives young people (boys & girls) an opportunity to participate in positive pastimes.

A programme using sport as a means of introducing and assisting the transition for primary school pupils into secondary school was run in nine schools with 667 primary pupils and 30 secondary schools students acting as mentors and coaches to the younger children

Coach Education Programme
The Office ran a number of courses including Code of Ethics (child protection), Children's Officer, Emergency Skills (first aid) and supported a range of National Governing Bodies Coach/Referee Education courses and training for and up skilling volunteers. In partnership with Dublin City Council, South Dublin, DúnLaoghaire / Rathdown, Kildare and Wicklow Sports Partnerships we presented a Sport Seminar for Secondary School Teachers.

Fingal Fitness and Football Training Course
In conjunction with the FAI and Blanchardstown Area Partnership we are delivering this course, which is using sport and fitness as a means to assist unemployed people to seek employment or further education.

Activity Programmes
Activities run by the Office during 2014 included a number of older adult programmes including swim programmes, Nordic walking, Pitch and Putt with Fingal represented by a team in the Go for Life National Games in DCU in June.

The Sports Office held the Operation Transformation Walk in Ardgillan Demesne in January as part of the RTE television programme. Over 400 people joined the Mayor, Kieran Dennison on a very wet and miserable day.

Joint-funded Sports Specific Development
The Office co-funded 5 Football in the Community Development Officers with the F.A.I., 1 Rugby Development Officer with Leinster R.F.U., 1 part-time Tennis Development Officer in conjunction with Tennis Ireland, and a Cricket Development Officer with Leinster Cricket.

Women in Sport
Irish Sports Council jointly funded programmes in 2014 included a Camogie blitz, Gaelic 4 Girls, Ladies and Girls cricket, Cardio Tennis, Girls Festival of Football, Girls Football School Club Links to encourage girls to join local clubs. The clubs are encouraged and supported to form girls section(s)/teams. In addition woman and girls tag rugby and a number of girls only blitzes and competitions were run. We also presented a training session for primary school teachers to teach them the basic skills of tennis, football and cricket to encourage them to involve girls in the sport.

Disability Sports
As a result of the ongoing success of the Blind Golf programme commenced last year, Fingal was selected to hold the International Blind Golf Open. Over 30 top golfers from around the world with their families, caddies and supporters visited the area for the tournament. In addition the Sports Office delivered "Be Active Be Inclusive" training programme, which provided sports and physical activity training to carers and volunteers working with people with disabilities, a football programme in conjunction with HSE occupational therapists for adult men and continued support for powerchair sports.



Partnerships
The Office continues to rely on partnership with a myriad of agencies and organisations to deliver its programmes to the widest range of the community.

ARTS OFFICE

The role of Fingal County Council's Arts Office is to encourage, foster and support cultural activity within Fingal, through supporting the development of creative people and communities. The Arts have the power to enrich the quality of people's lives and the communities in which they live. This is achieved through the provision of broad based arts service which includes; grants and bursaries, educational programmes, public art commissions, the funding and support of two arts centres, and support to professional artists living in Fingal. The Arts office operates a policy based approach which has been informed through an in-depth consultation with all arts sectors in Fingal. In 2013 the Arts Office published the Council's second Fingal Arts Development Plan (2013-2017)

Arts Grants awarded under section 6 of the 2003 Arts Act
In 2014, a total of **€40,000** was awarded to Community Arts Festivals and Traditional Music Festivals, with **€53,000** awarded under the general arts grant scheme. A further **€649,300** was awarded direct to the Council's two Arts Centres, Draíocht and the Séamus Ennis Cultural Centre.

Arts & Cultural Centres
Fingal County Council continued to enhance the cultural life in Fingal and provide public access to the Arts through the ongoing development of its two Arts Centres.

Draíocht
Draíocht is a Dublin 15 multi-purpose arts venue and hosted 378 ticketed events in 2014 to which 37,293 people attended. Approximately 10,000 attended non ticketed events in 2014 which included Stagezone School dance & drama classes, exhibition visits, exhibition launches and school tours

The Séamus Ennis Arts Centre
The Séamus Ennis Art Centre is a multi-disciplined Arts Centre which showcases local, national and international quality musicians and artists. In 2014 the Centre had **129** ticketed events (Jan - Dec) these events included concerts, art/crafts & music workshops, cinema, festivals and talks & discussions. The Centre sold **4,361** tickets during the year.



Youth and Education

During 2014 the Arts Office commenced or continued a range of programmes under this theme. They included:

- **Artful Dodgers**: A programme delivered in partnership with the Fingal County Childcare Committee in 2 creches to 45 children and crèche staff. The programme included research by Trinity College into the arts for early years and the results of the research will be disseminated in 2015.
- **Studio Programme (Room 13):** Supporting the establishment of student run art studios in 2 primary schools with 2 artists.
- **Space Invaders:** A unique early childhood arts festival held in Farmleigh in July and attended by over 500 members of the public.
- **Multimedia Project:** In collaboration with Create and Draíocht a week long multi-media project for 14 – 16 year olds.
- **Youth Music Theatre:** The Dublin 15 Youth Theatre participated in a week of workshops with professional actors.



Arts and Health
Supported the establishment of a choir for people and families affected by dementia which was featured on a radio documentary on RTE.

Public Art
Resort Residency: 8 different artists engaging with local groups and residents during each of their week long stays at a local mobile home park.

Balbriggan African Women's Group Fashion Project: Working with the Balbriggan African Women's group to establish an initiative around traditional African dress.



Commissions +: Publication commissioned and completed which will add to the discussions on public art commissioning here and abroad.

New Initiatives
Artists Support Scheme: A new bursary which allows professional artists to avail of an award to help towards the development of their work and careers. 18 awards made.

Block T Graduate Award: Based on the assessment of open submissions invited from under and post graduate students graduating in 2014 the successful graduate was awarded a studio in Block T for one year with a solo exhibition at the year end.

Fingal Artists Network: The hosting of the first gathering of Fingal artists with a view to forming a support network.

Loughshinny Boathouse: In collaboration with colleagues in Operations and Architects the adaptation and fit out of the boathouse to jointly house lifeguards and also artist studio space.

Commissioned animation: As part of the communication strand for the 2013 – 17 Arts Plan an 80 second animation was commissioned to highlight the value of the Arts in day to day life in Fingal.

20th Anniversary Arts showcase: A major showcase of the work of the Arts Office which took place in Farmleigh in December where over 400 people enjoyed a selection of Arts Office projects and performances by a number of groups who had been supported over the years under the grants schemes.

Economic Development Services

The Economic Development Services Department supports the structured economic development of Fingal by planning for, initiating and managing projects that contribute positively to the county's ongoing economic development. It promotes job creation by working in partnership with local businesses, Chambers of Commerce, IDA and Enterprise Ireland. It promotes and assists co-ordination between the Fingal Local Community Development Committee, the Fingal Local Enterprise Office and third level institutions including the Institute of Technology Blanchardstown and Dublin City University.

Economic Planning, Marketing & Promotion of Fingal

In 2014 Fingal County Council launched a Business Promotion Grant scheme. The fund for the scheme is set at €100,000, €20,000 per electoral area. The grant can cover any initiative aimed at promoting, generating or sustaining business in an area such as:

- Initiatives to market or promote a business area or category
- Events that showcase products/services in an area
- Minor environmental improvements or initiatives in a district or area

Grants will be provided to initiatives that fulfil the following objectives:

- To help generate and sustain business activity by delivering tangible outputs such as increased footfall.
- To encourage businesses/retailers in an area to work collaboratively and collectively to promote and sustain business activity in their area.
- To encourage the Business Community to work with Fingal County Council and other public agencies.



Two other initiatives were developed to market and promote Balbriggan and Dublin 15 as areas for potential investment by multi-national companies and indigenous businesses. A website, infographic and video were developed for Balbriggan (www.balbriggan.ie). In addition a Steering Group, chaired by the Chief Executive, has been formed to develop and market a brand for the Dublin 15 Enterprise Zone. This Steering Group comprises representatives from national and local business agencies together with representatives from local businesses and multi-national companies in Dublin 15, the Institute of Technology, Blanchardstown and key members of the Council's staff.

Developing and Managing Industrial Parks

The Council continues to work with the business sector to develop Industrial Parks at Damastown, Cappogue, Stephenstown, College Business and Technology Park, Blanchardstown and Turvey. In 2014 Alexion Pharma International Trading, a subsidiary of Alexion Pharmaceuticals, Inc., announced its plans to expand its operations in Ireland following the acquisition, from Fingal County Council, of a new site in College Business Park. The Company expects that this expansion will create approximately 200 new jobs at Alexion as part of an investment of approximately €75 million in this new site over the next two years. In addition to the company jobs, up to 200 new construction jobs are also expected to be created as a result of this announcement.



Fingal Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

The establishment of the LCDC is in response to the Local Government Reform Act 2014, for the purposes of developing, coordinating and implementing a coherent and integrated approach to local and community development. The LCDC met 5 times in 2014 and will continue to meet regularly in 2105 to give effect to these legislative commitments.

The LCDC will be responsible for national funding programmes, the implementation in 2015 of the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) will support local strategies for communities and individuals, identifying and addressing social inclusion and equality issues and promoting access to life learning, employment, self-employment and creating social enterprise opportunities.

The 19 member LCDC has broad representation from public and private interests including business, local development, education, enterprise, agriculture and voluntary and local authority members. The LCDC in its responsibility for the preparation and implementation of the community element of the Local Economic & Community Plan will seek to ensure effectiveness, consistency, co-ordination and avoidance of duplication between publicly funded local and community development programmes.

Fingal Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

The purpose of the LECP, as provided for in the Local Government Reform Act 2014, is to set out, for a six-year period, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic and community development of the Fingal area, both by itself directly and in partnership with other economic and community stakeholders. Work commenced on the formulation of the Plan in 2014 and an Advisory Steering Group was established with representatives from the LCDC and the Economic Development and Enterprise SPC to develop a socio-economic statement which will be the subject of a public consultation process in early 2015.

Flavours of Fingal County Show 2014

The Flavours of Fingal County Show was held on the 28th and 29th June in Newbridge House & Farm, Donabate. An estimated 30,000 people attended over the two days. There was a total of 75 exhibitors at the show and new attractions included a Learning Zone for children, which was an interactive zone with workshops and educational messages about farming and food.

The Walled Garden/Food Village hosted local food producers, cooking and floristry demonstrations. In the farm area there were sheep and cattle competitions, sheep dog trials, an equestrian show and a dog agility show. Other activities included face painting, the Big Dig (archaeological dig for children), bouncy castles and a weaving and spinning demonstration. This two day show was strongly supported by local businesses who participated in the event and who generously contributed funding support.

Tourism

Financial support by the Council to the administration and operation of Fingal Tourism continued in 2014. Additionally the Council supported Fingal Tourism through its membership on the board and participation in joint programmes of trade and consumer fairs, in store-promotions, targeted advertising, public relations and direct marketing campaigns and tourism guides (www.fingaldublin.ie). Fingal also supported 19 events through the Community Tourism Diaspora Initiative.

Links to Chengdu, China



Sam Dennigan Company staff, officials from the County Council and officials from Chengdu in the People's Republic of China

In November, 2014 officials from Chengdu in the People's Republic of China visited Fingal. The itinerary for the day included a visit to Fingal's Drinan Enterprise Centre, Swords and a visit to Sam Dennigan and Company. The

delegation also received a presentation from Dr. Pól Mac Aonghusa, Senior Research Manager in IBM on collaboration with the Dublin Local Authorities and IBM in their Smarter Cities Technology Centre in Dublin. The final appointment of the day was with Dublin City University where the delegation received presentations on the Irish Centre for Cloud Computing and Commerce and DCU's Master's Degree Programme in Emergency Management.

Local Enterprise Office

Fingal's Local Enterprise Office (LEO Fingal) was officially opened in May by Richard Bruton, Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation and Mayor of Fingal Cllr. Kieran Dennison. The new Local Enterprise Office was established through the integration of the Fingal County Enterprise Board into the Economic Development Services Department of the Council. LEO Fingal is the 'First-stop-shop' for enterprise supports in the County.



Official Opening of the Local Enterprise Office Fingal

All of the services provided by the former County Enterprise Board continue to be offered to Fingal Enterprises and Start-ups by the new Local Enterprise Office together with new enhanced services such as the Online Trading Vouchers grant scheme which helps enterprises develop their e-commerce potential, improved access to Microfinance Ireland finance and the new "Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur" competition which promotes entrepreneurship among young people.

C

Launch of the Online Trading Voucher Grant Scheme at the official opening of the Local Enterprise Office Fingal

During the year LEO Fingal approved grant aid with total funding approved exceeding €815,000. As a result of this funding, 51 new jobs will be created initially rising to a potential 115 new jobs within the first 12 months. The ever popular Start Your Own Business Programme had 125 participants and 795 would-be-entrepreneurs and start-ups attended the weekly Business Advice Clinics.

The Local Enterprise Office also offers a mentoring service to pre-start-ups and existing businesses with 128 mentoring assignments approved during the year. In 2014 the Local Enterprise Office had high demand for Management Development Workshops. Ideas Generation Workshops, Business Briefings, E-commerce and Digital Marketing Training, and Core Management Development Programmes such as Accelerate, The Food Academy, Hi-start and Plato. The Local Enterprise Office also supports the Dublin Food Chain, Export Trade Missions and Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur competition among others.



Fingal Finalists attending the Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur Bootcamp in October

The Fingal Enterprise Week was held during October and is now recognised as the biggest and most successful Enterprise Week nationally. During Enterprise week, a comprehensive programme of activities including seminars, mentoring and workshops were held with record levels of attendance from entrepreneurs and pre-start-ups.



The launch of Fingal Enterprise Week 2014

The annual Fingal Enterprise Awards ceremony was held during Enterprise Week, where the achievements of Fingal's most dynamic new businesses were recognised.

The Fingal Student Enterprise Awards Programme had its most successful year to date with 1,809 students from 22 secondary schools and 348 students from 8 primary schools taking part. The annual awards ceremony was held during March where awards were presented across three different categories.



At the Fingal Student Enterprise Awards 2014

Fingal County Council has developed and continues to support three Enterprise Centres in the County. The management of these Enterprise Centres has been aligned into the Local Enterprise Office structure allowing a more joined-up and comprehensive offering to start-ups and growing businesses. Fingal's newest Centre, the Drinan Enterprise Centre in Swords was opened during 2010. Drinan, together with BASE in Mulhuddart and BEaT in Balbriggan provide start-up space and training facilities for businesses in these catchment areas. Over 75 businesses and around 300 jobs are currently supported in the three enterprise centres.



Drinan Enterprise Centre

Environment and Water Services Department

ENVIRONMENT DIVISION

Functions in this Division include waste management planning, waste regulation, monitoring and enforcement, water pollution, litter enforcement, air quality and noise pollution.

Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI) Plan

- The RMCEI Plan 2014 was implemented through the combined resources of the Environment Division to ensure the efficient monitoring and implementation of environmental legislation.

Waste Enforcement

- 23 Enforcement actions were initiated for breaches of the Waste Management Acts in 2014.
- 2 Waste Facility Permits were granted in 2014 for waste recovery facilities.
- 15 Waste Facility Permits were amended in 2014 due to new Regulations.
- 48 inspections of 19 registered self-compliers were carried out in conjunction with the Packaging Regulations 2014.
- Food Waste Regulations – 52 inspections.
- Waste Tyre Regulations – 7 inspections.
- WEEE Regulations - 475 premises registered with the European Recycling Platform (ERP).
- 50 compliance inspections carried out.

Litter Control

- 919 fines issued in 2014.
- 155 files were prepared for prosecution.



Air Quality Control

This is provided on an agency basis by the Health Service Executive (HSE) Environmental Health Officers (EHO's).

- The Primary Air Quality Station is situated in Blanchardstown, Dublin 15 measuring PM10 and NOx. Data is given in real time and forms part of the Regional Air Quality Monitoring Network.

- 102 inspections were carried out in 2014 under the Air Pollution Act (Marketing, Sale, Distribution and Burning of Specified Fuels) Regulations 2012.
- 56 Targeted inspections of coal sellers and distributors.
- 21 complaints from members of the public relating to burning of specified fuels investigated.

Noise Control

- 173 Complaints investigated by EHOs.

Control of Dogs & Horses

- 5,686 dog licenses issued 1517 issued online.
- 353 dogs seized and 36 surrendered to the Dog Pound in 2014.
- 206 horses impounded at the Council's pound in 2014.



Regional Dog Fouling Signage Launch 2014

Water Pollution Control

Fingal County Council is part of the Eastern River Basin District (ERBD). The primary objective is to achieve compliance with statutory obligations relating to waters as set out in the River Basin Management Plan under the Water Framework Directive (WFD).

Activities during 2014 included:

- Water quality monitoring of rivers and streams under the WFD (500 samples).
- Quarterly surface water monitoring of 17 statutory locations.
- Investigating and closing out of 24 water pollution incidents (rivers, bathing areas).
- Implementation of Bathing Water Regulations, including monitoring and reporting of water quality of identified bathing waters.
- Conducting 21 farm inspections and cross reporting any non-compliances.
- Monitoring of 73 Trade Effluent Discharge licences.
- Conducting 19 inspections of domestic waste water treatment systems in accordance with the EPA National Inspection Plan.

Waste Management Plan – Eastern Midlands Region

Following the establishment of the new waste planning regions, a new Plan was drafted for the Eastern Midlands Region. The Eastern-Midlands Region includes the local authorities: Dublin City, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, Fingal, South Dublin, Kildare, Louth, Laois, Longford, Meath, Offaly, Westmeath and Wicklow. The draft Plan was published for public consultation in November 2014.

WASTE INFRASTRUCTURE



Balleally Landfill
Balleally Landfill ceased the acceptance of waste in May 2012 after 40 years of operation. Soil is however still being accepted at the landfill for remediation and capping. Approximately 5,000 m^2 of the old landfill remains to be capped with engineered capping which comprises soil, drainage layer, geosynthetic clay layer, artificial bentonite layer and a gas collection layer.

Dunsink Landfill
Dunsink landfill continues in its aftercare phase i.e. environmental monitoring, leachate and landfill gas management. The generation of landfill gas continues to reduce. However, it is still sufficient to generate electricity economically.

Nevitt Historic Landfill
An Environmental Risk Assessment was completed during 2014. The report, which concludes that the site is of low risk to the surrounding environment, was submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency in July 2014. A remediation proposal based on Monitored Natural Attenuation was submitted to the Agency in December 2014.

Historic Landfills
Site investigation and Environmental Risk Assessment continued in Fancourt, Balbriggan during 2014. Site investigation and Environmental Risk Assessment commenced in Curkeen Quarry this year.

Dublin Waste to Energy Project
The project is a Public Private Partnership between Dublin City Council (acting on behalf of the four Dublin Local Authorities) and Dublin Waste to Energy Ltd.

The decision was made in September 2014 to proceed with the project. Construction works started in late 2014 and are expected to be complete in late 2017.

Recycling Centres, Bottle Banks and Clothes Banks

- The Council operates two recycling centres (Estuary & Coolmine); a network of 72 bottle banks throughout the county and 26 clothes banks (started July 2012).



Following a tender competition conducted in 2014, new 4-year Framework Agreements were entered into for the collection of the waste streams from Coolmine and Estuary Recycling Centres, resulting in new contracts and changeover of contractors collecting the waste from each site.

Waste Electronic and Electrical Equipment

- Implementation of the Waste Electronic & Electrical Equipment (WEEE) Regulations 2005 requires inspection of premises to ensure retailers are complying with the regulations and the acceptance of WEEE at Recycling Centres free of charge (Household WEEE only).
- There are 475 retail premises registered with European Recycling Platform for 2014.
- No retail premises registered with Fingal County Council in 2014.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

- The Council's "Adopt a Patch" initiative now has 91 groups involved countywide.
- Local Agenda 21 Environmental Partnership Fund - awarded a total of €35,000 in 2014 to 19 local environmental projects.
- Environmental Education Programmes continued in the Estuary and Coolmine Recycling Centres with 10 schools visiting in 2014.
- A Green Dog Walkers event was held in Skerries; and new signage installed countywide to raise awareness about dog fouling.
- Gum litter awareness events were held at Pavilions Shopping Centre, Swords and Blanchardstown Shopping Centre.
- Farm Hazardous Waste collection event held in Lusk in cooperation with the Department of Food and Agriculture, the EPA and Rilta Environmental Ltd, where 3,484kg hazardous waste, 13,098kg waste oil and 1,230kg of WEEE was collected.

ENVIRONMENT DIVISION PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	2014	2013	2012
No. Litter Wardens	6 (8 Mths) 5 (4 Mths)	4	6
No. Litter Fines issued	919	738	1158

No. Litter Fines Paid	436	322	424
Total Value Litter Fines Paid	67,720	51,842	66,545
Environmental Complaints	**2014**	**2013**	**2012**
Total Number of Complaints	1769	2161	2883
No. of complaints investigated	1769	2161	2883
No. of Enforcement Procedures Taken	178	93	101 (RMCEI Enf 2012 stats)
Waste Packaging Regulations (e.g. Packaging or Permit regs)	**2014**	**2013**	**2012**
No. Businesses members of Repak	64	65	400
No. Of Self Compliant Businesses	19	19	18
Complaints concerning water pollution	**2014**	**2013**	**2012**
Complaints/ Incidents received/ identified	28	29	46
No. investigated	32 (Incl. 4 from 2013)	37 (Incl. 2012 Carry over)	55
No. of complaints resolved with no further action required	24	24	32
No of(Section12) procedures taken	7	27	27
No. of prosecutions initiated	0	0	0
Prosecutions successfully concluded	0	0	0
Waste Management Resourses	**2014**	**2013**	**2012**
No. Civic Amenity	2	2	2
No. Bring Banks	72	73	73
Tonnage of Recyclables Collected	**2014**	**2013**	**2012**
Estuary Recycling Centre	5053	4426	4308
Coolmine Recycling Centre	3544	3084	3297

Glass from Bottle Banks	4637	4522	4567
Clothes from Clothes Banks	117	85	58
WEEE accepted at Recycling Centres	1178	1162	1202
WEEE collected from retailers by ERP**	1516	1399	1164
Total	16,045	14,678	14,596

WATER SERVICES

Under legislation enacted in December 2013, Irish Water, the national water utility, took over responsibility for the operation of public water services, including water treatment and supply and the provision of waste water (foul sewer) services to homes and businesses in January 2014. The Council will continue to provide water services on behalf of Irish Water in accordance with the 12 year Service Level Agreement (SLA), agreed protocols and a detailed Annual Service Plan (ASP).

WATER SUPPLY & WASTE WATER SERVICES

The provision of water supply and waste water services in the Fingal area will continue to operate on a "business as usual" basis. The main change for the consumer is that their interface is now directly with Irish Water. Matters relating to surface water remain the responsibility of the Council.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Leixlip Water Treatment Plant Stage 5 Expansion was opened in mid 2014. This treatment plant has now been expanded to meet future demand increasing the *guaranteed safe yield* of the plant from 148Ml/d to 215Ml/day. Leixlip Water Treatment plant is the 2nd largest water treatment plant in the country and now supplies approximately 30% of the Greater Dublin Region's drinking water requirements.

Fingal County Council will continue to administer capital projects in the Fingal area on behalf of Irish Water. In 2014, the following projects were advanced and are ongoing:

- Swords Waste Water Treatment Plant Expansion
- Dublin Road Pumping Station
- Cloghran Drainage Scheme

A number of other projects are being progressed through Irish Water as part of the Capital Investment Programme. Current projects at planning stage include:
Swords 30" Watermain Rehabilitation, Rush Road Pumping Station, Rush Foul Network, 9C Foul Sewer Duplication and Liffey Siphon Rehabilitation.

Finance Department

The Finance Department deals with the short and long term financing of the Council's operations both of a Revenue and Capital nature.

This involves:-

- **monitoring and controlling income and expenditure in all areas**
- **arranging borrowing and leasing requirements**
- **treasury and cash flow management and**
- **ensuring that statutory and financial accounting principles are complied with.**

The Council's revenue or day-to-day expenditure is defrayed from sources such as:-

- **Commercial Rates**
- **Government Grants**
- **Housing Rents**
- **Planning application fees**
- **Non principal private residence charges**

The amount of money available for capital or infrastructural developments is dependent on State Grants, borrowing and/or development levies.

The main functions of the Finance Department include:-

- Preparation of the Annual Budget
- Preparation of Annual Financial Statement
- Financial Management and Control
- Revenue Collection – commercial rates, entry year property levies, non-principal residence charge
- Payment of accounts
- Payroll administration
- Insurance and claims administration
- Cash Office operations

Prompt Payment of Accounts Act 1997

The Prompt Payment of Accounts Act 1997 and the European Communities (Late Payment in Commercial Transactions) Regulations 2002 aims to ensure that all Public Bodies and Contractors on public sector contracts pay amounts due to suppliers promptly. In the event of a payment not being made within a 30 day period from the date of receipt of their valid invoice, there is an obligation to pay an interest penalty.

In accordance with Government decision S29296 coupled with the National Recovery Plan and the EMU/IMF Programme of Support for Ireland, Fingal County Council operates the 15 day prompt payment rule.

Constant monitoring of the level and nature of outstanding invoices was conducted throughout the year and action was taken where appropriate to ensure that the Council met all prompt payment deadlines.

In the course of the year 2014 no interest penalties were incurred by the Council and 94.70% of invoices were paid within 15 days.

Performance Indicators

	2014	2013	2012
Commercial Rates (Amount collected as % of amount due)	92.00%	90.18%	83.13%
Commercial Water/Wastewater Charges (Amount collected as % of amount due)	70.28%	74.89%	69.52%

REVENUE ACCOUNT STATEMENT

(To be inserted)

CAPITAL ACCOUNT STATEMENT

(To be inserted)

Human Resources Department

The Human Resources Department continue to play a major role in collaboration with the services Directorates in a number of Organisational Restructuring projects designed to maintain efficiency and service delivery in the context of reducing staff numbers.

Considerable effort was also expended in recruiting persons under the Government's Gateway Labour Activation Scheme. At the end of 2014, 127 people were employed on various Gateway projects.

The Health and Safety Unit for the 4th consecutive year, received an award in the National Irish Safety Organisation's Annual Occupational Safety Awards, in recognition of our safety management work practices in service provision.

The Human Resources Department also received an outstanding achievement Training Award from the Irish Institute of Training and Development for our work in developing and implementing our 'Work Experience' programme for Transition Year students.

Staffing Resources
Fingal County Council employed 1251 staff (FTE) at year end 31/12/2014 as detailed in the following table:-

Administration	472
Professional	129
Technical	157
Craft	73
General Workers	420
Total	1251

RETIREES
36 people retired in 2014 from the Council.

Staff Training
248 Training courses were run in 2014 resulting in the provision of 2,556 Training Days to staff

27 employees availed of the Staff Education Scheme in 2014

Industrial Relations
The Council maintained its good industrial relations record.

Health & Safety
The following activities were carried out during 2014:
- 300 safety inspections
- 57 safety audits.

Performance Indicator

Corporate Health	Percentage of days lost to sickness absence was reduced to 4.11% (from 5.49% in 2013)

Information Technology Department

The Information Technology (IT) Department is responsible for the strategic use of information technologies in Fingal County Council to support business areas in delivering their objectives through improved efficiencies and effectiveness.

The provision of services to citizens, staff and elected public representatives is enabled through multiple channels such as front desks, mobile devices, Internet and using technologies such as GIS and Web 2.0. These digital technologies are enabling transformational change in the delivery of Fingal County Council services.

National Projects
Fingal County Council continued to lead on two national projects in 2014 –

- Building Control Management System (BCMS)

  In collaboration with the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA), phase 1 of the national online BCMS was successfully implemented on schedule to support the new Building Control Regulations. The system is a digital first, single national online portal built using Open Source technologies.

- Knowledge Management & Open Data

The national Local Government Open Data website – http://data.localgov.ie – was implemented in partnership with the LGMA and used to publish the Local Election results from each Local Authority. The majority of Local Authorities published the results live to this website as they were announced.

In addition, Fingal County Council was appointed the pilot Local Authority for the upgrade of the Agresso Financial system across all Local Authorities.

In 2014, Ireland became a member of the international Open Government Partnership. Fingal County Council participated in this process and is represented on the national Public Bodies Working Group on Open Data.

Excellence in Local Government Award
Fingal County Council and the LGMA won the Joint Local Authority Initiative Award at the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards 2014 for the development and implementation of the national Building Control Management System.

Regional Projects
Work continued on the two regional projects –

- Libraries

  The Dublin Region Libraries Information Management System project became a national project in 2014. The specification and procurement of the system progressed in 2014 and will be implemented in the Dublin Local Authorities in 2015.

- ePlanning Portal

  Work progressed on the ePlanning Portal project which will enable online PInnaing Applications for the Dublin Local Authorities when implemented in 2015.

In addition, the Dublin Local Authorities have increased their cooperation in the area of IT, most notably through shared procurement frameworks and shared procurements including the provision of IT services to Elected Members.

Fingal Projects
The IT Department successfully completed twenty-three projects in cooperation with the various Council Departments during 2014, including –

- Telephone System

  The existing telephone system was completely replaced with a new digital Voice Over IP system.

- Windows 7 Upgrade

  A major project was undertaken to upgrade all staff computers to Windows 7 operating system and Office 2010 productivity software and was completed by the end of March 2014.

- Local Elections

  IT requirements and systems support were provided for the Local Election count.

- Councillors IT

  A managed IT service was implemented for Elected Members of the new Council.

- Council Meetings App

  The mod.gov app was launched providing access to Agendas and Minutes of Council meetings.

- Housing Reporting and Landlord Management

  New digital reporting services were implemented in Housing Department providing auto-generated reports and dashboards and enabling ad-hoc reporting. A module to enable Landlord management for RAS and Long Term Leasing was also implemented.

- GeoCode

  Geocoding of Voters Register, Rates, Housing & Library databases was substantially advanced which will enable assignment of Eircodes (new post codes) when introduced in 2015.

- Events Management

  An events system was implemented to publish details of Council, Tourism and Community events via the Council's website.

- Council Chamber

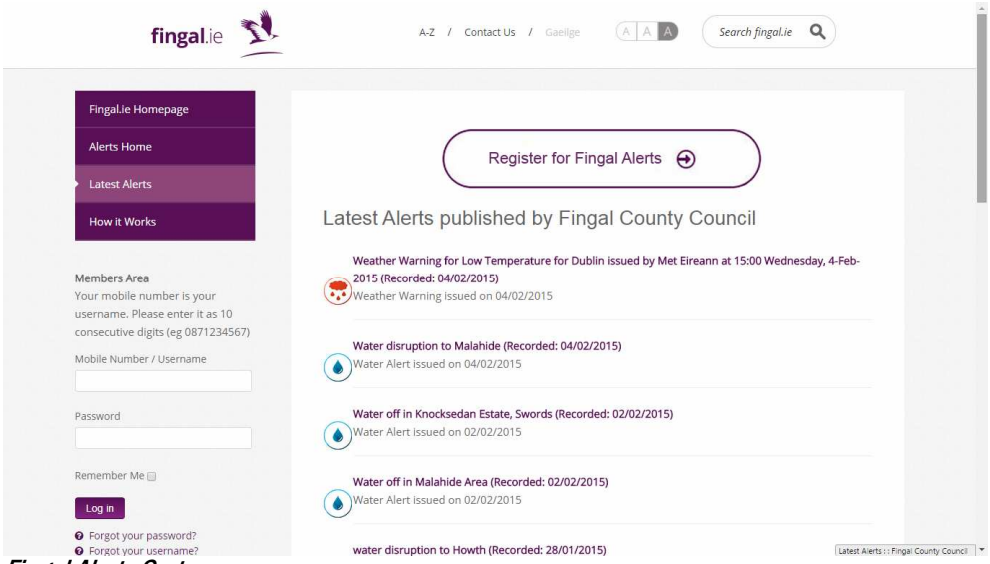
  The IT Department managed the technology upgrade for the re-vamped Council Chamber including Electronic Voting, advanced Delegate Microphone and sound system, High Definition webcasting, Wireless Presentations, enhanced WiFi, upgraded Projection & Visual Displays and Accessible Technologies.

- Councillors Representations

  An online system building on the work of South Dublin and Cork City Councils was implemented enabling Councillors to make representations and track their progress.

- Alerts and Notifications Service

  The Fingal Alerts service was launched on the Fingal.ie website to provide alerts and notifications to citizens – initially relating to Water and Weather events.

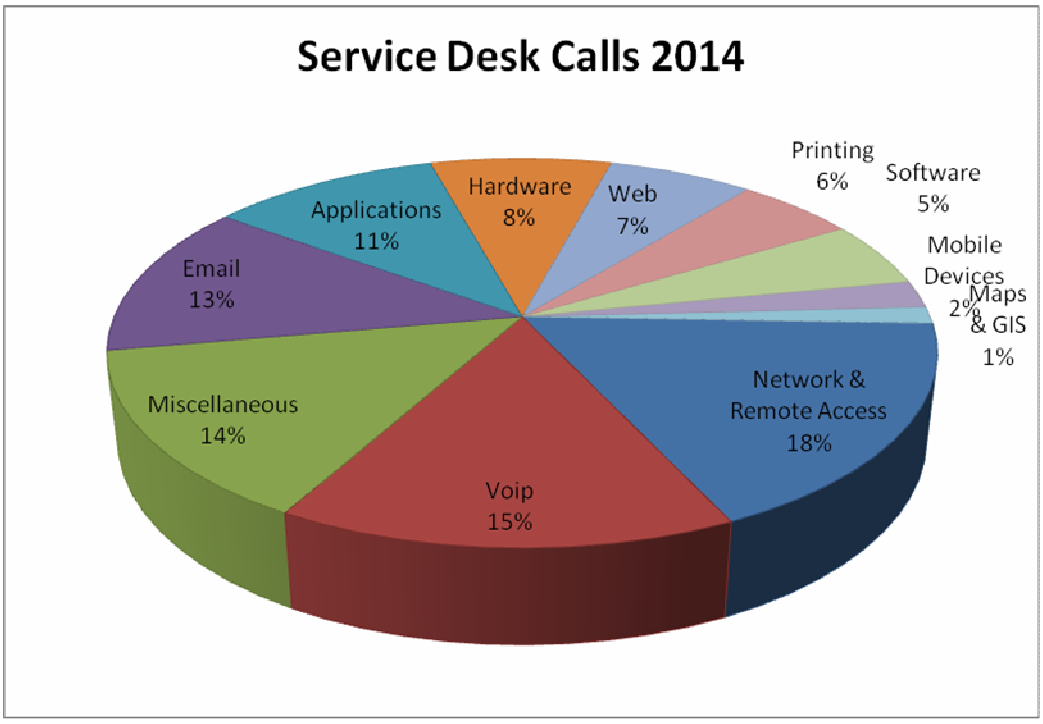


Fingal Alerts System

Service Desk

Calls logged to the IT Service Desk increased by 34% in 2014. The majority of these additional calls relate to the new Voice Over IP telephony system which was a new responsibility assigned to the IT Department in 2014.

Call Statistics	2014	2013	2012
Service Desk Calls Logged	6,290	4,684	4,276
Average calls per month	524	390	356
Average calls per day	17	13	11
Resolved with 24 hours	58%	44%	47%



Law Department

The Law Department provides a comprehensive in-house legal service to the Chief Executive and all of the Council's Departments relating to the broad and varied range of statutory functions. These services include:-

- Consultations with client departments in relation to statutory functions
- Advising departments in relation to any issues arising from case law and the regulatory framework governing local authorities
- Providing training to Council Departments.
- Representing the Council at arbitrations and oral hearings
- Dealing with acquisitions and disposal of Council properties including
  - clubs and community centres agreements/licences
  - commercial leases of the Council's industrial sites
  - dedications of open spaces
  - equity buy outs
  - first registrations
  - loans and mortgages
  - shared ownerships
  - tenant purchases under the sales schemes
  - voluntary housing schemes
- Initiating and defending cases in the District, Circuit, High Court including the Commercial Court and the Supreme Court including
  - breaches of contract, contract law and procurement
  - disputes in relation to land,
  - debt collection including rates collection, judgments and judgment mortgages, injunctions,
  - employers liability claims
  - housing repossessions for non-payment of rent/mortgage and antisocial behaviour,
  - injunctions under section 160 Planning and Development Act
  - judicial review proceedings
  - District Court proceedings on a weekly basis in relation to matters such as litter offences, planning offences, control of dogs, air pollutions, intoxicating bye-laws, housing matters and rates summons
  - personal injury litigation
  - trespass and nuisance.

Review and upgrade of the department's case management system continued in 2014, which has proved an effective tool in the provision of legal services. In 2014, ongoing training was provided to staff who attended a broad range of courses in the areas of professional development, legal knowledge and I.T

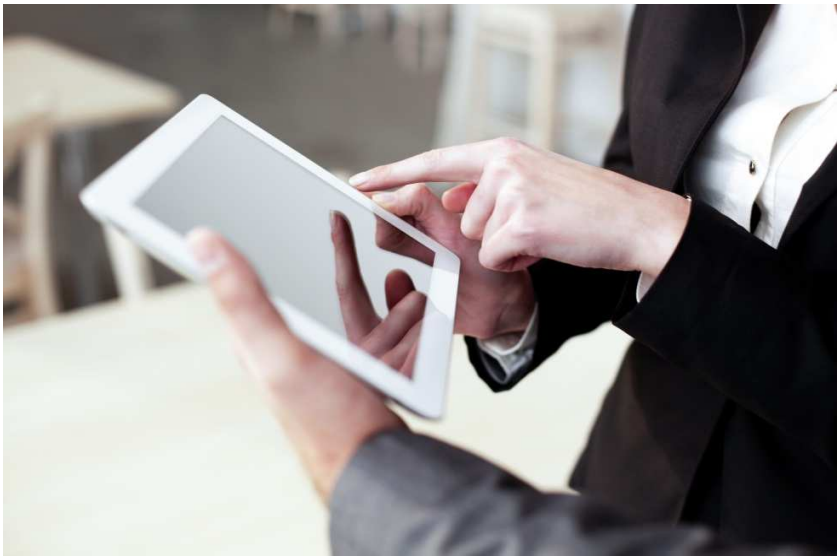
Libraries Division

On 31st March 2014, Fingal's newest branch library opened to the public at the Donabate Portrane Community and Leisure Centre. Its setting is unique as the first co-located library within a community and leisure centre in Ireland. This Library brings to ten the number of branches in the Fingal library network, which also includes a Mobile and Housebound Service and a Local Studies and Archives Section. 1.15m people visited Fingal Libraries in 2014; just over 65% of the population of Fingal are registered members; and our average opening hours are the highest in the country at just under 45 hours per week.



Digital Services
Fingal Libraries has seen a 43.4% increase in the use of digital services since 2013 with almost 38,000 thousand transactions taking place in 2014. The addition of Library Press Display, an online eNewspaper/eMagazine facility where library members can log in using their library card and access over 3,000 titles from over 100 countries in 60 languages has proved very popular, with over 5,700 publications being accessed between June and December.

Innovation
Fingal Libraries continue to innovate and to improve services to the public. In December 2014 we became the first library authority in Ireland to launch an App, providing 24/7 access via mobile devices to all our services. Library users can check opening hours, search the catalogue, reserve items and read digital newspapers and magazines, all from the convenience of their mobile device. Self-service facilities for the public were upgraded and improved in Balbriggan, Blanchardstown, Malahide, Rush and Swords Libraries. A single library management system for public libraries is being introduced over the next two years. Fingal Libraries is part of the first implementation phase and will move to the new system in mid-2015.



Events Programme
Hundreds of events took place in 2014 in Fingal Libraries to inform, entertain and respond to the needs of the libraries' diverse membership. Event highlights included the Summer Reading Buzz, Battle of the Castle, introduction to coding classes for young people and the very popular Cake and Bake Club which proved to be an enormous hit with children and parents alike.

To commemorate the millennium of the Battle of Clontarf, Libraries held interactive talks and a poetry competition with a series of workshops in schools, culminating in an awards ceremony in the Council Chamber.

Libraries continue to collaborate on initiatives with existing and new partners including the Dunsink Horse Club Project with Parks, the Big Sports Quiz with the Sports Office and One City, One Book with Dublin UNESCO City of Literature.



Early Years Literacy Strategy

During 2014, library staff continued to implement and develop the 10 key actions as set out in Fingal County Libraries' Early Years Literacy Strategy: *The Youngest Ages Can Turn Pages.* These included information sessions for crèches and primary schools, the creation of tip sheets on listening and reading with children and a storytelling initiative in community crèches.



Communication

To showcase our events programme and the range of services we offer, we produced an informative and lively video entitled "Where books are just the beginning" which can be viewed on our website and on YouTube. We actively

engage with our members through Facebook and Twitter and since April 2014 our weekly blog covers a wide range of topics from the top 10 football books to a brief history of paper and libraries.

Europe Direct
The Europe Direct Centre at Blanchardstown Library is a local link to Europe for the citizens of Fingal. The Centre hosts European themed events and provides information and advice to the public on all aspects of the EU, as well as providing a forum for engagement and interaction. In 2014, the Centre hosted 75 events including job seeking workshops and sessions on doing business in the EU. The Centre responded to over 2,000 queries in 2014 through e-mail, face-to-face and over the phone contact. The then Minister for European Affairs, Pascal Donohue and the Deputy Mayor of Fingal, Ted Leddy visited the Centre on Europe Day to launch information leaflets on travelling and shopping online within the EU. In January 2014 Blanchardstown Library also became a Eurodesk Centre providing free information on European matters to young people. This is the first time a public library has become part of the Eurodesk network.

Mobile Libraries and Housebound service
The 4 mobile vans travel throughout the County servicing schools, residential stops and traveller sites. The Housebound van calls to nursing homes and community care units. From time to time our mobile vans become storytelling buses as children from community crèches come on board for storytime sessions.

Local Studies and Archives
Development and expansion of collections continued in 2014, with particular emphasis given to the acquisition of materials to facilitate research into the historic events that led to the creation of the Irish Free State. Of particular interest is the 1916 Oral History Collection which includes contributions from relatives of the men from north County Dublin who participated in the 1916 Rising. A series of well attended commemorative lectures was also held in 2014.

The Archives Service produced an exhibition on *The Vikings in Fingal* to commemorate the millennium of the Battle of Clontarf. The exhibition toured branch libraries prior to being installed in Swords Castle Chapel in April during the weekend of the Viking Festival.

Letters from the Front in France and Flanders during the Great War, sent home to his family in Seafield, Donabate by Lt. Col. Richard Hely-Hutchinson, were used as the basis for an exhibition on *The Hely-Hutchinsons of Swords and the Great War*. The exhibition was featured in the *Irish Times* and extracts from the letters and related photographs appear monthly on the Council website.

The records of Balbriggan Town Commissioners/Council were transferred to the Archives. The re-binding programme for Council records continued, with the binding of all Registers of Electors for Fingal County Council 1994-2010 completed.

	2014	2013	2012
Items borrowed	1,022,975	1,077,122	1,192,968
Registered Members	179,869	157,403	160,308
Internet Usage hours	149,014	141,455	134,734
Website visits (*Home page only*)	59, 597	76,847	70,709
Website unique pageviews*	473,376	377,787	373,684
Average number of public opening Hours per week full time libraries	44.94	44.71	47.94
Average number of public opening hours per week part time libraries	24.5	27	23
Number of registered library members as a % of the local population (2011 census)	65.65%	57.45%	58.51%
Number of items issued per head of population (countywide) for			
(a) Books	2.91	2.94	3.15
(b) Other Items	0.82	0.99	1.20
(c) Total: Books plus other items	3.73	3.93	4.35
% of libraries that offer internet access to the public	100%	100%	100%
Number of Internet sessions provided per 1000 pop	545.84	516.25	493.53
Book Fund expenditure per capita	2.55	2.52	2.37
Visits by the public to Fingal Libraries	1,150,074	1,156,018	1,232,394

* *Unique Pageviews are defined by Google Analytics as the number of sessions during which a page is viewed one or more times by the same user.*

Operations Department

The Operations Department is responsible for the general maintenance and improvement of regional and local roads, parks and public open spaces along with landscaping, tree maintenance and litter collection in all public areas in Fingal. It also includes responsibility for beaches, harbours and public conveniences.

In 2014 the Regional Parks of Malahide Demesne, Ardgillan Demesne, Newbridge Demesne, Santry Demesne and St. Catherine's Regional Park came under the control of the Operations Department.

TRANSPORTATION

Fingal County Council has responsibility for the management and movement of people, vehicles, animals and goods in a safe, efficient, economical manner from place to place within Fingal via the public road network system.

The main pieces of enabling legislation are:

- Roads Act 1993 - 2007
- Road Traffic Acts 1961 to 2008
- Local Government(Planning & Development) Acts 2000 – 2011

Transportation Process/Range of Services

A wide range of services are provided for the County of Fingal, including the improvement, maintenance and lighting of existing roads, the implementation of traffic management measures and the operation of a Road Safety Section and school warden service. The Department is also responsible for taking in charge new roads, temporary and permanent closures of roads, the making of bye-laws relating to roads and related areas (e.g. speed limits, parking places etc.)

TRAFFIC

A wide range of traffic control, traffic planning and traffic management issues are dealt with:

- **Travel Demand Management, the basic principle of which is to promote sustainable alternatives to the use of the car, i.e. improved facilities for public transport, planning of walking and cycling networks, cycling and mobility management plans etc.**
- **Provision and maintenance of traffic signals**
- **Signing and road marking of road network.**
- **Improvements to walking and cycling networks, where the objective is to improve pedestrian and cyclist safety, ease traffic congestion, improve accessibility for mobility impaired road users, and effectively manage parking.**
- **Facilitating the improvements to the bus network in conjunction with the National Transport Authority (NTA)**
- **Smarter Travel is the Government policy for transport in Ireland. "Smarter Travel, "A Sustainable Transport Future, A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009 – 2020", Complemented by "Ireland's First National Cycle Policy Framework" The purpose of this project is to develop routes to promote sustainable modes of transport particularly cycling.**
- **Promote road safety**

Traffic Elements in 2014	Total (RMS remote monitoring system)
Traffic Signals at junctions Pedestrian Signals Toucan Crossings Refurbishments to LED signals	102 (97 on RMS) 93 (89 on RMS) 43 (42 on RMS) 2 Grange Rd Willie Nolan Rd. Dublin Rd Bayside Boulevard
School Warning Signals Zebra Crossings	40 22
Bus Gates Speed Readers/ vehicle activated signs	1 36

Sustainable Transport Projects

In 2014 the following projects were advanced:

- The Ongar Castaheaney Cycle Network was completed in February 2014. With particular emphasis on routes to schools, the scheme provides improvements to the walking and cycling infrastructure in this area of Blanchardstown. New pedestrian/toucan/Zebra signalised crossings were provided to improve safety Huntstown Ongar Castheany. 5 No toucans, 10 zebras
- Construction work was also completed on the 2.4km Royal Canal Greenway scheme. The scheme provided for the upgrading of the existing tow path along the canal between Ashtown and Castleknock 12th lock and included resurfacing, and provision of new public lighting and CCTV.
- Remedial works were carried out to traffic calming ramps at various locations throughout the county.
- The Holywell by pass was completed during 2014. This included footpaths and cyleways along with 2 no toucan crossings and 2 no zebras.
- Works to improve accessibility on the footpath network in Sutton near St Fintans NS were carried out.
- Design work continued during 2014 to develop new sustainable transport schemes including Dublin 15 Priority Cycle routes, Swords to Sutton Cycle route, Royal Canal Greenway(Castleknock to Maynooth) and public transport improvements from Swords to the Dublin City.
- At St Mochtas School Porterstown road Clonsilla footpath and pedestrian barrier improvements were made along with road marking and new school warning signals.
- In Balbriggan a ramp was installed to improve accessibility between Clonard Rise and Harry Reynolds Road.
- Various road safety schemes were progressed through the use of antiskid/signage/vehicle activated warning signage.

Speed Limits
New speed limit byelaws for local and regional roads in Fingal were prepared by Operations and passed by Council during 2014.

Pay and Display
The Pay and Display Schemes for the towns of Malahide, Balbriggan, Skerries, Swords, Rush and Clonsilla/Portersgate continued to operate effectively.

Road Maintenance
The Operations Department operating from Depots at Balbriggan, Swords and Coolmine undertook an extensive Programme of Works throughout 2014 comprising resurfacing, surface dressing, strengthening, drainage and flood relief works, remedying defects arising from wear and tear and pot-hole repairs on the county roads most in need of repair. Winter maintenance is a sophisticated and integral part of the operations programme, spanning from the beginning of November to the end of April. A system of Thermal Mapping has been undertaken on the main road network and based on readings from strategically located weather stations along the routes, which is fed into the computer system, the local authority carries out precautionary salting/gritting accordingly.

Fleet Management and Plant Hire
The Fleet Management and Plant Hire Section (FMPH) manage the fleet and plant hire requirements for Fingal County Council. In 2014, FMPH managed a council owned fleet in excess of 380 vehicles and plant and processed 631 plant hire requests.

Public Lighting Section
During 2014, the Public Lighting Section managed the maintenance of over 30,000 lights throughout Fingal.

Road Safety
The Operations Department manages the School Warden Service. The total number of Wardens employed in 2014 was 123. Managing and maintaining the School Warden Service is an important aspect of the Road Safety Programme and this was delivered in 2014 by:

- Training, supervision and administration of Adult School Wardens
- Training and supervision of pupils involved in junior school warden service
- Maintenance and upkeep of school crossing paint markings
- Inspection and maintenance of school crossing street furniture and signage
- Ensuring all crossings comply with the legislative requirements and best practice

Road Safety in the County in 2014 continued through:

- Production of information/campaign materials, leaflets, armbands, rulers and pencils with the safety message
- Pedal Cyclist training course
- Educational talks in schools
- Junior school warden training course
- Road Safety Week, Walk to School Day
- Road Safe Road Show in Crowne Plaza Hotel for transition year students
- Promotion of the safe routes to schools and walking bus multi-agency approach
- Bike for your Breakfast mornings in schools
- Cycle events during Bike Week

ADMINISTRATION

The Administration Division services Area Committee Meetings for the Howth/Malahide, Castleknock/Mulhuddart and Balbriggan/Swords Areas on a monthly basis.

ENVIRONMENT

Beaches & Bathing Water

There are 48 kilometres of coastline in Fingal. There are 10 designated beaches providing a valuable recreational amenity in the County located at:

- Balbriggan, Skerries South, Loughshinny, Rush South, Portrane, Donabate, Malahide, Portmarnock, Sutton (Burrow Road) and Claremont, Howth.

35 lifeguards were employed at 10 beaches from June to end August 2014. In addition to carrying out beach cleaning and other maintenance regular monitoring of seawater samples was carried out to ensure compliance with Bathing Water Quality requirements

HARBOURS

The Operations Department manage and maintain a number of harbours and piers in the County at Balbriggan, Skerries, Rush, Loughshinny and Malahide Slipway.

BURIAL GROUNDS

There are 36 Burial Grounds operated and maintained by the Fingal County Council.

Public Conveniences
Maintenance of 14 public conveniences – 7 open year round and 7 open during the summer season.

PARKS

The Operations Department is responsible for the planning, management and maintenance of some 5000 acres (2000 Ha.) of public open space including Regional and neighbourhood parks in Fingal. The Department also manages a wide variety of sporting facilities across the County and provides extensive recreational and leisure opportunities for Fingal's residents and visitors:

- 900 allotments on sites in Blanchardstown, Donabate, Skerries and Balbriggan.
- 39 playgrounds in various locations throughout Fingal. Two new playgrounds at Thornleigh and Swords Manor were completed in 2014.
- A total of 168 pitches are maintained for a range of team sports including Hurling, Camogie, Hockey, Gaelic, Soccer, Rugby and American football.
- Dressing Room facilities are available at Malahide Demesne, St. Catherine's Regional Park, Millenium Park, Baldoyle and Ridgewood, Swords.
- 8 all-weather pitch facilities are available in Balbriggan, Skerries, Rivervalley, Balheary, Hartstown Park, Mulhuddart, Corduff, and Malahide.
- There are cricket grounds in Malahide Demesne, Town Park, Balbriggan, Porterstown and Lanesborough
- A grass athletics track is provided in Porterstown Park.
- There are 12 Multi Use Games Areas (MUGA) available across the County. These are small sided all weather facilities for soccer and basketball. A new MUGA in Swords was completed in 2014.
- 2 Skateparks are are located in Balheary, Swords and in Millenium Park, Blanchardstown.
- There are public tennis courts in Malahide, Holywell, Swords, Balrothery, Skerries, Lusk, Riverwood, and Carpenterstown.
- A Bowling Green administered by the Skerries Bowling Club is in operation in the Town Park, Skerries.
- 2 public golf courses, Corballis, Donabate and Elmgreen, Dublin 15, a Pitch & Putt and a Par 3 Golf Course at Malahide Demesne.
- Adult exercise equipment in 5 locations, Malahide Demesne, St. Catherine's Regional Park, Millennium Park, Dublin 15, Beechpark, Dublin 15 and Kenure Park, Rush. Adult exercise equipment was provided in a further 5 locations in Swords, Balbriggan, Balbriggan, Skerries, Lusk and Hartstown in 2014.

In addition the Operations Department was actively involved in

- National Tree Week and National Tree Day events which were organised in March with the continued co-operation of local schools and the Tree Council of Ireland.
- The annual programme of tree and shrub planting, newly planted herbaceous areas, bulb planting and seasonal bedding and street tree planting and maintenance was also carried out.
- Providing convenient drop off points to facilitate Christmas Tree Recycling countywide.

Major Events

The Operations Department facilitated a wide range of events during 2014 including:

- Giro D'Italia
- The Pieta House Annual Walk
- Wonderfest
- Flavours of Fingal
- Funfest in Malahide
- RAS in Skerries and Cross in Ward River Valley, Swords.
- Athletics in Balheary, Swords.

Key Statistics

Road length by category:
Within the Fingal area there are 65km of National Roads including Motorways, 264km of Regional Roads and 1011km of Local Roads.

Service Indicators

No. of kilometres of local and regional Roads improved and maintained under the restoration Programme per annum 29.6km

No. of kilometres of local and regional Roads constructed under the specific Improvement grants scheme per annum 0km

Also dealt with:

	2014	2013	2012
Wayleave/ Communications Road Opening Licence Applications	418	439	385
Temporary Road Closure	39	19	36
Taking in Charge Certificate Applications	717	532	413
Abnormal Load Permit	380	350	313

Planning & Strategic Infrastructure Department

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The number of planning applications received was 1105 (of which 122 were declared invalid), including additional information submissions and extensions of duration applications. Valid applications increased by 20% over 2013. The Department also dealt with planning consultations with prospective applicants (and/or their agents) and responded to An Bord Pleanala appeals as required. The Department provides an integrated pre-planning service with a multi-disciplinary team of officers available as required.

STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE

During the course of the year, one Strategic Infrastructure Development Application (SID) was lodged with An Bord Pleanala for a proposed 170 bed National Forensic Mental Health Services Hospital, Portrane, Co. Dublin. No decision has been made by year end.

A decision was made by An Bord Pleanala during 2014 to approve a SID application, lodged in 2013 for the continuance of use of long term car park known as "Eastlands" at Stockhole, Cloghran, Tobberbunny and Dardistown Townlands, Dublin Airport, Co. Dublin.

BONDS & CONTRIBUTIONS

A sum of €14.6 million was collected under the Council's Section 48 Development Contribution Schemes in 2014. Payments and phased payment agreements are continuously agreed, monitored and reviewed. Where necessary, legal proceedings are instituted to recover/secure outstanding levies and 18 such cases were initiated in 2014 involving a sum of €700,000.

Judgements were secured from the courts in 7 cases with a total value of €119,334.

BUILDING CONTROL

A total of 176 applications for Fire Safety Certificates were received during 2014 including **119** Ordinary Fire Safety Certificates, **31** Fire Safety Certificates with 7 Day Notices, **15** Revised Fire Safety Certificates and **11** Regularisation Certificates were also received.

132 applications for Disabled Access Certificates were also received.

A total of 487 valid Commencement Notices were submitted and Naming/Numbering Schemes were approved in respect of 30 Schemes/Projects.

COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2017-2023

Preparation of the Fingal Development Plan is one of the most important functions of the County Council. The current Plan, which was adopted in April 2011, has been in effect for almost four years. In March 2015 the review progress will formally begin in respect of the preparation of the 2017-2023 Development Plan. An Information booklet is being produced and will be delivered to every household in the County, as we engage with our citizens in shaping the county over the next plan period. Much of 2014 has been taken up with the preparatory work attached to the review process, as the department has commissioned consultants to assist in key areas, such as SEA/AA, IT, Communications, Climate Change, etc.. A draft plan will be produced by the Chief Executive in December 2015 and

debated with the Elected Members during January - February 2016 before being placed on public display in February 2016.

FORWARD PLANNING

During 2014 considerable work was undertaken to complete and implement key planning objectives of the 2011-2017 Development Plan. The planning authority has delivered a series of Local Area Plans (LAPs) and non-statutory plans, studies and strategies to date as outlined below, advancing policies and implementation of our Green Infrastructure network (including the preparation of an Open Space Strategy, advancing Fingal pedestrian and cycle network, etc.), and significant progress in the review of the County's Record of Protected Structures. It is intended that in early 2015 many of the drafts of these plans, etc. will be placed on public display.

- Donabate LAP (RA)
- Kinsealy LAP (RV)
- A review and amendment to Hansfield SDZ is also underway.
- Dublin Airport LAP will also be reviewed during 2015.

The Planning Department, as part of the Construction 2020 Dublin Housing Supply and Co-ordination Task Force, worked with the NTA, NAMA, DOECLG, Dublin Regional Authority, Irish Water and the other Dublin Planning Authorities to respond to the short-term housing market requirements. The Department has actively participated in data gathering, analysis and the development of a strategy to identify appropriate housing lands that can be delivered in the short-medium term and infrastructure necessary to enable its delivery.

VARIATIONS, STUDIES & PART VIIIS

A number of Variations to the Development Plan have been adopted during 2014:

- St Ita's, Portrane,
- Tyrellstown, D15
- Ballycoolin, D15
- Charlestown
- St Finian's, Swords

These (adopted and/or proposed) Variations predominantly relate to the planning authority's desire to respond effectively and quickly to socio-economic and community requirements of the area, particularly where there is an opportunity to enhance employment and/or services within the County.

The Dublin Airport Master Plan, whose preparatory work was largely undertaken during 2013 and continued through 2014, will be completed early 2015 and the review of the LAP for the airport commenced thereafter.

A review of the Record of Protected Structures commenced in 2014, and proposed Additions and Deletions to the Record of Protected Structures will be produced early 2015 for consultation.

Projects advanced during 2014 include Howth Public Realm Consultation, Royal Canal Greenway, Broadmeadow Way, Blanchardstown to Phoenix Park Cycleway, Sutton to Swords Cycle Way, etc.

OUTSIDE BODIES

In the course of the year the Council was represented by Planning Department staff on the following outside bodies:

- Airport Regions Conference (ARC), comprising local authorities of the European Union and the Accession States having major airports located in their area. Council membership on ARC which was held by Councillor Ciaran Byrne is now held by Councillor Anne Devitt, who over the last nine years has presided over ARC.
- QLAIR – Quality of Life in Airport Regions
- School Liaison Committee - Department of Education and Science
- North Fringe Development Forum – Dublin City Council and Fingal County Council.
- Archaeological Policy and Practice working group established by Department of Environment, Community and Local Government.
- Heritage Council Working Group.
- National Biodiversity Data Centre
- Regional Authority Technical Working Group
- Dublin Housing Task Force Steering & Working Group (2020 Strategy)
- Project Board for Department of environment "My Plan"
- National Transport Authority GDA Stakeholder Group.

During 2014, the Council also continued its work with our counterparts in twelve regions across Europe participating in a new Interreg IVC project, the Green Infrastructure Network or Green InfraNet, which brings together local and regional bodies from across Europe and is working to strengthen the development and implementation of green infrastructure across Europe by exchanging experience and by transferring good practice between regions.

TRANSPORTATION SECTION PLANNING

The Transportation Section manages the delivery of transportation capital infrastructural works, contributes also on transportation matters and assesses the transportation impacts of planning applications and local area plans.

Input is being made on an ongoing basis to the NTA North Dublin/Fingal Transport Study. Also to the the steering groups for the Bus Rapid Transit projects between Swords and the City Centre, and between Blanchardstown and UCD.

Work was completed on the Holywell Link Road during 2014.

Funding was received from the National Transport Authority to advance the design of the Broadmeadow Way trail between Malahide and Donabate.

The necessary Part 8 Approval has been obtained for the Back Road Bridge, Malahide.

WATER SERVICES SECTION PLANNING

The Water Services Section advises on the water, foul and surface water drainage requirements for all planning applications lodged, including requests for additional information. Since the 1st January, 2014, the section also

advises Irish Water, as a statutory consultee, in relation to planning applications and general constraints in the water services networks. In addition, the section provides inputs into Local Area Plans, approves compliances with planning conditions, assesses and certifies offsets and inspects new on site waste water treatment systems for single houses. The section also provides guidance on Flood Risk Management.

Activities during 2014 included:

- Implementation of 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management' Guidelines for Local Authorities November 2009
- Strategic Flood Risk Assessments (SFRAs) were prepared for Lusk, Kenure/Rush and Hacketstown/Skerries LAP lands.
- Implementation of the EPA "Code of Practice for Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems Serving Single Dwellings" (October 2009).

FINGAL HERITAGE PLAN

The Heritage Plan is a five year action plan which deals with all aspects of our heritage including our wildlife, coast and countryside, our architectural heritage, our archaeology, our local history and culture.

The second Fingal Heritage Plan was adopted by the Council in April 2012. The Plan contains 49 actions to be undertaken over a 6 year period led by the Council's Heritage Officer. A total of approximately €86,000 was spent by the Council on Heritage Plan projects in 2014. This included funding of €37,000 from The Heritage Council which the Council successfully competed for in 2014. Work was undertaken on a wide range of heritage projects including the following:

1. Field Monuments Advisor (FMA)

The ongoing objective of the Fingal FMA Scheme is to advise landowners on the care and management of archaeological monuments in their care. The Scheme is co-funded by The Heritage Council. The focus of the 2014 scheme was outreach to communities, raising awareness about heritage's contribution to tourism and site-visits to newly identified monuments. A total of 184 sites were located as part of the work undertaken. A conference entitled *Fingal's Heritage: Supporting Communities-Supporting Tourism* was held in October 2014. In addition a heritage-based tourism leaflet entitled *Exploring Fingal* was developed consisting of short descriptions of thirty-six heritage sites arranged in a circuit around the County.

2. Swords 1014 Viking Exhibition

As part of the Swords 1014 celebrations, an exhibition exploring Fingal's Viking heritage was held in the chapel in Swords Castle on 26th and 27th April. The exhibition was then on display in County Hall, Swords during May 2014 and in the Civic offices in Blanchardstown during May 2014.

3. Hidden Treasures

The Hidden Treasures Project involved working with local schools and youth groups in Dublin 15 to explore the area's heritage of over 90 archaeological sites. Participating schools and youth groups carried out a project on a monument in their area. . The overall winners were St. Philip's National School, Mountview with their project which looked at the history of Sir Thomas Luttrell of Luttrellstown Castle. The Project is managed by a partnership which includes Safer Blanchardstown, Fingal County Council Community Division, Fingal Libraries, Fingal County Council Heritage Office, The National Museum of Ireland and The Heritage Council.

4. Heritage Week

The Council supported a wide range of events during Heritage Week, and by advertising events taking place in the County on the Council's website and via the Fingal Heritage Twitter account @fingalheritage. A total of 58 events took place in Fingal during Heritage Week 2014.

5. Dublin Archaeology GIS Project

The project is being administered by Dublin City Council on behalf of the four Dublin authorities with funding support from The Heritage Council and the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. In 2014, 1100 licensed archaeological activity reports up to the year 2007 for County Dublin were digitally mapped. In addition over 1200 National Museum of Ireland Topographical files were scanned, reviewed and geo-referenced. Work to extend this project to include all records to the end of 2013 will take place in 2015.

6. Fingal Industrial Heritage Survey

The initial desktop phase of the Fingal Industrial Heritage Survey (FIHS) was carried out in 2010 and identified a total of 1159 industrial heritage sites in Fingal. The brief for the second phase of the survey in 2014 was to survey a portion of the extant sites in the county and to undertake field survey of these sites. Aerial mapping was used to identify these sites from the original desk survey. A total of 253 sites were field surveyed, all located east of the M1 motorway.

7. Swords Castle Conservation Plan

Swords Castle Conservation Plan was published and launched by the Mayor in September 2014. The Conservation Plan sets out Fingal County Council's policies and priorities in caring for this important National Monument and developing it as an amenity for the people and visitors of Fingal.

8. Howth BioBlitz 2014

Howth was one of four sites nationally chosen by the National Biodiversity Data Centre to host Ireland's BioBlitz 2014 which took place on 23 & 24 May. As part of this national event scientists gathered to survey and record the rich biodiversity of Howth Head and Ireland's Eye and to compete with other teams of scientists across Ireland at three other sites. Over the two days a total of 706 plant and animal species were recorded in Howth. As part of Bioblitz 2014 the Council also organized a series of free events to explore the rich wildlife of the area.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Performance Indicators	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
New Applications Registered	1105 (122 invalid)	947 (114 invalid)	897 (74 invalid)	958 (102 invalid)	1192 (162 invalid)
Number of Applications Determined	914	766	849	905	1103
% of Grants	90%	90%	89%	88%	83%
% of Refusals	10%	10%	11%	12%	17%
% Determined within 2 months	72%	73%	73%	67%	70%
Number of A Applications Received	693 (72 invalid)	644 (86 invalid)	567 (56 invalid)	605 (72 invalid)	747 (118 invalid)
Number B Applications Received	412 (50 invalid)	303 (28 invalid)	330 (18 invalid)	353 (30 invalid)	445 (44 invalid)

Appendix 1

Name of Conferences	Venue	Date	Councillors who attended	Travel & Subsistence & Expenses	Conference Fee	Total
Ace Training '2014 European Elections Information Seminar'	Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth	3rd & 4th Jan 2014	T. O'Leary	€282.34	€100.00	€382.34
LAMA Spring Seminar	Four Seasons Hotel, Monaghan	31st Jan to 1st Feb 2014	C. Byrne	€243.91	€150.00	€393.91
			G. McGuire	€266.91	€150.00	€416.91
			J. Maher	€280.24	€150.00	€430.24
			M. Murray	€287.87	€150.00	€437.87
Celtic Conferences 'Changes to Construction Tendering for Local Authorities'	Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery	31st Jan to 2nd Feb 2014	T. Kelleher	€622.28	€100.00	€722.28
Economic Impact of Airports (ARC)	Madrid	11th to 14th Feb 2014	C. Byrne	€ 311.98	€0.00	€311.98
AMAI Spring Seminar	Great Northern Hotel, Bundoran, Co. Donegal	14th & 15th Feb 2014	G. McGuire	€401.54	€200.00	€601.54
Ace Training 'Local Government Law Update: 2014'	Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth	21st to 23rd Feb 2014	T. O'Leary	€282.47	€100.00	€382.47
			A. Devitt	€326.86	€100.00	€426.86
Ace Training 'A Guide to EU Education Programmes'	Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth	28th Feb to 2nd March 2014	A. Devitt	€326.86	€100.00	€426.86
			K. Dennison	€277.30	€100.00	€377.30
Ace Training 'Dignity at Work A guide to Bullying & Harassment in the Workplace'	Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth	7th to 9th March 2014	T. O'Leary	€282.34	€100.00	€382.34
ACCA Annual Conference 2014	Slieve Russell Hotel, Cavan	6th & 7th March 2014	C. Byrne	€201.48	€130.00	€331.48

			J. Maher	€292.14	€130.00	€422.14
			G. McGuire		€130.00	€130.00
			E. Loftus	€259.43	€130.00	€389.43
			M. O Donovan		€130.00	€130.00
			A. Devitt	€264.98	€130.00	€394.98
			T. Kelleher	€274.71	€130.00	€404.71
NFLA All Ireland Forum	Newry	11th April 2014	C. Byrne	€ 119.10	€0.00	€119.10
MABS and the Insolvency Service of Ireland	Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery	11th to 13th April 2014	T Kelleher		€100.00	€100.00
Service Provision in Local Authorities	Old Connacht Hotel, Galway City	2nd to 3rd May 2014	A. Devitt	€373.02	€150.00	€523.02
			K. Dennison	€347.22	€150.00	€497.22
Retirement Entitlements & Taxation Benefits for Councillors	Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth	2nd to 4th May 2014	D. O Connor	€251.49	€100.00	€351.49
Local Government Arts Service	Great Northern Hotel, Bundoran, Co Donegal	30th to 31st May 2014	K. Dennison	€363.31	€120.00	€483.31
			A. Devitt	€384.78	€120.00	€504.78
Environment Ireland 2014	Croke Park, Dublin	11th September 2014	B. McDonagh	€0.00	€301.35	€301.35
ARC Getting d'Air	Brussels	13th to 15th October 2014	A. Devitt	€ 1,007.37	€0.00	€1,007.37
LAMA Autumn Training Seminar	Inishowen Gateway Hotel, Buncrana	17th to 18th October 2014	M. Murray		€180.00	€180.00
			K. Dennison	€508.82	€180.00	€688.82
AILG Training Seminars & Conference	AILG Housing Function Training , Cavan	21st October 2014	E. Loftus	€155.88		€155.88
			A. Devitt	€152.24		€152.24

AILG Training Seminars & Conference	AILG Housing Function Training, Athlone	23rd October 2014	K. Dennison	€179.51		€179.51
			J. Guerin			€0.00
			S. Kavanagh			€0.00
			T. Leddy			€0.00
			B. McDonagh			€0.00
			P. Mulville			€0.00
			L. Nolan			€0.00
			K. Redmond	€202.90		€202.90
			J. Newman	€179.92		€179.92
			A. Devitt			€0.00
AILG Training Seminars & Conference	AILG Annual Conference, Hotel Kilmore, Cavan	29th to 30th October 2014	K Dennison	€246.60	€100.00	€346.60
			A. Devitt		€100.00	€100.00
			G. Maguire	€234.62	€100.00	€334.62
			T. Murphy		€100.00	€100.00
			E. Loftus	€214.76	€100.00	€314.76
			D. O Connor	€258.02	€100.00	€358.02
AILG Training Seminars & Conference	AILG Training Seminar Planning, Trim	18th November 2014	K. Dennison	€76.97		€76.97
			A. Devitt	€79.21		€79.21
			J. Guerin			€0.00
			E. Loftus	€78.62		€78.62
			G. Maguire	€72.28		€72.28
			J. Newman	€63.48		€63.48
			K. Redmond	€97.88		€97.88
AILG Training Seminars & Conference	AILG Training Seminar Budget, Malahide	18th September 2014	E. Loftus	€59.84		€59.84

Talk Action "Engaging Communities on Energy and Climate Change"	The Macro Community Resource Centre Dublin 7	4th December 2014	D. Healy	€4.82	€328.00	€332.82
			Total	**€11,198.30**	**€4,739.35**	**€15,937.65**

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Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall
Fingal County Council

Fingal County Council Audit Committee

Chairperson's Annual Report

2014



Circulation List

Paul Reid, Chief Executive

Members of Fingal County Council

Date: 27th March, 2015

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL
AUDIT COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT 2014

Introduction

Fingal County Council Audit Committee 2014 – 2019 was established under the Local Government Reform Act 2014. The Elected Members of the Audit Committee were appointed by Fingal County Council at its meeting of the 9th June 2014, and the External Members of the Audit Committee were appointed by Fingal County Council at its meeting of the 8th September 2014.

Mr. Donagh Waters was elected as Chairperson of the Audit Committee at its inaugural meeting held on the 29th September 2014.

The External Members are:

1. Donagh Waters (Chairperson)
2. Dearbhla Fitzsimons
3. Dominic Kenna
4. Noreen Fahy

The Elected Members are:

1. Cllr. Cian O'Callaghan
2. Cllr. Kieran Dennison
3. Cllr. Jack Chambers



During the course of 2014 the Audit Committees held the following meetings:

- Meeting of 20th January 2014 (previous Committee)
- Meeting of 28th April 2014 (previous Committee)
- Meeting of 29th September 2014 (Inaugural Meeting – current Committee)
- Meeting of 17th November 2014 (current Committee)
- Meeting of 8th December 2014 (current Committee)

The issues dealt with at these meetings include the following:

- Schedule of Audit Committee Meetings
- Schedule of Programme of Work & Presentations
- Annual Report 2013 of Audit Committee
- Audit Committee Charter
- Audit Plan 2014
- Annual Budget 2014 Briefing
- Review of Audit Reports
- Briefing Sessions
- Risk Management
- Review of Annual Financial Statement
- Review of Statutory Audit Report
- Meeting with Senior Management
- Meeting Local Government Auditor
- Internal Audit Unit Charter

New Audit Committee members also attended induction training at the Institute of Public Administration on 3 October 2014.

Role of the Audit Committee

The Audit Committee's role is to support the elected Council by providing an independent assessment of the activities of management in controlling the local authority and the quality of the risk management, financial reporting, financial management and internal audit. The results of this assessment should be reported to and considered by the Council. In so doing, the Audit Committee should identify any matters in respect of which it considers that action or improvements are needed and make recommendations as to the steps to be taken.

Within the organisational structure, the Audit Committee's position in reporting directly to the Council maintains its independence from the executive. Each member of the committee has a specific role to play in ensuring that the committee maintains its independence and objectivity. In discharging its role, the Audit Committee should act in a collective manner.

It is important to note that, in any context, the operations of the Audit Committee do not diminish the statutory duties and responsibilities imposed on the local authority, be it the Council of elected members or the Chief Executive under any other statute.



Functions

The functions of the Audit Committee are as prescribed by section 59 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014, as follows:

a) To review the financial and budgetary reporting practices and procedures within Fingal County Council:

b) To foster the development of best practice in the performance by Fingal County Council of its internal audit function:

c) To review any financial statement auditor's report or auditor's special report in relation to Fingal County Council and assess any actions taken within the Council by its chief executive in response to such a statement or report and to report to the Council on its findings:

d) To assess and promote efficiency and value for money with respect to Fingal County Council's performance of its functions:

e) To review systems that are operated by Fingal County Council for the management of risks:

f) To review the findings and recommendations of the NOAC and the response of the Chief Executive to these and take further action as appropriate:

Internal Audit Annual Report 2013

Internal Audit presented the Annual Report 2013 to the committee at their first meeting of the year on 20th January 2014. This Report was considered and noted by the Council at the Council Meeting held on 10th February 2014.



Briefing Sessions from Senior Management

Senior management made a number of presentations to the Committee during 2014; in addition Internal Audit issued a number of Reports. The issue of Reports, and presentations made to the Committee, was designed to enhance the Committee's overall knowledge of the Council.

The Committee met with several members of the Senior Management Team and during the year including:

- Mr. Paul Reid, Chief Executive
- Mr. Des Bruton, A/Head of Finance
- Mr. Conor Molony, Financial Management Accountant
- Mr. Peter Caulfield, Head of Corporate Affairs, HR & IT
- Mr. Garry O'Brien, A/Director of Services, Environment & Water Services.

The Committee received regular briefings during 2014, in the following areas, which had been identified as areas of priority:

- Corporate Governance
- Value for money initiatives
- Internal Controls
- Risk Management



Corporate Governance

Further to the Committee's corporate governance role, the following reports were brought to their attention for review:

a) Annual Budget 2014

b) Internal Audit Unit-2014 Audit Plan

c) Budgetary Review Year to Date 2014

d) Report by Local Government Auditor on the 2013 Audit

e) Update on Corporate Governance Review-Deloitte

During 2014, significant reforms commenced in the Local Government Sector, underpinned by the Local Government Reform Act 2014. The reforms in the main revolve around increased transparency and accountability in relation to the provision of all services as well as an enhanced democratic process. The Local Government Reform Act 2014 makes provision for the establishment, by Ministerial Order, of a body to be known as the National Oversight and Audit Commission ('NOAC').

As part of the reform process, Fingal County Council sought external, expert assistance and advice on Internal Control, Processes & Procedures, Risk Management and Corporate Governance (see above under e).

This review, which is still ongoing at end of 2014, is to assess and make recommendations on Fingal County Council's executive functions specifically in relation to the following:

- Internal audit processes, controls and structures. This is examining the current Internal Audit function and related processes and procedures having regard to the provisions of the Local Government (Audit Committee) Regulations 2014 S.I 244/2014 and the Guidance for Audit Committees in Local Authorities published by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government in June 2014.

- The effective functioning of the Audit Committee and relevant support processes.

- Policies and practices in place to support strong internal controls in relation to financial processes, for example, delegations of authorities, Chief Executive's Orders, appropriate approvals etc.,

- Risk Management Process and Procedures in place to:
  -Assess and agree risk appetite,
  -Identify strategic and operational and financial risks,
  -Developing and reviewing of a Risk Log and appropriate mitigation measures.

- The establishment and oversight of Management Companies to support the ongoing functioning of the various Council bodies and organisations:-
  -This is reviewing the appointment of Company Directors to such bodies and to provide clarity on roles and responsibilities.



Financial Reports

Mr. Des Bruton briefed the Committees during (2014) on the financial position of the organisation. Mr. Bruton presented the Annual Budget 2014 to the previous Committee at the January meeting. Mr. Bruton presented a Financial Report to the current Committee at the September meeting. This presentation outlined the current position regarding the Council's income and expenditure on Budget 2014. Mr. Bruton stated that the overall budgetary position was healthy. The Report by Mr. Bruton also dealt with the Capital Programme 2015 – 2017. Finally Mr. Conor Molony, Financial Management Accountant presented the Report on the Annual Financial Statement for 2013 to the Committee.

Mr. Patrick J Healy, Principal Local Government Auditor presented his Report on the organisation's Annual Financial Statements 2013 to the Committee at the November meeting. The Annual Financial Statements 2013 received an unqualified audit opinion. The Auditor stated that the financial statements reflected a true and fair view of the Council's financial position.

Section 121 (3) of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended by Section 60 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014, requires the Audit Committee to report to the Council on its consideration of the audited Annual Financial Statement and the Statutory Audit Report. This Report, by the Chairperson, was presented to the Members at the Council Meeting held on 8th December 2014.



Value for Money

Value for money initiatives and efficiencies continued to be a high priority for the Committee during 2014. Internal Audit carried out work in the following areas to achieve this aim:

- Final Audit Report on Elmgreen

Audits are ongoing in other areas with respect to VFM.

Internal Controls

The Audit Committee supports the Internal Audit Unit in its role in carrying out examinations of the effectiveness of internal controls and associated risk.

Risk Management

Professional Audit standards require Internal Audit to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the organisation's Risk management processes. Risk management relates to how an organisation sets objectives, identifies, analyzes, and responds to those risks; risks that could potentially impact its ability to realise its objectives. Audits and investigations carried out by Internal Audit incorporate risk management into its assessments and form part of the audit approach. It is envisaged that a comprehensive Risk Register incorporating all Council departments will be completed during 2015.

Conclusion

The Audit Committee welcomes the significant progress made in a number of areas during 2014. The Audit Committee is conscious that a number of initiatives are currently underway which have the objective of improving the effectiveness of the Internal Audit function and improvements in the governance area generally.

The good working relationship already established between the Audit Committee and the Chief Executive, and the staff of Fingal County Council continued. The members were satisfied with the reports and updates presented to them during the course of the year.

The successful trial practice of inviting respective Heads of Function / Directors of Service to attend Audit Committee Meetings will continue. This facilitates discussion on the principal risks facing each service, and the relevant respondent risk mitigation activity. This new development is regarded as an important step in extending the role and remit of the Audit Committee. It has also facilitated a forum where the individual Head of Function or Director of Services can comment on relevant Audit Reports and the recommendations contained therein.

Having considered the Audit Committee's performance during 2014, I am satisfied that it has performed effectively. The Audit Committee has recently agreed a comprehensive Work Programme for 2015, taking cognisance of the various statutory functions of the Audit Committee as set out in the Local Government Reform Act, 2014.

On behalf of the Audit Committee I wish to thank the Chief Executive and his staff for their cooperation and support during the Committee's term to date. We would also like to thank the Secretary to the Committee and the staff of Internal Audit for their support and work during the year. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Audit Committee for their commitment and look forward to working with them over the term of the Committee.

Signed: _____

Donagh Waters,
Chairperson,
Audit Committee

Date: 27/3/15

Appendix 1

Audit Committee Members and Record of Meeting Attendance

Name	Organisation/Background
Donagh Waters (Chairperson)	Partner at McInerney Saunders, Chartered Accountants & Auditors, Swords.
Dominic Kenna	Principal at Kenna & Co., Registered Auditors & Certified Public Accountants, Dublin 15.
Dearbhla Fitzsimons	Internal Audit Manager at Trocaire, Maynooth
Noreen Fahy	Senior Finance Specialist at IPA, Dublin 4.
Cllr. Cian O'Callaghan	Member of Fingal County Council
Cllr. Kieran Dennison	Member of Fingal County Council
Cllr. Jack Chambers	Member of Fingal County Council

Schedule of attendance at Committee meetings in 2014:

Elected Members	29.9.14	17.11.14	8.12.14
Cllr. Cian O'Callaghan	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cllr. Kieran Dennison	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cllr. Jack Chambers	Yes	Yes	Yes
External Members			
Donagh Waters	Yes	Yes	Yes
Dominic Kenna	Yes	Yes	Yes
Dearbhla Fitzsimons	Yes	Yes	Yes
Noreen Fahy	Yes	Yes	Yes


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Centenary Programme

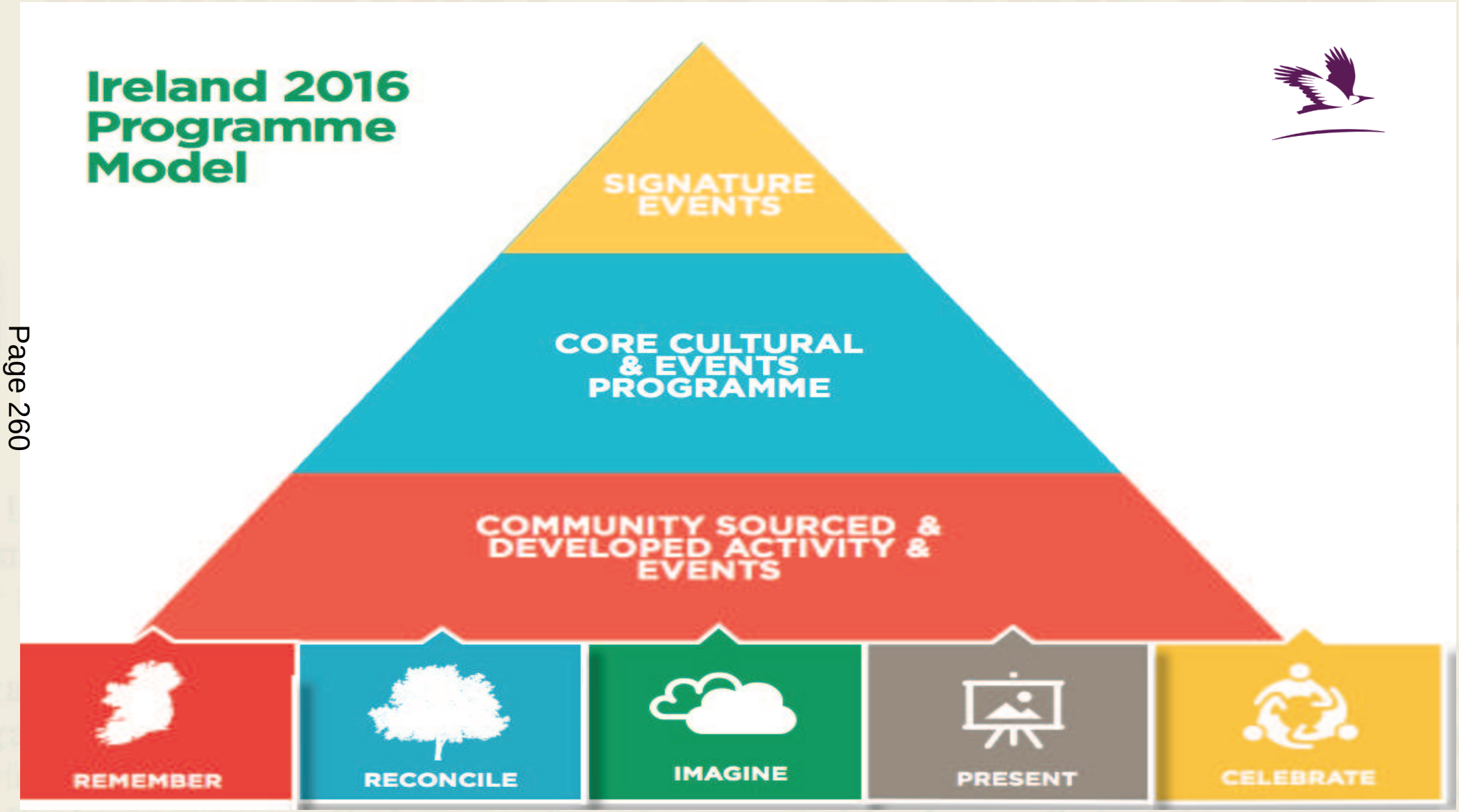
1916 2016

Fingal Commemoration Programme for 'Ireland 2016'

DRAFT

Ireland 2016

- Local, National and International events
- Based on 5 intersecting themes
  - Remember - Commemorate the historic events of 1916
  - Reconcile - Reflect on how the ideals of the Proclamation were rekindled and contributed to reconciliation
  - Imagine - Re-imagine our legacy for future generations
  - Present – Show how we as a Republic we took our place 'among the nations'
  - Celebrate - The idealism of the Proclamation


Ireland 2016
Programme
Model
SIGNATURE EVENTS
CORE CULTURAL & EVENTS PROGRAMME
COMMUNITY SOURCED & DEVELOPED ACTIVITY & EVENTS
REMEMBER
RECONCILE
IMAGINE
PRESENT
CELEBRATE

The 7 Programme Strands

- Historical Reflection: State Ceremonial
- An Teanga Bheo: The Living Language (Rave-Lóid 2016)
- Youth and Imagination: Proclamation for a New Generation
- Intergenerational Learning: Tracing Your Roots
- Cultural Expression – with Arts Council Leading
- Community Participation – Local Authority leadership
- Global and Diaspora - Irish Embassy Network

Actions

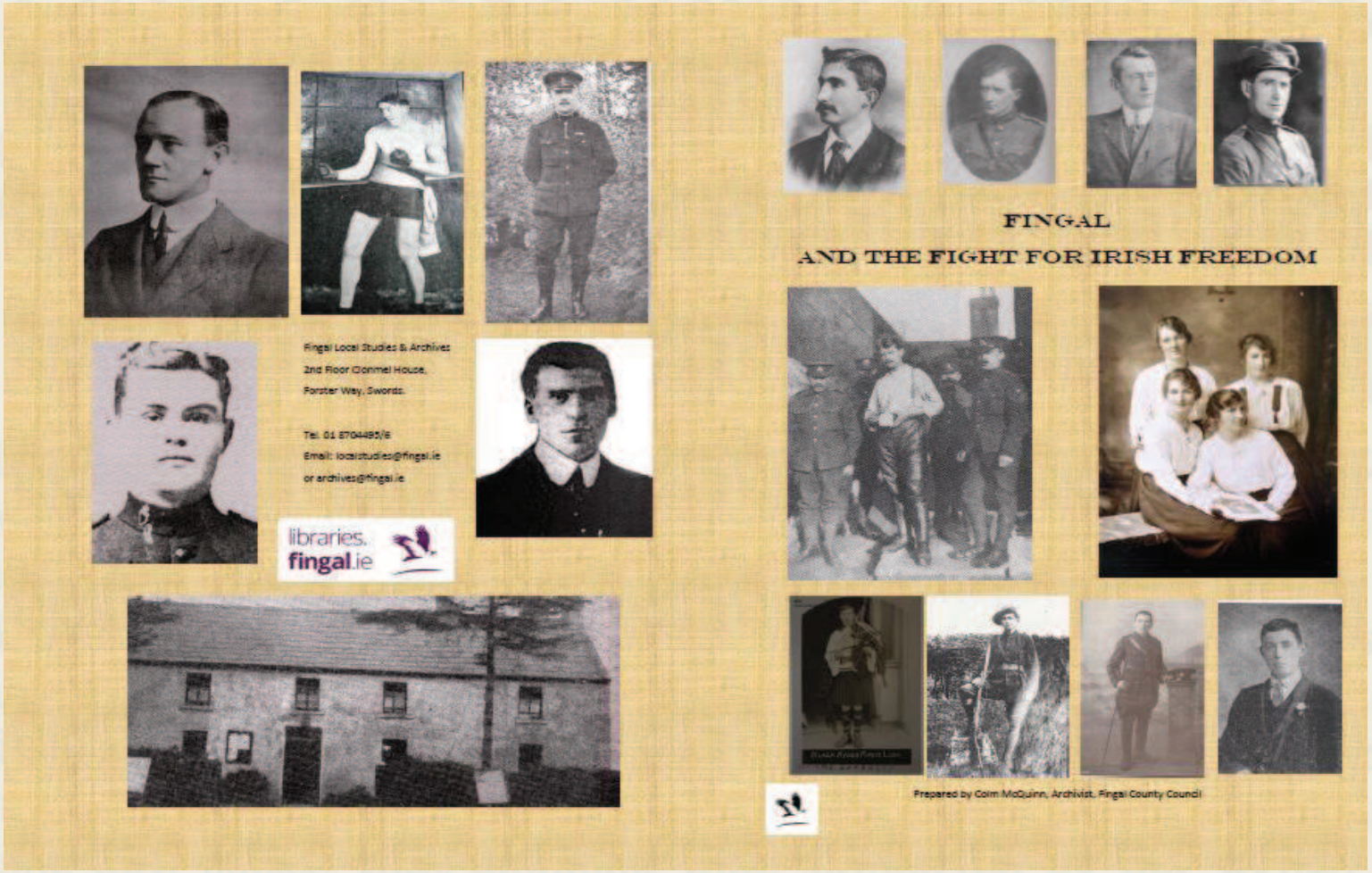
- Cross Departmental Working Group established
- Co-ordinator appointed
- Presentation to SPC in February 2015
- Steering group established
- Steering group approves draft programme

1916

Scope and brief

- Proposals split between
  - Corporate Actions (Mainly organised and funded by the FCC)
  - Community based initiatives (Grant assisted under Centenary Grants Scheme)
- Specific aim of leaving a legacy
- Concentrating on Fingal's role
- Marking the contribution of women
- Raising awareness and knowledge about Fingal's contribution
- Some actions in 2015 and some in 2016 with some covering both years and beyond

The Fingal Connections



1916
2016

Fingal & The Fight for Irish Freedom

- Fingal Brigade/5th Battalion
  - *Lusk*
  - *Skerries*
  - *St Margaret's*
  - *Swords*
  - *Turvey*
- Thomas Ashe
- Cumann na mBan



Fingal and the Fight for Irish Freedom

FINGAL AND THE FIGHT FOR IRISH FREEDOM

By early 1916 the Fingal Brigade/5th Battalion numbered no more than 100, known as Sinn Fein Volunteers, made up of small companies in Lusk, Skerries, St. Margaret's, Swords, and Turvey. In command at Easter were: Thomas Ashe, Brigade Commandant; Dr. Richard Hayes, Battalion Adjutant; and Quartermaster Frank Lawless.
Company Captains included: Swords-Richard Coleman; Lusk-Edward Rooney; Skerries-Joseph Thornton; St. Margaret's-James V. Lawless. The Donabate Volunteers were loosely attached to Swords Company. North County Dublin at this time was described as "quiet" by the RIC County Inspector.

MOBILIZATION

On **Easter Sunday** an estimated 120 5th Battalion members turn out at 4.30 p.m. at Rathbeale Cross, Swords. Joseph Lawless goes to Connolly with a message from Ashe and returns with orders that all is off but be ready. All volunteers return home.

On **Easter Monday** orders from Patrick Pearse reach Ashe "Strike at one o'clock today". Ashe orders a second mobilization at Knocksedan Bridge, Swords. They include many from the same families: the McAllisters of Turvey; Westons, Kellys, Lawless (4), Taylors, Wilsons, Doyles, Staffords, Thomas Rafferty, Jack Crenigan and John Rover McCann. Many have gone to the races at Fairyhouse.

ACTION

On **Tuesday** the 5th Battalion is joined by Patrick Grant, Thomas Maxwell, Richard Mulcahy and Jerry Golden. Mulcahy is appointed second-in-command to Ashe. Their orders are to disrupt the communication and supply lines into the city, including railway lines, and telegraph services in the Post Offices. Attempts are made to damage railway lines and bridges in Blanchardstown and Cabra on Monday night and Tuesday morning. The Great Northern Railway Bridge at Rogerstown is damaged by explosives by a demolition party.

Police receive word that an attack on the Marconi Station, Skerries is planned. The first message about the Rising sent to London went from here. 200 men of the North Staffordshire Regiment are landed at Skerries to protect the station.

James Connolly sends a request that 40 of the Fingal Brigade be sent in to the G.P.O. Ashe can only spare 20, and he sends them under Captain Richard Coleman. They fight at the Mendicity Institute, and one of their number, Peter Wilson of Swords, is killed.
The R.I.C. barracks at Swords and Donabate are attacked on **Wednesday, April 26th**. The Fifth Battalion is based at Kileek. Molly Adrien brings Ashe newspaper reports and a copy of the proclamation, and also news that the rest of the country had not come out.

1916 2016

Main Initiatives

- Memorabilia Day
  - Sept/Oct 2015
  - Invite people to attend with their memorabilia
  - Scan, photo, record etc
  - Create digitised record
- Arts
  - Commission Proposal
    - *Invite all art forms to compete in open competition*
    - *Unveil, perform at Central Event in 2016*
  - 1916 Song Project
- Exhibition/Legacy
  - Create exhibition for display in Swords Castle iduring Centenary Event in 2016
  - Exhibit in branch libraries

- Lecture Series
  - Covering a number of months in 2016
  - Appropriate historical lectures
- Resource Pack
  - Provide schools with useful resource links e.g. web links etc
- Cultural Events in Draoicht, Seamus Ennis Centre
  - Screenings of “A Terrible Beauty” etc
  - Q & A sessions post screenings
- A Central Event – Centenary Festival in Swords
  - Series of events along Main Street, Castle and Park

Using existing events

- Memory Makers
  - In 2016 this initiative will be themed around the commemoration
  - Publication produced post event
- Heritage Week
  - In 2015/2016 actions will be themed around commemoration
  - Explore the potential for a commemorative trail marking the role of Fingallians in the fight for Irish Freedom
- Flavours of Fingal
  - In 2016 the intention is to have a number of commemorative themed stalls, activities etc.

Community Based Initiatives

Local/ Supported

- Centenary Grant Scheme
  - Publish Criteria
  - Work with groups
  - Make recommendations to
    - *Steering group*
    - *Full Council*



Budgets

- Central Government funding
  - 2015 €30k
  - 2016 €30k with a potential further €30k from other sources

- Own Resources
  - Centenary Fund €60k 2015/16 (€20k per Area Committee)
  - Corporate Events (not exhaustive)
    - *Art Commission €35k*
    - *Memorabilia/Exhibition ?????*
    - *1916 Song Project €3k*
    - *Festival €50k*

Legacy

- Exhibition
  - Will include photos, recordings, items, statements etc.
  - Material gathered at memorabilia day will contribute to the creation of the exhibition
  - Can be presented in branch libraries etc
  - Potential for digitised/electronic version
- Commissioned Art
- Resource Pack for schools
- Memory Makers Publication

Next Steps

- Presentation at Fingal Community Network Plenary on the 25th. April, 2015
- 2 Public information sessions (7.00p.m. – 9.00p.m.)
  - 5th. May, 2015 – Castleknock Hotel, Castleknock
  - 7th. May, 2015 - Carnegie Court, Swords
- Draft Programme to Department of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht April/May 2015
- Final Programme presented to Full Council Sept/Oct 2015.
- Final Programme to Department of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht - October 2015.


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Centenary Programme

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COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

MONDAY, 13th APRIL, 2015

Item No. 23

Swords Cultural and Civic Centre

A potential site for a proposed Cultural and Civic Centre has emerged in the Master Plan. A tremendous opportunity is now presented for Swords as our County Town.

A 21st Century centre of learning, knowledge and culture, a neutral, open and welcoming space can be provided for all citizens. The scale of the centre will be appropriate to the town of Swords and the communities it serves. It will be an attractor destination helping to reinvigorate Swords Main Street, reinforcing its role as the core area of the town centre as envisaged in the Fingal Development Plan 2011-2017.

Project feasibility and planning will now commence in consultation with local communities. Potential facilities to be included in the civic centre are:

- A contemporary library service.
- A vibrant social space.
- A civic space for community interaction, with meeting rooms.
- Exhibition and showcase spaces.
- Performance space.

Detailed planning in accordance with highest design principles, ensuring all necessary services are delivered, will deliver a flagship development for the enjoyment of current and future generations.

It is estimated that the project is deliverable within a 5 year period. Regular progress reports and the proposed financial model will be presented to Council in due course.

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SWORDS CASTLE CULTURAL QUARTER

ARCHITECTURAL MASTERPLAN

Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gall
Fingal County
Council



A PLAN FOR A NEW CULTURAL HEART

reddy architecture+urbanism

FOREWORD

BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE PAUL REID

I am very happy to present to the elected members and citizens of Fingal this Swords Castle Cultural Quarter Masterplan.

Successful towns use their cultural heritage to strengthen, amongst other things, their urban identity. An identity built on cultural heritage is not only considered to be a key factor in attracting potential residents and enterprise but it is also seen as a tool for branding and marketing a town as a destination for visitors as well as a place for citizens to enjoy. Throughout Europe, cultural heritage is steadily gaining importance as a vital asset in developing and strengthening a distinctive identity to attract visitors, engage citizens and promote enterprise. In Ireland this can be seen in places such as Westport, Kilkenny and Youghal. We hope that this study will have a similar impact on Swords- our County town.

Cultural heritage is more and more being regarded as the key to unlocking the potential of having a distinct identity of place. The aspiration of this project is to identify a distinct urban identity for Swords through its cultural area that will be the bedrock for a realisable plan to take it forward and bring about its potential as a distinctive and beautiful county town that all its citizens can be proud of.

Over the last six months Fingal County Council has worked with Reddy Architecture and Urbanism to draw together the strands that go to make up this plan. The most important strand of the work was the engagement with and participation of the public and many groups in Swords.

The role of residents associations, community development organisations, business groups, community councils, local development groups, tidy towns committees, sports clubs and arts groups have a real relevance to Fingal County Council. We have seen in this project the benefits of participative, consultative community based planning in leading us together to a sustainable result.

We believe that public participation leads to better decisions and outcomes. Outcomes that better meet the needs of more people and decisions that can be implemented more quickly and last longer. It is important that this validity and public support is encapsulated in the projects that will grow out of this masterplan. We have made sincere efforts in the making of the plan to make sure that local knowledge and aspirations are an important part of the making process.

The potential projects identified in the plan will I am sure have a positive effect on the fabric of Swords- its streets, buildings and places but also will have a positive effect on our citizens well-being and quality of life for them and their communities.

Paul Reid
Chief Executive
Fingal County Council

Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall
Fingal County Council



Paul Reid Chief Executive Fingal County Council

Executive Summary

BY REDDY ARCHITECTURE + URBANISM

Fingal County Council's Strategic Vision for Swords is to create a sustainable new city. With a population of circa 40,000, Swords is an "emerging city" and the seventh largest urban area in the country, and the second largest in County Dublin.

Since the mid-1990s Swords has seen improvements in shop fronts, public buildings and footpaths and the restoration of Swords Castle but in that period has also faced severe challenges to its further development as a successful county town. Fingal County Council identified the requirement for an Architectural Masterplan for Swords Castle and Lands as the next logical step in the vision for the emerging urban development of Swords.

Following an extensive and involved consultation process between Fingal Co Council and the people of Swords, a clear indication of the needs and opinions of the residents, retailers and other stakeholders coalesced in a series of issues and challenges. In conjunction with the Architects Department of Fingal County Council, Reddy Architecture and Urbanism have prepared this masterplan for Swords Castle and Lands as the canvas upon which the future of the town will be expressed.

This master-plan for the Swords Castle Lands is a road map for further improvements and opportunities for strategic physical improvements

It is a guide for the people of Swords and Fingal County Council to take advantage of existing natural resources of their lands, infrastructure and heritage to create outstanding and sustainable civic and cultural spaces. It is a vision statement for the people of Swords.

reddy architecture+urbanism

SWORDS CASTLE MASTERPLAN
PUBLICATION DATE: April 2015

Acknowledgements

Fingal County Council would like to acknowledge and thank all who participated in the preparation of this plan. The cross departmental input and assistance of Fingal County Council officers and staff is also gratefully acknowledged.

Contributors:

Cllr. Eugene Coppinger
Cllr. Philip Lynam
Cllr. Joe Newman
Cllr. Justin Sinnott
Cllr Adrian Henchy;
Cllr Anne Devitt
Cllr Paul Mulville
Cllr Duncan Smith;
Rosie McInerney
Bernadette Marks
Michael Daly
Brid Walsh
Niamh Tierney
Richie McNamera
Lorraine Heskin
Linda Callan
Brian Foley
Nicolle O'Reilly
John Moore
John Hennessy
Tidy Towns
Conor Blunbell
Tony Lambert
Terry Webb
Joan Carron
Thomas McCann
Denis Markey
Myler Caulfield
Inge Commissaris
Declan Gorman
Pat Gilna
Robert O'Sullivan
Grainne Tynan
Brian Gallagher
Robbie Burns
Lorraine Sutton
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Swords Heritage
Roise McNerney
Ciaran Judge
Niall Crimmins
Robbie Masterson
Noirin Burke
Neal Morrison
Noel Smyth
Alan Redmond
Michael Wright
Paul Reddy
Jerry Harrington
Rosie McNerney
Omar Perrozzi
John Hennessy
Lucia O'Riordan
Niamh Tracey
Michael Daly
County Leader
Paradise Nails
Sean Farrell
Michael Killeen
Niamh Kelly
Padraig Linders
Nathan MacDonnell
Marie Hughes
Joe Cummins
Eimear Tynan

Should your name not have been included in the above list Fingal County Council wishes to express its gratitude to you for your contribution with the development of this Masterplan for Swords Castle and Lands.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 - ABOUT THE MASTERPLAN
1.2 - CONSULTATION PROCESS

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Swords has an important and significant heritage town centre with many civic and cultural landmarks including, the castle, the courthouse, the civic offices and the river valley park.

1.1 ABOUT THE MASTERPLAN

This plan seeks to energise the layout potential of the existing town centre by focusing on the castle environs as a new cultural hub. This area can instill and foster a sense of place and civic pride and also act as a counterpoint to the shopping and business areas of the town- the study area is outlined in red on the adjacent map.



Swords Castle



Fingal County Hall



Swords Castle Masterplan outlined/shaded in red

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Swords Castle lands and town centre are a place of cultural significance - the recent castle excavations indicate a past rich in heritage and value. The Swords Castle focussed Masterplan respects the long-term strategic objectives of Fingal County Council as they relate to Swords, but more critically recognise the requirement to seek out a new direction for this part of Swords and to facilitate the delivery of a new social and cultural destination centred around Swords Castle and linking back to the retail heart of the town. The "Pavilions" commercial development has created a centre of gravity which requires counterbalancing and a re-imagining of the town centre of Swords.

1.2 CONSULTATION

Consultation with Swords community and Swords environs stakeholders was the genesis for many of the principles and ideas of this plan. The engagement informed and centralised the challenges and opportunities facing the people of Swords, allowing a shared vision which road mapped this plan's evolution and guided its conclusions.

We heard through the consultation process:

- Strong community spirit and pride in Swords
- Issues with traffic and pedestrian movement
- Poor use of park due to concerns with safety
- Poor links / access to the castle
- Pavilions has a "*draw*" affecting town center business
- Lack of a "*hub*" or place for the people
- Community needs - hall, performance, multi- purpose space
- Under use/connections to river



Swords town uses

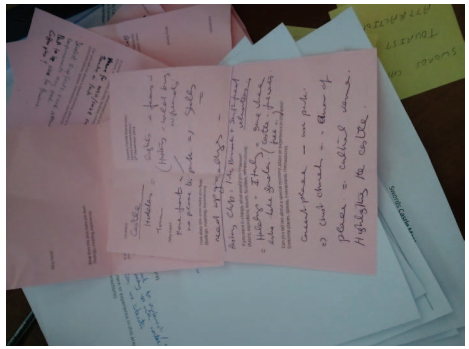
1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.2.1 CONSULTATION

Public consultations were advertised on the Fingal County Council Facebook page. This process began with 'Swords Street Conversations' on Monday 8th December 2014. The people of Swords were invited visa Facebook to come to the area outside County Hall in the town, have a conversation and fill out a short questionnaire. This information was analysed and revealed many issues of concern, visions, insights and opportunities facing the Swords people.



Swords Street Conversations



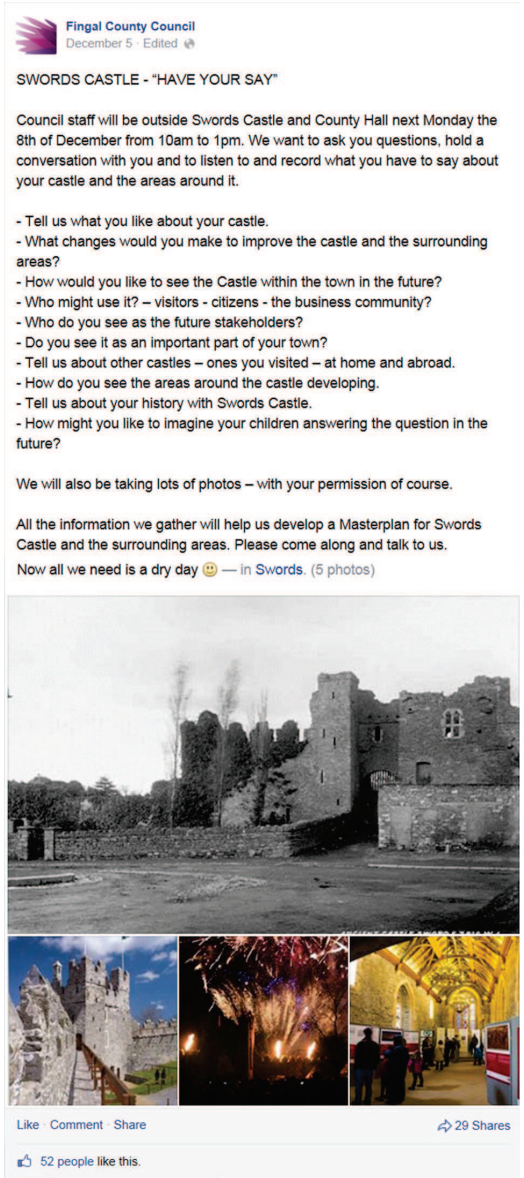
Swords Street Conversations



Swords Street Conversations



Swords Street Conversations



Extract from FCC Facebook Page

1.2.2 CONSULTATION

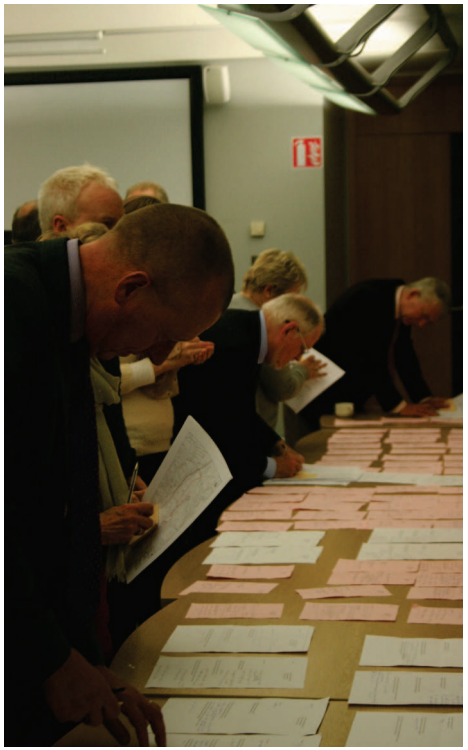
A follow on consultation meeting with stakeholders took place in Fingal County Hall on Monday 15th December 2014 from 5:30 to 7pm. The information gathered from the street conversation was used to start the dialogue between the stakeholders. The group looked for commonalities across the data collected and used them to develop potential actions for the study area. This meeting was attended by a number of stakeholders i.e interested landowners, members of the public and Swords business leaders.



Swords Stakeholder Meeting



Swords Stakeholder Meeting



Swords Stakeholder Meeting



Extract from FCC Facebook Page

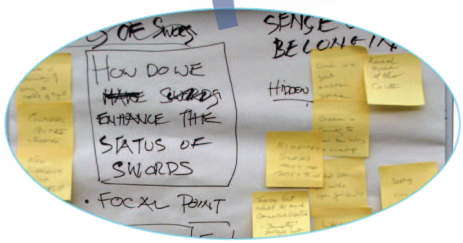
1.2.3 CONSULTATION

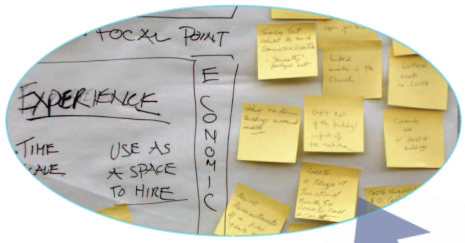
Both the ‘Swords Street Conversations‘ and ‘Stakeholders meetings’ were the source of many observations, suggestions and concerns facing the people of Swords. This information, feeding into this Masterplan creates an overall vision to allow the town and people of Swords to take back ownership of Swords Castle.

What we heard from the people of Swords:

- Make the Castle a focal point of Swords
- A reason to go to Swords Castle
- Open Swords Castle to the public
- Create public events in the Castle
- Remove the old derelict buildings at the Castle
- Signage for the Park and Castle
- Landscaping to the Castle and Park
- Light the Castle, entrance route and church
- Use Swords Castle as a generator of tourism
- Security, safety, passive surveillance to the park
- Create passive interest in the Castle events
- Brian Boru event was fantastic











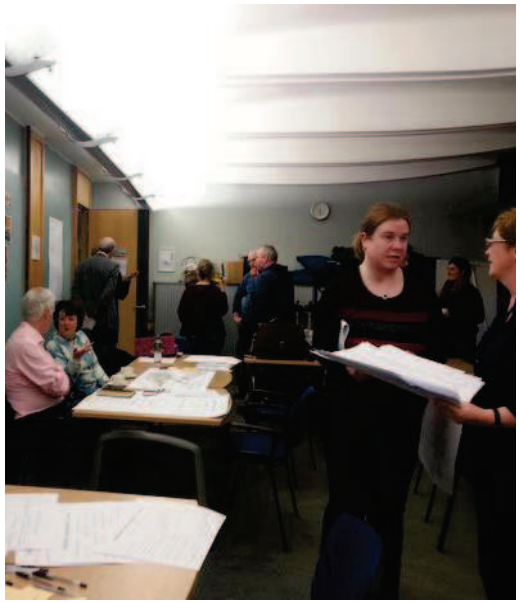
1.2.4 CONSULTATION

An Artists Workshop was held in order to create an opportunity for artist groups and those involved in the creative industries to discuss their visions and concerns for Swords. The information gathered to date and a video of potential proposals started the discussion on how to develop ways in which new buildings could be used to create passive interest and bring permeability to the street edge. These spaces would perform a community function which would attract both members of the public and tourists to the Castle environs.

What we heard from the Artists Workshop:

- Multi-disciplinary spaces in proposed buildings to North St.
- Workshop Room - free or low cost classes for teenagers for art - Parent & Baby classes - space for elderly
- Private studio spaces - Sound proof studios below ground
- Visual artists studio
- Sculpture garden walk - Definite outdoor area for live music - Raised mounds as amphitheatres large and small, Street art
- Heritage - Tourism - Art, all co-existing
- Private artist spaces behind public spaces-gallery, theatre
- Craft Shop - Farmers Market - Centre for Ethnic Groups
- Small indoor performing arts space -drama -dance -hybrid visual performance
- Park yoga -Cycle routes -Walking trail -Public seating -Summer festival -Live performances to see castle come alive - Outdoor film - Little wins
- Move library closer to Swords Castle





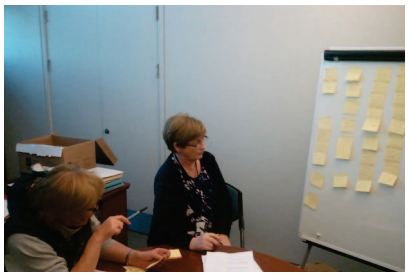


Swords Artists Workshop

Process Map



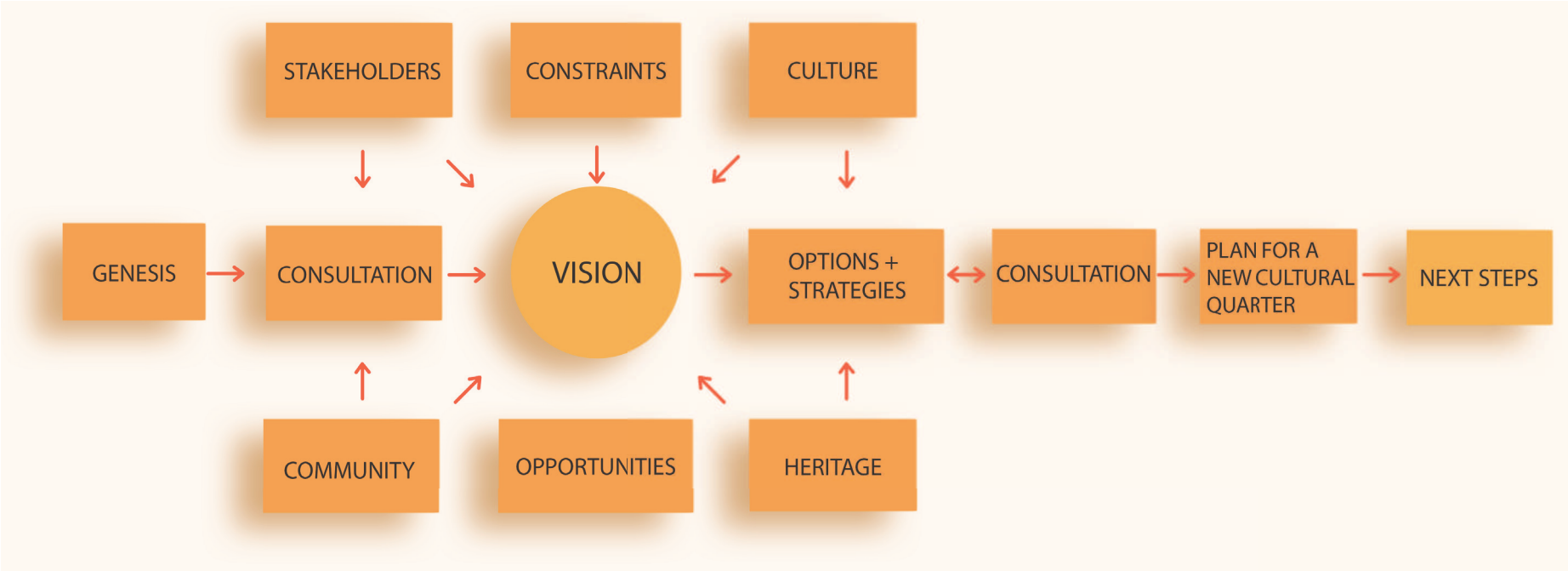
Collaborative Design



Collaborative Consultation



Collaborative Discussion



MASTERPLAN EVOLUTION PROCESS

1.2.5 ISSUES ARISING FROM THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

- Traffic and car parking in the main street dominate the town centre and public realm
- There are safety issues associated with crossing at the junction of Main Street with North Street and Bridge Street
- Street Furniture, bins, seating, trees etc, are inconsistent and of poor quality for a county town
- Main Street lacks civic quality
- Public Realm outside the Castle is poorly defined, with a lack of coherence and car dominated
- Lack of connectivity between the Castle Building, its history and the residents of Swords
- The Park is a “hidden gem“ in the town, tennis courts should be kept but are hidden.
- There is no social space associated with the Castle and the Park
- Lack of a meaningful town centre space, with “speakers corner“ or “Hub“ type space, an active, flexible use space for multi-function use
- There is a lack of connection between the River and the park
- The castle fails to declare its presence in the Town and its potential for promoting the town is not realised. There is also a lack of public access.
- The buildings on North Street in front of the Castle offer no active frontage or engagement with the Street or the Castle, they are mostly unused.
- The site opposite the castle and Fingal County Council (Currently car parking) is under utilized and a missed opportunity for a civic/public building to compliment the Castle / FCC Offices
- Too many empty shop units in town centre



Pedestrian Crossing - Bridge Street



Public Realm- Lack of meaningful town centre space



Castle Park - Boulevard



Swords Castle

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Overall Design Strategy

Stage 1

- Events at the Castle
- Passive Interest
- Focal point



Swords Street Conversations:

We established visions, concerns, ambitions and opportunities from the people of Swords

Stage 2



Stakeholders Meeting No.1:

Landowners, members of the public and business leaders came together to discuss their visions and concerns creating discussion groups. Incorporate and discuss all views to inform the overall vision for the Masterplan.

- Generate Tourism
- Civic Spaces
- Community Use
- Public Plaza
- Reveal the Castle

Stage 3



Stakeholders Meeting No.2:

Further discussion between business leaders and members of the public. Group discussions solidifying the overall vision of the Masterplan.

- Move Playground Closer
- Coach Parking - Park
- Way Finding
- Interpretive Centre
- External Performances
- Revitalise River Walk
- Interact River with Park
- Pedestrian Link for Footfall of Pavilions SC to Castle

Stage 4



Presentation to the Councillors

The Masterplan was presented and discussed briefly at the Councillor Meeting showing 3D Views and a 3D walkthrough demonstrating the main concepts of the Masterplan

- Positive for Existing Community
- Phased Delivery is Important
- Uniting Councillors - Positivity
- Concerts - Public Events
- Consider Water Feature Safety
- Coach and Car Parking

Stage 5



Meeting with Artists

This workshop created a great opportunity for artist groups to discuss their visions and concerns for Swords

- Multi-disciplinary spaces
- Private studio spaces
- Visual artist studio
- Performing arts space
- Workshop room

Stage 6



Final Swords Castle Cultural Quarter Masterplan presented to Fingal County Council members

2.0 SWORDS TODAY

2.1 - SWORDS - WORKING PLACES
2.2 - SWORDS - LIVING PLACES
2.3 - SWORDS - LEARNING PLACES
2.4 - SWORDS - SPECIAL PLACES

2.0 SWORDS TODAY

Swords today with its working places-retail, civic and industrial along with Heritage places and its network of streets, is the foundation and platform upon which cultural opportunities will be forged.

2.1 SWORDS - WORKING PLACES

RETAIL

Main St, North St., adjoining streets & The Pavilions

CIVIC

Swords Fingal County Council Offices & Courthouse

INDUSTRY/OFFICES

Balheary industrial park, BMS Campus and Barrysparks office park



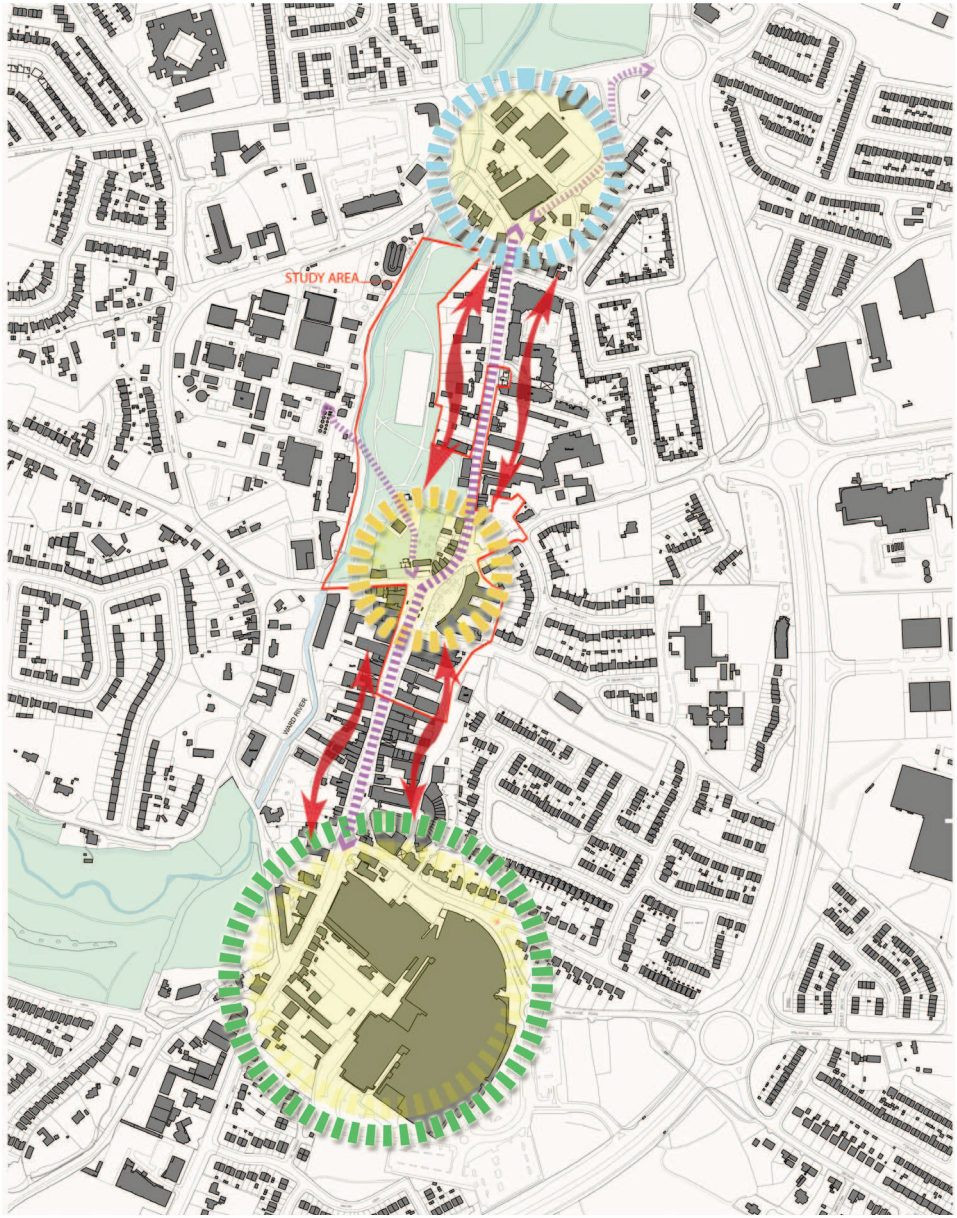
Pavilion Shopping Center



Fingal Civic Offices



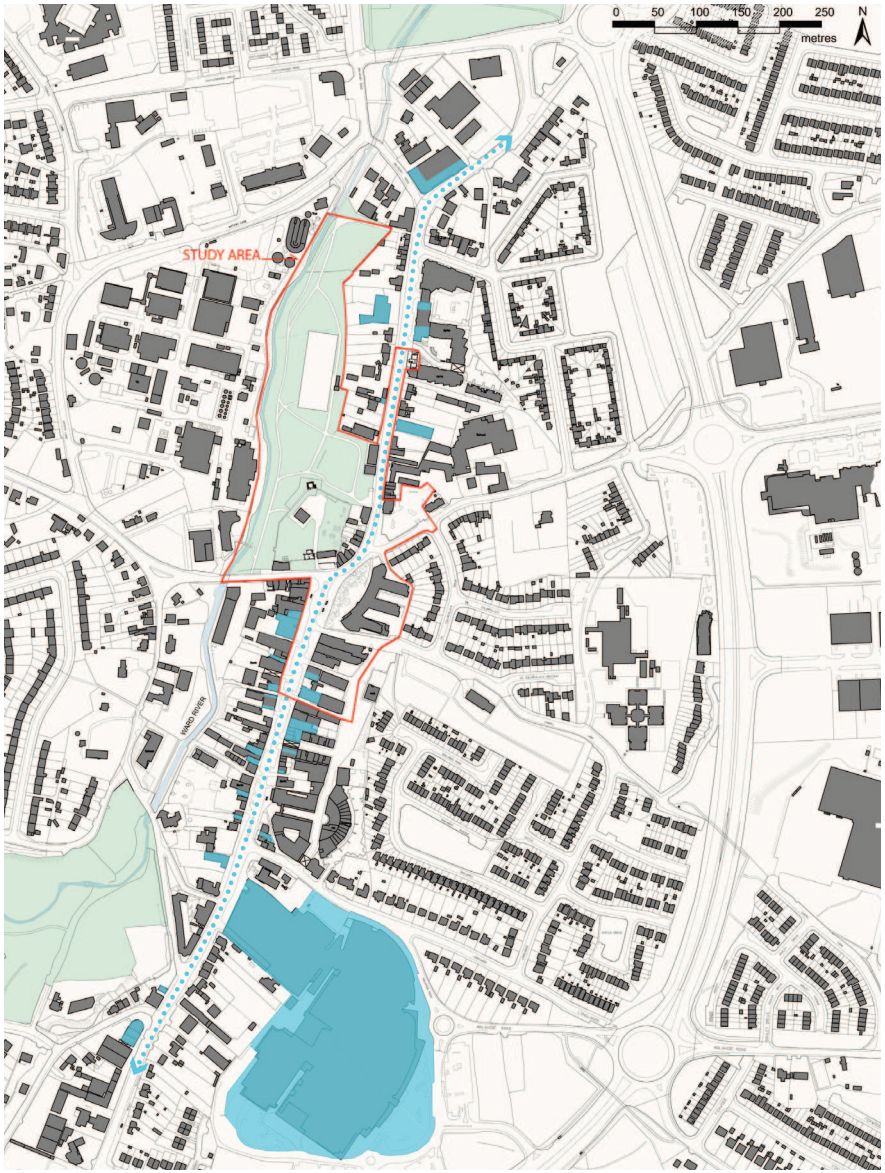
Swords Business Park



Swords working places

RETAIL

Main Street, North Street & Pavilions Shopping Center



CIVIC

Swords Fingal County Council Offices & Courthouse





Siemens - Swords



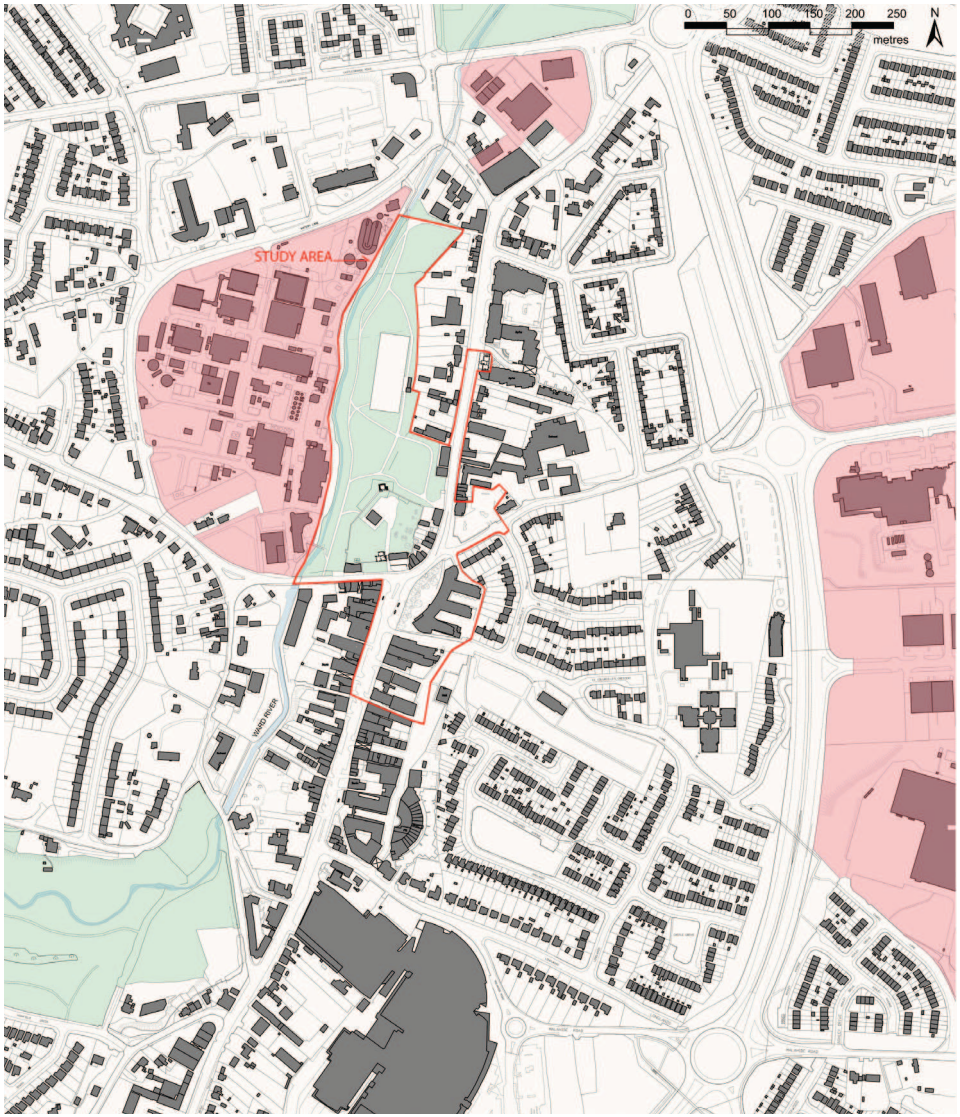
Bristol Myers Squib - Swords



Balheary Industrial Park - Swords

INDUSTRY

Industrial Parks; Balheary Industrial Park
BMS Campus
Barrysparks offics park



Swords Castle and Lands, Architectural Masterplan 2015

2.2 SWORDS LIVING PLACES

Swords is the county town for Fingal with a strong central and proximate located core. The core community which comprises the Swords town people are drawn from areas both within and external to the town boundary.



Homes For The Community



Swords Public Amenities

LIVING PLACES

Residential Areas



SWORDS LIVING PLACES

2.3 SWORDS - LEARNING PLACES

EDUCATION

COMMUNITY COLLEGES

- PRIMARY SCHOOLS
- SECONDARY SCHOOLS



St Finians Community College



SWORDS LEARNING PLACES

2.3 SWORDS - LEARNING PLACES

SCHOOLS

- St Finians Community College
- Fingal Community College
- Saint Colmcilles NS
- Colaiste Choilm CBS



Colaiste Choilm CBS

St Finians Community College

10 minute walk to Swords Castle

Fingal Community College

2 minute walk to Swords Castle

Saint Colmcilles NS

4 minute walk to Swords Castle

Colaiste Choilm CBS

9 minute walk to Swords Castle



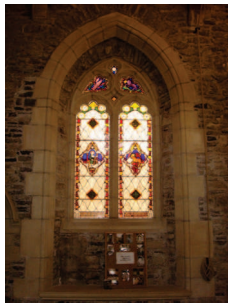
SWORDS LEARNING PLACES

2.4 SWORDS SPECIAL PLACES

1. CASTLE
2. PARK
3. COURTHOUSE
4. LIBRARY
5. MAIN STREET
6. WARD RIVER
7. WARD RIVER VALLEY PARK
8. ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH
9. ST COLMCILLE'S CHURCH



Swords Main St



Swords Castle



Protected Library



SWORDS SPECIAL PLACES

2.4 SWORDS SPECIAL PLACES - HISTORICAL

1.- ST. COLMCILLE'S WELL

2.- ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH

3.- THE OLD VICARAGE

4.- BRIDGE STREET

5.- SWORDS CASTLE

6.- COUNTY HALL (AND SITE OF SWORDS HOUSE)

7.- ST COLMCILLE'S CHURCH

8.- MAIN STREET

9.- OLD BOROUGH SCHOOL



SWORDS HISTORIC PLACES

3.0 OPPORTUNITIES FOR SWORDS

3.1 - ISSUES ARISING FROM THE CONSULTATION PROCESS
3.2 - THE CASTLE AND ENVIRONS
3.3 - MASTERPLAN CHALLENGES
3.4 - THE CASTLE AND STREETS
3.5 - THE MAIN STREET
3.6 - THE PUBLIC PARK AND CAR PARKING
3.7 - THE CASTLE CULTURAL QUARTER

3.1 ISSUES ARISING FROM THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

- Traffic and car parking in Main Street dominate the town centre and public realm
- There are safety issues associated with crossing at the junction of Main Street, North Street and Bridge Street
- Street furniture, bins, seating, trees etc are inconsistent and of poor quality for a county town
- Main Street lacks civic quality
- Public Realm outside the Castle is poorly defined, with a lack of coherence and car dominated
- Lack of connectivity between the Castle Building, its history and the residents of Swords
- The Park is a “hidden gem“ in the town
- There is no social space associated with the Castle and the Park
- Lack of a meaningful town centre space, with “speaker’s corner“ or “Hub“ type space, an active, flexible use space for multi-function use
- There is a lack of connection between the river and the park
- The castle fails to declare its presence in the town and its potential for promoting the town is not realised.
- The buildings on North Street in front of the Castle offer no active frontage or engagement with the Street or the Castle, they are mostly unused.
- The site opposite the castle and Fingal County Council (Currently car parking) is under utilized and a missed opportunity for a civic/public building to compliment the Castle / Fingal County Council County Hall



Castle Park - Pedestrian Bridge



Public Realm- Lack of meaningful town centre space

It became obvious that there were several recurring themes in relation to the Swords Castle Lands that are associated with the lack of connection between the various strands of public buildings, quality of public realm and pedestrian experience. These issues regarding the Swords Castle Lands can be summarised in the following series of challenges.



Castle Park - Boulevard



Swords Castle

THE CASTLE AND ENVIRONS

The Castle and its immediate lands hold a special place centrally located in the town but generally bypassed and inaccessible. The Castle acts as an almost invisible backdrop to its adjoining streets, park and day to day town life – A sleeping giant in the heart of the town.



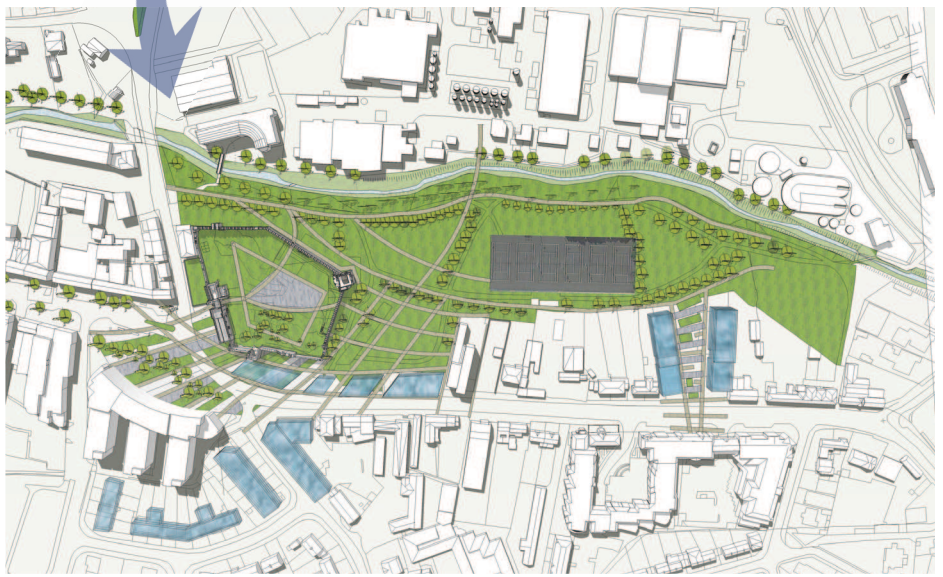
Swords Brian Boru Day - Castle Backdrop



Swords Castle



EXISTING



PROPOSED

3.3 MASTERPLAN CHALLENGES

THE CASTLE:

- An under utilized civic resource, with enormous heritage value and significance
- A potential focus and branding “icon“ opportunity for the town and its businesses, tourism and local historical identity

THE STREETS:

- The poor quality of the experience of Main Street including finishes, pedestrian spaces, landscaping, materials and interface with its buildings
- Effects of the car on the street in terms of movement, safety, noise, parking and restriction on connectivity
- A varied and mixed assortment of smaller spaces and immediate pavement spaces for buildings with no real singular civic space or vision for a town centre focal point
- No coherent traffic movement plan for Swords, resulting in a busy Main Street and dangerous junctions, lack of pedestrian crossings, unpleasant footpaths and public space



View From Main Street Looking North To Swords Castle



View From Main Street - Looking North



View From Bridge Street - Looking North

3.3 MASTERPLAN CHALLENGES

NORTH STREET STREETSCAPE:

- Series of buildings infront of the Castle that developed organically as street edges now fail to provide a high standard visually due to vacancy
- Traffic and lack of pedestrian footfall tends to isolate these buildings from the rest of the adjoining streets.

THE PARK:

- An amenity located at the 'heart' of the town that is under utilized due to its hidden and limited access.
- An open space which does not feature a sufficient sign post, draw or attraction within its grounds
- A feeling of lack of safety due to absence of passive supervision

CAR PARKING:

- Lack of sustainable car parking solution for the town centre resulting in a proliferation of unauthorised car parking on the side streets.
- The layout of the echelon car parking on the Main Street adds to congestion.



Castle Park



Castle Park - Playground



Derelict Buildings on North Street



Derelict Buildings on North Street



Car Parking on Main Street

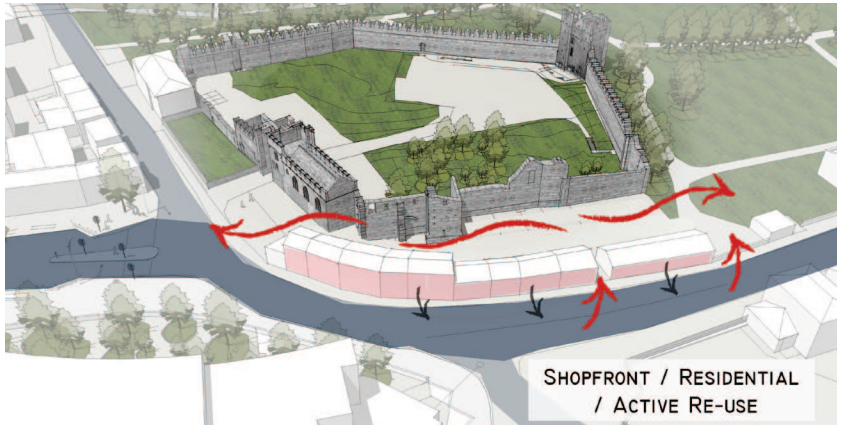
3.4 THE CASTLE AND STREETS

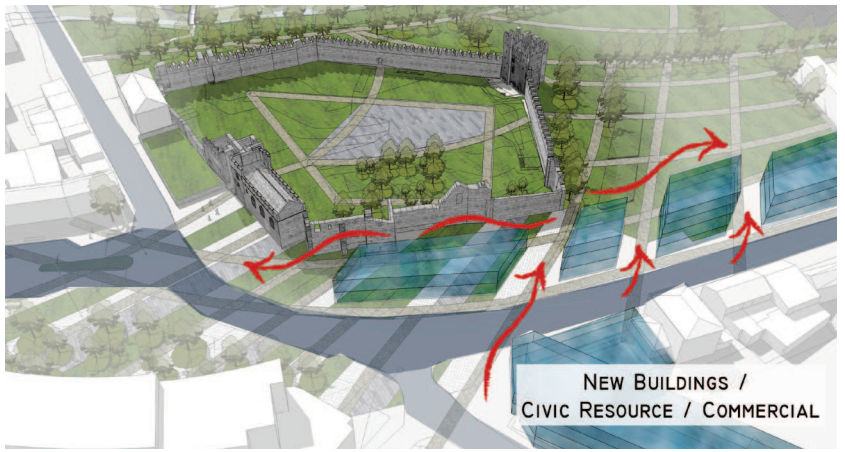
CHALLENGES:

- An under utilized civic resource, with enormous heritage value and significance
- A potential to improve it as a backdrop and branding “icon“ opportunity for the town and its business, tourism and local historical identity and local community use.
- Series of buildings in front of the Castle and opposite Main Street fail to provide any attraction/draw due to dereliction/own door use. The most southerly of them tend to block the view of the Castle

SOLUTIONS:

- Reinvent the buildings located on North Street which back onto the Castle, removing the rear yards and utilizing the original building footprints as dual aspect building forms which could house suitable retail/cultural/ civic use at ground and residential use above
- Introduce high quality public realm finishes into the square environs, the spaces now created between the Castle and the building opposite and the Castle and the park, to create hard-standing areas and appropriate interventions; seating, lighting, play areas, performance spaces and usable public realm
- Ground floor Uses would benefit from extensive glazing allowing for visual connections through the buildings, to the Castle walls and parklands beyond. Residential use above would allow passive overlooking of the park and castle lands after working hours
- Ensure new buildings reinforce North Street’s ‘Urban Edge’ and create openings between the buildings to open up vistas into the castle and parkland, and encourage pedestrian access through to the park







Swords Castle



Public Realm - Derry - High Quality Finishes

3.5 THE MAIN STREET

CHALLENGES:

- Quality of finishes, materials, pedestrian space, landscaping/trees, lighting and signage
- A varied and mixed assortment of smaller spaces and immediate pavement spaces for buildings with no real singular civic space, focal point or vision for a town centre heart



Public Realm - Derry



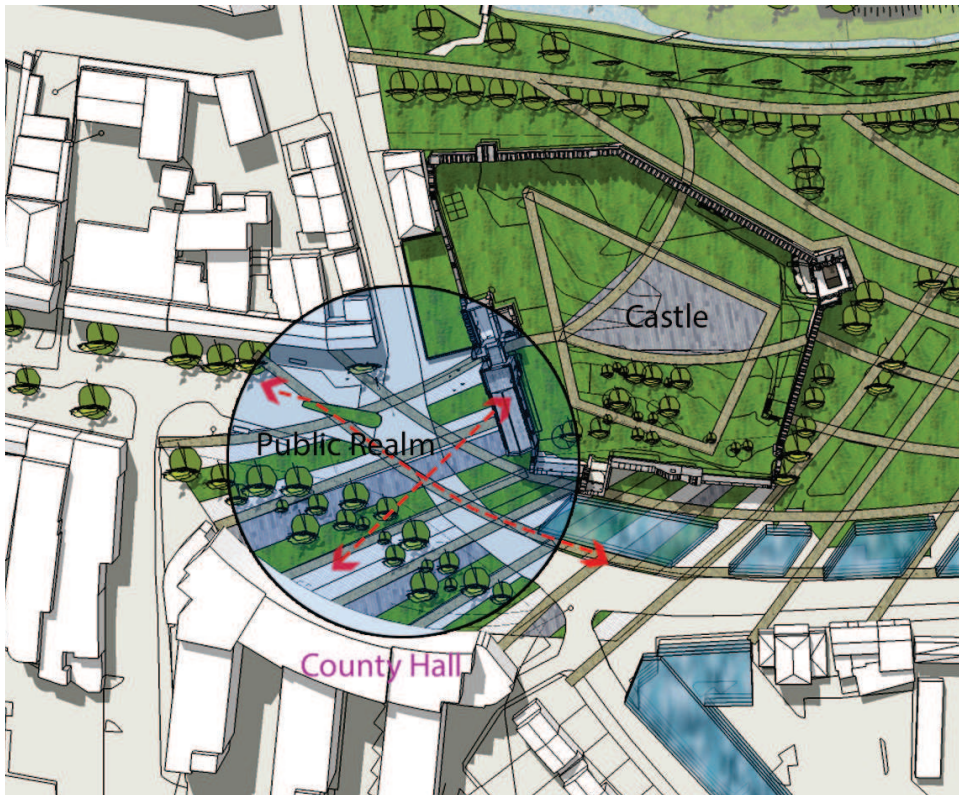
Public Realm - Newry



Public Realm - Dundalk

SOLUTIONS:

- Upgrade the Public Realm finishes to the Main Street, North Street, Bridge Street and the areas immediately in the vicinity of the Castle
- Include the landscaping, public space and large mature trees in front of the Fingal County Council Offices to bring a level of coherence to the civic space
- This will link the civic spaces in front of the Castle and the County Hall by removing the boundary fencing and gates, unifying the space. Provide raised planters around the existing trees to deal with the change in level, thereby creating seating opportunities



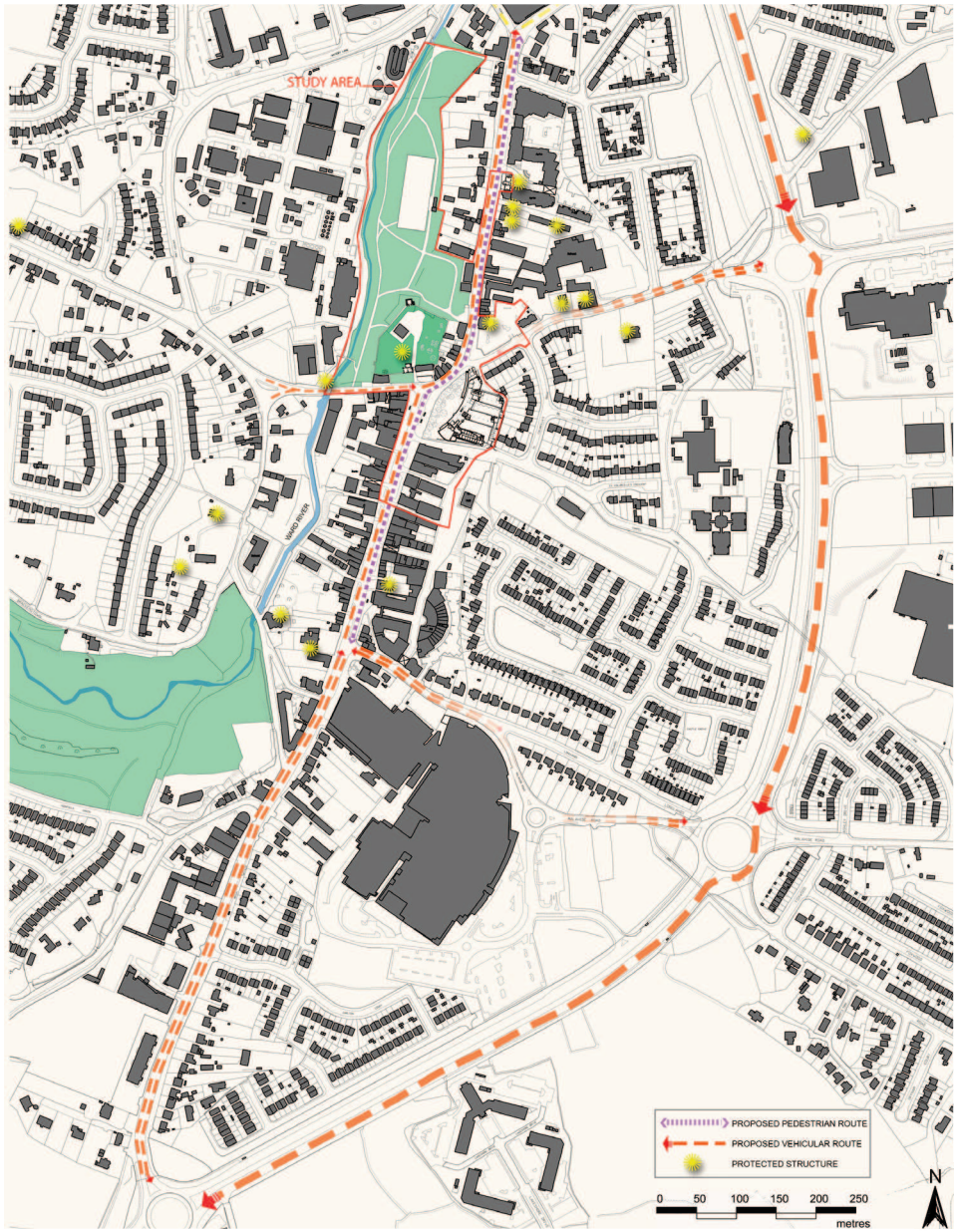
3.5 THE MAIN STREET

CHALLENGES:

- Effects of the car on the street in terms of movement, safety, noise, parking and restriction on connectivity
- No coherent traffic movement plan for Swords, resulting in a busy main street and dangerous junctions, pedestrian crossing points, unpleasant footpaths and public space

SOLUTIONS:

- Introduce traffic calming measures and convert Main Street to one way traffic creating more space for the pedestrian to enjoy the experience of the street
- Re-orientate car parking on the street, with a shared surface strategy for the now increased public realm and potential reduced road widths. This proposal will require further specific consultation with all stakeholders.



Potential traffic calming and one way system

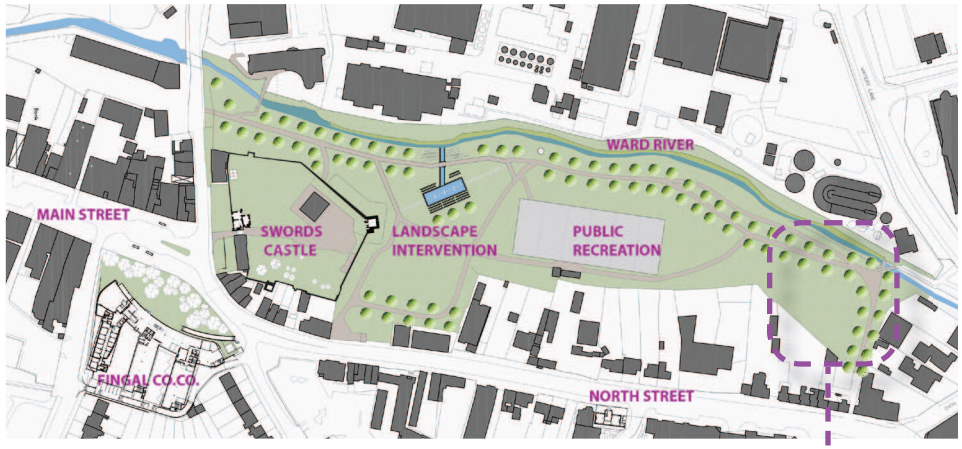
3.6 THE PUBLIC PARK & CAR PARKING

CHALLENGES:

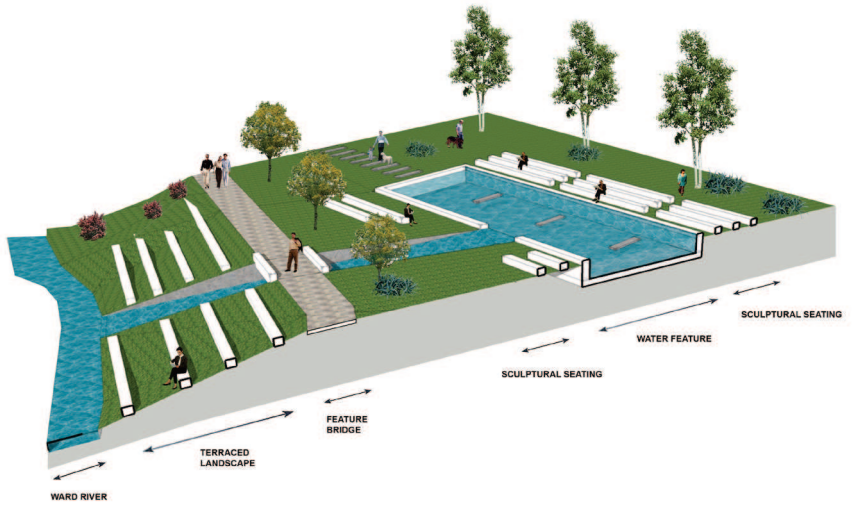
- An amenity located at the 'heart' of the town that is under utilized due to its lack of visual connection to the town and limited access points
- An open space which does not feature as a sufficient attraction for the general public to visit
- Lack of a sustainable car parking solution for the town centre resulting in a proliferation of unauthorised car parking on the streets.

SOLUTIONS:

- Promote the park with the Castle in a reinvention of the public realm, with suitable hard-standing seating areas, landscaped pathways and a water feature
- The relocation or addition of another playground for selected age groups with visual connection to the buildings on North Street could animate the area around the castle for parents and children
- Promote and invest in suitable and sustainable uses for the ground floors of the reinvented buildings on North Street to include cafe, break out spaces with casual/easy seating, multi- use space which can cater for markets, civic uses, artist studios, exhibition spaces, local group spaces for hire, spaces to exhibit the history of Swords and its people etc, with an external "spill out" space with the castle as a backdrop
- Re-introduce the river into the park with terracing works to the river bank, creating a sustainable riverside walk that can extend through the town, allowing seating and active use by all age groups and as a leisure amenity
- Provide a hard-standing area for car parking at the end of the park to allow visitors "park and stride" through the park into the town, thus ensuring footfall and continuous access for the public to the park

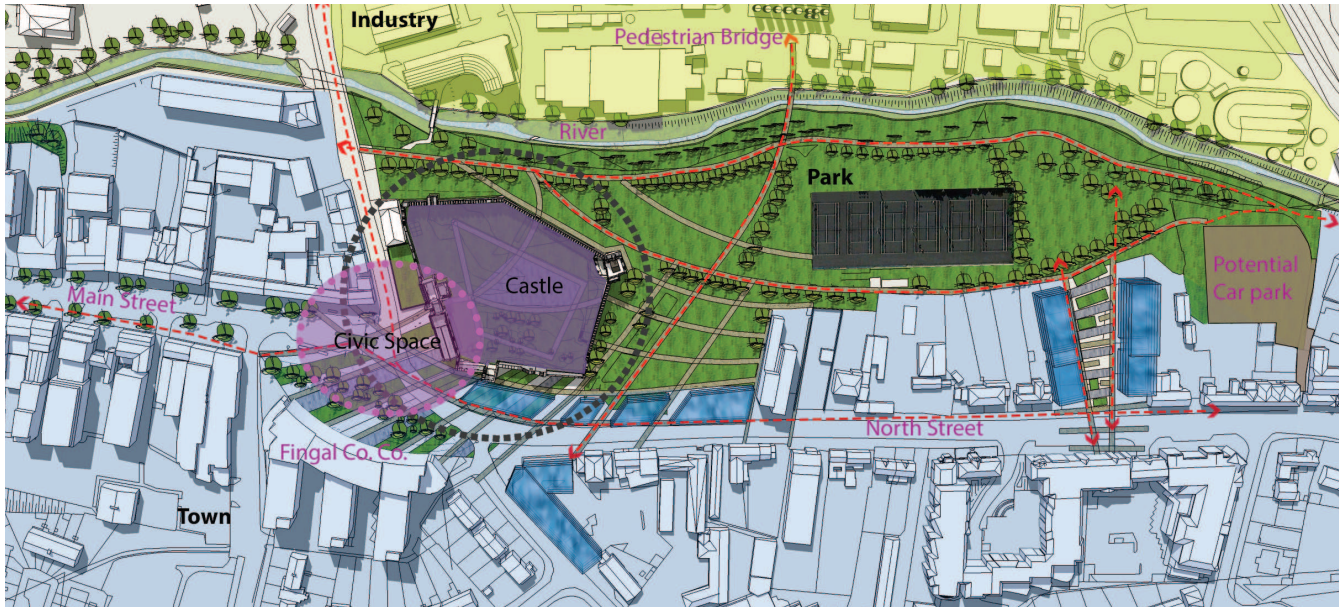


Castle Park - Proposed Landscape Design



Castle Park - Proposed Water Intervention to link to river and animate park

3.7 THE CASTLE CULTURAL QUARTER

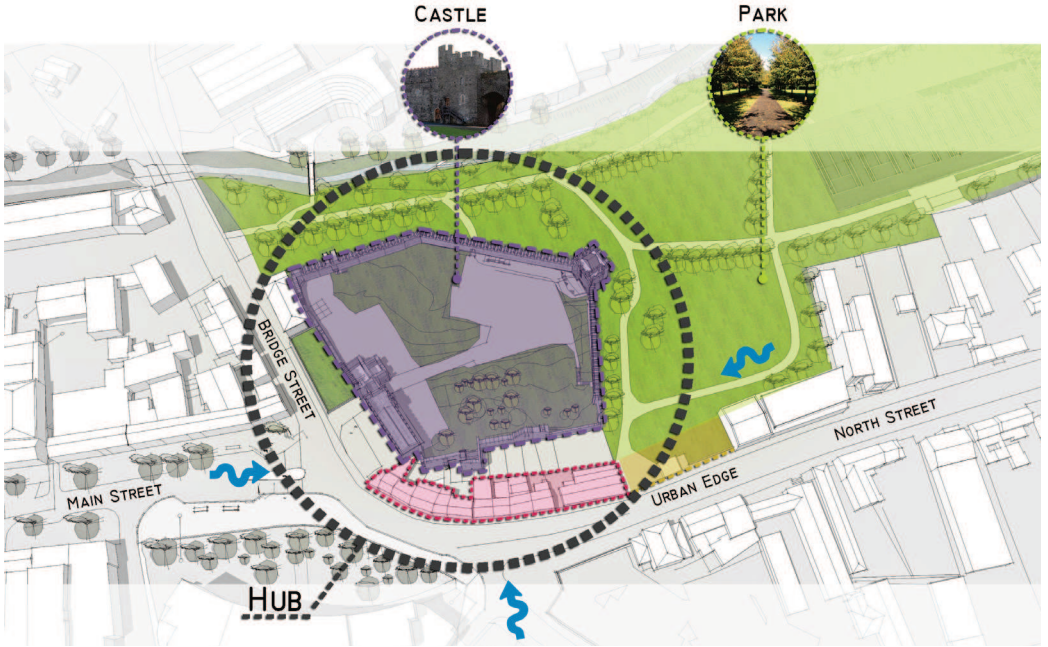


Public Realm - Cultural Quarter

Due to its central and highly accessible location, it was considered appropriate to locate a "hub" of cultural/commercial uses in this locaton which could pay host to events, exhibits, café, meeting places and perhaps performance space. It was also noted that upper floors would be ideal for residential use to provide a new vibrancy and activity to the area. The language developed here will act as a catalyst for future architectural interventions.

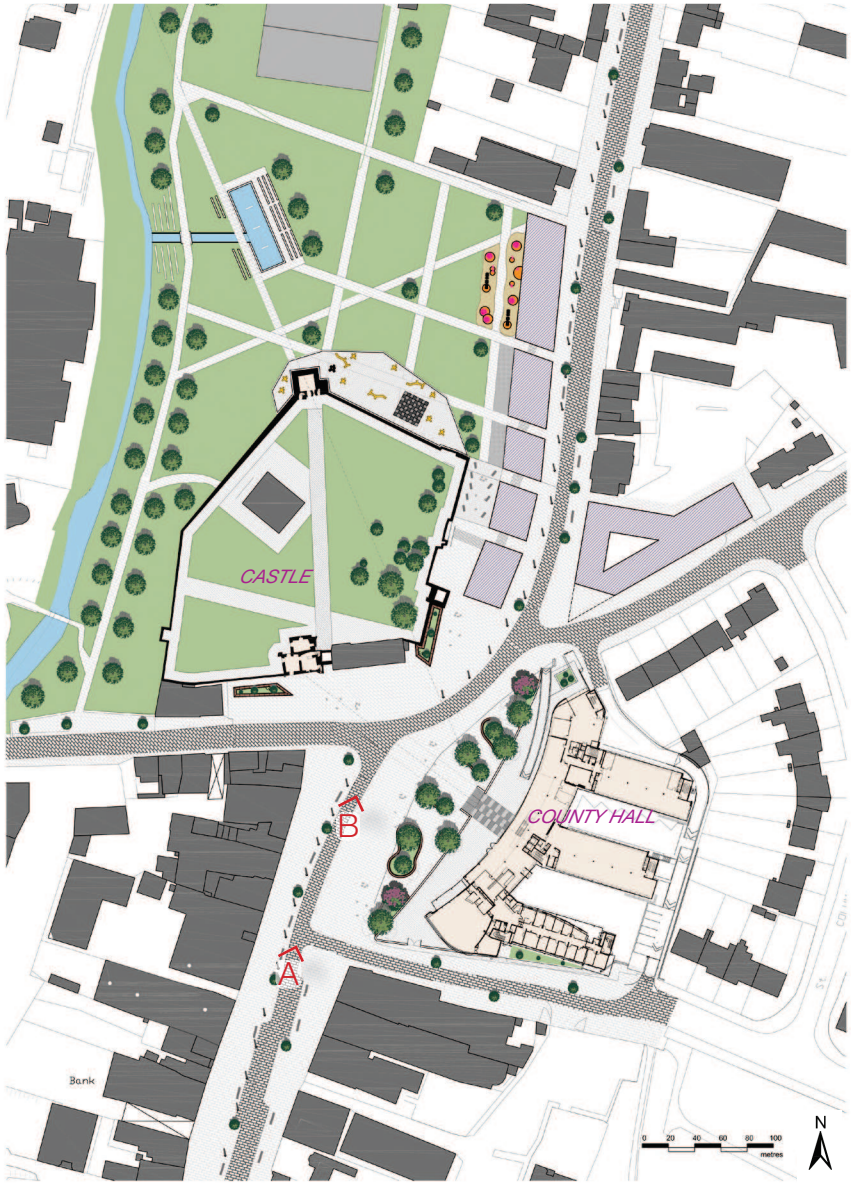
Opportunities to re-use urban edge as uses which provide community gain - "hub"

A review of the castle environs in the project analysis quickly established an opportunity to improve the castle's immediate relationship to the 2 storey buildings on the North Street Urban edge. The derelict buildings present little commercial benefit and are an impediment to both visual and physical access to the castle walls from the South. The buildings also occupy a strategic location, which has good frontage to the street and the civic structures of the Courthouse and the Fingal County Council Offices. It is considered important to protect the strong urban edge of the streetscape and retain the form and immediate footprint of the structures but to re energize the site with a viable use which relates to its context and the emerging civic space at the centre of the town.

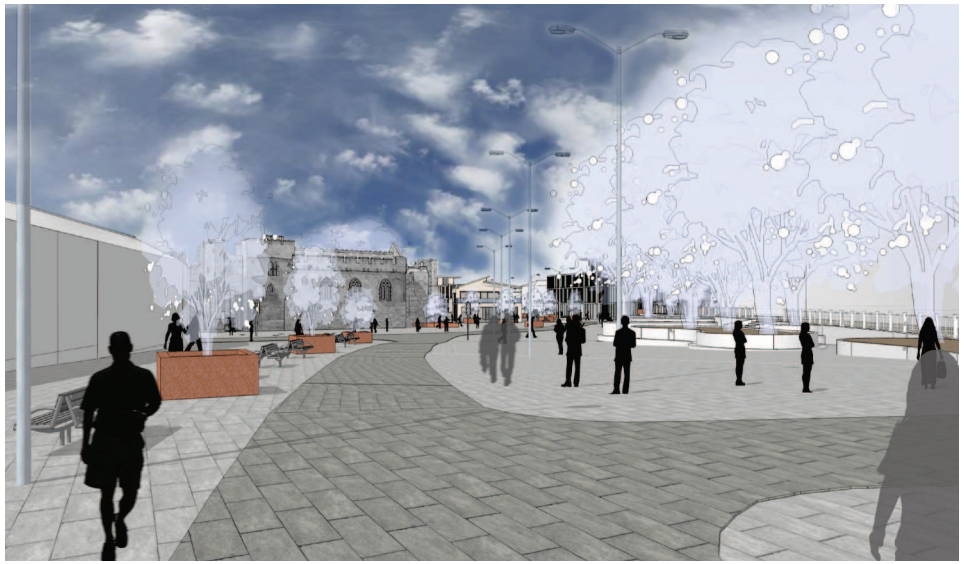


3.7 THE CASTLE CULTURAL QUARTER

3D Views

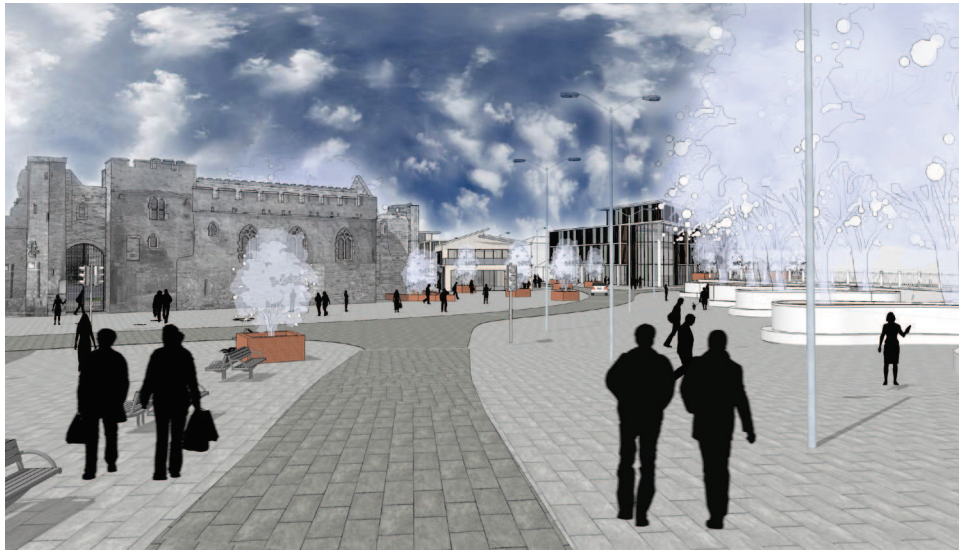


Public Realm - Design of Public Spaces



View A_Castle Plaza

Introduce traffic calming and introduce one-way traffic to Main Street improving the spatial quality for the pedestrian



View B_Castle Plaza

Upgrade the public realm finishes to the Main Street, North Street, Bridge Street and the areas immediately in the vicinity of the Castle.

3.7 THE CASTLE CULTURAL QUARTER

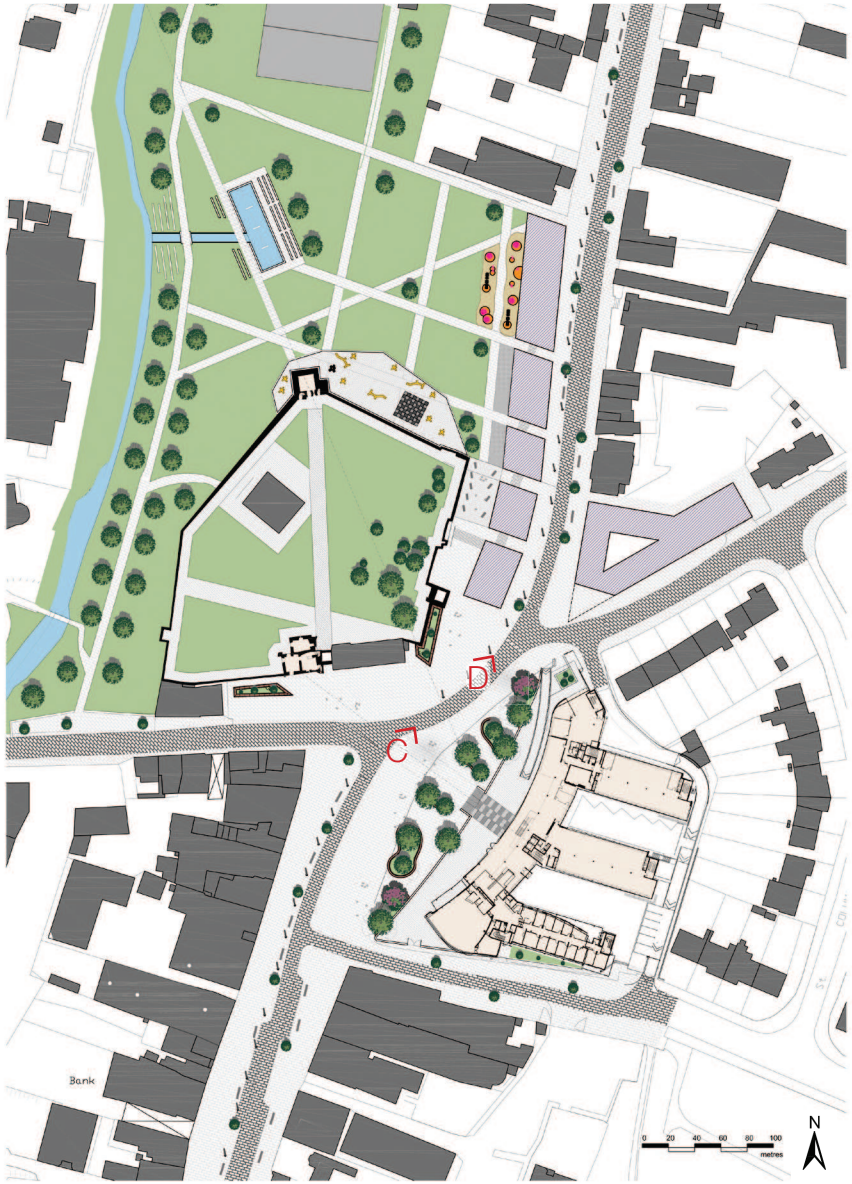
Castle Quarter



Aerial View From SE

3.7 THE CASTLE CULTURAL QUARTER

Castle Quarter



Public Realm - Design of Public Spaces



View C_Proposed Castle Plaza

Include the landscaping, public space and large mature trees in front of the Fingal County Council Offices to bring a higher level of coherence to the space.

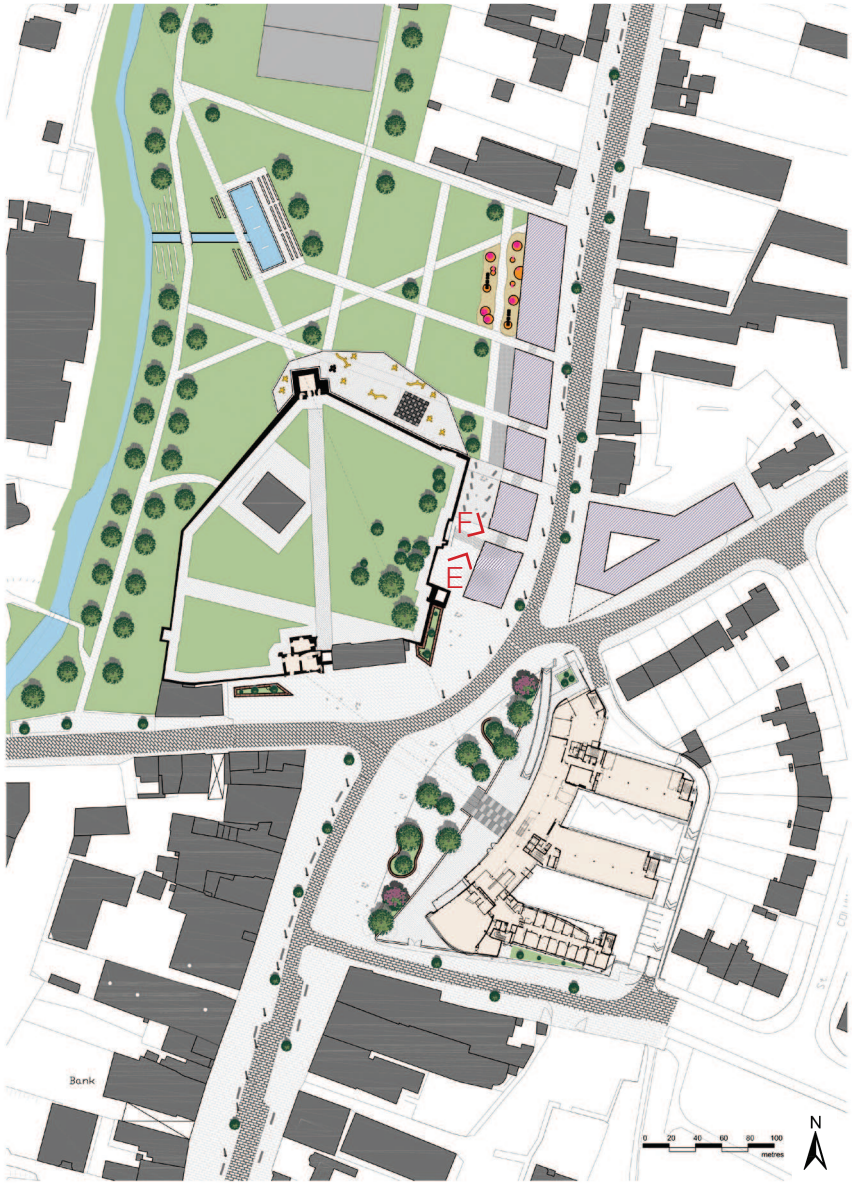


View D_New Civic Building

Linking of the main civic spaces about the Castle by removing FCC boundary fencing and gates, unifying the space and providing raised planters around the trees.

3.7 THE CASTLE CULTURAL QUARTER

3D Views



Public Realm - Design of Public Spaces



View E_New Pedestrian Route to Castle Park

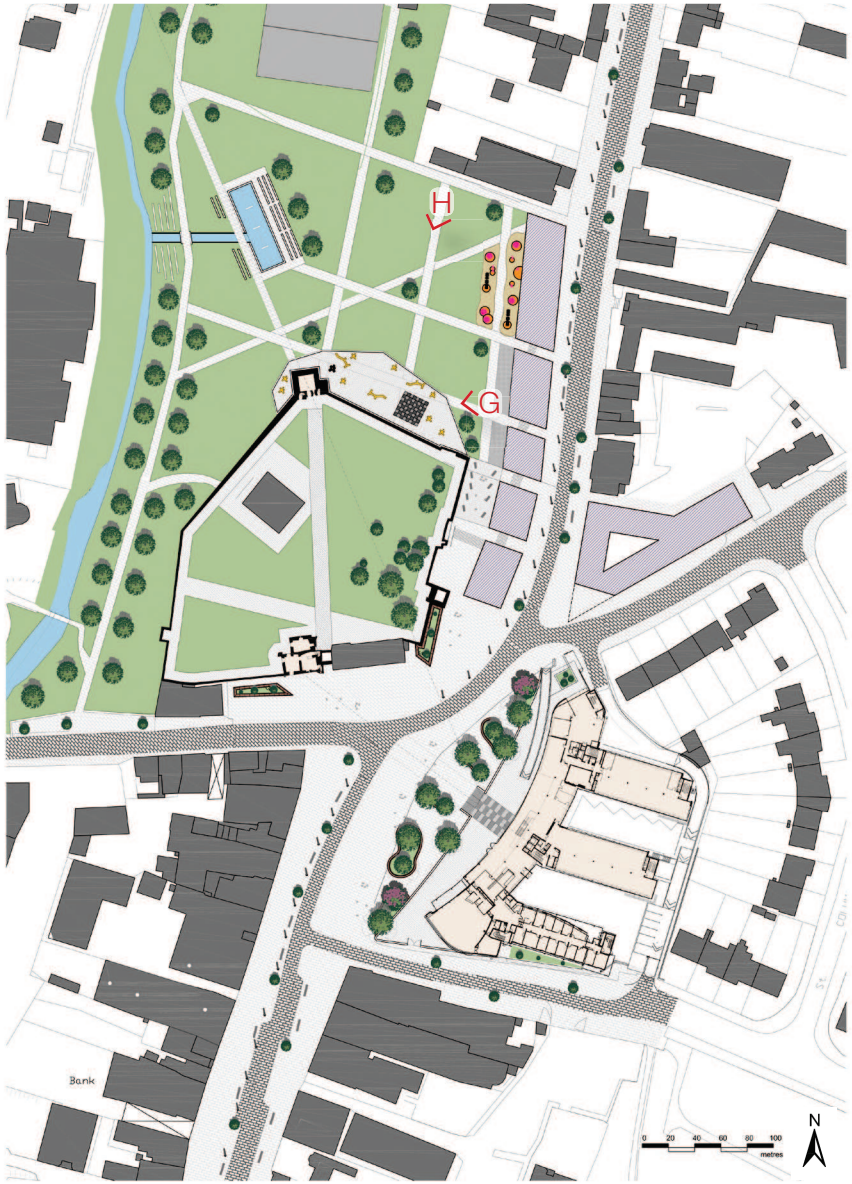
Reinvent the buildings located on North Street which back onto the Castle, removing the rear yards utilizing the original building forms which could house suitable retail/ cultural use at ground and residential use above.



View F_New Pedestrian Links

Ensure the buildings reinforce's the North Street urban edge, and creates openings between the buildings to open vistas into the castle and parkland, and pedestrian access through to the park

3D Views



Public Realm - Design of Public Spaces



View G_External Performance Space

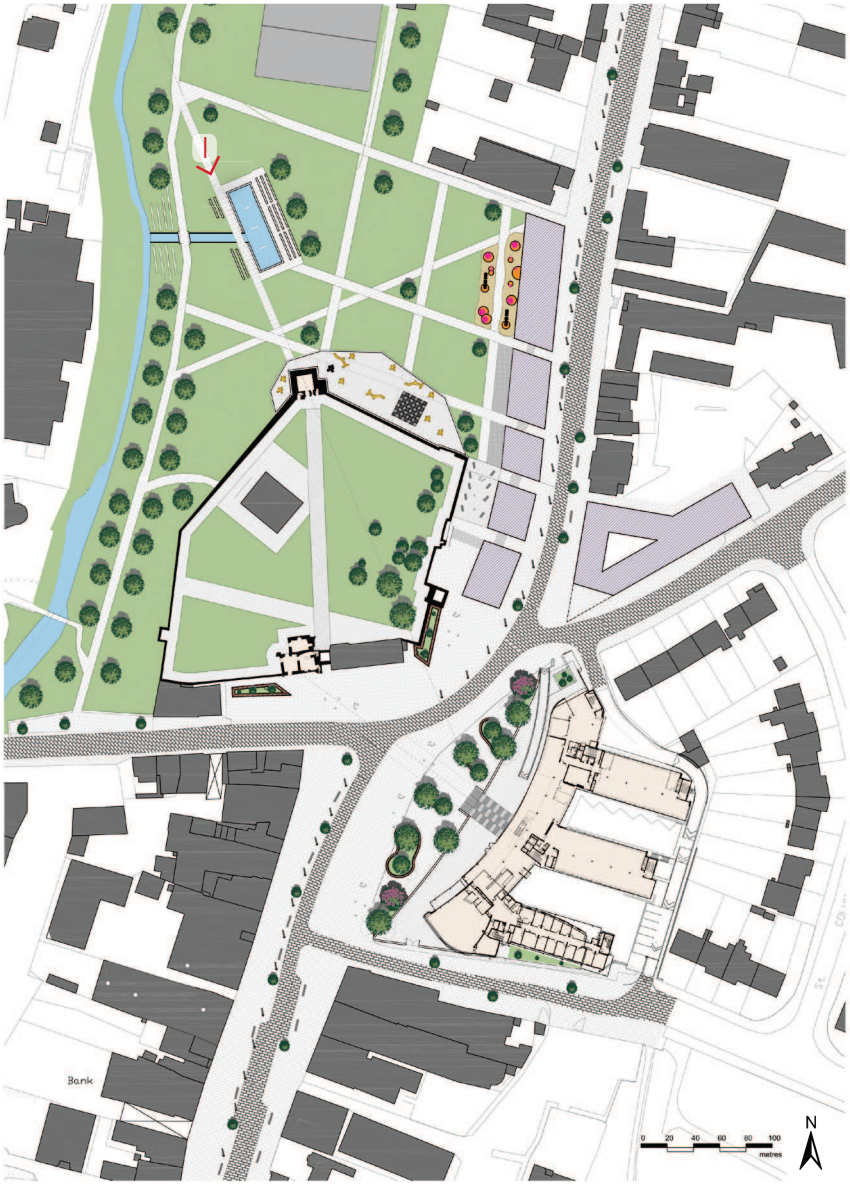
Promote the park and its grounds with the Castle in a reinvention of the public realm, with suitable hard-standing, seating areas and landscaped pathways.



View H_Public Events with Castle Backdrop

This reinvention allows the hardstandings in the park to be used for public events.

3D Views



Public Realm - Design of Public Spaces



View I_Castle Park Landscape Interventions

The river is re-introduced into the park with terracing works to the river bank, creating a sustainable riverside walk. A water feature enhances the amenity value of the existing river creating a feature with the castle as a backdrop.



Aerial View of Castle Park from North

3.7 THE CASTLE CULTURAL QUARTER

3D Views



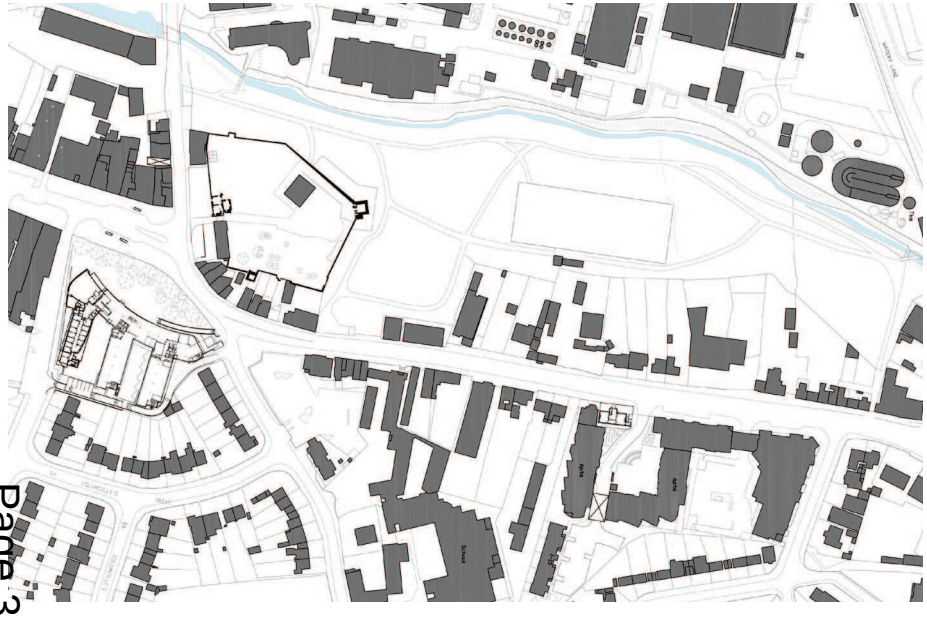
Aerial View From SW

4.0 NEXT STEPS

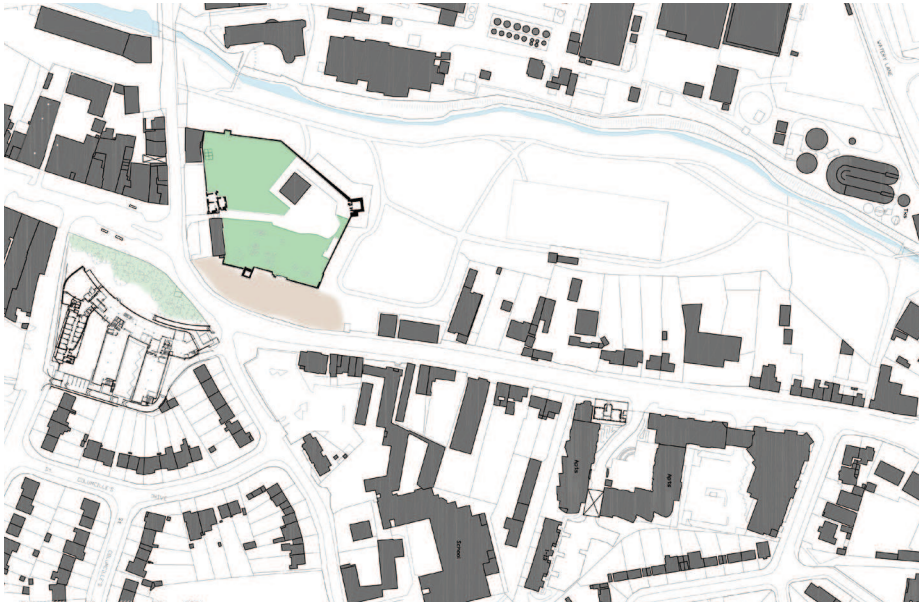
4.1 - PHASING PRIORITIES
4.2 - CURRENT INITIATIVES
4.3 - FUTURE INITIATIVES
4.4 - CONCLUSION

4.1 PHASING PRIORITIES

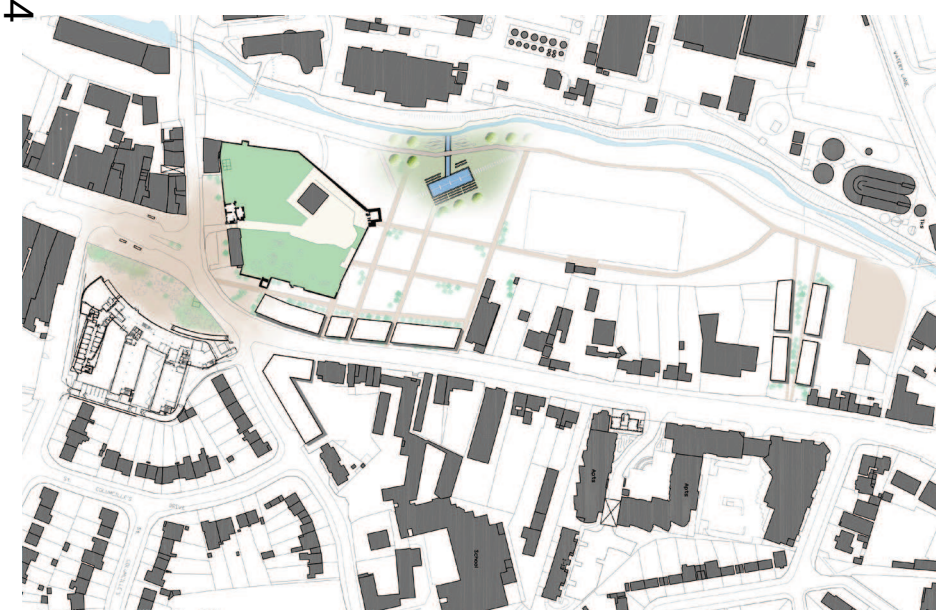
Phasing of Development:



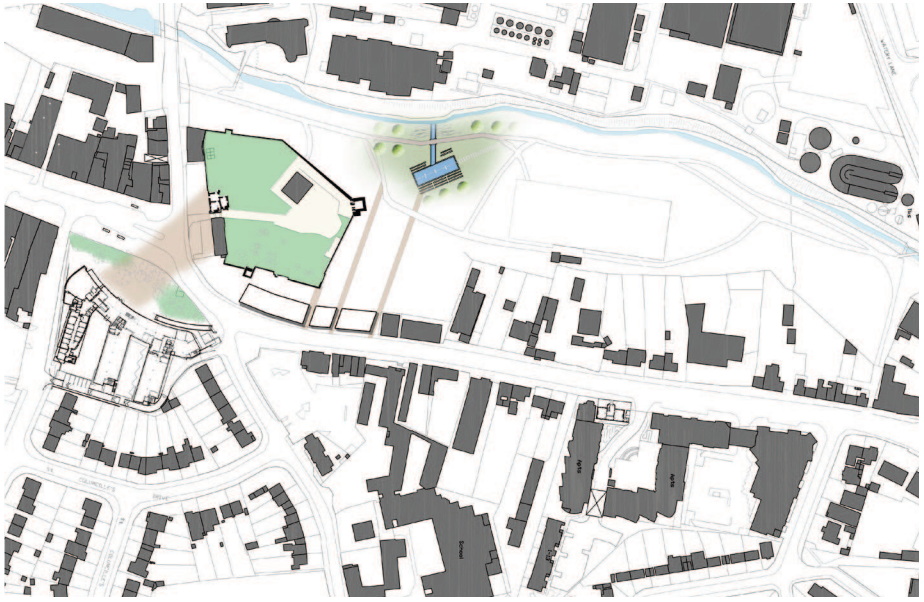
Existing Condition_2015



Phase 01_Removal of derelict buildings to Street edge



Phase 03_Architectural Intervention 01- Potential Car Park



Phase 02_Architectural Intervention 01

4.2 CURRENT INITIATIVES

The Conservation Plan for Swords Castle has been published - this document identifies policies and actions to take the castle onwards into the future ensuring its conservation and accessibility to the public.

A number of projects have been continued / initiated as a result

- The stabilisation of the gatehouse has been completed and post excavation work is continuing.
- A safety audit has been carried out in order to identify works that can be undertaken in the short term to allow the public to safely access the castle in advance of any major projects. These works were carried out and allowed the Castle to be opened on St. Patricks Day. There was a great interest and it will now be possible to open the Castle more frequently.
- New interpretation panels have been designed for the Castle and incorporate content from the Conservation Plan.
- The conservation plan team had a number of geophysical surveys carried out as part of their work. These surveys identified some sub surface anomalies in the central area that are worthy of excavation and models for further excavation are being explored at the moment. It is planned that whatever excavation work takes place there will be public interaction with the process.
- A design team has been procured in order to start design work associated with the reconstruction of the vault over the main entrance in the meantime the crash deck will remain in place.
- A programme of ivy removal will start shortly in the east range walls of the castle. When this is complete the walls will be surveyed and a programme of consolidation devised.



Swords Castle_Gate House



Swords Castle_Enclosing Walls

4.3 FUTURE INITIATIVES

There is a huge opportunity for the people of Swords to now progress the process of future improvement projects for the town. This document has established a framework for the development of future initiatives for the Swords Castle Lands. The masterplan provides a road map for these opportunities which can be implemented on a phased basis. It is not intended to limit the potential or possibilities beyond those stated in the masterplan and indeed it is meant as an interpretation of the potential projects only. It is hoped that it will act as a stimulus for more projects and greater future initiatives by the people of Swords. Some of the sub projects are listed below.

Page 326

This Masterplan will act as a catalyst for a variety of sub-projects :

- New major central public realm and civic space outside the castle
- A new library building with ancillary public uses to sit alongside the Fingal County Council offices at the civic heart of the town
- Meaningful landscape interventions in the park and the town
- Creation of a Hub or Cultural Quarter on North Street / Main Street

4.4 CONCLUSION

This Masterplan has set out the context, analysis and considerations leading to the development of concepts and sub projects which have been imagined and ingrained in a set of design parameter drawings.

These have been developed to ensure that a robust framework is established for the realisation of the design and construction of the new developments for Swords Castle Cultural Quarter.

Whilst the indicative Masterplan represents just one interpretation of the Masterplan parameter requirements, it corresponds fully to the aspirations identified in the consultation process and represents a clearly set out road map for the development of projects in the future. They are aimed at communicating and responding to the high ambitions of the groups consulted and setting a benchmark for future detailed design.

It is expected that the progression into detailed design processes will provide the opportunity for Fingal County Council to continue in its tradition of achieving the highest level of quality in design and construction and realise high standards of urban design making a new place for Swords based on its cultural life and the goals of its community.

5.0 APPENDICES

5.1 - CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION
5.2 - HISTORICAL ANALYSIS
5.3 - URBAN DESIGN ANALYSIS
5.4 - PRECEDENTS

5.1 CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION

Fingal County Council commissioned an architectural Masterplan for lands adjoining Swords Castle in the centre of Swords, Co. Dublin.

Preamble

This document presents Fingal County Council's Masterplan for the regeneration of Swords Castle and its environs.

The project is focused on Swords Castle and its environs addressing the issue of regenerating the medieval centre, as the cultural and symbolic centre of Swords which is currently in a dilapidated state. The initiative is multi-layered and includes issues such as identifying cultural uses for the castle, identifying opportunities for new cultural buildings and environmental improvement.

Approach

The Council have promoted an interactive approach to identifying the constraints and opportunities of the study area. In working with Fingal County Council officer's, local knowledge has been brought together with a fresh perspective offered by the consultant team. We joined and participated in consultation with local citizens of Swords designed and arranged by Fingal County Council.

A long term sustainable phased project has been identified as desirable for this area of Swords. Several potential elements have been identified;

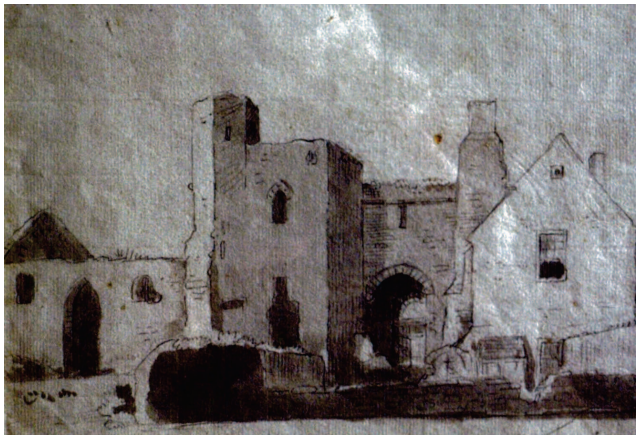
1. Environmental improvements to the public realm in the area to reinforce the identity of the area as a place within the town of Swords.
2. Works to Swords Castle as identified in its recently completed Conservation Plan.
3. The initiation and continuance of cultural events within and around the castle.
4. Development of space within the area to encourage the development of the area as a place for artistic endeavour
5. To develop the Castle, Park and Environs for Cultural Tourism activities.
6. To explore the area as a location for Swords Public Library and Civic Theatre.

The following chapters introduce the background to the study, outlines the objectives and examines the study area within the following context;

- Historical context
- Economic context
- Commercial context
- Social context
- Physical context
- Cultural / tourist context

The subsequent chapters address the key issues of the study and include the development of new approaches, programmes for action, and implementation strategies involving partnerships between the public, private and voluntary sectors in Swords.

Swords is the administrative capital of Fingal County Council. It has been identified as an Metropolitan Consolidation Town in the Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2022.



Pen & Wash drawing of Swords Castle 1790_Francis Grose
Antiquities of Ireland

5.1 CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION

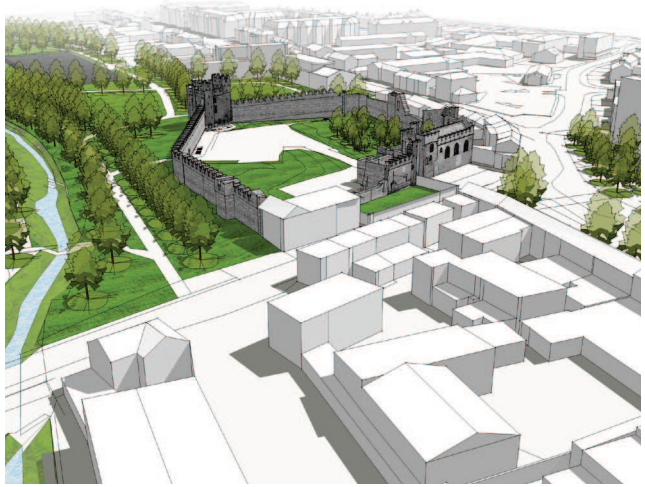
Issues

The Architectural Masterplan for the Historic Centre of Swords is undertaken within the structure of a clearly defined policy framework and philosophy set out in the Fingal County Council Development Plan. Account has been taken of the Green Paper on the Urban Environment to which the European Commission brief for the Action Plan makes reference.

The following fundamental issues are recognised:

- The need to adopt a holistic view of the study area and promote a balanced approach to land-use, urban transport, environmental and local community issues;
- The "essence" of the European city both in terms of role performance of the Historic Centre at city, district, local area, street and building scales. This is of particular importance to urban quality and standards in Swords relative to other European centres;
- Reduction of dependence on the car by promoting public transport, cyclist and pedestrian activity in the city. Urban density is also a means of reducing car use;
- Creating liveable cities by reintroduction of residential development in the Environs of Swords Castle.
- Developing mixed uses in order to create diverse sustainable environments which are attractive to the urban dweller and promote local economic activity;
- Enabling mechanisms involving partnerships between the public, private and voluntary sectors in initiating, developing, implementing and managing urban regeneration projects;
- The development of the heritage potential of the Swords Castle in attracting tourism activity and creation of jobs.

3D Views of Existing Castle and Environs



View from South West



View from South



View from East



Birds Eye - View from South West

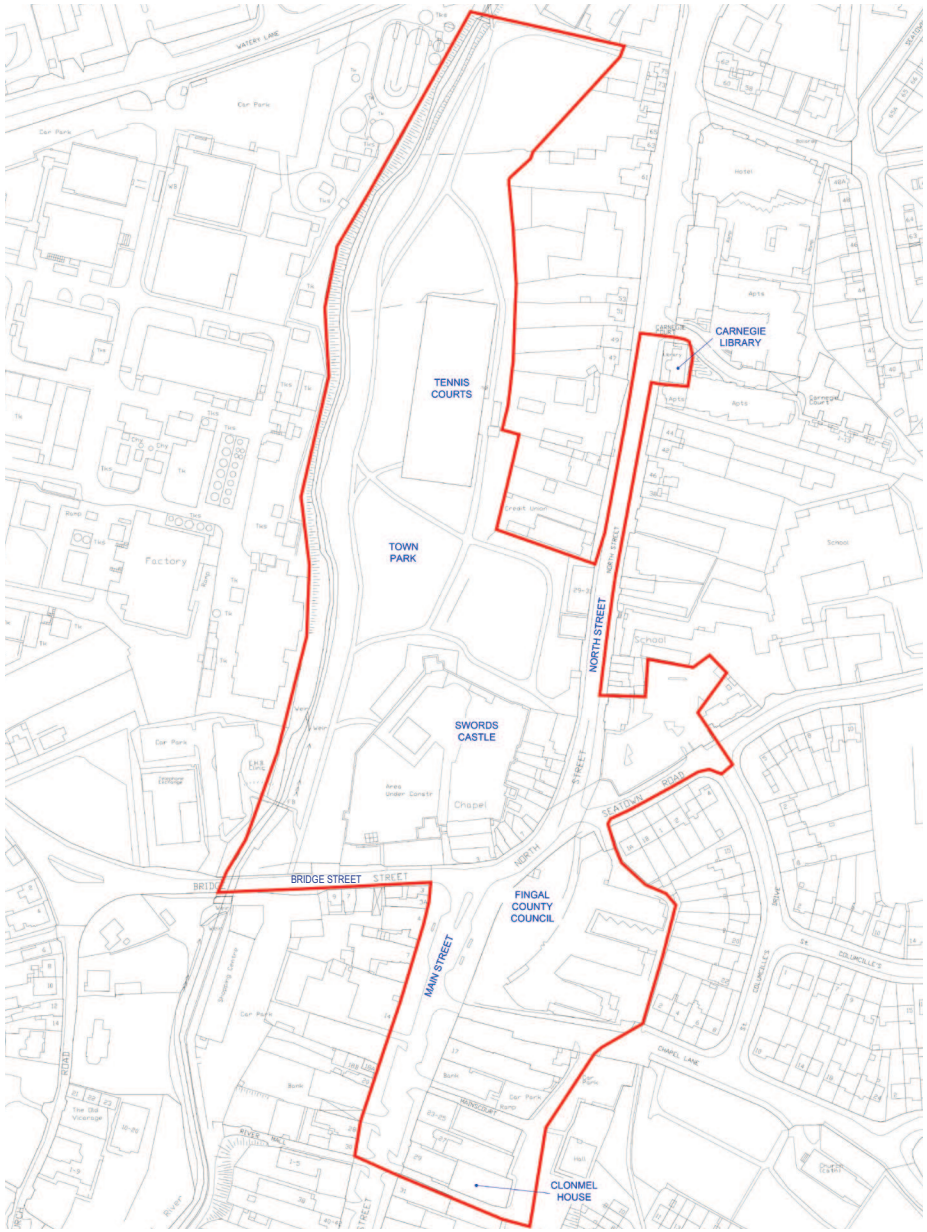
5.1 CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION

Fingal County Council has recognised the potential value of the “placemaking” within Swords town and seeks to provide a civic/cultural place for;

- Visitors: to provide them with an interesting, engaging and enjoyable discovery of this towns historic significance and contemporary appeal
- Citizens: to provide an awareness, understanding and appreciation of the heritage of their area and to facilitate the provision of civic/ cultural facilities.
- Business community: to provide opportunities to benefit from this initiative through participation and collaboration processes.
- Stakeholders: to provide a shared agenda for achieving respective objectives.

The new Castle Quarter Masterplan in view of the above will seek to;

- Reinforce the Castle as both a backdrop to and focus for the town
- Redefine the towns relationship with the Castle and the Town park



FCC_Swords Castle Masterplan Area

Workshops

A series of workshop consultations were run by Fingal County Council on specialist topic areas with key stakeholders invited to participate and put forward their perceptions of the problems and potentials of the study area. The topics include:

- Conservation and heritage development;
- Retail and business development;
- Tourism and cultural development;

Public Consultation

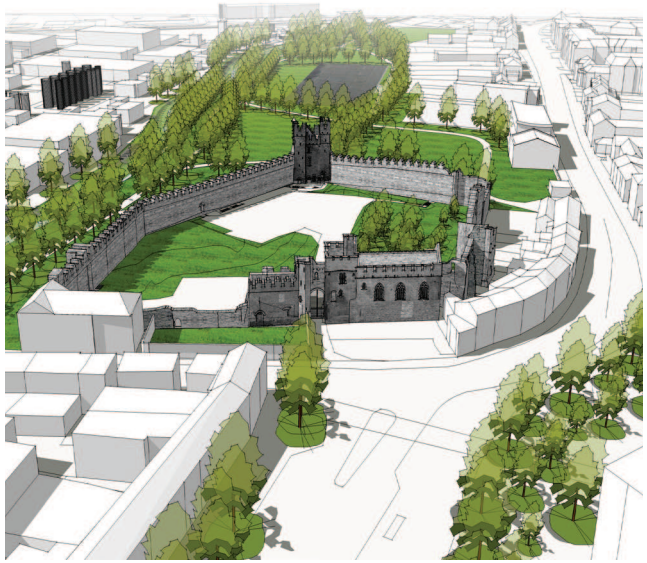
In addition to the workshops, key people and organisations have been consulted on a wide range of issues. These include:

- Elected members of Fingal County Council;
- Community Groups;
- Tourism interests;
- Arts and Cultural interests;
- Business leaders and associations;
- Members of the public via street conversations
- Tidy Towns
- Historical Society
- Local Artists
- Fingal County Council Staff

The urban analysis and the consultation process also highlighted the town centre's major assets, such as its heritage, streets and landmark buildings. Surprisingly, many of these are, as yet, untapped or not fully exploited.



Swords Artists Workshop



Aerial 3D Image_Existing Swords Castle From South

5.1 CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION

Background

Swords has direct links to the national road network (M1 and M50) and is located on the Dublin Belfast economic corridor which is identified as a key national transport corridor in the National Spatial strategy. Swords is located north and adjacent to Dublin Airport. Swords lies at the confluence of the Ward and Broadmeadow Rivers at the head of the Malahide (Broadmeadow) Estuary which is a special protection area (SPA) and a special area of conservation (SAC). In the long term, it is envisaged that Swords will grow significantly up to a population of 100,000.

Fingal County Council's long term development strategy for Swords is contained in 'Your Swords-An Emerging City Strategic Vision 2035' published in 2009 and contains the vision to"develop Swords as an Emerging Green City", to promote and facilitate the sustainable development of Swords as a vibrant consolidated major town with a thriving economy, an integrated public transport network, an attractive and highly accessible built environment, with the highest standards of housing, employment services, recreational amenities and community facilities".

While the delivery of Metro North has been postponed, the Strategic Vision for Swords as a long term objective remains applicable, with interim high capacity public transport solutions such as BRT being promoted in the short-term to allow the County Town develop sustainably.

A Master Plan for Swords was also approved by the County Council in 2009 in which the vision for the town centre encompasses the following aspirations for the town; "*A thriving town centre, quality of Life, A Cultural Destination, An Attractive Public realm and a Sustainable Town centre*". While the aspirations of this Masterplan are retained, a short to medium term pragmatic response to the immediate needs of the community is required. This updated and 'Swords Castle' focussed Masterplan should respect the long-term strategic objectives of the Council as they relate to Swords, but more critically will be required to facilitate the delivery of a new social and cultural destination centred around Swords Castle and linking back to the retail heart of the town.

A key aspect of the opportunity presented by the cultural offer of any town is the growing importance of the relationship between towns / cities and culture. Successful towns/cities use their cultural heritage to strengthen, amongst other things, their urban identity. An identity built on cultural heritage is not only considered to be a key factor in attracting potential residents and enterprise but it is also seen as a tool for branding and marketing the town/city as a destination for visitors. Throughout Europe, cultural heritage is steadily gaining importance as a vital asset in developing and strengthening a distinctive identity to attract visitors, engage citizens and promote enterprise. Cultural heritage is more and more being regarded as the key to unlocking the potential of having a distinct urban identity.



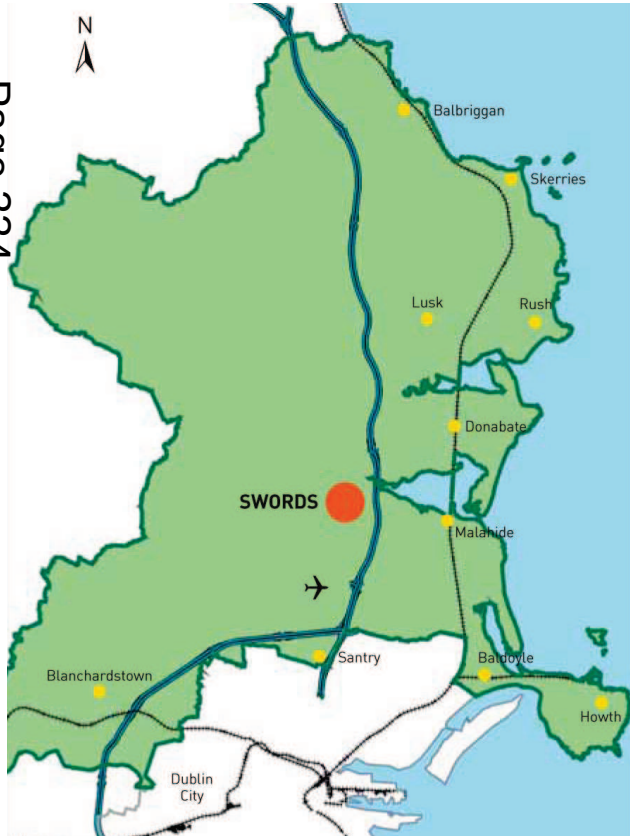
Swords Castle & Park

5.1 CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION

Description of Swords

Swords is unofficially the largest town in the Republic of Ireland and is administrated by Fingal County Council. The Greater Fingal Area has a population of approximately 42,738 .

Swords is a major regional centre for commerce, industry, culture and education. It is also an important entry point for visitors to the region, serviced by the M1 which is the main link road which connects Dublin to Dundalk and on to Belfast.



Swords In Context

Planning Policy and Framework

• North-East Corridor
Emphasis on Manual Employment and Tourism: This initiative involves a policy of remedial economic interventions, located in a corridor extending southwards from Blarney, through the north side of the city and eastwards to Little Island, Cobh and Middleton. The development of tourist attractions is an important element in this initiative.

• Urban Density/Transport
This initiative is designed to minimise congestion and adverse environmental effects which might otherwise occur if the decline in city population and the growth scattered rural housing were allowed to continue unchecked.

This is to be achieved by improving transport choice in the city, extending transport choice from suburbs and outlying towns by improving bus services, and containing decentralising tendencies by renewal near the City Centre and consolidation at the edge of the city.

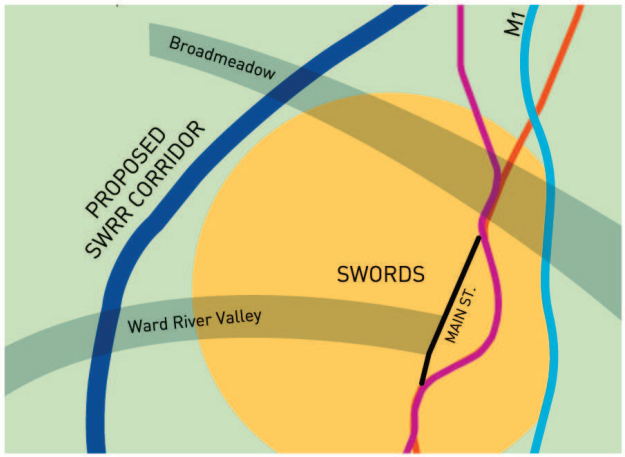
• The importance of Swords Main Street
The review also stressed the importance of an interesting and lively town centre and the need to reverse the current decline in Town Centre employment and population. The achievement of these objectives also implies the maintenance and enhancement of its physical fabric and historic character.

In order to continue this trend, and to reverse the fall in the Main Street employment and population, the Development Plan set out the following objectives:
Maintaining and developing policies to help existing uses in the Main Street, while at the same time adjusting them to take account of recent shifts in development practice;

Encouraging innovation in types of development and new types of economic activity, making use of the Main Street and tourist attractions to help such activity;

Taking additional measures to ensure the vacant property comes on to the market in worthwhile quantities at realistic prices, and to discourage the practice of holding vacant property as an investment asset rather than for use or development.

Swords Western Ring Road (SWRR) – This new road is proposed to act as a by-pass of Swords at a strategic level, providing a more direct and efficient route from the M1 to the proposed Dublin Airport Box (new road network). The SWRR will also serve the proposed strategic park and ride, minimizing the amount of traffic utilizing limited carrying capacity on the existing and proposed local road network in Swords.



Swords Western Ring Road

5.1 CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION

Location

The lands are defined as the area at the junction of Main Street/North Street and Bridge Street where there are town civic uses including Fingal County Hall, home of Fingal County Council, The Court House, The Carnegie Library, Fingal County Council Archives and Swords Castle. It includes the surrounding roads; Main Street, Chapel Lane, North Street, Bridge Street and Seatown Road. The Town Park which runs the full length of North Street behind the western building line is also within the study area.

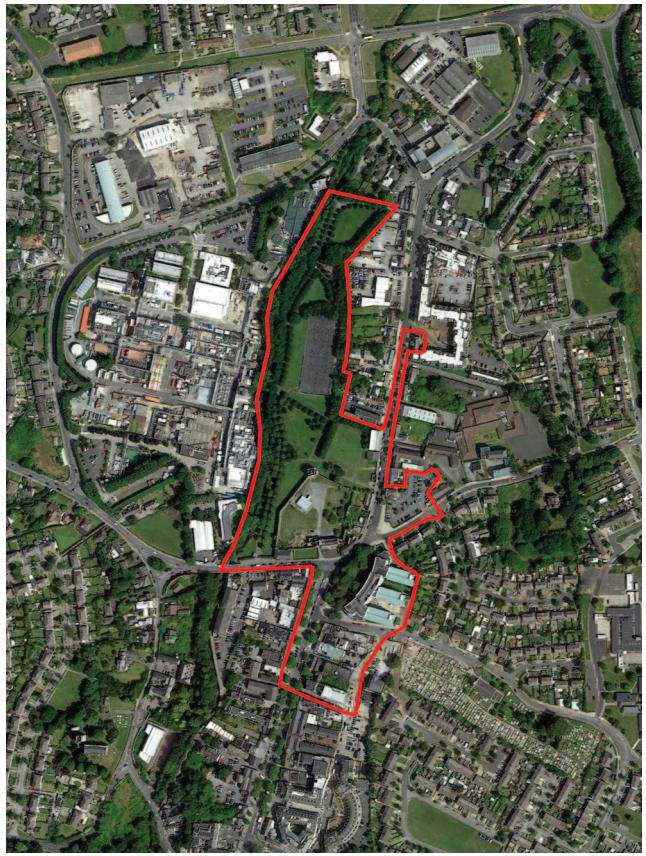
Land Ownership / Area Boundary

The site comprises core streets at the north end of Main Street. The ownership of the study area is mixed public and private. The study area boundary is shown on the aerial image of Swords and map below.

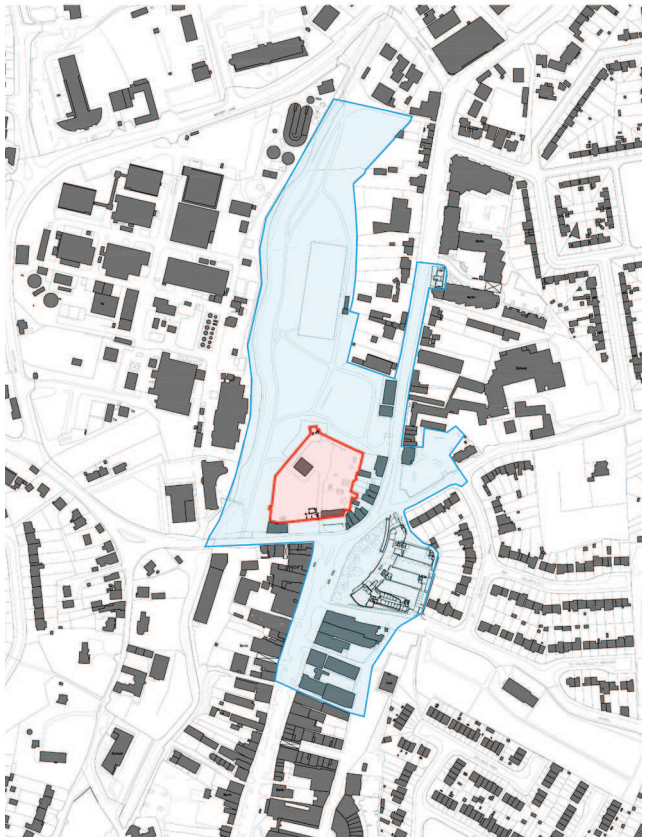
Red : Swords Castle
Blue: Swords Castle Masterplan Study Area

Spatial Context

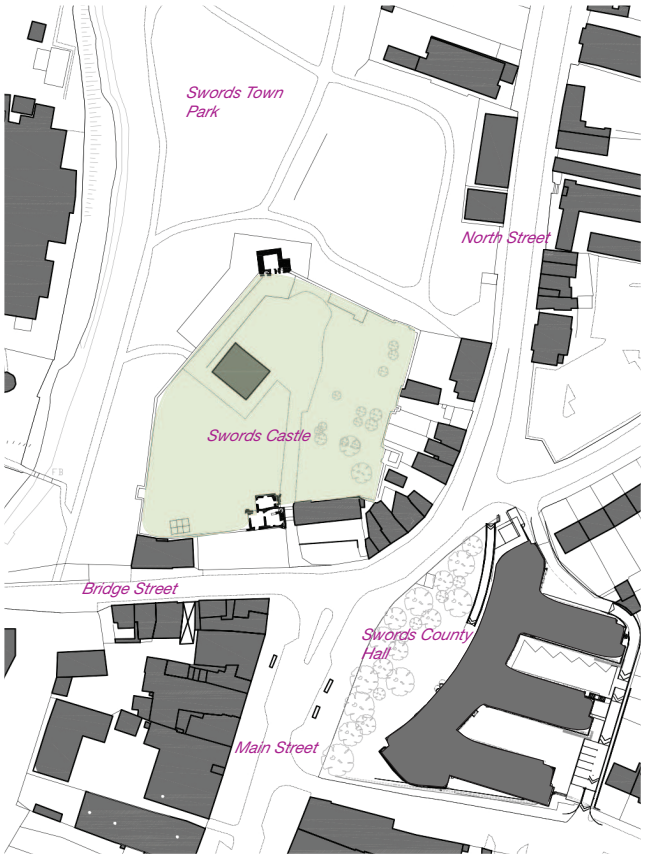
The Castle lands are located at the northern end of Swords Main Street. With the exception of Swords Castle the context is that of the two storey Irish provincial town. Swords Town Park provides a backdrop to the lands. The lands form a node point for Swords town.



Aerial Image_Swords



Study Area_Swords Castle & Environs



Spatial Context_Swords Castle & Environs

5.1 CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION

Access

Primary vehicular access to the study area is via Swords Main Street, North Street, Bridge Street and Seatown Road.

A number of traffic and transportation reports and studies have been prepared for Swords by Fingal County Council. There may be opportunities to influence and adjust current movement and parking patterns where there is a positive gain to the public realm and civic/ cultural quarter.



Swords Town Center_Traffic Routes



Swords Town Center Strategy_An Emerging City Strategic Vision

Zoning and Planning Objectives

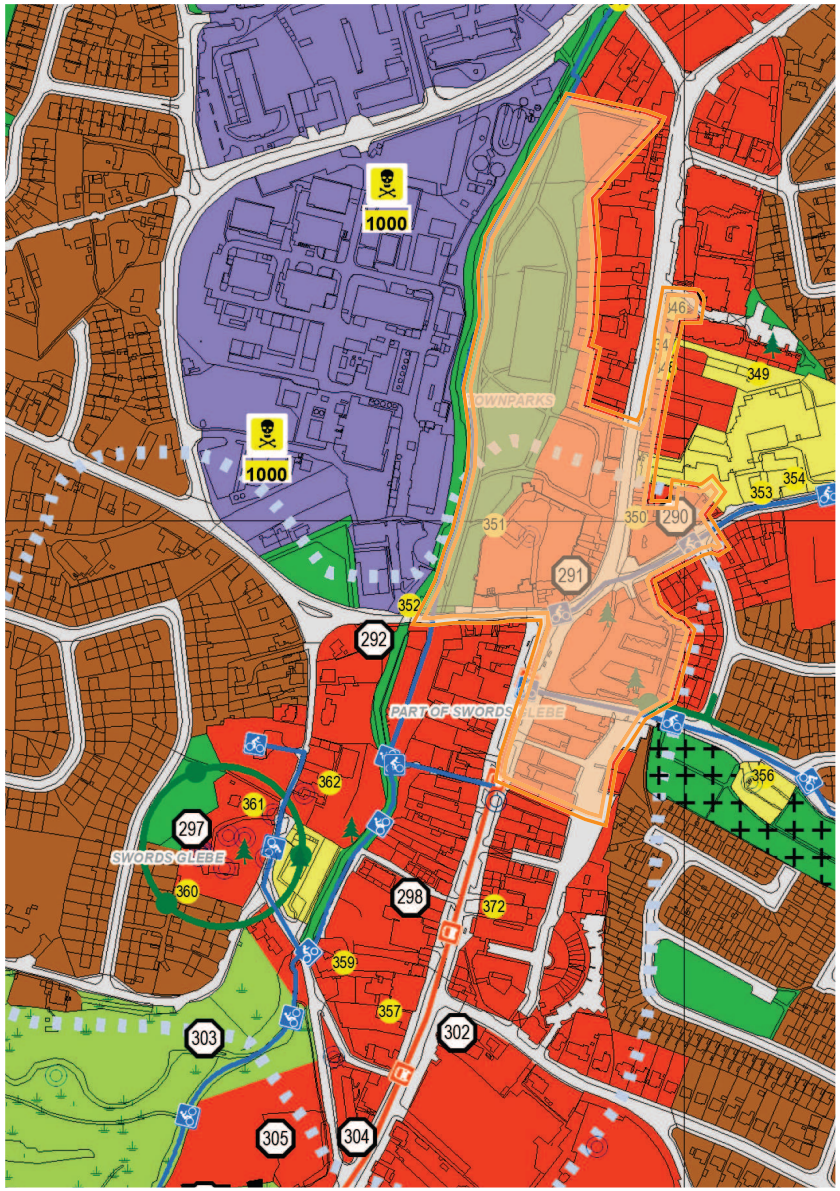
The lands within the Master Plan area are zoned MC – i.e. Major Town Centre and OS –Open Space (de facto Town Parks)

MC zoning comprises the following objective and vision. "Objective: Protect, provide for an/or improve major town centre facilities.

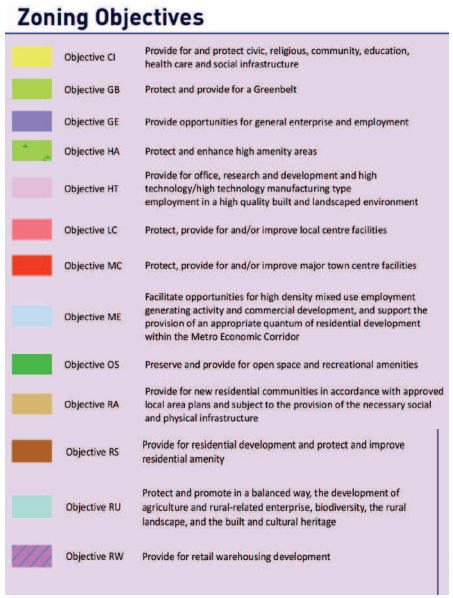
Vision: Consolidate the existing Major Towns in the County, (Blanchardstown, Swords and Balbriggan). The aim is to further develop these centres by densification of appropriate commercial and residential developments ensuring a mix of commercial, recreational, civic, cultural, leisure, residential uses, and urban streets, while delivering a quality urban environment which will enhance the quality of life of resident, visitor and workers alike. The zone will strengthen retail provision in accordance with the County Retail Strategy, emphasise urban conservation, ensure priority for public transport, pedestrians and cyclists while minimising the impact of private car based traffic and enhance and develop the existing urban fabric. In order to deliver this vision and to provide a framework for sustainable development, master plans will be prepared for each centre in accordance with the Urban Fingal Chapter objectives."

There are also 2no. relevant local objectives 290 and 291, which read:
'Promote the redevelopment of this prominent key corner site adjacent to Swords Castle and County Hall, for civic uses in a manner which will enhance the character and range of the uses in the town core' and 'Promote the development of a Civic Quarter in Swords'.

A review of the County's retail strategy will be undertaken as part of the preparatory work relating to the County Development Plan review which formally commences in March 2015. Where appropriate recommendations to influence the scope of this review may be considered.



Fingal Development Plan_Development Area



Swords Castle development area highlighted in Orange

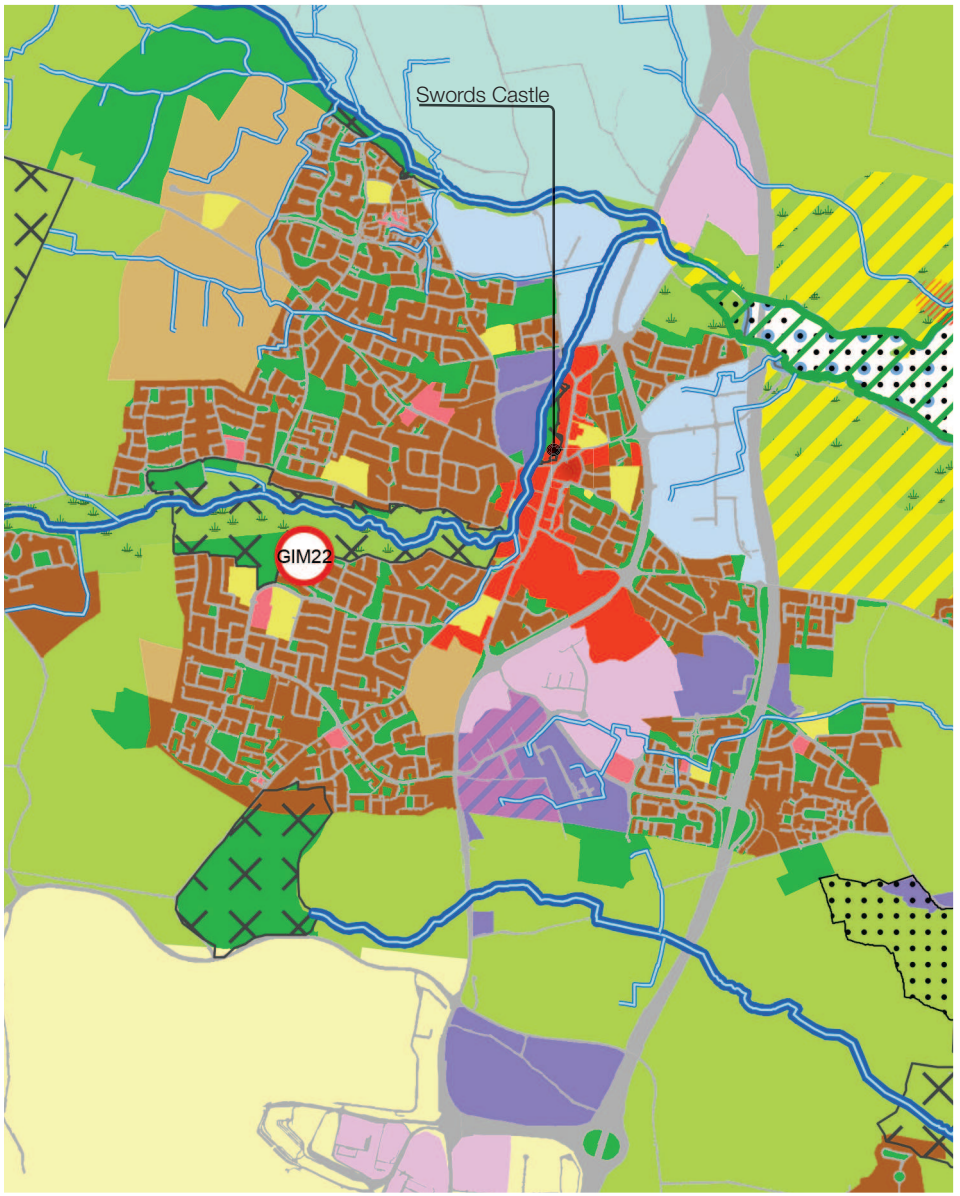
5.1 CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION

Zoning and Planning Objectives

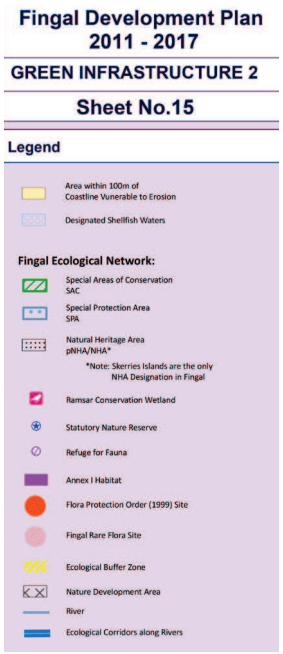
Swords Town, Green Infrastructure

Green Infrastructure means the interconnected networks of land and water all around us that sustain environmental quality and enrich our lives. It provides space for biodiversity and the natural systems which regulate temperature, reduce storm flows, provide us with clean water and air, and a multitude of other benefits. These benefits include high-quality accessible parks and open spaces which provide health benefits for all including space for children to play, a meeting place for people and can also provide for the provision of safe and attractive walking and cycling routes.

Key elements of green infrastructure for Swords are the Ward River Valley Park, the Ward River which flows through the town, and the Town Park. The development of the Cultural Quarter provides opportunities to enhance the links from the existing Town Park to the Ward River Valley Park via the Ward River town walk.



Fingal Development Plan_Green Infrastructure





5.1 CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION

Existing Swords Strategic Vision Masterplan

'Your Swords An Emerging City - Strategic Vision 2035' points out key nodes of attraction in Swords town centre. These three proposed key nodes were intended to ensure the vibrancy and activity of Swords Main Street is developed into the future. It was intended that these nodes would build on the existing character areas of the Town through the strengthening and development of links between the Main Street, the Pavilions Shopping Centre site and the Crowcastle / Barrysparks site.

The town center nodes were described as the Civic Quarter, the Cultural Quarter and the Metro Quarter. There were two ancillary nodes identified, these being Balheary Park and the proposed Leisure Node within the south-eastern extent of the Crowcastle / Barrysparks land.

The Town Center nodes are described in 'Your Swords' as follows:

1. Civic Quarter
It was proposed to build on the evolving civic core uses at the junction of Main Street / North Street where the existing grouping of civic uses include the Council offices, the Courthouse, and the Castle, which was the historic governing centre of the Town. This area at the junction of Main Street / North Street was intended to be designated as a Civic Quarter, where it was intended to build on the existing location of specialised uses in this area, thereby strengthening the attraction of the northern end of Main Street. As part of the enhancement of this area, a public realm strategy will be developed and implemented in front of the Swords Castle at the junction of Main Street / North Street.



Swords Town Center

2. Cultural Quarter
Swords is at present poorly represented in terms of its cultural attractiveness. To this end, a Cultural Quarter was proposed at the southern end of Main Street / Dublin Road. The Cultural Quarter was intended to serve as the terminus of Main Street to the south and the Civic Quarter would complement this at the northern end.

The Cultural Quarter will include culturally focussed uses, such as a town library, theatre, galleries and arts centre. It was envisaged that the library and theatre would be of a scale similar to that provided at Blanchardstown. This area will accommodate a direct pedestrian connection through the Pavilions site to the Metro Quarter and links into the Ward River Valley Park. A public square was intended to be the central focus and setting to the cultural buildings and the scale of the public space would be capable of supporting outdoor performance, outdoor dining, performance art, promenade as well as meeting/seating spaces.

3. Metro Quarter
It was intended that Swords town Centre would be served by a Metro North stop located centrally on the R132 in proximity to the Pavilions Shopping Centre and Crowcastle/Barrysparks site. This was to be the primary stop which would serve the town of Swords and therefore would have a number of important functions and roles.

The Swords Metro North stop was described as being distinguishable from other stops by the following elements:

- A high quality well designed public realm plaza above the Metro line;
- An accessible public transport interchange point for buses, taxis and cyclists over the R132;
- An integrated movement network, which accommodates vehicular movements routes east and west under the R132
- High-quality and architecturally significant Town Centre developments east and west of the stop, which will be fully integrated with the stop.



Swords Town Center Strategy_An Emerging City Strategic Vision

National Transport Authority_BRT Route

'National Transport Authority- Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)' has emerged as a high quality, cost efficient and effective public transport system. The system aims to create links between strategic transport nodes with the aim of creating a public transport network which rivals the amenity characteristics, service and performance quality of modern light rail-based public transportation systems but at a lower cost.

The BRT transport system for Dublin City and surrounding areas is named 'Swiftway'. The three corridors proposed to be developed as routes are:

- City Centre Network
- Blanchardstown to UCD
- Clongriffin to Tallaght
- Swords to City Centre

The advantages provided by the BRT system, such as flexibility, reliability and cost, combined with the higher capacities achieved on existing bus corridors means that the system becomes an attractive alternative to car transport going into the future.



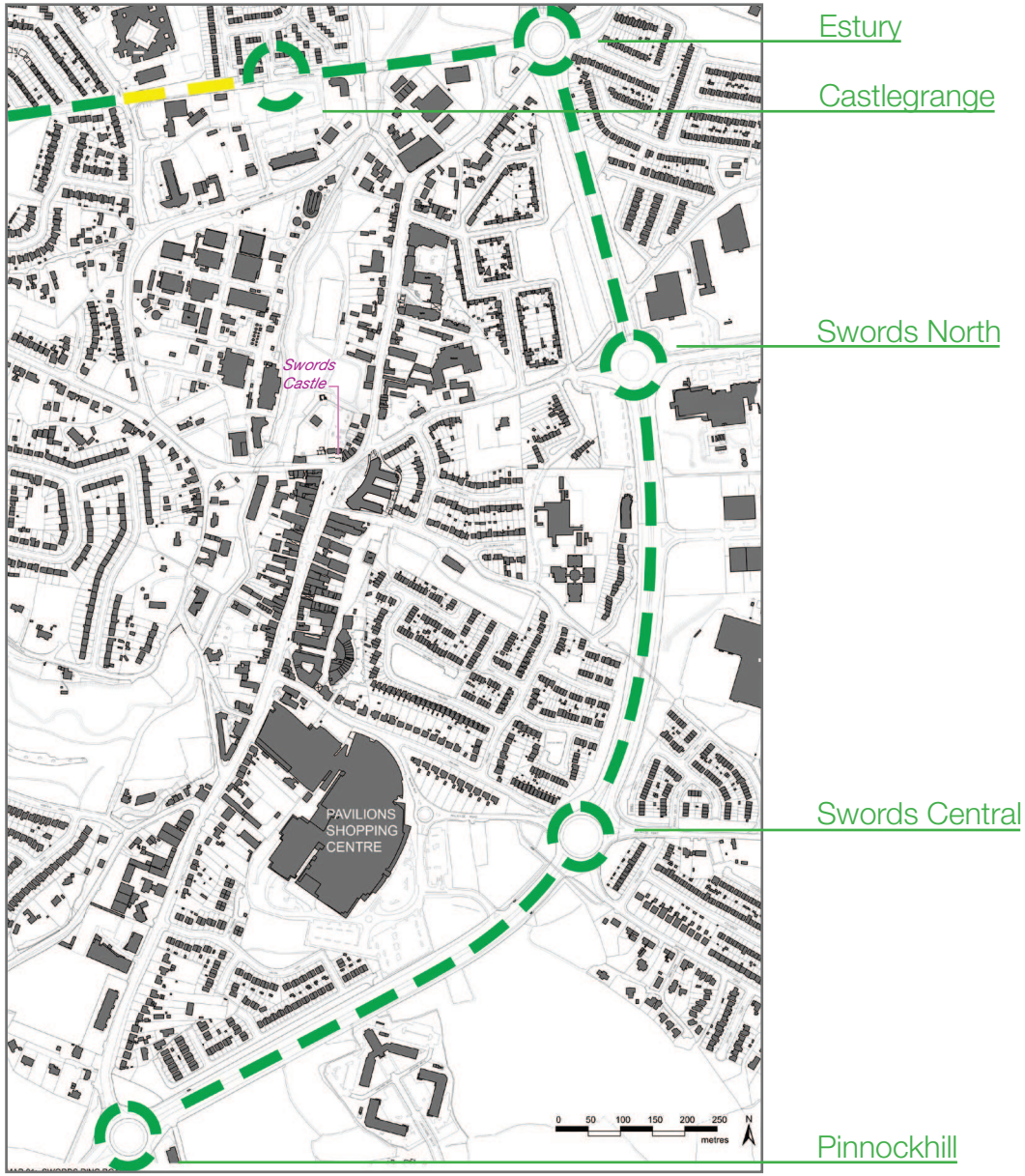
Swords - City Centre_Emerging Preferred Route
Swords North to Dublin Airport

5.1 CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION

National Transport Authority_BRT Route

The Swiftway connections in Swords become an important consideration when planning for the future pedestrian, cyclist and vehicular routes within the town. Swords must build on the benefits of the proposed Swiftway stops and use them to the advantage of the town and its community as a whole, creating a thriving civic, retail and cultural centre.

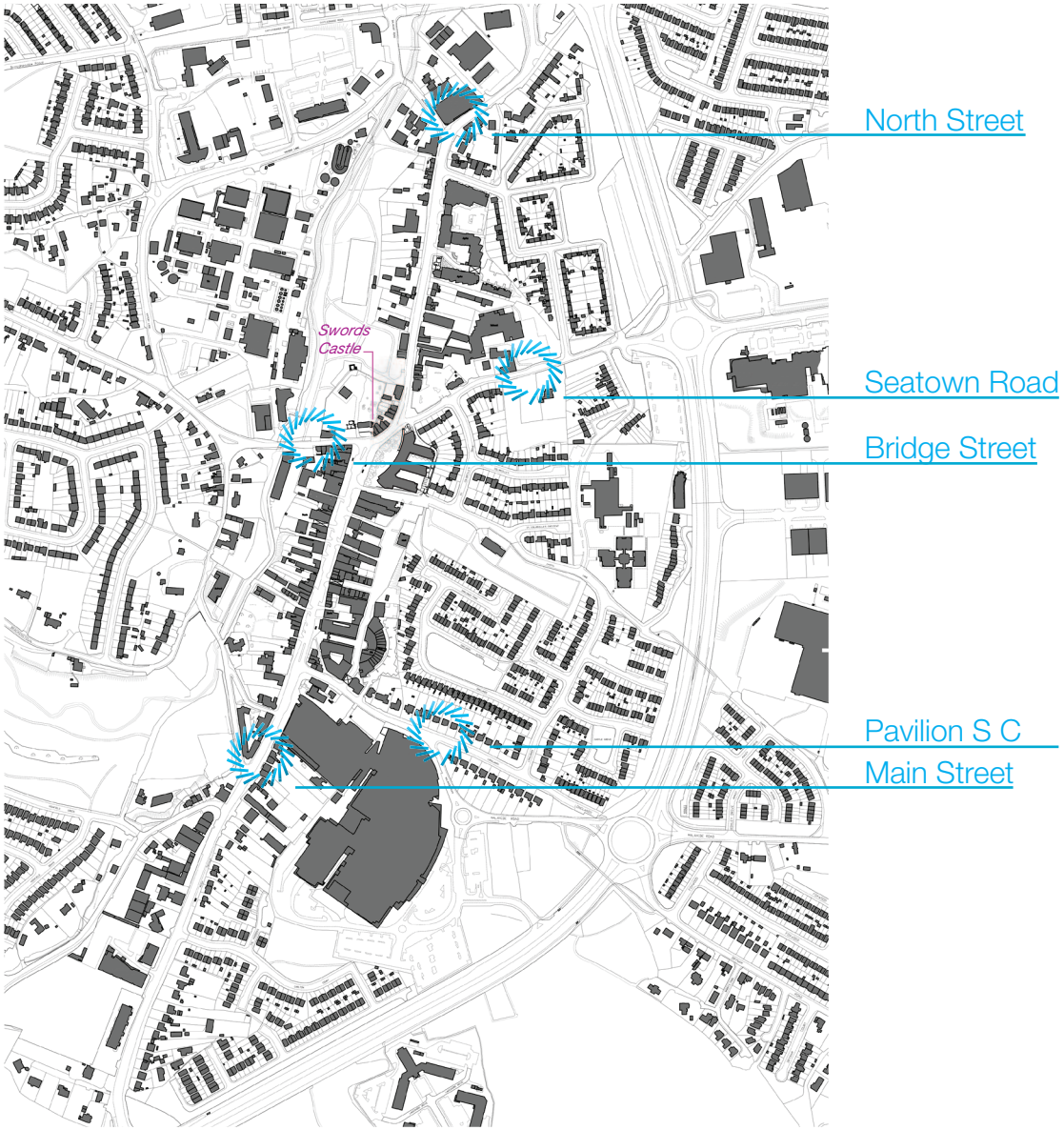




5.1 CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION

Gateways to Swords

Gateways are an important consideration in relation to entry to any town. Perceptions are developed by visitors of the public realm through their own interpretations of the entry route. How gateways lead pedestrian, cyclists and vehicles into their destination spaces are an important consideration when designing movements strategies at both macro and micro levels.

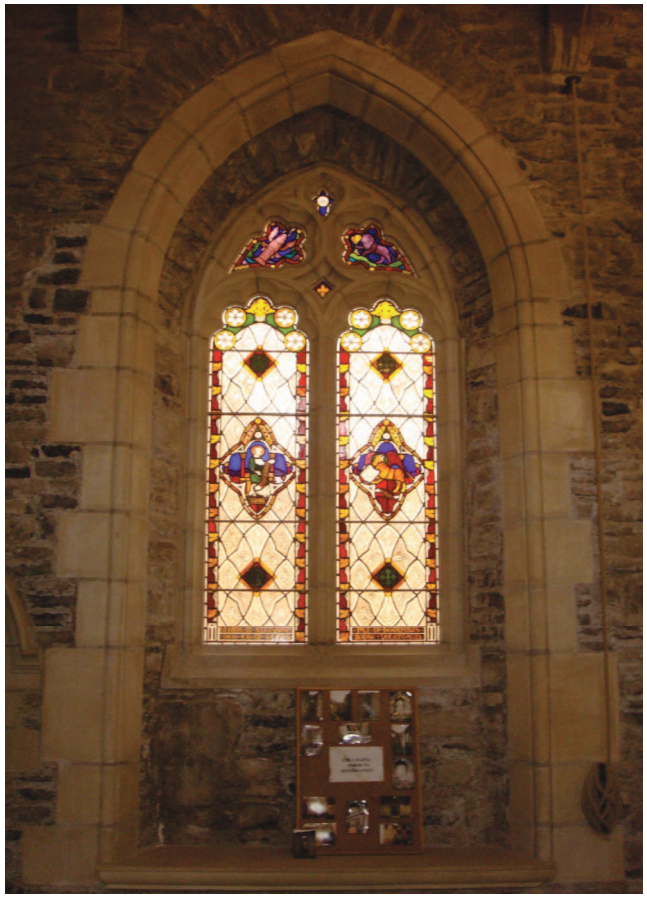


5.1 CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION

Historic Centre Action Plan Objectives

Fingal County Council's proposal for a study of the problems and potential of the Swords Castle Conservation of European Cities Programme supported by the European Commission. The purpose of the study is to develop in detail, in consultation with local interests, proposals in the Town Centre Development Plan, identify sources of funding and set out an implementation programme. The study objectives are to:

- Restore rundown historic parts of the Town and respect the architectural and historic fabric in any solutions adopted;
- Develop mixed functions/land uses;
- Produce solutions for resolving problems related to the environmental impact of traffic and improve public transport;
- Reintegrate the Castle area into the social, economic and commercial life of the Town and County.
- Develop actions for incorporation into the Community Support Fund framework;
- Bring together other "actors" in the city.



Chapel - Swords Castle

Desktop Studies

A large body of source material is available on the study area and its context covering a broad range of subjects including:

- Archaeology and historical development of Swords
- Planning and transport policies;
- Special area studies;
- Retail demand studies;
- Tourism reports.

Site Surveys and Mapping

A series of surveys and mapping exercises of the study area have been undertaken which include:

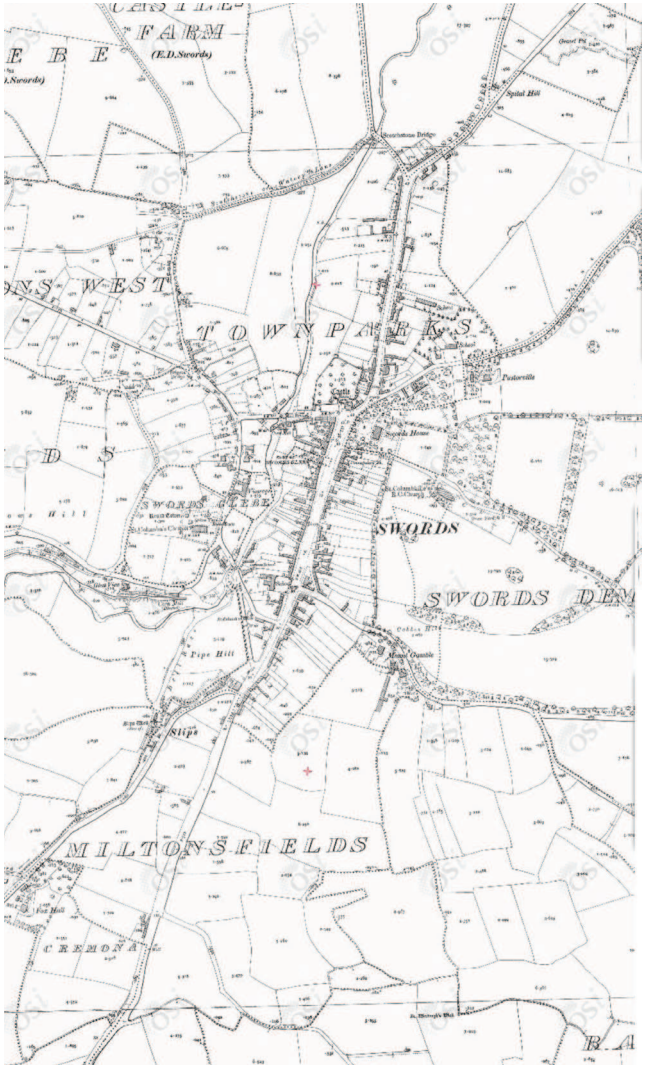
- Photographic survey;
- Land-use and building occupancy surveys;
- Site familiarisation visits by the consultant team;
- Mapping of study area to identify land ownership's, planning applications, green structure, etc;

Swords Castle

Swords Castle was one of the medieval palaces of the archbishops of Dublin and dates from the time of Archbishop John Comyn in the 12th century. It is the best upstanding example of a medieval palace in Ireland. The castle was never strong in the military sense, but is unusual in that the perimeter wall of 305 metres is for larger than normal for an Irish Castle.



Swords Castle - 2014



Swords Ordnance Survey Ireland_ circa.1897-1913



Swords Ordnance Survey Ireland_ circa.1929-1941

Urban Grain

The historic narrow frontage approach on the western edge of Main Street establishes a building line of linked dwellings and continuous building frontage. Building widths range on average from 8-10m. On the eastern side of Main Street there has been a loss of grain over the years where plots have been amalgamated. This has detracted from the overall character of the street. As such, the building widths are much wider with an average dimension of 15-20m.

New development can address the established grain through facade design with variations in the facade composition to echo the historical grain pattern.



Urban Grain Diagram



Main Street Burgage Plots_First Edition OS Map c.1837



Historic Swords_ Main Street by Robert French 1847-1917



Historic Swords_ Swords Castle

Protected Structures

In order to achieve the vision for Swords as a vibrant multi-functional centre, it is important to take stock of the existing qualities of Main Street, in particular its historic influences.

New buildings and public realm improvements should complement the existing protected structures, historic streetscape and high quality architecture.

Views should be protected at the following locations:

1. Views of Swords Castle from Main Street and Dublin Street

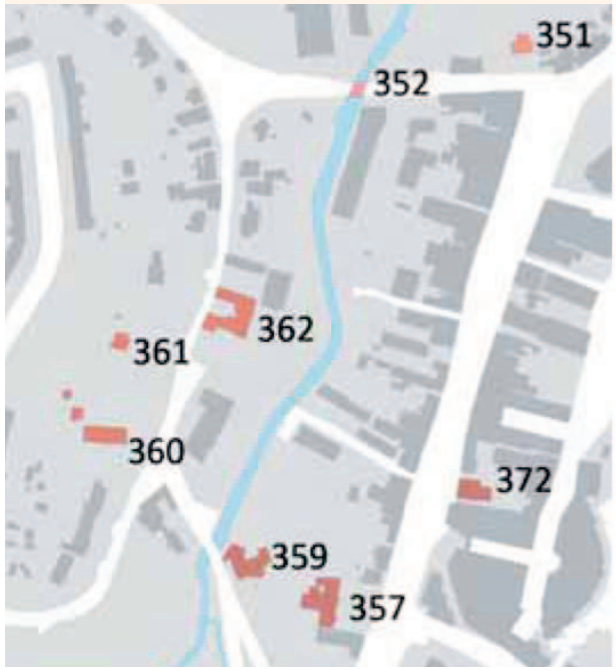
2. Views to the historic core of Swords at St. Columba's Church and round tower from Main Street and Well Road

3. Views to the spire of St. Columcille's Roman Catholic Church from New Street/Forster Way.



Views to be Protected

351	Swords Castle
352	Mill Bridge
357	Old Borough School
359	The Old School House Restaurant
360	St Columba's Church (C of I)
362	Old Vicarage
372	National Irish Bank



Protected Structures



Historic Swords_ Main Street by Robert French 1847-1917



Historic Swords_ Main Street by Robert French 1841-1917

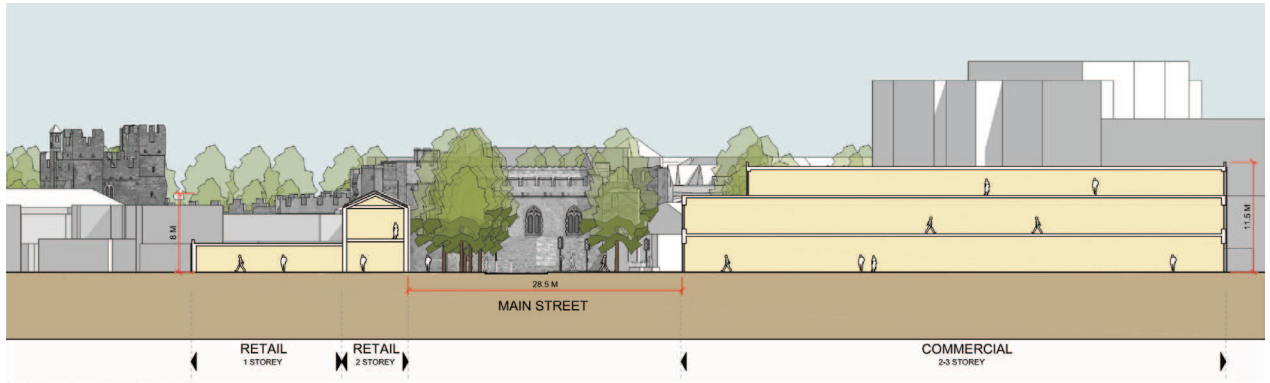
5.3 URBAN DESIGN ANALYSIS

Typical Swords Urban Form Diagrams

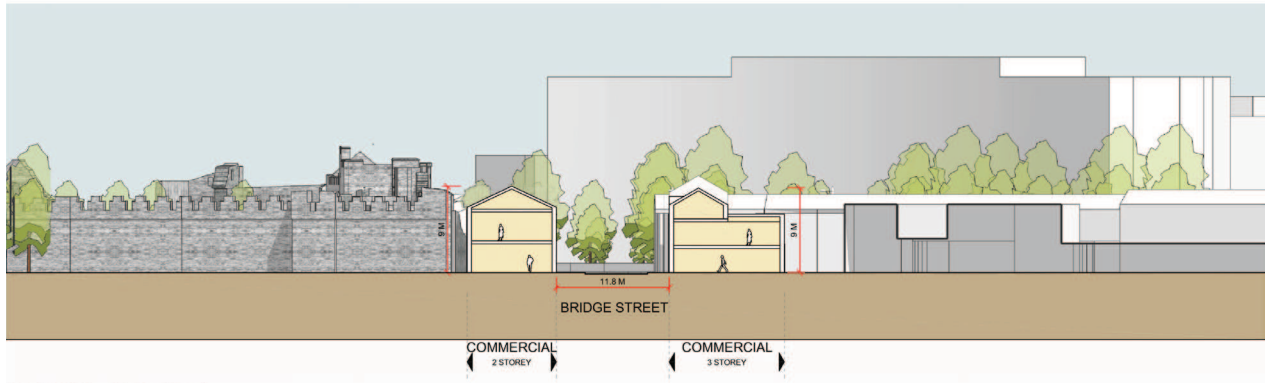
The nature of the existing urban streets can be observed in the diagrammatic sections to the right. Proportions of building height and street width will be an important consideration for any future architectural designs going forward. These designs will create new edges to the urban streets and must maintain existing proportions in an effort to prevent conflict of scale and massing issues with the existing historic fabric.



Key Plan Indicating Location of Street Sections



Section A A - Main Street



Section B B - Bridge Street



Section C C - Castle / Civic Offices

5.3 URBAN DESIGN ANALYSIS

Swords The Challenge



Bridge Street, Swords

The aim for this report for the study area is to:

- To provide a vibrant civic/cultural centre to redefine the existing built heritage of the town
- To provide interconnected paths providing a choice of walking and cycling routes that lead through the town and engage with existing gateways and access points which traditionally have been either closed or unavailable for security reasons
- Limit the extent of road space, connectivity, and encourage slower traffic speeds. Promote higher pedestrian amenity, encourage cars to park in selected areas – and thus promote pedestrian movement through the town
- To provide a series of usable amenity spaces to improve the connectivity between the town, its users and the inherent characteristics such as the park, river, castle and protected structures
- To investigate potential development sites within the context of the master plan and examine how these may inform the future development of the town

5.3 URBAN DESIGN ANALYSIS

Self-Contained

So what pressures do towns face at the beginning of the 21st Century?

Towns in the past were self-contained. They provided services for their population and to the surrounding rural area who were unable to travel elsewhere for these services thus creating a captive market.

Independence

In the past every town was different. The shops and businesses were owned locally and were unique to the town. Every shop in this market square, with the possible exception of the Bank would have been an independent business. Towns also had their own town councils, local newspapers, sports clubs, institutes, and churches.



High Street, Kilkenny

Page 350



Aerial Photograph, Swords

5.3 URBAN DESIGN ANALYSIS

Distinctive

Swords Main Street is remarkably still quite distinct because of its historic evolution and that legacy, its wide Main Street, and now because it is a county town of a relatively new county. It needs to resist the trend of many towns in the UK and Europe where every high street looks the same and is dominated by the same handful of multiple retails with standard shop fronts and identikit products.



Main Street, Swords



Bridge Street, Swords



Main Street, Swords

5.3 URBAN DESIGN ANALYSIS

Local Employment

Swords has the advantage that it has kept a significant number of enterprises and industries within the town. This is an advantage which should be retained and nurtured going into the future. Employment is offered by this range of retail, civic, industrial and business enterprises which keeps Swords thriving. The needs of these business need to be considered carefully so the ongoing economic growth of the town can be facilitated.



Main Street, Swords



Bristol Myers Squib - Swords



Balheary Industrial Park - Swords



Aerial Photograph, Swords Industrial Area

The Ward River Valley Park

The Ward River Valley Park is an under utilized recreational resource with significant potential. It is located immediately adjacent to the Town Centre but they are poorly linked both visually and physically. It provides for few facilities [pathways and a playground] to attract people in. There is a need to:

1. Integrate the Park with the Town Centre

2. To develop additional recreational facilities and amenities [e.g playgrounds, seating areas, environmental areas etc]

3. To engage with the existing Castle and define a new public space at the transition points between Park and Castle

4. To define an area within the Park that utilises the Castle as a backdrop to public outdoor events

Providing for improved physical [pedestrian and cycle] and visual connections between the Town and the Park together with additional recreational facilities will attract people to the Park on a regular basis, increase the numbers using the Park and will thereby improve the effective level of informal supervision adding to people's sense of safety.



The Ward River Valley Park

ARCHITECTURAL INTERVENTIONS - Astley Castle

Precedent 01_Old and New

- Sensitive restoration to existing historic building
- Public open space within Castle grounds to support public events / functions



Astley Castle - Warickshire UK



Astley Castle - Warickshire UK



Astley Castle - Warickshire UK

ARCHITECTURAL INTERVENTIONS - Trim Castle

Precedent 02_Heritage Centre

- Pedestrian route through the Castle showing architecture and history via guided tours
- Castle provides a unique identity to the town - a well recognised landmark associated with the town
- Castle acts as a backdrop to the town
- Private / Public functions / events can be facilitated - thus extending the role of the Castle within the town



Trim Castle - County Meath



Trim Castle - County Meath



Trim Castle - County Meath

ARCHITECTURAL INTERVENTIONS - King Johns Castle

Precedent 03_Heritage Centre

- Interactive learning centre for public visitors
- Castle as a backdrop to the town - this gives a unique character and identity to the town



King Johns Castle Limerick - Castle as an Icon



King Johns Castle Limerick - Heritage Centre



King Johns Castle Limerick - Heritage Centre

ARCHITECTURAL INTERVENTIONS - Pombal Castle

Precedent 04_Tourism Attraction

- Modern addition to existing Castle to promote awareness of the Castle and history of the surrounding areas.
- Architectural Interventions are used to reconnect the castle to surrounding landscape areas and existing river
- Landscape scheme to the Castle re-establishes and improves the public's experience of the Castle



Pombal Castle - Portugal



Pombal Castle - Portugal



Pombal Castle - Portugal

5.4 PRECEDENTS

URBAN INTERVENTIONS IN THE HISTORIC STREET

Precedent 01_No. 16 Capel Street, Dublin

- Located in one of the most historically significant streets in Dublin, dating back to the late seventeenth century.
- Basement and ground floor retail with four upper floors left considerably vacant and derelict
- All original internal walls and decoration detail were lost over time through renovations and the construction of a rear early twentieth century extension.
- New works involved reuse of the upper floors into loft-style apartments and works at ground floor and basement to provide a retail unit allowed the re-use of the building to provide for all the requirements of contemporary retail and residential units.



No. 16 Capel Street by O'Brien Beary Architects



Exemplar o "living over the shop" conservation initiative by DCC

5.4 PRECEDENTS

URBAN INTERVENTIONS IN THE HISTORIC STREET

Precedent 02_Mixed Use Development, Castle Street, Dublin

- Situated close to Dublin Castle and opposite Christchurch Cathedral in the heart of Dublin city.
- This corner site was previously occupied by a derelict 1960's concrete-framed building which was out of context whith its surroundings.
- The new building was designed to integrate with the various surrounding architectural languages of its neighbouring buildings and Christchurch Cathedral whicle retaining the existing structure.
- Ground to second floor provides retail use with a penthouse apartment at third and fourth floor levels.
- Through the design of the facade and careful selection of materials the building integrates with its surroundings in a sympathetic way.





Mixed Use Development - Castle Street by De Blacam & Meagher Architects

Oifig an Aire
44 Sráid Chill Dara, Baile Átha Cliath 2, Éire.

Office of the Minister
44 Kildare Street, Dublin 2, Ireland.

An Roinn Iompair, Turasóireachta agus Spóirt
Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport

Tel: +353 1 670 7444 Locall: 1890 443311 Fax: +353 1 604 1183 Web: www.dttas.ie Email: minister@dttas.ie

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL
SECRETARIAT

02/04/2015

Our Ref: PD/15/7281

Mr Michael Kelly
Admin Officer
Corporate Affairs Dept
Fingal County Council
Swords
Co Dublin

Dear Mr Kelly

I refer to your correspondence of 24 February 2015 on behalf of Fingal County Council concerning IAG's proposed offer for Aer Lingus.

As Aer Lingus is in an 'offer period' under the Irish Takeover Rules, I am constrained in what I can say publicly at this point, as these rules apply to significant shareholders in some regards as well as offerors and offeree companies during an offer period.

I have consistently set out the Government's position on the issues that it would take account of in considering any offer for its shareholding in Aer Lingus. In addition to price, the other issues that will be examined include connectivity to/from Ireland including direct transatlantic services and connectivity via Heathrow, competition in the air transport market, jobs in Irish aviation and the Aer Lingus Brand.

Both IAG and Aer Lingus have provided further detail and clarifications in recent weeks. However, the Government's view is that this does not at present provide a basis on which we could provide an irrevocable commitment to accept an offer.

The position now is that further consideration of the IAG proposals will be based on the following:

- Further clarity from IAG on the overall employment prospects on the basis of the proposals received, with particular reference to the timeframe within which net additional employment would be created.

- Firm commitments on plans for growing Aer Lingus's transatlantic business and plans to grow Aer Lingus' routes at Cork, Shannon and Knock airports.
- IAG has indicated that it is proposing to offer legally binding, permanent commitments on the Heathrow slots and term-based commitments on routes. However, the commitment in relation to routes is for five years. The Government requires a longer period.
- The nature and acceptability of oversight measures on the Heathrow slots and routes needs to be confirmed. These would also be subject to any EU considerations.

In line with stated policy, the Government remains open to considering any improved proposal.

I am conscious of the concerns raised in your correspondence and wish to assure you that the Government is examining all the issues very carefully before taking a decision on the matter.

Yours sincerely,

Paschal Donohue

Paschal Donohoe T.D.
Minister for Transport Tourism and Sport

Cycling study trip to the Netherlands in September 2015

STATUS: Booking flights and accommodation

Are you a city or county councillor, cycling campaigners, or professional with a focus on cycling? Are you interested in a cycling study trip to the Netherlands? If you are please email cian.ginty@gmail.com or you can get me on 087 2513706



When?
September: Tuesday 15th to Friday 18th

Where to?
The main focus will be on Utrecht (pictured right), including cycling to the nearby Houten, with a secondary focus on Eindhoven and 's-Hertogenbosch (informally known as Den Bosch). Officials from Utrecht, Eindhoven and 's-Hertogenbosch have all confirmed that they will show us around and highlight the work they are doing.



Who is this for?
Main aim is to attract city and county councillors, and campaigners, but also open to: planners, engineers, consultants, NGOs, government bodies with an interest in cycling.



What's the goal?
To showcase everyday Dutch cycling -- from the culture to cycle networks and everything in between. Giving councillors, campaigners and professionals an up-to-date Dutch insight into what is and isn't good quality.

Study tour to include

- Talks / tours from / one-to-one contact with Dutch experts (ie councillors, engineers, planners, campaigners, etc)

- Key elements of Dutch cycle paths and networks
- How Utrecht handles large volumes of buses and bicycles
- Examples of multi-lane streets/roads which have been reduced
- Examples of city centre streets made one-way for cars, kept two-way for bicycles
- Parking in city centres, train stations large and mid-sized - including Utrecht's new 4,200 unit, first of 22k spaces to be built (pictured, right)



- Dutch bicycle priority roundabouts
- Bicycle / service streets
- At least one Fietssnelweg (bicycle highway)
- Dutch schools: street layout, restrictions, and bicycle parking etc
- Dutch residential streets
- Cycling Utrecht-Houten (9km) may be a good way to see both areas
- Any other suggestions?

Why Utrecht?

- High quality cycling infrastructure
- Mix of restricted city centre core and wider roads
- Excellent example of cycling in a city with large volumes of buses / BRT
- Good example of combining rail and bicycle, with new high-quality railway bicycle parking
- Linked to Houten which an excellent commuter town example of rail/bike integration and low car impact environment.
- Large university campus focused on cycling and bus priority

Why Eindhoven and 's-Hertogenbosch?

Both are close to Utrecht, on the same railway line, are examples of different and smaller cities, and have a fairly high standard of cycling infrastructure. Eindhoven has the Hovenring floating bicycle roundabout as well as a general high quality network.

Outline of trip:

- Fly from Dublin to Amsterdam Schiphol Airport
- Train to Utrecht
- Three nights in Utrecht
- Split Wednesday or Thursday between Eindhoven and 's-Hertogenbosch
- Fly back to Dublin via Amsterdam Schiphol Airport on Friday

Accommodation



THIS NEEDS A REPLY ASAP:
If you want to be included in the group hotel booking please email me to confirm; if you will be booking a hotel etc independently please let me know; or if you are no longer interested in the trip please let me know.

For the hotel booking: We will be staying three nights in Utrecht - Tuesday 15th, Wednesday 16th, and Thursday 17th -- checking out on Friday.

I'm awaiting a final quote from two hotels but I've gotten a few down to around €126 to €135 per night (from a high starting point of ~€150 per night, they all say September is still their busy season!). I'm negotiating with the final hotels on price and the option for the ability to pay in September. The book now price on booking.com etc may be a cheaper option or some going on the trip are also look at using AirBnB.

Flights

You will need to book your own flights! It is not a requirement of going on the trip to use these flight times, but they are a guide as to when you need to be in Utrecht.

FROM DUBLIN:

The best option I can find is to fly to Amsterdam Schiphol Airport with Aer Lingus. From Schiphol it takes just 45 mins to get to Utrecht. At the moment the Aer Lingus flights on Tuesday and Friday combined amount to a total of €151.98 (as of 10-02-2015). The best times which allow us to make the most of the trip are:

- Tuesday 15th September at 09:40 or earlier (ie 06:00)
- Friday 18th September at 16:40 or later (ie 20:30)

The Ryanair option is around €50 cheaper but is not recommended, mainly because of the flight times. The only option with Ryanair is a midday flight out of Dublin on Tuesday and a pre-midday return flight on Friday -- this would mean Tuesday and Friday would be or would be close to writeoffs. It's also longer (1 h 20 mins) to get from Eindhoven to Utrecht by train.

FROM CORK:

The Cork flight is slightly more expensive at €165.98 (as of 10-02-2015). There's only one fight in each direction per day from Cork so if you're planning on flying from Cork on Tuesday and return on Friday your flight out is at 06:00 and your return is at 21:25.

Trains
Please budget for €60 -- estimate includes Schiphol to Utrecht and return; day which will include Eindhoven and 's-Hertogenbosch and return to Utrecht that evening;

Bicycle rental
Bicycle rental will be extra -- I will confirm options closer to the travel dates. To get a real grip on how the Dutch do it, I'm looking at possibly getting group access to OV Fiets -- the railway-linked Dutch bike rental scheme -- but it might be a long shot! OV Fiets is €10 per year and €3.15 per 24 hours (it's designed for all-day use). Normal bike rental from bicycle shops is €7+ per day.

Any expressions of interest, questions or comments?
Email cian.ginty@gmail.com or you can get me on 0872513706.

FAQ based on feedback on the following pages…

FAQ responses based on feedback

How much will it cost?
See estimates above.

More about cycling in the Netherlands
Yes, the brilliant 'Bicycle Dutch' website has videos and information on Utrecht, Den Bosch, and Eindhoven.

But Ireland can't possibly catch up with the Netherlands. We're 30 or 40 years behind!
Maybe not, but according experts on Dutch cycling, most of the cycling infrastructure in the Netherlands has been built or rebuilt in the last 15 years.

Why not Amsterdam?
The original suggestion included Amsterdam and Utrecht but the feedback was that Amsterdam should be dropped for two reasons: That Amsterdam is not the best example of Dutch cycling infrastructure, and that it is more expensive -- flying into Eindhoven is notably more affordable, as is accommodation outside the capital (the former has on balance been shown to be less of the case than first thought).

Why am I doing this?
Mainly because nobody else is and its worthwhile to showcase what the Dutch do.

Who am I and what do I know about cycling?
I'm the editor of IrishCycle.com (formally CyclinginDublin.com), covering cycling and related news and comment in Ireland; I've written about cycling as transport for nearly every Irish national newspaper, and was recently on a Dutch government/induestry sponcored cycling tour for journalists. I've written a good deal about Dutch cycling, but the trip won't be focused on my knowledge -- it will be focused on showcasing local experts and their knowledge.

Why not go on a David Hembrow tour?
Originally because of what Amsterdam and Utrecht has to offer -- for example, Utrecht is building the largest train station bicycle parking (and are eager to show this off), and because the similarity between Amsterdam and Dublin is striking (around the same population, population density, both capitals, both have similarly restricted city centre street network). Following that, the cost of a Hembrow tour (over €400pp for the three days, excluding accommodation or travel) would be too expensive for most campaigners and for any councillor or others self-funding the trip. However, if you have the money you can find more details at http://www.hembrow.eu/studytour/ -- if all goes well with this first tour and there's interist in a second in a year or two, then we might look for a group discount?

“Officials and councilors have already been to the Netherlands but learned nothing”
The focus is not on officials alone, but rather also mainly on councillors and campaigners. From feedback which I’ve received, few current councillors or campaigners have gone on such cycling study trips where local counterparts cover everything from history to best practice. Most of those who have been to the Netherlands say they were there as tourists, or on other business. Many say they have only been to Amsterdam (which is far from the best example and people tend to only or mostly see the city centre which is only half the story).

Why bother, Ireland will never be like the Netherlands?
Progress in most of Ireland has been painfully slow but on the other hand in recent history there has never been such a public or political hunger for cycling and cycling provision. But there has never been a time when the Dublin City manager has stood up and said a cycling route on the quays is going to happen. But it's not just Dublin, Cork is transferring a notable amount of city street space to cycling. DublinBikes has pushed cycling further into the minds of the Dublin public and the hope the same will be repeated across other Irish cities. Greenways are going to be built across the country.

Even in my car-centric home town of Ballina in Mayo, there's a small but growing amount of people cycling their children to school and around town -- unheard of for most of my life. I can't recall a single parent cycling their children when I was a teenager. Thing are changing, do we want to make the best of the change or not?

Offaly County Council
Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road,
Tullamore, Co. Offaly.

Comhairle Chontae Uíbh Fhailí
Áras an Chontae, Bóthar Charleville,
An Tulach Mhór, Contae Uíbh Fhailí.

T: 057 9346800 F: 057 9346868 / www.offaly.ie / customerservices@offalycoco.ie

24th March 2015

To: Each Local Authority

Re: Notice of Motion – Offaly County Council

A Chara

At the March meeting of Offaly County Council the members passed the following resolution and I was directed to forward same to all local authorities for your consideration.

"At present Parking Fines issued by the council's traffic wardens and subsequently not paid and which go to court and upheld the money accruing from those is retained by the state. Offaly County Council calls for a change to allow councils to benefit from this revenue as all the work and expense is born by the council."

Mise, le meas

Monica Cleary

Monica Cleary SEO
Meetings Administrator

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Fondúireacht an Phiarsaigh

Corporate Services
2 - MAR 2015
Limerick City & County Council

f/ch Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann,
Cearnóg Belgrave,
Baile na Manach,
Co. Bhaile Átha Cliath.

Fón: 01-280 0295 (Oifig)
01-285 4225
r.phost: fonduireacht@oceanfree.net

Comhairleoirí:
Labhrás Ó Murchú (Cathaoirleach)
Bláthnaid Ó Brádaigh
Pat Butler
Mairéad Ní Chinnéide
Seán de Fréine

26 Feabhra 2015

GRADAM AN PHIARSAIGH 2015

A Chara,

Tugtar cuireadh do d'eagras leis seo, duine a ainmniú do Ghradam an Phiarsaigh 2015 – duine ar léir dóibh sár-iarracht a bheith déanta nó á déanamh acu, chun idéalacha an Phiarsaigh a chur chun cinn - bíodh sé sin i gcúrsaí oideachais, ealaíne, litríochta, cearta sibhialta, na meáin chumarsáide nó i measc an phobail.

Gach bliain **ó 1980 i leith**, bronnadh Gradam an Phiarsaigh ar dhuine éigin. I measc na ndaoine ar bronnadh an gradam orthu le blianta beaga anuas, tá Helen Ó Murchú, Oideachasóir agus saineolaí teanga; **Adi Roche**, bunaitheoir Chernobyl Children's Project; **Nollaig Ó Gadhra**, iriseoir agus scríbhneoir; Mons. **Breandán Ó Doibhlin**, ollamh le Fraincís, diagaire agus scríbhneoir agus an **tEaspag Dónal Caird**, oideachasóir agus fealsúnaí agus **Seán Ó Cuirreáin**, Iar-Choimisinéir Teanga.

Coiste neamhspleách a roghnaíonn an buaiteoir.

Iarraimid ort arís i mbliana, an t-ainmniúchán a phlé ag cruinniú coiste/bord stiúrtha an eagrais/na comhairle agus ainm an duine atá á ainmniú agat a chur ar an bhfoirm a ghabhann leis an litir seo. Is fearr cuntas gearr (gan dul thar 300 focal) a chur leis ag míniú cén fáth a mheasann sibh an duine a bheith i dteideal an gradam a fháil. Go dtí seo bhí Gaeilge líofa ag buaiteoirí an Ghradaim ach má tá tréithe eile an Phiarsaigh léirithe go láidir agus go suntasach ag an té atá á ainmniú, glacfar le daoine a bhfuil meirg ar a gcuid Gaeilge anois.

Spriocdháta d'ainmniúcháin - **Dé Céadaoin, 15 Aibreán 2015**
Dáta do bhronnadh an Ghradaim - **Dé Máirt, 19 Bealtaine 2015**

Seoltar na hainmniúcháin chugamsa ag an seoladh thuas. Má bhíonn ceist agaibh ná bíodh leisc oraibh labhairt linn. Faoi iamh freisin mar eolas, tá liosta iomlán na ndaoine ar bronnadh an Gradam orthu go dtí seo.

Le dea-mhéin,

LABHRÁS Ó MURCHÚ
Cathaoirleach

General Translation

26 February 2015

PÁDRAIG PEARSE AWARD 2015

A Chara,

Fondúireacht an Phiarsaigh was founded 35 years ago, with the objective of perpetuating the memory of this multi-faceted man and with the hope of inspiring others to follow his ideals. **Since 1980,** Gradam an Phiarsaigh has been presented each year, to a person who the adjudicators believe, best exemplifies the ideals of Pearse and who has worked to promote those ideals in the fields of education, art, literature, civil liberties, the media or among the community. Pearse had a vision of Ireland and this vision was central to all he did.

Fondúireacht an Phiarsaigh gives an opportunity to a wide range of national organizations (including Irish Language organizations; County Councils; Trade Unions; Sporting bodies etc.) to nominate some person who they believe has contributed significantly to the ideals of Pádraig Pearse. Among the recent winners are ***Helen Ó Murchú***, educationalist and linguist; ***Adi Roche***, the Chernobyl Children's campaigner; ***Nollaig Ó Gadhra,*** journalist and writer; ***Mons. Breandán Ó Doibhlin***, Professor of French, theologian and writer; and ***Bishop Dónal Caird,*** educationalist and philosopher and **Seán Ó Cuirreáin,** former Language Commissioner.

An independent panel is appointed to choose the winner.

Once again this year, we invite your Committee/Board to nominate a person whom you consider worthy of the award. To date, all recipients have been Irish speakers, but if the attributes of your nominee are clearly identifiable to those of Pádraig Pearse, though their Irish has become rusty, this will not debar him/her from inclusion. We enclose a nomination form for you to complete, after the matter has been discussed by your Committee/Board. Please forward the completed form to me at the above address. We would request that additional information would be confined to 300 words. Enclosed is a list of all the people who have been awarded Gradam an Phiarsaigh since its inception.

Final date for receiving nominations is **Wednesday, 15 April 2015**
Date for presentation of the Gradam is **Tuesday, 19 May 2015**

If you have any questions, we will be delighted to answer them.

Le dea-mhéin,

LABHRÁS Ó MURCHÚ
Cathaoirleach

GRADAM AN PHIARSAIGH 2015 - FOIRM AINMNIÚCHÁIN

PÁDRAIG PEARSE AWARD 2015 - NOMINATION FORM

1. Ainm an Eagrais/Choiste/na Comhairle - *Name of Organization/Council*

_____

2. Seoladh - *Address*

_____

3. Ainm an té atá á ainmniú - *Name of person being nominated*

_____

4. Cad iad buanna / cáilíochtaí an duine, bunaithe ar thréithe an Phiarsaigh ?

What are the attributes of this person as they relate to the qualities of Pádraig Pearse, in the fields of

a. gné an Oideachais - *Education*

b. gné na Teanga – *the Irish Language*

c. gné na Litríochta/ Iriseoireachta – *Literature and Journalism*

d. gné na Polaitíochta - *Politics*

../...

e. gné na nEalaíon/ an Chultúir – *Arts and Culture*

f. gné Chearta Sibhialta – *Civil Rights*

5. Cén tairbhe don phobal, saothar an duine seo? - *How has the work of your nominee benefited the community?*

6. Cén tairbhe don náisiún, saothar an duine seo? - *What contribution has the work of your nominee made to the nation?*

(Is féidir eolas breise a chur ar leathanach eile, GAN dul thar 300 focal san iomlán)
(If necessary, please use another page, but confine total to 300 words)

Sínithe _____ Dáta _____

Seoltar an fhoirm chomhlánaithe ar ais **roimh Dé Céadaoin, 15 Aibreán 2015** chuig –
*Return completed form **before Wednesday, 15th April 2015** to -*

An Cathaoirleach, Fondúireacht an Phiarsaigh, 32 Cr. Belgrave, Baile na Manach, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Átha Cliath. Teil: 01/280 0295 nó an Rúnaí: 01/285 4225

BUAITEOIRÍ GHRADAM AN PHIARSAIGH
1980 – 2014

1980	---	Éamonn de Barra
1981	---	Donnchadh Ó Súilleabháin
1982	---	Cormac Mac Cárthaigh
1983	---	Domhnall Ó Lúbhlaí
1984	---	Alf Ó Muirí
1985	---	Máirtín Ó Direáin
1986	---	Alan Heussaff
1987	---	Tomás de Bhaldraithe
1988	---	Risteárd Ó Glaisne
1989	---	Bríd Nic Dhomhnaill
1990	---	Pádraig Ó Muircheartaigh
1991	---	Eibhlín Ní Chathailriabhaigh
1992	---	Ath. Diarmuid Ó Laoghaire
1993	---	Séamus de Brún
1994	---	Séamus Mac Seáin
1995	---	Gearóid Ó Tuathaigh
1996	---	Br. T.F. Beausang
1997	---	Bláthnaid Ó Brádaigh
1998	---	Pádraig Mac Donncha
1999	---	Máire Mhic Chonchradha
2000	---	Máire Mhic Niallais
2001	---	Mainchín Seoighe
2002	---	Seán Ó Tuama
2003	---	(Níor bronnadh de bharr atheagair)
2004	---	Máire Nic Shuibhne-Brugha
2005	---	Helen Ó Murchú
2006	---	Adi Roche
2007	---	Nollaig Ó Gadhra
2008	---	Pádraig Tyers
2009	---	Mons. Breandán Ó Doibhlin
2010	---	An tEaspag Dónall Caird
2011	---	Liam Ó Cuinneagáin
2012	---	Treasa Ní Ailpín
2013	---	Ciarán Ó Feinneadha
2014	--	Seán Ó Cuirreáin

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