

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 8TH MARCH 2021

ITEM NO. 1

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 140 OF
THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001, AS AMENDED.

Call for Judicial Review - Councillors Dean Mulligan, Ann Graves, Joe Newman, Ian Carey and James Humphreys.

“That the Council hereby resolves, under Section 140 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended, to require the Chief Executive, to seek leave to challenge the decision of An Bord Pleanála ABP-308366-20 by way of a judicial review as an executive function, as the Bord's decision is contrary to Development Plan objectives incorporated in the site specific master plan, including, but not limited to, building heights adjoining the Forest Road and mass overdevelopment in terms of net densities and a primary school site not being secured as a condition of the new housing.”

Report:

Under reference ABP-308366 dated 3rd February 2021, An Bord Pleanála granted planning permission to MKN Property Group for a Strategic Housing Development submitted pursuant to section 4(1) of the Planning and Development (Housing) and Residential Tenancies Act 2016 for a mixed-use development ranging in height from five number storeys to nine number storeys from street level with a total of 278 number apartment units near Swords town centre.

The 2016 Act requires applications to be made directly to the Board (and not the planning authority).

Accordingly, the Board – and not the planning authority – is the *persona designate* and competent authority for applications for planning permission made under the 2016 Act.

While the Board must have regard to the planning authority's development plan in determining the application for SHD and is precluded from granting planning permission if the proposed development would involve a material contravention of a zoning objective of the development plan or local area plan, in the case of a non-zoning objective, i.e. an objective other than one in relation to the zoning of land, the Board has jurisdiction to grant planning permission in material contravention of the objective provided that certain prescribed statutory criteria are fulfilled. The scheme of the 2016 Act allows the Board to justify a material contravention of the Council's Development Plan and they appear to have done so in this case.

It is advised that the Council would be acting contrary to the provisions of the 2016 Act if it sought to challenge the decision of the Board having regard to (i) the role of the planning authority effectively as a statutory consultee and *rapporteur* in contrast to that of the Board as the *persona designata* and competent authority for EIA and AA under the 2016 Act (ii) the fact that applications are required to be made to the Board directly under the 2016 Act (iii) the fact that there is no first instance decision-making role for the planning authority (iv) the fact that the 2016 Act expressly allows the Board to materially contravene non-zoning objectives of the Development Plan (v) the report of the Board's inspector and the direction and order of the Board in ABP-308366 having regard in particular to the reasons given for the material contravention of the Development Plan in this case.

In acceding to the motion and seeking to challenge a decision of the Board on an SHD application, the Council would be acting contrary to the 2016 Act and therefore unlawfully.

In its decision granting permission, the Board noted that while a grant of permission for the proposed SHD in this case would not materially contravene a zoning objective of the statutory plans for the area, a grant of permission "could" materially contravene Objective WORDS 27 of the Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023, as it relates to building heights in the Fosterstown Masterplan Area, and "could" materially contravene Objective DM113 of the Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023, as it relates to car parking standards for new developments.

The Board's decision further states that it considered – having regard to the provisions of section 37(2) of the PDA 2000 (the material contravention process) – that the grant of permission in material contravention of the Development Plan would be justified for the following reasons and considerations:

(i) in relation to section 37(2)(b)(i)^[1] of the PDA 2000, the application was lodged under the SHD legislation and the proposal was considered to be strategic in

nature. Reference is made to the expression of national policy in Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan on Housing and Homelessness 2016 and the Project 2040 Ireland National Planning Framework fully support the need for urban infill residential development, such as that proposed on this site;

(ii) in relation to section 37(2)(b)(iii)^[2] of the PDA 2000, reference was made to the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2019-2031 which seeks to increase densities on appropriate sites within Dublin City and Suburbs. The Board's decision made reference to relevant section 28 guidelines including the Urban Development and Building Height Guidelines for Planning Authorities (December 2018)^[3] which state that inter alia that building heights must be generally increased in appropriate urban locations, subject to the criteria as set out in Section 3.2 of the Guidelines; the Sustainable Residential Developments in Urban Areas and the accompanying Urban Design Manual, A Best Practice Guide (May 2009) which support increased densities in appropriate locations; the Urban Design Manual; (in relation to car parking) the Sustainable Urban Housing: Design Standards for New Apartments, Guidelines for Planning Authorities (December 2018) and Board's view was that the quantum of parking proposed by the application was in line with these Section 28 Guidelines.

^[1] This provides that where a planning authority has decided to refuse permission on the grounds that a proposed development materially contravenes the development plan, the Board may only grant permission in accordance with section 37(2)(2) of the PDA 2000 where it considers that the proposed development is of strategic or national importance. (Emphasis added).

^[2] This provides that where a planning authority has decided to refuse permission on the grounds that a proposed development materially contravenes the development plan, the Board may only grant permission in accordance with section 37(2)(2) of the PDA 2000 where it considers that permission for the proposed development should be granted having regard to regional spatial and economic strategy for the area, guidelines under section 28 policy directives under section 29, the statutory obligations of any local authority in the area, and any relevant policy of the Government, the Minister or any Minister of the Government.

^[3] In contrast to the decision and direction of the Board and the Inspector's report in this case of ABP-308366, in *O'Neill v. An Bord Pleanála* [2020] IEHC 356 the High Court (McDonald J.) quashed a decision of the Board on an SDH application on *inter alia* the basis that the Board's direction and subsequent order did not explain or provide sufficient reasons why the requirements of SPPR3(A) (specific planning policy requirement issued by the Minister for Housing under section 28 of the PDA 2000 and which requires mandatory compliance by the Board) had been satisfied and in those circumstances the High Court found that the Board was not lawfully entitled to grant permission for proposed development which materially contravened the Dublin City Development Plan in exceeding the maximum height of sixteen metres permitted under the Plan.

Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall
Fingal County Council

Minutes of the County Council Meeting held on Monday 8th February 2021 on MS Teams at 5.00pm.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Boland, Cathal	Mahony, Howard
Burtchaell, John	Manton, Brigid
Butler, Darragh	McCamley, Mary
Carey, Ian	McDonagh, Brian
Conroy, Pamela	Mulligan, Dean
Cooper, Freddie	Mulville, Paul
Dennehy, Brian	Murphy, Tony
Dennison, Kieran	Newman, Joe
Doyle, Tania	O'Brien, Eoghan
Graves, Ann	O'Donoghue, Robert
Guerin, Jimmy	O'Leary, Tom
Hanaphy, Breda	Ó Rodaigh, Seána
Healy, David	O'Rourke, Aaron
Henchy, Adrian	Power, Karen
Hopkins, Joan	Rane, Punam
Humphreys, James	Shovlin, <u>Siobhán</u>
Kitt, Tom	Tormey, Aoibhinn
Lavin, Anthony	Treacy, Natalie
Leddy, Ted	Walsh, John
Maguire, Grainne	Whooley, Daniel

The Mayor, Councillor David Healy, presided.

OFFICIALS PRESENT

AnnMarie Farrelly (Chief Executive), John Quinlivan (Director of Services/Corporate Affairs & Governance), Emer O'Gorman (Director of Services/EETD), David Storey (Director of Services/Environment, Climate Action & Active Mobility); Mary Daly (Director of Services/Operations & Water Services); Matthew McAleese (Director of Services/Planning & Strategic Infrastructure), Brian Buckley (Senior Executive Officer), Liam Burke (Senior Executive Officer), Mary Egan (Senior Executive Officer), Naomi Weir (A/Senior Executive Officer), Bronagh Corry (Administrative Officer).

F/33/21 (Agenda Item No)
Announcements

The Mayor, Councillor. D. Healy, at the start of the meeting, made the following announcements:

Please note that this meeting is being webcast.

Please ensure that you can hear and see all proceedings of the meeting.

Please ensure that you can be seen at all times by keeping your camera on.

All Members please remember to switch your microphone to mute for the duration of the meeting and only turn it on when you are speaking.

Please use the 'Hand Icon' if you wish to speak.

Please be aware that all comments in the chat room may appear on the webcast.

If you are leaving the meeting, please post a comment in the chat facility to that effect.

If you lose connectivity at any time during the meeting, please contact Brian Buckley, John Quinlivan or Bronagh Corry by phone.

Motions from the floor or amendments being proposed must be submitted from your Council email address to corporate.services@fingal.ie

Standing Orders will apply to all aspects of the meeting.

F/34/21 (Agenda Item No)
Suspension of Standing Orders

At the start of the meeting, it was proposed by the Mayor Cllr. D. Healy, seconded by Cllr. R. O'Donoghue and AGREED that the meeting be extended to 9.30pm.

F/35/21 (Agenda Item No 1)
Confirmation and Re-Affirmation of Minutes of Council meeting held on 11th January 2021.

Minutes of the County Council Meeting held on 11th January 2021 at 5pm which had been circulated were considered.

It was PROPOSED by Councillor D. Healy, seconded by Councillor R. O'Donoghue and RESOLVED -

"That the minutes of the County Council Meeting held on 11th January 2021 be ADOPTED."

F/36/21 (Agenda Item No 2)
SPC Membership

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

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor A. Henchy and seconded by Councillor E. O'Brien:

"That Councillor Adrian Henchy move to the Housing SPC and that Councillor Eoghan O'Brien move to the Transport and Infrastructure Management SPC."

Following discussion, the report was AGREED and the foregoing motion PASSED.

F/37/21 (Agenda Item No)
Questions

It was proposed by Councillor D. Healy, seconded by Councillor R. O'Donoghue and RESOLVED:

"That in accordance with Standing Order No. 53, Questions numbered 3 to 25 be ADOPTED."

F/38/21 (Agenda Item No 3)
Councillor H. Mahony - Staff Allocation for Litter Maintenance

F/39/21 (Agenda Item No 4)
Councillor P. Mulville - High-risk settings for the Covid-19 virus within the the Council's administrative area

F/40/21 (Agenda Item No 5)
Councillor P. Mulville - Burial Grounds Policy Document

- F/41/21** (Agenda Item No 6)
Councillor J. Hopkins - Fingal Coastal Liaison Group Membership
- F/42/21** (Agenda Item No 7)
Councillor K. Power - Fingal Coastal Way
- F/43/21** (Agenda Item No 8)
Councillor A. Graves - Housing Transfer requests
- F/44/21** (Agenda Item No 9)
Councillor E. O'Brien - Parking fines in non-Pay & Display areas
- F/45/21** (Agenda Item No 10)
Councillor E. O'Brien - Reporting by Public of Parking Offences in non-Pay & Display areas
- F/46/21** (Agenda Item No 11)
Councillor P. Conroy - Autism-friendly towns
- F/47/21** (Agenda Item No 12)
Councillor C. Boland - Applications to "Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme 2020"
- F/48/21** (Agenda Item No 13)
Councillor D. Butler - Government funding sources
- F/49/21** (Agenda Item No 14)
Councillor D. Butler - Voids Stimulus Programme 2020
- F/50/21** (Agenda Item No 15)
Councillor S. Ó Rodaigh - Designated bathing areas in Fingal
- F/51/21** (Agenda Item No 16)
Councillor A. O'Rourke - 2020/2021 Tree Works Programme
- F/52/21** (Agenda Item No 17)
Councillor I. Carey - Electric vehicle charge points
- F/53/21** (Agenda Item No 18)
Councillor I. Carey - Active Travel new positions
- F/54/21** (Agenda Item No 19)

Councillor D. Mulligan - Choice Based Lettings

- F/55/21** (Agenda Item No 20)
Councillor N. Treacy - Housing List
- F/56/21** (Agenda Item No 21)
Councillor N. Treacy - Removal from Housing waiting list
- F/57/21** (Agenda Item No 22)
Councillor J. Humphreys - Dog database/DNA testing
- F/58/21** (Agenda Item No 23)
Councillor J. Humphreys - Number/Places for Apprenticeships
- F/59/21** (Agenda Item No 24)
Councillor B. Dennehy - Vacant site register in Fingal
- F/60/21** (Agenda Item No 25)
Councillor B. Dennehy - Derelict Sites Register in Fingal
- F/61/21** (Agenda Item No 26)
Report of Committees

a Report of Committee from Howth/Malahide Area Committee Services B meeting held on Wednesday 3rd February 2021

The attached report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated was CONSIDERED. It was proposed by Councillor D. Healy, seconded by Councillor E. O'Brien and RESOLVED:

"That the recommendations contained in the attached report of Committee from Howth/Malahide Area Committee (Services B) held on Wednesday 3rd February 2021, be ADOPTED."

b Report of Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 1st February 2021

The attached report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated was CONSIDERED. It was proposed by Councillor D. Healy, seconded by Councillor P. Rane and RESOLVED:

"That the recommendations contained in the attached report of the Corporate Policy Group held on Monday 1st February 2021, be ADOPTED."

F/62/21 (Agenda Item No 27)
Financial Matters

It was NOTED that there was no business under this heading.

F/63/21 (Agenda Item No 28)
Proposed Disposal of Properties

- a Proposed disposal of land, grant of wayleaves and grant of right of way at Ballalease, Donabate, Co. Dublin to Irish Water

The attached report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated was CONSIDERED. It was proposed by Councillor P. Mulville and seconded by Councillor D. Whooley and RESOLVED:

“That the disposal of land, grant of wayleaves and grant of right of way referred to in the attached report be disposed of/granted in accordance with the terms specified therein.”

F/64/21 (Agenda Item No 29)
Declaration of Roads

- a Warren Lodge, Malahide, Co. Dublin

The attached report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated was CONSIDERED. It was proposed by Councillor E. O’Brien, seconded by Councillor A. Lavin, and RESOLVED:

“That the roads referred to in the attached report be, and are hereby declared to be, public roads.”

F/65/21 (Agenda Item No 30)
SPC Policy Programme 2021

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

Following discussion, it was **AGREED** that an additional appendix would be included within the policy document outlining the items proposed by the Elected Members for inclusion in the Policy Programme for 2021.

Following further consideration, it was **AGREED** that further discussion would take place in relation to land ownership at a meeting of the Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development SPC.

It was then was proposed by Cllr. E. O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. A. Henchy and **RESOLVED**:

"That the SPC Policy Programme 2021, subject to the agreed amendments, is hereby **ADOPTED**."

F/66/21 (Agenda Item No 31)
Fingal County Council Speed Limit Draft Bye Laws 2021

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

During the course of discussion, it was proposed by Councillor D. Healy, seconded by Councillor D. Whooley and **AGREED**:

"That the alterations to speed limits recommended by the Howth Malahide Area Committee in December 2020 be put on display as soon as possible."

Following further discussion, it was proposed by Councillor D. Healy, seconded by Councillor K. Dennison and **RESOLVED**:

"Fingal County Council in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Section 9 of the Road Traffic Act, 2004 approves the changes to the Speed Limits within the County in accordance with the circulated Draft Fingal County Council Special Speed Limits Bye-Laws."

F/67/21 (Agenda Item No 32)
Chief Executive's Report

The attached report which had been circulated was **CONSIDERED**.

F/68/21 (Agenda Item No)
Suspension of Standing Orders

At this stage the Mayor suspended Standing Orders and called for a 30minute break until 7.30pm.

F/69/21 (Agenda Item No)
Chief Executive's Report

On the resumption of the meeting, it was AGREED that a presentation would be given in relation to the Water Framework Directive to each of the Area Committees.

It was further AGREED that the Fosterstown Strategic Housing Development would be discussed with the Members of the Balbriggan/Rush-Lusk/Swords Area Committee at a subsequent meeting.

Following further discussion, the Chief Executive's Report was **NOTED**.

F/70/21 (Agenda Item No 33)
Mayor's Business - Councillor D. Healy

It was NOTED that there was no business under this heading.

F/71/21 (Agenda Item No 34)
Correspondence.

- a Letter from Wexford County Council dated 7th January 2021 re motion re rebate scheme for 3rd level students

The correspondence which had been received was NOTED.

- b Letter from Donegal County Council dated 11th January 2021 re motion re rail link from Letterkenny to Derry

The correspondence which had been received was NOTED.

- c Letter from Galway County Council dated 26th January 2021 re motion re agri kids be farm safe presentation

The correspondence which had been received was NOTED.

F/72/21 (Agenda Item No 35)
Councillor H. Mahony - Swimming Pool in the West of the County

The attached motion, in the name of Councillor H. Mahony was proposed by Councillor H. Mahony and seconded by Councillor T. Kitt.

Following consideration, the motion was PASSED.

F/73/21 (Agenda Item No 36)
Councillor K. Dennison - Waste Water Treatment Capacity

The attached motion, in the name of Councillor K. Dennison was proposed by Councillor K. Dennison and seconded by Councillor T. O'Leary.

Following consideration, the report was NOTED.

F/74/21 (Agenda Item No 37)
Councillor A. Tormey - Public Consultation

The attached motion, in the name of Councillor A. Tormey was proposed by Councillor A. Tormey and seconded by Councillor J. Hopkins.

Following discussion, it was AGREED that consideration would be given to the development of a protocol for non-statutory consultations and that the matter would be further discussed through the Strategic Policy Committees.

F/75/21 (Agenda Item No 38)
Councillor M. McCamley - Scheme for Older Cottages/Houses being bought by developers

The attached motion, in the name of Councillor M. McCamley was proposed by Councillor M. McCamley and seconded by Councillor J. Walsh.

Following consideration, the report was NOTED.

F/76/21 (Agenda Item No 39)
Councillor P. Conroy - Universal Design

The attached motion, in the name of Councillor P. Conroy was proposed by Councillor P. Conroy and seconded by Councillor K. Power.

During the course of discussion, the following amendment was proposed by Cllr. P. Conroy and seconded by Cllr T. O'Leary:

"That the Chief Executive ensures the implementation of universal design in all developments throughout the County in accordance with the Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023 which states that "in all cases, development must be in accordance with universal design and that the matter be considered at the relevant SPCs and come back to the Council with a recommendation"."

Following discussion, the motion, as amended, was **PASSED**.

It was further **AGREED** that the matter would be brought to a subsequent meeting of the Planning Strategic Transport & Infrastructure Development SPC for further consideration.

F/77/21 (Agenda Item No 40)
Councillor B. Manton - Housing Families with children with special needs

The attached motion, in the name of Councillor B. Manton was proposed by Councillor B. Manton and seconded by Councillor D. Butler.

Following consideration, the report was **NOTED**.

F/78/21 (Agenda Item No 41)
Councillor C. Boland - Meeting with the Minister re. Coastal Erosion

The attached motion, in the name of Councillor C. Boland was proposed by Councillor C. Boland and seconded by Councillor D. Healy.

Following consideration, the motion was **PASSED**.

F/79/21 (Agenda Item No 42)
Councillor J. Hopkins - UNESCO protected Dublin Bay Biosphere

The attached motion, in the name of Councillor J. Hopkins was proposed by Councillor J. Hopkins and seconded by Councillor P. Mulville.

Following consideration, the report was NOTED.

F/80/21 (Agenda Item No 43)
Councillor T. Leddy - Malahide Castle Concerts

The attached motion, in the name of Councillor T. Leddy was proposed by Councillor T. Leddy and seconded by Councillor K. Power.

Following consideration, the motion was PASSED.

F/81/21 (Agenda Item No 44)
Councillor A. O'Rourke - Leasing Part V units

The attached motion, in the name of Councillor A. O'Rourke was proposed by Councillor A. O'Rourke and seconded by Councillor N. Treacy.

During the course of discussion, the following amendment was proposed by Cllr. D. Whooley and seconded by Cllr. A. O'Rourke:

"That the Chief Executive write to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage requesting a cost-benefit analysis of leasing Part V units for 25 years rather than purchasing them."

Following discussion, the motion, as amended, was PASSED.

F/82/21 (Agenda Item No 48)
Councillor A. Graves - The Invincibles - Reinterred in Glasnevin Cemetery

The attached motion, in the name of Councillor A. Graves was proposed by Councillor A. Graves and seconded by Councillor D. Healy.

Following consideration, the motion was PASSED.

F/83/21 (Agenda Item No 51)

Councillor K. Power - Maternity and Paternity Leave for Local Representatives

The attached motion, in the name of Councillor K. Power was proposed by Councillor K. Power and seconded by Councillor D. Healy.

Following consideration, the motion was **PASSED**.

The Meeting concluded at 9.30pm

MAYOR

DATE

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 8TH MARCH 2021

ITEM NO. 3

USE OF WEED KILLER

Question: Councillor H. Mahony

"To ask the Chief Executive to report on the reduction in the use of vinegar as a weed killer in preference to more toxic weed killers?"

Reply:

The Council has tested a number of non-chemical weed control alternatives over the last number of years, including some vinegar-based solutions, hot steam/foam applicators and mechanical brushing techniques. All systems tried have a very short reaction time and will result in increasing the labour input to match the reapplication visits required. Traditional herbicide application would require one to two visits annually, while a vinegar-based solution applied via traditional knapsack applicator will require a minimum of approximately 10 applications during the growing season.

During 2021 the Council is engaging in a pilot project using Hot Foam Treatment as a non-chemical weed solution in selected trial locations. The method and results of this trial can be made available once the project has been carried out. The objective will be to find a suitable alternative with an applicator system that can be used within our current maintenance regime.

The Council is also liaising with the other Local Authorities as part of a National Scientific Assessment of alternatives to herbicide use in the maintenance of amenity public open spaces.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
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ITEM NO. 4

HOUSING ACQUISITIONS

Question: Councillor H. Mahony

“To ask the Chief Executive, based on Fingal's recent press release indicating that 6,151 units were procured in the County between 2015 and 2019, to report year by year on how many new builds and second hand houses were purchased and how many were purchased or managed by Housing Agencies to facilitate Fingal's housing list and how many HAP and RAS houses were acquired during that period?”

Reply:

Delivery Mechanism	Delivered 2015	Delivered 2016	Delivered 2017	Delivered 2018	Delivered 2019	Total
New Build	44	148	277	415	510	1394
Second Hand Acquisitions	92	127	79	208	163	669
Long Term Leasing	30	33	35	39	85	222
HAP	12	149	716	1254	1176	3307
RAS	82	54	55	17	12	220
Voids	120	92	96	20	11	339
Total by year	380	603	1258	1953	1957	6151
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total
Units acquired by Approved Housing Bodies	26	151	190	284	398	1049

The delivery by Approved Housing Bodies forms part of the overall delivery figures of 6,151.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

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ITEM NO. 5

NEW DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL SUPER DEPOT, ST. MARGARET'S ROAD,
BALLYMUN, DUBLIN 11 - DEVELOPMENT LEVIES

Question: Councillor P. Mulville

"To ask the Chief Executive if the €1,386,694 which Dublin City Council will pay to the Council in development levies for the new super depot on St. Margaret's Road, Ballymun, Dublin 11 (Planning Ref. No. F17A/0686) will be spent along the Fingal / Dublin North-West fringe area to improve critical local infrastructure and facilities?"

Reply:

Section 48 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended, enables a planning authority, when granting a planning permission under Section 34 of the Act, to include conditions requiring the payment of a contribution in respect of public infrastructure and facilities benefiting development in the area of the planning authority, and that is provided, or that it is intended will be provided, by or on behalf of a Local Authority (regardless of other sources of funding for the infrastructure and facilities).

The Council's Section 48 Development Contribution Scheme is a county wide scheme and all levies applied and collected are accounted for and expended, on a county wide basis, on public infrastructure and facilities benefiting development in the entire county area. All contributions collected are credited to the appropriate departmental accounts in accordance with the proportions

provided for in the scheme, for expenditure on each Departments approved works programme.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
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ITEM NO. 6

DIVERSITY ON THE COUNCIL

Question: Councillor K. Power

“To ask the Chief Executive for a breakdown of Elected Representatives on the last five Council’s on the basis of gender, age, disability, additional employment and if possible, details on those Members who have / had carer and childcare responsibilities?”

Reply:

The gender profile of the last five County Council’s is as follows –

	Current Council (as at March 2021)	Council 2019 (Election result)	Council 2014	Council 2009	Council 2004	Council 1999
Female	14	11	10	8	9	7
Male	26	29	30	16	15	17
Information is only available in relation to binary genders						

The Council does not record information regarding disability, additional employment, carer and/or childcare responsibilities.

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ITEM NO. 7

INSURANCE FOR TIDY TOWNS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS

Question: Councillor J. Hopkins

"To ask the Chief Executive to report on the viability of providing insurance cover for Tidy Towns and Community Groups who are members of the Council's PPN as this insurance would cover low risk activities such as planting and litter picking and would allow these groups carry out community work which provides a significant cost saving to the Council without the burden of fund raising for insurance?"

Reply:

The Council's Community Development Office operates an Activities Funding Scheme which allows for community groups who meet the criteria to apply for funding for public liability insurance. Community groups are advised to contact the community office for information and support in applying for funding.

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ITEM NO. 8

OUTLINE IN DETAIL HOW PARKING ENFORCEMENT STAFF ARE
OPERATING OUTSIDE OF PAY AND DISPLAY AREAS

Question: Councillor E. O'Brien

"To ask the Chief Executive to outline in detail how parking enforcement staff are operating outside of Pay and Display areas in line with the new parking enforcement powers?"

Reply:

Fingal County Council Parking Control Bye-Laws were adopted in 2020, which provided for additional parking enforcement measures beyond Pay and Display Areas. The equivalent of two full-time additional parking wardens were appointed, and commenced patrolling reported problematic locations on a countywide basis from December 2020.

Upon receipt of a complaint in relation to illegal parking, the location is recorded and given consideration by the Operations Department prior to liaising with the Fingal parking enforcement contractor. These locations are then patrolled on a rotational basis by Fingal parking wardens.

Parking Wardens have been instructed to issue warning notices to vehicles parked illegally as an initial measure, followed by fixed charge penalty notices should the matter persist at a specific location.

The Fingal Parking Control Bye-Laws and associated recent changes in parking enforcement are being communicated to the public via the Fingal website and social media platforms. In addition, the Road Safety Section is liaising with

schools throughout the County to ensure they are notified on any additional parking enforcement measures in their vicinity.

Reports of illegal parking should be submitted to the Howth Malahide Area, Operations Department, or by email howmaloparea@fingal.ie.

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ITEM NO. 9

GREEN ROOFS IN THE COUNTY

Question: Councillor C. Boland

"To ask the Chief Executive to advise on the number, style and anticipated advantages of the introduction of Green Roofs in the County and will she make a statement on her intention to promote the roll out of such roofs in the County?"

Reply:

A green roof refers to a roof of a building that is partially or completely covered with vegetation and soil, or a growing medium, planted over a waterproof membrane. As land continues to be replaced with impermeable surfaces due to population growth and urbanisation, the need to regain green space is becoming increasingly important to maintain environmental quality. Installing green roofs is one option that can reduce the negative effect of development while offering ecological, environmental, economic, and social benefits. Green roof types range from simple 'sedum moss' type roofs, to intensive green roofs, which can be planted with shrubs, flowers, and lawn areas.

Ecological Benefits

- Creates a natural habitat for flora and fauna: a living roof can create a local ecology in which the vegetation will establish and provide a home for smaller elements of wildlife as well as insects and invertebrates.
- Aids biodiversity encouraging a wider spread of species in the area
- The provision of a healthy habitat in a place that could otherwise be empty: provides support for the natural colonisation of local plants, birds and small animals.

Environmental Benefits

- Storm water management: soft landscaping reduces the risk of flooding by retaining large proportions of annual rainfall and reducing rainwater run-off. This is particularly useful within Sustainable Urban Drainage (SUDs) schemes.
- Environmental masking: a green roof assists with blending the building into its surroundings and, in part, replaces the permeable land surface otherwise lost to the building being constructed in the first place.
- Improved air quality: vegetation on a green roof assists in reducing both gaseous pollutants and dust particles by removing a proportion of them from the immediate environment. The natural evaporation of water from the plants and soil helps to cool and humidify the air, lowering the ambient temperature.
- Photosynthesis: this is part of a plants' living process whereby they actively convert carbon dioxide to oxygen.

Economic Benefits

- Reduced carbon footprint through lowering building running costs: the thermal insulation on the building is improved providing a more balanced temperature within. This reduces heating costs in the winter and air conditioning expenses during the summer.
- Noise reduction for the building, Green roofs have excellent acoustic qualities for both external sound and internal noise.
- Protects the waterproofing: the green roof protects the waterproofing from UV damage and thermal movement.

Social Benefits

- Amenity benefits are often overlooked with green roofs, yet they can provide significant mental and emotional well-being benefits as is similar to other nature-based environments.

Green roofs can improve stormwater management by reducing rainfall runoff and can improve water quality, reduce energy requirements, mitigate the urban heat island effect, increase the longevity of roofing membranes, reduce noise and air pollution, capture CO₂, increase biodiversity by providing wildlife

habitats, provide space for urban agriculture, and offer a more aesthetically pleasing and healthy environment to work and live.

SuDS are a key tool in tackling the effects of increased stormwater runoff. However, often in urbanised areas, some SuDS measures are not practicable (e.g., swales, ponds, etc.) and thus other measures are required. Green (and/or blue) roofs are one approach to SuDS that can be incorporated into the majority of new (and in some cases existing) developments given that most developments have roofs. Thus, these can be readily modified/adapted to store rainfall either in vegetated areas (green roofs) or simply in 'open basins' (blue roofs).

The current Development Plan encourages the use of green roofs through a number of objectives (SW06, GI33, DMS16 and DMS17) and the review of the Development Plan, which begin shortly, offers an opportunity to relook at these with a view to strengthening this requirement.

We are actively promoting green roofs on all new developments and there are a number of proposed developments which have green roofs incorporated in the surface water strategy as there is an existing development plan objective for that purpose. The Bord Gais building on the M50 is possibly the best-known example in Fingal. This building has a distinctive green roof and has been designed to promote an integrated sustainable design approach that combines Microclimate, Biodiversity and Landscape, Water Management, use of Renewable Energy Technologies with a compact building.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 8TH MARCH 2021

ITEM NO. 10

OVERCROWDING SIGNAGE AT OPEN SPACES

Question: Councillor C. Boland

"To ask if the Chief Executive is going to undertake a review, in light of the large numbers attending at open spaces such as beaches and Regional Parks etc., of finding an advance signage warning which can be easily deployed alerting those traveling to these venues of their overpopulation?"

Reply:

The Council is actively exploring the provision of Variable Message Signage at suitable locations on approaches to our regional parks to give advance warning when carparks are full and to advice the public on covid restrictions.

Signage has been provided in all Council open spaces, regional parks and beaches since the beginning of the Covid 19 pandemic. In addition, we continue to replace signage which has been vandalised or damaged throughout the County.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 8TH MARCH 2021

ITEM NO. 11

DOMESTIC WASTE COLLECTION

Question: Councillor A. Graves

"To ask the Chief Executive for an update on the Sinn Féin Motion discussed by Council in September 2019 in relation to Domestic Waste Collection being taken back under control of the Council as it was agreed that this would be referred to the following meeting of the Climate Action, Biodiversity and the Environment SPC. What progress has been made and when will a report be available?"

Reply:

General documentation on waste collection was presented to the SPC at the November 2019 meeting, including the report on the motion to the County Council meeting of September 2019, the court judgment overturning the variation to the waste management plan and the report of the competition authority on waste collection. The proposer of the motion also presented on the proposal. There was a general discussion but no conclusion.

At the SPC meeting of June 2020 the matter was raised again and the committee decided to accept the chief executive's report to the motion from the September 2019 meeting.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 8TH MARCH 2021

ITEM NO. 12

OPEN MARKET INFORMATION

Question: Councillor D. Mulligan

"To ask the Chief Executive can the Councillors be informed by way of email in regard to any properties ascertained on the open market?"

Reply:

The Housing Department does not release details of specific properties that are acquired for social housing as there is genuine concern that identifying individual Council owned properties in a particular estate or road may cause harm to Council tenants of the properties now or in the future. The Vacant Homes Unit can be contacted in relation to vacant or boarded up properties at email vacant.homes@fingal.ie.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 8TH MARCH 2021

ITEM NO. 13

LOCATIONS FOR NEW SCHOOLS IN FINGAL

Question: Councillor P. Rane

"To ask the Chief Executive to provide an update on locations in Fingal under consideration for schools and the schedule for their completion?"

Reply:

The Council is liaising on an ongoing basis with the Department of Education and Skills to identify and provide suitable sites for school development in Fingal under the Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Education & Skills and the County & City Managers' Association.

The table below indicates the school sites in Fingal where acquisitions are currently being progressed with the Department of Education and Skills. It is not possible to provide a schedule for the completion of the schools as construction cannot commence until the acquisition of the site is complete. It is not possible to provide an accurate indication of when the acquisition will complete due to the legal complexities of the conveyances.

Site	Status
Broomfield, Malahide	Site acquisition nearing completion
Diswellstown, Dublin 15	Site acquisition in progress
Fosterstown, Swords	Site acquisition in progress
Loughshinny, Skerries	Site acquisition nearing completion

Information in respect of projects currently being delivered under the school building programme is available on the Department of Education and Skills' website at the link below:

<https://www.education.ie/en/Schools-Colleges/Services/Building-Works/Major-Projects/current-status-of-large-scale-projects.pdf>

**COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

**COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 8TH MARCH 2021**

ITEM NO. 14

DIRECT VISION STANDARD

Question: Councillor D. Healy

“To ask the Chief Executive to report on progress in discussions with the other three Local Authorities in the Dublin Area with a view to agreeing to introduce a common Direct Vision Standard and HGV Safety Permit system similar to that being introduced in London?”

Reply:

The Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area, 2016-2035 has been prepared and published by the National Transport Authority in accordance with Section 12 of the Dublin Transport Authority Act, 2008. It sets out how transport will be developed across the region, covering Dublin, Meath, Wicklow and Kildare, over the period of the strategy and has been approved by the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport in accordance with the relevant legislation.

The Authority has already undertaken two rounds of public consultation and has received and considered submissions from the public, from Local Authorities, from business, from elected representatives and from political parties, etc. Within the Greater Dublin Area (GDA), the Authority has a statutory role in relation to planning under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), to ensure that new Local Area Plans and County Development Plans are consistent with the NTA Transport Strategy.

This matter has been raised, as was previously undertaken, at the Regional Greater Dublin Area Transport Coordination Group quarterly meetings. Discussions are ongoing and the Council will be notified when these discussions are complete.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 8TH MARCH 2021

ITEM NO. 15

COASTAL MONITORING PROGRAMME

Question: Councillor D. Healy

"To ask the Chief Executive to report on progress in relation to Development Plan Objective NH62:
"Establish, within one year of the making of this Development Plan, a coastal monitoring programme to provide information on coastal erosion on an ongoing basis?"

Reply:

Further to extensive discussions with the Office of Public Works (OPW), a pilot coastal monitoring programme has commenced focusing on the Rogerstown Estuary. This programme is being funded and managed by the OPW and will help establish a countrywide template for coastal monitoring. In particular, the pilot will identify the most relevant monitoring criteria with a view to extending the coastal monitoring process countrywide. Data from the pilot coastal monitoring programme will be made available to Fingal County Council on an ongoing basis.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 8TH MARCH 2021

ITEM NO. 16

NEW SCRAMBLERS AND QUADS LEGISLATION

Question: Councillor D. Butler

“To ask the Chief Executive, with regard to the very welcome new legislation introduced by the Government to allow An Garda Síochána seize scramblers and quads, that in order to make our parks and roads safer for Fingal residents and families, to outline how the Council will work with An Garda Síochána to ensure that this new legislation is immediately utilised to its fullest potential?”

Reply:

The new legislation prohibits the use of scrambler or quad bikes in public parks, green areas and beaches. The Council's Bye-Laws prohibits the use of motorbikes, scramblers, quads etc. on our Parks, Open Spaces and Recreational Playgrounds. Fingal County Council Parks, Fingal County Council will review the new legislation and will continue to work closely with An Garda Síochána around the issues related to the use of scramblers and quads in Public parks and on public lands.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 8TH MARCH 2021

ITEM NO. 17

ROADS FOR REPAIRS IN THE COUNTY

Question: Councillor B. Manton

“To ask the Chief Executive how many engineers the Council have overseeing the activities of utility companies who wish to take up our roads for repairs to their own networks and to advise what are the arrangements for the re-instatement of our roads across the County and who manages it?”

Reply:

The engineering team under the direction of the Senior Executive Engineers in Traffic and Road Maintenance manage the road opening licencing process at all stages from application to reinstatement. The Area Engineers in the 3 areas carryout inspections in areas where road openings are taking place and follow up with the contractor and licence holder on non-compliance with the conditions of the Road Opening Licences. It is a matter for the licence holder to ensure that they comply with the conditions of the licence.

2,355 number of road opening licences were processed in 2020 and the securing of additional resources to deal with the increasing number of road openings inspections is currently underway.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 8TH MARCH 2021

ITEM NO. 18

GRANTS INFORMATION IN THE CHIEF EXECUTIVES REPORT

Question: Councillor B. Manton

“To ask the Chief Executive if an item on grants can be added to the Chief Executive’s Report every month which would indicate what grants are available at any given time, from which funding streams, including the European ones and how successful were we in our applications?”

Reply:

Information regarding grants available and successful grant applications including EU funding is currently being collated across all Departments. This information will be included in the Chief Executive’s report when complete.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 8TH MARCH 2021

ITEM NO. 19

FOI REQUESTS

Question: Councillor A. Tormey

“To ask the Chief Executive how many FOI requests were delivered on time and how many required an extension during the time period from the beginning of 2020 to the present date?”

Reply:

From the beginning of 2020 to 24th February 2021, 221 FOI requests were delivered on time. For the same period, 26 FOI requests required a time extension being sought.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 8TH MARCH 2021

ITEM NO. 20

INFRASTRUCTURE TO SUPPORT SEA SWIMMING COMMUNITIES IN
FINGAL

Question: Councillor S. Ó Rodaigh

“To ask the Chief Executive to investigate the possibility of supporting sea swimming communities across the County, in the absence of a municipal swimming pool, in the form of sheltered areas for clothes at designated bathing areas?”

Reply:

Since the start of the pandemic, with the closure of pools nationally, open water swimming in rivers, lakes and the sea has seen a surge in popularity. In general, open sea swimming tends to take place at locations that are not safe for all users. The provision of facilities at these locations may be misinterpreted as an endorsement by the Council of bathing at an unsafe location.

The increased popularity of sea swimming has led to unprecedented pressure on emergency services, as many novice users take to the water. Both the Irish Coast Guard and the RNLI have issued numerous water safety pleas as callouts to open water swimmers in 2020. In late November 2020, eight separate incidents, in the space of a week, arose in the Dublin-Wicklow area alone. The challenges involved with open water swimming greatly intensify at this time of year, with falling water temperatures, fading light, stormy weather and stronger tidal conditions.

The Council will engage with any groups interested in the provision of facilities at designated bathing areas.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 8TH MARCH 2021

ITEM NO. 21

STAFFING LEVELS

Question: Councillor T. Murphy

“To ask the Chief Executive how many professional staff in the Council on the pay role broken down by profession, grade and Department in 2015 2017 and 2020 shown in table format and what was the maximum staffing levels allowable in these years show as a comparison and currently are there any requests with the Department for new staff at professional grades and if so how many and when requested?”

Reply:

The breakdown of “professional staff” employed in the Council in the years referenced are as follows -

2015	2017	2020	2021
108	113	135	143

Staffing numbers within Water Services have been excluded. Figures are provided across the Council as Departmental re-structuring and functional re-assignment mean like-for-like comparison is not possible at Departmental level across the period.

Sanction for further staff relating to Active Travel has been received and are in the process of being recruited at the moment.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 8TH MARCH 2021

ITEM NO. 22

VACANT SITES REGISTER

Question: Councillor J. Walsh

“To ask the Chief Executive to indicate in tabular format the sites placed on the Vacant Sites Register across the County since its introduction and to indicate whether any of these sites have subsequently been developed for housing?”

Reply:

Register No.	Property Address	On VSR in 2017	On VSR in 2018	On VSR in 2019	On VSR in 2020	Has site been developed for housing	Number of houses being provided
VS/0005	Lands on the Naul Road, Balbriggan,	Yes	Yes	Removed from VSR on 17/09/2019		NO	
VS/0009	Flemington Park Balbriggan	Yes	Yes	Yes	Removed from VSR on 17/02/2020	NO	
VS/0012	Former Campions Public House, Balgriffin, Co.Dublin.	Yes	Removed from VSR on 14/06/18			YES	43 houses
VS/0015	Church Road, Tyrrelstown, D 15	Yes	Yes	Yes	Removed from VSR on 10/01/20	YES	172 houses

VS/0 016	Lands west of the R121 Church Road, Hollystown, D 15	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	NO	
VS/0 017	Lands west of the R121 Church Road, Hollystown, D 15	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	NO	
VS/0 018	Lands to the northwest of Tyrrelstown Public Park, D 15	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	NO	
VS/0 022	Lands south of Station Road, Portmarnock,	Yes	Removed from VSR on 14/06/18			YES	150 houses
VS/0 117	Directly east of Ulster Bank, Main Street, Blanchardstown, D 15			Yes	Yes	NO	
VS/0 118	Lands at Clonross Navan Road, Blanchardstown, D 15			Yes	Yes	NOT TO DATE - PP FOR 8 HOUSES	
VS/0 119	Lands at Howth Road, Howth, Co. Dublin			Yes	Yes	NOT TO DATE - PP FOR 512 UNITS	
VS/0 124	Lands at Weavers Row, Clonsilla Road, D 15				Yes	NO	
VS/0 123	Weavers Row, Clonsilla, Dublin 15				Yes	NO	
VS/0 120	No. 6 Malahide Road, Swords, Co. Dubin				Yes	NO	
VS/0 121	30 & 32 North Street Swords, Co. Dublin				Yes	NO	

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 8TH MARCH 2021

ITEM NO. 23

HOUSING LIST

Question: Councillor N. Treacy

"To ask the Chief Executive what measures can be put in place to protect those on the Housing list to ensure that the reason for their removal is where they've been housed or there is a valid reason other than a temporary change to their income limit until such time as we are out of this global pandemic?"

Reply:

The Council is very mindful of applicants' circumstances, particularly during this period of Covid pandemic, and all options will be examined to assist and support individual cases during this time.

The Council is also obliged to follow the Guidelines and Circulars as directed by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage with respect to eligibility, including the treatment of the Covid 19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment (PUP) when assessing or reviewing income eligibility for Social Housing Support (Circular 38/2020 refers, dated 4th December 2020).

The Council's waiting list for Social Housing Support, is fluid and reflective of applicants' family composition and circumstances and consideration is given to temporary income adjustments.

A removal from the wait list can be for many reasons, including removal at the request of an applicant, or removal due to Housing Need met. The Council is required to update and maintain the wait list and records accordingly.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 8TH MARCH 2021

ITEM NO. 24

BUILDING REGULATIONS

Question: Councillor A. O'Rourke

"To ask the Chief Executive whether there is any circumstance under which the Council would allow a private resident to build an extension on the party wall of a Fingal property?"

Reply:

It is not best practice to build on a party wall and sanction is not given to neighbouring property owners to encroach. It leads to poor detailing and potential legal and certification issues in the future. Where neighbouring property owners build extensions inside their own property line the Council does facilitate the construction of the necessary foundation to support the new build subject to making good of the boundary and protection of the Councils' property and tenants during construction.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY 8TH MARCH 2021

ITEM NO. 25

HOUSING FIGURES

Question: Councillor A. O'Rourke

"To ask the Chief Executive how many tenants are currently availing of HAP (breakdown in each LEA), how many tenants are currently in RAS accommodation (breakdown in each LEA), and how many tenants are currently in long term lease accommodation (breakdown in each LEA)?"

Reply:

The tables outlined below, outline details of those availing of HAP, and those currently in RAS and Long Term Lease Accommodation by Housing Area:-

Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)

Housing Area	Total
Swords	495
Balbriggan	616
Blanchardstown	1398
Malahide/Howth	237
Outside of Fingal	226

Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)

Housing Area	Total
Swords	116
Balbriggan	163
Blanchardstown	242
Malahide/Howth	28

Long Term Lease (LTL)

Housing Area	Total
Swords	56
Balbriggan	55
Blanchardstown	93
Malahide/Howth	11

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 8TH MARCH 2021

ITEM NO. 26

AFFORDABLE HOUSING SCHEMES

Question: Councillor B. Dennehy

"To ask the Chief Executive regarding any enquiries to date in relation to the Affordable Housing Schemes due to be launched throughout the County if the following information can be given;
. A list of contacts requesting information being retained by the Council,
. Will the list of contacts be contacted closer to the launch of the Schemes regarding applications,
. A number available of the amount of people who have contacted the Council regarding information on the Schemes to date?"

Reply:

Information regarding the Dun Emer Affordable House Purchase scheme was published on the Councils website on the evening of Monday the 8th of February 2021. Details on the information applicants will need to apply to the scheme can be found on www.fingal.ie/affordablehousing . To date, over 10,000 people have visited the site and the Councils Housing Department have received a total of 95 queries to its dedicated email address, affordablehousing@fingal.ie. All people enquiring about the scheme have been advised to follow the Councils social media platforms and to keep up to date on further announcements.

In the coming weeks the opening date for applications to the scheme will be announced. Notice will be given by placing an advert in the local press and also issuing press releases and details through the Councils social media channels.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 8TH MARCH 2021

ITEM NO. 27

OUTDOOR PUBLIC SPACE SCHEME 2021

Question: Councillor B. Dennehy

"To ask the Chief Executive if the Council intends on applying for funding from the Outdoor Public Space Scheme 2021?"

Reply:

The Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media (DTCAGSM) announced the Outdoor Public Space Scheme 2021 on the 11th February.

The scheme is in line with recommendation 9 of [‘Life Worth Living’](#) the report of that Arts & Culture Recovery Taskforce. This specifically proposed that local authorities prioritise the provision of artistic spaces, to improve wellbeing and that can provide year-round use.

Under this pilot scheme, local authorities are invited to propose capital projects for outdoor spaces which are flexible, innovative and facilitate year-round use. Ideally projects should respond to the challenges associated with COVID-19 and support the recovery of the creative, cultural, entertainment and events sector as well as being future-proofed from a health and safety perspective.

Each local authority can apply for up to €250,000 for a single project under the scheme and would itself provide match funding of 10%.

Projects should where possible consolidate and position both a strong culture and tourism offering. Local authorities are asked to work with their regional representatives in Fáilte Ireland to get their input and align the proposals with the best practice guidelines that have been developed by Fáilte Ireland.

The Council is currently exploring suitable opportunities for this scheme following which an application will be made for funding.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 8TH MARCH 2021

ITEM NO. 28

DOG FOULING

Question: Councillor J. Humphreys

“To ask the Chief Executive if it is possible to amend the Park Bye-Laws and any other Bye-Laws relating to public land to stipulate that anyone walking a dog in a public place must carry suitable receptacles to remove and dispose of the droppings immediately and can the fine of €150 be increased without further legislative changes by Central Government?”

Reply:

Dog fouling is an offence under the Litter Pollution Act and may attract a fine of €150 or up to €3000 on conviction in court. The amounts are set out in the Act and cannot be increased without a legislative amendment.

The current Parks & Open Spaces Byelaws; Bye-law 4.7 (g) states the following *“If a dog defecates in the park, the person in charge of the dog shall remove the faeces from the Park. Guide dogs for the blind are exempt from this bye-law.”*

In relation to penalties for the contravention of this bye-law it should be noted that under Section 7 *OFFENCES (b) A person who contravenes a provision of these bye-laws shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding €1,300 and 7(c) If the contravention of a provision of these bye-laws is continued after conviction, the person causing the contravention shall be guilty of a further offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding €130 per day.* The above Bye-law provisions and in particular the level of fines provided for are considered adequate having regard to consultation processed referenced above.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 8TH MARCH 2021

ITEM NO. 29

HOUSING ADAPTATIONS

Question: Councillor B. Hanaphy

“To ask the Chief Executive what is the total spend for housing adaptations for 2018, 2019, 2020, and what is the proposed funding for housing adaptations for 2021?”

Reply:

The allocation for Housing adaptation grants for the years 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 is as follows;

2018 - €2,976,232

2019 - €3,377,777

2020 - €3,403,340

2021 - €3,428,903

All of this funding is fully allocated to individual applicants during the year. This allows the applicants to engage a contractor to carry out the works and on completion of the works the monies are drawn down from the Council. The allocation of the grant funding and the actual completion of works and draw down of the funding may not occur in the same financial year. However, all grant funding available within a given year is allocated to eligible applicants during that year.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 8th MARCH 2021

ITEM NO. 30A

REPORT OF COMMITTEE BABRIGGAN/SWORDS/RUSH-LUSK AREA COMMITTEE
(SERVICES B) 11TH FEBRUARY 2021

APPLICATION FOR COMMUNITY FUNDING

Applications for funding under the Council's Community 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:-

hereunder: -

Name of Applicant Group	Eligible Funding Amount	Summary of What Funding is Required For – Breakdown of Items	Has this Group Applied for Funding Previously? Y/N	Total Amount of Funding Group has Received to Date and Broken Down by Year	Total Amount of Funding Proposed by the Fingal Executive and rationale for Approval
Castlegrange Residents Association Committee Swords	€1,688.50	Name stone, Plants, Stones, Compost for Estate enhancement	No	N/A	€1,350.80
Ashton Broc Residents Association Swords	€1,010.57	Gardening Equipment for Estate Enhancement	Yes	2020 - €640.37 2019 - €648.00	€808.44

APPLICATION FOR ARTS FUNDING

An application for funding under the Council's Arts 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:-

Name of Applicant Group	Total Funding Amount Applied for in Respect of this Application	Summary of What Funding is Required For – Breakdown of Items	Has this Group Applied for Funding Previously? Y/N	Total Amount of Funding Group has Received to Date and Broken Down by Year	Total Amount of Funding Proposed by the Fingal Executive and rationale for Approval
The Bleeding Pig Cultural Festival Portrane	€400.00	Virtual Winter Miscellany	Yes	2019 - €9,500.00	€400.00

"That this Committee recommends that the County Council **APPROVE** of the Community and Arts funding in the foregoing report.

Signed: Councillor Robert O' Donoghue
Area Chairperson

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 8TH MARCH 2021

ITEM NO. 30B

REPORT OF COMMITTEE FROM HOWTH/MALAHIDE AREA COMMITTEE SERVICES B MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 3rd MARCH 2021

APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING

An application for funding under the Council's Community 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:

Name of Applicant Group	Eligible Funding Amount	Summary of What Funding is Required For – Breakdown of Items	Has this Group Applied for Funding Previously? Y/N	Total Amount of Funding Group has Received to Date and Broken Down by Year	Total Amount of Funding Proposed by the Fingal Executive and rationale for Approval
Baldoyle Boxing Club	€2,500	Sports Equipment	Yes	2016 - €3,000	€2,000

An application for funding under the Council's Arts 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: -

Name of Applicant Group	Total Funding Amount Applied for in Respect of	Summary of What Funding is Required For	Has this Group Applied for Funding	Total Amount of Funding Group has	Total Amount of Funding Proposed by
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	this Application	– Breakdown of Items	Previously? Y/N	Received to Date and Broken Down by Year	the Fingal Executive and rationale for Approval
Malahide Portmarnock Educate Together Secondary School	€1,860	Art Materials	Yes	2020 - €775	€860

It was proposed by Councillor B. McDonagh and seconded by Councillor J. Guerin:

“That this Committee recommends that the County Council **APPROVE** the funding in the foregoing report.”

Signed: Councillor Brian McDonagh
 Area Cathaoirleach

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, 8th March, 2021

ITEM NO. 31A

STATUTORY AUDIT REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 31/12/2019

The report of the Principal Local Government Auditor on the Accounts of Fingal County Council for the year ended 31st December 2019, which include my responses to him, is attached.

The Draft Annual Financial Statement for 2019 was considered by the Council at its meeting held on 19th June 2020. The Statement was then forwarded to the Local Government Audit Service. The Local Government Auditor and his team commenced preparatory work on the Audit in January 2020, with the audit formally commencing on the 10th day of August 2020. The Audit was concluded mid-September 2020.

The Auditor's report has now been received and in accordance with Section 121 of the Local Government Act 2001 the Auditor's report and the final accounts are now before the meeting.

In his report the Auditor expresses his opinion:-

"In my opinion the annual financial statement, which has been prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice and Accounting Regulations for local authorities, presents fairly the financial position of the Fingal County Council at 31 December 2019 and its income and expenditure for the year then ended.

Emphasis of Matter- Uncertainty relating to COVID-19

I draw attention to Note 23 of the Annual Financial Statements, which refers to the impact of COVID-19, a non-adjusting post balance sheet event, and describes the uncertainty faced by the local authority as a result. My opinion is not modified in respect of this matter."

A revised statutory framework for local authority Audit Committees requires that the statutory report of the Local Government Auditor is brought, in the first instance, to the Audit Committee for consideration.

Audit Committee is then obliged to formally report to the Council on the Audited Annual Financial Statement and the statutory report of the Local Government Auditor. The AFS and statutory report was brought to the Audit Committee on Friday 11th December. The Audit Committee's report is also before the meeting today.

Copies of the accounts are available at the meeting and also on the Council's website at: www.fingalcoco.ie

Annmarie Farrelly.
Chief Executive.

AUDITED

**Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gall**
Fingal County
Council



ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT

FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2019

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Financial Review

I am pleased to present the Annual Financial Statement of Fingal County Council for the year ended 31st December 2019. The Annual Financial Statement has been prepared in accordance with the statutory requirements governing the accounts of Local authorities and in compliance with the Accounting Code of Practice for Local Authorities. A statement of the Council's Accounting Policies is included at pages 4 to 8 of the Accounts. Included in the accounts are statements of Income and Expenditure, Financial Position (Balance Sheet) and Funds Flow together with various notes and appendices.

The Accounts have been prepared on an accruals basis. All debtors are included in the balance sheet and adequate provision is made for doubtful debts.

The Annual Financial Statement (AFS) includes valuations for fixed assets and includes local authority houses, land, buildings, equipment, heritage assets, plant and machinery, road networks and the surface water element of our drainage network. The total value of fixed assets reflected in the balance sheet at the 31st December 2019 is €2.886bn.

Expenditure for the year 2019 on the revenue account, excluding transfers to reserves, amounted to €203.1m, while income on the account amounted to €247.4m. The revenue account outturn for 2019 is €923 credit. When account is taken of the incoming credit balance the Revenue Account shows a credit balance of €15.979m. Capital expenditure (net of transfers) amounted to €225.9m. The combined total expenditure impact of our Revenue and Capital Accounts for 2019 is €429m.

The total indebtedness of the Council on foot of loans outstanding at the 31st December 2019 was €336m. The corresponding figure for the 31st December 2018 was €334.9m, or a increase of .003%. The additional borrowing has been used, principally, to fund the council's mortgage loans.

I would like to acknowledge the efforts of all staff in the preparation of the final accounts.

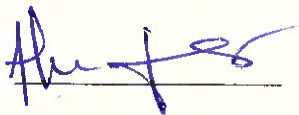
AnnMarie Farrelly
Chief Executive
29th May 2020

Fingal County Council

Certificate of Chief Executive and Head of Finance for the year ended 31 December 2019

- 1.1 We the Chief Executive and Head of Finance are responsible for preparing an annual financial statement in accordance with the accounting code of practice issued by the Minister under Section 107 of the Local Government Act, 2001
- 1.2 We are responsible for maintaining proper books of account that disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the local authority and enable it to ensure that financial statements prepared comply with the statutory requirements.
- 1.3 We are responsible for the safeguarding of assets of the local authority and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.
- 1.4 When preparing financial statements we have:
- stated that the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Accounting Code of Practice and the accounting policies have been applied consistently; and,
 - made judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- 1.5 We certify that the financial statements of Fingal County Council for the year ended 31 December 2019, as set out on pages 4 to 23, are in agreement with the books of account and have been prepared in accordance with the accounting requirements as directed by the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government.

Chief Executive



Date 29/5/2020

Head of Finance



Date 29/5/2020

AUDIT OPINION

Independent Auditor's Opinion to the Members of Fingal County Council

I have audited the annual financial statement of Fingal County Council for the year ended 31 December 2019 as set out on pages 4 to 23, which comprises the Statement of Accounting Policies, Statement of Comprehensive Income, Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Funds Flow and Notes to and forming part of the Accounts. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in its preparation is the Code of Practice and Accounting Regulations as prescribed by the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government.

Responsibilities of the Council and the Local Government Auditor

The Council, in accordance with Section 107 of the Local Government Act, 2001, is responsible for the maintenance of all accounting records including the preparation of the Annual Financial Statement. It is my responsibility, based on my audit, to form an independent opinion on the statement and to report my opinion to you.

Scope of the audit of the financial statement

I conducted my audit in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice, as prescribed under Section 117 of the Local Government Act, 2001. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the annual financial statement. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made in the preparation of the financial statement, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Council's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

I planned and performed my audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which I considered necessary in order to provide sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the annual financial statement is free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error.

Opinion on the financial statement

In my opinion the annual financial statement, which has been prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice and Accounting Regulations for local authorities, presents fairly the financial position of the Fingal County Council at 31 December 2019 and its income and expenditure for the year then ended.

Emphasis of Matter- Uncertainty relating to COVID-19

I draw attention to Note 23 of the Annual Financial Statements, which refers to the impact of COVID-19, a non-adjusting post balance sheet event, and describes the uncertainty faced by the local authority as a result. My opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Statutory Audit Report

I have also prepared an associated audit report as provided for in Section 120(1) (c) of the Local Government Act, 2001.



Daragh Mc Mahon
Local Government Auditor

Date: 17/09/2020

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1. General

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Accounting Code of Practice ACoP on local authority accounting, as revised by the Department of the Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG) at 31st December 2019. Non-compliance with accounting policies as set out in ACoP must be stated in the Policies and Notes to the Accounts.

2. Statement of Funds Flow (Funds Flow Statement)

A Statement of Funds Flow was introduced as part of AFS 2011. While the guidance of International Accounting Standard 7 Statement of Cash Flows has been followed, the business of local authorities is substantially different to most private sector organisations and therefore some minor changes to the format have been agreed to ensure the data displayed is meaningful and useful within the local government sector. For this reason the statement is being referred to as a 'Statement of Funds Flow'. The financial accounts now include a Statement of Funds Flow shown after the Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet). Notes 17 – 22 relate to the Statement of Funds Flow and are shown in the Notes on and forming part of the Accounts section of the AFS. Note 19 details Project/Non Project/Affordable/Voluntary balances, which can be either a debit or a credit balance. The funds flow assumes that these are debit balances and bases the (Increase)/Decrease description on this.

3. Accruals

The revenue and capital accounts have been prepared on an accrual basis in accordance with the Code of Practice.

4. Interest Charges

Loans payable can be divided into the following two categories:

- Mortgage related loans
- Non- mortgage related loans

4.1 Mortgage Related Loans

Mortgage related loans have a corresponding stream of income from long term advances (i.e. monies lent by the local authority to borrowers), for the purchase of houses. Only the interest element is charged or credited to the Statement of Comprehensive Income (Income & Expenditure Statement).

4.2 Non Mortgage Related Loans

Note 7 to the accounts sets out the types of borrowing under this heading. Loans relating to assets/grants, revenue funding will not have a corresponding stream of income. Bridging finance will eventually become part of permanent funding. Loans in respect of the other headings will have a corresponding value in Note 3. The loan repayment cost of principal and interest is funded through the annual budget process. At the end of the financial year the funding element of the principal is transferred and offset against a loan repayment reserve. This transfer is included in the Statement of Comprehensive Income (Income & Expenditure Account Statement) under the heading 'transfers to/from reserves'.

5. Pensions

Payments in respect of pensions and gratuities are charged to the revenue account in the accounting period in which the payments are made. The cost of salaries and wages in the accounts includes deductions in respect of pension contributions (including Widows and Orphans) benefits under the Local Government Superannuation Scheme and the Single Public Service Pension Scheme.

The Single Public Service Pension Scheme ("Single Scheme") commenced with effect from 1 January 2013. Employee contributions for the Single Scheme continue to be deducted by local authorities but are remitted centrally to the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform. The requirements of current accounting standards relating to pensions and their application to local authority accounting remains under consideration.

6. Agency and Other Services

Expenditure on services provided or carried out on behalf of other local authorities is recouped at cost or in accordance with specific agreements.

7. Insurance

The Council is substantially self-insured in the areas of public and employers liability insurance. An excess of €254,000 and €127,000 respectively operates on these policies. Ongoing provision is made in the revenue budget for the cost of the claims. In addition, an insurance fund is in place on an investment basis rather than on an actuarial basis. We are satisfied that the insurance fund will meet any current liabilities that may fall due.

8. Provision for Bad & Doubtful Debts

Provision has been made in the relevant accounts for bad and doubtful debts. We have also provided for any loans not covered by the Mortgage Arrears Resolution Process.

9. Fixed Assets

9.1 Classification of Assets

Fixed assets are classified into categories as set out in the Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet). A further breakdown by asset type is set out in Note 1 to the accounts.

9.2 Recognition

All expenditure on the acquisition or construction of fixed assets is capitalised on an accrual basis. Fixed assets that have been constructed by developers in lieu of their development contributions that have not already been included in our fixed assets will be captured in the fixed asset revaluation process.

9.3 Measurement

A Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet) incorporating all of the assets of the local authority was included for the first time in the Annual Financial Statement for 2003. The assets were valued based on the 'Valuation Guideline' issued by the Department of the Housing, Planning and Local Government. All assets purchased or constructed as from 1/1/2004 have been included at historical cost. Accounting policies relating to leases are currently being developed and will be reflected in the financial statements at a future date. The valuation of Local Authority Housing is only for the purposes of the AFS and should not be relied upon for any other purpose. All open spaces as at the 31/12/03 were taken on a nil value. Playgrounds taken on since the 1/1/04 have been taken on at cost. Grave spaces are valued at the net realisable value which is their selling price.

9.4 Fixed Assets Revaluation

As set out in a revision to the Accounting Code of Practice it is policy to show fixed assets at cost. Maintenance and enhancement costs associated with Infrastructure assets are not currently included in fixed assets but will be reviewed at a future date. Due to their physical nature the vast majority of assets are unique to local authorities and are not subject to disposal. Any loss or gain associated with the net realisable value of the remaining general assets subject to disposal, are accounted for at time of disposal.

9.5 Disposals

In respect of disposable assets, income is credited to a specific reserve and is generally applied in the purchase of new assets. Proceeds of the sale of local authority houses are to be applied as directed by the Department of the Housing, Planning and Local Government.

9.6 Depreciation

Under the current method of accounting, the charge for depreciation is offset by the amortisation of the source of funding the asset. This method has a neutral impact on the Income & Expenditure Account and consequently the charge for depreciation and the corresponding credit from amortisation is excluded from the Statement of Comprehensive Income (Income & Expenditure Statement).

The policies applied to assets subject to depreciation are as follows:

Asset Type	Bases	Depreciation Rate
Plant and Machinery		
• Long Life	Straight Line	10%
• Short Life	Straight Line	20%
Equipment	Straight Line	20%
Furniture	Straight Line	20%
Heritage Assets		Nil
Library Books		Nil
Play Grounds	Straight Line	20%
Parks	Straight Line	2%
Landfill Sites (*See Note)		
Water Assets		
• Water Schemes	Straight Line	Asset Life of 70 Years
• Drainage Schemes	Straight Line	Asset Life of 50 Years

The Council does not charge depreciation in the year of disposal and will charge a full years depreciation in the year of acquisition.

*** The value of landfill sites has been included in Note 1 under land. Depreciation represents the depletion of the landfill asset.**

10. Government Grants

Government grants are accounted for on an accrual basis. Grants received to cover day to day operations are credited to Statement of Comprehensive Income (Income & Expenditure Statement). Grants received, relating to the construction of assets, are shown as part of the income of work-in-progress. On completion of the project the income is transferred to a capitalisation account.

11. Development Debtors & Income

Short term development levy debtors are included in Note 5. Income from development contributions not due to be paid within the current year is deferred and not separately disclosed in the financial statements.

Development contribution cash collected in 2019 due to Irish Water but not paid over to Irish Water in 2019 is shown as a creditor.

All S.49 levies received are only included as refundable deposits as the council is only acting as an agent for the Railway Procurement Agency (R.P.A).

12. Debt Redemption

The proceeds from the early redemption of loans by borrowers, are applied to the redemption of mortgage related borrowings from the HFA.

13. Lease Schemes

Rental payments under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Comprehensive Income (Income & Expenditure Statement). Assets acquired under a finance lease are included in fixed assets. The amount due on outstanding balances is shown under current liabilities and long term creditors. The sum of the digit method is used for calculating all leases.

14. Stock

Stocks are valued on an average cost basis.

15. Work-in-Progress & Preliminary Expenditure

Work-in progress and preliminary expenditure is the accumulated historical cost of various capital related projects. The income accrued in respect of these projects is shown in the Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet) as 'Income WIP'.

16. Related Parties

A related party transaction is a transfer of resources, services or obligations between the local authority and a related party. The main related parties for a local authority include the following:

- i. Management and Personnel
- ii. Council members
- iii. Government Departments
- iv. Local Authority Companies

Local Authority council members and key personnel are bound under the relevant sections of the Local Government Act 2001 and subsequent amending legislation to:

- A. Furnish an annual declaration of 'declarable interests' set out in section 175 of the Act;
- B. Disclose under sections 167, 178 and 179 any beneficial interests that they or a connected person has; and
- C. Follow a code of conduct issued by the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG) under section 169 of the Local Government Act 2001 in 2004.

'Declarable interests' cover both financial and certain other interests such as land etc. Local authority management and personnel salary and remuneration is determined by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in line with central government policy on rates of pay. Local Authority interests in companies and joint ventures are disclosed in Appendix 8 to the Annual Financial Statements. Local Authority transactions with government departments are governed by central government controls and procedures driven by government accounting rules.

17. Interest in Local Authority Companies

The interest of Fingal County Council in companies is listed in Appendix 8 and has been included in Long term investments - associated companies in Note 3 as disclosed in Appendix 8.

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT STATEMENT)
FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2019

The Income and Expenditure Account Statement brings together all the revenue related income and expenditure.

It shows the surplus/(deficit) for the year.

Note 16 allocates transfers by service division in the same format as Table A of the adopted Local Authority budget.

Expenditure By Division	Note	Gross Expenditure 2019 €	Income 2019 €	Net Expenditure 2019 €	Net Expenditure 2018 €
Housing and Building		52,385,570	57,817,752	(5,432,183)	(7,250,306)
Roads, Transportation & Safety		27,662,676	8,765,770	18,896,906	16,292,697
Water Services		14,987,965	17,146,987	(2,159,022)	(570,676)
Development Management		19,112,314	5,237,676	13,874,639	13,259,847
Environmental Services		39,529,196	6,438,149	33,091,047	33,678,115
Recreation & Amenity		39,350,799	3,319,275	36,031,524	33,575,244
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare		795,563	263,714	531,849	499,188
Miscellaneous Services		9,313,281	12,672,382	(3,359,101)	(4,415,000)
Total Expenditure/Income	15	203,137,364	111,661,707		
Net Cost of Division to be funded from Rates and Local Property Tax				91,475,658	85,069,110
Rates				128,177,804	120,305,779
Local Property Tax				7,524,670	7,521,354
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year before Transfer				44,226,816	42,758,024
Transfers from/(to) Reserves	14			(44,225,894)	(42,756,069)
Overall Surplus/(Deficit) for Year	16			923	1,955
General Reserve at 1st January				15,978,433	15,976,478
General Reserve at 31st December				15,979,356	15,978,433

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (BALANCE SHEET) AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2019

	Notes	2019	2018
		€	€
Fixed Assets	1		
Operational		1,367,549,188	1,303,633,101
Infrastructural		1,144,378,186	1,147,909,375
Community		103,703,179	104,440,975
Non-Operational		270,855,813	257,442,393
		2,886,486,366	2,813,425,844
Work-in-Progress and Preliminary Expenses	2	94,371,432	73,583,061
Long Term Debtors	3	268,689,633	262,255,912
Current Assets			
Stock	4	496,056	606,759
Trade Debtors & Prepayments	5	95,003,088	63,744,234
Bank Investments		210,000,000	222,556,995
Cash at Bank		3,052,451	8,869,958
Cash in Transit		349,971	542,243
		308,901,566	296,320,190
Current Liabilities			
Bank Overdraft		-	-
Creditors & Accruals	6	91,115,247	89,548,466
Finance Leases		803,581	1,042,838
		91,918,828	90,591,304
Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)		216,982,738	205,728,885
Creditors (Amounts greater than one year)			
Loans Payable	7	316,264,687	315,324,059
Finance Leases		1,119,476	1,311,806
Refundable Deposits	8	34,507,311	41,884,045
Other		26,500,785	26,500,785
		378,392,259	385,020,696
Net Assets / (Liabilities)		3,088,137,909	2,969,973,006
Represented By			
Capitalisation	9	2,886,486,366	2,813,425,844
Income WIP	2	81,171,850	65,489,949
Specific Revenue Reserve		-	-
General Revenue Reserve		15,979,356	15,978,433
Other Balances	10	104,500,338	75,078,780
Total Reserves		3,088,137,909	2,969,973,006

*Bank Investments include a sum of €2.9m re Section 49 Levies for Metro North and Hansfield

STATEMENT OF FUNDS FLOW (FUNDS FLOW STATEMENT)

AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2019

		2019	2019
	Note	€	€
REVENUE ACTIVITIES			
Net Inflow/(outflow) from Operating Activities	17		(29,580,448)
CAPITAL ACTIVITIES			
Returns on Investment and Servicing of Finance			
Increase/(Decrease) in Fixed Asset Capitalisation Funding		73,060,522	
Increase/(Decrease) in WIP/Preliminary Funding		15,681,901	
Increase/(Decrease) in Reserves Balances	18	43,621,638	
Net Inflow/(Outflow) from Returns on Investment and Servicing of Finance			132,364,060
Capital Expenditure & Financial Investment			
(Increase)/Decrease in Fixed Assets		(73,060,522)	
(Increase)/Decrease in WIP/Preliminary Funding		(20,788,370)	
(Increase)/Decrease in Other Capital Balances	19	(20,850,142)	
Net Inflow/(Outflow) from Capital Expenditure and Financial Investment			(114,699,034)
Financing			
Increase/(Decrease) in Loan & Lease Financing	20	(5,924,681)	
(Increase)/Decrease in Reserve Financing	21	6,650,062	
Net Inflow/(Outflow) from Financing Activities			725,381
Third Party Holdings			
Increase/(Decrease) in Refundable Deposits			(7,376,734)
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	22		(18,566,774)

1. Fixed Assets

	Land	Parks	Housing	Buildings	Plant & Machinery (Long and Short Life)	Computers, Furniture and Equipment	Heritage	Roads and Infrastructure	Water and Sewerage Network	Total
€										
<u>Costs</u>										
Accumulated Costs at 1st Jan	283,826,317	27,770,899	1,063,061,064	298,783,752	12,745,860	1,084,549	1,099,130	1,053,519,209	202,059,449	2,943,950,229
Additions - Purchased	13,305,329	-	53,319,004	9,720,645	1,929,733	-	-	510,000	-	78,784,711
Additions - Transfer WIP	-	-	3,382,055	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,382,055
Disposals\Statutory Transfers	(32)	-	(2,881,417)	-	(1,160,028)	-	-	-	-	(4,041,477)
Revaluation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Historical Costs Adjustments	(322,900)	-	150,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	(172,900)
Accumulated Costs 31/12/2019	296,808,714	27,770,899	1,117,030,706	308,504,397	13,515,565	1,084,549	1,099,130	1,054,029,209	202,059,449	3,021,902,617
<u>Depreciation</u>										
Accumulated Depreciation at 1st Jan	-	14,104,530	-	121,695	7,364,778	611,967	-	-	108,321,416	130,524,385
Provisioned for year	-	737,796	-	-	1,009,484	135,842	-	-	4,041,189	5,924,311
Disposals\Statutory Transfers	-	-	-	-	(1,032,445)	-	-	-	-	(1,032,445)
Accumulated Depreciation 31/12/2019	-	14,842,326	-	121,695	7,341,818	747,809	-	-	112,362,605	135,416,252
Net Book Value at 31/12/2019	296,808,714	12,928,573	1,117,030,706	308,382,702	6,173,747	336,740	1,099,130	1,054,029,209	89,696,844	2,886,486,366
Net Book Value at 31/12/2018	283,826,317	13,666,369	1,063,061,064	298,662,058	5,381,082	472,582	1,099,130	1,053,519,209	93,738,033	2,813,425,844
<u>Net Book Value by Category</u>										
Operational	41,724,192	-	1,117,030,706	202,283,802	6,173,747	336,740	-	-	-	1,367,549,188
Infrastructural	652,133	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,054,029,209	89,696,844	1,144,378,186
Community	-	12,928,573	-	89,792,676	-	-	981,930	-	-	103,703,179
Non-Operational	254,432,389	-	-	16,306,224	-	-	117,200	-	-	270,855,813
Net Book Value at 31/12/2019	296,808,714	12,928,573	1,117,030,706	308,382,702	6,173,747	336,740	1,099,130	1,054,029,209	89,696,844	2,886,486,366

2. Work in Progress and Preliminary Expenses

A summary of work in progress and preliminary expenditure by asset category is as follows:

	Funded	Unfunded	Total	Total
	2019	2019	2019	2018
	€	€	€	€
<u>Expenditure</u>				
Preliminary Expenses	26,551,066	33,325,788	59,876,854	63,662,589
Work in Progress	34,494,577	-	34,494,577	9,920,473
Total Expenditure	61,045,643	33,325,788	94,371,432	73,583,061
<u>Income</u>				
Preliminary Expenses	25,151,732	27,094,330	52,246,062	55,198,975
Work in Progress	28,925,788	-	28,925,788	10,290,974
Total Income	54,077,520	27,094,330	81,171,850	65,489,949
<u>Net Expended</u>				
Work in Progress	5,568,790	-	5,568,790	(370,502)
Preliminary Expenses	1,399,334	6,231,458	7,630,792	8,463,613
Net Over/(Under) Expenditure	6,968,124	6,231,458	13,199,582	8,093,112

3. Long Term Debtors

A breakdown of long term debtors is as follows:

	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2018
	Balance @ 01/01/2019	Loans Issued	Instalments	Early Redemptions	Other Adjustments	Balance @ 31/12/2019	Balance @ 31/12/2018
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
Long Term Mortgage Advances *	124,807,070	24,545,600	(7,610,403)	(2,478,925)	(1,046,858)	138,216,484	124,807,070
Tenant Purchase Advances	172,511	-	(328,239)	(14,605)	261,329	90,996	172,511
Shared Ownership Rented Equity	3,864,958	-	-	15,465	(178,095)	3,702,328	3,864,958
	128,844,539	24,545,600	(7,938,642)	(2,478,065)	(963,624)	142,009,808	128,844,539
Recoupable Loan Advances						91,775,603	97,501,807
Capital Advance Leasing Facility						26,500,785	26,500,785
Long Term Investments - Cash						19,073,224	19,106,575
Long Term Investments - Associated Companies						1,053,552	1,137,168
Other						-	-
						280,412,972	273,090,874
Less: Current Portion of Long Term Debtors (Note 5)						(11,723,339)	(10,834,962)
Total amounts falling due after one year						268,689,633	262,255,912

* Includes HFA agency loans

4. Stocks

A summary of stock is as follows:

	2019	2018
	€	€
Central Stores	19,411	32,627
Other Depots	476,645	574,132
Total	496,056	606,759

5. Trade Debtors and Prepayments

A breakdown of debtors and prepayments is as follows:

	2019	2018
	€	€
Government Debtors	29,291,916	20,760,578
Commercial Debtors	11,773,219	11,009,685
Non-Commercial Debtors	4,837,531	3,876,891
Development Contribution Debtors	65,501,048	96,856,964
Other Services	303,565	506,072
Other Local Authorities	2,400,885	1,657,075
Revenue Commissioners	-	-
Other	-	-
Current Portion of Long Term Debtors (Note 3)	11,723,339	10,834,962
Total Gross Debtors	125,831,503	145,502,226
Less: Provision for Doubtful Debts	(49,599,280)	(83,717,141)
Total Trade Debtors	76,232,223	61,785,085
Prepayments	18,770,865	1,959,149
Total	95,003,088	63,744,234

6. Creditors and Accruals

A breakdown of creditors and accruals is as follows:

	2019	2018
	€	€
Trade Creditors	13,425,885	10,792,432
Grants	171,235	120,555
Revenue Commissioners	1,816,638	1,413,510
Other Local Authorities	54,420	1,429,898
Other Creditors	319,324	485,662
	15,787,502	14,242,057
Accruals	27,527,066	27,242,129
Deferred Income	28,008,542	28,477,416
Add: Current Portion of Loans Payable (Note 7)	19,792,137	19,586,864
Total	91,115,247	89,548,466

7. Loans Payable

(a) Movement in Loans Payable

	2019 HFA €	2019 OPW €	2019 Other €	2019 Total €	2018 Total €
Opening Balance	296,946,771	-	37,964,152	334,910,923	347,355,693
Borrowings	29,796,900	-	-	29,796,900	14,827,650
Repayment of Principal	(19,020,208)	-	(5,252,790)	(24,272,999)	(19,666,513)
Early Redemptions	(4,363,823)	-	-	(4,363,823)	(7,535,060)
Other Adjustments	(14,178)	-	-	(14,178)	(70,848)
	303,345,463	-	32,711,361	336,056,824	334,910,923
Less: Current Portion of Loans Payable				19,792,137	19,586,864
Total amounts falling due after one year				316,264,687	315,324,059

(b) Application of Loans

An analysis of loans payable is as follows:

Mortgage

Mortgage Loans *	133,489,376	-	-	133,489,376	117,726,841
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Non Mortgage

Assets/Grants	38,707,945	-	13,207,871	51,915,816	58,285,244
Revenue Funding	-	-	-	-	-
Bridging Finance	54,306,136	-	-	54,306,136	56,570,314
Recoupable	72,272,113	-	19,503,490	91,775,603	97,501,807
Shared Ownership Rented Equity	4,569,894	-	-	4,569,894	4,826,717
Balance at 31st December	303,345,463	-	32,711,361	336,056,824	334,910,923
Less: Current Portion of Loans Payable				19,792,137	19,586,864

Total Amounts Due after one year

316,264,687 **315,324,059**

* Includes HFA Agency Loans

8. Refundable Deposits

The movement in refundable deposits is as follows:

	2019 €	2018 €
Opening Balance at 1st January	41,884,045	34,136,160
Deposits received	2,614,329	13,258,833
Deposits repaid	(9,991,063)	(5,510,948)
Closing Balance at 31st December	34,507,311	41,884,045

Note: Short Term Refundable Deposits are included as part of Cash Investments on the Balance Sheet

9. Capitalisation Account

The capitalisation account shows the funding of the assets as follows:

	2019 Balance @ 01/01/2019 €	2019 Purchased €	2019 Transfers WIP €	2019 Disposals/ Statutory T/F's €	2019 Revaluation €	2019 Historical Cost Adjustments €	2019 Balance @ 31/12/2019 €	2018 Balance @ 31/12/2018 €
Grants	458,454,992	53,858,723	3,382,055	-	-	-	515,695,769	458,454,992
Loans	170,614,448	-	-	-	-	-	170,614,448	170,614,448
Revenue Funded	4,973,151	9,072,803	-	(79,850)	-	-	13,966,104	4,973,151
Leases	9,971,557	828,278	-	(897,261)	-	-	9,902,574	9,971,557
Development Contributions	80,700,355	510,000	-	-	-	-	81,210,355	80,700,355
Tenant Purchase Annuities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unfunded	115,108,062	13,413,452	-	-	-	-	128,521,514	115,108,062
Historical	2,073,953,024	-	-	(111,566)	-	(172,900)	2,073,668,559	2,073,953,024
Other	30,174,639	1,101,454	-	(2,952,800)	-	-	28,323,293	30,174,639
Total Gross Funding	2,943,950,229	78,784,711	3,382,055	(4,041,477)	-	(172,900)	3,021,902,617	2,943,950,229
Less: Amortised							(135,416,252)	(130,524,385)
Total *							2,886,486,366	2,813,425,844

* As per note 1

10. Other Balances

A breakdown of other balances is as follows:

A breakdown of other balances is as follows:

	Note	2019 Balance @ 01/01/2019 €	2019 * Capital Reclassification €	2019 Expenditure €	2019 Income €	2019 Net Transfers €	2019 Balance @ 31/12/2019 €	2018 Balance @ 31/12/2018 €
Development Contributions Balances	(i)	120,679,759	-	14,726,355	50,128,785	(2,667,029)	153,415,160	120,679,759
Capital Account Balances including Asset Formation and Enhancement	(ii)	(54,524,328)	(1,132,707)	160,298,941	122,909,213	16,600,393	(76,446,370)	(54,524,328)
Voluntary & Affordable Housing Balances								
- Voluntary Housing	(iii)	(3,510,716)	-	6,534,921	7,903,702	(296,880)	(2,438,816)	(3,510,716)
- Affordable Housing	(iii)	(11,470,827)	-	-	-	-	(11,470,827)	(11,470,827)
Reserves Created for Specific Purposes	(iv)	135,000,006	-	10,707,364	6,931,618	14,661,983	145,886,243	135,000,006
Net Capital Balances		186,173,894	(1,132,707)	192,267,581	187,873,317	28,298,467	208,945,390	186,173,894
Balance Sheet Accounts relating to Loan Principal outstanding (including Unrealised TP Annuities)	(v)						(105,498,604)	(112,232,282)
Interest in Associated Companies	(vi)						1,053,552	1,137,168
Total Other Balances							104,500,338	75,078,780

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* Capital re-classification represents the change in status and/or funding of opening capital balances.

Note (i) This represents the cumulative balance of development levies i.e. income less expenditure and transfers to date.

Note (ii) This represents the cumulative position on funded and unfunded capital jobs consisting of project (completed assets) and non project (enhancement of assets) balances. Debit balances will require sources of funding to clear.

Note (iii) This represents the cumulative position on voluntary and affordable housing projects.

Note (iv) Relates to reserves and advance funding for future Local Authority assets, insurance liabilities, other purposes and includes realised tenant purchase annuities.

Note (v) Loan related balances including outstanding principal on leases and non-mortgage loans remaining to be funded, historical mortgage funding gap, unrealised principal on tenant purchase annuities to be repaid in the future, and shared ownership rented equity.

Note (vi) Represents the Local Authority's interest in associated companies.

11. Capital Account Analysis

The capital account has been de-aggregated and is comprised of the following accounts in the balance sheet as follows:

	2019	2018
	€	€
Net WIP and Preliminary Expenses (Note 2)	(13,199,582)	(8,093,112)
Capital Balances (Note 10)	208,945,390	186,173,894
Capital Balance Surplus/(Deficit) at 31st December	195,745,809	178,080,783

A summary of the changes in the Capital account (see Appendix 6) is as follows:

Opening Balance at 1st January	178,080,783	157,965,271
Expenditure	225,853,660	196,273,810
<u>Income</u>		
- Grants	124,732,163	102,779,994
- Loans	-	118,951
- Other	87,799,507	87,536,788
Total Income	212,531,670	190,435,733
Net Revenue Transfers	30,987,016	25,953,589
Closing Balance	195,745,809	178,080,783

12. Mortgage Loan Funding Position

The mortgage loan funding position on the balance sheet at year-end is as follows:

	2019	2019	2019	2018
	€	€	€	€
	Loan Annuity	Rented Equity	Total	Total
Mortgage Loans/Equity Receivable (Note 3)	138,216,484	3,702,328	141,918,812	128,672,028
Mortgage Loans/Equity Payable (Note 7)	(133,489,376)	(4,569,894)	(138,059,269)	(122,553,558)
Surplus/(Deficit) in Funding @ 31st of Decembe	4,727,108	(867,566)	3,859,543	6,118,470

NOTE: Cash on Hand relating to Redemptions and Relending

2,547,232

13. Summary of Plant and Materials Account

A summary of the operations of the Plant and Materials account is as follows:

	Plant	Materials	Total	Total
	2019	2019	2019	2018
	€	€	€	€
Expenditure	(1,874,509)	(110,703)	(1,985,212)	(1,607,040)
Charged to Jobs	1,874,509	-	1,874,509	1,817,091
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year	-	(110,703)	(110,703)	210,051
Transfers from/(to) Reserves	-	-	-	-
Surplus/(Deficit) before Transfers	-	(110,703)	(110,703)	210,051

14. Analysis of Transfers to/from Reserves

A summary of the transfers to/from reserves is as follows:

	2019	2019	2019	2018
	Transfer	Transfer		
	From	To	Net	Net
	Reserves	Reserves	€	€
	€	€		
Principal Repaid - Non Mortgage Loans (Own Asset)	-	(5,391,987)	(5,391,987)	(9,269,057)
Principal Repaid - Non Mortgage Loans (Recoupable)	-	(6,587,022)	(6,587,022)	(6,142,253)
Principal Repaid - Finance Leases	-	(1,259,868)	(1,259,868)	(1,391,170)
Transfers - Other Balance Sheet Reserves	-	-	-	-
Transfers - Capital Account	(487,739)	(30,499,278)	(30,987,016)	(25,953,589)
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year	(487,739)	(43,738,155)	(44,225,894)	(42,756,069)

15. Analysis of Revenue Income

A summary of the major sources of revenue income is as follows:

		2019		2018	
	Appendix No	€		€	
State Grants & Subsidies	3	49,928,244	20.2%	45,129,124	19.5%
Contributions from other Local Authorities		714,060	0.3%	714,141	0.3%
Goods and Services	4	61,019,403	24.7%	58,346,379	25.1%
		111,661,707	45.1%	104,189,644	44.9%
Local Property Tax		7,524,670	3.0%	7,521,354	3.2%
Rates		128,177,804	51.8%	120,305,779	51.9%
Total Income		247,364,181	100.0%	232,016,777	100.0%

16. Over/Under Expenditure

The difference between the adopted budget and the actual outturn is respect of both expenditure and income is as follows:

	EXPENDITURE					INCOME					NET
	Excluding Transfers	Transfers	Including Transfers	Budget	(Over)/Under Budget	Excluding Transfers	Transfers	Including Transfers	Budget	Over/(Under) Budget	(Over)/Under Budget
	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
Housing & Building	52,385,570	11,388,575	63,774,144	64,104,366	330,222	57,817,752	-	57,817,752	55,012,463	2,805,290	3,135,512
Roads Transportation & Safety	27,662,676	1,454,910	29,117,587	27,309,990	(1,807,596)	8,765,770	-	8,765,770	6,930,608	1,835,163	27,566
Water Services	14,987,965	5,316,344	20,304,308	19,980,281	(324,027)	17,146,987	-	17,146,987	17,830,657	(683,670)	(1,007,697)
Development Management	19,112,314	1,963,658	21,075,972	22,958,903	1,882,931	5,237,676	-	5,237,676	4,496,662	741,013	2,623,944
Environmental Services	39,529,196	5,383,947	44,913,143	45,137,195	224,052	6,438,149	-	6,438,149	4,962,062	1,476,087	1,700,138
Recreation & Amenity	39,350,799	7,203,972	46,554,771	44,834,643	(1,720,128)	3,319,275	(487,739)	2,831,536	2,476,424	355,113	(1,365,015)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	795,563	87,787	883,350	1,087,362	204,012	263,714	-	263,714	259,395	4,319	208,331
Miscellaneous Services	9,313,281	10,938,962	20,252,243	11,892,760	(8,359,482)	12,672,382	-	12,672,382	11,275,129	1,397,253	(6,962,229)
Total Divisions	203,137,364	43,738,155	246,875,519	237,305,501	(9,570,018)	111,661,707	(487,739)	111,173,968	103,243,399	7,930,569	(1,639,450)
Local Property Tax	-	-	-	-	-	7,524,670	-	7,524,670	7,524,700	(30)	(30)
Rates	-	-	-	-	-	128,177,804	-	128,177,804	126,537,400	1,640,404	1,640,404
Dr/Cr Balance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Divisions	-	-	-	-	-	135,702,474	-	135,702,474	134,062,100	1,640,374	1,640,374
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year	203,137,364	43,738,155	246,875,519	237,305,501	(9,570,018)	247,364,181	(487,739)	246,876,442	237,305,499	9,570,942	924

17. Net Cash Inflow/(Outflow) from Operating Activities

	2019
	€
Operating Surplus/(Deficit) for Year	923
(Increase)/Decrease in Stocks	110,703
(Increase)/Decrease in Trade Debtors	(31,258,854)
Increase/(Decrease) in Creditors Less than One Year	1,566,780
	<u>(29,580,448)</u>

18. Increase/(Decrease) in Reserve Balances

Increase/(Decrease) in Development Contributions	32,735,400
Increase/(Decrease) in Reserves created for specific purposes	10,886,237
	<u>43,621,638</u>

19. (Increase)/Decrease in Other Capital Balances

(Increase)/Decrease in Voluntary Housing Balances	1,071,901
(Increase)/Decrease in Affordable Housing Balances	-
(Increase)/Decrease in Capital account balances including asset formation/enhancement	(21,922,042)
	<u>(20,850,142)</u>

20. Increase/(Decrease) in Loan & Lease Financing

(Increase)/Decrease in Long Term Debtors	(6,433,721)
Increase/(Decrease) in Mortgage Loans	15,762,535
Increase/(Decrease) in Asset/Grant Loans	(6,369,428)
Increase/(Decrease) in Revenue Funding Loans	-
Increase/(Decrease) in Bridging Finance Loans	(2,264,178)
Increase/(Decrease) in Recoupable Loans	(5,726,204)
Increase/(Decrease) in Shared Ownership Rented Equity Loans	(256,824)
Increase/(Decrease) in Finance Leasing	(431,587)
(Increase)/Decrease in Portion Transferred to Current Liabilities	(205,273)
Increase/(Decrease) in Other Creditors - Deferred Income	-
	<u>(5,924,681)</u>

21. Increase/(Decrease) in Reserve Financing

	2019
	€
(Increase)/Decrease in Specific Revenue Reserve	-
(Increase)/Decrease in Balance Sheet accounts relating to loan principal & Unrealised TP Annuities	6,733,678
(Increase)/Decrease in Reserves in Associated Companies	(83,616)
	<u>6,650,062</u>

22. Analysis of Changes in Cash & Cash Equivalents

Increase/(Decrease) in Bank Investments	(12,556,995)
Increase/(Decrease) in Cash at Bank/Overdraft	(5,817,507)
Increase/(Decrease) in Cash in Transit	(192,273)
	<u>(18,566,775)</u>

23. Post Balance Sheet (Non Adjusting) Event

At the financial year end on 31/12/2019 initial reports were emerging from China about Covid-19. In the interim the WHO has declared it a pandemic which has resulted in unprecedented restrictions on travel and movement. This health crisis has, in a short space of time, resulted in effectively locking down economic activity within the county and country for the vast majority of businesses, and brings with it financial uncertainty and consequences that will be of proportions impossible to estimate effectively at this time.

The global economic shock created by the COVID 19 pandemic has been faster and more severe than the 2008 financial crash.

It is clear, however, even at this point of the crisis that the financial impact will be significant but an estimate of such costs both in terms of dealing with the crisis and the direct impact on other Income and Expenditure for the local authority cannot be estimated at this time as the crisis is ongoing.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1
ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE
FOR PERIOD ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2019

	2019	2018
	€	€
<u>Payroll</u>		
- Salary & Wages	67,354,628	64,173,683
- Pensions (Incl. Gratuities)	14,595,507	15,301,230
- Other Costs	-	-
Total	81,950,135	79,474,913
<u>Operational Expenses</u>		
- Purchase of Equipment	1,096,653	1,645,667
- Repairs & Maintenance	1,985,478	1,933,755
- Contract Payments	20,274,537	17,119,267
- Agency Services	34,966,097	30,980,593
- Machinery Yard Charges (Incl Plant Hire)	1,945,898	2,215,778
- Purchase of Materials & Issues from Stores	3,031,437	2,733,480
- Payments of Grants	6,072,572	5,808,277
- Members Costs	616,171	492,378
- Travelling & Subsistence	1,013,515	997,052
- Consultancy & Professional Fees Payments	4,341,799	3,157,978
- Energy Costs	4,802,437	4,253,391
- Other	17,484,738	17,078,122
Total	97,631,333	88,415,739
<u>Administration Expenses</u>		
- Communication Expenses	1,167,915	978,077
- Training	1,082,334	803,475
- Printing & Stationery	516,061	487,960
- Contributions to Other Bodies	2,194,671	2,073,687
- Other	3,940,593	3,270,183
Total	8,901,575	7,613,382
<u>Establishment Expenses</u>		
- Rent & Rates	3,028,949	3,034,064
- Other	1,110,723	967,480
Total	4,139,672	4,001,544
Financial Expenses	8,168,569	7,005,586
Miscellaneous Expenses	2,346,080	2,747,589
Total Expenditure	203,137,364	189,258,753

Appendix 2

SERVICE DIVISION A

Housing and Building

	EXPENDITURE	INCOME			
Service	TOTAL	State Grants and Subsidies	Provision of Goods and Services	Contributions from other Local Authorities	TOTAL
A01 Maintenance/Improvement of LA Housing	11,446,860	217,026	18,889,191	5,778	19,111,995
A02 Housing Assessment, Allocation and Transfer	1,481,298	-	26,743	1,580	28,323
A03 Housing Rent and Tenant Purchase Administration	1,766,916	-	47,131	2,522	49,653
A04 Housing Community Development Support	1,907,165	-	41,668	1,580	43,248
A05 Administration of Homeless Service	3,325,637	-	26,099	312,232	338,332
A06 Support to Housing Capital & Affordable Prog.	8,388,714	5,513,211	63,547	3,743	5,580,501
A07 RAS Programme	26,021,312	21,153,162	4,653,640	1,482	25,808,284
A08 Housing Loans	4,612,433	285,835	3,681,216	1,743	3,968,794
A09 Housing Grants	3,096,768	2,067,702	13,697	809	2,082,208
A11 Agency & Recoupable Services	1,230,008	684,600	-	4,089	688,689
A12 Housing Assistance Programme	497,032	109,050	8,191	484	117,725
Total Including Transfers to/from Reserves	63,774,144	30,030,587	27,451,123	336,042	57,817,752
Less: Transfers to/from Reserves	11,388,575	-	-	-	-
Total Excluding Transfers to/from Reserves	52,385,570	30,030,587	27,451,123	336,042	57,817,752

SERVICE DIVISION B

Road Transport & Safety

	EXPENDITURE	INCOME			
Service	TOTAL	State Grants and Subsidies	Provision of Goods and Services	Contributions from other Local Authorities	TOTAL
B01 NP Road - Maintenance and Improvement	-	-	-	-	-
B02 NS Road - Maintenance and Improvement	-	-	-	-	-
B03 Regional Road - Maintenance and Improvement	8,090,197	1,957,223	461,192	6,729	2,425,144
B04 Local Road - Maintenance and Improvement	9,360,484	1,957,223	86,331	5,101	2,048,655
B05 Public Lighting	4,627,015	439,615	14,690	868	455,173
B06 Traffic Management Improvement	2,768,253	166,828	56,833	1,625	225,286
B07 Road Safety Engineering Improvement	-	-	-	-	-
B08 Road Safety Promotion/Education	1,581,834	124,917	44,884	2,652	172,452
B09 Maintenance & Management of Car Parking	745,943	-	2,100,431	100	2,100,532
B10 Support to Roads Capital Prog.	1,538,546	-	22,260	1,315	23,576
B11 Agency & Recoupable Services	405,315	-	1,314,610	342	1,314,952
Total Including Transfers to/from Reserves	29,117,587	4,645,805	4,101,232	18,733	8,765,770
Less: Transfers to/from Reserves	1,454,910	-	-	-	-
Total Excluding Transfers to/from Reserves	27,662,676	4,645,805	4,101,232	18,733	8,765,770

SERVICE DIVISION C

Water Services

	EXPENDITURE	INCOME			
Service	TOTAL	State Grants and Subsidies	Provision of Goods and Services	Contributions from other Local Authorities	TOTAL
C01 Operation and Maintenance of Water Supply	9,990,778	2,337,745	7,643,886	-	9,981,631
C02 Operation and Maintenance of Waste Water Treatment	5,864,922	-	5,864,922	-	5,864,922
C03 Collection of Water and Waste Water Charges	-	-	-	-	-
C04 Operation and Maintenance of Public Conveniences	355,230	-	18,011	1,064	19,075
C05 Admin of Group and Private Installations	6,073	6,073	-	-	6,073
C06 Support to Water Capital Programme	858,479	-	859,396	-	859,396
C07 Agency & Recoupable Services	3,427	-	262,117	-	262,117
C08 Local Authority Water & Sanitary Services	3,225,399	-	126,706	27,067	153,773
Total Including Transfers to/from Reserves	20,304,308	2,343,818	14,775,038	28,131	17,146,987
Less: Transfers to/from Reserves	5,316,344	-	-	-	-
Total Excluding Transfers to/from Reserves	14,987,965	2,343,818	14,775,038	28,131	17,146,987

SERVICE DIVISION D

Development Management

	EXPENDITURE	INCOME			
Service	TOTAL	State Grants and Subsidies	Provision of Goods and Services	Contributions from other Local Authorities	TOTAL
D01 Forward Planning	3,012,303	-	77,755	4,567	82,321
D02 Development Management	6,889,991	-	1,555,577	8,732	1,564,309
D03 Enforcement	530,079	-	64,001	639	64,640
D04 Op & Mtce of Industrial Sites & Commercial Facilities	673,592	-	18,875	741	19,616
D05 Tourism Development and Promotion	1,305,217	12,062	233,162	460	245,684
D06 Community and Enterprise Function	1,984,351	233,335	42,569	2,515	278,420
D07 Unfinished Housing Estates	-	-	-	-	-
D08 Building Control	2,002,465	-	223,436	2,266	225,701
D09 Economic Development and Promotion	3,392,513	1,611,832	228,822	1,638	1,842,292
D10 Property Management	928,041	-	731,995	848	732,843
D11 Heritage and Conservation Services	357,420	175,045	6,468	338	181,850
D12 Agency & Recoupable Services	-	-	-	-	-
Total Including Transfers to/from Reserves	21,075,972	2,032,274	3,182,659	22,743	5,237,676
Less: Transfers to/from Reserves	1,963,658	-	-	-	-
Total Excluding Transfers to/from Reserves	19,112,314	2,032,274	3,182,659	22,743	5,237,676

SERVICE DIVISION E

Environmental Services

	EXPENDITURE	INCOME			
Service	TOTAL	State Grants and Subsidies	Provision of Goods and Services	Contributions from other Local Authorities	TOTAL
E01 Operation, Maintenance and Aftercare of Landfill	5,143,990	-	29,876	1,436	31,311
E02 Op & Mtce of Recovery & Recycling Facilities	2,703,229	46,038	1,415,865	34,105	1,496,008
E03 Op & Mtce of Waste to Energy Facilities	811,927	-	1,076,434	-	1,076,434
E04 Provision of Waste to Collection Services	-	-	-	-	-
E05 Litter Management	1,011,633	54,451	99,492	1,270	155,213
E06 Street Cleaning	6,970,968	-	155,219	9,171	164,390
E07 Waste Regulations, Monitoring and Enforcement	1,157,542	499,000	106,824	1,169	606,993
E08 Waste Management Planning	254,586	19,625	3,133	126	22,884
E09 Maintenance and Upkeep of Burial Grounds	2,245,672	-	1,107,178	2,802	1,109,980
E10 Safety of Structures and Places	1,335,013	-	22,211	51,312	73,523
E11 Operation of Fire Service	21,203,582	-	-	-	-
E12 Fire Prevention	215,811	-	1,103,407	-	1,103,407
E13 Water Quality, Air and Noise Pollution	1,411,986	-	587,308	780	588,087
E14 Agency & Recoupable Services	-	-	-	-	-
E15 Climate Change and Flooding	447,203	-	9,725	194	9,920
Total Including Transfers to/from Reserves	44,913,143	619,114	5,716,669	102,366	6,438,149
Less: Transfers to/from Reserves	5,383,947	-	-	-	-
Total Excluding Transfers to/from Reserves	39,529,196	619,114	5,716,669	102,366	6,438,149

SERVICE DIVISION F

Recreation and Amenity

	EXPENDITURE	INCOME			
Service	TOTAL	State Grants and Subsidies	Provision of Goods and Services	Contributions from other Local Authorities	TOTAL
F01 Operation and Maintenance of Leisure Facilities	781,183	-	324,258	532	324,789
F02 Operation of Library and Archival Service	14,256,248	176,185	308,924	15,762	500,872
F03 Op, Mtce & Imp of Outdoor Leisure Areas	19,169,809	12,000	1,098,646	25,129	1,135,775
F04 Community Sport and Recreational Development	7,137,603	600,522	80,312	2,860	683,694
F05 Operation of Arts Programme	5,209,928	28,330	155,897	2,179	186,406
F06 Agency & Recoupable Services	-	-	-	-	-
Total Including Transfers to/from Reserves	46,554,771	817,038	1,968,036	46,463	2,831,536
Less: Transfers to/from Reserves	7,203,972	-	(487,739)	-	(487,739)
Total Excluding Transfers to/from Reserves	39,350,799	817,038	2,455,775	46,463	3,319,275

SERVICE DIVISION G

Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare

	EXPENDITURE	INCOME			
Service	TOTAL	State Grants and Subsidies	Provision of Goods and Services	Contributions from other Local Authorities	TOTAL
G01 Land Drainage Costs	-	-	-	-	-
G02 Operation and Maintenance of Piers and Harbours	304,540	-	5,376	318	5,694
G03 Coastal Protection	-	-	-	-	-
G04 Veterinary Service	487,998	16,575	218,025	107	234,707
G05 Educational Support Services	90,812	22,338	921	54	23,314
G06 Agency & Recoupable Services	-	-	-	-	-
Total Including Transfers to/from Reserves	883,350	38,913	224,322	480	263,714
Less: Transfers to/from Reserves	87,787	-	-	-	-
Total Excluding Transfers to/from Reserves	795,563	38,913	224,322	480	263,714

SERVICE DIVISION H

Miscellaneous Services

	EXPENDITURE	INCOME			
Service	TOTAL	State Grants and Subsidies	Provision of Goods and Services	Contributions from other Local Authorities	TOTAL
H01 Profit/Loss Machinery Account	-	-	-	-	-
H02 Profit/Loss Stores Account	218,241	-	-	-	-
H03 Adminstration of Rates	10,813,436	5,467,230	354,326	2,060	5,823,616
H04 Franchise Costs	958,239	-	12,732	8,312	21,044
H05 Operation of Morgue and Coroner Expenses	8,606	-	-	-	-
H06 Weighbridges	6,443	-	-	-	-
H07 Operation of Markets and Casual Trading	400	-	3,000	-	3,000
H08 Malicious Damage	-	-	-	-	-
H09 Local Representation/Civic Leadership	2,387,530	-	26,369	1,385	27,754
H10 Motor Taxation	-	-	-	-	-
H11 Agency & Recoupable Services	5,859,348	3,933,464	2,716,158	147,346	6,796,968
Total Including Transfers to/from Reserves	20,252,243	9,400,694	3,112,584	159,104	12,672,382
Less: Transfers to/from Reserves	10,938,962	-	-	-	-
Total Excluding Transfers to/from Reserves	9,313,281	9,400,694	3,112,584	159,104	12,672,382
TOTAL ALL DIVISIONS (Excluding Transfers)	203,137,364	49,928,244	61,019,403	714,060	111,661,707

APPENDIX 3

ANALYSIS OF INCOME FROM GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES

	2019	2018
	€	€
Department of Housing, Planning, and Local Government		
Housing Grants & Subsidies	29,894,837	26,622,483
Local Improvement Schemes	-	-
Road Grants	3,914,446	4,262,251
Water Services Group Schemes	-	-
Environmental Protection/Conservation Grants	220,000	-
Library Services	75,000	-
Urban and Village Renewal Schemes	-	-
Miscellaneous	11,669,375	10,031,311
	45,773,658	40,916,045
Other Departments and Bodies		
Road Grants	731,359	918,042
Local Enterprise Office	1,611,832	1,508,746
Community Employment Schemes	-	-
Civil Defence	-	-
Higher Education Grants	-	-
Miscellaneous	1,811,394	1,786,291
	4,154,586	4,213,079
TOTAL	49,928,244	45,129,124

APPENDIX 4

ANALYSIS OF INCOME FROM GOODS AND SERVICES

	2019	2018
	€	€
Rents from Houses	23,398,090	21,826,082
Housing Loans Interest & Charges	2,839,733	3,585,289
Domestic Water	-	-
Commercial Water	-	-
Irish Water	14,289,624	14,345,944
Domestic Refuse	903,410	789,180
Commercial Refuse	-	-
Domestic Sewerage	-	-
Commercial Sewerage	-	-
Planning Fees	1,588,369	1,539,997
Parking Fines/Charges	2,098,734	1,874,528
Recreation & Amenity Activities	639,253	206,059
Library Fees/Fines	2,030	38,019
Agency Services	-	35,000
Pension Contributions	2,082,206	2,123,413
Property Rental & Leasing of Land	1,239,353	1,202,476
Landfill Charges	-	-
Fire Charges	1,103,407	880,562
NPPR	1,705,956	2,728,650
Miscellaneous	9,129,238	7,171,181
	61,019,403	58,346,379

APPENDIX 5

SUMMARY OF CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND INCOME

	2019	2018
	€	€
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
Payments to Contractors	61,137,290	47,360,437
Purchase of Land	22,014,094	9,240,799
Purchase of Other Assets/Equipment	55,614,099	61,275,183
Professional & Consultancy Fees	7,632,183	7,653,360
Other	79,455,995	70,744,031
Total Expenditure (Net of Internal Transfers)	225,853,660	196,273,810
Transfers to Revenue	(1,707,582)	3,686,478
Total Expenditure (Including Transfers)*	224,146,079	199,960,287
<u>INCOME</u>		
Grants and LPT	124,732,163	102,779,994
Non-Mortgage Loans	-	118,951
Other Income		
Development Contributions	50,128,785	59,708,852
Property Disposals - Land	1,125,216	739,146
- LA Housing	2,740,100	573,504
- Other Property	278,070	67,184
Tenant Purchase Annuities	25,524,957	20,260,410
Car Parking	-	-
Other	8,002,380	6,187,692
Total Income (Net of Internal Transfers)	212,531,670	190,435,733
Transfers from Revenue	29,279,435	29,640,066
Total Income (Including Transfers) *	241,811,105	220,075,799
Surplus/(Deficit) for year	17,665,026	20,115,512
Balance (Debit)/Credit @ 1st January	178,080,783	157,965,271
Balance (Debit)/Credit @ 31st December 2019	195,745,809	178,080,783

* Excludes internal transfers, includes transfers to and from Revenue account

APPENDIX 6 ANALYSIS OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ON CAPITAL ACCOUNT

	<i>Balance at 01/01/2019</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>INCOME</i>				<i>TRANSFERS</i>			<i>Balance at 31/12/2019</i>
			<i>Grants & LPT</i>	<i>Non Mortgage Loans *</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Total Income</i>	<i>Transfers from Revenue</i>	<i>Transfers to Revenue</i>	<i>Internal Transfers</i>	
01 HOUSING & BUILDING	39,053,881	149,166,953	110,160,274	-	30,823,723	140,983,997	6,012,672	-	(67,500)	36,816,097
02 ROAD TRANSPORTATION & SAFETY	(14,040,730)	26,337,998	10,847,283	-	2,948,619	13,795,902	690,000	-	2,730,299	(23,162,527)
03 WATER SERVICES	11,583,404	1,158,002	-	-	1,632,350	1,632,350	1,500,000	(1,219,843)	26,105	14,803,701
04 DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT	79,698,688	23,797,647	2,697,074	-	52,041,692	54,738,766	1,870,000	-	(2,667,029)	109,842,777
05 ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	12,148,504	2,289,247	251,851	-	-	251,851	2,688,000	-	(100,000)	12,699,108
06 RECREATION & AMENITY	7,038,810	10,057,058	850,818	-	23,979	874,797	3,153,200	(487,739)	78,126	1,575,613
07 AGRICULTURE, EDUCATION, HEALTH & WELFARE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
08 MISCELLANEOUS	42,598,226	13,046,756	(75,137)	-	329,145	254,008	13,365,563	-	-	43,171,040
99 **OTHER PROGRAMMES TO CLEAR**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	178,080,783	225,853,660	124,732,163	-	87,799,507	212,531,670	29,279,435	(1,707,582)	-	195,745,809

* Mortgage related transactions are excluded

Appendix No 7. Summary of Major Revenue Collections for 2019										
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
Factor Type	Opening Arrears at 01/01/2019	Accrued	Vacant Property Adjustments	Write Off	Waivers	Total for Collection	Amount Collected	Closing Arrears at 31/12/2019	Specific Doubtful Arrears*	% Collected
	€	€		€	€	=(B+C-D-E-F)	€	.(G-H)	€	.(H)/(G-J)
Commercial Rates	6,136,529	128,177,804	558,458	2,060,181	-	131,695,694	126,852,927	4,842,767	2,093,714	97.9
Rents & Annuities	3,523,392	23,334,417		-		26,857,808	22,544,097	4,313,711		83.9
Housing Loans	(242,171)	16,180,535		-		15,938,363	15,571,299	367,065		97.7

*Specific doubtful arrears = (i) Vacancy applications pending/criteria not met & (ii) Accounts in examinership/receivership/liquidation and no communication

- Note 1 Rental income from Shared Ownership has been included under Housing Loans
- Note 2 Income from Tenant Purchase Annuities has been included under Housing Loans
- Note 3 Arrears brought forward is shown net of credit balances.
- Note 4 Housing Loans are showing NET of overpayments and Includes the principal and net interest due for the year.

APPENDIX 8

INTEREST OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN COMPANIES

Where a local authority as a corporate body or its members or officers, by virtue of their office have an interest in a company (controlled, jointly controlled and associated), the following disclosures should be made for each entity:

Name of Company or Entity	Voting Power %	Classification: Subsidiary/ Associate / Joint venture	Total Assets	Total Liabilities	Revenue Income	Revenue Expenditure	Cumulative Surplus/Deficit	Consolidated In Local Authority accounts (Y/N)	Date of financial statements
Ardgillan Castle CLG*	33	Associate	43,489	-46,994	627,288	535,178	92,110	N	31/12/2018
BASE Enterprise Centre CLG.	38	Associate	389,536	-240,144	325,693	293,186	32,507	N	31/12/2018
Balbriggan Enterprise and Training Centre CLG,	29	Associate	399,757	-31,449	-	-	-	N	31/12/2018
Castlecrag Management CLG.	33	Associate	181,155	-7,841	179,427	122,787	56,640	N	31/08/2018
College Business & Technology Park Management Services CLG	100	Subsidiary	-	-	-	-	-	N	31/05/2019
Domville Woods Property Management Company CLG.	100	Subsidiary	50,719	-11,929	20,264	14,932	5,332	N	31/12/2018
Draiocht CLG.	67	Subsidiary	926,650	-595,930	1,520,209	1,590,553	-70,344	N	31/12/2018
Drinan Enterprise Centre Ltd, Swords. *	57	Subsidiary	800,818	-623,833	284,781	292,222	-7,441	N	31/12/2018
Fingal Community & Recreation Services CLG. number 373487	75	Subsidiary	665,481	-629,319	-	-	-	N	31/12/2018
Fingal Parks & Heritage Trust Ltd.*	100	Subsidiary	44,535	-44,532	79,106	79,106	-	N	31/12/2018
Fingal Tourism CLG.*	33	Associate	69,069	-50,265	-	-	-	N	31/12/2018
Kettle's Lane Management CLG	75	Subsidiary	135,908	-4,773	54,755	35,820	18,935	N	31/12/2018
Ladyswell Property CLG.	100	Subsidiary	109,189	-4,131	104,760	146,306	-41,546	N	31/12/2018
Malahide Castle and Gardens Ltd*	67	Subsidiary	6,819,473	-6,806,798	1,315,323	1,320,345	-5,022	N	31/12/2018
Montini Property Management Company Ltd	43	Associate	11,149	-1,476	6,576	5,811	765	N	31/12/2018
Mullhuddart Community Centre CLG	33	Associate	100,320	-20,359	477,747	470,063	7,684	N	31/12/2018
Newbridge House and Farm Ltd *	78	Subsidiary	37,534	-35,952	69,106	95,706	-26,600	N	31/12/2018
Ongar Community Centre CLG.	33	Associate	206,108	-44,243	257,540	229,796	27,744	N	31/12/2018
Parslickstown House Facilities Management Ltd	33	Associate	292,847	-68,208	586,530	556,936	29,594	N	31/12/2018
Rossan Court Owners Management Company limited by guarantee.	100	Subsidiary	4,400	-9,567	34,703	36,695	-1,992	N	31/12/2018
The Seamus Ennis Cultural Centre Company CLG.	14	Associate	510,118	-275,720	500,685	470,252	30,433	N	31/12/2018
Tyrellstown Community Centre CLG	20	Associate	169,178	-40,724	223,153	197,957	25,196	N	31/12/2018
Whitestown Property Management Company Ltd.	33	Associate	27,289	-789	8,730	2,836	5,894	N	31/12/2018

Note* Company claimed abridged financial statements relief for a small company under section 353 of the Companies Act 2014



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUDIT SERVICE

Statutory Audit Report

to the

Members of Fingal County Council

for the

Year Ended 31 December 2019

Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
housing.gov.ie

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AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

1 Introduction

I have audited the Annual Financial Statement (AFS) of Fingal County Council for the year ended 31 December 2019, which comprises the Statement of Accounting Policies, Statement of Comprehensive Income, Statement of Financial Position, Funds Flow Statement and notes to and forming part of the accounts. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in its preparation is the Code of Practice and Accounting Regulations for Local Authorities, as prescribed by the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

My main statutory responsibility, following completion of the audit work, is to express my independent audit opinion on the AFS of the Council, as to whether it presents fairly the financial position at 31 December 2019 and its income and expenditure. My audit opinion, which is unmodified, is stated on page 3 of the AFS.

The Council is by law, responsible for the maintenance of all accounting records including the preparation of the AFS. It is my responsibility, based on my audit, to form an independent opinion on the statement and to report my opinion. I conducted my audit in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the AFS. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgments made by the Council's management in the preparation of the AFS, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Council's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

I planned and performed my audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations, which I considered necessary to provide sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statement is free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error.

This report is prepared in accordance with Section 120(1) (c) of the Local Government Act, 2001 and should be read in conjunction with the audited AFS.

2 Non – adjusting post balance sheet event – COVID-19

In accordance with Circular Fin 05/2020, the local authority has included a note in their Annual Financial Statements (see note 23) in relation to COVID-19. This note refers to the impact of COVID-19, a non-adjusting post balance sheet event, and describes the uncertainty faced by the local authority as a result.

Whilst my opinion is not qualified as a result of the uncertainty, I have included an Emphasis of Matter paragraph.

The COVID-19 outbreak and the emergency measures taken to mitigate it have had a significant impact on the finances of local authorities post year-end. This has resulted in a reduction in, and uncertainty of, various income sources, together with increased levels of spend. Reductions in income have also had a bearing on the cashflow of the local authority and the ability to deliver services.

The local authority has taken a number of steps to address these issues both at local and national level including:

- Applying the 6 month commercial rates waiver to qualified ratepayer accounts and claiming the credit in lieu from the government fund (see note 4.2)
- Attempting to quantify the loss of income from parking, events and various other income streams
- Attempting to quantify both the increased level of expenditure due to the pandemic and also the savings due to decreased level of activity and events funding requirements
- Preparing the 2021 budget with the focus on ensuring key services are not affected
- Providing a €5m COVID-19 reserve in the capital account from a revenue account transfer approved by Council members in June 2020.

Chief Executive's Response

The Council's overall objective for the 2021 budget will be to maintain the delivery of key services while being cognisant of the financial challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A key element of this will be clarity on the level of supports to be put in place for Local Authorities in 2021 by the Government. Engagement with members will continue through the Corporate Policy Group process with regards to the formation of the 2021 budget.

3 Financial Standing

3.1 Statement of Comprehensive Income

The Council recorded a surplus of €1k for the year after making net transfers of €44.2m to reserves. The Members approved over expenditure at their June 2020 meeting. There is a cumulative revenue surplus at the year-end of €16m. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the revenue account in future years has yet to be quantified.

Chief Executive's Response

As outlined above the Council's overall objective for the 2021 budget will be to maintain the delivery of key services while being cognisant of the financial challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

3.2 Financial Position

The Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet) shows the Council is in a strong financial position. However there are loans payable amounting to €316m and large future capital commitments (see note 7.1). The full financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Council's financial position has yet to be determined.

Chief Executive's Response

The financial position reflects the prudent financial management of the Council and it needs to be viewed in the context of the infrastructural deficits and the future capital expenditure plans of the Council. The financial challenges arising from the COVID-19 pandemic will continued to be monitored and reflected in the 2021 budget.

4 Income Collection

4.1 Summary of Income Collection

Income Source	Yield % 2019	Yield % 2018	Debtors 31.12.19 €m	Debtors 31.12.18 €m
Rates	98%	96%	4.8	6.1
Rents	84%	86%	4.3	3.5
Housing Loans	98%	102%	0.4	(0.2)

The Finance Department are responsible for rates while the Housing Department are responsible for rents and loans. Cash from all income streams is automatically receipted through the Council's financial management system (Agresso). Rates invoices are accounted for in Agresso, however the rent and loan charges are accounted for in the rental system (OHMS) and loans system (Cygnus) respectively. As reported last year, these systems are not fully integrated with Agresso and consequently an adjusting journal is required at year-end to amend the cash receipts amount to the invoiced amount.

I acknowledge the Council's implementation of last year's audit recommendation to conduct monthly control accounts that increase both the control and monitoring of housing loans and rent income. However, the continued use of both the OHMS and Cygnus systems as currently configured represents a risk to the Council.

Chief Executive's Response

Debt control management in relation to commercial rates, housing loans and rent is a high priority of the Council. The COVID-19 pandemic will undoubtedly give rise to additional challenges in this regard. The replacement of the current loans management system is currently under review.

4.2 Rates

There was a very strong performance in rates during 2019 with the yield increasing by 2% to 98% and the arrears decreasing by €1.3m. The following events will however impact the collection of rates over the next number of years:

- As part of a national rates revaluation process, all the Council's rateable properties were revalued, with the new valuations list being effective from 1st January 2020. 44% of the rateable valuation in Fingal is under appeal and if successful, these appeals will have a significant impact on the Council's finances.

- The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (the Department) has announced a 6 month commercial rates waiver up to 27 September 2020 for eligible businesses. This will take the form of a credit in lieu of rates and there is a national allocation of €600m to fund the cost of this 6 month waiver. It is not yet known whether this waiver will be extended after this date and how the COVID-19 pandemic will impact the Council's rate book in the years ahead.

Chief Executive's Response

Fingal County Council has historically a strong record with regard to rate collection. The financial challenges raised by the high level of valuation appeals arising out of the countywide revaluation, effective from January 2020, are significant. This potential issue was recognised a number of years ago and the Council has been making a level of financial provision to mitigate possible losses in income arising from successful appeals. In the run up to the 2020 budget, following the finalisation of the valuations and conclusion of the appeals period, a considerable level of engagement was undertaken with members to explain this issue, outline the risks and the financial mitigations being put in place.

The rates waiver scheme has been a significant support to both businesses in Fingal and to the Council itself with the value of the waiver estimated at €50m. It has the dual effect of supporting both business and local authorities and we await details with regard to its possible extension.

4.3 Rents

Rent arrears increased during the year by 23% to €4.3m in 2019. There were 807 accounts with arrears over 26 weeks old at year-end but only 20 of these accounts had a tenancy warning served in 2019. Arrears are expected to increase significantly again this year with collections decreasing due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Chief Executive's Response

The collection of rents continues to be a high priority for the Council. The housing team continue to work with our legal representatives to increase the number of tenancy warnings issued.

4.4 Housing Loans

Housing loans net arrears increased by €609k during the year, reflecting the capitalisation of some customers' credit balances, where overpayments were recorded for a number of years. There is still €1m of credit balances arising from overpayments included in the year-end revenue arrears of €367k. The Council, has to date, agreed 104 COVID-19 related reduced pay arrangements however it is expected revenue arrears will increase significantly due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Chief Executive's Response

The Housing Department continue to proactively engage with borrowers with collection rates continuing to be monitored closely.

4.5 Bad Debt Provision

It was recommended last year that a detailed bad debt policy on the Council's major income streams be implemented. Currently, the Council's policy is still to simply review arrears and decide an amount they consider adequate. A detailed bad debt provision policy is required to ensure debtor accounts are assigned into different bands whether on a specific or general basis. This detailed analysis would provide for a more accurate measurement of the required provision. While the COVID-19 pandemic has created major difficulties in assessing adequate levels of bad debt provision, it is now essential that a policy be implemented.

Chief Executive's Response

We note the auditor's comments and will review our current process taking them into consideration. The Council's current bad debt provisions are reviewed annually for each income stream in light of the closing debtors and annual turnover. The COVID-19 pandemic is likely to require an enhanced level of bad debt provision in the future.

5 Fixed Assets

As previously reported the Council has not reconciled the Property Interest Register (PIR) to the Fixed Asset Register (FAR). This reconciliation is important to ensure that the Council has recorded full ownership of all its land. The Council engaged external consultants to review this reconciliation process but there has been no action taken to complete this process.

The Council acquired 6 acres of land in 2006 and 2008 in Balbriggan in respect of a road scheme. A final €2m settlement at that stage was agreed to be offset against any development contributions on future planning permissions by the landowners in the area. The offset has only been included in the Councils' offset register this year. All agreed offsets on actual or future contributions need to be recorded in the offset register. The lands are still not included in the Councils fixed asset register because of land registry issues.

Chief Executive's Response

We note the auditor's comments with regard to the fixed asset register reconciliation. While we have engaged third party consultants to undertake this work, it will require an allocation of resources internally to close out on this work. We will look at possible strategies in this regard.

We acknowledge the auditor's comments in respect of the land offset in Balbriggan and we will look to regularise this as soon as possible.

6 Transfer of Water and Sewerage Function to Irish Water (IW)

The responsibility for water and sewerage functions was transferred to Irish Water (IW) in 2014 and the Council delivers services on behalf of the company under a service level agreement. The Council continues to liaise with IW's National Special Projects Office (NSPO) in relation to the transfer of assets however, no assets were transferred to IW during 2019. The Council has a capital balance of €11.6m as a contingency fund for expenditure on water services.

Chief Executive's Response

All fixed assets have been removed from our balance sheet. We are continuing to work on transferring the legal title of the remaining assets over to Irish Water.

7 Capital Account

7.1 General

In October 2019 the 2020-2022 capital programme was presented to the members in accordance with Section 135 of the Local Government Act 2001. The programme identifies 236 individual projects with an estimated spend of €620m over 3 years. It is not possible at this stage to assess how the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic will affect the Council's ability to finance these projects. It is essential that capital projects classified as funded in the capital account have clear identified capital funding.

Chief Executive's Response

We note the auditor's comments on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on our capital programme. It is the Council policy not to allow a project to commence or be included on the capital programme unless the projects funding sources have been fully covered by a relevant income stream.

7.2 Unsold Affordable Dwellings

The Council has 437 unsold affordable dwellings in the fixed asset register that are being managed on the following basis:

- 275 unsold affordable units are leased to Approved Housing Bodies under the Social Leasing Scheme to address social housing needs
- 162 unsold affordable units at the Parnell Estate are managed by a property company on the Council's behalf (see note 7.3).

Bridging loans of €54.3m remain outstanding on an interest only basis, in respect of the total 437 unsold affordable housing units. In addition to the bridging loans, the Council has €11.5m of unfunded capital balances at the year-end in relation to these unsold affordable units. However, there is a €29.1m contingency fund to cover potential costs associated with these unsold affordable projects and also a leasing reserve of €6.4m.

Chief Executive's Response

The Department has established an internal working group to consider a long-term strategy for unsold affordable properties. Fingal County Council is a member of this group.

7.3 Unsold Affordable Apartments - Parnell Estate

As reported in the previous audit, the 162 Council owned apartments in the Parnell Estate, Mulhuddart are leased by a property company to private tenants. I acknowledge the efforts by the Council to regularise this situation by entering into a caretaker agreement with an Approved Housing Body to house social tenants from any vacated tenancies. The Council need to ensure that funding is provided for these vacated properties to cover the capital costs of the apartments.

The Council has also regularised their position with the property company through a contract for services for all the units. While the provision of these services is not consistent with procurement procedures it does however provide continuity of services for the existing tenants.

Chief Executive's Response

With regards to this property, the AHB involved and the Council will making a joint proposal to the Department in relation to the funding of social units.

7.4 Road Construction Projects

The Donabate Distributor Road was opened in March 2020. The total cost of the project is expected to be €25.4m. This cost includes contractor payments of €14.8m exc. VAT (representing a 49% increase on the initial contract amount). The Council received funding under the Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF) initiative of €10.6m and have already transferred internal development contribution funds of €7.7m. The Council will have to fund the remaining costs from internal sources.

The Rathbeale Road upgrade was opened in March 2020. The total cost of the project is expected to be €7.57m. This cost includes contractor payments of €5.6m exc. VAT (representing a 43% increase on the initial contract amount). The Council has been allocated funding of €4.05m under the LIHAF initiative. The Council will have to fund the costs in excess of the LIHAF funding from internal sources. The Council appointed the consultants for this project through a non-competitive process for an agreed fee of €389k, which has subsequently increased to €481k.

Chief Executive's Response

The costs increases have been appropriately documented and incurred in line with the provisions of the contract.

The relevant Chief Executive's Order for the appointment of the engineering consultant through a non-competitive procedure sets out the rationale and value for money reasons justifying the use of Regulation 32 procedure that was deemed to apply in this instance. This outlines the benefits to the Council in terms of value for money, programme and intellectual property rights.

7.5 Swords Cultural Quarter Development

In August 2019, the Council procured project management consultants for this project and are in the process of procuring an architect led design team. The Council has reviewed the scale of this project to reflect the projects budgetary demands on the Council's finances. The Council is both the approving and sponsoring authority for this project and are completing the various stages as outlined in the Public Spending Code. Before the award of the construction contract, the Council will need to complete the final business case to reassess the ongoing validity of continuing with this project.

Chief Executive's Response

The Swords Cultural Quarter is a flagship project for the Council and a significant financial investment. As outlined, the business case for this project will be reviewed prior to construction commencing.

8 Development Contributions

8.1 Development Contributions Financial Systems

As reported last year, the planning management system (APAS) operated by the Council is not integrated with the Council's financial management system (Agresso). Another separate Contributions Bonds System (CBS) is used to generate invoices and control the financial element of the planning permissions. None of the systems operates a credit control function, this is performed manually. The use of these systems as currently configured represents a continued risk to the Council.

The Council has a service contract with the CBS providers up to 31 December 2020, however the service providers indicated they are reluctant to extend this service contract. In light of this, it is essential that the Council complete their progress on replacing the CBS system.

Chief Executive's Response

The Planning and Strategic Infrastructure Department are currently working on a project with the Council's Information Technology Department and the Finance Department to replace CBS with an integrated APAS and Agresso solution. Agreement has been reached with the current CBS provider to extend their level of support for a further year to December 2021.

8.2 Development Contribution Debtors

Development contribution debtors amount to €65.5m, a decrease of €31.4m compared to last year. The decrease is mainly due to an exercise conducted by the Council, as recommended at last year's audit, to remove invoiced income on the larger residential developments where there were multiple planning permissions on the same site and for units not yet started.

It is recommended next year that due to the construction uncertainty in the commercial area because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the amounts outstanding on the larger commercial sites should be reviewed to further reduce the debtor balance where necessary.

Chief Executive's Response

The procedure to reduce the debtors amount on residential sites will continue and will expand to examine what options may be available to reduce commercial debtors.

9 Procurement

In February 2019 a centralised procurement unit (CPU) was established, This unit is responsible for the strategic and operational procurement policy and compliance across the organisation to deliver on the Council's corporate procurement plan. This included managing strategic spend for goods, services and works. This was implemented on a phased basis during 2019 and is now fully rolled out across the organisation.

The CPU manages key procurement processes for all departments facilitating improved procurement compliance however there remains levels of non-compliance particularly in the extension of contract services over the date or value of the initial contract. The Council should ensure that it always follows its own procurement procedures and policies in this regard.

Chief Executive's Response

The development of the centralised procurement is aimed to enhance strategic and operational procurement and compliance within the Council. We note the auditor's comments, and this will be reviewed periodically to ensure these objectives are being met.

10 Governance and Propriety

10.1 Audit Committee

The Audit Committee met 4 times during 2019. At the January 2020 Council meeting, the Audit Committee's report on the 2018 audited AFS and statutory audit report was presented. At the March 2020 Council meeting, the 2019 annual report of the Audit Committee and its 2020 annual work programme was presented. The Audit Committee delivers on its key legislative and governance functions by improving the effectiveness of risk management, control and governance processes within the Council. The Committee met as scheduled in March 2020 and the committee received an update in June 2020 on the financial effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Chief Executive's Response

The Audit Committee is an extremely important part of the governance structures in place at the Council and the committee has significant responsibility in this regard.

10.2 Internal Audit Function

The staff of the Internal Audit Unit report directly to the Director of Corporate Affairs and Governance. The Head of the Internal Audit Unit has direct access to the Chief Executive and interacts directly with the Audit Committee. The internal audit function with the assistance of external consultants completed 11 audit reports and carried out quality assurance work on the Public Spending Code, which I have taken into consideration as part of the audit process. During the COVID-19 pandemic, staff in the Internal Audit Unit at different times, have been temporarily transferred to assist in other sections of the Council.

Chief Executive's Response

The Internal Audit Unit and the work they undertake is a significant part of the overall corporate governance architecture in place at the Council.

10.3 Risk Management Process

The Council has continued to maintain a comprehensive central risk management process based on strategic, departmental and operational registers. The Council implemented, a new risk assessment approach and matrix on a pilot basis. This new approach will provide a more useful risk register across the organisation once it has been fully rolled out to all departments. It will also create a more appropriate strategic risk register for ongoing management team approval and consideration by the Audit Committee.

Chief Executive's Response

The development and ongoing review of risk registers are an important part of the process of risk management and mitigation within the Council.

10.4 Local Authority Companies

The Council listed the 2018 results for all of the Council's 23 associated companies in the Council's draft 2019 AFS. The Council is not adhering to the Accounting Code of Practice through the omission of the 2019 results of these companies in the Council's AFS. The Council need to inform company directors again of the importance of ensuring the company's accounts are audited in a timely manner.

Chief Executive's Response

All accounts used in Appendix 8 were audited and sourced from the Company Registration Office (CRO). It is the responsibility of the directors of these companies to ensure that the accounts are completed and filed with the CRO in order that they meet statutory requirements. It has previously been requested that the annual accounts for subsidiary and associate companies are ready for our year end process but it has not proven possible to meet this tight deadline.

Acknowledgement

I wish to record my appreciation for the courtesy and co-operation extended to the audit team by the management and staff of the Council.



Daragh Mc Mahon

Local Government Auditor

12 October 2020

housing.gov.ie



COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 8TH MARCH 2021

ITEM NO. 32A

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE OF FINGAL COUNTY
COUNCIL

Year ended 31st December 2020

4th March 2021

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL AUDIT COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Chairperson's Statement

1. Introduction
2. Role of the Audit Committee
3. Role and Responsibility of the Internal Audit Unit

4. Role of Management

5. Review of 2020 Audit Committee Activities

Committee Meetings

Internal Audit Plan

Internal Audit Reports

Risk Management

Local Government Auditor

6. Assurance Arrangements

7. Audit Committee Evaluation

8. Acknowledgements

9. Conclusion

Appendices

- Appendix 1 Audit Committee Statutory Functions
- Appendix 2 Audit Committee 2020 Work Programme
- Appendix 3 Internal Audit reviews undertaken

Chairperson's Statement

As the Independent Chairperson of the Audit Committee (AC) of Fingal County Council (FCC), I am pleased to present the Committee's Annual Report for 2020. The Audit Committee is an important part of the overall control assurance framework within the Council and this report reviews the work

of the AC in 2020 and outlines the manner in which the AC has sought to deliver on its key legislative and governance functions.

The AC has an independent role in the provision of assurance to the Council and this includes oversight responsibilities for:

- The consideration of the adequacy and effectiveness of the internal control systems, control environment and control procedures
- Financial reporting, by way of the Annual Audited Financial Statements
- Monitoring compliance with governance procedures within the Council
- Reviewing the effectiveness of the Internal Audit Unit and providing advice and professional guidance in relation to the development of the Unit.

2020 is a year that will not be forgotten quickly and will warrant a chapter in the history books. At time of writing, society is still in the throes of a pandemic. In times of crisis, the role of Audit, Risk and Good Governance is more important than ever and I would like to take this opportunity to formally acknowledge and thank the Chief Executive and Management Team for their operational stewardship of Fingal throughout the Pandemic. A feature of the AC's performance in 2020 has been a more focussed engagement with Management which contributes very positively to the assurance framework in Fingal County Council.

As chairperson, I am very satisfied with the performance of the AC in such challenging times. We met on six occasions in 2020. In addition to the regular agenda items, as laid out per the statutory functions of the AC, the work of the AC continued to bring benefit through enhanced engagement with the Executive in a series of management assurance briefings in relation to risk and other issues of importance across a range of Directorates including the impact of the Covid 19 Pandemic and the management response to these challenges. These management assurances were further supported by the continued utilisation of the Governance Actions Report in the meeting agenda.

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to thank all those who gave of their expertise in preparing documentation for our deliberations. We thank the entire Internal Audit team for their sterling work and commitment to constant quality improvements in the delivery of the internal audit function for FCC. We would also like to thank John Quinlivan, Director of Corporate Affairs and Governance, for his commitment to the work of the AC and responding to the increased demands placed on the function in the betterment of the governance culture in Fingal County Council.

Finally, I would like to thank colleague members of the Audit Committee for their time, commitment and considered debate, which adds to the effectiveness of the work programme of the AC of Fingal County Council.

Noreen Fahy

Audit Committee Chairperson 2020

1.0 Introduction

Under the provisions of the AC Charter for the Council, and as per the requirements under Regulation 15 of S.I. No. 244 of 2014, the Committee is required to produce an Annual Report.

In accordance with the regulations, the Audit Committee comprises of seven members, *not less than four external members (including the Chairperson) and not more than three serving or retired elected Members.*

This Annual Report covers the period from 1st January to 31st December 2020.

The table below outlines the membership and attendance records throughout the period covered by this report.

Member:	Meeting Date: 02/03/20	Meeting Date: 04/06/20	Meeting Date: 06/10/20	Meeting Date: 25/11/20	Meeting Date: 08/12/20	Meeting Date: 11/12/20
Cllr. Cathal Boland	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cllr. Brian McDonagh	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Peter Coyle	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Noreen Fahy (Chair)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Dearbhla Fitzsimons	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Dominic Kenna	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Donagh Waters	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

2.0 Role of the Audit Committee

The role and functions of the AC reflect the provisions of relevant legislation. All regulations and additional obligations are included in the Local Government Reform Act 2014. The functions, as outlined in Section 59 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014, are included in Appendix 1.

3.0 Role and Responsibility of the Internal Audit (IA) Unit

Internal auditing is an independent and objective appraisal activity that is guided by a philosophy of adding value to improve the operations of the Council. It helps the organisation accomplish its objectives by bringing a systematic, disciplined approach to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of risk management, control and governance processes. In line with its statutory duty in relation to the Internal Audit function, the AC continued to work to support the IA Unit in delivering good quality audit reports from a robust Internal Audit Plan.

The Committee, at each meeting, monitored the agreed audit plan for 2020, the work programme and timeframes and the use of audit resources. During 2020, in response to broader organisational staffing needs as a result of the Covid 19 Pandemic, Internal Audit staff were temporarily redeployed to other functions. The AC has agreed with the Executive that for future operational continuity, where staff resources are temporarily required from the IA team, resources can be supplemented through external internal audit resources.

4.0 Role of Management

Management within the Council are responsible for the:

- adoption and implementation of good governance arrangements
- establishment of an effective control environment
- review and maintenance of effective internal controls
- compliance with Risk Management Policy including the establishment
 - o and maintenance of integrated risk management structures
- prevention and detection of fraud and irregularities and resolution of
 - o any such situation
- support of the work of internal audit including the provision of
 - o information
- Responding in a timely manner to audit queries and implementation of agreed audit recommendations.

5.0 Review of 2020 Audit Committee Activities

Committee meetings

Each meeting, as outlined in the schedule above, begins with private Committee time. This allows the Committee to deliberate on matters arising on the agenda, the contents of meeting documentation and provides an opportunity to discuss additional relevant issues.

Update on risk, governance actions and procurement are regular items on the agenda for meetings.

Throughout the year, the Chief Executive and other members of the Management Team including the Director of Corporate Affairs and Governance and the Director of Finance were invited to present to the AC. During 2020, the focus of these engagements was informed by the Covid 19 response and associated risk. However, other matters of importance were discussed and assurances were sought by the AC in particular in relation to risks associated with Rates and Procurement. This engagement has proved to be an effective tool in establishing how risks are being managed within the organisation and where the Internal Audit plan must focus. The engagement also supports dialogue in relation to how FCC are addressing the requirement for Value For Money delivery in its services.

In line with Good Governance practice and in support of the AC's contribution towards the effective assurance arrangements within FCC, the AC met with the Local Government Auditor following completion of the 2019 audit process. The AC then followed up with a meeting with AnnMarie Farrelly, Chief Executive, which was a very useful and worthwhile collaborative meeting.

Internal Audit Plan

Progress in implementing the Internal Audit Plan was monitored by the AC with regular progress reports furnished by IA. Notwithstanding the challenges that the Covid 19 Pandemic has placed on the audit function in FCC, the AC are very satisfied with the quality and nature of the internal audit

service, in particular an enhanced risk based focus. The strategy adopted in relation to supplementation by external audit resources, continues to add a further level of assurance to the already robust and varied Internal Audit Plan.

Internal Audit Reports

The audit reports reviewed / issued during 2020 are set out in Appendix 3 below. In respect of each report, the Committee reviewed the findings, conclusions and recommendations as well as management responses to the control issues raised. The implementation of recommendations is further monitored through the Governance Actions Report. The AC continues to work with the IA Unit in developing a robust Internal Audit Plan that reflects the key risk areas in the organisation.

Risk Management

In 2020, progress on addressing key risks and uncertainties and the updating of Risk Registers remained an AC agenda item. The role of the AC is to consider whether processes are in place to manage risks effectively, in accordance with organisational guidelines and Service Delivery Plans. Risk management is a key theme which underpins the work of the Internal Audit Team and is a live issue for the AC in its deliberations.

Local Government Auditor

Section 121 (3) of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended by Section 60 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014, requires the AC to report to the Council on its consideration of the audited Annual Financial Statement and the Statutory Audit Report.

On 25th November 2020 the AC met with the Local Government Auditor (LGA), Daragh McMahon, and considered and discussed the year ended 31st December 2019 Audited Annual Financial Statement and Statutory Audit Report. In particular:

- The Audit Committee discussed the contents of the Statutory Audit Report with Mr. McMahon, who provided explanations and clarifications on his findings and on the Chief Executive's responses to his findings.
- The Audit Committee reviewed the findings with a view to prioritisation based on audit priority ranking applied by the Local Government Auditor. As per its legislative requirements, the Audit Committee will be overseeing the implementation of the Local Government Auditor's findings and associated recommendations.
- While the Audit Committee acknowledges the positive management response and appropriate implementation timelines to many of the Local Government Auditors findings, the Audit Committee considered that the following areas with a high audit priority rating should be brought to the attention of the Council:

- o Bank Reconciliation
- o Fixed Assets
- o Unsold Affordable Apartments
- o Swords Cultural Quarter
- o Housing Loans and Rents Systems
- o CALF Long Term Debtors
- o Development Contribution Systems
- o Road Construction Projects

For its 2021 Work Programme, the AC will require regular reports on progress on each of these items with a goal of lowering the audit priority rating from “high” to “medium”.

Following the meeting, the AC produced the Section 121 Report to the Elected Members.

6.0 Assurance arrangements

The AC, IA and the LGA are key elements of the overall control and assurance framework within the Council. The IA and AC are key elements of “the third line of defence” after the first line - individual line management and staff; and the second line - the business risk and control functions within each Division / unit. Providing clarity and ensuring greater understanding and appreciation of the differing assurance roles and control responsibilities within these three lines is an ongoing priority for the Committee.

7.0 Audit Committee Evaluation

The AC continues to focus on the delivery of its functions in accordance with its Charter obligations and continues to hone and develop its own skills.

It was agreed that a formal, external and independent evaluation of the Audit Committees effectiveness would be undertaken in 2021.

8.0 Acknowledgements

On behalf of the AC, I would like to give special recognition to the contribution of Dominc Kenna who resigned from the committee at the end of 2020. Dominic has been a committed member of the AC since 2014 whose knowledge, insights and integrity added significant value to the work outputs of the AC of Fingal County Council.

The Committee would like to thank the Chief Executive, Directors, senior management and other colleagues for their co-operation and assistance during 2020. It was challenging for the AC to continue to meet given the restricted arrangements that are necessary during a Pandemic. The Fingal team collectively made it a smooth and seamless transition to online meetings, and facilitated the AC in continuing to deliver on its statutory obligations.

In particular, the Committee would like to acknowledge the work of all the Internal Audit team and John Quinlivan, Director of Corporate Affairs and Governance, in supporting the Committee.

9.0 Conclusion

This Annual Audit Committee Report outlines the progress made in 2020 across all areas of the Committee's functions.

The Audit Committee looks forward to assisting and supporting Fingal County Council in the forthcoming year by delivering effectively on its mandate through its interactions with senior and line management, internal and external audit.

Appendix 1

AUDIT COMMITTEE STATUTORY FUNCTIONS

Functions of the Audit Committee <i>(Section 59 Local Government Reform Act 2014)</i>
To review financial and budgetary reporting practices and procedures within the local authority that has established it.
To foster the development of best practice in the performance by the local authority of its internal audit function.
To review any audited financial statement, auditor's report or auditor's special report in relation to the local authority and assess any actions taken within that authority by its chief executive in response to such a statement or report and to report to that authority on its findings.
To assess and promote efficiency and value for money with respect to the local authority's performance of its functions.
To review systems that are operated by the local authority for the management of risks.

The Audit Committee Work Programme for each year will include activities and initiatives to ensure each of these functions are carried out.

Appendix 2

AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2020

No.	Topic
1	Review performance and effectiveness of the Audit Committee
2	Develop and review Action Plan for issues raised from Self-Effectiveness Review
3	Make Annual Declaration and Disclosure of Interests
4	Hold at least four meetings during 2020
5	Meet at least four Department Heads to receive presentations on their departments with regards to challenges faced, principal risks, how risk is mitigated, interaction with internal audit, and value for money initiatives
6	Meet with the CE of the Council on at least one occasion
7	Meet with the Head of Finance on at least one occasion to: a) review of FM and reporting arrangements as per Charter b) gain an understanding of budgetary practice
8	Review the Annual Budget of the Council and review budgetary outturns and variance analysis of actual versus budget

9	Meet with the LGA - a) within three months following submission of the LGA's report to the Council b) report to the Council on the outcome of the Annual External Audit
10	Review the Annual Financial Statement and the LGA's report on the Annual Financial Statement, statutory audit report, management letter and CE responses and follow up as necessary
11	Consider Value for Money with regards to the Council's performance of its functions (e.g. VFM Reports from LGAS, Management presentations, etc.)
12	Review Recurring Items Updates – Audit Committee & Internal Audit Annual Plans, Reports and Outstanding Audit Actions, Procurement Reform, Corporate Risk Management
13	Review relevant recommendations and findings made by LGAS and NOAC, including Performance Indicators. Review the CEO's responses where relevant and follow up as necessary
No.	Topic
14	Review Protected Disclosures Policy and Audit Committee Protocol
15	Preparation of Annual Report for approval by the Council in relation to Audit Committee activity from January 2019 to December 2019 (Regulation 15 Report)
16	Annual Report 2019 from Internal Auditor
17	Review Audit Committee and Internal Audit Charters
18	Approve the Internal Audit Plan 2021

19	Select Chairperson for New Audit Committee
20	Prepare 2021 Audit Committee Work Programme
21	Review resourcing of Internal Audit

Appendix 3.

Internal Audit Reports for the period January to December 2020

Department	Audit Report	Date Signed	Audit Committee
Finance	Accounts Payable System - Audit	05/02/2020	02/03/2020
Housing & Community Development	Management of Housing Grants (Review)	05/02/2020	02/03/2020
Housing & Community Development	Miscellaneous Income Sports - Audit	10/02/2020	02/03/2020

Economic Enterprise Tourism & Cultural Development	SICAP – Annual Verification Check - Audit	25/02/2020	02/03/2020
Environment, Climate Action & Active Travel	End of Life Vehicle Sites – Audit	25/02/2020	02/03/2020
Environment, Climate Action & Active Travel	Trade Effluent Discharge Licences (Review)	05/02/2020	02/03/2020
Finance	Bank Reconciliation - Audit	28/09/2020	06/10/2020
Operations & Water Services	Road Opening Licences - Audit	28/09/2020	06/10/2020
HR, Corporate & Governance	Domestic and Foreign Travel (2018) Audit	30/11/2020	08/12/2020

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 8TH MARCH 2021

ITEM NO. 32B

ANNUAL WORKS PROGRAMME 2021

Appendix 2

No.	Topic
1	Review performance and effectiveness of the Audit Committee
2	Develop and review Action Plan for issues raised from Self-Effectiveness Review
3	Make Annual Declaration and Disclosure of Interests
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	practice
8	Review the Annual Budget of the Council and review budgetary outturns and variance analysis of actual versus budget
9	Meet with the LGA - a) within three months following submission of the LGA's report to the Council b) report to the Council on the outcome of the Annual External Audit
10	Review the Annual Financial Statement and the LGA's report on the Annual Financial Statement, statutory audit report, management letter and CE responses and follow up as necessary
11	Consider Value for Money with regards to the Council's performance of its functions (e.g. VFM Reports from LGAS, Management presentations, etc.)
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13	Review relevant recommendations and findings made by LGAS and NOAC, including Performance Indicators. Review the CEO's responses where relevant and follow up as necessary
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Economic Enterprise Tourism & Cultural Development	SICAP – Annual Verification Check - Audit	25/02/2020	02/03/2020

Environment, Climate Action & Active Travel	End of Life Vehicle Sites – Audit	25/02/2020	02/03/2020
Environment, Climate Action & Active Travel	Trade Effluent Discharge Licences (Review)	05/02/2020	02/03/2020
Finance	Bank Reconciliation - Audit	28/09/2020	06/10/2020
Operations & Water Services	Road Opening Licences - Audit	28/09/2020	06/10/2020
HR, Corporate & Governance	Domestic and Foreign Travel (2018) Audit	30/11/2020	08/12/2020

**COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 8TH MARCH, 2021

ITEM NO. 34

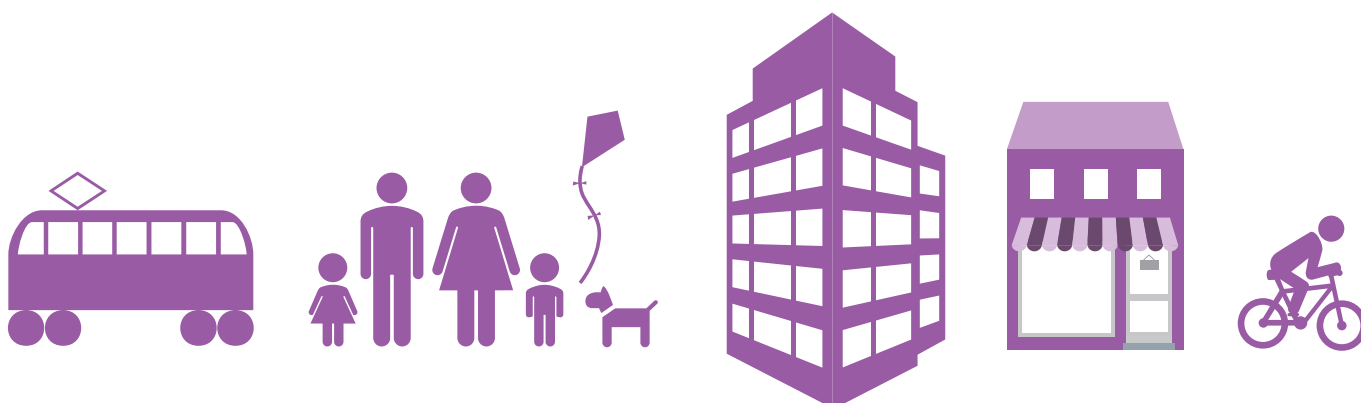
DRAFT CASTLELANDS MASTERPLAN

Chief Executive Report

Castlelands

Draft Masterplan

Chiefs Executive's Report



March 2021

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Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gall
Fingal County
Council



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

The Proposed Castlelands DRAFT Masterplan went on public display between Tuesday 7th May and Tuesday 28th May 2019 inclusive, at Fingal County Council Offices, County Hall, Swords; at the Civic Offices, Grove Road, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15; at Balbriggan Library, George's Square, Balbriggan and on the Council's website at the County Council's portal: <https://consult.fingal.ie/en/browse>

In addition to the recommendations in this report, editorial changes and updating of the draft Masterplan will be carried out and minor typographical or graphical errors or discrepancies will be amended.

REPORT FOLLOWING DISPLAY

The structure of the Chief Executive's Report is as follows.

Part A: Issues raised by Department, Public Sector Bodies and Semi-States Bodies.

Part B: Issues raised in submissions are considered under under general headings. Under each heading, the Chief Executive's Report summarises the issues raised and gives the opinion of the Chief Executive to the issues raised. Finally, the recommendations of the Chief Executive in response to the issues raised are outlined.

Part C: Provides a summary of the Recommended Amendments to the Draft Castlelands Masterplan.

APPENDIX 1: A listing of the 981 no. submissions received on the Draft Castlelands Masterplan

APPENDIX 2: Screening of Recommended Amendments to Draft Castlelands Masterplan for requirement for Appropriate Assessment (AA) and/or Strategic Environmental Assessment [SEA].

1. Introduction

1.1 This report sets out the Response to the issues raised in the 981 no. submissions received on the Draft Castlelands Masterplan, which went on public display between 7th May 2019 and 28th May 2019. Each submission has been given careful and serious consideration. These submissions are listed in Appendix 1. The purpose of this report is to summarise the issues raised and to provide a response to these issues.

1.2 This report is structured as follows:

Part A: Issues raised by Department, Public Sector Bodies and Semi-State Bodies.

Part B: Submissions are summarised and responded to under the the following headings:

1. Traffic impact and Management
2. Building Layout, Building Height and Visual impact
3. Density
4. Impact on Adjoining Residential Areas
5. Housing Need
6. Residential Mix and Unit Size
7. Tenure Mix
8. Phasing of key infrastructure and facilities
9. Our Balbriggan 2019-2025 Rejuvenation Plan
10. Employment – growing the employment base in Balbriggan
11. RSES and NFP
12. Alternative Development Scenarios for Castlelands
13. Suspending Development at Castlelands
14. Lack of Services
15. Fire safety and emergency services
16. Environmental Issues
17. Other Issues

Part C: Provides a summary of the Recommended Amendments to the Draft Castlelands Masterplan.

APPENDIX 1: A listing of the 981 no. submissions received on the Draft Castlelands Masterplan.

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Part A – Departments, Public Sector and Semi-State Bodies

HOUSING AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES AGENCY

The submission from the Housing and Sustainable Communities Agency ("Housing Agency") states that they are the owners of the land at Castlelands, Balbriggan. The Housing Agency believes that the Masterplan provides a positive vision and framework for the implementation of sustainable development on the Castlelands site. The Housing Agency welcomes the Masterplan and supports the key principles that underpin it and, in particular, the vision to create a quality new residential quarter within Balbriggan.

Issues raised by the agency include the following:

Housing Tenure: The Masterplan states that it is intended for the tenure mix to be 90% affordable/private and 10% social. In respect of this, it should be noted that the Housing Agency will be specifying the tenure and social mix following consultation with Fingal County Council. It is intended that this will include a significant proportion of cost rental housing [affordable rental].

Proposed Densities: The proposed densities and allocation of 2.2ha of the site for open space is considered appropriate.

Phasing and provision of community facilities: The housing agency welcomes the proposed phasing strategy and the inclusion of the community facilities as a first stage in the development of the lands.

Link into Ardgillan Demesne: The Masterplan should consider including a pedestrian link into Ardgillan Demesne.

Taller buildings: The location and massing of the buildings should take account of the existing topography of the site and further consideration may need to be given to the location of the taller buildings.

Traffic impact: Concerns are raised in respect of traffic impact arising from the completion of the Castlelands link road.

Response

The Housing Agency's positive comments are welcomed and noted.

The Housing Agency's comments in relation to housing tenure are noted. The intent of the Masterplan in this respect was simply to note the requirements of Part V of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), rather than to attempt to specify the tenure and social mix. FCC has not specified future tenure mix in the MP on the

basis that it has no legal authority to do so. Fingal County Council looks forward to engaging further with the Housing Agency on this matter.

The Housing Agency's support for the proposed densities and open space provision is welcomed. The Housing Agency's comments in relation to community facilities are also welcomed.

Pedestrian connectivity is a key element of the proposed Masterplan layout and a connection into the Ardgillan Demesne would be desirable. The MP states' ... that *consideration may be given to extending the pedestrian pathways southwards to Ardgillan Castle and Demesne, a distance of only circa 450 metres from Tanners Water Lane...*'

The Masterplan layout has been developed having full regard to the topography of the site with no need to make significant changes to the existing contours of the site. The central green area has been designed with proposed buildings addressing and overlooking it and these will provide a degree of informal supervision. This area will provide for local recreational amenities and also act as a sustainable mechanism for drainage and water attenuation.

Traffic impact is discussed in detail under Part 4 of this report

Recommendation

Update the Masterplan Section 6, page 20 to include an objective to investigate the feasibility of a pedestrian link to the adjacent Ardgillan Demesne.

IRISH AVIATION AUTHORITY (IAA)

The Irish Aviation Authority has no observations on the Masterplan.

Response: Noted.

Recommendation: No change.

NATIONAL TRANSPORT AUTHORITY (NTA)

The NTA recommends that the location of higher density development in the draft masterplan should be informed by access to public transport, including bus routes on the R127 and R132, and the train station in Balbriggan town centre.

The proposed walking and cycling networks should provide direct, legible routes for both modes that connect the masterplan lands to the town centre, bus stops, the train station and local destinations such as schools and leisure facilities. The design of the cycle facilities should accord with the guidance contained in the NTA's National Cycle Manual, in particular at all junctions including the proposed roundabouts. Cycle tracks

along the Castlelands Link Road (Avenue) and the Loop Road (Boulevard) should be a minimum of 2m wide and the pedestrian network should be amended to provide for cycling on certain routes identified by an analysis of cycle movements. Specific provision should be made for cycling between the subject site and the town centre using existing residential areas rather than the R127.

Response

As part of the development of the Masterplan, a comprehensive network of pedestrian routes is proposed linking existing and future residential areas to the existing bus stops on Dublin Street (R132) and Skerries Road (R127) via safe and attractive pedestrian routes.

To improve access to public transport from the Masterplan lands, the Castlelands Link Road has been designed to facilitate future bus services (or re-routing of existing services) in order to cater for the expected population growth in the Masterplan lands and the existing population in the surrounding area. Fingal County Council will work with the NTA to ensure that the travel needs of existing and new developments are adequately served by public transport.

When new bus services are provided along Castlelands Link Road, higher density buildings will be within a walking distance of 300-400m to the bus stops, which is a desirable distance.

It is recommended that the roads cross sections be amended to provide for 2m wide cycle tracks along the Castlelands Link Road (Avenue) and the Loop Road (Boulevard). The cycle tracks along the Boulevard should be separated from the carriageway by a planted verge. The junctions along Castlelands Link Road have been designed in accordance with the National Cycle Manual (fully segregated roundabout) however they will be reviewed and amended if necessary following the amendments on the cross sections.

The pedestrian network outlined in the Masterplan (Map page 17 and Map page 21 of the Draft Masterplan) will be reviewed to identify which links are desire routes for cyclist (if not all). Future planning applications will identify the type of links to be provided, e.g. shared or segregated.

Cycling movements across the Link Road will be via the toucan crossings provided at the cycle friendly roundabouts and additional crossings identified in future applications. The Masterplan proposes to provide filter permeability for both walking and cycling through Pinewood, which will provide a cycling route through the estate roads and towards the town centre, the train station and local schools.

Recommendation

- Update Cross Sections and plan layout to reflect 2-metre-wide cycle track along the Castlelands Link Road (Avenue) and the Loop Road (Boulevard) as per the NTA recommendation. *Note – the cycle tracks along the Boulevard should be separated from the carriageway by a planted verge.*

- Update maps on page 17 and page 21 of the Draft Masterplan: to include in the key Pedestrian/Cyclist Street.

TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE IRELAND (TII)

Transport Infrastructure Ireland has no observations on the Masterplan.

Response: Noted.

Recommendation: No change.

The Department of Education & Skills

The Department of Education & Skills has welcomed the provision of a school site within the MP lands and estimates that a 16-class school will be required.

Response: Noted.

Recommendation: No change.

Part B

Submissions and Responses are summarised and responded to under the following headings:

1. Traffic impact and Management
2. Building Layout, Building Height and Visual impact
3. Density
4. Impact on Adjoining Residential Areas
5. Housing Need
6. Residential Mix and Unit Size
7. Tenure Mix
8. Phasing of key infrastructure and facilities
9. Our Balbriggan 2019-2025 Rejuvenation Plan
10. Employment – growing the employment base in Balbriggan
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[1] Traffic impact and Management

Summary of Issues Raised

(i) Existing traffic levels at peak times on the existing Link Road

A large number of submissions raised concerns regarding existing traffic levels at peak times on the existing Link Road, particularly associated with drop off/pick up from the nearby schools. Those collecting children by car tend to park along the southern side of the Link Road. Sections of the road are wide which allows for informal parking whilst maintaining 2-way traffic. One submission suggested that a drop off point at the car park in front of the Church could be provided. The speed limit along this section of road is 60kph, which is high for an urban road. A bus stop is located in the carriageway a short distance from the roundabout at the eastern end. This section does not have sufficient width for cars to overtake buses accessing the stop resulting in delays in the

westbound traffic lane. The current traffic conditions contribute to safety concerns for vulnerable road users.

Response

It is acknowledged that there are existing traffic issues along the Castlelands Link Road, particularly during school drop-off and collection times. Approximately 2000 students in total attend the three schools (Ardgillan Community College NS, Gaelscoil Bhaile Brigín and Bracken Educate Together School). The school start/finish times have already been staggered to reduce traffic impacts; however, this alone is not sufficient to manage impacts.

Given the large number of school children attending this school campus, it will never be possible, or indeed desirable, for the future road network to cater for large numbers of private car drop-off by parents. Alternative options are required to be implemented that are attractive and safe and Fingal County Council has two cycle routes in the design phase at present, including the Harry Reynolds Road pedestrian and cycle scheme for which an information session was held in November of this year and it is planned to submit a Part 8 planning application in 2020; and the Fingal Coastal Way which is currently at the feasibility design stage and will provide an attractive route from Castlelands to Balbriggan town centre.

Fingal County Council is also committed to providing a traffic management solution to improve current conditions along the Link Road and outline design development work is ongoing in this regard, including the assessment of various options such as the possible future provision of inset bus lay-bys ; the implementation of a no-parking exclusion zone in the vicinity of the school; and other measures to improve pedestrian, cyclist and road user safety at this location.

In addition, there is an opportunity to utilise the wider carriageway to the west of the school car park entrance to improve traffic management by providing for a formalised set down area. This would assist in managing school drop-offs and collections whilst

also helping to improve road safety through reducing speeds by visually narrowing this section of the road.

Other measures such as identifying a suitable off-street Park and Stride site [e.g. the car park opposite St. Peter and Pauls Church] may be considered by Fingal County Council.

Gaelscoil Bhaile Brigín is already implementing a School Travel Plan through An Taisce's Green School's programme. The insight from this Travel Plan will be the starting point in the development of potential measures, and the existing Travel Plan communication channels will be used to engage with the school community.

The Castlelands draft MP provides for the extension and completion of the Castlelands link road up to the Skerries Road. This road is proposed as an urban street (carriageway width of 6.5 metres with segregated paths and cycleways along it) with buildings located along the street. The speed limit along the full extent of the road should be no more than 50kph, reflecting the urban nature of the future receiving environment.

FCC is committed to preparing design options to improve safety along the Link Road and in this regard, will be meeting the three schools to discuss any proposed arrangements with a view to implementing the proposed measures as part of the Pre-Planning Phase of the implementation of the Castlelands Masterplan lands.

Recommendation

[1] Insert the following paragraphs in Section 6 on page 16 of MP

Traffic congestion on existing Castlelands Link Road

FCC acknowledges that there are existing traffic congestion issues along the Castlelands Link Road, particularly during school drop-off and collection times and is currently developing traffic management solutions to improve current conditions and safety along the Link Road. Alongside that, two high quality cycle routes, the Harry Reynolds Road pedestrian and cycle route scheme and the Fingal Coastal Way scheme will be developed

which will significantly improve accessibility for students to walk and cycle to school, thereby reducing general traffic congestion and the need for car drop-offs near the schools.

In this regard, a public information meeting was held in November, with a view to implementing the proposed measures as part of the Harry Reynolds Road pedestrian and cycle scheme, which is programmed for construction prior to any development of the Masterplan lands.

[2] Include the following in section 9 Phasing and Implementation [pg. 27] **under a new Pre-Planning Phase:** *Implement traffic management measures along the existing link road.*

(ii) Concerns regarding the completion of the Castlelands Link Road

A significant number of submissions raised concerns regarding the completion of the Castlelands Link Road, that connects to the Skerries Road, on the basis that it would bring more traffic into the area (vehicles travelling from the Skerries area to the M1). Concerns were raised that completing the link road will aggravate the traffic congestion and road safety issues, as traffic congestion will make it a more dangerous route for school children, cyclists and pedestrians.

Response

The completion of the Castlelands Link Road to Skerries Road is a Road Scheme objective of the Fingal Development Plan.

The completion of the Castlelands Link Road to the Skerries Road (R127) is included in Phase 1 of the Masterplan as a key infrastructure element. The design of the Castlelands Link Road has been prepared in accordance with best practice (i.e. Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets and National Cycle Manual) to provide an urban street form with a strong emphasis on pedestrian and cyclist safety, connectivity and the promotion of place.

The completion of the Castlelands Link road will in time be subject to its own planning consent process. A transport assessment to inform the planning application will be undertaken as the scheme progresses throughout the statutory planning process, including the associated public consultation. The assessment will comprise the full corridor from Skerries Road to the M1, it will assess the implications due to existing and forecast demand, identify traffic management measures and determine the optimum final configuration of the junctions including ensuring that pedestrians, cyclists and other road users are well catered for both in the proposed new road as well as the existing road network to which the new road will link into.

Recommendation

Insert following paragraph in Section 6 on page 16:

A transport assessment will be undertaken as part of the statutory process for the completion of the Castlelands Link Road which will include the proposed new road and the impact on existing communities. Detailed transport assessments will also be required to accompany proposed planning applications submitted for the Masterplan lands.

[iii] Safety concerns arising from extra traffic demands

Concerns are raised that the extra traffic demands from the development of the Masterplan lands will make roads very dangerous for children and drivers.

Response

It is acknowledged that the future Masterplan will increase the demand for travel. It should be noted that the masterplan is making every effort in supporting sustainable modes of transport by providing walking and cycling links to the main destinations, i.e. the public transport, schools and town centre.

The transport assessments mentioned above will assess existing conditions and identify transport network deficiencies. Recommended measures will be identified to

accommodate existing and future transport growth demand, with an emphasis on supporting sustainable transport modes, i.e. walking, cycling and public transport.

Recommendation

[1] Insert following paragraph in Section 6 on page 16:

Transport assessments will be required to support the development of the future Link Road and the development of future developments within the Masterplan lands.

[iv] Existing congestion along Castlelands Park Avenue

Concerns have been raised with regards to existing congestion along Castlelands Park Avenue due to the school entrance, where cars block the vehicular access to Castlelands Park View Estate. Reference was made in submissions to the need for a yellow box at the entrance to Castlelands Park View Estate to maintain access.

Response

FCC acknowledges that there are existing traffic issues at the access junction to Castlelands Park View Estate, particularly during school drop-off and collection times. As mentioned in relation to other issues raised, FCC is committed to providing a traffic management solution to improve current conditions and safety along the Castlelands Link Road. The study area will extend to the school's vehicular access and furthermore it will include the access to Castlelands Park View Estate. A yellow box as part of traffic management will be considered as part of the study.

Recommendation

As per recommendation in response (i).

[v] The Poor alignment of Dublin Road Roundabout (Church Roundabout)

Many submissions referred to the poor alignment of Dublin Road Roundabout (Church Roundabout) and that traffic issues at school times make this roundabout an extremely dangerous route for schoolchildren, cyclists and pedestrians.

Response

FCC is undertaking the Harry Reynolds Road Pedestrian and Cycle Scheme. The high-quality walking and cycle route is currently in Preliminary Design Stage. The proposed scheme will aim to deliver a high-quality Level of Service for all users and will allow for future links to the Fingal Coastal Way (currently at feasibility study stage) and other cycling routes in Balbriggan. As part of the scheme, it is proposed to upgrade the Dublin Road roundabout (Church Roundabout) to provide pedestrian and cyclist facilities, including controlled crossings for all roundabout arms. It is envisaged that the roundabout upgrade will take place as part of the Harry Reynolds Road scheme, which is currently programmed to happen before the commencement of Phase 1 of the Castlelands Masterplan.

Recommendation

No change

[vi] Impact of the Masterplan on the Skerries Road

A number of submissions expressed concerns regarding the impact of the Masterplan on the Skerries Road:

- a. There are already high traffic volumes on the narrow Skerries Road. The MP will result in more traffic on the Skerries Road accessing the new link road.
- b. The high speed along the Skerries Road –the proposed MP will exacerbate these issues. Local residents have for past 3 years made strong safety-based

representations to Councillors about increased traffic volumes and excessive speed on the Skerries Road/narrow road with inadequate pedestrian paths.

- c. Submissions included questions as to how the planned route for the Skerries - Balbriggan Greenway and cycle path (Fingal Coastal Way) will be accommodated, on the basis that the road narrows at the approach to Balbriggan and has inadequate or no pedestrian paths.

Response

- a. A traffic impact assessment to inform a planning application for the Castlelands Link Road will be undertaken as the scheme progresses throughout the statutory process, including the associated public consultation. The traffic impact assessment will comprise the full corridor from Skerries Road to the M1, it will assess the transportation implications due to existing and forecast demand, identify traffic management measures and determine the optimum final configuration of the junctions.
- b. It is proposed to reduce the 80kph speed limit along the Skerries Road in advance of the Castlelands Link Road Junction, by relocating the gateway signs south of the Castlelands MP lands. A new junction will be required to connect the new Link Road into the existing Coast Road, and while the final layout of this road is not yet available it will be designed to facilitate traffic calming and to encourage drivers to reduce speeds on the approach of the town.
- c. Fingal County Council has commenced design work on the Fingal Coastal Way project, which is a 32 kilometre, high-quality recreational walking

and cycling route connecting Donabate, Rush, Skerries, Ardgillan Castle, Balbriggan and Bremore Castle.

With regards to the Castlelands Masterplan, the route will facilitate a pedestrian and cycling connection between Castlelands, the Town Centre and the Train Station. An appropriate connection from the Masterplan lands to the proposed Coastal Way is envisaged across the new Link Road crossing of the railway line and via a new pedestrian and cyclist footbridge.

Following on from the identification of the preferred route for the Fingal Coastal Way in 2020, preliminary design and environmental assessment work will continue through 2020 and early 2021, with a planning application target date of late 2021/early 2022. It is proposed that the section of the Fingal Coastal Way between Ardgillan Castle and Bremore Castle will be prioritised for early construction delivery thereafter.

Recommendation

Insert following paragraph in Section 6 on page 16:

A transport assessment will be undertaken as part of the statutory process for the completion of the Castlelands Link Road.

[vii] Hampton Lane: Concern was raised in submissions that Hampton Lane should not be used to access new development.

Response

No vehicular access is provided from Hampton Lane /Tanners water Lane to serve the proposed development. Pedestrian and cycle routes shall connect the MP lands to Tanners Water lane which adjoins the MP lands to the south.

Recommendation

Insert following paragraph in Section 6 on page 16:

No vehicular access shall be provided for from Hampton Lane /Tanners water Lane to serve the proposed development. In the interest of permeability and amenity pedestrian and cycle routes shall connect the MP lands to Tanners Water lane which adjoins the MP lands to the south. These pedestrian and cycle routes shall be provided in the Green Fingers radiating south of the central green corridor connecting to Tanners Water Lane.

[viii] Existing public transport facilities: many submissions received raise concerns regarding existing public transport facilities, commenting that Balbriggan has a high level of commuters and that commuter rail services are already at capacity.

Response

Bus Services - As part of the Masterplan, a comprehensive network of pedestrian routes is proposed linking existing and future residential areas to the existing bus stops on Dublin Street (R132) and Skerries Road (R127) via safe and attractive pedestrian routes. The Castlelands Link Road has been designed to facilitate future bus services (or re-routing of existing services) in order to cater for the expected population growth in the Masterplan lands and the existing population in the surrounding area. Fingal County Council will work with the NTA to ensure that the travel needs of existing and new developments are adequately served by public transport.

Railway Services - The extension of the DART rail service to serve Balbriggan is an objective of the *Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023* and is an integral component of the DART Expansion Programme and the *National Development Plan 2018-2027*. The DART expansion, in addition to further development and enhancements to the City Centre Stations and rail network in Dublin city centre, will enable increased rail service frequencies to be delivered to north Fingal and Balbriggan to support the existing and future demand for rail travel.

Recommendation:

No change

[ix] Network of pedestrian and cycle routes: A number of submissions raised concerns regarding the proposed network of pedestrian and cycle routes. Many seek the provision of pedestrian / cycleways between MP lands and Ardgillan Demesne.

Response

The Masterplan seeks to provide an integrated network of continuous and safe pedestrian and cyclist links through Castlelands and connecting with the surrounding neighbourhoods to promote active travel choices.

The MP states that in time, consideration may be given to extending the pedestrian pathways southwards to Ardgillan Castle and Demesne, a distance of only circa 450 metres from Tanners Water Lane. It is an objective of FCC to provide for a connection between the Fingal Coastal Way and Ardgillan Demesne. One route option which may be considered by FCC is a link southward to the west of the railway line between Tanners water Lane and Ardgillan Demesne.

Recommendation:

Update the Masterplan Section 6, page 20 to include an objective to investigate the feasibility of a pedestrian link to the adjacent Ardgillan Demesne.

[x] Pinewood Estate: Concern has been raised that Pinewood Estate should not be used for vehicular access to the new development.

Response

No vehicular access is provided through Pinewood Estate to serve the proposed development.

Recommendation

Insert the following sentence in Section 6 on page 16 of the MP:

No vehicular access shall be provided through Pinewood Estate to serve the proposed development. Pedestrian and cycle routes shall be provided from the MP lands to Pinewood.

[xi] Electric vehicles: A number of submitters questioned whether, and how, charging facilities for electric vehicles will be integrated into the Masterplan area.

Response

The development will be future proofed to enable for the provision of 100% Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points. EV charging points will be provided, in line with current best practice, within the curtilage of individual properties (for example via driveway charging, undercroft or half-basement). In addition, EV charging points will be provided on-street and/or in public street car parks as appropriate and in line with current best practice.

Recommendation:

The MP shall include the following statement: future proposals for development within the MP lands shall provide for sufficient EV charging points in line with best practice.

[xii] Construction traffic: Concerns are raised about the Impact of construction traffic.

Response

A construction traffic management plan will be part of any future planning application of the Castlelands Masterplan. The construction traffic management plans are key construction contract documents that, through their implementation, reduce possible impacts that may occur during the construction of the proposed development and aim to minimise the disruption to other road users.

Recommendation:

No change

[2] Building Layout, Building Height and Visual impact

A large number of submitters, including the Castleland Park Estate Residents' Association, the Pinewood Residents' Association, the Hampton Cove Residents' Association, Fancourt Heights Residents' Association, Chapelgate Residents' Association and the Balbriggan Community Council (FIN-C217-161) raised concerns regarding the proposed building heights and in particular the proposed 6 storey element, stating that development should be more appropriate to the character of the town and proportionate to the surrounding area. It is maintained that the scale of development should be proportionate to the pattern and grain of existing development. All of these submissions and the detailed submission from Kevin and Asha Smyth has been fully considered by the multidisciplinary design team.

Many submissions object to the draft MP on the basis that the proposed indicative layout and building heights including 6 storey buildings on the more elevated sections of the site will have an adverse visual impact particularly on views from [1] Ardgillan Demense, [2] the Balbriggan to Skerries coast road and [3] adjoining residential development. It is stated that the MP is a poor design response at this prominent and sensitive location. The scale of development it is stated should be proportionate to the pattern and grain of existing development. Proposed development should be appropriate to the character of place in which it is situated. There are no buildings over 4 floors in height in Balbriggan. Density should be in keeping with surrounding development.

Several provisions of the Fingal Development Plan are quoted by objectors in the submissions including the following:

- The 'HA' and 'OS' Zoning of adjacent lands to the south and east respectively
- The nature development area to the south.
- The MP Lands are located within the designated Coastal character type
- The MP lands are identified in the CDP as a *highly Sensitive landscape*.
- The principles for development for Coastal character type
- Landscape Character Assessment Objectives - including NH36 and NH39 .

Response

The MP lands have been zoned for development for 20 years and more.

The multidisciplinary design team have undertaken a rigorous analysis of the existing context in determining the optimal layout of future development and appropriate building heights in the design phases.

The optimal location for the proposed higher buildings was carefully considered having regard to the following considerations:

- The visual impact of the development as viewed from adjacent public areas , including the Skerries road and Ardgillan Demense as well as closer views from lands immediately adjoining [Pinewood and Tanners Water lane];
- Protecting existing residential amenities by limiting the heights of development adjoining existing residential areas, particularly Pinewood to the north and Ardgillan/Castleland Park View to the west.
- Providing a higher density core that addresses, overlooks and gives a sense of enclosure to the central green corridor, while also providing passive surveillance of the open spaces and the Castlelands Link Road.
- Providing views eastwards over the sea from future development within the MP lands.

The proposed height of buildings is indicatively shown on A3 [page 38 of draft MP]. Buildings comprise 2- 6 storeys in height. The higher 6 storey buildings are confined to areas immediately adjoining the linear central open space corridor and the lower building 2-3 storey adjoin existing residential areas.

In the interest of protecting existing residential amenities, the height of proposed development is lower at its edges where it adjoins existing two storey housing. Development rises to 6 stories at central locations overlooking the park providing passive surveillance and helping to provide for a safe place. The proposed development also lowers towards the coast road (R127) so as to not have an overbearing influence on the Coast Road and its character. The higher buildings some of which are located on the higher topographic areas on the site have been designed to be screened from important long distance views and this is clearly corroborated in the verified views.

The possibility of locating the taller elements along the eastern boundary closer to the coast as suggested could interfere with the views to the sea from the major public spaces as well as from the link road, which is envisaged as an urban street. Substituting the proposed low-rise buildings with taller ones would create a greater impact from the Skerries Road and would also prevent the public spaces and most of the residential units enjoying the views to the sea.

Given the substantial number of submissions that related, in particular, to the heights proposed in the draft Masterplan and the potential visual impact of same, it was considered appropriate to undertake additional work in this regard. Consequently, verified views and Computer-Generated Images [CGI's] were commissioned by FCC and prepared.

Verified views which involve computer modelling of the proposed built form and the incorporation of that model into photographs taken from the surrounding area, have been prepared. The verified views have been prepared by Model Works and provide an accurate and realistic understanding of the visual impact of the development. Four verified views have been prepared from the following locations:

- View 1 – Taken from within the Ardgillan Castle demesne, to the south of the Castle, looking toward the sea/Masterplan site. As demonstrated in the attached visual, there is no visual impact from this location.
- View 2 – Taken from the R127 (Skerries Road) looking north toward the Masterplan lands. Minimal visual impact due to vegetation screening.
- View 3 – Taken from the R127 (Skerries Road) looking south toward the Masterplan site. No visual impact due to screening.
- View 4 – Taken from the R127 (Skerries Road) looking north toward the Masterplan lands. No visual impact due to screening.

These verified views demonstrate that the form of development proposed on the Masterplan lands will have a very limited or no impact in views from Ardgillan Demesne and the Skerries Road due to existing vegetative screening in the area.

In addition, three Computer Generated Images [CGI's] have been prepared. These comprise photomontages of the development as viewed from lands within or immediately adjoining the MP lands [*one from Pinewood Estate; one close to swimming pool and one adjoining Tanners Water Lane*].

The images prepared and comprising the verified views and CGI's demonstrate clearly that the visual impact of the proposed development is acceptable and in compliance with the provisions of the CDP including *Objective NH36 which states:*

'Ensure that new development does not impinge in any significant way on the character, integrity and distinctiveness of highly sensitive areas and does not detract from the scenic value of the area. New development in highly sensitive areas shall not be permitted if it:

- Causes unacceptable visual harm*
- Introduces incongruous landscape elements*
- Causes the disturbance or loss of*

It should also be noted that any future planning applications on the MP lands will be required to comply with *Objective NH39 which states:*

Require any necessary assessments, including visual impact assessments, to be prepared prior to approving development in highly sensitive areas.

Notwithstanding the above, having regard to the number of submissions received in respect of the proposed heights of development it is recommended that the MP be amended to preclude any 6 storey buildings being constructed on the MP lands. The reduction in the height of the 6 storey blocks will result in a reduction in the numbers of residential units and the net density levels.

Recommendation

The MP shall be amended to omit any 6 storey buildings being constructed on the MP lands.

The MP will state that the appropriate heights of buildings shall comprise 2- 4.5 storeys [*The 4.5 storey buildings will be limited to appropriate locations*].

Note restricting building height to 4.5 storeys across the MP lands, will necessitate other sequential changes which have to be made to the Draft MP – Character area descriptions; unit numbers and density will all change.

[3] Density

Summary of Issues Raised

A large number of submitters object to the proposed density of development within the Masterplan lands, stating that proposed densities should be lower and in keeping with surrounding residential areas . It is stated that Balbriggan requires more family homes with gardens and not high-rise apartments.

Response

In the Draft MP FCC is proposing a net density of between 45-57 units per hectare.

Guidelines - Sustainable Residential development in urban areas May 2009: the MP land s would be considered an *Outer Suburban / 'Greenfield' site* as defined in the Guidelines. The Guidelines recommend net residential densities in the general range of 35-50 dwellings per hectare at such locations.

Urban Development and Building Heights, Guidelines for Planning Authorities, December 2018: under these Guidelines, the Castlelands Masterplan area constitutes an 'edge location' in a Town. The relevant policy for such locations envisages town-houses (2-3 storeys), duplexes (3-4 storeys) and apartments (4 storeys upwards). The guidelines state that development should include an effective mix of 2, 3 and 4-storey development which integrates well into existing and historical neighbourhoods and 4 storeys or more can be accommodated alongside existing larger buildings, trees and parkland, river/sea frontage or along wider streets.

The proposed densities and building heights in the draft MP are considered to be generally in compliance with both guidelines.

According to the 2016 census results, 79.5% of housing in Balbriggan falls under the category of house/bungalow. The Masterplan seeks to further diversify the mix of housing typologies in Balbriggan in order to cater to a range of housing requirements, people at different life stages and to aid housing affordability.

The Draft Masterplan proposes a net density range of between 45-57 units per hectare. In the context of the locality, neighbouring developments have net densities which are not entirely dissimilar, with Fancourt Heights having a net density of 30 units per hectare and Pinewood having a net density of 32 units per hectare.

Reducing the heights of buildings within the MP lands as recommended above will result in a reduction in unit numbers and a reduction in the net density of development across the MP lands.

Recommendation

The MP to be amended to state:

- The average net residential density across the MP lands shall be between 35 -50 dwelling units per hectare [in accordance with the DOE Guidelines - *Sustainable Residential development in urban areas May 2009*].
- The MP lands shall provide for 600 – 850 residential units
- The appropriate heights of buildings across the MP lands shall comprise 2- 4.5 storeys [*The 4.5 storey buildings will be limited to appropriate locations*].

Note – the figures throughout in the MP document will be changed accordingly.

[4] Impact on Adjoining Residential Areas

Summary of Issues Raised

A range of submissions received from the residents of adjoining areas raised concerns regarding the impact of the built form as proposed in the Masterplan on the amenities of adjoining housing.

Response

The multidisciplinary design team have undertaken a rigorous analysis of the existing context in determining the optimal layout of future development and appropriate building heights in the design phases.

In order to protect the existing residential amenities of adjoining development proposed building heights are limited to 2- 3 storeys where the MP lands adjoin existing residential areas, specifically at Pinewood Green Lawn, Avenue and Road to the north and Ardgillan/Castleland Park View to the west. One of the key design drivers was providing for pedestrian and cycle links connections between the MP lands and

the existing communities so that neighbouring residents would benefit from the proposed recreational amenities including the significant new public open space areas within the Castlelands MP lands.

The height of the development is lower at its edges where it adjoins existing two storey housing, rising to higher areas at 6 stories overlooking the park so that it has passive surveillance and is a safe place. The development also lowers towards the coast road (R127) so as to not have an overbearing influence on the coast road and its character. The higher areas some of which are located on the higher topographic areas on the site have been designed to be screened from important long-distance views as indicated from the verified views. Fingal has undertaken verified views of the project which demonstrate clearly that the proposed development will not be visible from key long-distance views surrounding Balbriggan including from Ardgillan Castle and from the R127.

It should be noted that the heights indicated in the draft Masterplan are maximum heights and it must be demonstrated in any future planning application by the applicant that the heights transition appropriately from existing development and are of good quality so to be visually congruous with the surrounding amenities. It is imperative that multiple high-quality architects are engaged in future planning applications on these lands, so that there is diversity in the housing design and character areas and that the connections to the existing communities are handled with care and skill so that the impact on them is a positive one.

Recommendation

The MP shall be amended to omit any 6 storey buildings being constructed on the MP lands.

The MP will state that the appropriate heights of buildings shall comprise 2- 4.5 storeys [*The 4.5 storey buildings will be limited to appropriate locations*].

[5] Housing Need

Summary of Issues Raised

While many of the submissions recognise the need to increase housing supply in the Greater Dublin Area, most oppose the provision of additional housing in Balbriggan and state that instead the town needs investment in resources, jobs and public spaces. Others suggested a revised plan comprising a smaller scale of residential development at significantly lower densities coupled with high quality housing and reduced building heights and more public space.

Response

Ireland is undergoing a major housing crisis at present with demand far outpacing supply. The Masterplan area is zoned for residential development and is recognised as a key part of this delivery both as part of the Fingal Development Plan and as part of the Land Development Agency's remit.

The census in 2011 shows Balbriggan with a population of 19,960 people which rose to 21,722 in the 2016 census. This equates to a net rise of 1,762 people over a 5-year period. Approximately 110 homes were available for sale to buy in Balbriggan during late 2019 [source Daft.ie]. There is therefore a limited home offer in the Balbriggan area notwithstanding the expansion in countrywide housing activity in recent years.

While the population of Balbriggan increased from 19,960 to 21,722 people during the intercensal period, the total number of households increased by just 161, from 7,115 to 7,276. Consequently, the number of people per household increased from 2.8 people per household in 2011 to 3 people per household in 2016. This population rise identified in the census would assume based on current population trends that Balbriggan needs in the order of 600-800 new homes every 5 years to absorb current demand (depending on dwelling typology and number of bedrooms).

The Castlelands MP land site is a key tract of zoned land available to accommodate housing demands.

The Vision for the Castlelands Masterplan is to promote the development of a distinctive quality and integrated new residential quarter within Balbriggan, through the development of a sustainable residential community comprising a good choice of new homes and supported by appropriate local, community, recreational and educational facilities for the benefit of both existing and future residents in Balbriggan.

Castlelands will provide an accessible new residential quarter which is well connected and integrated within Balbriggan. The Masterplan lands are located close to: [1] extensive tracts of land zoned for employment uses at Stephentown; [2] adjoining mature residential areas and [3] the town centre.

The development of the MP lands will create additional employment in the area in the short and medium term. Additional housing at this site will also strengthen Balbriggan's core and Main Street as the key commercial and retail area in the town with more footfall provided by new residents.

The proposed phasing strategy [Section 9 of the Draft Plan] will ensure that infrastructure, services, facilities and amenities required for the development of the MP lands are provided together with, or in advance of, development. The phasing schedule

in the MP is based on the fact that there are a number of key structuring elements and facilities that need to be delivered up front as part of Phase 1 in order to enable and promote the integrated and coordinated development of these lands over a period of approximately 10 years and to protect adjoining residential amenities. Circa. 200 dwellings in the south-west section of the MP lands are only provided for as part of Phase 1.

It is also now proposed, following public consultation, to amend the plan to include a pre-planning phase that would take place prior to Phase 1 and before any development commences on site. The pre-planning phase would include the following:

- Implementation of traffic management measures along the existing link road

Given the extent of work to be undertaken between the pre-planning phase and Phase 1 and the requirement to obtain planning permissions including Part 8 permissions, it is unlikely that any residential development other than that envisaged as part of Phase 1 (200 houses) would take place over the next 5 years. The Masterplan lands will therefore only contribute a limited amount of housing over this time period.

Recommendation: No Change.

[6] Residential Mix and Unit Size

Summary of Issues Raised

An issue raised repeatedly is the need for larger family homes [3-4 bed houses] in Balbriggan and the need for fewer apartments. A mix of housing and low-rise apartments including supported housing for older people is suggested. It is stated that the majority of houses built in the town over the past 15 years were small units with tiny front and back gardens and not enough parking and many of the families living in these units need to move to larger family homes in the Town with front and back gardens.

Response

Data from the CSO coupled with multiple industry reports have shown that the predominant typology needed in the Dublin area are 1-2 bedroom apartments, duplexes or houses. Family units are changing and the creation of 1 and 2 bedroom houses caters for young professionals, single people as well as the elderly. The creation of purpose built, safe, highly sustainable housing also promotes stock rotation with

elderly people being encouraged to move out of 3 and 4 bedroom homes, which are more suitable for young families, into purpose built apartments and houses.

The Castlelands MP lands have the capacity to accommodate a range of house types and apartments.

Recommendation: No Change.

[7] *Tenure Mix*

Summary of issues raised

There is an imbalance between social and private housing in Balbriggan. Balbriggan it is stated already has a disproportionate oversupply of social housing relative to other areas in Fingal and to other towns in north county Dublin. It is maintained that Balbriggan has been 'a dumping ground' for social housing and that Balbriggan should take only its fair share of social housing.

Submitters state that FCC should require that that 90% of the homes within the MP lands can only be purchased by owner occupiers. Others suggest that the proportion of social housing should be more than the required 10% and that the rest should be affordable and cost rental.

Many Submissions state that there should be a good mix of tenure- Private, social and affordable but concerns are raised in respect of there being no way to guarantee that an agreed proportion will be private and therefore the level of social and affordable may be much higher than envisaged.

There is a great deal of concern about the future ability of individuals and families to buy much needed homes in the town and become owner occupiers.

The following concerns are repeatedly raised in submissions:

- Housing groups are buying up houses in new and existing developments making it impossible for families to get on the housing ladder.
- Housing estates are being bulk bought by investment companies, 'cuckoo funds' which prevent individuals/ families from buying .

- 'Build to rent' developments also prevent individuals/ families from buying and becoming owner occupiers.

Response

The Vision for the Castlelands Masterplan is to promote the development of a distinctive quality new residential quarter within Balbriggan, through the development of a sustainable residential community comprising a choice of high quality new homes with a mix of dwelling types, size and tenure; appropriate local, community, recreational and educational facilities for both existing and future residents; the integration of existing and new open space areas and recreational amenities, all within an identifiable and accessible environment which promotes sustainable development based around strong public transport and walking and cycling links.

The provisions of Part V of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), requires that 10% of units be allocated as social housing.

FCC fully accepts the need to provide for significant levels of private affordable housing in Balbriggan. Notwithstanding this, FCC is not the landowner and cannot therefore guarantee what the future tenure mix will be on the MP lands. The Masterplan cannot legally require that property built shall be sold on the open market to individual owner-occupiers as suggested in submissions.

The Housing & Sustainable Communities Agency are the owners of the land at Castlelands, Balbriggan. The Housing Agency submission states inter alia the following:

'...it should be noted that the Housing Agency will be specifying the tenure and social mix following consultation with Fingal County Council. It is intended that this will include a significant proportion of cost rental housing (affordable rental). The masterplan needs to provide for rental housing, both social and cost rental, throughout the development, to provide for good social integration...'

The land in question falls under the ownership of the Housing Agency. The LDA is responsible for delivering housing on these lands. Given that the land is in State ownership, the state has a greater ability to influence the future tenure mix on these lands compared to a privately owned/developed scheme.

Recommendation:

No Change

[8] Phasing of key infrastructure and facilities

Summary of Issues Raised

Some submissions state that the MP does not contain a schedule of building. Roadways and amenities including the pool should be built in advance or concurrently to the provision of housing

Response

Development of the MP lands will likely occur over a period of c 10 years.

The phasing schedule provides for the development of the main structuring elements and facilities in the initial phase of development in order to facilitate the optimum development of the Masterplan lands over time for the mutual benefit of both existing and future residents.

The MP states that the key structuring elements and facilities which shall be provided in Phase 1 are as follows:

- The completion of the Castlelands Link Road to the Skerries Road (R127)
- The proposed 'Green Infrastructure' corridor that extends from the zoned 'OS' lands to the west, through the centre of the Masterplan lands and incorporates the SuDs facilities as a landscape feature
- The proposed recreational facilities on the existing public open space lands at Castlelands and Pinewood
- The swimming pool which is an important recreational and amenity facility for existing and future residents and the wider area
- The provision of the school site.

Given the likely long-term timelines involved in the development of the Masterplan lands [Development of the MP lands will likely occur over a period of c 10 years],the

early delivery of these key structuring elements and facilities is critical to ensure the integrated, coordinated and sustainable development of the Masterplan lands.

The purpose of the phasing strategy is to ensure that infrastructure, services, facilities and amenities required for the development of the subject lands are provided together with, or in advance of, development. The phasing schedule in the MP is based on the fact that there are a number of key structuring elements and facilities that need to be delivered up front as part of Phase 1 in order to enable and promote the integrated and coordinated development of these lands over a period of approximately 10 years and to protect adjoining residential amenities. Circa 200 dwellings in the south-west section of the MP lands are only provided for as part of Phase 1.

In response to issues raised in the submissions, FCC is proposing a Pre- Planning Phase to be included in Section 9 of the MP.

FCC acknowledges that there are existing traffic congestion issues along the Castlelands Link Road, particularly during school drop-off and collection times and is committed to providing a traffic management solution to improve current conditions and safety along the Link Road.

FCC is committed to preparing design options to improve the safety along the Link Road and in this regard, will be meeting the three schools to discuss any proposed arrangements with a view to including the proposed measures as part of the Pre-Planning Phase of the implementation of the Castlelands Masterplan lands.

Recommendation

[1] Insert the following paragraphs in Section 6 on page 16 of MP

Traffic congestion on existing Castlelands Link Road

FCC acknowledges that there are existing traffic congestion issues along the Castlelands Link Road, particularly during school drop-off and collection times and is currently developing traffic management solutions to improve current conditions and safety along the Link Road. Alongside that, two high quality cycle routes, the Harry Reynolds Road pedestrian and cycle route scheme and the Fingal Coastal Way scheme will be developed which will significantly improve accessibility for students to walk and cycle to school, thereby reducing general traffic congestion and the need for car drop-offs near the schools.

In this regard, a public information meeting was held in November with a view to implementing the proposed measures as part of the Harry Reynolds Road pedestrian and cycle scheme, which is programmed for construction prior to any development of the Masterplan lands.

[2] Section 9 Phasing and Implementation [page 27]: include new paragraph Pre-Planning Phase .

[3] Section 9 Phasing and Implementation [page 27] include the following [pg. 27] under the new Pre-Planning Phase paragraph:

Implement traffic management measures along the existing link road.

[4] Insert following Paragraph on page 15:

A landscape plan for the proposed *Green Infrastructural Spine* running through the MP lands shall be prepared and submitted to the PA for its agreement prior to any development occurring on the MP lands, as part of the new Pre- Planning Phase *of the implementation of the Castlelands Masterplan lands*. This landscape plan shall provide for inter alia the following: pedestrian paths and/ cycleways, local play facilities and proposed SuDs features.

[5] Include the following] under the new Pre-Planning Phase paragraph : A landscape plan for the proposed *Green Infrastructural Spine* running through the MP lands shall be prepared and submitted to the PA for its agreement prior to any development occurring on the MP lands,

[9] Our Balbriggan 2019-2025 Rejuvenation Plan

Summary of Issues Raised

Our Balbriggan 2019-2025 Rejuvenation Plan is welcomed in many of the submissions. Concerns are raised that the Castlelands MP takes no account of the 'Our Balbriggan' strategy.

A range of submitters reference the 'Our Balbriggan' plan, stating that the town rejuvenation needs to proceed, with the full €20 million budget spent in the town centre/harbour, before any more residential development goes ahead. Submitters stated that Balbriggan and its districts are only just entering a 'catch-up mode' and that this work should be completed.

Response

The Draft Castlelands Masterplan and *Our Balbriggan 2019-2025 Rejuvenation Plan* were both prepared by Fingal County Council. Both were prepared over a similar time period having full regard to each other. The Draft Castlelands MP and Our Balbriggan 2019-2025 rejuvenation Plan mutually support each other.

The '*Our Balbriggan*' strategy is an ambitious plan for the rejuvenation of the original town centre and the surrounding area in the period up to 2025. The plan seeks to improve the public realm in the town centre, to boost the local economy and enterprise as well as putting in place community strengthening initiatives. The plan contains a host of actions to be undertaken over the short, medium and longer term, to enable the town to catch-up in terms of its public realm, employment and infrastructure. However, this does not preclude an appropriate level of residential growth occurring in tandem with these initiatives.

Development of the Masterplan lands will likely occur over a period of circa 10 years. The phasing schedule in the MP provides for the development of the main structuring elements and facilities in the initial phase of development prior to most of the residential development taking place in order to facilitate the optimum development of the Masterplan lands over time for the mutual benefit of both existing and future residents.

Given the timeframes associated with the Castlelands Masterplan, which is expected to be implemented over a 10 year timeframe up to 2030, all of the proposed actions with associated timeframes set out in the '*Our Balbriggan*' strategy are scheduled to be delivered in advance of the full build out of the Masterplan, over the period up to 2025.

Recommendation:

Insert following paragraph on page 2:

Our Balbriggan 2019-2025 Rejuvenation Plan

The 'Our Balbriggan' strategy is an ambitious plan for the rejuvenation of the original town centre and the surrounding area in the period up to 2025. The plan seeks to improve the public realm in the town centre, to boost the local economy and enterprise as well

as putting in place community strengthening initiatives. The plan contains a host of actions to be undertaken over the short, medium and longer term, to enable the town to catch-up in terms of its public realm, employment and infrastructure.

[10] Employment – growing the employment base in Balbriggan

Summary of Issues Raised

An issue which is raised repeatedly is the low ratio of jobs to resident population and the need to create more jobs in Balbriggan. Currently people commute out of Balbriggan to work and much potential spending power goes to other locations. There is a need to attract companies to set up in Balbriggan through the IDA.

Balbriggan has been one of the fastest growing towns with the population growing by 194 % since 1991. The job per resident worker ratio is low at 0.411:1. No new employment has been provided to cater for the large increase in population over the last 10 years or so.

Balbriggan does not require more residents, it requires more jobs to become self-sustaining and this is where all the investment and development should be targeted. Proposed development should be focused on jobs, services, and infrastructure and not on housing.

Response

FCC agrees that Balbriggan needs to expand its employment base and provide for more jobs locally.

Major investment undertaken by Fingal County Council and other stakeholders in the town's water services and roads infrastructure provides a basis for the town to continue to grow in a sustainable manner. Balbriggan has a substantial quantum of zoned land for high technology and general employment, which combined with the town's excellent accessibility to major transport corridors, as well as its proximity to Dublin Airport and the Ports at Drogheda and Dublin, makes Balbriggan a desirable location for enterprise.

There are significant amounts of undeveloped lands zoned for employment uses within the town in Stephentown, located east of the M1 and close to the masterplan lands. These lands comprise:

- Circa 88.5 hectares of undeveloped land zoned 'GE' general employment where it is the stated objective to *'Provide opportunities for general enterprise and employment*

and

- 12 hectares of undeveloped land zoned 'HT' High Technology where it is the stated objective to *' Provide for office, research and development and high technology/high technology manufacturing type employment in a high quality built and landscaped environment'..*

FCC owns over 50 acres (30 GE & 28 HT) of serviced land at Stephentown. This forms part of the land holdings listed above.

FCC is proactively working to increase the employment base in the town in consultation with IDA and other key stakeholders. Several actions are ongoing such as:

- Servicing of sites to make them more attractive to potential buyers.
- Active engagement and marketing of Balbriggan as a location to locate business.
- Engagement with IDA to prioritise Balbriggan as a location for FDI investment.
- Continuing to support Balbriggan Enterprise Centre BEAT.
- There are currently approximately 70 jobs in the pipeline for Stephenstown with other leads being followed up on a constant basis.
- It is estimated that Stephenstown Industrial Area can support several thousand jobs once fully developed.

In addition, Fingal County Council has developed the "Our Balbriggan" Strategy, which aims to transform the town centre into a vibrant commercial, social and cultural centre through the implementation of actions across 4 pillars, Public Realm, Economy & Enterprise, Education and Training and Community & Integration. Fingal County Council has ring-fenced €20 million funding toward the implementation of 'Our Balbriggan'. Other significant public, private and community groups working in the

town have also committed human and financial resources to assist with the implementation of the "Our Balbriggan" Strategy.

The Castlelands Masterplan is expected to be implemented over a 10 year timeframe up to 2030. All of the proposed actions with associated timeframes set out in the 'Our Balbriggan' plan are scheduled to be delivered in advance of the full build out of the Masterplan, over the period up to 2025.

The phasing schedule in the MP provides for the development of the main structuring elements and facilities in the initial phase of development prior to most of the residential development in order to facilitate the optimum development of the Masterplan lands over time for the mutual benefit of both existing and future residents.

Recommendation:

No change

[11] RSES and NFP

Summary of Issues Raised

A large number of the submissions received state that the Castlelands MP does not comply with the Draft RSES or the National Planning Framework.

Response

National, Regional and Local Context of the Castlelands Masterplan

The Castlelands Masterplan was prepared in the context of the National Planning Framework, the Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly (RSES) and the Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023.

On the 28th June 2019 The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly (RSES) was made and published.

Both the NPF and the RSES highlight the importance of active and effective land management, particularly in relation to publicly owned lands. The Castleland MP lands are stated owned Lands in the ownership of the Housing Agency. The NPF outlines that the State must take a stronger role in strategically managing and enhancing the development potential of its own lands, to deliver on wider public policy and to ensure

that overall development needs are met. This includes but is not exclusive to the provision of housing by the State and other housing providers, for people on a range of incomes [NPO66].

National Context – Project Ireland 2040 National Planning Framework (NPF)

The National Planning Framework (NPF) is the Government's high-level strategic plan for shaping the future growth and development of Ireland up to 2040. A range of complementary strategies will be used to achieve more balanced and sustainable development in our settlements. Growth strategies will be linked to investment through the National Rural and Urban Regeneration and Development Fund.

The National Planning Framework sets out ten National Strategic Outcomes which represent a shared set of goals for every community across the country. The Draft Castlelands Masterplan is in compliance with these strategic outcomes, with particular regard to those set out below:

National Strategic Outcome 1

Compact Growth

Carefully managing the sustainable growth of compact cities, towns and villages will add value and create more attractive places in which people can live and work. All our urban settlements contain many potential development areas, centrally located and frequently publicly owned, that are suitable and capable of re-use to provide housing, jobs, amenities and services, but which need a streamlined and co-ordinated approach to their development, with investment in enabling infrastructure and supporting amenities, to realise their potential. Activating these strategic areas and achieving effective density and consolidation, rather than more sprawl of urban development, is a top priority.

National Strategic Outcome 7

Enhanced Amenities and Heritage

This will ensure that our cities, towns and villages are attractive and can offer a good quality of life. It will require investment in well-designed public realm, which includes public spaces, parks and streets, as well as recreational infrastructure. It also includes amenities in rural areas, such as national and forest parks, activity-based tourism and trails such as greenways, blueways and peatways. This is linked to and must integrate with our built, cultural and natural heritage, which has intrinsic value in defining the character of urban and rural areas and adding to their attractiveness and sense of place.

National Strategic Outcome 9

Sustainable Management of Water, Waste and other Environmental Resources

Ireland has abundant natural and environmental resources such as our water sources that are critical to our environmental and economic wellbeing into the future. Conserving and enhancing the quality of these resources will also become more important in a crowded and competitive world as well as our capacity to create beneficial uses from products previously considered as waste, creating circular economic benefits.

National Strategic Outcome 10

Access to Quality Childcare, Education and Health Services

Good access to a range of quality education and health services, relative to the scale of a region, city, town, neighbourhood or community is a defining characteristic of attractive, successful and competitive places. Compact, smart growth in urban areas and strong and stable rural communities will enable the enhanced and effective provision of a range of accessible services.

Table 2.1 of the NPF sets out the Targeted Pattern of Growth to 2040. Within the Eastern and Midland region, 50% of new city housing is proposed within existing Dublin City and suburbs footprint and 30% of all new housing elsewhere, within existing urban footprints.

Balbriggan does not form part of the Dublin City and suburbs footprint.

Balbriggan is identified in the NPF as follows:

"There is also a category of historically larger town, mainly in Leinster, that experienced significant commuter based residential growth during the same period, but not jobs growth, in part due to a decline in traditional industrial and process-based employment. These include, for example, Balbriggan, Navan and Portlaoise, Ireland's three fastest growing large towns between 1996 and 2016, where the population has grown rapidly, without equivalent increases in jobs."

The NPF applies a tailored approach to dealing with urban development throughout the country, including Balbriggan, as set out below in NPO7:

National Policy Objective 7

Apply a tailored approach to urban development that will be linked to the Rural and Urban Regeneration and Development Fund, with a particular focus on:-

- *Dublin;*
- *the four Cities of Cork, Limerick, Galway and Waterford;*
- *Strengthening Ireland's overall urban structure, particularly in the Northern and Western and Midland Regions, to include the regional centres of Sligo and*

Letterkenny in the North-West, Athlone in the Midlands and cross-border networks focused on the Letterkenny-Derry North-West Gateway Initiative and Drogheda-Dundalk-Newry on the Dublin-Belfast corridor;

- *Encouraging population growth in strong employment and service centres of all sizes, supported by employment growth;*
- *Reversing the stagnation or decline of many smaller urban centres, by identifying and establishing new roles and functions and enhancement of local infrastructure and amenities;*
- *Addressing the legacy of rapid unplanned growth, by facilitating amenities and services catch-up, jobs and/or improved sustainable transport links to the cities, together with a slower rate of population growth in recently expanded commuter settlements of all sizes;*
- *In more self-contained settlements of all sizes, supporting a continuation of balanced population and employment growth.*

It is important to note in relation to National Policy Objective 7, the NPF states that all towns can and must grow over the period to 2040, but that tailoring a strategy to balance this growth is critical. This means that Balbriggan will continue to grow but the growth must be carefully managed and balanced.

National Policy Objectives

The National Planning Framework sets out 75 National Policy Objectives. The Castlelands Masterplan is in compliance with these with particular regard to those set out below:

National Policy Objective 4

Ensure the creation of attractive, liveable, well designed, high quality urban places that are home to diverse and integrated communities that enjoy a high quality of life and well-being.

National Policy Objective 11

In meeting urban development requirements, there will be a presumption in favour of development that can encourage more people and generate more jobs and activity within existing cities, towns and villages, subject to development meeting appropriate planning standards and achieving targeted growth.

National Policy Objective 27

Ensure the integration of safe and convenient alternatives to the car into the design of our communities, by prioritising walking and cycling accessibility to both existing and proposed developments, and integrating physical activity facilities for all ages.

National Policy Objective 33

Prioritise the provision of new homes at locations that can support sustainable development and at an appropriate scale of provision relative to location.

National Policy Objective 35

Increase residential density in settlements, through a range of measures including reductions in vacancy, reuse of existing buildings, infill development schemes, area or site-based regeneration and increased building heights.

National Policy Objective 53

Support the circular and bio economy including in particular through greater efficiency in land management, greater use of renewable resources and by reducing the rate of land use change from urban sprawl and new development.

National Policy Objective 66

A more effective strategic and centrally managed approach will be taken to realise the development potential of the overall portfolio of state owned and/or influenced lands in the five main cities other major urban areas and in rural towns and villages as a priority, particularly through the establishment of a National Regeneration and Development Agency

The National Planning Framework and the Castlelands Masterplan

The Castlelands Masterplan complies with the National Strategic Outcomes and National Policy Objectives contained in the NPF, by providing a robust development framework for the long-term future sustainable development of a compact high-quality residential quarter strategically located within the existing development boundary of Balbriggan, incorporating good community, educational and recreational facilities within a highly accessible environment. Development within the Masterplan lands will be phased to ensure that growth is carefully managed and to mitigate any potential adverse impacts on the surrounding area. The likely time period to deliver the proposed development within the Masterplan lands will be over 10 years.

Regional Context

On the 28th June 2019 The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly (RSES) was made and published.

Growth Strategy

Balbriggan is located within the **Core Region** which includes the peri-urban 'hinterlands' in the commuter catchment around Dublin.

Growth enablers for the Core Region include the following:

- *To promote continued growth at more sustainable rates, while providing for increased employment and improved local economies, services and functions to allow towns become more self-sustaining and to create the quality of life to attract investment.*
- *'Catch up' investment to promote consolidation and improvement in the sustainability of those areas that have experienced significant population growth but have a weak level of services and employment for their residents.*
- *Promote the Region for tourism, leisure and recreational activities including development of an integrated greenway network while ensuring that high value assets and amenities are protected and enhanced.*

Settlement Strategy

In the RSES Settlement Strategy, Balbriggan falls into Tier 4- *Self-Sustaining Growth Towns and Self- Sustaining Towns*. It is stated that some of these have experienced rapid population growth and require 'catch-up' investment to become more self-sustaining.

The RSES states that Self-Sustaining Growth Towns and Self- Sustaining Towns are to be defined by Local Authorities in their Development Plans [Table 4.2 Settlement Hierarchy].

Self-Sustaining Growth Towns are described as follows in section 4.7 [page 87]:

Self-Sustaining Growth Towns are towns that contain a reasonable level of jobs and services which adequately caters for the people of its service catchment. This may include sub-county market towns and commuter towns with good transport links, which have capacity for continued commensurate growth.

Self-Sustaining Growth Towns

i) Self-Sustaining Growth Towns with a moderate level of jobs and services – includes sub-county market towns and commuter towns with good transport links and capacity for continued commensurate growth to become more self-sustaining [page 44].

Self- Sustaining Towns are described as follows in section 4.7 [page 87]:

Self-Sustaining Towns are towns that require contained growth, focusing on driving investment in services, employment growth and infrastructure whilst balancing housing delivery.

Towns recording the highest growth rates in the country over the last ten years (>32%), and which have lower levels of employment provision include Balbriggan.

Self- Sustaining Towns

ii) Self-Sustaining Towns with high levels of population growth and a weak employment base which are reliant on other areas for employment and/or services and which require targeted 'catch up' investment to become more self-sustaining [page 44].

The policy response for these towns is [Table 4.3 page 47]:

Consolidation coupled with targeted investment where required to improve local employment, services and sustainable transport options and to become more self-sustaining settlements

Guiding Principles for Core Strategies

Local authorities, in the preparation of their core strategies are required to have due regard to the settlement typology of towns in the Region and carefully consider the phasing of development lands to ensure that towns grow at a sustainable level appropriate to their position in the hierarchy [page 46]

Regional Policy Objectives

REGIONAL POLICY OBJECTIVES: Settlement Strategy

RPO 4.1: *In preparing core strategies for development plans, local authorities shall determine the hierarchy of settlements in accordance with the hierarchy, guiding principles and typology of settlements in the RSES, within the population projections set out in the National Planning Framework to ensure that towns grow at a sustainable and appropriate level, by setting out a rationale for land proposed to be zoned for residential, employment and mixed-use development across the Region. Core strategies shall also be developed having regard to the infill/brownfield targets set out in the National Planning Framework, National Policy Objectives 3a-3c.*

RPO 4.2: *Infrastructure investment and priorities shall be aligned with the spatial planning strategy of the RSES. All residential and employment developments should be planned on a phased basis in collaboration with infrastructure providers so as to ensure adequate capacity for services (e.g. water supply, wastewater, transport, broadband) is available to match projected demand for services and that the assimilative capacity of the receiving environment is not exceeded.*

The RSES and the Draft Castlelands Masterplan

The Castlelands Masterplan is in compliance with the RSES having regard in particular to the following :

- The Masterplan lands are zoned for residential development and are located within the existing development boundary of Balbriggan.
- The purpose of this Masterplan is to provide a robust development framework for the long-term sustainable development of a new high-quality residential quarter within the development boundary of Balbriggan. The likely time period to deliver the proposed development within the Masterplan lands will be over 10 years.
- The Masterplan sets out a clear phasing and implementation schedule. The phasing strategy will ensure that key infrastructure, services, facilities and amenities required for the development of the subject lands are provided at an early stage and in advance of much of the residential development

- In terms of social infrastructure, the MP provides for a primary school site; a swimming pool and park pavilion; a green infrastructure spine through the Masterplan lands and enhanced recreational facilities on the existing public open space lands at Castlelands and Pinewood.
- In terms of physical infrastructure, the MP provides for the completion of the Castlelands Link Road to the Skerries Road, which is a key road scheme objective in the Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023.
- The Masterplan proposes compact growth within a new quality sustainable residential urban quarter which is very accessible [*particularly for pedestrians and cyclists*] and well-integrated with existing development
- The Masterplan provides for the delivery of a mix of residential typologies to meet the needs of future residents, providing a variety of housing suitable for people at a range of life stages and helping to diversify the housing stock in Balbriggan.
- The Masterplan places a strong emphasis on place-making together with the necessary supporting physical and social facilities.
- The Masterplan provides for a scale of development which protected the amenities of adjoining residential areas.

Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023

Section 2.9 of the Fingal Development Plan sets out the Settlement Strategy for the Hinterland Area. Balbriggan is defined as a Large Growth Town – Level II in the Hinterland Area. Large Growth Towns serve as significant hubs for residential development and economic activity of both a commercial and industrial nature. They act as important self-sustaining regional economic drivers benefitting from high quality connections to Dublin City Centre.

Objective SS19 states : *Support and facilitate residential, commercial, industrial and community development to enable Balbriggan to fulfil its role as a Large Growth Town in the Settlement Hierarchy recognising its important role as the largest town in the hinterland area.*

Objective Balbriggan 16 of the FDP seeks to prepare a Masterplan for Castlelands (MP 4.F).

The Castlelands Masterplan lands contain two zoning objectives - RA – Residential (24 hectares) and OS – Open Space (c.2.2 hectares). The Masterplan lands are subject to two specific objectives - to provide for the completion of the Castlelands Link Road to the R127 which traverses the Masterplan lands and to provide for a school site within the Masterplan lands.

The Castlelands Masterplan lands are located circa 1 km to the south of Balbriggan Town Centre, with the Dublin-Belfast railway line to the east of the site adjoining the R127 Skerries Road. The area is conveniently located in terms of connections to Skerries, Swords and Dublin Airport, with the road proposal for the Castlelands Link Road to the R127 traversing the Masterplan lands. The subject lands are located in close proximity to three existing schools and to the extensive tracts of industrial lands at Stephentown Industrial Park. The Masterplan lands have been zoned for residential development for 20 years and more.

The Draft Masterplan fully complies with the provisions of the Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023.

Moving forward with Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly / Next Stages

The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly (RSES) was made on the 28th June 2019.

The Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2018 enacted legislative requirements, to enable the co-ordinated and timely incorporation of the National Planning Framework (NPF) and the relevant RSES into each City or County Development Plan

Fingal County Council proposes to commence the statutory variation process of the Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023 in January.

All other statutory plans i.e. Local Area Plans are required to be brought into alignment during or immediately after the 2019-21 review period.

The Castlelands Masterplan is a non-statutory plan. The purpose of this Masterplan is to provide a robust development framework for the long-term sustainable

development of a high-quality residential quarter. The likely time period required to deliver the proposed development within the Masterplan lands will be over 10 years.

The Castlelands Masterplan will function as a guidance document for the Planning Authority, An Bord Pleanála and potential applicants, to ensure the future sustainable development of this significant and key land parcel within Balbriggan.

Conclusion

The key policies identified in the National Planning Framework and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly ensure that Balbriggan town grows at a sustainable and appropriate level with regard to its position in the settlement hierarchy, and commensurate with its existing environment, with the necessary supporting social and physical infrastructure. In this regard, the Draft Castlelands Masterplan fully aligns with the National Planning Framework and the RSES for the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly.

It is Fingal County Council's intention to commence the statutory variation process of the Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023 in January.

Recommendation: no change

[12] Alternative Development Scenarios for Castlelands

It is maintained that developing the MP lands for housing will result in further unsustainable urban sprawl and that the MP proposes to expand Balbriggan into countryside.

Submissions suggest that uses other than residential should be provided for on the MP lands including the following:

- Develop Castlelands as a 'Buffer Zone' between predominantly residential areas in Balbriggan and the HA zoned lands at Ardgillan – a 'green belt' between Balbriggan and Skerries on the Coastal way .
- Expand Ardgillan Castle Demesne and Regional Park to include the MP lands.
- Develop the MP lands as a public park- it is stated that the Masterplan area would be better developed to include recreational facilities and amenities for the residents of Balbriggan i.e. Adventure Park, Camping/Caravan site, Bowling Green, Running Circuit, Public Swimming Pool, Pitch & Putt course to name but a few

- The MP lands should be used for amenities only - these lands are more suitable as an amenity area and not as an area for development

Response:

The Castlelands Masterplan lands are located within the designated development boundary of Balbriggan circa 1 km to the south of Balbriggan Town Centre. These lands comprise circa 24.2 hectares of greenfield, undulating lands that benefit from sea views. Of the c. 24.2 hectares, circa. 22 hectares are zoned '**Residential Area – RA**' under the Fingal Development Plan where the objective is to *"provide for new residential communities subject to the provision of the necessary social and physical infrastructure"*. The remainder of the land, circa 2.2 hectares is zoned '**Open Space – OS**' with the objective to *"preserve and provide for open space and recreational amenities"*.

It is a specific objective of the Fingal Development Plan 2017- 2023 to prepare a Masterplan for Castlelands. The purpose of this Masterplan is to provide a robust Development Framework for the long-term future sustainable development of a new quality residential quarter incorporating good community facilities at Castlelands.

The MP lands have been zoned for residential development for 20 years and more. These lands are located within the designated southern development boundary for Balbriggan. The towns of Balbriggan and Skerries are separated from each other by an extensive tract of 'HA' [High amenity] zoned land which precludes much development.

There are two Regional parks in Balbriggan:

- Ardgillan Castle Demesne and Regional Park - the park covers an area of circa 200 acres comprising wild woodland walks, sheltered picnic areas , rolling lawns and meadows, a playground and other activities. A tract of 'HA' zoned land separates Ardgillan Demense from the MP lands.
- Bremore Regional Park - It is an objective of FCC to prepare a MP for the development of Bremore Regional and amenities park within the next 12 months [our Balbriggan Rejuvenation Plan 2019-2015] . In this regard, the consultation phase has commenced.

There is neither a need nor justification to consider expanding Ardgillan Demense to include the MP lands. Rezoning of the MP lands would require a statutory variation of the CDP.

Recommendation:

No change

[13] Suspending Development at Castlelands

Summary of Issues Raised

Most of the submissions recognise the need to increase housing supply in the greater Dublin area. Notwithstanding this, very many submissions state that it is premature to develop Castlelands until the necessary services are provided for in Balbriggan.

Many of the submission strongly urge Fingal County Council to abandon this Masterplan. Many state that development of Castlelands should be paused or suspended with immediate effect until '*Our Balbriggan*' is implemented and has had time to take effect.

Many state that development of Castlelands should be suspended for 10 years to allow and reassessment of how Balbriggan is doing then.

Response

The Draft Castlelands Masterplan and *Our Balbriggan 2019-2025 Rejuvenation Plan* were both prepared by Fingal County Council. Both were prepared over a similar time period having full regard to each other. The Draft Castlelands MP and *Our Balbriggan 2019-2025 rejuvenation Plan* mutually support each other.

Our Balbriggan 2019-2025 Rejuvenation Plan was published in May 2019. Fingal County Council developed the '*Our Balbriggan*' Strategy, which aims to transform the town centre into a vibrant commercial, social and cultural centre through the implementation of actions across 4 pillars, Public Realm, Economy & Enterprise, Education and Training and Community & Integration. Fingal County Council has ring-fenced €20 million funding toward the implementation of '*Our Balbriggan*'. Other significant public, private and community groups working in the town have also

committed human and financial resources to assist with the implementation of the “Our Balbriggan” Strategy.

Twenty project initiatives have been earmarked in the Our Balbriggan’ Strategy by Fingal County Council for the first 12 months. In addition, 8 key town rejuvenation projects are earmarked for development over the next 5 years and will help greatly in revitalising the town centre and recreational facilities for the benefit of existing and future residents in the town including future residents on the Castlelands MP lands.

Development of the Masterplan lands will likely occur over a period of circa 10 years. The phasing schedule in the MP provides for the development of the main structuring elements and facilities in the initial phase of development prior to most of the residential development taking place in order to facilitate the optimum development of the Masterplan lands over time for the mutual benefit of both existing and future residents.

Given the timeframes associated with the Castlelands Masterplan, which is expected to be implemented over a 10 year timeframe up to 2030, all of the proposed actions with associated timeframes set out in the ‘Our Balbriggan’ strategy are scheduled to be delivered in advance of the full build out of the Masterplan, over the period up to 2025.

The Draft Castlelands MP and Our Balbriggan 2019-2025 rejuvenation Plan mutually support each other. The implementation of both will provide for much needed social and physical infrastructure in Balbriggan which will be of benefit to both existing and future residents in the town.

Planning applications for Strategic Housing Developments [*SHD’s*] go directly to An Bord Pleanála. ABP makes the decisions on these Planning applications. Planning applications for Strategic Housing Developments [*SHD’s*] may be lodged directly with ABP at any time whether or not there is an agreed Masterplan in place.

While the Masterplan is a non-statutory plan, it is an important tool for guiding the new development and providing for essential social and physical infrastructure in a phased and sustainable manner. The Draft Castlelands Masterplan provides a robust Development Framework for the long-term future sustainable development of a new quality residential quarter [incorporating good community facilities] on this key tract of zoned land in Balbriggan.

An Bord Pleanála and Fingal County Council will have regard to any agreed Castlelands Masterplan when assessing proposals for future development on these lands. Planning applications for Strategic Housing Developments [SHD's] go directly to ABP who determine these Planning applications. Given that planning applications could be lodged directly with ABP at any time, it is therefore imperative to have a Masterplan in place to guide the future sustainable development of these lands.

Recommendation:

No change

[14] Lack of Services

Many submissions refer to the lack of services for the existing population in Balbriggan never mind the additional residents who will be living within the MP lands.

Deficits In existing infrastructure and services repeatedly mentioned include health care facilities [*including sufficient GP's and primary care facilities*]; schools; Gardaí and public transport services. Current infrastructure is stretched to the limits.

Response

FCC has no direct control over or responsibility for delivering more Gardaí or additional medical facilities including GP's, nurses and doctors.

Notwithstanding this, FCC works closely with the the Department of Education & Skills and other key stakeholders to facilitate the timely provision of required infrastructure and services to support the needs of residents.

The MP provides for a primary school site. The Department of Education & Skills has welcomed the provision of a primary school site and estimates that a 16-class school will be required.

The Department has advised that there is no need to reserve a post primary school site on the MP lands.

The MP shows where local services and facilities might best be provided within the MP lands. The 'RA' zoning permits the development of local services and facilities within the MP lands. Uses including the following are listed as uses which are 'permitted in principle' with the 'RA' zoning: a health centre, a health practitioner, local retail and a place of worship.

Other uses are listed as 'permitted in principle' provided they are located in a local centre and these include: small offices, a restaurant/café and other types of specified retail.

The indicative layout [page 22] for the MP lands shows such facilities located within the core close to the proposed school, swimming pool and leisure facilities and the the green spine which runs through the MP lands corridor. The clustering of these uses close to each other will makes these facilities accessible and within convenient walking and cycling distance of those living within and adjacent to the MP lands

In the interest of clarity, the Key on the map showing indicative layout [*page 22 of MP*] should be amended to replace : '*Ground floor retail*' by '*Local services and facilities [including retail] at ground floor level*'.

Bus Services - As part of the Masterplan, a comprehensive network of pedestrian routes is proposed linking existing and future residential areas to the existing bus stops on Dublin Street (R132) and Skerries Road (R127) via safe and attractive pedestrian routes. The Castlelands Link Road has been designed to facilitate future bus services (or re-routing of existing services) in order to cater for the expected population growth in the Masterplan lands and the existing population in the surrounding area. Fingal County Council will work with the NTA to ensure that the travel needs of existing and new developments are adequately served by public transport.

Railway Services - The extension of the DART rail service to serve Balbriggan is an objective of the *Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023* and is an integral component of the DART Expansion Programme and the *National Development Plan 2018-2027*. The DART expansion, in addition to further development and enhancements to the City Centre Stations and rail network in Dublin city centre, will enable increased rail service frequencies to be delivered to north Fingal and Balbriggan to support the existing and future demand for rail travel.

Recommendation:

In the interest of clarity, the Key on the map showing indicative layout [*page 22 of MP*] should be amended to replace : '*Ground floor retail*' by '*Local services and facilities [including retail] at ground floor level*'.

[15] Fire safety and emergency services

Summary of issues raised

Concerns are raised about health and safety risks associated with the 6 Storey high buildings due to the fact that Balbriggan Fire Brigade have only the ability to extinguish a fire of a 3 storey building and in the event of a 6 storey building going on fire, Dublin Fire Brigade would have to be called out which would take up to at least 35 minutes to arrive.

Response

Emergency Access must be provided in accordance with:

- Building Regulations 2017 – Fire Safety Volume 2, Dwelling Houses, Section 5
- Building Regulations 2006 – Technical Guidance Document B, Fire Safety, Section B5.

The requirements relating to fire appliance access is ruled by the building height and volume and it is based on a percentage of the perimeter of a building height being reachable by a Fire Tender. Access routes to buildings with any storey at more than 10 m above ground level should meet the standards for high reach appliances, such as turntable ladders and hydraulic platforms.

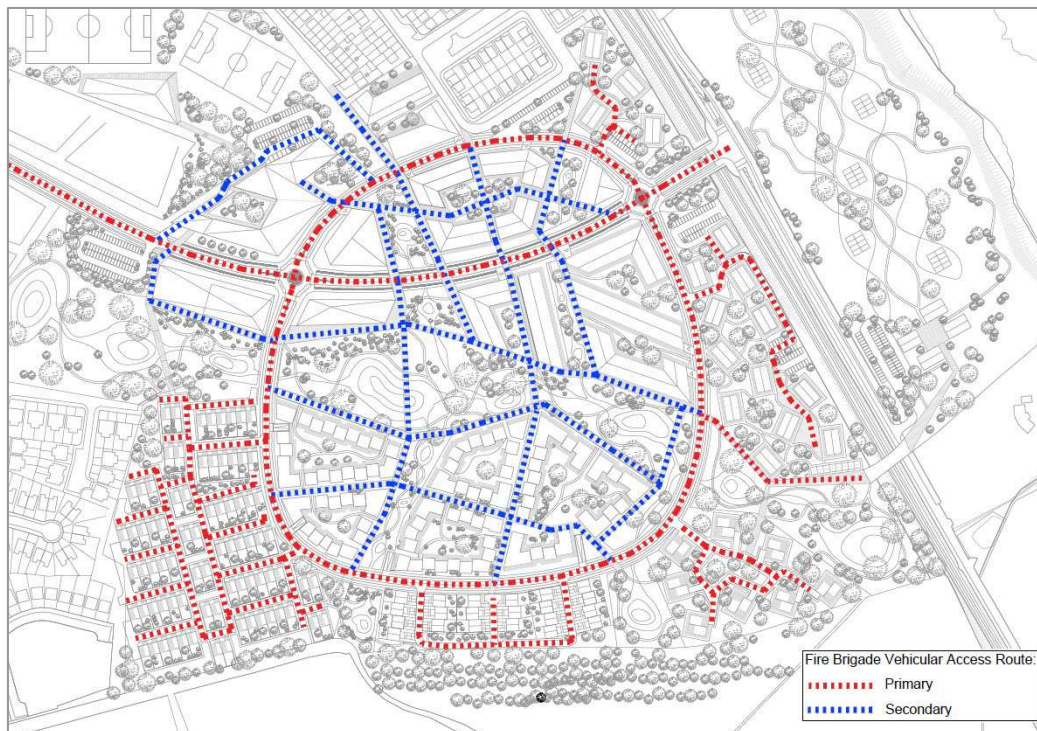
Table 5.2 Vehicle access route specifications						
Appliance type	Minimum width of road between kerbs (m)	Minimum width of gateways between kerbs (m)	Minimum turning circle between kerbs (m)	Minimum turning circle between walls (m)	Minimum clearance height (m)	Minimum carrying capacity (tonnes)
Pump	3.7	3.1	16.8	19.2	3.7	12.5
High Reach	3.7	3.1	26	29	4	16.25

The Building Control requirement is that buildings with a height of more than 10m above ground will need to provide access to the building for a high reach pump. Dublin Fire Brigade provide the Firefighting service to Fingal County Council. The fire service decide where and how many high reach pumps are located in each of the different fire stations.

Health and safety is fulfilled by ensuring that the building is built in accordance with the Building Regulations which force the design of the building to facilitate life safety in case of a fire.

Streets and landscaped areas within the Castlelands Masterplan are designed to accommodate occasional emergency movements.

The following figure shows the Primary Routes along the public streets. Access for emergency vehicles to the Secondary Routes (pedestrian routes) will be via an automatic bollard system to avoid vehicular access when not an emergency.



Recommendation: No change

[16] Environmental Issues

A number of submissions expressed concerns about inter alia, the impact of the development of the MP lands on the biodiversity value of the MP lands and the impact on Ardgillan Demense .

Some submissions question the fact that an Environmental Impact Assessment [EIA] was not carried out for the Master Plan.

Response

Biodiversity value of the MP lands

The MP land comprises three large open agricultural fields [recently used for potato and rapeseed production] which are of limited biodiversity value.

A field visit undertaken by the senior Ecologist in BSM on 18th November 2019 confirmed that the site itself is of minimal / low ecological value. No evidence of protected mammal species (such as badger or otter) was recorded, and with the exception of one or two trees in the southern boundary hedge that may be of some limited value on an occasional basis for roosting bats, the site is of very limited value for roosting, commuting or foraging bats.

No protected or rare plant species were recorded.

According to the AA Screening report prepared by Scott Cawley, the draft Masterplan is not likely to have significant effects on any European sites. This conclusion is supported by the findings of the November 2019 survey.

With the exception of the southern boundary hedgerow, and to a lesser extent the eastern (railway) boundary, which provide habitat connectivity to the wider landscape and an element of breeding and foraging habitat for birds, the site has no key ecological receptors as defined by the ecological resource valuations presented in the National Roads Authority/Transport Infrastructure Ireland Guidelines for Assessment of Ecological Impacts of National Road Schemes (NRA/TII, 2009 (Rev. 2)).

Any development arising out of the Masterplan would maintain and enhance as far as possible the southern boundary hedgerow.

One of the key principles of the MP stated in Section 5 of the *MP Structuring Principles* - *A Green Spine at its Heart* is stated as follows:

'The Retention and incorporation of existing trees and hedgerows where possible, specifically along the southern boundary'.

The existing site is in agricultural use and is currently of limited biodiversity value.

The MP lands are zoned for residential development in the Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023. The draft Masterplan provides for significant areas of parkland and landscaping which have the potential to enhance overall biodiversity. When implemented the draft Masterplan will incorporate significant and well-designed landscape features and parkland, with green fingers and distinct landscape character areas.

It is considered that the implementation of the proposed Castlelands Masterplan, which includes significant areas of parkland and landscaping as well as proposals to incorporate sustainable urban drainage (SuDs) features, has the potential to increase the overall biodiversity value of the site.

Any future planning application will be accompanied by an appropriate level of environmental assessment, including, if necessary, EIA.

SEA and AA Screening:

The Draft Masterplan has been subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening and Appropriate Assessment [AA] Screening. The SEA Screening and the AA Screening documents were published as part of the draft Draft Masterplans as Appendix 5 and Appendix 6 respectively.

Future detailed development proposals arising out of the Masterplan will be assessed for requirement for environmental assessment and appropriate assessment. Where required this will include EIA. Any future planning application will be accompanied by an appropriate level of environmental assessment, including, if necessary, EIA.

NPF and RSES: The Draft Masterplan is a non-statutory framework plan, prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023 for lands appropriately zoned for the uses proposed. The NPF and Draft RSES are both referenced in section 7 of the SEA Screening Report. While further detail on the NPF and RSES (now adopted) will be provided in the final Screening Report, it is noted that the Draft Masterplan is consistent with the provisions of these documents.

Ardgillan Demesne: The Draft Masterplan has been designed with the protection of the amenity of Ardgillan in mind, and any development arising out of the implementation of the Masterplan will ensure that there are no impacts on Ardgillan Demesne

The verified views demonstrate that the form of development proposed on the Masterplan lands will have a very limited or no impact in views from Ardgillan Demesne and the Skerries Road due to existing vegetative screening in the area.

The MP states that in time, consideration may be given to extending the pedestrian pathways southwards to Ardgillan Castle and Demesne, a distance of only circa 450 metres from Tanners Water Lane.

Recommendation: No Change

17. Other issues

Other issues raised include the following:

[1] Providing for needs of elderly people

A number of submitters raised concerns in respect of providing for the needs of elderly people.

Response

Character area 3 incorporates the northern section of the Masterplan lands as well as a portion of the lands to the south of the Castlelands Link Road. The lands are bounded to the north by Pinewood and to the south by the central green corridor. This area incorporates the school site, which adjoins the existing open space at Pinewood and ground floor local services and facilities in the community core.

The MP provides that Single storey housing to suit the needs of the aging population in Balbriggan who may wish to trade down to a smaller house, may be provided within Character area 3, close to existing residential development at Pinewood. Character Area 3 is also considered suitable for the development of a nursing home as required as it would be close to planned local facilities and amenities including the public open space corridor.

The 'RA' zoning permits the development of local services and facilities. Uses including the following are listed as uses which are 'permitted in principle' with the 'RA' zoning: a health centre, a health practitioner, local retail and a place of worship.

Other uses are listed as 'permitted in principle' provided they are located in a local centre and these include: small offices, a restaurant/café and other types of specified retail.

The indicative layout [page 22] for the MP lands shows such facilities located within the core close to the proposed school, swimming pool and leisure facilities and the green corridor. The clustering of these uses close to each other will makes these facilities very accessible and within convenient walking and cycling distance of those living within and adjacent to the MP lands.

Recommendation: No change

[2] Water Services and Utilities

A number of submitters raised concerns regarding the adequacy of water and wastewater infrastructure in the area, given the levels of growth in recent decades.

Response

The design of the surface water attenuation features, will be subject to detailed design when consideration of rainfall, soil type, infiltration rates, and the requirement for a liner amongst other engineering criteria will be considered.

A Surface water management Plan has been carried out for the Castlelands masterplan. This included an assessment of the flood risk on the site and green infrastructure measures to be incorporated into the development to effectively drain the lands. Any future planning applications on these lands will also include further site-specific flood risk assessments to effectively manage flood risk.

Irish water is responsible for the operation of and connections to, the public water supply and foul sewerage network. Any development on the Castlelands masterplan lands will be subject to Irish water approval and the constraints of the Irish water Capital Investment Programme. In that regard, Fingal County Council are liaising with Irish water to ensure the timely delivery of upgrades necessary to their network to cater for future development in the County. In tandem with this, Irish water has identified a number of schemes for this area to increase capacity within their networks *[including improving the capacity of the trunk mains between Jordanstown and Kilsough]*.

Telecoms/Broadband - Balbriggan is eFibre broadband enabled with superfast fibre delivering speeds of up to 100Mb.

Electricity/Gas - Electricity and gas are widely available in all parts of the Town.

Recommendation: No Change

[3] Retention and incorporation of existing trees and hedgerows

Concern has been raised that trees should be retained along boundaries.

Response: One of the key principles of the MP stated in Section 5 of the MP *Structuring Principles - A Green Spine at its Heart* is: stated as follows:

'The Retention and incorporation of existing trees and hedgerows where possible, specifically along the southern boundary'.

Recommendation: no Change

[4] Providing adequate space about dwellings [car spaces; gardens and public open space]

Concern has been raised that regarding the provision of adequate space about dwellings [car spaces; gardens and public open space]

Response

The layout shown in the MP is an indicative layout. Any future planning applications for residential development submitted to FCC will have to demonstrate compliance with the Fingal Development Plan standards with regard interalia to private and public open space provision and the provision of adequate car parking spaces.

Recommendation:

[1] Replace the following sentence on page 41:

'Ensure the appropriate provision of parking spaces and private open space in line with the Fingal Development Plan'

By the following:

Any future planning applications for residential development will have to demonstrate compliance with the Fingal Development Plan 2017 -2023 standards with regard interalia to adequate private and public open space provision and car parking spaces.

[2] Add in the following new paragraph on page 24 :

Compliance with the Fingal Development Plan 2017 -2023 standards: Any future planning applications for residential development will have to demonstrate compliance with the Fingal Development Plan standards with regard inter alia to adequate private and public open space provision and car parking spaces.

[5] Anti-social behaviour and crime

Summary of Issues Raised

A large number of submitters linked higher housing densities to anti-social behaviour. It is stated that at present that the Gardaí are under-resourced for the population of the town of Balbriggan. The proposed development of the Masterplan area it is stated will add additional residents and the Gardaí are not adequately resourced to cope.

Response

Anti-social behaviour occurs across a range of locations in Fingal and the wider Dublin area, in areas that are of both higher and lower densities. Indeed, many higher density areas do not have significant issues with anti-social behaviour, while areas of lower density can experience significant problems.

The Masterplan itself has been designed to ensure a high level of passive surveillance, in particular, overlooking the proposed open space areas. This approach ensures that opportunities for anti-social behaviour are reduced. The Masterplan area has also been designed to ensure access for emergency vehicles.

Recommendation: no change

[6] Proposed swimming pool

Summary of Issues Raised

While the proposed swimming pool is welcomed, some submissions consider that [i] it will never be delivered, and [ii] that the facility would be better located in Stephentown which it is maintained is in a much more accessible location or alternatively in the old Tesco building on Quay Street (parking on the roof top) to help regenerate the town centre . There are concerns that locating the proposed pool at Castlelands will likely result in high traffic and parking demands as it will be the only public swimming pool serving the north of the County

Response

The MP provides for a suitable site for the swimming pool, at an accessible location adjacent to the school, local services and recreational facilities.

Recommendation: no change

[7] Design of Green corridor

Concerns are raised about the design, landscaping and functionality of the park running through the MP lands

Response

The proposed public open space corridor running through the MP lands is a key structuring element in the MP, the delivery of which is required to be delivered in the first phase of development.

This public open space spine is circa 12 acres [4.8 hectares] in area and circa 670 metres in length. The typical depth of the spine is +- 50 metres (85m at the widest part and 23m at the narrowest). The intention is that this area will connect with existing and proposed public open space to the west and will be for the benefit of existing and future residents in the area

Future Development will be designed to overlook and provide passive surveillance of the Park area. Development within the Masterplan lands and adjoining areas will have convenient access to this area.

The MP refers to the potential multi-functionality of the proposed Green Infrastructural Spine and states inter alia :

'...The potential multi-functionality of the proposed Green Infrastructural Spine shall be fully realised through the inclusion of a range of landscape features. In particular, provision shall be made for extensive cycling and walking routes, significant natural play and adult exercise/callisthenic provision, biodiversity corridors, cultural landscape features and Sustainable Urban Drainage (SuDs) with all elements integrated and designed to complement and enhance the overall landscape layout...'

A landscape plan for the proposed green corridor shall be prepared and this shall provide for inter alia the following: pedestrian paths and/ cycleways, local play facilities and proposed SuDs features.

Recommendation

[1] Insert following Paragraph on page 15 :

A landscape plan for the proposed *Green Infrastructural Spine* running through the MP lands shall be prepared and submitted to the PA for its agreement prior to any development occurring on the MP lands, as part of pre-Phase 1. This landscape plan shall provide for inter alia the following: pedestrian paths and/ cycleways, local play facilities and proposed SuDs features.

[2] Include the following in section 9 Phasing and Implementation [pg. 27] under the new Pre-Planning Phase paragraph : A landscape plan for the proposed *Green Infrastructural Spine* running through the MP lands shall be prepared and submitted to the PA for its agreement prior to any development occurring on the MP lands.

[8] Existing public open space at Castleland Park

Some submissions suggest that this area should be levelled and usable space created for children's play and for people to walk around- many are opposed to the Land art proposals.

Residents of Castleland Park View ask that no changes be made to their green areas without consultation with the residents

Response: Any proposals for any future interventions to this existing public open space will be subject to public consultation

Recommendation: no change

[9] Schools

The Department of Education & Skills has welcomed the provision of a school site within the MP lands and estimates that a 16-class school will be required.

The Department has confirmed that there is no requirement to reserve a post primary school site on the MP lands.

Should Balbriggan require a new PP school in the future, FCC will engage closely with the Department in locating a suitable site in Balbriggan.

Recommendation: no change

[10] Concerns raised by an adjoining Landowner

Concerns are raised by the adjoining landowner in respect of the following:

[1] The relationship of proposed development on the MP lands to approved development on the adjoining lands.

[2] And [3] Encroachment on landowners property.

[4] Proposed green corridor being at variance with approved development on on the adjoining lands.

[5] The name of of the Masterplan

Response

1. The layout shown in the MP is indicative – details of proposed development at this location will be subject to a future planning application and any future development will be required to provide an acceptable interface with adjoining approved development.

2 and 3: The boundary of the lands owned by the housing agency corresponds to the boundary of the MP lands. A very small part of the proposed swimming pool appears to encroach on the adjoining lands. Any encroachment can be addressed in the detailed design phase to preclude encroachment. The proposed car parking which will support the proposed swimming pool and the proposed recreational facilities at this location is located for the most part on adjoining lands and would be subject to the owners' agreement.

4. The approved development Under [Reg Ref F04A/0191](#), provided for a full sized football pitch on the 'OS' zoned lands adjoining the MP to the west. The MP provides for a less formal recreational area here. Notwithstanding this a pitch could be developed here as/if required.

5. The MP lands have been known as Castlelands over many years and in previous Local Area Plans.

Recommendation: no change

[11] Castlelands Park Estate

It is stated that Castlelands Park Estate must be taken in charge before any works on MP lands starts

Response

The Castlelands Park Estate is a standalone legal entity for taking in charge purposes and therefore the taking in charge of Castlelands Park Estate lies independent of commencement activity within the masterplan lands.

Recommendation: no change

Part C

Summary of recommended amendments to the Draft Castlelands Masterplan

1. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S AMENDMENTS

2. AMENDMENTS IN RESPONSE TO SUBMISSIONS

3. AMENDMENTS IN RESPONSE TO motions at ACM on 22 January 2020

4. AMENDMENTS IN RESPONSE TO MOTIONS AT ACM ON 18TH February 2021

[1] CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S AMENDMENTS

[1] Include following new paragraph Section 6, Page 16 of the **Draft Masterplan** , as follows:

Existing Rising Mains

A wayleave of 15 metres (7.5m from centre line either side) is required in order to facilitate access to the rising mains. No buildings should be constructed in this wayleave except with prior agreement from the Planning Authority and Irish Water.

[2] Update indicative Draft Masterplan layout, all figures, to omit 1 no. 2 storey block, located adjacent (to the south) of the junction of the proposed Castlelands Link Road and the R127 (Skerries Road).

[3] Update indicative Draft Masterplan layout, all figures, to omit 2 no. 2 storey blocks, located within flood risk areas adjacent to the R127 (Skerries Road) to the south-east of the Masterplan lands.

[4] Page 9 of the Draft Masterplan – insert the following sentence at the end of the paragraph on Archaeological Impact Assessment:

'The recommendations of the Archaeological Impact Assessment prepared by Archer Heritage Planning shall be complied with in the development of the Masterplan lands'.

[5] **Map on Page 17** of the Draft Masterplan: **Amend key to read as follows**

- Castlelands Link Road- Avenue

- Link Road – Circular Boulevard
- Local Access Road
- Pedestrian/ Cyclist Street
- Path

[6] Page 21 of the Draft Masterplan **replace last sentence in first paragraph by following:**

To promote sustainable transportation, it is an objective of the Masterplan to encourage pedestrian/cyclist movement from Castlelands to the train station and the town centre.

[7] Page 21 of the Draft Masterplan , Key Principles **replace second bullet point by the following:**

Deliver an integrated network of pedestrian and cyclist links within the Masterplan lands connecting to the surrounding area including Tanners Water Lane, Pinewood and bus network

[8] Page 22 of the Draft Masterplan: replace the following sentence in the last Paragraph:

This will relieve the traffic congestion on school entry/exit hours.

With the following sentence:

This will relieve the traffic congestion at the school during entry/exit hours.

[9] Insert the following sentence at the top of the first paragraph in Section 9 of the Draft Masterplan:

'Development of the Masterplan lands will likely occur over a period of circa 10 years'.

[10] Insert the following sentence in Section 6 on page 16 of the Draft Masterplan:

FCC will consider providing for a future pedestrian access connecting Ardgillan Estate to Tanners Water Lane.

[11] Page 9 of the Draft Masterplan: An *Economic Baseline Review*

Replace following text:

..... It also looked at retail and commercial uses, tourism and employment, showing that the employment rate for residents is very good with the majority of persons working in 'Professional Occupations'.

With the following:

... The Balbriggan workforce is comparatively more concentrated in occupation groups with lower average wage levels.

[12] Page 39 of the Draft Masterplan : insert note as follows:

'Typologies are examples of residential types – the intention is not to be prescriptive'.

[2] AMENDMENTS IN RESPONSE TO SUBMISSIONS

[1] Update Cross Sections and plan layout to reflect 2-metre-wide cycle track along the Castlelands Link Road (Avenue) and the Loop Road (Boulevard) as per the NTA recommendation. ***Note*** – *the cycle tracks along the Boulevard should be separated from the carriageway by a planted verge.*

[2] Update maps on page 17 and page 21 of the Draft Masterplan: to include in the key Pedestrian/Cyclist Street.

[3] Insert the following paragraphs in Section 6 on page 16 of of the Draft Masterplan

Traffic congestion on existing Castlelands Link Road

FCC acknowledges that there are existing traffic congestion issues along the Castlelands Link Road, particularly during school drop-off and collection times and is currently developing traffic management solutions to improve current conditions and safety along the Link Road. Alongside that, two high quality cycle routes, the Harry Reynolds Road pedestrian and cycle route scheme and the Fingal Coastal Way scheme will be developed which will significantly improve accessibility for students to walk and cycle to school, thereby reducing general traffic congestion and the need for car drop-offs near the schools.

In this regard, a public information meeting was held in November with a view to implementing the proposed measures as part of the Harry Reynolds Road pedestrian and cycle scheme, which is programmed for construction prior to any development of the Masterplan lands.

[4] Section 9 of the Draft Masterplan: Phasing and Implementation [page 27]: include new paragraph *Pre-Planning Phase*.

[5] Include the following in Section 9 of the Draft Masterplan: Phasing and Implementation [pg. 27] under a new Pre-Planning Phase: *Implement traffic management measures along the existing link road.*

[6] Insert following paragraphs in Section 6 on page 16 of the Draft Masterplan:

Transport assessments

Transport assessments will be required to support the development of the future Link Road and the development of future developments within the Masterplan lands.

A transport assessment will be undertaken as part of the statutory process for the completion of the Castlelands Link Road which will include the proposed new road and the impact on existing communities. Detailed transport assessments will also be required to accompany proposed planning applications submitted for the Masterplan lands.

[7] Insert following paragraph in Section 6 on page 16 of the Draft Masterplan:

No vehicular access shall be provided for from Hampton Lane /Tanners water Lane to serve the proposed development. In the interest of permeability and amenity pedestrian and cycle routes shall connect the MP lands to Tanners Water lane which adjoins the MP lands to the south. These pedestrian and cycle routes shall be provided in the Green Fingers radiating south of the central green corridor connecting to Tanners Water Lane.

[8] Insert the following sentence in Section 6 on page 16 of the Draft Masterplan:

No vehicular access shall be provided through Pinewood Estate to serve the proposed development. Pedestrian and cycle routes shall be provided from the MP lands to Pinewood.

[9] Update the Draft Masterplan at Section 6, page 20 to include the following:

'It an objective of FCC to investigate the feasibility of a pedestrian link to the adjacent Ardgillan Demesne'.

[10] The Draft Masterplan shall be amended to omit any 6 storey buildings being constructed on the Masterplan lands.

[11] The Draft Masterplan will state the following:

- The average net residential density across the Masterplan lands shall be between 35 -50 dwelling units per hectare [in accordance with the DOE Guidelines - *Sustainable Residential development in urban areas May 2009*].
- The MP lands shall provide for 600 – 850 residential units
- The appropriate heights of buildings across the Masterplan lands shall comprise 2- 4.5 storeys [*The 4.5 storey buildings will be limited to appropriate locations*].

Note – the figures in the Draft Masterplan document will be changed accordingly.

[12] The Draft Masterplan shall include the following statement:

Future proposals for development within the Masterplan lands shall provide for sufficient EV charging points in line with best practice.

[13] Insert following Paragraph on page 15:

A landscape plan for the proposed *Green Infrastructural Spine* running through the Masterplan lands shall be prepared and submitted to the Planning Authority for its agreement prior to any development occurring on the Masterplan lands, as part of the new Pre- planning *Phase of the implementation of the Castlelands Masterplan lands*. This landscape plan shall provide for inter alia the following: pedestrian paths and/ cycleways, local play facilities and proposed SuDs features.

[14] Include the following in Section 9 of the Draft Masterplan, Phasing and Implementation [pg. 27] under the new Pre- planning Phase paragraph: A landscape plan for the proposed *Green Infrastructural Spine* running through the Masterplan lands shall be prepared and submitted to the Planning Authority for its agreement prior to any development occurring on the Masterplan lands.

[15] Insert following paragraph on page 2 of the Draft Masterplan:

Our Balbriggan 2019-2025 Rejuvenation Plan

The 'Our Balbriggan' strategy is an ambitious plan for the rejuvenation of the original town centre and the surrounding area in the period up to 2025. The plan seeks to improve the public realm in the town centre, to boost the local economy and enterprise as well as putting in place community strengthening initiatives. The plan contains a host of actions to be undertaken over the short, medium and longer term, to enable the town to catch-up in terms of its public realm, employment and infrastructure.

[16] In the interest of clarity, the Key on the map showing indicative layout [page 22 of the Draft Masterplan] will be amended to replace: 'Ground floor retail' by 'Local services and facilities [including retail] at ground floor level'.

[17] Replace the following sentence on page 41 of the Draft Masterplan:

'Ensure the appropriate provision of parking spaces and private open space in line with the Fingal Development Plan'

By the following:

Any future planning applications for residential development will have to demonstrate compliance with the Fingal Development Plan 2017 -2023 standards with regard interalia to adequate private and public open space provision and car parking spaces.

[18] Add in the following new paragraph on page 24 of the Draft Masterplan:

Compliance with the Fingal Development Plan 2017 -2023 standards: Any future planning applications for residential development will have to demonstrate compliance with the Fingal Development Plan standards with regard interalia to adequate private and public open space provision and car parking spaces.

[3] Amendments in response to motions at ACM on 22 January 2020

[1] The completion of the Castlelands link road to the Skerries Road [R127]

The following 2 motions were agreed by the CE at at ACM on 22 Jan 2020:

Motion 4: Councillor Grainne Maguire

"That this committee request the CEO to include "that the link road after public consultation be constructed prior to any other development on the site " in the masterplan."

Motion 5: Councillor Tony Murphy

"That the new link road to connect with the skerries road be delivered prior to first phase housing development in order to do a full traffic management assessment and any further interventions can be delivered in order to allow for all traffic movements happen without delay."

Recommendation

The effect of the motion(s) is to prioritise the phasing of link road and this does not change the findings of the SEA or AA Screenings, and therefore SEA and/or AA is not required.

In response to these motions [4 and 5] it is recommended that Section 9 of the Masterplan be revised to state the following:

'The completion of the Castlelands link road to the Skerries road [R127] shall be constructed prior to any other development on the MP lands'.

[2] Heights and density of development

The following Motion 1 was passed at the ACM on 22 January 2020:

Motion 1: Councillor Tony Murphy

"With respect to the heights and density that the MP reduce the heights to 2 and 3 stories maximum and density to between 35 and 40 units per hectare. This will ensure that the MP is commensurate with the adjoining developments and alien with the NPF and RSES which states "growth must be carefully managed and balanced"."

Response

Fingal County Council and An Bord Pleanála are legally obliged under Section 28 of the 2000- 2019 Planning and Development Act to have regard to the following Ministerial Guidelines in the performance of their functions:

Guidelines - Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas May 2009: the Castlelands Masterplan lands are considered an *Outer Suburban / 'Greenfield' site* as defined in the Guidelines. The Guidelines recommend net residential densities in the general range of 35-50 dwellings per hectare at such locations.

Urban Development and Building Heights, Guidelines for Planning Authorities, December 2018: under these Guidelines, the Castlelands Masterplan area constitutes an 'edge location' in a Town. The relevant policy for such locations envisages town-houses (2-3 storeys), duplexes (3-4 storeys) and apartments (4 storeys upwards). The guidelines state that development should include an effective mix of 2, 3 and 4-storey development which integrates well into existing and historical neighbourhoods and 4 storeys or more can be accommodated alongside existing larger buildings, trees and parkland, river/sea frontage or along wider streets.

Restricting Residential Density

The Motion passed seeks to restrict future residential density on the MP lands to lower levels [35- 40 units per hectare] than that provided for in the *Guidelines - Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas May 2009* [35-50 dwellings per hectare].

There is **no reasonable planning justification** to restrict future residential density on the MP lands to lower levels than that provided for in the *Guidelines* and this would not be consistent with *the DOE Guidelines - Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas* [May 2009]. In the interest of the future proper planning and sustainable development of the MP lands, it is not considered appropriate to reduce the average net residential density across the MP lands to between 35 -40 dwelling units per hectare as passed in motion 1.

Restricting Building Heights

Regarding future building heights, the Motion passed seeks to restrict the height of all development within the MP lands to a maximum of height of 2 and 3 storeys contrary to the provisions in the *Urban Development and Building Heights, Guidelines for Planning Authorities, issued in December 2018*.

There is **no reasonable planning justification** to restrict the height of all development within the MP lands to a maximum of height of 2 and 3 storeys as passed in motion 1 and this would not be consistent with *the Urban Development and Building Heights, Guidelines for Planning Authorities, issued in December 2018*. In the interest of the future proper planning and sustainable development of the MP lands it is not considered appropriate to restrict the height of all development within the MP lands to a maximum height of 2 and 3 storeys as passed in motion 1.

To include density and height restrictions in the Masterplan as passed in Motion 1 would contravene Statutory Ministerial Guidelines which both Fingal County Council and An Bord Pleanala are legally obliged under Section 28 of the 2000-2019 Planning and Development Act to have regard to in the performance of their functions. If such a provision were to be included in the agreed Castlelands Masterplan, Fingal County Council and An Bord Pleanala would be statutorily obliged to set aside these restrictions when assessing planning applications.

Recommendation

Fingal County Council and An Bord Pleanala are legally obliged under Section 28 of the 2000- 2019 Planning and Development Act to have regard to the following Ministerial Guidelines in the performance of their functions:

The Chief Executive strongly recommends against further reductions in building heights and density as passed in Motion 1 on the basis that neither would be consistent with Ministerial Guidelines which both Fingal County Council and An Bord Pleanala are legally obliged under Section 28 of the 2000- 2019 Planning and Development Act to have regard to in the performance of their functions.

Recommendation 11 on page 68 of the CE Report [amendments in response to submissions] which states the following should be upheld:

[11] The Draft Masterplan will state the following:

- The average net residential density across the Masterplan lands shall be between 35 -50 dwelling units per hectare [in accordance with the DOE Guidelines - *Sustainable Residential development in urban areas May 2009*].
- The MP lands shall provide for 600 – 850 residential units
- The appropriate heights of buildings across the Masterplan lands shall comprise 2- 4.5 storeys [*The 4.5 storey buildings will be limited to appropriate locations*].

Note – the figures in the Draft Masterplan document will be changed accordingly.

[3] The deferral of consideration by FCC of the Draft MP.

The following motion was passed at ACM on 22 Jan 2020

Motion 17: Councillor Tony Murphy

"In the interests of having a proper sequential approach to planning. That Fingal County Council defer a decision on this Report pending a review of the Fingal Development Plan to align with the new Regional Social & Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Eastern & Midland Region. Note – This review is commencing in January 2020 and is expected to take just 3 months and, as stated in the managers report- this land has been zoned for 20 years so this request seems entirely reasonable & sensible."

Response

FCC considers that the Draft Castlelands Masterplan fully aligns with the National Planning Framework and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly.

The Castlelands Draft Masterplan was referred to the prescribed bodies including the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government and The Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly. Neither of these statutory bodies have made submissions on the draft masterplan.

The Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2018 enacted legislative requirements, to enable the co-ordinated and timely incorporation of the National Planning Framework (NPF) and the relevant RSES into each City or County Development Plan.

In this regard, Fingal County Council is commencing the statutory Variation process and the proposed Draft Variation of the Fingal development plan 2017-2023 will be on public display for the period 10 January 2020 to 7 February 2020.

All other statutory plans i.e. Local Area Plans are required to be brought into alignment during or immediately after the 2019-21 review period.

Having regard to the alignment of the masterplan with the NPF and RSES, the consideration of Variation 2 to the Fingal Development Plan in April will not have any

effect on the Castlelands Masterplan, therefore delaying consideration of the masterplan is not necessary.

The draft Masterplan is a non-statutory plan and is an important tool for guiding future new development and providing for essential social and physical infrastructure in a phased and sustainable manner. The Draft Castlelands Masterplan provides a robust Development Framework for the long-term future sustainable development of a new quality residential quarter [*incorporating good community facilities*] on this key tract of zoned land in Balbriggan.

An Bord Pleanála and Fingal County Council will have regard to any agreed Castlelands Masterplan when assessing proposals for future development on these lands.

Planning applications for Strategic Housing Developments [*SHD's*] go directly to An Bord Pleanála for decision and SHD applications may be lodged directly with ABP at any time whether or not there is an agreed Masterplan in place.

Given that planning applications could be lodged directly with ABP at any time, it is therefore imperative to have a Masterplan in place to guide the future sustainable development of these lands.

FCC therefore strongly advises against the deferral of consideration by FCC of the Draft MP.

Recommendation:

FCC therefore strongly advises against the deferral of consideration by FCC of the Draft MP.

[4] Amendments in response to motions at ACM on 18th February 2021

A special ACM was held on 18th February 2021 in relation to the Draft Castlelands Masterplan and the CE Report. 40 motions were received and discussed.

The following changes arise out of these motions and **supersede any changes** outlined in Part C, Section 1, 2 or 3 of this Chief Executive's Report.

1. Amend the Masterplan throughout to state:

Densities ranging between 35 – 45 units per hectare

2. Amend the Masterplan throughout to state:

Up to a maximum of 650 new units to be provided.

3. Amend the Masterplan throughout to state:

Heights up to a maximum of 3 storeys to be provided.

4. Amend the Masterplan to state:

In conjunction with the construction of the Castlelands Link Road that the traffic issues along the Hamilton Road leading to the Church Roundabout be addressed by Fingal County Council.

5. Amend the Masterplan to state:

In advance of any development at Castlelands this roundabout be moved and expanded to facilitate both the additional traffic - both car, bike and EPV as well as pedestrian.

6. Amend the Masterplan as follows:

Make reference to Objectives ED107 and ED108 in Appendix 1, Policy Context.

7. Insert new objectives into the Masterplan as follows:

Require energy efficiency and conservation in the design and development of all new buildings within the masterplan lands.

Promote energy efficiency and conservation in the design and development of all new buildings and residential schemes in particular and require designers to demonstrate that they have taken maximising energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy into account in their planning application.

Encourage the production of energy from renewable sources, such as from BioEnergy, Solar Energy, Hydro Energy, Wave/Tidal Energy, Geothermal, Wind Energy, Combined Heat and Power (CHP), Heat Energy Distribution such as District Heating/Cooling Systems, and any other renewable energy sources, subject to normal planning considerations and in line with any necessary environmental assessments.

8. Insert new objective into the Masterplan as follows:

Ensure crime prevention measures are incorporated in new developments

9. Insert new objective into the Masterplan as follows:

Permit new development only where it can be clearly demonstrated that there is adequate capacity in the wastewater disposal infrastructure in accordance with applicable requirements and standards including urban wastewater treatment disposal standards.

10. Amend the Masterplan and its appendices to reflect changes from Variation no. 2 of the Fingal Development Plan.

11. Insert new objective into the Masterplan as follows:

It an objective of Fingal County Council to investigate the feasibility of a pedestrian and cycle link to the adjacent Ardgillan Demesne.

APPENDIX 1: A listing of the 981 no. submissions received on the Draft Castlelands Masterplan.

APPENDIX 2: Screening of the Recommended Amendments to the Draft Castlelands Masterplan for requirement for Appropriate Assessment (AA) and/or Strategic Environmental Assessment [SEA].

**COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 8th March 2021

ITEM NO 35

EXTENSION OF DURATION OF DONABATE LOCAL AREA PLAN 2016

**Chief Executive's Report to the Elected Members under Sections 19(1)(d),(e),(f) and 20(3)(a)(i),(ii)
of the Planning and Development Acts 2000 (as amended)**

(Advice to the Elected Members to approve the extension of the duration of the Donabate Local Area Plan 2016 for a further period, being not greater than 5 years.)

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Legislative Provisions

Section 19 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) provides for the extension of the valid lifespan of a Local Area Plan, from a maximum of 6 years to an effective maximum of 10 years in total. Section 19(1)(d) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) states that:

(d) Subject to paragraph (e), not more than 5 years after the making of the previous local area plan, a planning authority may, as they consider appropriate, by resolution defer the sending of a notice under section 20(3)(a)(i) and publishing a notice under section 20(3)(a)(ii) for a further period not exceeding 5 years.

(e) No resolution shall be passed by the planning authority until such time as the members of the authority have:

(i) notified the Chief Executive of the decision of the authority to defer the sending and publishing of the notices, giving reasons therefor, and

(ii) sought and obtained from the Chief Executive —

(I) an opinion that the local area plan remains consistent with the objectives and core strategy of the relevant development plan,

(II) an opinion that the objectives of the local area plan have not been substantially secured, and

(III) confirmation that the sending and publishing of the notices may be deferred and the period for which they may be deferred.

(f) Notification of a resolution under paragraph (d) shall be published by the planning authority in a newspaper circulating in the area of the local area plan not later than 2 weeks after the resolution is passed and notice of the resolution shall be made available for inspection by members of the public during office hours of the planning authority and made available in electronic form including by placing the notice on the authority's website.

1.2 The Donabate Local Area Plan (2016)

The Donabate Local Area Plan (LAP) 2016 was adopted by the Council on the 14th March 2016 and is valid for a period of 6 years.

The LAP comprises approx. 138 hectares (340 acres) of land in four separate parcels. These comprise: Corballis (c. 65 ha), Ballymastone (c. 50.2 ha), Rahillion (c. 5.5 ha) and Turvey (c. 16 ha). The LAP seeks to establish a framework for the planned, co-ordinated and sustainable development of these lands supported by an overriding Vision Statement and supported by four Strategic Aims.

The adopted Vision Statement seeks inter alia to *‘provide for the structured development of the identified new residential areas of Donabate such that they integrate into the established village and support the continued growth of a vibrant and attractive town for existing and future residents. New development will be accompanied by the required community, educational, transport, drainage and recreational infrastructure to ensure the protection and enhancement of local amenities and the continued growth of local services in Donabate’*.

In support of the vision, the LAP contains the following four Strategic Aims:

- *Provide a framework for a growing population with phased development of new housing delivered in tandem with supporting community and physical infrastructure.*
- *Support Donabate Village as the primary location for commercial, retail, community and cultural development serving the Town and Peninsula generally.*
- *Provide infrastructural investment to address traffic, pedestrian safety and movement challenges including the early delivery by FCC of a new road & bridge providing an alternative access to Donabate and Portrane.*
- *Protect and enhance the existing natural amenities of Donabate together with improving access to established local amenity areas through the creation of a network of designated green routes.*

While the Donabate Local Area Plan adopted by Fingal County Council on the 14th March 2016 is valid for a period of 6 years up to the 13th March 2022, it was not envisaged that the level of development proposed on the lands identified would be developed over the lifetime of the Plan. Rather, the optimal sustainable development of Donabate was anticipated to occur over a longer time horizon and over three sequential geographical phases expanding from the existing urban centre with each phase underpinned by infrastructural provision, including the delivery of the Donabate Distributer Road.

1.3 Environmental Assessments:

1.3.1 Strategic Environmental Assessment

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), was carried out in respect of the Local Area Plan in compliance with the requirements of Directive 2001/42/EC.

1.3.2 Appropriate Assessment

An Appropriate Assessment (AA) as required under Article 6[3] of the EU Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC was conducted as part of the preparation of the LAP and has had particular regard to the proximity of the LAP lands to Rogerstown Estuary, Malahide Estuary, local rivers and the shorelines at Donabate and Portrane Beaches. As part of the AA process a Natura Impact Report was published as a separate document in conjunction with the Local Area Plan. Mitigation measures necessary to avoid, reduce or offset negative effects on Natura 2000 sites were incorporated into the Donabate LAP.

1.3.3 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) was undertaken as part of the Donabate LAP lands having regard to the requirements of the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government and the Office of Public Works.

2.0 Purpose of Chief Executive's Report

This report contains the Chief Executive's advice to the Elected Members on the proposal to invoke their powers, under Section 19 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and provides for the extension of the valid life of a Local Area Plan, in this case the extension of the valid life of the Donabate Local Area Plan 2016 for a further period, being not greater than 5 years.

In accordance with Section 19(1)(e)(ii) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), this report comprises the Chief Executive's:

- a) Opinion that the LAP is consistent with the objectives and core strategy of the Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023.
- b) Opinion that the objectives of the LAP have not been substantially secured, and
- c) Confirmation that the sending and publishing of the notices may be deferred and the period for which they may be deferred.

2.1 Chief Executive's Opinion

(a) Consistency with the Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023:

The Donabate Local Area Plan 2016 was adopted by the Council on the 14th March 2016 under the auspices of the Fingal Development Plan 2011-2017. As part of the process for extending the lifespan of a LAP, the Planning Authority must ascertain that the LAP remains consistent with the objectives and Core Strategy of the relevant Development Plan being the Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023.

The primary purpose of the Donabate Local Area Plan 2016 is to provide a framework for the sustainable and structured development of identified new residential areas of Donabate so as to ensure that they integrate into the established centre and support the continued growth of a vibrant and attractive town for existing and future residents.

The Donabate LAP 2016 is part of the settlement strategy of the Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023 and is a key component in satisfying the requirements of the Core Strategy. The objectives of the LAP are consistent with the objectives and Core Strategy of the Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023. This includes the following specific areas.

2.1.1 Core Strategy and Settlement Strategy

The purpose of the Core Strategy is to ensure that local authorities identify and reserve an appropriate amount of land in the right locations to meet housing and population targets through the articulation of a medium to long term quantitative strategy for the spatial development of the area so as to be

consistent with national and regional policy objectives as set out in the National Planning Framework (NPF) and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly (RSES). This provides a policy framework for the County at a local level for all towns, villages and the open countryside and existing and proposed strategic transport linkages. It also provides a framework for LAP's.

Fingal's settlement strategy as set out in the Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023 is based on the consolidation of existing towns and villages in line with national and regional guidance as follows:

Objective SS01

Consolidate the vast majority of the County's future growth into the strong and dynamic urban centres of the Metropolitan Area while directing development in the core to towns and villages as advocated by national and regional planning guidance.

Objective SS01a

Support the implementation of and promote development consistent with the National Strategic Outcome of Compact growth as outlined in the NPF and the Regional Strategic Outcome of Compact Growth and Regeneration as set out in the RSES.

Objective SS02a

Development will be permitted in principle on lands where there is a Local Area Plan or Masterplan in place and only when these lands are substantially developed will permission be granted for the development of lands without such a framework. Should the lands identified within a LAP or Masterplan not come forward for development in the short term, consideration will be given to other lands.

Objective SS02b

Focus new residential development on appropriately zoned lands within the County within appropriate locations proximate to existing settlement centre lands where infrastructural capacity is readily available, and they are along an existing or proposed high capacity public transport corridors and on appropriate infill sites in the town centres in a phased manner alongside the delivery of appropriate physical and social infrastructure.

The Strategic Vision for the County is to inter alia

- *Consolidate urban areas to provide a vibrant, attractive environment for living and working, facilitating efficient movement by sustainable modes of transport throughout the County.*
- *Ensure consistency with the Council's Core, Settlement and Housing Strategies to provide high quality housing of a sufficient scale and mix, located in optimum locations and aligned with adequate infrastructure, services and amenities.*

The Strategic Policy will deliver on the Main Aims by seeking to:

6 Consolidate development and protect the unique identities of the settlements of Howth, Sutton, Baldoyle, Portmarnock, Malahide, Donabate, Lusk, Rush and Skerries.

2.2 Donabate:

In the Metropolitan Area, Self-Sustaining Growth Towns are positioned at the sub-county town level in the settlement hierarchy and have a moderate level of jobs and services with good transport links and capacity for continued commensurate growth to become more self-sustaining. Donabate is identified as a Self-Sustaining Growth Town. It is envisaged that development in Donabate should be linked to the capacity of high-quality public transport connections and the provision of social and community infrastructure such as schools and leisure facilities.

The Donabate LAP continues to be consistent with the Fingal Development Plan, including Variations thereto. The Plan identifies the strategic spatial planning issues and the vision for structured development and balanced growth of the settlement in line with the identification of Donabate in the RSES as a 'self-sustaining growth' town within the Metropolitan Area. It is also identified as being on the North – South Strategic Development Corridor and will in time benefit from the DART Expansion Programme. The development strategy is to promote the creation of a vibrant town core by providing a high-quality living environment for the existing and future population and providing for the development of the necessary community, commercial, cultural and social facilities in tandem with new residential development. The Development Plan envisages a 10% increase in population.

Density and Potential Housing Yield [Section 8.3.4 Donabate Local Area Plan]

LAP AREA	AREA (HA)	UNITS (approx.)
TURVEY	16	460
RAHILLION	5.5	125
BALLYMASTONE	38.3*	1200
CORBALLIS	54.7**	1850
TOTAL POTENTIAL HOUSING IN LAP LANDS	107	3635
RS ZONED LANDS OUTSIDE OF LAP BOUNDARIES		
RS ZONED LANDS NORTH OF COMMUNITY CENTRE	2.5	80
RS ZONED LANDS SOUTH OF BALLYMASTONE LAP LANDS, FRONTING Balcarrick Road	6.4	220
TOTAL		3935

*50.2ha less road take of 3.1ha and existing football clubs of St. Pat's and St Ita's (8.8ha)

**65.5ha less road take of 5.3ha and lands deemed unsuitable for residential development south of the proposed Distributer road.

The LAP envisaged that the potential housing delivery on the LAP lands extends to 3635 units approximately on 107Ha of land. Taking into account other appropriately zoned lands which could also accommodate housing (outside of the LAP lands) this results in an additional 300 units and a total of 3935 units. Taking into consideration development permitted to date within the LAP lands, the delivery targets continue to be in line with the Total Residential Capacity provided for under the Fingal

Development Plan 2017-2023 (as of September 2019) wherein the remaining residential units to be developed within Donabate stood at 3,532.

Development permitted to date within the LAP lands is set out in Appendix 2 of this report.

2.2.1 Specific Objectives relating to Donabate

The Written Statement of the Development Plan contains a number of specific objectives relating to Donabate. These are set out in Appendix 1 to this report. The Donabate Local Area Plan remains consistent with all stated objectives.

2.2.2 Map based Objectives:

Sheet No. 7 - Local Objective No.39

‘Seek the provision of a public walkway/cycleway on land west side of the train line in Donabate and along the existing railway embankment across the Malahide Estuary, in consultation with Iarnród Éireann within the lifespan of this Development Plan’.

Sheet No. 7- Local Objective No.40

‘Ensure that the layout, design and scale of future development on these lands shall have regard to its prominent location, as well as the visibility of these lands from the south. In addition, the layout, scale, design and density of development should respect the transitional nature of the sensitive southern boundary area’.

Proposed Schools

Map Based Local Objectives for the provision of school facilities are contained within both the Corballis and Ballymastone land banks. The Donabate LAP identifies the provision of schools as key deliverable as part of future development proposals within both land banks.

Road Proposals

The Donabate Distributer Road as identified in Table 7.1 of the Development Plan Road Schemes as R126 Donabate Relief Road: R132 to Portrane Demesne and on Sheet 6 has been delivered in association with Rebuilding Ireland’s Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIAF). Phase II of the project, comprising the link to the R132 has not yet commenced.

Appropriate Assessment and European Sites that form part of the Natura 2000 Network

An Appropriate Assessment (AA) as required under Article 6[3] of the EU Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC was conducted as part of the preparation of the LAP and has had particular regard to the proximity of the LAP lands to Rogerstown Estuary, Malahide Estuary, local rivers and the shorelines at Donabate and Portrane Beaches. As part of the AA process a Natura Impact Report was published.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), was carried out in respect of the Local Area Plan in compliance with the requirements of Directive 2001/42/EC.

Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) was undertaken as part of the Donabate LAP lands having regard to the requirements of the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government and the Office of Public Works. Mitigation measures include a SUDS strategy were integrated into the SEA process.

(b) Opinion that the objectives of the Donabate Local Area Plan 2016 have not been substantially secured.

Phasing Requirements:

Section 9.0 of the Donabate LAP sets out the Housing and Infrastructural Phasing Requirements of the Plan for the four identified tracts of land. While the initial stages of key projects such as the Donabate Distributer Road have been delivered ahead of schedule, the delivery of housing and supporting social infrastructural elements have not realised in full. It is important to state that while the guiding principles and phasing arrangements of the LAP remain robust, the delivery of all key infrastructural components, together with housing build out was not envisaged to be completed over the initial 6 year period, but rather over a longer timeframe.

Housing and Infrastructural phasing arrangements are set out in Figure 9.1 of the LAP, identifying the subject lands, the number of residential units to be delivered and all site-specific infrastructural requirements. Three phases of development Phases 1, 2 and 3 are envisaged.

While residential development at Rahillion and Turvey had commenced under earlier Local Area Plans for Donabate and have largely been built out under the current LAP, development within the Ballymastone and Corballis land banks have been slower to take hold. At Corballis, permitted residential development is significantly below the quantum identified in the LAP, with 251 no. units permitted on the Corballis West lands out of a possible 1850 no. units. Important social infrastructure including local retail, services, educational facilities and Corballis Nature park have also yet to be developed and form a key and necessary requirement to serve lands to the south-west of the town centre. Furthermore, while connectivity in the form of pedestrian routes through/from the development areas to the established settlement have been provided in part, the full extent of pedestrian and cycle connectivity envisaged in the LAP is incomplete.

Similarly, the largest of the four development areas at Ballymastone where 1,200 new residential units together with an important recreation and educational hub will be provided, has yet to commence development.

Overall, of the total number of units proposed on the four development areas, c. 23% have been permitted/constructed to date.

Given that substantial progress has not taken place in relation to the delivery of all key phasing requirements of the LAP, and as key social infrastructure, local services and amenities remain outstanding, the objectives of the LAP have not been substantially secured.

(c) Deferral of Notices

Given that the Donabate Local Area Plan 2016 is consistent with the Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023 and that the objectives of the LAP have not been substantially secured, it is considered appropriate that the sending and publishing of the notices specified under Section 20(3)(a)(i) and (ii) of the Planning and Development Acts 2000 (as amended) be deferred and that the period for which they be deferred should be 5 years, during which time the objectives identified in the LAP may be achieved.

3.0 Conclusion

3.1 Concluding Opinion:

In summary, it is the opinion of the Chief Executive that:

- The Donabate Local Area Plan 2016 is consistent with the objectives and core strategy of the Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023.
- The objectives of the Donabate Local Area Plan 2016 have not been substantially secured.
- The sending and publishing of the Notices may be deferred for a further period of 5 years from the 8th March 2021 to the 7th March 2026.

Recommended Resolution

It is recommended that the following Resolution be passed:

‘That the Members having considered the Chief Executive’s Report under Section 19(1)(e)(ii) and having addressed the provisions of Section 19(1)(e)(i), AGREE to the deferral of the required notice under Section 20(3)(a)(i) and to publish a notice under Section 20(3)(a)(ii) for a period not exceeding 5 years and thereby approve the extension of the life of the Donabate Local Area Plan 2016, for a further period of 5 years from the from the 8th March 2021 to 7th March 2026.

Appendix 1

Donabate- Self-Sustaining Growth Town

As a Self-Sustaining Growth Town, Donabate will continue to play an important role within a consolidated Metropolitan Area. Development in Donabate should be linked to the capacity of high quality public transport connections and the provision of social community infrastructure such as schools and leisure facilities.

Table 1.0 Donabate Development Plan Objectives: Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023

Objective	Description
Objective DONABATE 1	Prioritise the early construction of a Donabate distributor road, delivering a new railway crossing, providing alternative access to Donabate and Portrane
Objective DONABATE 2	Channel and concentrate the development of additional commercial, social, community and civic facilities within the town centre and promote high quality urban design in such development.
Objective DONABATE 3	Provide for the further development of recreational, community and educational (primary and second level) facilities
Objective DONABATE 4	Develop a continuous network of signed pathways and cycleways as appropriate, around Donabate Peninsula linking Portrane and Donabate to Malahide and Rush via the Rogerstown and Malahide Estuaries whilst ensuring the protection of designated sites, and avoiding any routing along the northern boundary of Malahide Inner Estuary by virtue of its ecological sensitivity.
Objective DONABATE 5	Provide for a comprehensive network of pedestrian and cycle ways linking residential areas to one another, to the town centre, schools, the recreational campus at Ballymastone and the railway station.
Objective DONABATE 6	Promote and facilitate the development of a shuttle bus service linking Donabate and Portrane to Donabate Railway Station to the commuter bus services in Swords and to the indicative route for new Metro North.
Objective DONABATE 7	Maintain a strong visual and physical separation between Portrane and Donabate
Objective DONABATE 8	Protect the setting of St. Patricks Church of Ireland.
Objective DONABATE 9	Prepare an Urban Framework Plan for Donabate (including a Public Realm and Integrated Traffic Management Strategy) to guide and inform future development, to include measures to improve and promote the public realm of the village.
Objective DONABATE 10	Prepare and/or implement a Local Area Plan for Donabate providing for the structured development of the identified new residential areas of Donabate such that they integrate into the established village and support the continued growth of a vibrant and attractive town for existing and future residents.
Objective DONABATE 11	Prepare and implement a Masterplan for lands at Turvey (see Map Sheet 7, MP 7.A). A detailed flood risk assessment will be carried out for these lands to address potential flood risk and propose mitigation measures.
Objective DONABATE 12	Promote an enhanced Donabate Railway station and improved rail services.
Objective DONABATE 13	Promote and facilitate the provision of a skate park in the Donabate/Portrane area.
Objective DONABATE 14	Prioritise the early widening of the narrow dangerous short section of the R126 approaching Donabate from Hillside Cottage to the railway bridge on urgent health and safety grounds.
Objective DONABATE 15	Promote an urban tree planting scheme at appropriate locations in Donabate town centre and along Beaverstown Road.
Objective DONABATE 16	Provide a pedestrian path and cycle lane as appropriate, on the Hearse Road to enable safe access to Donabate Village.
Objective DONABATE 17	Promote and enhance the visitor experience and amenities at Newbridge House and Demesne within the context of the Demesne's heritage importance and values,

	including the provision of a new pedestrian and cycle entrance into the Demesne on Turvey Avenue, subject to a feasibility study
Objective DONABATE 18	Promote the restoration of the Martello Tower at Donabate Beach.
Objective DONABATE 19	Facilitate a separate vehicular/pedestrian access to Donabate Railway Station from Donabate Town Centre

Appendix 2

Residential units permitted/ Development to Date within the 4 no. LAP land parcels

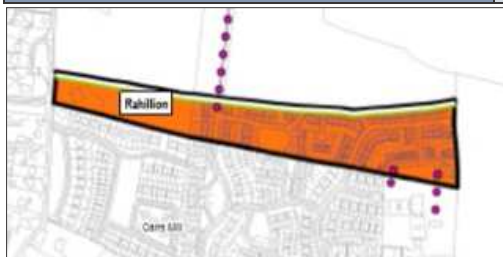
Turvey

Units proposed under LAP:	460
Units permitted to date:	427



Rahillion

Units proposed under LAP	125
Units permitted to date	148 (land bank largely built out)



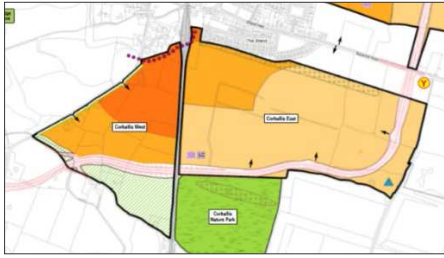
Ballymashan

Units proposed under LAP	1200
Units permitted to date	0



Corballis

Units proposed under LAP	1850
Units permitted to date	251 (Corballis West)



**COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 8TH MARCH, 2021

ITEM NO. 36

REPORT ON HERITAGE SIGNAGE GUIDANCE

FINGAL HERITAGE SIGNAGE & HERITAGE TRAIL GUIDANCE

Fingal County Council is preparing the Fingal Heritage Signage & Heritage Trail Guidance, to provide clear direction and advice to the public and stakeholders on the best practice, procedures and requirements for the development of heritage signage and heritage trails in Fingal.

Presentations were made at the Area Committee Meetings on 02, 03 and 10 December 2020. A public consultation on the Draft Fingal Heritage Signage & Heritage Trail Guidance was held from 11 December 2020 to 29th January 2021. Submissions were invited via consult.fingal.ie, and surface mail with publicity in the local press and via social media.

A total of 7 written submissions/observations were received. As set out in the responses to the submissions made, the Draft Guidance addresses and highlights nearly all the issues raised in the public consultation process in its themes and actions.

It is recommended that the Fingal Heritage Signage & Heritage Trail Guidance be published with the amendments detailed here and set out in the revised document circulated to members.

Ref	Name	Topic	Comment/Response
FIN-C360-1	Darren J. Prior	Requests new signage erected in Fingal to be bilingual in English/Irish with the two languages being printed in the same size and generally same font as per the Official Languages Act 2003.	The requirement that heritage signage is bilingual signage in English/Irish is clearly set out in the Guidance.
FIN-C360-2	Abbey Park & District Residents Association Baldoyle	Highlighted previous discussions with Fingal's Biodiversity Officer around signage for Baldoyle Racecourse Park and that information for an historical sign had previously been supplied.	The Baldoyle Racecourse Park development is in planning and a signage plan forms part of that process.
FIN-C360-3	Eilish McDermott	States the need for consultation and liaison with representatives from different groups to support signposting and information on the Donabate-Portrane peninsula.	The Guidance emphasises the importance of stakeholder consultation, heritage audits and interpretation plans to produce cohesive signage and interpretation of heritage assets.
FIN-C360-4	Lusk Community Council	<p>Welcomes the public consultation. Questions the suitability of the style of the Fingal Standard Signage in all locations. Suggests incorporation of support legs with a view to reducing the visual impact and reducing the wind resistance of the signage.</p> <p>Suggests the incorporation of QR codes linked to the Fingal Tourism website.</p>	<p>Fingal Standard Signage was developed in 2015 to provide standardised visually cohesive signage. There is a suite of options within the standard signage including single legs to be used appropriate to location.</p> <p>The use of QR codes and digital alternatives is highlighted within the Guidance.</p>
FIN-C360-5	Cllr. Seána Ó Rodaigh	Suggests an option to scan a code at each sign onto a phone/device to make more signage accessible; an online audio version to assist people with literacy difficulties. Highlights that the height of the codes need to be accessible for people in wheelchairs.	The use of QR codes and digital alternatives is highlighted within the Guidance. Consideration to height to be reinforced in layout and access sections of the Guidance.

FIN-C360-6	Swords Tidy Towns	<p>Welcomes the signage guidance. Expresses concerns over funding and maintenance and timeframe. Assumes FCC will provide signage for heritage amenities and is concerned that not enough is being done for the promotion of heritage in Swords.</p>	<p>There is no dedicated budget for heritage signage. To date groups have accessed grants often only available to communities. The Guidance includes less costly interpretative options for the promotion of heritage to different audiences.</p>
FIN-C1360-7	Angela Byrne	<p>Expresses concerns over funding that funding for heritage signage should be provided by Fingal County Council.</p> <p>Notes two year time frame in the document and asks that this should be adhered to as the Rush experience was much longer.</p> <p>Request that consistent bilingual signage applies to all villages and signage as some new village signage does not conform to this criteria. Requests updating and replacement of signage on North & South Rush beaches.</p>	<p>There is no dedicated budget for heritage signage. FCC has provided resources through supporting successful grant applications, undertaken procurement and installation, reviewed content and has provided the Irish translation to ensure that the style of Irish is the same on all Fingal branded signs.</p> <p>The two year time frame is only indicative of experience of the process of providing heritage signage to date.</p>

**COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

**COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 8th MARCH 2021**

ITEM NO. 37

**AGREEMENT BETWEEN KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL AND FINGAL
COUNTY COUNCIL IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF
SECTION 85 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 FOR THE
REMEDIAL WORKS AT N2/M50 INTERCHANGE FOOTBRIDGE AS PART
OF LEINSTER EMBANKMENT & FOOTBRIDGES CONTRACT 2021**

Report:

In summary Section 85 of the Local Government Act 2001 allows one Local Authority to act as lead client for a contract within the other Local Authority's jurisdiction.

Transport Infrastructure Ireland's (TII) Regional Bridge Manager for Leinster who is employed by Kildare County Council, based in the Kildare National Roads Office in Kildare County Council has identified the need to carry rehabilitation works at 8 number of footbridges located in Fingal, South Dublin, Louth and Kildare County.

It is proposed by Transport Infrastructure Ireland that the works be undertaken by Kildare County Council.

Kildare County Council/ NRO notified FCC on 10th February 2021 that they are planning to carry out some remedial works in Fingal at the (FG-N02-014.00 N2/M50 Interchange Footbridge) as part of a larger Eirspan scheme involving other 7 footbridges in other Local Authorities and they require a Section 85 approved to act as client, which needs to be passed by the councillors and captured on the minutes at the Council Meeting on 8th of March 2021.

Please see the Section 85 Introduction and the agreement below



**Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gall**
Fingal County
Council



AGREEMENT made this day of 2021,

BETWEEN THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF KILDARE (hereinafter called Kildare County Council) having its principal offices at Aras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Newbridge Road, Naas in the County of Kildare of the One Part

AND THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF FINGAL (hereinafter called Fingal County Council) having its principal offices at County Hall, Main Street, Swords in the County of Dublin of the Other Part.

WHEREAS:

- (a) Fingal County Council is desirous to carry out works at FG-N02-014.00 N2/M50 Interchange Footbridge.
- (b) FG-N02-014.00 N2/M50 Interchange Footbridge as described in the Schedule hereto and is hereinafter called “the project”, in accordance with the provisions of the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2015,

the Local Government Acts 2001-2016, Roads Act 1993 to 2015 and all other Acts thereby enabling:

- (c) Transport Infrastructure Ireland has approved the project be undertaken by Kildare County Council because the TII Regional Bridge Manager is an employee of Kildare County Council and Kildare County Council would be best placed to implement any consent and/or approval for the project and to administer the contract.
- (d) Fingal County Council being of the opinion that, in relation to the design, construction and completion of the project, it would be more convenient if all statutory powers, functions and duties which may be exercised and performed by it to this extent were exercised and performed by Kildare County Council on behalf of Fingal County Council and Kildare County Council being able and willing to exercise and perform the functions, powers and duties,
- (e) The parties hereto have agreed by resolution of each said Council and in accordance with the provisions of Section 85 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended) to enter into this agreement, as provided for by resolution.

NOW THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY AGREED by and between the parties hereto as follows:-

1. Fingal County Council shall obtain all necessary statutory consent/approval and/or authorisation for the proposed works to which this Agreement relates.
2. Subject to and in accordance with any necessary statutory consent/approval and/or authorisation as is required, Fingal County Council hereby agrees to Kildare County Council exercising and performing on its behalf the functions, powers and duties of Fingal County Council, which are now, or may hereafter be vested in Fingal County Council, to the extent necessary to enable Kildare County Council to carry out the design, construction and completion of the project.
3. Kildare County Council shall design, construct and complete the project, in consultation with Transport Infrastructure Ireland, and shall incur such costs or expenses (hereinafter collectively referred to as "the Cost") as it

may decide is necessary for the cost of designing, constructing and completing the project and as may be ancillary and consequential hereto.

4. Kildare County Council shall be responsible for and shall apply to the appropriate Authority for an allocation of the funds necessary to cover the cost.
5. The actual cost of the design, construction and completion of the project shall include the costs and expenses necessary, consequential and ancillary thereto which shall be ascertained and certified by the Director of Services, Directorate of Transportation or other person as may be appointed by the Chief Executive Officer of Kildare County Council.
6. Kildare County Council shall consult with and shall provide Fingal County Council and its officers with all information currently available to it which Fingal County Council may require from time to time in relation to the design, construction and completion of the Project.
7. Fingal County Council shall provide Kildare County Council and its officers with all information currently available to it which Kildare County Council may require in relation to the design, construction and completion of the Project
8. Fingal County Council shall co-operate fully with Kildare County Council in all respects and where and when necessary in relation to the exercise and performance by Kildare County Council of the Statutory powers, functions and duties to the extent undertaken by it under this agreement.
9. In the event of a dispute arising between the parties hereto as to the effect or interpretation of this agreement or as to the respective rights or liabilities of the parties hereto same shall be referred to and decided by Transport Infrastructure Ireland or by such other person as the said Authority may appoint and in that respect the decision of the said Authority or the person so appointed shall be final and binding on the parties hereto.

IN WITNESS whereof Fingal County Council and Kildare County Council have caused their respective Seals to be affixed hereto on the day and year first hereinbefore WRITTEN

PRESENT when the Corporate Seal of the COUNTY COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF KILDARE was affixed hereto:-

(Nominated member)

(Chief Executive Officer)

(County Secretary)

PRESENT when the Corporate Seal of the COUNTY COUNCIL OF FINGAL was affixed hereto:-

(Nominated member)

(Chief Executive Officer)

(County Secretary)

SCHEDULE HEREINBEFORE REFERRED TO

The Rehabilitation works at:

1. FG-N02-014.00 N2/M50 Interchange Footbridge

In accordance with the provisions of the Roads Act 1993 to 2007 and in accordance with the design referred to in paragraph (2) of this agreement.



**Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gall**
Fingal County
Council



AGREEMENT

between

KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL

and

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF

SECTION 85 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001

For the

LEINSTER EMBANKMENT & FOOTBRIDGES CONTRACT 2021

February 2021

1.0 Introduction

Transport Infrastructure Ireland's (TII) Regional Bridge Manager for Leinster who is employed by Kildare County Council and is based in the Kildare National Roads Office in Kildare County Council has identified the need to carry rehabilitation works at the following structures;

Louth County Council

1. Embankment on N52 at Ballygowan, Ardee

South Dublin County Council

2. SD-M50-023.90 Scholarstown Pedestrian Footbridge
3. SD-N81-005.00 St. Dominic's Road Footbridge
4. SD-M50-014.00 Tymon Park Footbridge
5. SD-N07-002.00 Tay Lane Footbridge
6. SD-N04-008.00 St. Loman's Footbridge

Kildare County Council

1. KE-N07-001.00 Johnstown Village Footbridge

Fingal County Council

1. FG-N02-014.00 N2/M50 Interchange Footbridge

2.0 Proposal

It is proposed by Transport Infrastructure Ireland that the aforementioned works be undertaken by Kildare County Council for the following reasons:-

- a) The TII Regional Bridge Manager who is an employee of Kildare County Council, will be Project Manager for this scheme therefore Kildare County Council would be best placed to administer the contract.

- b) The TII Regional Bridge Management Section, located in Kildare County Council, have vast experience in project managing and administering bridge rehabilitation and improvement contracts on National Roads therefore Kildare County Council would be the most experienced Authority, in terms of in-house resources, to undertake these works.
- c) Considerable cost savings would be made if all works were carried out under a single works contract i.e. economies of scale.
- d) Considerable cost saving would be made in design and procurement as only one Tendering process would be required as opposed to four for a contract let by the four individual Local Authorities.
- e) There would be considerable time savings as a consequence of only having to go through a single tendering processes for the footbridge works and only having to assess a single contractor for the role of Project Supervisor Construction Stage.



REPORT ON NATIONAL TRANSPORT AUTHORITY PROGRAMME - ACTIVE TRAVEL AND SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT IN FINGAL ITEM 38

Presentation to Fingal Council, 8th March 2021

Sinéad Murphy, Senior Engineer, Active Travel (Environment Climate Action & Active Travel Dept)
Paul Carroll, Senior Engineer, Transport Planning (Planning & Strategic Infrastructure Dept)

Active Travel & Sustainable Transport Unit



Our Ambition

To **develop** high quality walking and cycling facilities - encourage more people to switch to active travel and will contribute to tackling climate change

- **Commitments** in the Programme for Government
- Establish **multi-disciplinary** team – cross departmental Sustainable Transport Unit – engineers, planners, communications, urban design...
- Excellent **design** - to connect communities and make walking and cycling attractive, safe and accessible to everyone
- Cross community **support**



Active Travel & Sustainable Transport

Infrastructure Programmes

- Capital Programme: FCC own funds, NTA and other central funding. Includes road schemes, cycle routes and greenways, all of which are developed on multi-modal basis
- Active Travel Programme: provision of protected/segregated cycle lanes, Safer Routes to Schools, Bike Sharing, road safety, covid mobility measures - 2020 stimulus package roll over
- NTA/FCC Five Year Implementation Plan



1. Fingal Capital Programme 2021-2023

- €126m over three years
- 34 schemes, from feasibility to construction
- Approx 120km total length
- Includes funding from NTA, URDF, Greenways (Carbon Tax), LIHAF and FCC own funds.
- Greenway highlights: Fingal Coastal Way, Broadmeadow Way, Sutton-Malahide and Royal Canal Greenway
- Major road schemes: Hole in the Wall, Church Fields, Snugborough, Ongar-Barnhill, Airport Western Access.



Capital Programme includes roads and transportation infrastructure to service development lands and improve accessibility to towns and villages, e.g. LIHAF schemes



Donabate Distributor Road



Rathbeale Road, Swords

Fingal Greenways



Baldoyle – Portmarnock Greenway - Completed



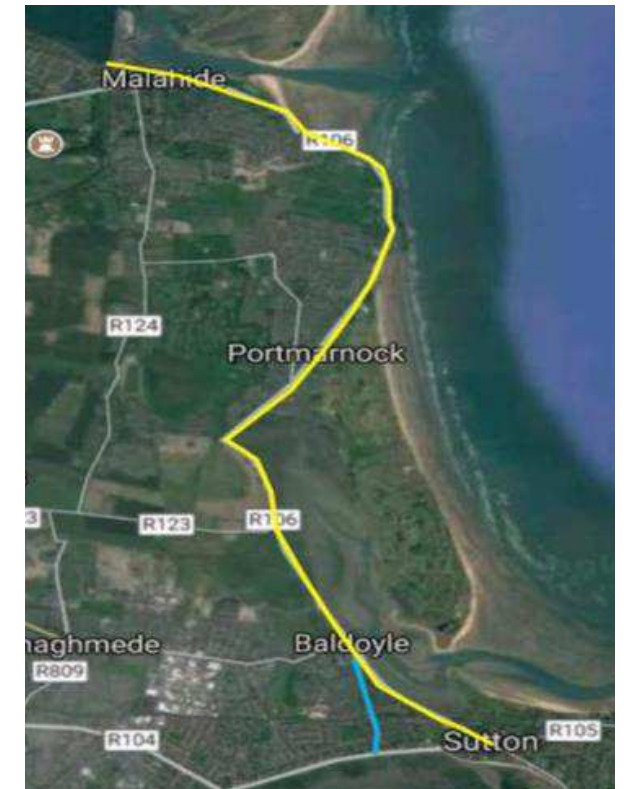
Fingal Coastal Way – Emerging Preferred Option



Broadmeadow Way – Detailed Design



Royal Canal – Emerging Preferred Option



Sutton – Malahide Greenway – Emerging Preferred Option

FCC Capital Programme 2020-2022

Construction/Implementation Timeline

On Site / Completed
Donabate Road (LIHAF) (Cycle facilities included)
Hole in the Wall Road, Baldoye (LIHAF) (Cycle facilities included)
Rathbeale Road (LIHAF) (Cycle facilities included)
Park Road Upgrade, Rush (Cycle facilities included)
Prospect House, Donabate (footpath improvements)

Sutton to Malahide Greenway (NTA)
Fingal Coastal Way Greenway (DTTAS, URDF, FCC)
Royal Canal Greenway (NTA)
Harry Reynolds Road cycle route (NTA)
N3 Upgrade
Kellystown Road (Cycle facilities included)
S2S Extension cycle route (NTA)
Royal Canal-Grand Canal Greenway Link (Cycle facilities included) (NTA)
R132 Junctions, Swords (Cycle facilities included) (NTA)

Page 273

2020

2021

2022

2023

2024

Broadmeadow Way (NTA)
Churchfields Link Road (Cycle facilities included) (NTA, DHPLG)
Snugborough Interchange (Cycle facilities included) (NTA)
Hearse Road Donabate (Cycle facilities included) (NTA)
Donabate Green Routes footpath improvements
Ongar to Barnhill Link Road (Cycle facilities included)
Donabate Pedestrian Bridge (Cycle facilities included) (NTA)

Rush/Lusk Greenway (Cycle facilities included) (NTA)
Balscadden Beach Access, Howth (Cycle facilities included)
Donabate Distributor Road Phase II (Cycle facilities included)
Fosterstown Link Road (Cycle facilities included)
Kinsealy Lane Upgrade (Cycle facilities included)
Dublin Airport Roundabout Upgrade (Cycle facilities included)
Dublin Airport Western Access (Cycle facilities included)
Barrysparks Link Road (Cycle facilities included)
Blakes Cross (Cycle facilities included) (NTA)
Ward River Crossing, Swords (Cycle facilities included)
Station Road, Portmarnock (Cycle facilities included)
Blanchardstown-Phoenix Park Cycle Route Design (NTA)
Kinsealy-Portmarnock Cycle Route Design
Damastown-Clonsilla Cycle Network (NTA)
Swords Transport Network (Cycle facilities included) (NTA)

2. Active Travel Programme



- July stimulus Package €2.8m + rollover €4M
- NTA 5 year plan 2021-2025
- Protected Cycle Lanes
- Safer Routes to School
 - School Streets
 - School Zones
- Behavioural change
- Road safety
- Covid mobility measures (Walk Bike Fingal)
- Data Collection – before/after



National Programme for Government Cycling Programme Proposals

FCG - P & SI current projects
July stimulus package



Fingal Capital Programme 2020-2022

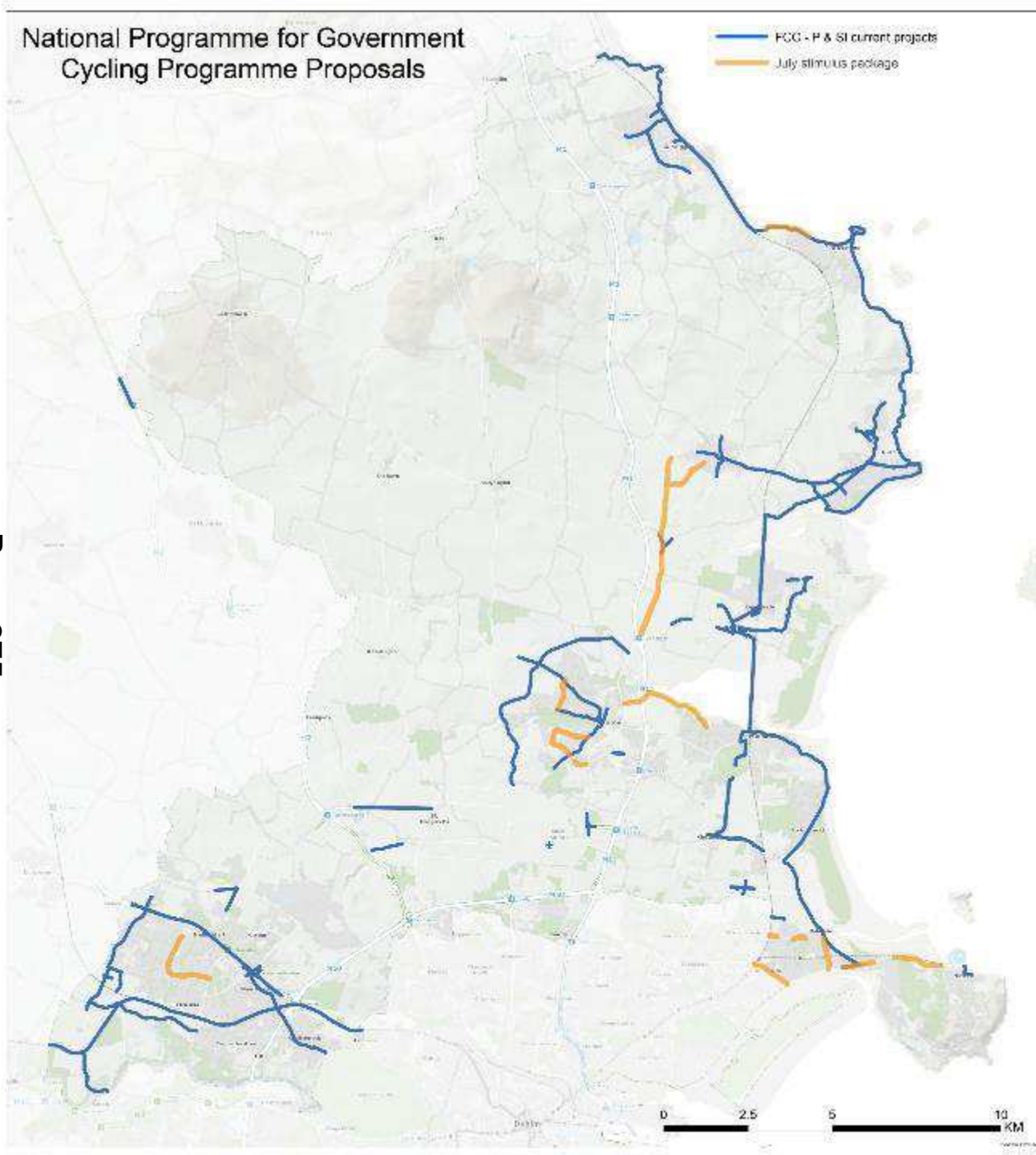
NTA Stimulus funding

2020 - €2.8M over 4 months

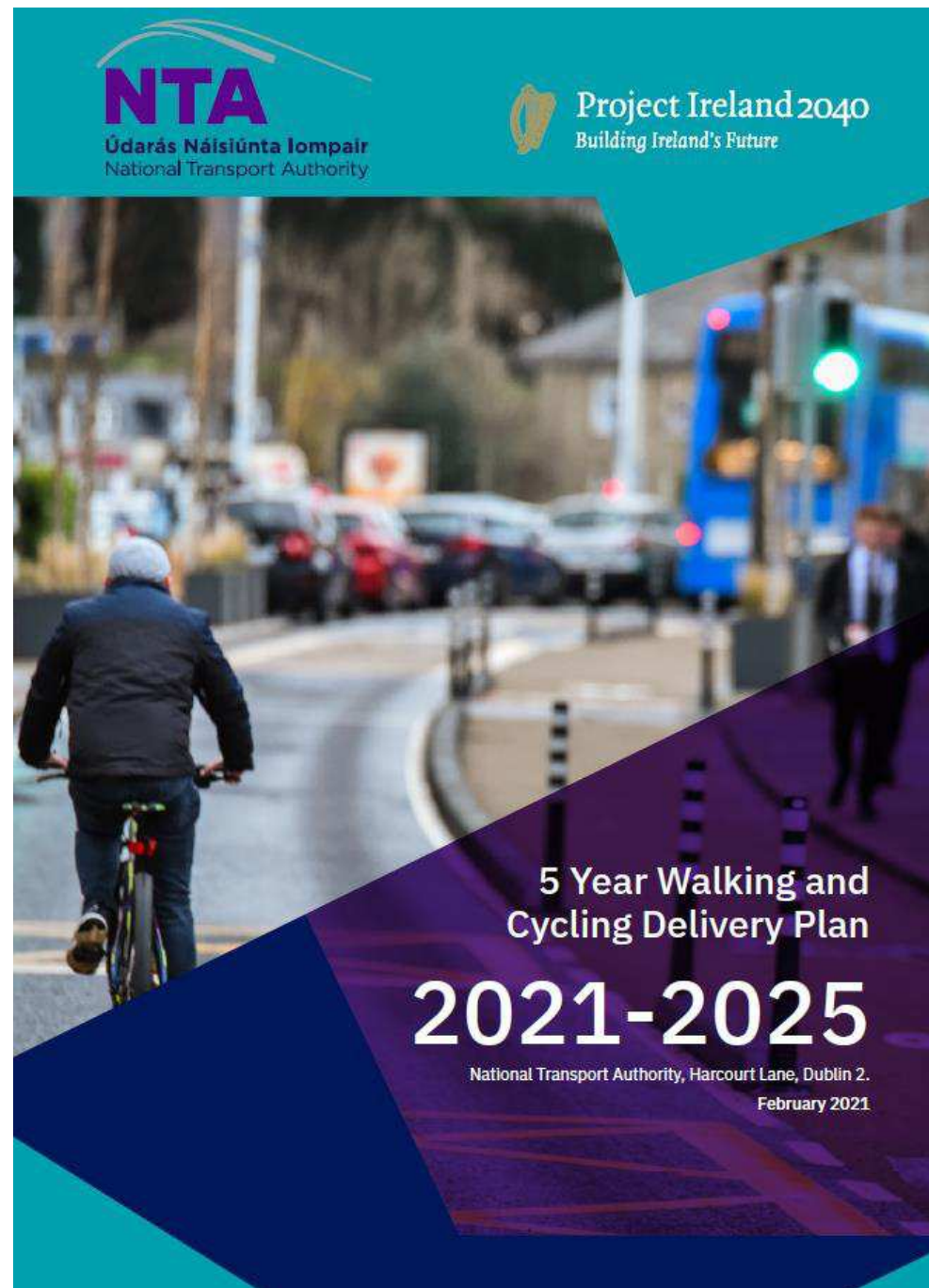
2021 - €4m

13 schemes, short-term implementation

24km total



- Published Feb 2021





3. Fingal 5 year plan

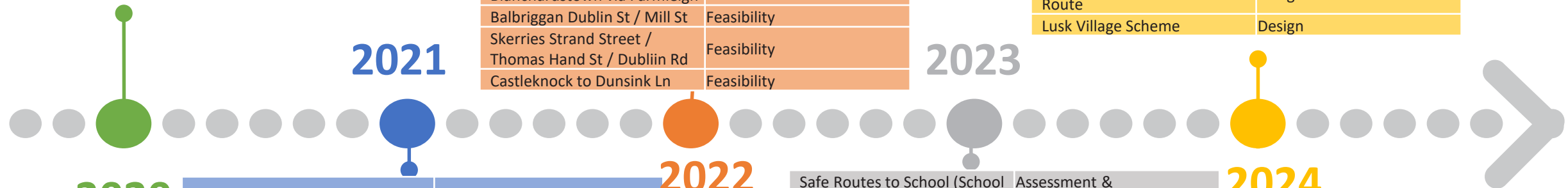
- NTA 5 year Implementation Plan
2021-2025 —
- committed funding & resources
- Capital Programme 2021 – 2023

FCC Active Travel Programme 2021-2025

New St Malahide	Trial pedestrianisation
Hartstown/Huntstown/Mountview Road	Phase 1 construction
St. Cronin's Road	Design & prelim works
Rathingle Road	Phase 1 construction
River Valley Road	Phase 1 construction
Boroimhe Road / L2300	
Grange Road	Design & prelim works
R132 Ministers Road to Blakes Cross	Design
Baldoyle Road / Warrenhouse Road	Design
Dublin Road / Howth Road	Design

New St Malahide	Construction
Safe Routes to School (School Streets/School Zones)	Assessment & implementation (10+10)
Bus Gate @ Littlepace	Construction
Bike Parking	Installation 400+ Racks
Snugborough Rd - NAC to Ongar	Design - Subject to resources/construction
Dublin Road to Dublin Street Baldoyle	Design - Construction
Clonee to Blanchardstown SC	Design - Construction
Skerries - Balbriggan St/Balbriggan Rd	Design
FCC Castleknock to Blanchardstown via Farmleigh	Feasibility
Balbriggan Dublin St / Mill St	Feasibility
Skerries Strand Street / Thomas Hand St / Dubliin Rd	Feasibility
Castleknock to Dunsink Ln	Feasibility

Safe Routes to School (School Streets/School Zones)	Assessment & implementation (10+10)
Bike Parking	Installation 400+ Racks
FCC Castleknock to Blanchardstown via Farmleigh	Construction
Luttrelstown to Ballycoolin Rd	Design
Balbriggan Dublin St / Mill St	Construction
Drogheda St Balbriggan	Design
Skerries Strand Street / Thomas Hand St / Dubliin Rd	Construction
Castleknock to Dunsink Ln	Construction
Lusk Station Road - East - West Route	Design
Lusk Village Scheme	Design



2020

New St Malahide	Design / Public Consultation
Hartstown/Huntstown/Mountview Road	Phase 2 construction
St. Cronin's Road	Phase 1 & 2 construction
Rathingle Road	Phase 2 construction
River Valley Road	Phase 2 construction
Boroimhe Road / L2300	Design & prelim works
Grange Road	Phase 1 & 2 construction
R132 Ministers Road to Blakes Cross	Phase 1 & 2 construction
Baldoyle Road / Warrenhouse Road	Phase 1 & 2 construction
Dublin Road / Howth Road	Phase 1 & 2 construction
Safe Routes to School (School Streets/School Zones)	Assessment & implementation (5+5)
Bus Gate @ Littlepace	Design
Bike Parking	Installation 400+ Racks
Snugborough Rd - NAC to Ongar	Design - Subject to resources

2022

Safe Routes to School (School Streets/School Zones)	Assessment & implementation (10+10)
Bike Parking	Installation 400+ Racks
Snugborough Rd - NAC to Ongar	Construction
Clonee to Blanchardstown SC	Construction
Skerries - Balbriggan St/Balbriggan Rd	Construction
FCC Castleknock to Blanchardstown via Farmleigh	Design
Luttrelstown to Ballycoolin Rd	Feasibility
Balbriggan Dublin St / Mill St	Design
Drogheda St Balbriggan	Feasibility
Skerries Strand Street / Thomas Hand St / Dubliin Rd	Design
Castleknock to Dunsink Ln	Design
Lusk Station Road - East - West Route	Feasibility
Lusk Village Scheme	Feasibility

2024



Kerb Protected Cycle Lanes

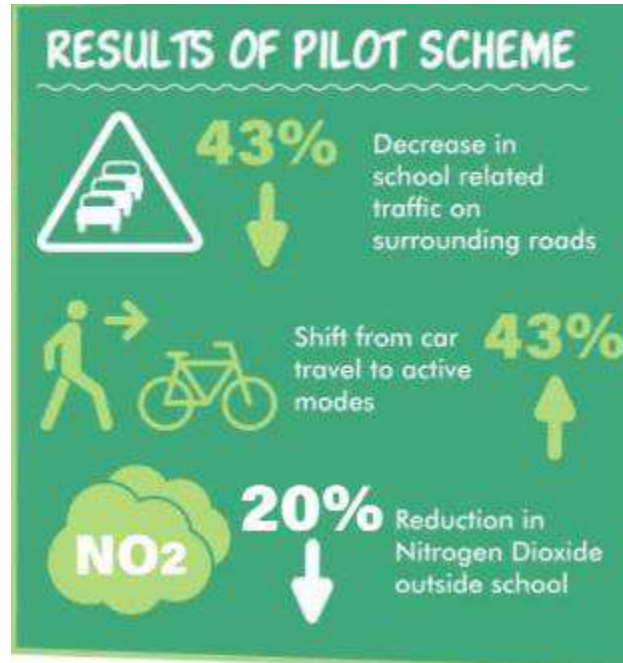
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Safer Routes to School



Fingal Safer Routes to School:
Programme Management
February 2021



School Streets



Fingal

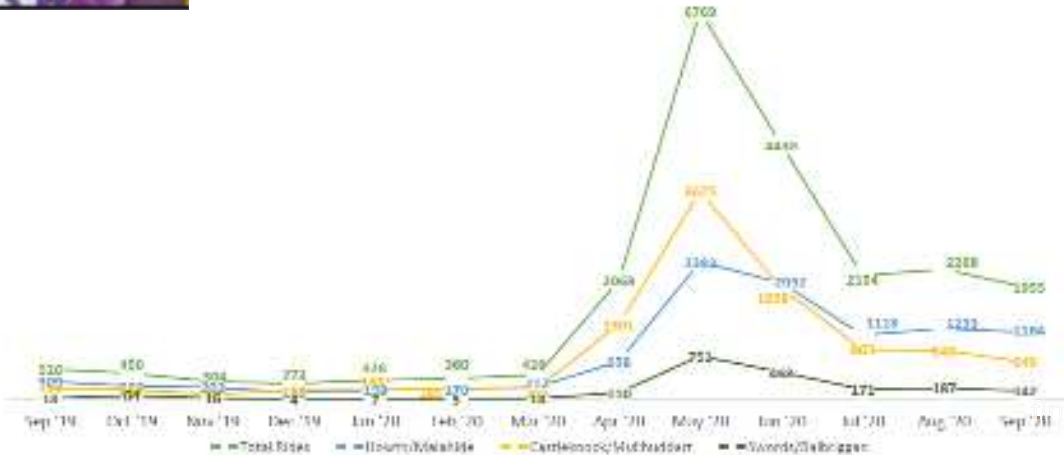


Behavioural change

- Bike Sharing Scheme
- Community Car
- Road safety



cheme - Monthly Bike Rides (previous 12 months)





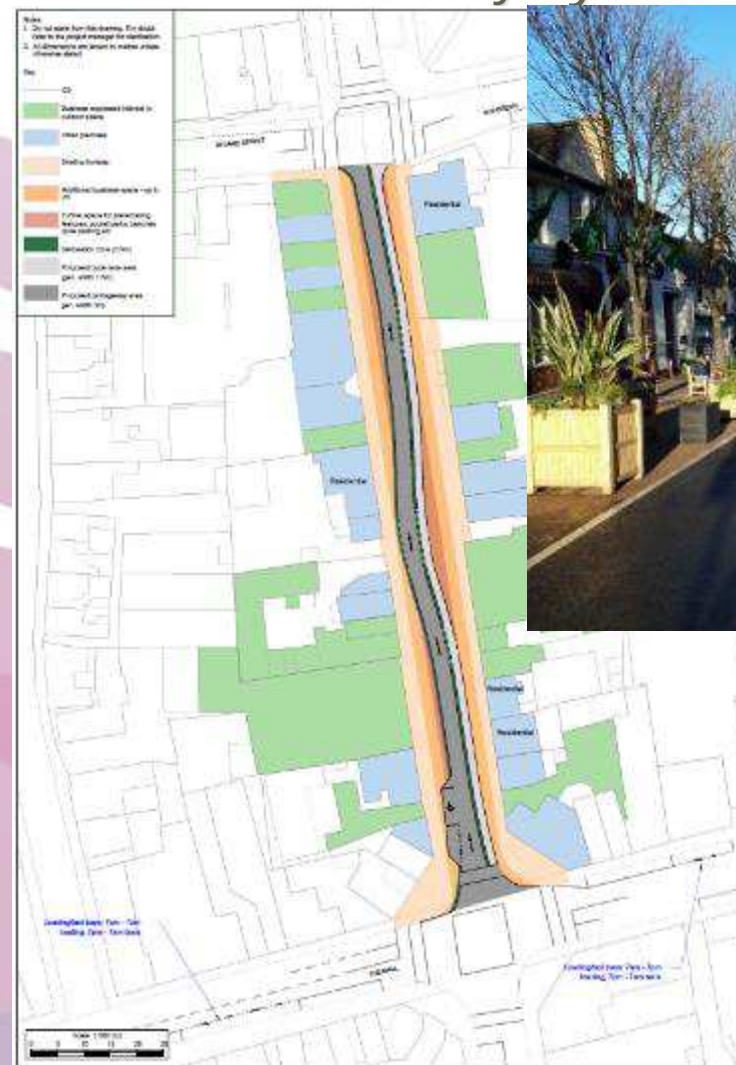
Pedestrianisation

One-Way Systems

BEFORE



AFTER



Connectivity

On street parking, Kissing gates, footpath widths/condition, continuity, estates closed off to cycle/bus network, discontinuity, lack of facilities at junctions etc



Active Travel - Promotion & Training



FREE www.fingal.ie FIT & FUN IN

FINGAL

WALKING / RUNNING / CYCLING

HAPPY & HEALTHY
With Top Tips From Olympian & Ireland's Fittest Family Coach Derval O'Rourke

EXPLORE FINGAL
on foot or by bike

WIN
Bikes for a FAMILY of 4
Competition Inside

Illustration of a family (mother, father, and two children) cycling together.

CYCLING IN FINGAL WHY CYCLE ???

- REDUCES CARBON FOOTPRINT**
Cycling reduces significantly the carbon footprint of a journey.
- IMPROVES YOUR MOOD**
Cycling releases happy hormones and is a great way to feel good and healthy.
- REDUCES TRAFFIC**
With a growing number of people cycling, it helps to reduce traffic congestion.
- STIMULATES LOCAL ECONOMY**
Cycling regularly encourages people to spend more time and money in the local community, supporting local businesses and jobs.
- DECREASES YOUR CAR COSTS**
The average cost of owning a car is over €10,000 per year. Cycling is a much cheaper alternative.
- MORE INFO**
Check out www.fingal.ie for more information on cycling in Fingal.

www.fingal.ie

GEARING UP FOR TRAINING

DID YOU KNOW?
The average car only carries 1.56 people

GEARING UP FOR TRAINING

We all recognise the scene. Cars lining the roads around sports grounds when clubs have training or matches.

"Gearing up for Training" is a new Fingal County Council initiative designed for sports clubs throughout the region. The programme provides professional theory and practical cycle training to children and parents.

The training is provided by the Irish Centre for Cycling (which is approved by Cycle Right) in partnership with Fingal County Council. This training gives children the necessary skills, road safety awareness and gives them confidence on their bikes.

Equipped with these new skills and confidence, they are now encouraged to cycle to and from training and matches in their club.

This eliminates much of the congestion around clubs and will, hopefully, build a life-long love of cycling for both travel and leisure.

The "Gearing up for Training" initiative was launched at St. Finian's GAA club in Swords in August. The Road Safety Section plan to roll this cycle training out to other clubs throughout the county. **To find out more, contact: road.safety@fingal.ie**

Active Travel & Sustainable Transport – 5 year plan – Keys to Success



Page 285

- Development Plan Review
- Committed funding
- Committed resources
- Change
- Community & political support





Thank You

Go raibh maith agaibh

Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall
Fingal County Council



Chief Executive's Management Report

8th of March, 2021

Item 39

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S MANAGEMENT REPORT – MARCH 2021

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Chief Executive's Foreword

We are well into Spring now and whilst we will remain in Level 5 for another number of weeks the roll out of vaccines is an important and positive development as we look forward to brighter days ahead.

I am delighted with the announcement by the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien TD, that **€25.4m** has been awarded under the Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF) for projects associated with the rejuvenation of Balbriggan. We are progressing the procurement of design teams for the public realm improvements projects. This is a key project for us and this funding will support the efforts to transform Balbriggan town centre. There is extensive collaboration with multiple stakeholders and strong community support for all projects associated with the Plan and by 2027 the heart of the town will be transformed. The proposed infrastructure study for Dunsink is also supported and we anticipate it will lead to further investment in this area in the coming years.

There is positive news in the area of housing provision where we have appointed a developer to deliver the first affordable housing scheme in the County in 11 years at Dun Emer, Lusk. We are continuing to work on our plans to develop more affordable housing in Church Fields in Dublin 15, Cappagh in Dublin 11, Ballymastone in Donabate, and Hacketstown in Skerries.

I am pleased that you will receive a presentation at this month's meeting outlining the three main infrastructure programmes for the delivery of active travel and sustainable transport projects in the County. This is a really ambitious programme of work which will improve walking and cycling infrastructure throughout the County and will benefit our citizens and encourage active travel.

I launched a staff Innovation Fund in January which received great interest. The fund was set up to drive and support a culture of collaboration and innovation in the workplace and provides a total grant funding of €50,000. Proposed submissions which bring great value to the organisation and demonstrate new ways of working and collaboration are now being assessed

and I look forward to the successful applicants delivering on their ideas over the coming months.

International Women's Day takes place on Monday, 8th of March, and celebrates the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. I am looking forward to joining my colleagues on the Executive Management Team as well as some of our Councillors in contributing to a series of short videos to be streamed on the day across our social media channels.

The first virtual Local Enterprise Week has taken place online this week with the Local Enterprise Team delivering exciting business events and initiatives which provide a forum for business owners and managers all over the country to connect and network remotely. We recognize the impact Covid-19 has had on SME's and we are continuously looking at ways in which we can support the business sector.

Bhí sé iontach an clár imeachtaí ar líne a fheiceáil agus ábhar ar na meáin shóisialta chun an Ghaeilge, ár dteanga dhúchais, a cheiliúradh do Sheachtain na Gaeilge an tseachtain seo. Meabhraítear don fhoireann go rialta faoinár n-oibleagáidí faoi acht na dteangacha oifigiúla agus spreagtar iad chun úsáid na Gaeilge a chur chun cinn agus leas a bhaint as an oiliúint a chuirtear ar fáil.'

It was wonderful to see the fantastic programme of online events and social media content to celebrate the Irish language for Seachtain na Gaeilge this week. Staff are regularly reminded of our obligations under the Official Languages Act and are encouraged to promote the use of Irish and avail of training which is provided.

Ba mhaith liom Beannachtaí na Féile Pádraig a ghuí oraibh go léir agus tá súil agam go leanfaidh sibh go léir ag fanacht slán agus sábháilte

I would like to wish you all a Happy St. Patrick's Day and I hope you continue to stay safe and well.

AnnMarie Farrelly
Chief Executive

HR, CORPORATE AND GOVERNANCE

Contents

Major Emergency Management
Human Resources
Health & Safety Unit
Building Facilities
Customer Services

Register of Electors
CRM
Information Technology
Communications

Major Emergency Management



The **Major Emergency Planning** structures in place within the Council continue to provide the framework within which the Council's Departments adapt and update business continuity plans.

The **Major Emergency Eastern Region Steering Group**, chaired by the Chief Executive, held weekly meetings in February and will meet regularly in March in light of the Level 5 restrictions which remain in place until the 5th of April. The group continues to co-ordinate services on a regional basis and ensure that activities are in line with the national measures.

Locally, Fingal County Council's **Management Team** continues to meet regularly to ensure continuity of services whilst adhering to the Governments National Framework for Living with Covid-19.

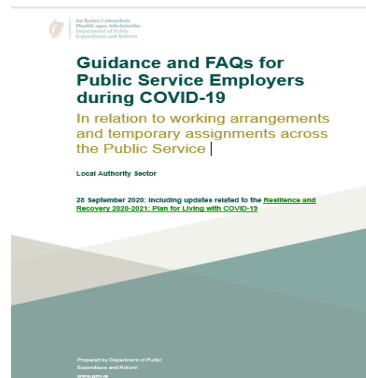
HUMAN RESOURCES

The Human Resource Department continues to plan for and respond to the challenges brought by Covid19. In line with the Government's **COVID-19 Resilience and Recovery 2021 - The Path Ahead**, under current level 5 restrictions staff who can work from home are encouraged to do so. Staff continue to be kept up to date on relevant Government directives and are provided with

useful information through text alerts and a dedicated staff information webpage.

Training and development of our staff, including statutory Health & Safety training, has continued throughout the pandemic ensuring that critical services are not adversely affected. Many of the Council's structured training programmes have now moved to online platforms and are continuing remotely.

The Council's Recruitment processes continued with virtual interviews in February and remote virtual interviews will continue for the foreseeable future.



Health & Safety Unit (HSU)

The HSU continues with Covid-19 compliance inspections within the workplace for staff attending work while at the same time carrying out remote working VDU assessments for staff working away from their primary work locations, utilizing MS Teams to undertake these remote inspections. Further ancillary safety statements for directorates were finalized for publication while workplace incident reports filed with the Unit were investigated with recommendations sent to the relevant departments. The Unit has moved it's on-line presence to Share Point where all safety

documentation with document control is now available to staff. The results of the 29th Annual Occupational Health & Safety Awards for 2020, hosted by the National Irish Safety Organization & Northern Ireland Safety Group were recently announced with FCC achieving two awards in category one – an ‘Exceptional High Achiever Award’ and a ‘Higher Distinction Award’. The HSU is now preparing for its application on behalf of FCC for the 2021 Awards.

Building Facilities - Roof Works County Hall.

The flat roof section over the Council Chamber, Chief Executive's Office, Human Resources Department and the Central Atrium in County Hall, Swords, recently reached end of life and had started to leak rainwater. This deterioration adversely affected the function of the Chamber and County Hall and necessitated an immediate repair of the roof.

A main contractor, Sensori FM, was appointed and the works program commenced in January of this year. Good progress has been made with the Chamber and Chief Executive office roofs completed to date. This work will also improve insulation values to our building and completion is scheduled for April, weather permitting.



Roof repair works in County Hall

Customer Services

For the month of February, the Council's Customer Care Agents dealt with a total of

- 14,186 telephone calls
- 1,010 emails.

REGISTER OF ELECTORS

The Register of Electors for 2021/2022 was published on 1st February 2021 and came into effect on 14th February 2021.

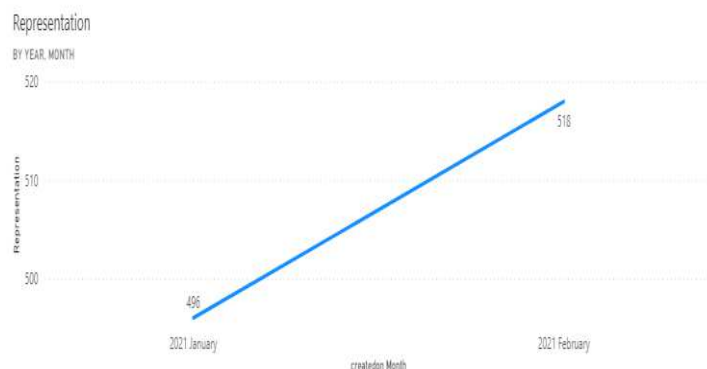
The total electorate for Fingal is 193,390. The table below shows a breakdown per Local Electoral Area –

Local Electoral Area	Total
Balbriggan	23,437
Blanchardstown-Mulhuddart	17,071
Castleknoch	32,427
Howth-Malahide	44,088
Ongar	20,752
Rush-Lusk	23,645
Swords	31,970
	193,390

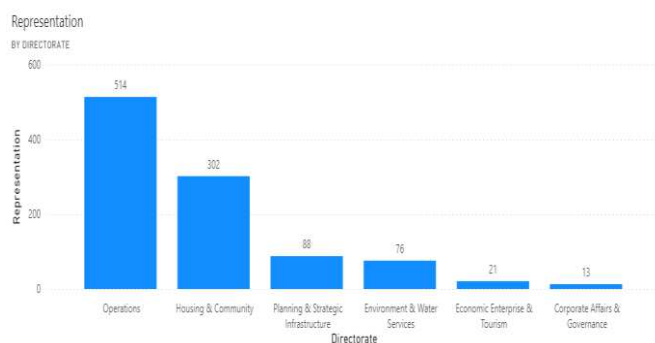
CRM

Staff continue to work on the Customer Relationship Management System (CRM) and issue responses to Councillors representations and complaints submitted by the public.

The month of February had a total of 518 Councillors representations.



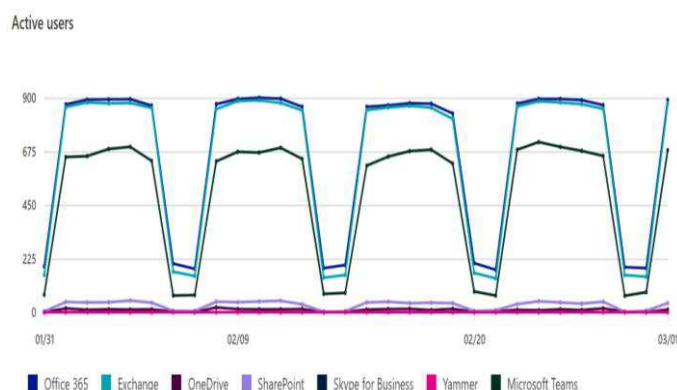
The table below shows the number of Councillor's representations assigned to each Department in 2021.



Information Technology

Remote Working

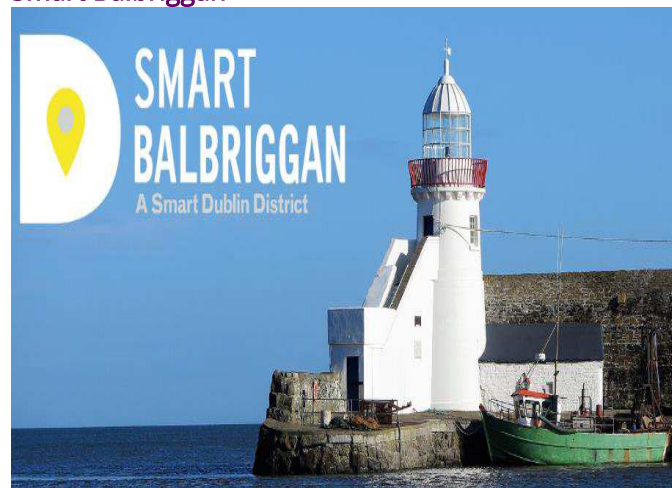
The majority of staff continued to work from home in February, with 9,394 Teams meetings held during the month and 27,729 calls taking place. Usage of the remote working technologies has now settled into a predictable pattern.



Document Management System

The implementation of FinDocs (the Council's Corporate Document Management System based on Sharepoint Online) is progressing well. In February, the Housing Department became the second Council Department to go live with the new system. Implementation will continue to progress by Department with completion of the programme due in early 2022.

Smart Balbriggan



Comhairle Contae
Phine Gall
Fingal County
Council



Join us for the first 2021 Smart Balbriggan Community Webinar, a free, open event to update you on the Smart Balbriggan Programme.

Smart Balbriggan was founded in June 2020 by Fingal County Council as a Smart Dublin District where innovation projects are fast-tracked. Smart Balbriggan will complement and support the delivery of the Our Balbriggan Rejuvenation Plan (2019-2025) by trialing and testing new technology projects and solutions.

During this webinar we will present the Smart Balbriggan Programme Framework and new Public Trello Board. The Programme Framework was developed thanks to input from the Balbriggan community and is our key guiding document, outlining our strategic priorities, principles, objectives and planned actions for the programme.

We will also update you on a number of exciting new projects that have commenced over the past six months including:

- **Model Quay Street and Harbour 3D Model:** a state-of-the-art public consultation tool that will allow our community to experience and consider planned redevelopments immersively.
- **WeCount:** a 'citizen science' project to empower local communities to take a leading role in the production of data,

evidence and knowledge relating to mobility in their own neighbourhoods.

- **Smart Balbriggan Hackathon:** an exciting, upcoming community event that will explore new and innovative ways to tackle local challenges and improve our town.

Register to receive a link for the webinar event at

-

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/smart-balbriggan-community-webinar-tickets-137627899753> and

If you have any queries about Smart Balbriggan or the webinar event, please contact smart.balbriggan@fingal.ie

COMMUNICATIONS

Podcasts

Two episodes of our Inside Fingal podcast series were produced during February.

Episode 6 featured Head of Fingal's Local Enterprise Office Oisín Geoghegan, who spoke about the work of the Local Enterprise Office and the wide range of supports they offer to Fingal businesses as well as previewing Local Enterprise Week.

Episode Six

Oisín Geoghegan, who is the head of Fingal's Local Enterprise Office and the current chair of the national network of Local Enterprise Offices, is the guest on Episode 6 of the Inside Fingal podcast. Oisín speaks about the work of the Local Enterprise Office and the wide range of supports they offer to Fingal businesses as well as previewing Local Enterprise Week which starts on March 1.



Episode Five

In Episode 5 of Inside Fingal, Aoife Sheridan, from the Economic Enterprise Tourism and Cultural Development Department, talks about Fingal County Council's Sustainable Fingal initiative which aims to encourage businesses across Fingal to embrace sustainable measures. She outlines some of the benefits to businesses if they incorporate sustainability into the day-to-day running of their business.



In Episode 5 of Inside Fingal, Aoife Sheridan, from the Economic Enterprise Tourism and Cultural Development Department, talks about Fingal County Council's Sustainable Fingal initiative which

aims to encourage businesses across Fingal to embrace sustainable measures. She outlines some of the benefits to businesses if they incorporate sustainability into the day-to-day running of their business.

We recommend the following apps to listen to the Inside Fingal Podcast, iTunes, Spotify, Stitcher, Castbox and Google Podcasts, and each episode is promoted on the Fingal County Council Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn social media accounts. All podcasts are also available at www.fingal.ie/podcast.

Website

During the month of February, there were 227,500 site views with 80,400 unique visitors.

Among the most popular pages during the month were View/Search Planning Applications, Affordable Housing, Recycling Centres and Job Opportunities and Results.



Fingal County Council is delighted to unveil its new affordable housing scheme in Dún Emer, Lusk, giving first-time buyers the chance to buy newly constructed homes at an affordable price relative to market value.

Social Media

February saw continued growth on our Twitter, Facebook and Instagram social media accounts.

On Twitter, we now have 19,400 followers, including 134 new followers. Our 307 posts received 980,000 impressions, with a 1.3% engagement rate.

Our Top Tweet related to our statement that the Council have appointed O Cualann Cohousing Alliance to oversee the construction of the affordable housing scheme at Dun Emer in Lusk. The post received 53,500 impressions and 1,956 22engagements.

Feb 2021 - 28 days

TWEET HIGHLIGHTS

Top Tweet earned 53.5K impressions

We have appointed a developer to deliver the first affordable housing scheme in at Dun Emer, Lusk. Ó Cualann Cohousing Alliance will oversee the construction of 51 homes, of which 39 will be affordable and 12 will be social housing. Read more at bit.ly/3jrC8nm pic.twitter.com/DWueDYyAxe



We now have 22,637 followers on Facebook and during the month of February our 255 posts had a reach of 809,300.

Our most popular post was a post related to the closure of gates at Newbridge House on garda advice due to large traffic volumes. It had a reach of 33,687.



Our Instagram account continues to grow and now has 3,378 followers. Our most popular post was the set of photos of the new calves born at Newbridge Farm.



Irish Language

Táimid i lár Sheachtain na Gaeilge anois agus tá Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall ag déanamh ceiliúradh ar an nGaeilge agus an cultúr le clár iontach ar líne agus ar na meáin shóisialta. I gcomhar le hIonad Séamus Ennis, bhí ceiliúradh iontach ar an gceol traidisiúnta, beo ar Facebook agus ar YouTube Dé Sathairn, an 6 Márta, le sárghrúpa ceoltóirí. Beidh Antaine Ó Faracháin agus Nollaig Mac Cárthaigh linn chun teacht le chéile ceolmhar dlúthphearsanta ar Zoom ar an 10 Márta ag 6.45. Tá de chuspóir againn, i rith na féile atá ar siúl ón 1 go dtí an 17 Márta, chun an grá don teanga a athbheochan trí réimse fairsing ábhar ar líne, an ceol, an scéalaíocht, agus an spórt san áireamh agus spreagfaimid gach duine pé Gaeilge atá acu a úsáid – Bain Triail As.

We are midway through Seachtain na Gaeilge and Fingal County Council are celebrating the Irish Language and culture with a fantastic programme of online events and social media content this year. In partnership with the Seamus Ennis Centre we hosted a celebration of traditional music, live on Facebook and Youtube on Saturday March 6, featuring a stellar line up of musicians. Antaine O Faracháin and Nollaig MacCarthaigh will be live on Zoom on March 10th at 6.45. Throughout the festival which runs from March 1-17 we aim to reawaken love for the language with a wide range of online content including music, storytelling, and sport and will be encouraging everyone to use whatever Irish they have – Bain Triail Aisti.

International Women's Day

International Women's Day 2021 has been marked across a number of different departments. As well as online events organised by the Community Development Office and the Sports Office, the Communications Unit posted short videos throughout the day on our social media channels with contributions from Chief Executive AnnMarie Farrelly as well as female Fingal County Councillors and members of the Council's Executive Management Team.

An article from Chief Executive AnnMarie Farrelly on International Women's Day appeared in a special International Women's Day supplement of the Fingal Independent where she shared her insights as the first female Chief Executive of the Council. A female themed quiz runs until March 10 and will test the knowledge of Fingal County Council staff members on some very inspirational and successful women from Fingal and further afield.

Engagement

The Communications Unit is working with various departments on communications and engagement strategies for a number of projects including the upcoming Development Plan and the ongoing Keep Well campaign.

The Communications team worked with colleagues in the Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Cultural Development Department on their Sustainable Business campaign which aims to encourage SMEs across Fingal to embrace sustainable measures in their businesses, with a series of practical tools and resources to help them.

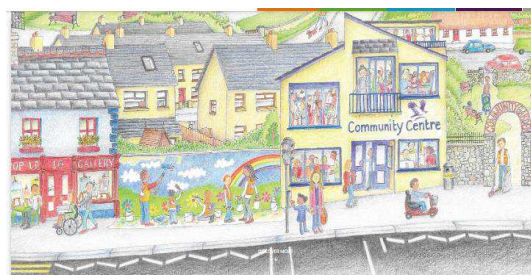
As part of the initiative, a dedicated webpage www.fingal.ie/sustainablefingal has been created which provides information on a range of practical and actionable ideas to make your business 'greener' and more sustainable.



Focusing on sustainability helps businesses to become more resource efficient by using less raw materials, less energy, and less water. In turn, businesses produce less waste and manage the waste they produce in line with the principles of best practice.

A sustainable business approach can also lead to overall efficiencies, cost savings and could position your business to win new customers and

The Communications Department also worked with the Community Development section to create an interactive virtual community centre to promote activities taking place at Community Centre around the County. The page can be found at <https://www.fingal.ie/Virtualcommunitycentre>



Welcome to our online Community Centre

We have lots of new online activities from live fitness classes to food, health & wellbeing to advice and support.

There is lots to keep you entertained and active. Let's stay connected!



Press Releases

A total of 18 press releases and statements were issued by the Communications Unit during February.

ECONOMIC, ENTERPRISE, TOURISM & CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Contents

Tourism Development

Events

Tourism

Heritage Properties

Cultural Development

Arts

Libraries

Economic Development

Balbriggan Socio-Economic Strategy

LEADER Programme

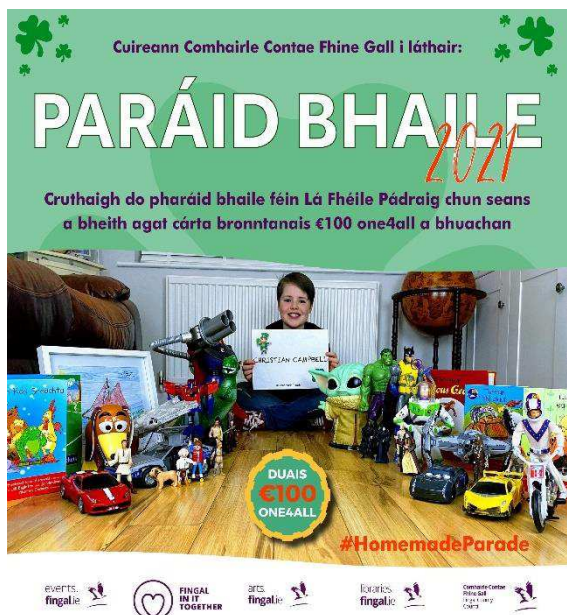
Local Community Development Committee

Enterprise Centres

Local Enterprise Development

EVENTS

ST. PATRICK'S DAY



HOMEMADE PARADE

As part of a series of on-line virtual events for St. Patrick's Day, Fingal Events are asking the community to get involved in Homemade Parades. This involves sending in photos of your parade using your toys/books or art. Whatever captures your imagination. People can enter through their Residents Association via the Fingal Public Participation Network, Fingal Libraries or Fingal Arts and are in with a chance of winning a ONE4ALL voucher.

GO GREEN ON MARCH SEVENTEEN



Fingal County Council will be illuminating several buildings for the St Patrick's Day Festival period Monday 15th- Sunday 21st.

Additionally, selected historic buildings will show messages to celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge 2021.

TRADFEST – NEWBRIDGE HOUSE

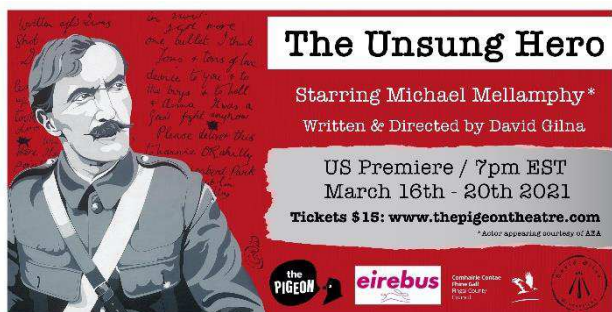
Tradfest recently filmed a tribute to poet Derek Mahon in the Red Room, Newbridge House featuring Donabate resident Stephen Rea, Matt Molloy (The Chieftains) Neil Martin, Kevin Glackin and Brídín Feliciaspeaks. The programme will be aired on Thursday 18th March. This is a cultural

event which will have a global outreach and is supported by the Arts Office and Creative Ireland.



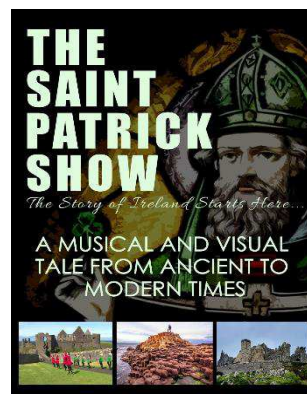
THE UNSUNG HERO – NEW YORK PRODUCTION

Award-winning playwright David Gilna from Swords, Co Dublin will follow in the footsteps of Brendan Behan, Oscar Wilde & Sean O'Casey when his play 'The Unsung Hero' is staged in New York from March 16th - Saturday 20th 2021 streaming live and supported by Fingal County Council.



The Saint Patrick Show (featuring Saint Patrick's Island Skerries

Skerries Chamber of Tourism are presenting The St Patrick's Island Skerries video as part of an Interactive Cultural Experience/ Virtual St. Patrick's Day Celebration. It will feature high profile artists as part of the St Patrick's Show, video will be available online.



FOOD TOURISM



**Dublin's
Coast &
Fields**

The Dublin team in Fáilte Ireland have committed to continue to resource food consultant, Marie Brouder, to support the further development of the Fingal Food Tourism Network and associated actions for 2021.

DEVELOPMENT GROUPS

- Groups continue to meet to discuss planning for the future and tourism recovery post Covid.
- Groups focussing on the Fáilte Ireland Saleable Experiences Programme, planning on creating new packages and upgrading / changing existing experiences.
- Social media content plans being created
- Websites being updated

TOURISM RECOVERY

- A social media campaign focused on tourism recovery has been agreed for the region for March through September 2021
- The Dublin Coastal Trail for Howth, Malahide & Skerries has been finalised for launch in late Q3 / Q4 2021. This is one of Fáilte Ireland's main Dublin propositions going forward.
- A series of meetings with the Dublin team of Fáilte Ireland were held with the local tourism development groups to engage them with the Dublin Coastal Development Plan and upcoming workshops and to outline resources and supports available to the industry. Fáilte Ireland have offered additional supports should the groups identify specific need.

HERITAGE PROPERTIES



UPDATE ON HERITAGE PROPERTY CLOSURES:

Under the Government's Covid-19 Resilience & Recovery 2021 Plan, the following changes to service will continue to apply across our heritage properties:

- No tours of the heritage properties permitted
- Closure of Casino Model Railway Museum
- Closure of Swords Castle to the public but weddings will be facilitated during this period subject to the necessary restrictions.
- Cafés across the properties open for takeaway only.
- Demesnes including playgrounds remain open but the farm at Newbridge House and botanic gardens at Malahide Castle are both closed.

Engagement with the Council's Property Managers and Operators are ongoing during this time in developing marketing campaigns which will focus this year primarily on the domestic market, with specific emphasis being placed on our properties being safe attractions to visit.

HERITAGE PROPERTIES WORKS UPDATE:



- An extensive refurbishment has commenced on the Great Hall at Malahide Castle. Heritage and Conservation Architect Consultants have now been appointed and it is expected that the works will take a number of months to complete.
- Tenders are currently being evaluated under the Heritage Contractors Framework for the painting of the lower ground rooms in Ardgillan Castle.
- Quantity Surveying Consultants have now been appointed in respect of the roof works at Newbridge House and Ardgillan Castle with a view to undertaking a cost analysis and final scope prior to going to tender for these works.

CREATIVE FINGAL PROGRAMME 2021

The Fingal Creative and Cultural team comprising of representatives across the Council have now begun the planning and implementation of the Commemoration and the Cruinniu Na Nóg Programmes for 2021.

The Commemorations Programme will focus on the end of the War of Independence with specific emphasis on events which occurred in Fingal during this time and the signing of the truce between the British government and representatives of the Irish Republic.

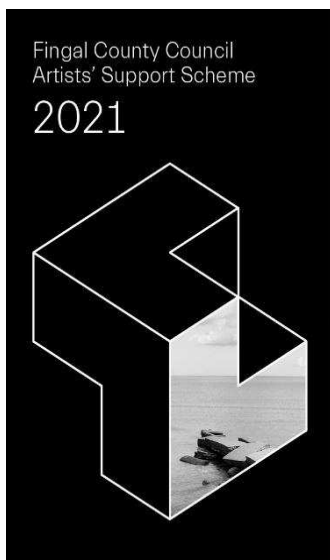
Cruinniu Na Nóg, Ireland's national day of free creative activities for children and young people up to 18 years of age takes place this year on 12th June.

PUBLIC ART

Infrastructure Public Art Programme – Sarah Browne Echo's Bones – Autistic Film Project



Following a successful open call, which reached across Fingal, artist Sarah Browne has connected with local participants who identify as being on the Autistic Spectrum. The participants, who have all expressed to be part of this public art project, joined the information session this month with the artist, theatre maker Sarah Fitzgibbon, AsIAM autistic self-advocate Eleanor Walsh and composer Alma Kelliher. They have signed up to a series of weekly facilitated workshops online to create new film work based in Fingal, looking at Samuel Beckett's short story Echo's bones and how might those on the autistic spectrum can be represented through film and personal stories. The new group will become the collaborators on this work as filmmakers, scriptwriters, actors, sound designers and editors.



The objective of the Artists' Support Scheme is to support individual professional artists from Fingal to develop their artistic practise. The award is open to practising artists at all stages in their professional careers working in music, visual art, drama, literature and dance. To be eligible to apply, applicants must have been born, have studied, or currently reside in the Fingal administrative area.

The funding is for projects or initiatives which will take place between 01 May and 31 December 2021.

Cruinniú na nOg, Youth & Education.



The Arts Office is working in partnership with artists to develop opportunities for children & young people as part of Cruinniú na nOg 2021. Artists Barbara Knešević, Stephen James Smith, Orla Kelly, Thomas Johnston and arts educator Anne Bradley among others are generating exciting ideas that will engage those aged 0-18 years in Fingal in unique arts and education experiences in school and youth settings and at home. This year's programme promises rich explorations of sound, spoken word, mark making, movement and the material world.

LIBRARIES

Eservices rise in popularity

Although the doors to our branch libraries may be closed due to COVID 19, eservices are available 24/7. There has been significant increase in the use of our electronic resources in 2020, which include books, magazines, newspapers and various online learning opportunities, all free of charge.

Eservice	Increase in 2020 on 2019 fig.
Borrowbox - e audiobooks	105%
Borrowbox - ebooks	134%
RB Digital magazines	149%
Pressreader newspapers and magazines	75%
Transparent Language (online language learning)	64%
Universal Class (online learning)	289%
Touch Type Read and Spell	732%
Artists Works (music, vocal and art classes)	242%

As reported last month, we introduced two new services at the start of the year, to support home schooling - in particular literacy and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths) education. The uptake on these services has been very positive, with 106 students enrolled on the Lexia literacy programme and 466 Coding Ireland licences in use.



Libraries' spring brochure delivered to 90,000 homes in Fingal

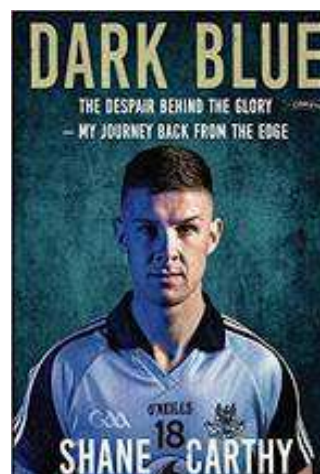
Our spring brochure was delivered to 90,000 homes in Fingal and is also available on the Council's website. The varied events programme encourages us to stay active in mind and body over the coming months, whether it be taking up yoga classes, learning to do macramé or simply reading more. The programme is in line with the Government's Keep Well campaign that is aimed at showing people how we can mind our own physical and mental health and wellbeing by adding healthy and helpful habits to our daily and weekly routines.

Healthy Ireland events



Healthy Ireland at your Library

Chair yoga can improve flexibility, concentration and strength, while boosting mood, and reducing stress and joint strain. It also reduces anxiety, helps lower blood pressure, protects joints and builds strength and balance. A chair yoga video by experienced yoga teacher Erica Tracey will be available on the Fingal Libraries YouTube channel throughout the spring.



In the midst of all of his success as a Dublin footballer, Shane Carthy increasingly suffered from severe bouts of depression, hiding this from his family and all around him. His book **Dark Blue: The Despair Behind the Glory - My Journey**

Back From The Edge documents his journey and he will speak also about it on Sunday 14 March @ 6.00pm on a live Webinar followed by a Q and A session. Booking is available through Eventbrite.

Seachtain na Gaeilge

Traditional Irish storyteller Niall de Búrca is returning to Fingal Libraries with a special online bilingual storytime for this year's Seachtain na Gaeilge. Suitable for all ages and all levels of Irish, de Búrca will provide a feast of fantastical tales that will delight the whole family! The event takes place on Saturday, 13 March at 2.30pm and booking is through Eventbrite.

Most borrowed books

Details of the 20 books and authors borrowed most often from Irish public libraries in 2020 have been published by the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA). The 20 eBooks and eAudiobooks borrowed most often from Irish Libraries via the Borrowbox service have also been published.

Seventeen of the twenty most borrowed books in 2020 are children's titles with Roderick Hunt the most popular author and the classic Mr Men collection proving the most popular book. Classic stories remain among children's favourites with renowned authors such as Enid Blyton, Roger Hargreaves and Roald Dahl in the top twenty list of children's authors, alongside Daisy Meadows, Francesca Simon, and Jacqueline Wilson.

When books aimed at adults are separated out, James Patterson tops the list of the 20 most popular authors for the third time in a row, while Blue Moon by Lee Child was the most borrowed adult title in 2020. It seems we all still love a good mystery with other thriller and crime writers such as Michael Connelly, Liz Nugent, Harlan Coben and Agatha Christie among the most popular authors with library members.

Unsurprisingly, given the phenomenal success of the TV adaptation, Normal People by Sally Rooney was the most downloaded eBook by library members, while Becoming by Michelle Obama was the most popular eAudiobook. Irish authors are in high demand with library members; 11 of the 20 most popular adult books are by Irish authors while 5 of the 20 most popular authors for adults are Irish.

Fifteen of the twenty most popular adult books are by female authors, and female authors are also in the majority in the most popular eBook and eAudiobook lists. For more details and for a list of the most popular books and ebooks go to:

<https://www.lgma.ie/en/news/lgma-reveals-most-borrowed-library-books-of-2020.html>

LGMA Live skill share sessions

Fingal Libraries' staff are sharing their experience and knowledge with colleagues around the country at live skill share sessions organised by the Libraries Development Unit of the LGMA. At a recent session, Marguerite Drake, Senior Librarian, gave a presentation on how Fingal Libraries brought its Festival of History online in 2020.

At upcoming sessions, Ciara Farrell, Senior Library Assistant, will talk about the Fingal Libraries online book club, Barry O'Carroll, Senior Library Assistant, will discuss managing online events and Marc McCluskey, Senior Library Assistant, will present on dungeons and dragons.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**Launch of the Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor,
24th March 2021 at 10am**



"The Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor: Current Profile, Potential in Recovery & Opportunities for Cooperation" will be published on Wednesday, 24th March at a cross border online event hosted by economist David McWilliams. Invitations to this online event will be forwarded to all Members in the coming week.

The Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor (DBEC) is a collaboration, involving the eight Local Authorities located between Dublin and Belfast and in partnership with DCU and UU. This important initiative demonstrates the ability of Local Government, on either side of the border, to come

and work together for the benefit of their respective communities and the regional economy.

Fingal County Council recently made its nominations to the Oversight and Governance Board of the DBEC (Mayor David Healy, SPC Chair Cllr. Tony Murphy & SPC Member Cllr. Howard Mahony), which will have its inaugural meeting post the launch event.

FINGAL IN IT TOGETHER

The Fingal In It Together initiative continues to support businesses listed in the online business directory.



Sustainable Fingal



The Council has launched **Sustainable Fingal** which aims to engage with the business community on the implementation of sustainable business measures. This initiative delivers on an objective under the Council's Climate Change Action Plan.

A brochure "Sustainable Ideas for SMEs" has been prepared to inspire businesses with some simple actions to improve their sustainability and outlines the benefits this can bring to their business under the key headings of Energy, Water and Waste

Management. The Council's research is supported and supplemented with information from SEAI, Repak and Irish Water.



The Council's website also has a new section www.fingal.ie/sustainablebusiness which directs businesses to the extensive variety of supports and information available to help businesses become more sustainable. Building on the foundations of the **Sustainable Ideas for SMEs** brochure the webpages provides information to business on how to start and forward their sustainability journey. The webpages include links to various industry sources, including a free EPA tool which helps to immediately assess a business' current sustainability approach.

The Council have also documented three video case studies filmed with local businesses to help inspire businesses in similar sectors. The case studies include Café Natural in Donabate, McInerney Saunders in Swords and Donnelly Group in St. Margaret's.

To encourage business engagement in Sustainable Fingal the Council is running a competition for businesses to win a Sustainability Assessment and Action Plan from Balbriggan based Patel Tonra Ltd. Environmental Solutions and a video case study to feature on the Sustainable Fingal webpages. The closing date for business entries is Friday 28th May 2021.

The Council has set up a dedicated email address sustainablefingal@fingal.ie for businesses to direct their enquiries to on sustainable and green initiatives.

Our Balbriggan 2019 – 2025 Rejuvenation Plan – A Socio-Economic Strategy

The Our Balbriggan programme office continue to support the Chair of the Leadership Group and its five work pillars across economic and social measures including: Local Economy, Public Realm, Education, Skills & Employment, Community & Wellbeing and Community Safety & Integration.

The first meeting of the Balbriggan Leadership group meeting took place on 17th February 2021, chaired by Professor Brian MacCraith, one of its first actions was the ratification of the establishment of a fifth pillar – Safe Balbriggan which will focus on:

- Engaging & supporting our young people
- Fostering community integration
- Creating safer public spaces

The Safe Balbriggan Pillar met for the first time on February 23rd, chaired by recently retired Assistant Garda Commissioner, Michael O'Sullivan with representatives from Foróige, Dept. of Justice, An Garda Síochána and the Council.



The Our Balbriggan programme office is working through tenders received for the appointment of an Integrated Design Team. Briefs are being drawn up for a Traffic & Active Travel Study and Outdoor Leisure and Tourism Study. Expertise and learning from these will be applied to ensure:

- a. The physical elements of the Rejuvenation (including Bremore Park, Castle and Coastal Greenway) and the social and economic opportunities arising from these are captured.
- b. A strategic, sustainable approach is taken to the sequencing of the physical elements and relationships with the wider town and its immediate environs.



The Our Balbriggan Office have submitted an application under the Public Service Innovation Fund 2021 entitled – Developing Ireland's first Smart Walls to combat racism and showcase positive graffiti using innovative technologies. Successful applicants will be announced at the end of March. The proposal is to develop a community campaign showcasing the Pride of Balbriggan, a positive multi-cultural campaign to address tensions and bring cohesion to Balbriggan.

A online webinar will take place on the evening of March 10th, to engage citizens to learn about projects that are taking place as part of the Smart Balbriggan initiative, to include – a 3D model of Quay Street and the Harbour which will allow citizens to experience and consider planned developments immersively, and We Count a citizen science project on mobility in their own neighbourhoods.

RURAL & LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Fingal LCDC continues to oversee and administer the key areas of LEADER and SICAP and the various Local Development and Community Development funding programmes under its remit. The LCDC is also represented on the Fingal Community Call Forum and is supporting many of the LCDC member agencies that are also members of the Community Call in the delivery of their programmes. The LCDC is also supporting the work of the Community Call through the Healthy Ireland Initiative, the Community Resilience Fund and the Keepwell Campaign, and the many projects up and running under those funding streams.



Emergency Funding available for Community and Voluntary Groups in Fingal

The Fingal Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) had invited applications from community, not-for-profit and voluntary groups for funding under the COVID-19 Emergency Fund with a closing date at the end of February. A large number of applications have been received.

Applications for funding received will now be evaluated with successful applications notified in March. The COVID-19 Emergency Fund is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and administered by the Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs) in each Local Authority area. The 1st round of the COVID-19 Emergency Fund was launched in April 2020. This is the 2nd round of the COVID-19 Emergency Fund and has funding of €1.7m nationally with €59,820 allocated to Fingal County Council. Under the scheme, 30% of available funds

have been ring-fenced to provide small grants of €1,000 or less.

SICAP

At its most recent meeting in February, the Fingal LCDC approved the SICAP Annual Plan for 2021. The €1.24m 2021 SICAP Plan has ambitious KPIs which takes into account the many challenges arising from delivering in a Covid 19 environment. The Review of the SICAP 2020 performance was also approved by the LCDC at its February meeting, where the programme was recognised for the important role it played through the Community Call Forum during the year.



LEADER PROGRAMME

The Dublin Rural LEADER LAG and the Fingal LEADER Programme continues to deliver funding and support to eligible projects in the administrative areas of Fingal, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown and South Dublin.



**An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail**
Department of Rural and
Community Development

The next meeting of the Dublin Rural LEADER LAG will take place in March 2021.

Completed project claims continue to be paid out to promoters and priority has been given to getting this funding out to provide stimulus in rural areas. Over €1.55m in project claims have been paid out to completed/part-completed projects to date.

Going forward there is currently €3 million in the new LEADER projects pipeline of which over €1 million is for Rural Enterprise.

The LEADER Programme reverts to EU Transitional Rules for the period 2021-22 with a new Dublin Rural LEADER Local Development Strategy to be put in place for 2023. Under the Transitional Arrangements the Dublin Rural LEADER LAG and the LEADER Programme will continue to be funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development under the same eligibility and LEADER implementation rules. LEADER will continue to approve and fund new projects as normal.

A call for project applications has been issued under the LEADER Food Initiative Grants Programme. The initiative supports new and existing food and beverage producers located in the LEADER Geographical Area to address emerging challenges through investment in areas such as Market Development, Competitiveness and Innovation. Grants can be applied for, ranging in scale between €5,000 - €200,000. Projects are approved on a first come first served basis.

Areas of funding include:

- Artisan, Micro, and Small food producers, including those with a focus on collaborative proposals aimed at production quality and market issues.
- Regional product development including a focus on marketing distinctive local foodstuffs.

- Marketing and processing for strategically identified sectors, including honey and apple processors.
- Improved marketing, product quality, and business skills through support for innovative collaborative processes and so address challenges to co-operation identified in studies on facilitating short supply chains e.g. entry barriers, the need for shared understanding, skills/training, marketing, and business skills deficits.

Eligible costs include:

- The construction or improvement of immovable property
- The purchase of new machinery and equipment
- Intangible investment such as the development of computer software and the acquisition of patents, licences, copyrights or trademarks.

Fingal County Council continues to deliver the financial and administrative oversight responsibilities for the approval and drawdown of LEADER funded projects following the national transfer of the LEADER Article 48 Administrative Checks from Pobal to the Local Authority Sector. There has been no interruption to the delivery of the LEADER Programme or the Article 48 Checks as a result of Covid-19.

ENTERPRISE CENTRES

Occupancy rates at the Council's three enterprise centres at the end of February were Drinan 84%, BASE 88% and Beat 88%. The three Enterprise Centres currently support 62 businesses and 320 direct jobs. A number of businesses in the Centres had been accommodated with rent moratoriums to help them through lockdown cashflow difficulties but all businesses have now returned to normal rental arrangements. All tenant businesses are being assisted in accessing financial and non-financial supports currently available through

COVID-19 support measures. All three enterprise centres have limited common area access at present in line with national Covid 19 guidelines and centre risk assessments. All staff in the centres are currently working from remote.

The Drinan enterprise centre is currently seeking interest from businesses and remote workers who may wish to avail of remote working options and facilities at the centre. Bespoke options or generic office fit-out options can be considered. A number of expressions of interest have been received.

The renovation works in the Beat Centre are temporarily suspended due to the Covid 19 lockdown but will resume as soon as national restrictions allow. €250,000 of the total budget for these renovations is funded by the Dublin Rural LEADER Programme. When completed, the renovations will allow Beat to expand its offering in the areas of remote working hub space and flexible start-up workspace.

The BASE Centre in Mullhuddart has received confirmation of over €80,000 in facilities upgrades from Enterprise Ireland. These works will begin shortly when national restrictions allow and will include new remote working hub options and I.T. infrastructure upgrades among others.



LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE FINGAL



LEO Fingal continues to help small businesses and start-ups through the impact of COVID-19 and Brexit, with a broad suite of practical support services. Some of the LEO Fingal highlights for February 2021 are as follows:

Evaluation and Approvals Committee

The February Evaluation and Approvals Committee (EVAC) took place on Wednesday the 24th of February. Two companies were approved for funding totalling €54,600.

Local Enterprise Week 2021



Local Enterprise Week 2021 will occur from the 1st to the 5th of March and will feature a packed series of events to help businesses and start-ups to access supports, training and networking. These events will take place virtually.

For a full schedule of what is on offer during #LEWFingal 2021, please check the link:

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Fingal/Enterprise-Development/Local-Enterprise-Week/>

National Enterprise Awards



Fingal Enterprise Award winner, Kianda Technologies, has been announced as winner of the Export Award at this year's National Enterprise Awards. The virtual awards event was broadcast online from the Mansion House in Dublin and presented by Minister Damien English. This competition is in its 22nd year and run annually by the LEOs.



Launch of the Fingal Business Podcast

With the increased popularity of podcasting as a powerful commercial tool, LEO Fingal is launching a new series of seven podcasts, titled: Fingal Business Podcast. Every Friday at lunchtime, a fresh podcast will be published, from the 5th of March to 16th of April 2021.

Each episode will feature a business leader who will share their key insights and tips for business.

The first episode features Daytime Grammy nominee, and acclaimed food entrepreneur Catherine Fulvio, who was last year's keynote speaker at the Fingal Enterprising Women's Network lunchtime event closing Local Enterprise Week.

This launch was officially announced on episode 6 of the "Inside Fingal" podcast on Friday 26th February 2021. In addition, LEO Fingal is hosting an "Introduction to Podcasting" webinar for 200 participants on Tuesday 2nd March as part of Local Enterprise Week 2021, with a follow-up podcasting workshop.

Student Enterprise Programme



Final Preparations are underway for the Fingal Student Enterprise Programme (SEP) Virtual County Fingal which will take place on Tuesday the 16th of March.

In this Programme, students start up and run their own real-life business, learning valuable entrepreneurial skills. The new programme features new enterprise requirements for the COVID-19 era.

The County Final winners will go on to represent Fingal at the National Final to be held in May 2021. Fingal will again this year run one of the biggest programmes in the country, with over 2,088 second level students participating from 25 schools.

Fingal Enterprising Women Network



The Fingal Enterprising Women Network (FEWN) provides online learning and networking opportunities for Fingal women in business hosting a monthly online networking event. The February networking event: “Making Instagram Work for your Business” took place on Tuesday the 9th of February with 295 attendees.

On March 5th, as part of Local Enterprise Week 2021, FEWN will celebrate International Women's Day with the “**Women in Business; Our Time to Shine**” online networking event featuring well-known TV personality and Businesswoman Gráinne Seoige for this special occasion.

Trading Online Voucher (TOV) scheme



An initiative under the Government's National Digital Strategy, the TOV scheme supports small businesses to enhance their online offering by providing a grant of up to €2,500 for ecommerce and digital marketing activities.

Since January 2021, 57 TOV applications were received for Evaluation, 166 applications were approved (including applications received in 2020) in the amount of €375,551.

The next TOV information webinar will take during Local Enterprise Week on Friday 5th March 2021. More than 250 businesses are expected to attend this event.

Green for Micro Initiative



A new initiative from the Local Enterprise Offices, the objective of the Green for Micro programme is to help small businesses prepare for the low carbon, more resource efficient economy of the future.

Green for Micro will allow businesses to avail of advice and technical support, covering topics such as:

- resource efficiency
- understanding your carbon footprint
- implementing an environmental management system
- steps to take to reduce costs and lower your greenhouse gas emissions.

This also ties in strongly with our Sustainable Fingal program.

Business Advice Clinics and Mentoring

Business Advice Clinics and mentoring continue to be offered online. We currently have a panel of over 60 Mentors who have a wide range of Mentoring skills including Finance, Business Management, Social Media, Sales and Marketing, HR, Food & Drink, Social Enterprise, Design & Craft, IP & Legal Services, Technology, Green, Sustainable & Circular Economy.

The Mentor programme is designed to match the knowledge, skills, insights, and entrepreneurial capability of experienced business practitioners, with managers/owners of small businesses who need practical and strategic one-to-one advice and guidance.

In February 2021, 10 Business Advice Clinic days were held, offering advice to 89 Fingal businesses. In addition, 31 companies received one to one general and COVID-19 related mentoring.



Start Your Own Business (SYOB)

Two 10-module online SYOB Programmes commenced in February with 40 Fingal participants in attendance. All courses so far have been fully subscribed with a combined total of 60 participants attending year to date.

Business Development Workshops

LEO Fingal continues its delivery of Training programmes to support SME and Micro Enterprise clients through the current challenges. In February 330 clients availed of online training across 18 different on-line courses.

BREXIT – Meeting the Challenge



Our trading relationship with the UK has changed. Recognising that the UK is still an important market for Fingal exporters, LEO Fingal is actively helping small businesses to adapt to the impact of Brexit by providing information, customs training, advice and mentoring.

During January and February 2021, five Customs Workshops organised by LEO Fingal took place, with 130 Fingal businesses in attendance. The workshops covered the following areas: Importing/Exporting, Customs Impact,

Classification Codes, Classification Examples, Transport & Trade Documents, Understanding Customs Declarations, Customs Procedures

Food Starter

The 'Food Starter' Programme is a short intensive programme designed to help those with a food idea or those at an early stage of starting up a food business (typically the first 24 months).

The next programme is scheduled for March and is already generating interest from "Fingal Foodies".

OPERATIONS & WATER SERVICES

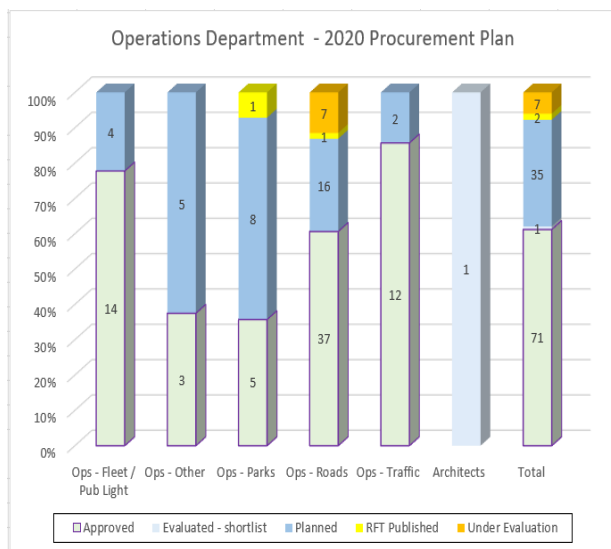
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9. Road Opening Licences
10. Water Services

1. Works Programmes

Procurement

Status	Ops - Fleet /	Ops - Other	Ops - Parks	Ops - Roads	Ops - Traffic	Architects	Total
Approved	14	3	5	37	12		71
Evaluated - shortlist						1	1
Under Evaluation				7			7
RFT Published			1	1			2
Planned	4	5	8	16	2		35
Total	18	8	14	61	14	1	116



Swords/Balbriggan/Rush Lusk Area

Road Works Programme 2021

On the 11th of February 2021, the 2021 Road Works Programme for the Swords/Balbriggan Area was adopted by the elected members.

The 2021 Roads Programme proposes to deliver on a total of 36 road and footpath related projects accumulating to a total value of €2.23 M.

Drainage Works

The Operations Department has continued to carry out drainage improvement works at various locations across the County. Works were recently carried out in O'Briens Lane which will alleviating localised flooding that has been a reoccurring problem in that area.



Advanced Trench Reinstatement Audits

In accordance with the 2020 Departmental Circular RW 05/2020 Fingal County Council are carrying out monitoring inspections on a number of utility providers carrying out essential works within the functional area of Fingal. The purposes of the inspections are to ensure all reinstatement works are been carried out in compliance with Departmental Standards and where necessary issue defect notices to any non-compliant licence holders.



Ward River Valley Park – Vegetation Removal in Ushers Lake Area to assist with access to accommodate conservation works to sensitive architectural features

Over the last week a series of vegetation removal works have been carried out in the new section of the Ward River Valley Park. It was required to remove 125m of heavy laurel and bramble vegetation in order to commence conservation works on the sensitive architectural features such as the Brick Arch in the images below.



The 'Brick Arch' is currently on a very unsuitable walking and BMX bike route which is putting this very sensitive architectural feature in danger of imminent collapse. In order to close off the area around this old Arch and alternative woodland access was required. The 125m of vegetation removed will provide a woodland floor quality access route only. It will be very difficult to provide anything more than this until a full drainage study is carried out to facilitate planning of more standardised stone pathways. The entire lowland grass area is a flood plane so any pathways proposed must be carefully planned and designed to withstand the flooding conditions experienced over the last few months.



Before Removal 23rd February 2021



After Removal 24th February 2021

Fishery Harbour and Coastal Development Programme 2021

The Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine has invited Local Authorities to submit applications to be included in the 2021 Fishery Harbour and Coastal Improvement Programme. Fingal County Council are currently surveying prospective works with the view to further building on works completed in 2021. Fingal County Council will be submitting their application to the Department by the 5th of March 2021.

New born calves at Newbridge Demesne

The staff at Newbridge farm greeted two new arrivals this week, an Irish Moiled Female heifer calf (brown & White) and a Kerry Cow male bull calf (black), both are thriving in their new home.



Castleknock/Mulhuddart Area

Crews have attended to a large amount of essential and emergency tree works due to high winds during February:





Essential works to improve pedestrian access on the avenue into St. Catherine's Park has commenced, this will assist residents with accessing the park and help alleviate parking issues.



Extensive clearance work has been carried out on the stream in Tyrrelstown Park



Roots of a fallen tree, Millennium Park

Essential tree works carried out in Blanchardstown Village & Castleknock Village



Howth Malahide Area

2021 Programme of Works

At the Area Committee Meeting, on the 3rd February 2021, the 2021 Programme of Works for the Howth Malahide area was adopted by the Elected members. The wide-ranging Programme delivers €1.567 million Euro worth of works in the Howth Malahide Administrative Area under the following technical areas: Traffic Management Schemes, Drainage Works, Public Lighting Schemes and Projects in Parks & Open Spaces.



Summary			
Item	Description		Budget
1	Restoration Improvement Grant		€305,000
2	Restoration Maintenance		€400,000
3	Special Works Programme		€445,000
4	Traffic Management Schemes		€250,000
5	Parks and Open Spaces		€134,000
6	Public Lighting		€33,000
		TOTAL	€1,567,000

Depot Works 2021

The Howth Malahide area depot staff continue to carry out emergency works as normal to deliver essential services. Regular works will progress once the level 5 Covid 19 restrictions have been lifted. Work has commenced on the tendering for the materials and equipment required to deliver the 2021 Works Programme.

The restrictions have unfortunately had an effect on the delivery of the winter works schedule. Tree pruning, hedge cutting and other vegetation works have been delayed. The nesting season is due to commence on the 1st March and this work will be postponed until after it.



Gritting truck collecting a load before deployment in icy conditions in February



Howth Malahide Area Cleansing staff in action



Abandoned boat removal works were carried out in Malahide

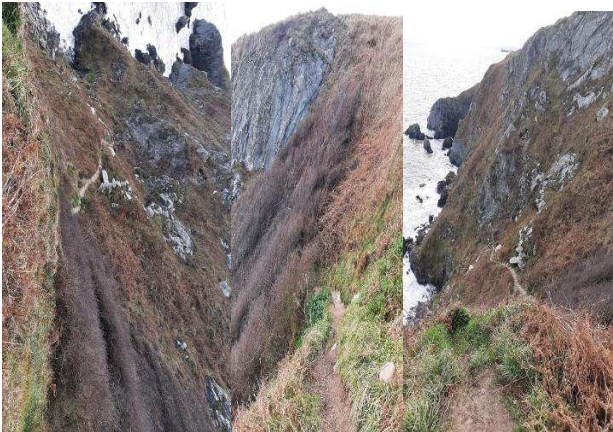
Advance Preparation for Summer '21

Due to Covid 19 restrictions, people are not expected to be travelling abroad during summer 2021. Increased usage is expected at Fingal amenities and facilities and all facilities need to be reinforced to facilitate the influx of residents and

visitors to Fingal. Advance inspections have been carried out at all beaches, playgrounds, parks & open spaces, looped pathways, car parks, reinforced overflow parking areas, and access routes to amenities. A list of works has been generated as a result of the inspections and the Howth Malahide area team is working hard to implement the works identified.



Works carried out at Burrow Beach access routes in preparation for summer 2021



Photos of landslide which occurred on path Howth. Remedial works to follow

Malahide Demesne

During the month of February there were a number of different weather conditions.



Many seasons in one month at the Castle



Footfall counters which installed at various locations are closely monitored for amenity use. The highest ever daily footfall during the month of February was recorded on the 22nd February 2021. 12,000 visitors to Malahide Demesne was reached during the recent fine weather

Butterfly House Special Report

Plans are underway to carry out heating upgrade works to the Butterfly House in the Cambridge Glasshouse in the Walled Garden at Malahide Castle. The Butterfly House is currently closed to visitors however the butterflies continue to reproduce under the watchful care of Malahide Demesne staff and despite the drop in temperatures.



Big Owl butterfly laying eggs Swallowtail butterfly feeding
Both captured in Malahide Butterfly House



Extremely rare sight - Heliconian butterflies mating in the Butterfly house

Walled Garden & Castle Works



Replacing lights in Malahide Castle Walled Garden



Ivy removal at Malahide Castle to facilitate structural works

2. Managed Car Parking Services

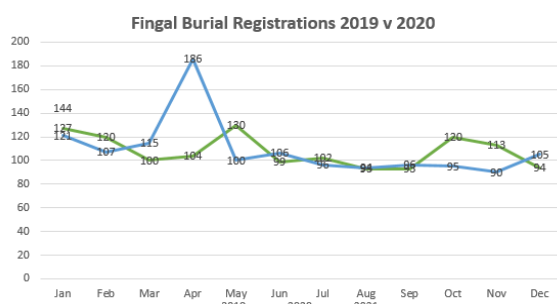
Additional Parking Enforcement measures continued on a Countywide basis in February 2021, focusing on specific areas where reports of illegal parking have been recorded. The Fingal County Council Parking Control Bye Laws 2020 provide for additional parking enforcement of illegal parking throughout the County.

Between 1st February to 20th February a total of 78 Warning Notices and 16 Fixed Charge Penalty Notices were issued to vehicles illegally parked outside of Paid Parking Areas for offences including parking on footpaths, parking on Double Yellow Lines and parking without a permit in designated Blue Permit Parking bays.

3. Burial Ground Services

The Operations Department are continuing to administer and monitor, delivery to ensure business continuity for Fingal's Burial Ground Service. There was a 16 percent increase in the number of burial registrations in the County in January 2021, in comparison to the same period in 2020. Essential maintenance works at the burial grounds continued during February

Month	2019	2020	2021
Jan	127	121	144
Feb	120	107	
Mar	100	115	
Apr	104	186	
May	130	100	
Jun	99	106	
Jul	102	96	
Aug	93	94	
Sep	93	96	
Oct	120	95	
Nov	113	90	
Dec	94	105	
Total	1295	1311	

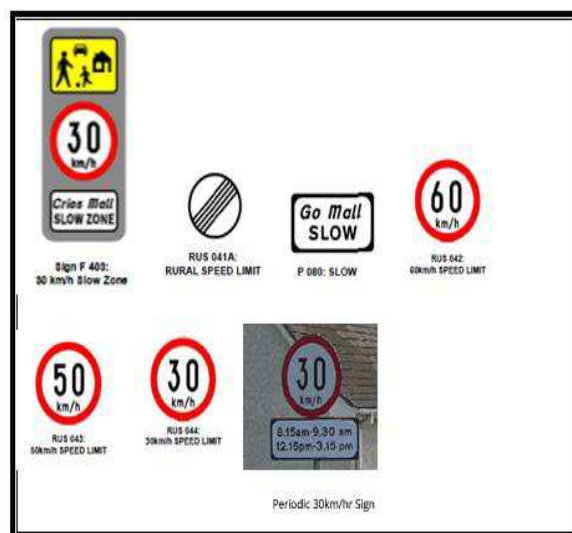


Drainage remediation works carried out at Fingal Burial Ground

4. Traffic Operations (County-wide)

Speed Limits Project

The Draft Speed Limit Bye-Laws for the County were presented and adopted by the full Council in February 2021. The review envisages legal speed limit changes across the county of Fingal. The majority of the work will be carried out by in-house Fingal direct labour staff. A strategy for tendering and appointment of an additional specialist contractor is being finalised by the Operations Department including the number and type of signs required. It is planned that the Speed Limit Signs including all poles and supports will be in place before September 1st 2021. Typical signs that can be expected to be installed countywide are shown below.



Typical signs to be installed

Expansion of Fingal County Councils Duct infrastructure

Work is ongoing, both internally and through 3rd parties, throughout the county, to progress strategic locations where ducting can be installed to add to FCC's Fibre Optic network allowing interconnectivity of Fingal's assets.

Traffic Contract Work 2021 (County-wide)

Preparation of contracts including but not limited to the following will be prepared and undertaken by the Section in 2021:

- Ramps Contract (County-wide)
- New Signals Installation (County-wide)
- Vehicle Activated Signs Contract (County-wide)
- Traffic Signage Contract (County-wide)

Ramps Contract 2021 (County Wide)

Approval was given by the members at the various ACM's meeting in February for 2021 Programme of Works which include for a total of 31 traffic calming ramps. Work now will begin in preparing the work requirement for the Ramps Contract 2021. The Ramp Drawings for each location will also start now as these will be used as part of the consultation process for the installation of new ramps under Section 38 of the Road traffic Act 1994.

Fingal County Council Ramps Contract 2021 - Ramps Locations	No.
Baldoyle/Sutton/Malahide	
New Ramps	
Carrickbrack Hill - Asphalt Speed cushions x 4 (2 sets)	2
Greenfields Road by St Sabinas School - Bus friendly flat top ramps x 2	2
Repair Ramps	
St Fintans road -Sutton asphalt speed cushions by 2 (1 set)	1
Castleknock/Mulhuddart	
Replace/Repair Ramps	
Tyrellstown - Replace modular with in-situ asphalt speed cushions by 5 (1 set)	5
Fortlawn Park - Replace with new ramps	4
Swords/Balbriggan	
New Ramps	
Beavertown Road, Donabate - Standard round top ramp x 2	2
Forest Road, Swords - Bus friendly flat top ramps x 2	2
Rolestown Village 50kmh - Standard round top ramp x 2	2
Brackenstown Road - Standard round top ramp x 2	2
Carr's Mill Estate - Standard round top ramp x 2	2
Park Road at Kenure Park/Kenure Gate, Rush - Standard round top ramp x 2	2
L-1275-0 at Scoil Moibhí (Milverton National School, Margaretstown, Skerries, Co. Dublin) -	3

Subject to Speed Limit changes - Standard round top ramp x 2	
Repair Ramps	
Various locations x 2	2
Total Number of Ramps	31

Traffic Contract Work (County-wide)

Some works completed by the Section in February 2021:



Newly commissioned pedestrian signals on the Back Road Malahide



Civil works now complete for the Pedestrian Crossing at Naul GAA ground.

Awaiting lining and ESB connection.



The New Pedestrian Crossing on Park Road was commissioned in February.

Update on Manorfields Roundabout raised Zebra Crossings

The three-number raised Zebra Crossings on each arm on the Manorfields roundabout, were fully commissioned and made operational on the 18th February 2021.



The New Zebra Crossings on the Manorfield roundabout.

5. Bridge Rehabilitation

Fingal Bridges Rehabilitation Programme 2021-2023

A Single party Framework Tender was advertised in Etenders on 22nd of January 2021 for the procurement of consultants for the 2021 – 2023 FCC bridge stock repair programme. Last date for tenderers queries was 15th of February. Next steps

will be the tender submissions, evaluation of tenders, 2 weeks stand still period and the award of contract is estimated to be on 29th of March 2021.

Principal Inspections at 60 of Fingal Bridges

The procurement process for engaging Consulting Engineers to carry out 60 no. Principal Inspections on Fingal Bridges has been completed. The Consultant commenced the Principal inspections on 25th of January 2021 and work is continuing. Inspections are estimated to be completed by first week of March 2021.

Emergency Works following partial bridge deck collapse

External Consulting Engineers who are experienced bridge specialists are carrying out emergency structural assessments at several pedestrian bridges across the County following on from a partial bridge deck collapse at Vauxhall Street Footbridge in Balbriggan. The bridge has been closed off to the public whilst work is in progress. The other pedestrian bridges are all located in Swords and remain open on the advice of the specialists. Work is also ongoing on procurement of a TOPO& GPR surveying contractor for these bridges. The Swords bridges are all located on the R132 at Pavillions, Seatown Roundabout and Estuary Roundabout.

Rehabilitation of Curragh, Curragh West & Clonsaugh, Church Road Bridge, Blanchardstown, Wyanstown Bridge & Wimbletown Bridge

Snagging is underway at the completed bridge works.



Curragh Bridge

Church Road Bridge



Wyanstown Bridge



Wimbletown Bridge

Emergency bridge repairs (4 bridges- One contract) at Rallekaystown, Old Yellow Walls Bridge Malahide, Ratharten, Rowlestown

These four emergency bridge repairs were previously advertised and awarded to the successful contractor in November 2020. Works to be completed by end of March 2021.



Old Yellow Walls Bridge, Malahide



Rallekaystown, Lusk



Rowlestown Culvert wall repair



Ratharten East, Lusk

Royal Oak Santry Footbridge, Effelstown and Ratharten Bridges Rehabilitation

The contractor is due to complete the works including snagging by end of February 2021.



Santry Footbridge repairs and new railings

6. Fleet Management & Plant Hire Unit

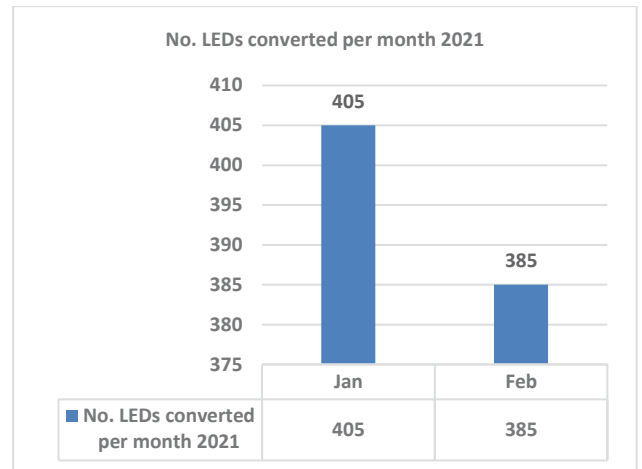
Fleet management

Fingal County Council purchased the following Fully Electric Vehicles

- 4 fully electric Goupil Utility vehicles to replace 4 diesel vans in the Demesnes.
- 7.5 ton eCanter tipper truck. This is the 1st fully electric 7.5 ton tipper truck in the Republic of Ireland.



Airside Industrial Estate, Seatown Road East...Swords



The Martello Tower in Rush is floodlit to enhance the night time visual streetscape as you enter Rush Village. As part of its on-call service to the Council contractors are called out to a dangerous incident on the R132 on the morning of Saturday 13th February.

Plant Hire

There were 71 hires put in place from 1st February – 26th February 2021, engaging 17 suppliers.

Hires include:

- CCTV Pipe surveying equipment in Cappagh Road & Swords
- Vermeer BC000XL trailer mounted Woodchipper – Xmas Trees Fancourt

7. Street Lighting LED Programme

In February the LED Upgrade Program saw 385 LED Upgrade works carried out in the following locations:-

- Old Balbriggan Road, Quay Street, R132 Courtlough...Balbriggan
- Abbey Park, Marian Park...Baldoye
- Blanchardstown Road North Extension, Snugborough Road Extension...Blanchardstown
- Skerries Road...Lusk
- Shielmartin Road, St Fintans Crescent, St Fintans Park...Sutton



Martello Tower Rush

R132 Swords

As the Fingal fleet continues to be converted from diesel to fully electric works are carried out installing extra electric charging points at the Watery Lane depot in Swords and Malahide Demesne depot in Malahide. Lighting is installed in Watery Lane at the same time to aid with night time washing of Fingal's gritting vehicles.

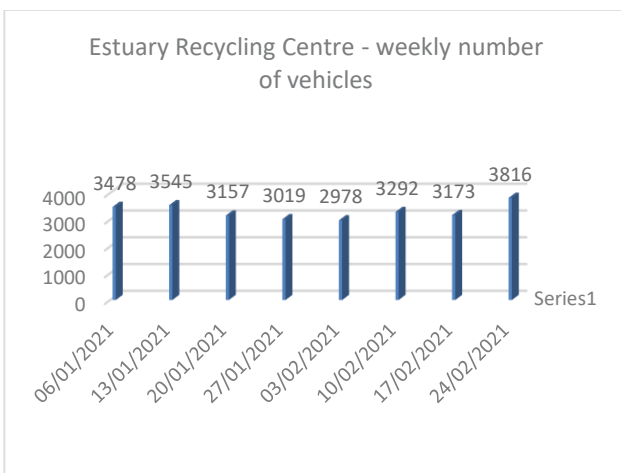
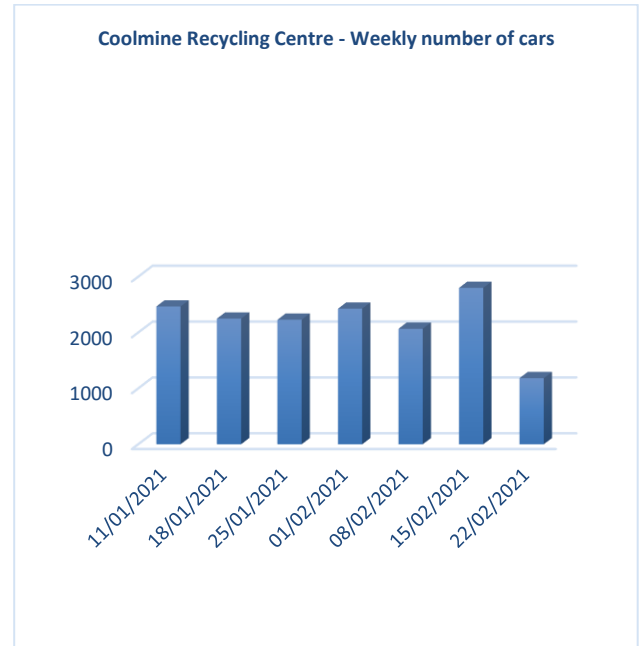


Watery Lane Swords EV & Lighting



Malahide Demesne Depot

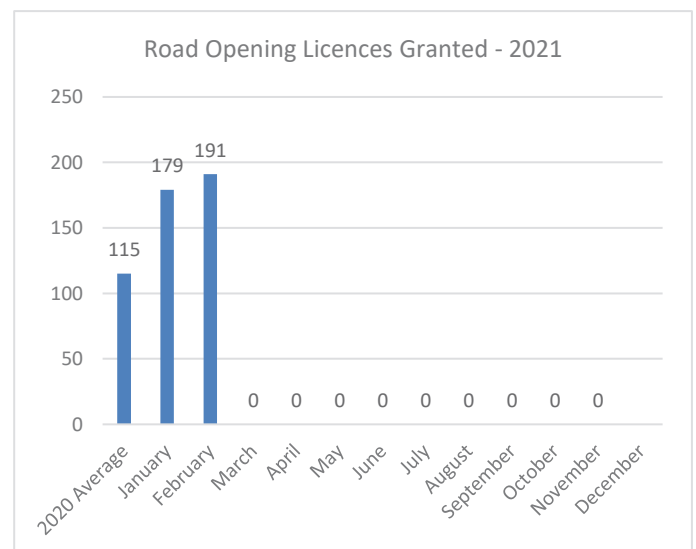
8. Recycling Centres Update

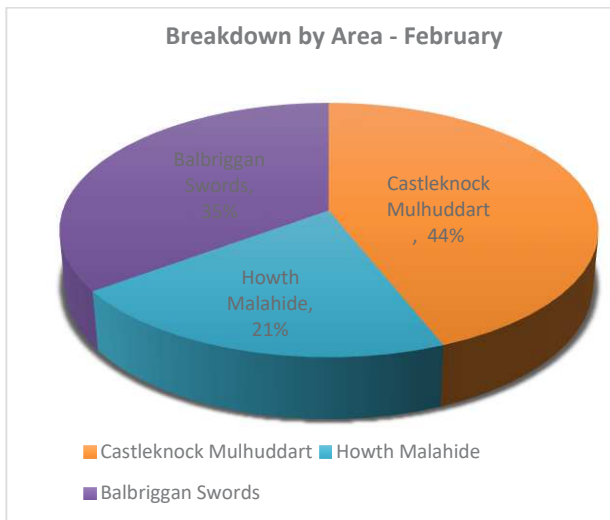
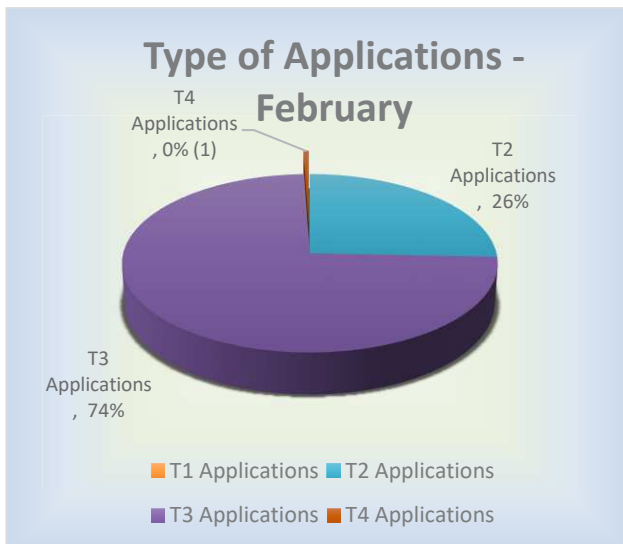


9. Road Opening Licences

The Licensing unit continues to process and manage the licensing system for the County, licences are allocated to each area for examination and conditioning including reviews of temporary traffic management plans and grass verge and tree inspections where necessary. Road Opening licences are a cross functional process for the department and is essential for the asset management of Fingal County Council Road network.

242 applications have been received for licences during February 2021 and 191 granted.





T1 Application: The T1 is not a licence. It is notification of intent to perform works of high impact due to extent or complexity.

T2 Applications: An application to carry out works of moderate impact due to the location, extent, amount or duration of the work.

T3 Applications: An application to carry out works of low impact due to the location, extent, amount or duration of the work. A T3 licence requires a short application period and does not require a works programme notification

T4 Applications: A notification of emergency works (as defined under legislation). Notification must occur at the time or as soon as possible after commencement and works must be carried out during a limited time period.

- **Warrenhouse Road Closure Jan/Feb 2021**

A new water main is being constructed along R809 Warrenhouse Road in Baldoyle. Works commenced on the section of this new pipeline beneath the railway crossing on 18th January 2021, with works scheduled for completion on 05th February 2021. This phase of works is complex and in order to complete the works safely, the southbound lane of the R809 Warrenhouse Road is required to be closed for 3 weeks.

- **Swords Pipeline – Irish Water/John Craddock – Road Closures**

Major infrastructure works remain scheduled for January 11th through April 2021 affecting Swords Main Street junction with the R106 and the R106/Malahide Road up to Mountgorry roundabout (Applegreen). Road Closures will be in effect for 3 months in sections along this route. Following this finishing works (i.e. Swabbing, Testing, Chlorination, Commissioning) are scheduled for April 2021 and will include lane closures with traffic management in place.

- **Stamullen to Balbriggan (on the R132) Foul Sewer Rising Main Pipeline**

Fingal County Council road engineers are in ongoing discussions with Irish Water on programme of works for the 2.1Km Installation of Twin Rising Mains on the R132 from Delvin Bridge to Cardy Rock, Balbriggan. Works are due to commence in March of 2021. A T2 licence has been applied and granted for a section of the works in January.

- **Loughshinny Foul Sewer Rising Mains.**

Irish Water 1.5Km Installation of a Rising Mains on Harbour road and Mine Road is ongoing. Works begun on Phase 1 in Loughshinny Car park in September.. Road closure on Mine Road was in place for January 2021 as part of Phase 2. This was received in November and TMP's was agreed with Irish Water.

The 150mm Ductile Iron Foul Sewer rising main installation on Harbour Road is now Completed.

In February Irish Water works started on the R128 at Mine Road and travel north for 700meters. There will be Traffic Management in place for the duration of the works. All works is licenced under the MRL system.



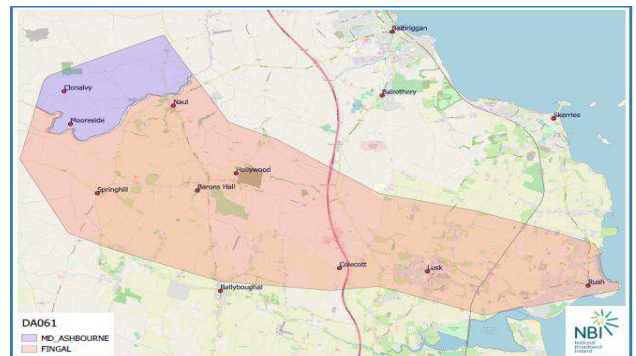
Works on the Foul Sewer Rising Mains progressed onto the R128 Road in Mid-February with works progressing well.

- Skerries Water Mains – Irish water has now completed the current phase of water rehab works on the Dublin Road and Millers Lane with both roads resurfaced works completed in Mid-December.
- National Broadband Ireland – Non-intrusive survey works which began in September 2020 in the Skerries and Balbriggan area (as per map below) as part of the Governments National Broadband Project is proceeding well with Map Road Licences currently been issued for the survey works. This will inform the civil works which will be required to roll out the Broadband Project. National Broadband Ireland envisages that a T1 for the Civil Works in the Skerries and Balbriggan Area will be submitted in Early 2021 with civil works starting soon after.



National Broadband Ireland Survey Area for Skerries and Balbriggan

A T1 teams meeting took place in February with National Broadband Ireland in relation to Civil Works and non-intrusive survey works for the Naul Rush Lusk Area (as per map below) as part of the Governments National Broadband Project is currently taking place with Map Road Licences been applied for the survey works. This will inform the civil works which will be required to roll out the Broadband Project. Civil Works in the Naul Rush Lusk Area will be starting when surveying works is completed.



National Broadband Ireland Survey Area for Naul, Rush and Lusk

10. Water Services

Water production and distribution, waste water collection, treatment & disposal continue to be provided as agreed in the Service Level Agreement with Irish Water.

The Council continue to have responsibility for the Storm Water Network

Storm Water (surface water) Network – Operations
Operation and maintenance of the stormwater network is ongoing, in line with Covid 19 restrictions.

Works are currently being undertaken in Castleknock, along Main Street to rectify identified issues in the storm water network. These works will address flooding issues in the immediate area.

Storm Water (surface water) Network – Projects

A number of storm water projects are currently being progressed:

- Burrow Beach Surface Water Outfall Pipeline Repair
Scope: This project is to replace the damaged anchor system for the pipeline
Status: Design stage
- Beaverstown Storm Water Pumping Station Upgrade
Scope: Upgrade the existing pumping station
Status: Initialising project and establishing project objectives
- Howth Surface Water Culvert Replacement
Scope: Prepare a design to replace the existing surface water culvert

Status: Preparing tender documents for consultancy services

Irish Water – Towards a National Publicly-Owned, Regulated, Water Services Utility

The Government's Policy Paper on Water Sector Transformation, entitled *Irish Water – Towards a National, Publicly-Owned, Regulated, Water Services Utility* was published on Tuesday 23rd February 2021.

The paper and accompanying press release are available at www.gov.ie/housing. All new publications appear on the homepage under the Publications heading.

The paper sets out the Government's approach to water sector transformation including addressing Irish Water as the Single Public Utility.

The Council will continue to work to implement Government policy in regard to water.

Communication with Irish Water for Elected Representatives

The Local Representative Support Desk

- Make contact at localrepsupport@water.ie or by phone at **1890 178 178**. Staff are available Monday – Friday from 9am to 5.30pm to deal with queries from elected representatives about any topic related to Irish Water.
- Outside these hours, the 24/7 customer care line is available for urgent queries at **1850 278 278**
- Irish Water Planned Works - Irish Water Regional Communications team provide regular updates concerning upcoming projects in the area and planned works which may cause disruption to customers. Regularly updates on the website at <https://www.water.ie/water-supply/supply-and-service-update/#>

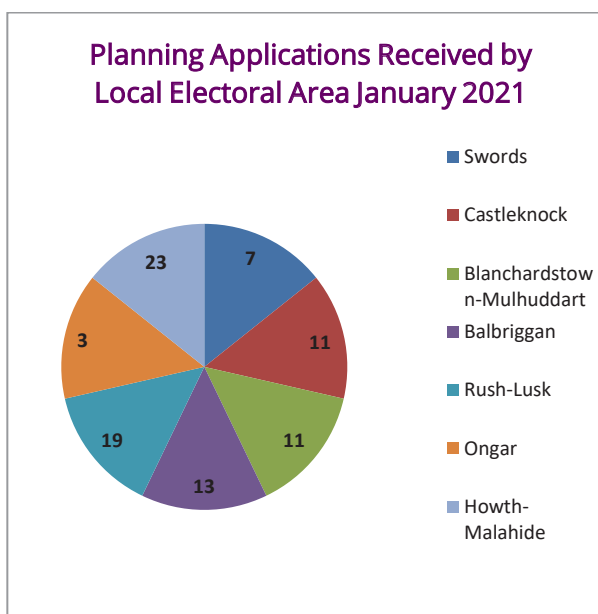
PLANNING AND STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE (PSI)

Contents	
Planning Applications	Parks and Green Infrastructure Division
Planning Decisions	All Weather Pitch Facility – Ward River Valley Park
Building Control Admin	New Park and Playgrounds Proposals
Strategic Policy Unit	All Weather Running Track – Porterstown Park
Fingal Development Plan	Forest of Fingal – Consultation on revised Tree Strategy
Heritage Office	Transportation Planning
Built Environment Division	Hole in the Wall Road Upgrade
Development Management/Forward Planning (Water Services)	Sustainable Swords
Building Control/Taking in Charge	Dunsink Feasibility Study
	Turvey Avenue Footpath Enhancement
	Royal Canal Greenway
	Snugborough Interchange Upgrade Project
	Dart + West

Planning Applications

There have been 87 planning applications received to the end of January 2021, 4 of these applications were invalid leaving a total of 83 valid applications. The volume of applications received by Local Electoral Area (LEA) is detailed in the table below.

To date in 2021, 0 Strategic Housing Development (SHD) applications were made to An Bord Pleanála. No decisions were made by the Board in January 2021. There are a total of 3 SHDs (848 units) currently in the formal application process.



Planning Decisions

A total of 116 planning decisions have been made to the end of January 2021. There have been 100 decisions to grant permission (86%) and 16 refusals of permission (14%). There have been 8 grants of permissions in respect of single house construction, 68 grants of permission for domestic extensions, 22 commercial/retail grants of permission and 1 grant of permission in respect of housing developments of which related to development of 50 - 100 housing units.

Building Control Admin

In January 2021, there were 11 Disability Access Certificates applications submitted, of these 3 have been granted.

In January 2021 there were 17 Fire Safety Certificates applications submitted, of these 1 was invalidated. There were 3 Revised Fire Safety Certificates applications submitted and there were also 2 Regularisation Certificates applications submitted.

A total of 117 building control decisions were made in January 2021, this includes decisions that were made on applications submitted pre 2021 in addition to the decisions that were made on

applications submitted in January. This is made up of 32 decisions to grant, 1 invalid, 2 amendments and 82 extensions of time.

Building Control Fire Safety, Disability Access, Regularisation and Dispensation/Relaxation Certificate applications can be submitted online via the new BCMS applications module. We are also still accepting hard copy applications directly into the office until such time as the legislation is signed into effect, although there has been a marked increase in agents utilising the online system.

Strategic Policy Unit

Fingal Development Plan

The Development Plan is a statutory document and, as per the Planning & Development Acts, Fingal County Council must review the existing Development Plan and prepare a new one. This process will begin with the first round of public consultation on 12th March 2021. The Plan will set out the strategic spatial vision and future direction for the county over a six-year period from 2023 to 2029. The Development Plan will build on our previous successes and investment and our strategic advantages as a County. We will maximise the strengths of our citizens, communities, built and natural heritage, infrastructure and tourism to their full potential.

In advance of the first round of consultation, three information sessions have taken place with the Elected Members, focusing on the existing Development Plan, the process of making a Development Plan and Environmental Assessments.

A further session will take place this week in relation to the Record of the Protected Structures and the Development Plan and lastly one on the Strategic Issues Papers will be organised for mid-March.

Heritage Office

A meeting of Fingal Heritage Forum was held on Tuesday 26 January 2021. Presentations were made on the Development Plan process by Roisin Burke, a/Senior Planner; Creative Ireland & the Decade of Centenaries by Tricia Matthews, Economic, Enterprise, Tourism & Cultural Development and LAWPRO & Fingal by Community Water Officer, Thomas Carolan. It was agreed the Heritage Officer would scope *Legacies of Conflict* project to explore the physical, social and memorial legacies of conflicts in Fingal between 1914 and 1945.

The Heritage Officer presented on the *Fingal Cultural Heritage & Climate Change Risk Assessment* project to the planning team for the implementation of the Climate Change Adaptation Sectoral Plan for Built and Archaeological Heritage on 4 February 2021. The meeting was opening by Minister Malcolm Noonan and the work in Fingal received as a valuable pilot project.

The Heritage Officer network has worked together to review the draft *National Heritage Plan - Heritage Ireland 2030*, relaunch the *Gardening for Biodiversity* books and produce a *Spring into Heritage* bucket list as part of the national *Keep Well and Love your Heritage* campaigns.





Built Environment Division

1. Development Management/Forward Planning (Water Services)

Development Management

- Our work as internal consultee on planning applications continues remotely and has resulted in 52 reports being prepared in January 2021.
- Pre-planning consultations – During January, staff from Planning (Water Services) have engaged in discussions with developers at pre-planning stage to discuss issues related to the provision of water services and to ensure the implementation of flood risk management and sustainable drainage systems on site. These meetings have also included discussions on drainage and flood risk management relating to economic development, including pharma and logistics development and also to strategic infrastructure project, such as Bus Connects & MetroLink.
- SHDs – staff are engaged as internal consultees in discussion on approx. 20no. SHD applications

Flood Risk Assessments/ Drainage Strategies

- FCC staff are currently managing the preparation of Surface Water Management Plans to inform Belcamp LAP, Dunsink Masterplan and the Balbriggan Masterplan.
- FCC staff are currently assessing tenders for the preparation of a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for the upcoming County Development Plan.
- Fingal's new Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) guidance document entitled "Green Blue Infrastructure Guidance Document 2020" is providing the structure for the design and implementation of SUDS on all new developments and works in Fingal's administrative area.

Irish Water

- Staff continue to liaise with Irish water regarding existing constraints within the water/wastewater networks and identifying solutions to resolve.
- Connection and Developer Services – staff continue to provide a planning review of water/wastewater connection applications on behalf of Irish Water with 13no. applications processed requiring Water Services planning during January with an average turnaround of 3.7 working days.

Building Control/Taking in Charge

Building Control

- COVID19 crisis - Works continuing on a number of sites where buildings were close to completion and those sites authorised through legislation – Covid Commencement Notices.
- BCMS – CNs for 91 units received in January and 30 Completion Certificates processed. Building Control Site inspection for January is at 12.7% of new buildings. Almost all DAC, FSC and Dispensations are now coming through electronically via the BCMS applications module.
- Enforcement – Section 11 notices used to ensure the correct information is been

submitted at Completion stage and several Completion Certificates were invalidated due to non-compliances with the Building Regulations.

Taking in Charge

- Warren Lodge in Sutton was formally Taken in Charge at the full Council meeting in February.
- We have 41 Developments with formal TIC requests and a further 286 developments on our system, of which 62 are likely to remain private.
- Phase 1 Tender for TIC works on the following estates - Chieftain's way, Martello, New Haven Bay is now on etenders with the closing date of 3rd March.

Dangerous Structures

- We currently have 41 active dangerous structures. There were no new notifications in January.
- On Portrane Beach, our Contractor completed the works of re-aligning and raising the Seabees to their optimum position. In general, the affected residents were encouraged by the works and were very appreciative that the works were complete before the spring high tides.



Parks and Green Infrastructure Division

All-weather Pitch facility and car park at Ward River Valley Park, Swords

Enabling works have been carried out on the site of the new all-weather sports pitch at Ward River Valley Regional Park in Swords. The new third generation synthetic all-weather pitch will be a full sized GAA & Soccer pitch, similar to the facility at Bremore Regional Park in Balbriggan. The new floodlight facility will be accompanied by car, coach and bicycle parking to service the needs of the pitch users and to improve access to the park.

The first phase of works saw contractors carrying out limited removal of some screen tree planting to facilitate works and create space for the pitch. Following consultation with the public, care was taken with the layout of the pitch to ensure that the landmark mature tree on site could be retained.



Landmark Mature Ash Tree

As part of the overall project new native woodland and hedgerow will be planted adjacent to the new facility in addition to further planting associated with the proposed car park.

Due to the presence of an underground foul sewer running under part of the facility, the requirements of Irish Water in this regard are being negotiated and a CCTV survey of the pipe was arranged to inform discussions.



Specialist contractors setting up for the CCTV survey at Ward Rivervalley Park

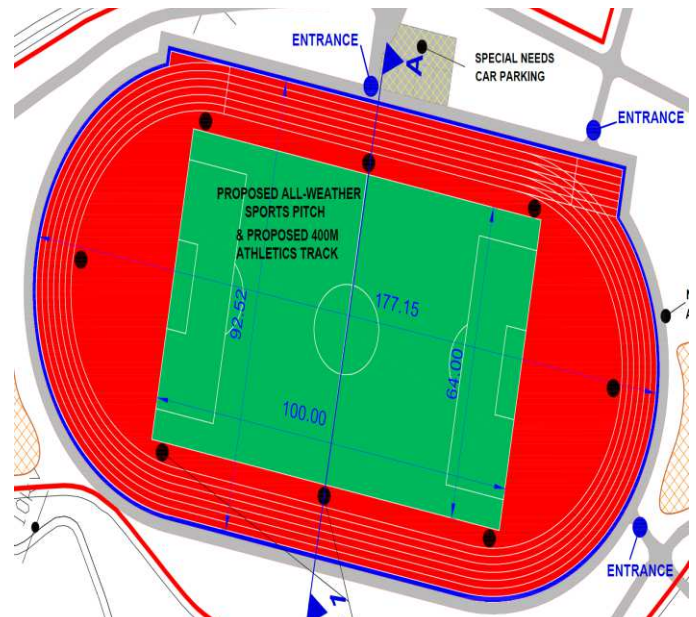
Construction works for the pitch are scheduled to start later this year and the new facility will become a valuable sporting amenity for the people of Swords and wider area.

New Park and playground proposals for Lanesborough, The Naul, Garristown and Howth.



Work continues on the development of proposals for a village park in the Naul, a public playground at Howth Seafront, a garden incorporating a public play space at Garristown Library and a park development project incorporating play provision for Lanesborough Park. The goal of this project is to engage with the key stakeholders at each location to produce an exemplar project that addresses and provides a balanced response to the challenges while recognising and cultivating the unique character and context of each site. The survey, analysis and information gathering phase of the project is almost complete and the proposals will be brought through the Part 8 planning process in 2021.

All-weather Running Track & Sports Pitch Facility, Porterstown



Due to the highly specialised nature of this project (in particular the running track element) a Prior Information Notice (PIN) was published to invite submissions from economic operators with relevant expertise and capability. The notice was also featured in the Sports and Play Construction Association (SAPCA) newsletter. Work continues on the client brief and detailed works requirements and it is anticipated that the first stage of the tender process to compile a shortlist of suitable firms will begin in coming months.

Forest of Fingal – Consultation on revised Tree Strategy



Forest of Fingal

A Tree Strategy for Fingal

Comhairle Contae
 Fhine Gall
 Fingal County Council

Fingal County Council invites you to online Information and Q&A Sessions:

Wednesday 10 th February	19.00hrs
Thursday 18 th February	19.00hrs
Saturday 6 th March	16.00hrs

Contact LibrariesHQ@fingal.ie to register your interest

As part of the consultation process of the revised Tree Strategy, a series of public Webinars have been scheduled throughout February and March.

Two evening sessions have taken place to date, with the final session scheduled for Saturday 6th March at 4pm to facilitate those with limited availability during the week. Promotion and registration for the event was kindly carried out by Fingal Libraries.

Public consultation is running up to and including the end of National Tree Week, on the 28th March. The draft material can be viewed at <https://consult.fingal.ie/en/consultation/forest-fingal-tree-strategy-fingal> where submissions are actively encouraged.

Transportation Planning

Hole in the Wall Road Upgrade



On 1st February, SIAC and Fingal County Council's resident engineering staff remobilised to site on this essential works project. Works on the roadway, cycle tracks, footpaths, flood defences and the bridge to carry the new road over the River Mayne can be seen in the attached photos. The

temporarily diverted River Mayne can also be clearly seen running around the bridge works site.



Sustainable Swords

Work has commenced on the significant transport assessment element of the Sustainable Swords project. The initial baselines studies are underway, with traffic data collection and review of existing studies ongoing to gain an understanding in more detail of the existing and desired demand for travel in and around Swords. Following that, various interventions will be developed to meet the project objectives. Consultation with the NTA and other stakeholders including elected members and local residents and businesses will form an integral part of this project.

Dunsink Feasibility Study

An Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA) will shortly commence on the Dunsink lands to support a planning and land use feasibility study to look at the potential to develop the lands, in support of Fingal Development Plan Objective Blanchardstown 13. The transport study will include assessments of road and sustainable transport patterns and travel demand, including multi-modal interchanges from existing and proposed transport infrastructure, with a particular focus on sustainable modes such as walking, cycling, rail and bus thereby enabling enhanced accessibility for the wider area.

Turvey Avenue Footpath Enhancement

The P&SI project team responsible for delivering the project are finalising arrangements with Fingal County Council's Property Services division in order to commence a CPO process to acquire lands necessary for construction of the new footpath. The P&SI project team will be engaging with affected landowners within the coming weeks to agree and document works affecting their property boundaries. The CPO process is expected to commence in the coming weeks.

Royal Canal Greenway

Stakeholder engagement on this project is underway and include Irish Rail, Waterways Ireland, elected representatives and An Garda Síochána. Alongside that, a series of online project update briefings will be undertaken with local residents' association groups in the next month. Following that, it is intended to undertake a wider non-statutory public consultation on the emerging preferred route in April.

Snugborough Interchange Upgrade Project

Bam Contractors Ltd has formally been appointed to construct this project. Given the critical nature of the active travel and utilities elements of this project, the works have been designated as

essential by Fingal County Council and site works will start on site from the 8th of March, although it is not envisaged that large-scale engineering works will commence until sometime after that. A recent online Teams meeting was undertaken by the P&SI project team with the local elected members to introduce key scheme personnel and discuss project issues.

Dart + West

Discussions and consultations are continuing with Iarnród Éireann and their design team relating to the proposed Dart + West proposals. FCC are continuing to outline to Iarnród Éireann the position from Fingal County Council's perspective and Iarnród Éireann have committed to reviewing certain elements taking on board the concerns and advices of FCC. The project is being designed to take account of the various local schemes along the route which are being developed by Fingal County Council such as the Ongar Barnhill Link Road, Kellystown Road and the Royal Canal Greenway.

HOUSING

Housing

Supply

Asset Management

Support

Tenancy Services

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Fingal County Council has appointed a developer to deliver the first affordable housing scheme in the county in 11 years at Dun Emer, Lusk. Ó Cualann Cohousing Alliance will oversee the construction of 51 homes, of which 39 will be affordable and 12 will be social housing.



The affordable homes will be available to eligible first-time purchases at prices that will be around 25% below their market value. The 39 units will be a mixture of two-bedroom apartments, three-bedroom duplexes, three-bedroom terraced and three-bedroom semi-detached. Guide prices are set out below;

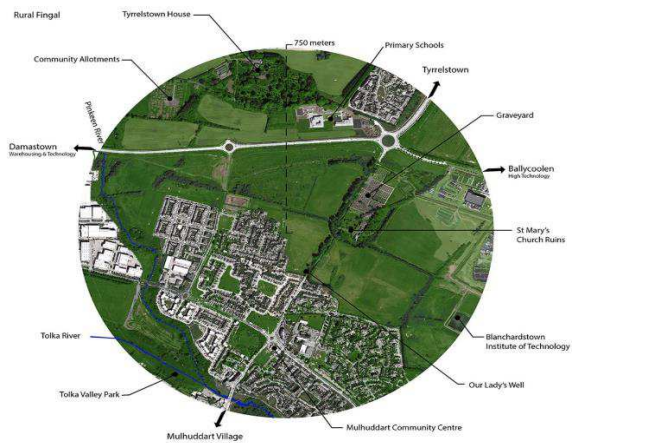
DWELLING TYPE	NUMBER	
2 Bed Apartment	8	From €166,000
3 Bed Duplex	8	From €206,000
3 Bed Terrace	15	From €250,000
3 Bed Semi	8	From €258,000

All details in relation to the affordable homes, the affordable scheme, eligibility criteria, etc. are available on the website www.fingal.ie. The site also has a Frequently Asked Questions section and additional queries can be emailed to affordablehousing@fingal.ie. Applications for the Dun Emer Affordable House Purchase Scheme will be online and details of how and when to apply will be announced in the coming weeks.

MIXED TENURE SITES

The Council is currently at pre-planning design stage on schemes that will deliver mixed tenure housing via affordable purchase, cost rental and social housing

Church Fields, Dublin 15



- Deliver approximately 1,000 mixed tenure dwellings;
- Initial 300 dwellings at design/pre-planning stage
- Construction of the new link road to commence on site in coming months
- Design of the linear park is underway

Hayestown Site, Rush



3D Views of the Proposed Development



View of main entrance from Old Road



Street view towards north units



View from main public open space towards north-east units

Comhairle Contae Fhine Gail - Boinn Na nUachtar
Fingal County Council - Architects Department

- Deliver 50 affordable purchase dwellings
- Deliver 12 dwellings for social housing purposes
- Part 8 planning process underway

Hackettstown Lands, Skerries

The Council is working closely with the Land Development Agency (LDA) to bring forward land banks located in Fingal to unlock their potential to deliver mixed tenure housing.



- The LDA propose road infrastructure upgrade which is funded through the Serviced Sites Fund.
- Plan to deliver 346 housing units of mainly affordable/cost rental and dwellings available for affordable purchase. Housing will also be provided for families in need of social housing.

Social Housing Delivery

The delivery of social housing across the county continued during 2020 despite the Covid-19 restrictions that were in place. The following table details the delivery against the targets set by the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage.

2020 Delivery

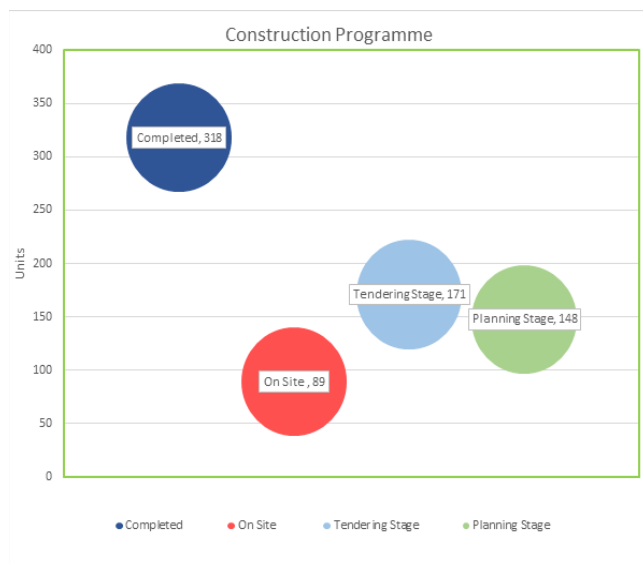
Delivery Mechanism	Target	Delivery
New Build	312	313
Leasing	90	107
Acquisitions	No target	100
HAP	No target	804
TOTAL		1,324

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage have set the 2021 social housing delivery targets for Fingal via build and leasing as follows;

2021 Delivery Targets

Delivery Mechanism	Target
Build	431
Leasing	130

Construction Programme



On Site

Church Road, Dublin 15 - Cluid Housing	65
College St. Baldoye - Cluid Housing	4
Wellview Cul de Sacs, Wellview, D15	20

Tendering Stage

Tucketts Lane, Howth	8
Cappagh, Dublin 11	69
Outlands, Swords, Co Dublin	11
Church Fields Phase 2B, Mulhuddart, D15	67
Church Road, Lusk	5

Former Leonards Garage, Lusk	10
Infill Site adjacent to 169 Clonsilla Road, D15	1

Planning Stage

Hayestown, Rush	62
Garristown - North and East Housing Association	6
Kilhedge Lane - Tuath Housing	30
Mayeston, Dublin 11	50



65 units under construction at Ladyswell, Dublin 15

Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan

Current Loan Book Value	€144, 421, 498
Loans Drawn Down under RIHL	267
Value of RIHL lending	€57.6 million
Covid-19 Agreements to Pay	128

Mortgage holders experiencing difficulties making repayments should contact the Council immediately on loans@fingal.ie and the Council will endeavour to find an individual solution with each borrower.

Rent Payments – Council Tenants

The Rent Assessment Team are available to Council tenants who have temporarily lost employment due to Covid19 crisis. Tenants may have their rent temporarily re-assessed based on Social Welfare payments until their employment situation becomes clearer. Tenants should contact the Council immediately at email; rent.assessment@fingal.ie Further details are available on the Council's website www.fingal.ie.

Private Rented Inspections

Under the current Covid-19 restrictions private rented inspections have been suspended. However, emergency inspections continue to be carried out as required.

Housing Asset Management Report

Energy Efficiency/Retrofitting Programme (Housing Circular 8/21)



The newly revised 2021 Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme is the first of a ten year programme

which is expected to grow to meet the Programme for Government retrofit commitment. This revision will require local authorities to move to a 'deeper retrofit' programme, thus building on what has been completed in previous years. The revised programme provides for significant upscaling in the level of funding available and focuses on ensuring that the fabric of the home is upgraded and an energy efficient heating system is provided.

An initial national preliminary allocation of €35m which is calculated on a stock percentage basis is being made available immediately. The preliminary allocation determined for Fingal County Council is €1,354,343 with a requirement to retrofit a minimum of 50 properties to a B2/Cost Optimal standard.

Returning Dwellings to Productive Use

The number of casual voids within social housing stock which are currently in the re-let process is as set out in the table below:-

Voids for Re-letting	At 28 th February 2021
In letting process	51
Undergoing re-let repairs	11
With County Architect for procurement of pre-let repairs	12
TOTAL	74



Planned Maintenance Programmes

Boiler Servicing

The Council provides an annual boiler servicing facility, including all maintenance and upgrade works, for a nominal fee of €3 per week to participating tenant. While the 2021 servicing programme was suspended at the beginning of the year, a review of the current Covid restrictions and confirmation of the essential nature of this service, the suspension has been lifted with the programme beginning in early March 2021. It is anticipated that delays will occur in the overall servicing programme as a result of this suspension however, contingencies have been put in place for the programme to operate with this in mind.

Cyclical Maintenance

This programme provides for external painting and joinery repairs to council housing stock which currently operates on a 6/7 year cycle. Painting works are ongoing in Parslickstown Estate and Church Road, Dublin 15. The Contractor will commence works on Wellview Estate and Kirkfield Cottages, Dublin 15 in the coming weeks. The remaining estates will be completed as part of the current programme between now and the summer of 2021. (listed below: Batch F & G).

Estate	
Dromheath	Dublin 15
Castlecurragh Heath/Vale	Dublin 15
St Patricks Park	Donabate
Shamrock Park	Oldtown
Windmill Estate	Skerries
Toberburr Avenue	St Margarets
The Bawn Grove/ The Hill	Malahide
Kirkfield Cottages	Clonsilla
Lambreecher Estate	Balbriggan

Estate	
Ladyswell Road	Dublin 15
Parslickstown Estate	Dublin 15
Castlegrange Estate	Swords
Wellview Estate	Dublin 15
Cardy Rock Estate	Balbriggan

Barnewall Avenue/Crescent	Donabate
Church Road	Dublin 15
Rockabill	Skerries
Bealing Avenue/Grove	Dubin 15

Housing Tenancy Services Report

Housing Waiting List - Yearly List Position

The Housing Support Team issued applicants with their yearly list position details from the Housing Waiting List earlier this month.

A small number of applicants established contact with the team with a variety of queries, predominantly advising of changes in their circumstances. These queries are being actively progressed with continuous engagement and communication is being maintained with the applicant to assist them at this time.

In addition, the team in collaboration with IT Department and the Data Officer are continuing to examine mechanisms to facilitate applicants accessing housing services and information by on-line means, including accessing details of their yearly list position.

Medical/Welfare Meeting

The Housing Support Team is continuing to progress applicants' requests for medical priority, with the continuance of virtual medical/welfare meetings in collaboration with the HSE and a meeting held in February.

Should an applicant wish to submit a request for priority, they may do so by submitting their documentation directly to the Housing Support Team who will arrange examination.

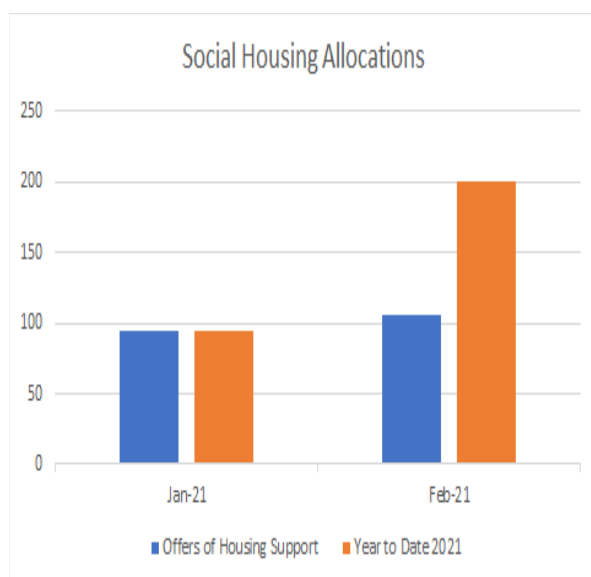
Set out below are the Housing Support Team Contact and the Tenancy Services Division details-

The Housing Support Team Contact Details	
Phone	01 890 5902 /01 890 5000
Email	Housing.allocations@fingal.ie
Website	www.fingal.ie

THE HOUSING UNIT CONTACT DETAILS	
Homeless Services	01 890 5090 homeless@fingal.ie
HAP	01 870 4515 HAP@fingal.ie
Estate Management (Maintenance, ASB & Special Projects)	01 890 5588 Estatemanagement@fingal.ie
Lettings	01 890 5380 Housing.allocations@fingal.ie
Housing Support	01 890 5902 Housing.allocations@fingal.ie
Customer Care Team	01 890 5000 CustomerCareUnit@fingal.ie

Offers of Housing Support

The Housing Allocations Team has continued to provide offers of social housing throughout Level 5 restrictions **COVID-19** and this is demonstrated in the chart below.



Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)

The HAP Team in Fingal County Council continues to operate as normal with the public making contact through email and phone during **COVID-19** restrictions. Additional resources have been deployed to assist with the volume of calls/emails from those who have been affected by the current crisis (in relation to a change in income).

Since its inception in Fingal County Council in 2017, the HAP team have set up over 2,500 tenancies.

Homeless Services

The Council's Homeless Team continue to engage with those experiencing homelessness to offer advice and support. Homeless Assessments were conducted over the phone during the Level 5 Public Health Restrictions which were re-introduced on 1st December 2020.

In February 2021 there were 38 new homeless presentations, comprising 19 families and 19 singles/couples.

During February 2021, 62 households, comprising 40 families and 22 singles/couples, exited homeless circumstances into various forms of social housing support- including into private rented tenancies under Homeless HAP.

Homeless HAP accounts for 43 of these tenancies.

Cold Weather Strategy 2020/2021

The Dublin Region Homeless Executive (DRHE) has activated its Cold Weather Strategy 2020/2021 which runs from November 2020 to end of March 2021. This is in order to meet a likely increase in demand for homeless services and to have the appropriate contingency plan in place for cold weather conditions.

In the event of cold weather or any emergency event, the DRHE co-ordinates the response to homelessness on behalf of the four Dublin Local Authorities. Whilst services operate throughout the year to support people experiencing homelessness, during the winter period, services are increased and enhanced to mitigate against the health risks that the bad weather poses.

Traveller Specific Supports

Covid-19 Continued Support

Measures have continued within Fingal to ensure that Traveller families receive as much assistance as possible during these unprecedented times, and particularly having regard to relevant and current public health guidelines and restrictions levels.

Daily site visits by Housing Inspectorate and Senior Council Officials are continuing with due care to maintaining public health guidelines while checking on vulnerable tenants and advising on the continued supports available. In addition, the Council's designated Social Worker Service for Travellers continues to make regular contact with the most vulnerable, in order to assist with additional needs arising from the current circumstances.

Illegal Occupation of Lands

There has been an increase in the number of incidents of illegal occupation of both Council owned lands and privately owned lands within the Fingal area.

Currently a large volume of individuals are occupying Council owned lands within the Fingal area and the Housing Department are engaged with a number of internal Departments and external agencies in this regard.

This specific group of illegal occupiers have recently vacated a site in the Dublin 15 area leaving behind substantial volumes of waste which was illegally disposed of and causing substantial damage on site to both private and public property including damage to emergency sanitation equipment which was supplied during Level 5 restrictions.



Traveller Accommodation

A programme of works in relation to the refurbishment and upgrading of existing accommodation on specific sites, is currently in development with the County Architect. Works are ongoing at St Mary's Halting Site, Cappagh and prepared for other locations. The provision of additional accommodation in accordance with the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024 is ongoing.





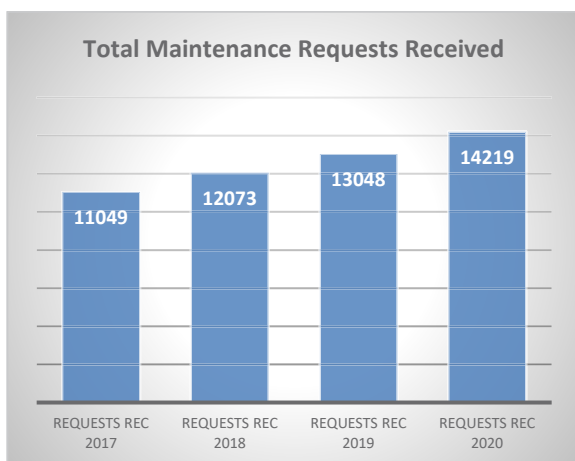
Group Housing in Stockhole Lane

Housing Welfare Service

The Social Workers attached to the Housing Department are available to support vulnerable tenancies and to work with housing applicants who have medical/welfare needs.

In response to **Covid-19**, the Housing Social Workers have been actively engaged with their most vulnerable cases at this time providing support, information and inter-agency linkages when and where required. Tenants were identified by the Social Workers and Housing Inspectors who may be considered particularly vulnerable during **Covid-19** and follow-on action has been initiated through various mechanisms including the Fingal Community Response Forum.

Maintenance Requests



During Level 5 Restrictions essential maintenance works such as electrical, water and heating are being complete with all other non-essential maintenance requests being postponed pending easing of restrictions.

Anti-Social Behaviour/Inspectorate Unit

The ongoing management and sustainment in regard to social tenancies and good estate management falls within the remit of the ASB/Inspectorate Unit. Alleged breaches pertaining to tenancy agreements are investigated and pursued in accordance with housing legislative guidelines.

There are occasions when the vulnerabilities, complexities and health related issues associated with a tenancy require tenancy sustainment intervention and supports. Ongoing case management and review with a variety of external agencies, including Approved Housing Bodies, An Garda Síochána, Tusla and the HSE is a necessity to ensure all agencies work collaboratively with a view to achieving best outcomes.

Stock Management

67 cases under review – 19 Downsizing, 10 Regularisation of Tenancy, 24 Breaches of Tenancy, 20 Miscellaneous (including cases of Family Breakdown/Illegal Occupants)

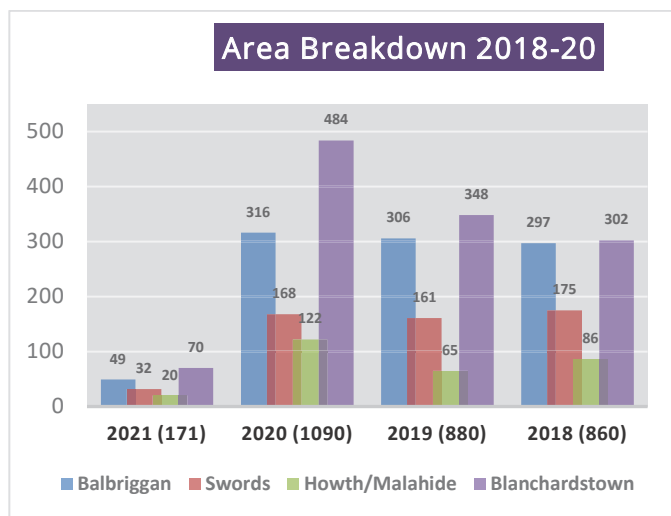
Surrenders on EM Grounds 2021 – 0 (Jan), 1 (Feb)

ASB Caseload Management

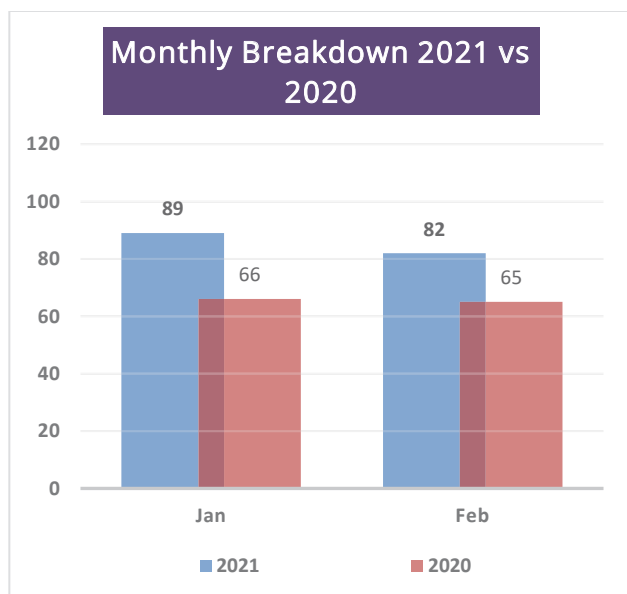
February 2021	Active Investigation	Active Monitoring	Closed
Dublin 15	13	9	7
North County	10	32	10
Total	23	41	17

ASB complaints received are followed up and investigated and taking into consideration the current public health guidelines all efforts are made in this regard to achieve best outcomes. The increase of ASB complaints is reflective of current Covid-19 restrictions where citizens are at home more and possible more observant and less tolerant.

Breakdown of Complaints 2018-2021



Monthly Breakdown of Complaints Received



Anti-Social Interventions

Interviews Held 2021	4
Interviews Held 2020	108
Tenancy Alerts 2021	4
Tenancy Alerts 2020	35
Tenancy Warnings 2021	0
Tenancy Warnings 2020	4

Inspectorate

Traveller Specific Inspections 2021	303
Traveller Specific Inspections 2020	1735
Estate Inspections 2021	175
Estate Inspections 2020	636
EM/ASB Inspections 2021	559
EM/ASB Inspections 2020	3610

Legal Proceedings - Collinstown

The High Court ordered FCC to be joined in the proceedings between daa and the families on the Collinstown site and the matter is now sub judice.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

SPORTS OFFICE

Fingal HomeFit Yoga
Fingal Home-Fit
Live Hip-Hop Classes
Online Sport Inclusion Disability Awareness Classes
Women in Sport Coaching Series
Junior Parkrun Millennium Park
Live Sports Conditioning Online 10@10
Couch to 3k – Walk to Jog

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Planning for Pride of Place 2021
Dad 2.0 Programme
Irish Men's Shed Association –
Zoom Meeting
New Community Group –
Skerriwinkles
We Can Quit Programme
Valuing our Volunteers: Na Dubh
Gall
Keeping Well - Mindfulness
#Keep Well Campaign – Staying
Connected (Community Call)
Staying Connected (Community
Call) Subgroup Updates

STRATEGIC UNIT

Fingal Public Participation Network (PPN)
Fingal Integration Forum
Community Activity Funding
Capital Funding Applications made on behalf of organisations
International Women's Day
Fingal Virtual Community Centre
Remedial Works Funding

COMMUNITY FACILITIES UNIT

Managing Professional Boundaries Training for Fingal
Community Facilities Network
Fingal Keen to Be Green Community Facilities

FINGAL COMHAIRLE NA nOG

Update
Cluster Meeting

AGE FRIENDLY FINGAL

Fingal Age Friendly Guide 2021
Setting Up a Dementia Café Workshop
Launch of Age Friendly Digital Ambassadors Programme

Sports Office:

Fingal HomeFit Yoga

Erica from Yoga Sanctuary will be teaching a 4-week online yoga course aimed at beginners, but all are welcome. She will guide you through a 1-hour class each week aimed at introducing you to the benefits of yoga through breath work, yoga postures and relaxation.

If you are interested in starting something new for you or would like to join in to stretch out and feel good in your body, then join Erica from Wednesday March 3rd at 6pm.



Fingal Home-Fit

The Fingal Home-Fit live exercise sessions are facilitated by Fingal County Council Sports Office and delivered by suitably qualified personal trainers and exercise professionals. Due to the success in the pilot classes held in late 2020 we are rolling out 3 classes per week again in March 2021.



Live Hip-Hop Classes

This will be the 2nd running of our Hip Hop & Zumba Classes, which will be broadcast live on Zoom in February & March 2021. The sessions will be led and choreographed by Donna Moran from Irish Hip Hop Master Champions & Fit Kids/Fit Teens Dance School. Over 80 participants have registered for the upcoming classes.

Online Sport Inclusion Disability Awareness Classes

As part of our commitment to working with people with disabilities we are delivering this online training programmes to clubs to assist them in upskilling volunteers. The workshop aims to make clubs more inclusive to people with disabilities and enables them to run disability focused programmes.

Women in Sport Coaching Series

The 3rd Women in Sports Coaching Series took place on Monday 22nd February and featured Sharon Boyle, former Senior Ireland International

footballer and current Sport Development Officer with Fingal County Council, in discussion with renowned sports journalist and presenter Cliona Foley. The aim of the series of discussions is to encourage more women to step forward with confidence into coaching roles in their local sports clubs. Plans have been developed to try to encourage the formation of a soccer club in the Tyrrelstown area and targeting the set-up of both a boys and girls' section. This series is part of a strategy to encourage women to step forward and volunteer. This will be followed up with a practical session (when restrictions allow).



Junior Parkrun Millennium Park

After completing a volunteer expression of interest, 12 participants are committed to organising a weekly Junior Parkrun in Millennium Park. The Sports Office will be liaising with our Operations Department and Parkrun Ireland to ensure the programme is ready to start as soon as government restrictions allow.

Live Sports Conditioning Online 10@10

The Sports Office developed the 10@10 programme for schools; a series of exercise videos which can be used by teachers for just 10 minutes every day to encourage and promote physical activity in the classroom. The Active School Flag organisation have attached it to their Active School Programme, and to date 318 schools nationwide

have signed up to the programme. The first live event is on March 5th with plans to deliver in English and Irish sessions during Seachtain na Gaeilge.

Couch to 3k – Walk to Jog

As part of Fingal County Council's sports strategy to get more people active, the Sports Office is offering people the opportunity to take part in this free 6-week virtual programme which started on February 22. Whether you have never jogged before or if you just want to get more active, Couch to 3K is an easy way of getting more energy and feeling healthier. This programme is aimed at beginners who would like to get from walking to jogging but might be a little unsure of how to get started.



Community Development Office:

Planning for Pride of Place 2021

The Community Development Office has begun planning its entries on behalf of FCC for the annual Pride of Place Competition 2021, which showcases the best community development projects on the island of Ireland. The annual liaison officer's evaluation meeting, represented by the Community Office recently agreed to follow the online submission format of 2020, which was introduced due to Covid 19, but if Covid restriction allow, a showcasing of local groups in County Hall may be possible this summer. Alternatively, the judging will be online like last year. So far Bayside

Community Association and Rush Tidy Towns have agreed to represent the Council in this year's competition. An entry from D15 is under active consideration. In 2020 Swords Tidy Towns won the runner up position in the populations over 5000 category. The competition, which is a north-south event is sponsored by Co-operation Ireland and IPB insurances.



"Dad 2.0" Programme

Flemington Community Centre and the Fingal Community Development Officer in Balbriggan are currently developing a new online programme following the success of the Men's Winter Programme. The new programme is called "Dad 2.0" and it will provide advice, support and guidance for men on parenting. It will be of interest to coaches or people in leadership positions with young people also.

There will be an emphasis on emotional literacy, managing emotions, and approaches that offer alternatives to 'reactive parenting'.

Parenting programmes tend to be on a referral basis and can be hard to access or little known about. Balbriggan is officially the youngest town in Ireland and with lots of young families it is an ideal location for starting the programme. It will be accessible to anyone and participation will be anonymous. Registration is essential and anyone

interested can contact Marcos Morandeira at info@flemingtoncc.ie

The Men's Winter Programme has over 70 participants and this cohort will be used as a starting point for promoting the programme. "Dad 2.0" is funded through the Fingal Community Development Office.

Irish Men's Shed Association – Zoom Meeting

On 26th January 2021 Irish Men's Shed Association met online, 38 participants took place representing the 50 registered men's sheds throughout the Dublin Region. Details of the various community grants offered by the Dublin Local Authorities were outlined to participants. The Irish Men's Shed Association's Interim CEO Turlough Kelly gave details of a recent survey completed which detailed that 97% of shed members reached out to each other and 50.4 % of sheds had not met since April 2020. Weekly online exercise courses from Siel Blue, and Mindfulness classes are available on their website. To find details of your nearest shed- www.mensshed.ie.



New Community Group – Skerriwinkles

A New Community Group has been set up in Skerries, which incorporates the love of the sea with volunteering and building community spirit in these difficult times. The group is called Skerriwinkles Sea Swimming Community Group. Fingal Community Department recently assisted the group in establishing the structure and constitution of their group at their recent January meeting. The group have now completed their registration with the Public Participation Network. Skerriwinkles swimmers go out daily at the North

Beach in Skerries. The group organise Charity fundraising events within the community. They recently raised over €2,700 for St. Michaels House. The group intend to have regular beach cleans ups on the North Beach in Skerries.



We Can Quit Programme

2021 We can Quit Programmes have started in Blakestown, Mulhuddart, Swords, Balbriggan and Baldoyle. if you would like to register for the next round of programmes contact - sfox@empower.ie



Valuing our Volunteers: Na Dubh Gall

The Community Development Office wanted to showcase the great work that is done by volunteers across Fingal prior to and during the current Covid pandemic. "Valuing our Volunteers" is a short video interview where organisations get to tell us about who they are and about the great work they are doing for their communities. First up

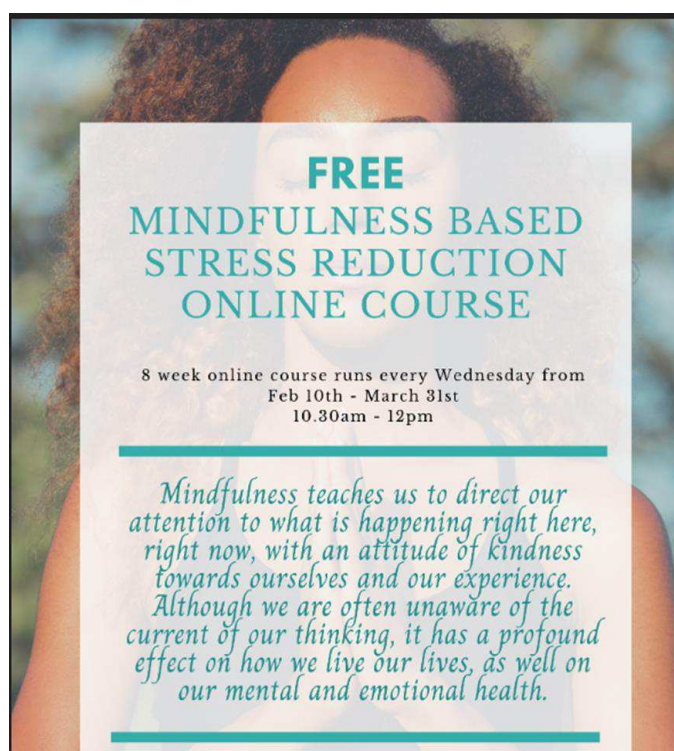
in the series is Na Dubh Gall GAA Club featuring Mark Gibney & Lesley Ann Flynn. The video link will be available on Fingal website and social media at the end of February.

-Thank you to all the volunteers working to make our communities better.



Keeping Well - Mindfulness

Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) 8-week free course for Dublin 15 residents commenced on the 10th of February with an overwhelming response from the community to engage and participate in this Keeping Well Campaign initiative. The Community Development Office has funded this course which is being rolled out from our Community Centres.



#Keep Well Campaign – Staying Connected (Community Call)

Community Call Helpline:

A roster of 26 Community, Sports and Arts staff provide support to the Council's community call service by way of assigning Covid job requests received from the public to local community and voluntary organisations and support agencies. This support is provided Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm. To date 1197 calls have been received. Staff provide daily follow up calls to clients to ensure that their request has been dealt with by a local volunteer.

Daily statistics reports on calls received are provided to Gov.ie and a weekly statistics report is provided to the HSE via the Major Emergency Management, Corporate Affairs and Governance Department.

Community Development staff continue to support local response groups in the development of their service, funding and training opportunities. A bespoke training course specifically around Befriending will be delivered to community response volunteers in March and will address safety, setting boundaries and duty of care to the client.

Staying Connected (Community Call) subgroup updates

Alone: 700 Cooking for Life and At Home Exercise Guides have been distributed by the community development team on behalf of Alone.



Muintir na Tire: 150 packs containing Alone and Age Friendly Guides, facemasks and a collection of greeting cards to encourage people to stay connected was collated and distributed via Muintir

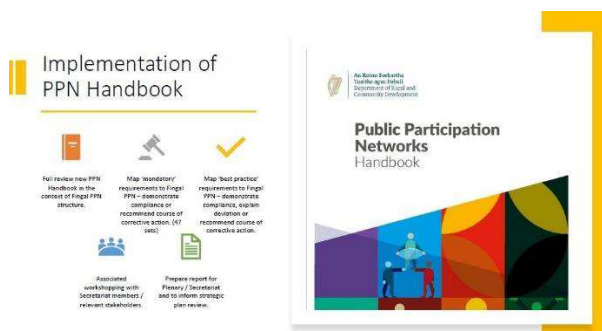
na Tire to people identified by the organisation as most vulnerable to social isolation.

Strategic Unit:

Fingal PPN Resource Worker: Laura Barton commenced her Acting Resource Worker position on 15th February.

Linkage Groups: The first round of 2021 Linkage groups completed on 11th February. Climate Change, Environment and Water Linkage Group met on 1st February 2021 and agreed to participate in the Climate Action Plan consultation: Community Conversations. A Provisional date for the event is Wednesday 10th March 2021.

Implementation of the National PPN Guidelines and Review of the Fingal PPN Strategic Plan



Working Group met on January 21st and February 17th, 2021. The following Work schedule was outlined:

- 17 February: Draft guidebook analysis of Mandatory and Guidance measures. Prioritisation of strategy actions.
- 4th March: Final analysis of guidebook measures. Draft report on strategy implementation. Consult PPN Members.
- 25th March: Progress on consultation. Translate guidebook analysis into strategic actions.
- 15th April. Draft strategy report, new and renewed actions/goals.
- 6th May: Final draft changes and pre-plenary briefing 27 April: Secretariat Meeting.

Fingal Integration Forum



Fingal Integration Forum met on 27 January 2021 - Election of Officers took place

- Joint Chairs: Lawrence Carvalho and Nike Adesemowo
- Joint PROs: Mojisola Mabogaje and Susuana O.M Olatunji Komolafe
- Joint Secretaries: Ann Mulligan and Hanumantha Rao Marepalli
- Joint Treasurers: Helen Keng Mobit and Patricia O'Reilly

The officers met with consultants on 10th and 17th February to progress the Forum's work programme and registration as a group with Fingal PPN. Wider group to meet on 24th February to discuss T.O.R. and work programme.

Community Activity Funding

The following is a brief summary of Community Activity Funding Awarded in Feb 2021

In February, 4 applications were processed

Total award of €3000



Since Jan 2021

7 Applications processed

Total €9000 awarded



Capital Funding Applications made on behalf of organisations:

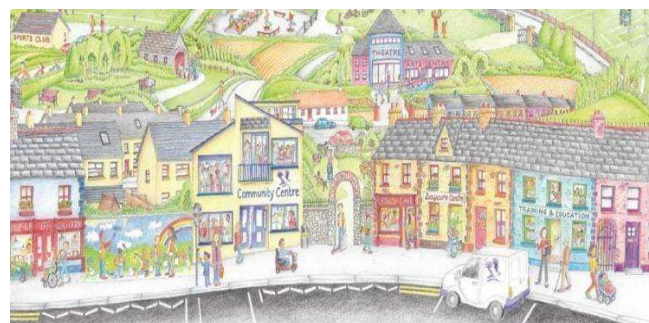
Funding Type	Organisation	Project	Amount
Sports Capital	Corduff Resource Centre	Refurbishment of Sports Hall and upgrade of facility	€150,000
Sports Capital	Applewood Community Centre	Upgrade of Sports Hall floor	€11,474
Sports Capital	Holywell Community Centre	Upgrade of Sports Hall floor	€11,092
Sports Capital	Castleland Community Centre	Refurbishment of LED lighting All Weather Pitch	€14,844
Sports Capital	Donabate Portrane Community Centre	Refurbishment and alteration works	€150,000

International Woman's Day



To celebrate International Women's Day, the Community Development Office is organising an event themed 'Women Leadership in Community Development'. This theme will be explored through online conversations with women who are leaders in the areas of disability, ethnicity/integration, travelling community, older persons and representation (public participation network). Conversations will focus primarily on the important role that women leaders play, what is the biggest challenge for women and advice for a next generation of women leaders. Dr Lucy Michael, a researcher on equality, community development and integration, has been engaged to conduct the interviews online with remote videoing services. All recordings will be released on International Women's Days.

Fingal Virtual Community Centre



To assist people to keep connected in their communities, Fingal County Council Community Development Office in association with the Communications Unit have developed a Fingal Virtual Community Centre for community groups, community service and community centres to showcase their online and location-based activities. Activities are grouped under key categories: 1. Exercise & Well Being, 2. Talks, Courses & Workshops 3. Social, Recreational & Fun, 4. Child & Family. The type of activities expected to feature include Activities such as Fitness & Aerobics, Yoga, Zumba, Money Matters, Cooking, English Language, Job seeking & CV Preparation, Smartphone training, Effective Zoom, Career Guidance, Arts & Crafts, Music, Singing, Reading Group etc.... Fingal Virtual Community Centre is part of the Fingal Keep Well campaign and will provide an opportunity for anyone who

wants to find out more, connect and get involved in online activities in Fingal.

Remedial Works Funding – non council owned facilities

8 expressions of interests for funding to support capital works in non-council owned facilities have been received and 5 have been processed for funding. The amount of funding approved to date is €54,839.

Community Facilities Unit:

Managing Professional Boundaries Training for Fingal Community Facilities Network

In response to an identified need, the Community Facilities Management Support Unit, in conjunction with Fingal Community Facilities Network, has organised Managing Professional Boundaries training session for the management of the community centres across Fingal. 14 participants will take part in this online certified training program which is being provided by The Learning Curve Institute. This training forms part of the funding awarded to the network by the Wheel and the Community Development Office. The main objective is to provide facility managers with the skills necessary to manage professional boundaries and learn new skills that aims to support them in their management roles.



Fingal Keen to Be Green Community Facilities

The Community Development Office in partnership with FCCs Environmental Officer have set up the Fingal Keen to Be Green Community Facilities environmental project that aims to develop a Climate Action Charter that will demonstrate that FCC supported community facilities are implementing a series of changes in their day to day operations. A steering group has been set up to oversee the delivery of the project. It is envisaged that community facilities will see a reduction in the costs of their waste management,

promote projects around water conservation and lead as champions in their local communities through the provision of training and information sessions for local communities as well as leading the way in creating a greater awareness around climate action. Each facility will participate in a program that will enable them to prepare to sign up to the charter in 2021. In principle the charter will ensure that each community facility will be advocates for climate action in their local communities and will demonstrate this through their own policies and day to day practices. Facilities will work towards improving their energy efficiency, support their employees to undertake changes in their life styles both at work and at home to reduce carbon impact and encourage community led groups to implement new ideas in their local communities.

Comhairle Na Nog

Comhairle Na Nog have been invited by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth to participate in the In-Depth Citizen Conversation strand in relation to a consultation on the Climate Action Plan 2021. Comhairle will make this nomination on Wednesday the 24th February 2021.

On Friday the 12th of February, Fingal Comhairle na nÓg members attended a Foróige facilitated open discussion on Integration, Racism and Equality regarding young people. The discussion contained open ended questions where participants shared their experiences, the experiences of their peers and discussed power dynamics and the dynamics of privilege based on a number of different social categories. The session was very valuable and following on from this session, members from Fingal Comhairle na nÓg presented the findings on the 19th February to Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Roderic O'Gorman for consideration by his Department.



Comhairle Na Nog Cluster Meeting

The first 2021 Comhairle Na Nog Local Authority National Cluster Meeting took place on the 17th of February 2021. Twenty local authorities across the Island including Fingal attended. The purpose of the meeting was to evaluate 2020. AGMs were successful in terms of the engagement of schools and young people.

Feedback on Keeping well campaign noted it as being very successful, high numbers attending meetings and participation of young people regardless of geographical location. Challenges and supports were also given consideration and discussion.



Age Friendly Fingal:

Fingal Age Friendly Guide 2021

20,000 Copies of the 2021 Age Friendly Guide were recently distributed to Older people right across Fingal. Books were left into Post offices, Library Service, Gardai, Meals on Wheels, Beaumont Hospital, Friends of the Elderly, Covid Responders, Chemists among many other places. 2350 copies have been posted out to every Fingal County Council member of staff past and present. For a Digital copy click here [Age Friendly Fingal Guide 2021](#)



Garda Peter Hughes collecting copies of the Age Friendly Guide to deliver out to older people in Balbriggan.

Setting Up a Dementia Café Workshop

This one-day web training event took place on Monday 25th January 2021 and was hosted by Engaging Dementia. Speakers included Mathew Gill from Dementia Service Information and Development Centre and Dr. Louise Daly, Associated Professor in Ageing & Community Nursing, Trinity College Dublin. Over 60 participants took part from all over the Country including founding members of some of the well-established Dementia Cafes across the Country including Nass, Co. Kildare and Kanturk Co. Cork. These groups contributed from their experience in setting up their own Dementia Café with the support from Engaging Dementia. They also shared their experience going to a virtual café which has benefited people who would have been excluded for mobility reasons prior to this time. Each month various speakers talk on different topics, and people who join in feel connected in a safe environment and can share their experiences and receive support from the network of professionals widely available to the groups. This is an extremely beneficial community engagement method that offers valuable support to members of a community with Dementia. Engaging Dementia have a weekly virtual café every Friday at 11.00 am, log onto www.engagingdementia.ie for further information. If you would like to help set up

a Dementia Café in your area contact community@fingal.ie



Launch of Age Friendly Digital Ambassadors Programme

Minister of State with responsibility for Mental Health and Older People, Mary Butler, TD officially launched the rolling out of the Digital Ambassadors programme in Ireland's libraries on January 20th, 2021.

The programme is a partnership between the LGMA Libraries Development Unit and Age Friendly Ireland and aims to support older people in accessing online library resources, particularly while physical library services are suspended as part of government measures to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

Building on the success of the peer-to-peer pilot, that saw members of Age Friendly Ireland's Older People's Councils participate in training provided by Age Friendly Ireland and Libraries Development in order to teach other older people to get on line, the ambition for this Programme is for the online training to be rolled out nationally through the 48 Age Friendly Library Champions in libraries around the country.

Speaking at the launch, Minister Butler said; "Isolation of people of all ages is a significant risk

during the COVID pandemic, particularly during periods of tight restrictions on movement and social interaction. It is of huge importance that people, including our older population are supported in staying connected with their communities, including through available services and supports during these challenging times. This programme aims to empower older people to avail of the fantastic range of library services available online. It will familiarise many older people with getting on-line, enhance digital literacy and engagement and will enable individuals to participate in other online activities, such as exercise classes, singing, zooming, and so on".



...

ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE ACTION & ACTIVE TRAVEL

Contents

Climate Action
Environmental Awareness
Bring Centres
Water Quality Protection
Landfill Aftercare

Litter Management
Animal Welfare Services
Waste Enforcement
Flood Schemes
Active Travel

Climate Action:

The Fingal Climate Change Action Plan 2019-2024 (CCAP) was launched in Sept 2019, and actions are ongoing.

The CCAP and the One Year Progress Report can be viewed at <https://www.fingal.ie/climate-change-action-plan-2019-2024>

Climate Action "Raising Awareness" training is being rolled out to all grades. Grade 7s have been invited to complete the training by 12th March. This training will be offered to Grade 6's throughout March & April. A Championing Leadership pillar will be delivered to senior staff and councillors in Q4 2021.

Action 165 of the national Climate Action Plan 2019 states that 'Each local authority will identify and develop plans for one Decarbonising Zone. A circular and further guidance has issued from DHLGH. DZ's can be described as spatial areas identified by the LA in which a range of mitigation measures can co-exist. A cross departmental team will now identify potential areas.

Environmental Awareness:

Anti-Litter and Anti-Graffiti projects ongoing in several locations such as Taylors Hill Balbriggan with clean-ups and planting of areas for biodiversity.

Free Doggie dispensers sent out to individuals and groups on an ongoing basis.

ReLove Fashion Competition was held online on 25th Feb. This is a clothes up-cycling event in

partnership with the Eastern Regional Local Authorities and the ReDiscovery Centre. A student from Malahide Community School won the Best Evening Dress Category.

Castleknock Tidy Towns Group were provided with funding for a Swift Conservation project in partnership with four Fingal Dublin 15 schools: St Brigid's National School, Castleknock Educate Together School, Castleknock National School, Castleknock College.

Online Sustainable Gardening workshops & wildflower masterclasses have been delivered to members of Tidy Towns, community and residents' groups and allotment holders. The courses were well received.

Environmental presentations have been given to communities through the Fingal Community Centres events.

Taylors Hill Balbriggan



Bring Centres

The Total amount of Tonnage for glass Recycling for February 2021 was 513.76 tonne.

Litter Management

To date this year 540 planned litter patrols have been carried out across the county.

This has resulted in the issuing of 35 litter fines and 29 warning notices under the provisions of the Litter Pollution Act.

Dog Warden & Dog Sanctuary Service

Market Soundings Exercise,

The Market Sounding Exercise has concluded. The Environment Department have met with the CPU and work has commenced on the detailed drafting of the tender documents for the new Dog Warden and Dog Shelter Service.

Dog Warden Patrols

Additional Dog Warden patrols continue to be provided during current Level 5 Covid restrictions. These patrols are targeted at beaches, parks and open spaces to ensure that dog owners are aware of their obligations under the Control of Dogs Act and to provide assistance if required.

Horse Welfare Programme

The DSPCA continue to monitor and inspect the horses on Dunsink Landfill and work with the horse owners in relation to the ongoing care of the animals. 5 bales of hay were delivered to the landfill on 26th February and the welfare issues of one horse was identified by the DSPCA and addressed with the assistance of the owner and a vet.

Horse owners have agreed to work with DSPCA & to commence with setting up a committee with

local reps for each area of Finglas (south, east & west), This is currently on hold until COVID restrictions lift. First Equine ID clinic to commence when COVID restrictions permit it.

Waste Enforcement

The Waste Enforcement Inspection Plan for 2021 which forms part of the RMCEI Plan 2021 has now been finalised and submitted to the EPA. The overall objective of the Plan is to identify and prioritise enforcement activities for 2021 to ensure that Fingal County Council can effectively and efficiently comply with its obligations under all environmental legislation. The legislation underpinning the RMCEI Plan is designed to protect the environment and minimize the risk of air and noise pollution, water pollution and pollution resulting from waste activities. The Plan takes account of National Waste Enforcement Priorities for as well as a number of Local Enforcement Priorities for 2021.

The RMCEI Plan is an important element of the Environment Division Operational Plan 2021, under the objective "to protect and enhance the natural environment of Fingal through effective education, awareness, monitoring and enforcement of national and local legislation and policy". The Plan will be reviewed periodically throughout the year to take account of any legislative and/or policy changes that arise and adjusted to take account of Covid restrictions and potential impacts regarding physical inspections.

Breakdown of Waste Inspections for 2021

For 2021 a total of 1007 waste related inspections are planned to be undertaken across 57 different work areas. A total of 1317 work days involving 6 waste enforcement officers have been allocated to ensure that all inspections are undertaken and targets achieved as set out within the RMCEI Plan 2021.

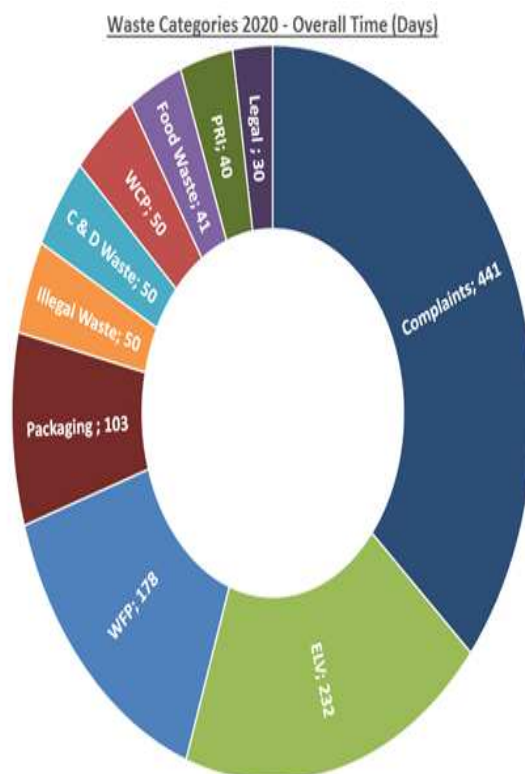
	Type of Inspection/Audit Planned	Number	Type of Inspection/Audit Planned	Number
Waste	National Waste Priorities 2021		Local Waste Priorities 2021	
	Checkpoints - WCP holders, illegal operators	4	WCP Anomaly Data - Promote AR Validations and investigate	10
	Sites of Concern - Authorised Industry/Tackle Unauthorised Collectors	3	Investigate NI WCP anomalies	2
	Utilising the Anti-Dumping Toolkit - www.waste.ie	2	Non submit of ARs and FPNs - Facilities and Collectors	6
	ADI Campaign to Support LA's to Tackle Illegal Waste Activities	2	Data Verification Working Group Participation	0
	Multi-Agency Operations - Identify Unauthorised Waste Sites for Action	2	Joint AR Audits with RWMPOs - HH Waste and C & D Collectors	4
	Major Public Projects - C & D WMP	4	Vehicle Producer/Importer Compliance Scheme	5
	AR Anomaly Data @ Large WCP holders - LoW 170101, 170502, 20	6	WEEE Compliance and Leakage Strategy	5
	AR Anomaly Data of WFPICOR holders - LoW Code 191212	1	WEEE Inspections	10
	C & D Skip Operators of Interest	2	Battery Inspections	10
	ATP Inspections - public entries, anomaly data, WEEE, recovery rate	2	Hazardous Waste Sectoral Inspections	10
	ATP Full Audits - multi-agency/NERLA	2	Mercury Regulations - inspections for compliance	5
	Household Brown Bin Roll Out including Apartments	12	Waste Tyres - Code 16 01 03 WFP and WCP	5
	Bag Collection Areas/Pay to Use Compactors	1	Tyres - Repak ELT Registration	5
	Enforce Waste Presentation Bye-Laws - Source Segregation	20	Packaging Enforcement SMP's 2021	12
	Guidance to Commercial Collectors - recirculate, BO inspections	4	Packaging Enforcement - SMP's 2017 - 2020	9
	Commercial Dry Recyclable Waste - assess info, inspections	20	Packaging - Self Compliance 2021	15
	Commercial Food Waste - assess info, inspections	20	WFP - Desktop AR Validations	20
	Non-Routine Inspections		WFP - AR On-Site Data Verification	20
	Sites Storing Immobilised Vehicles - self declaration and inspection	10	WFP - Compliance with Permit Conditions	20
	Unauthorised Scrap Yards - High Risk, multi-agency inspections	6	Certs of Registration	1
	Unauthorised Scrap Yards - Low-Med Risk	10	C & D WMP - Planning Conditions and Compliance	160
	Extractive Industries	5	WFP - Pre-Planning Meetings/Site Inspections	4
	Tyre Sites of Concern	1	WCP - desktop AR Validations	110
	Article 27 Notifications	60	WCP - AR On-Site Data Verification	10
	WFP - permit applications, reviews and tech amendments	10	WCP - Compliance with Permit Conditions	10
	WFP - Pre-Waste Permit Application Meetings	4	Unregulated Landfills	5
	Complaints - illegal activity, disposal of waste, unauthorised facilities	260	Historic Landfills	10
	Ongoing Enforcement Action (Section Notices)	2	Disposal by Burning Inspections	5
	Ongoing Court Cases	4	Man in the Van Investigations	40
	Total No. of Waste Inspections			1007

RMCEI: National + Local Enforcement Priorities - Inspections Completed To Date 2021

Category	No. of Planned Inspections 2021	Inspections Undertaken to Date
Waste Enforcement	1007	134
Water Pollution	940	89
Litter Management / Litter Patrols	2060	540
Air & Noise Pollution	334	40

An End of Year Report and associated Inspection Summary Return for 2020 was submitted to the EPA in February. The reports detail waste inspections undertaken during 2020 comprising both national and local waste enforcement priorities. A total of 1052 waste inspections were undertaken during 2020 across 48 different work areas comprising 1197 work days. Investigation of

waste related complaints (441 days), End of Life Vehicle project (232 days), waste facility permit applications/reviews (178 days) and packaging project (103 days) made up almost 80% of the waste enforcement teams time during the year.



Air Pollution

The EPA have directed that the four Dublin Local Authorities prepare an Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) for the air quality zone that includes the southern half of Fingal, Dublin City and most of South Dublin and Dun Laoghaire Rathdown. The requirement to prepare a plan and the powers of the EPA to direct the preparation of the plan come from *The Air Quality Standards Regulations 2011* (SI 180 2011) giving effect to EU Clean Air for Europe directive (CAFE) 2008/50/EC. In 2019 there were exceedances of the annual mean concentration for NO₂ at locations in the city centre and the areas around the entrances to the port access tunnel. The plan is required to be submitted to the EU commission by the end of 2021.

Active Travel

Bleeper Bike Share Scheme –

Bleeper's bike rides increased from 564 rides in December to 741 rides in January. This amounts to a 125% increase in the last month and this figure is 23 times more than the rides from the same period in 2020. This number shows the immense increase in the popularity of cycling during the last 12 months. Saturday and Sunday account for the highest number of rides and accounted for 24.16% and 17% respectively. Bleeper had 65 bikes in operation during January.

We will continue to promote usage of Bleeper through our social media platforms.

The hire of Bleeper's bikes continues to be free for all Fingal staff.

The Active Travel Section have commenced a market sounding from bike share and micro mobility companies for the provision of e scooters and e bikes in Fingal area. Information received is currently being reviewed and those which meet criteria will be asked to present their plans to collaborate with Fingal County Council in a new scheme.



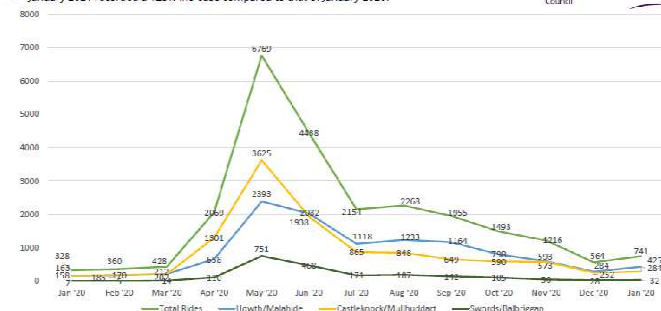
In January Bleeper accumulated:

- 1,469,565 metres
- 367,233 (g) of carbon emissions saved
- 306,040 calories burned

Fingal Bike Share Scheme - Monthly Bike Rides Started in Fingal - Bleeper

• January 2021 recorded a 125% increase compared to that of January 2020.

Conorine Conner
Finance Officer
Fingal County Council



Bike Racks

Bike racks continue to be installed throughout the County and the Active Travel section are working on the next phase of bike parking installation.



Bike Racks recently installed at Balbriggan beach

Sports Clubs and Community Centres have been invited to apply for free bike racks to encourage active travel.

Bike Racks for Schools initiative

Schools looking to encourage their students to cycle may still apply for bike racks and can do so by completing the online application and submitting it to Road.Safety@Fingal.ie.



Low profile bike racks available to schools



Toast racks available to schools

FINANCE

Contents

Financial Reports

Financial Reports

Refer to Appendix 1 for the following reports:-

- Revenue Account Income & expenditure to 28th February, 2021
- Capital Account Income & Expenditure to 28th February, 2021
- Summary of Corporate Debtors to 28th February, 2021

Appendix 1

REVENUE ACCOUNT INCOME & EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 28TH FEBRUARY 2021

	EXPENDITURE			INCOME			NET
	Expenditure	Adopted Full	%	Income	Adopted Full	% Budget	
	€	Year Budget	Budget	€	year Budget	Raised	€
		€	Spent to date		€		
Housing & Building	11,305,224	71,062,099	16%	11,750,909	74,321,200	16%	-445,685
Road Transport & Safety	3,948,083	24,972,899	16%	1,195,383	7,500,800	16%	2,752,700
Water Services	2,989,292	13,792,400	22%	2,856,834	17,168,500	17%	132,458
Development Management	2,306,919	13,785,401	17%	1,261,301	4,496,500	28%	1,045,618
Environmental Services	6,863,167	42,814,100	16%	899,232	6,089,700	15%	5,963,935
Recreation & Amenity	5,541,599	36,628,899	15%	210,834	1,921,900	11%	5,330,766
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	124,840	1,127,300	11%	37,860	225,100	17%	86,980
Miscellaneous Services	5,921,004	35,878,200	17%	2,276,537	14,325,100	16%	3,644,467
Central Management Charge	6,352,318	46,313,424	14%	417,871	3,187,404	13%	5,934,446
Local Property Tax / GPG				1,250,667	7,528,500	17%	-1,250,667
Rates				24,939,017	148,849,700	17%	-24,939,017
	45,352,447	286,374,722	16%	47,096,445	285,614,404	16%	-1,743,998

CAPITAL ACCOUNT						
			Balance at 01/01/2021 €	Expenditure YTD €	Income YTD €	Balance at 28/02/2021 €
A	Housing & Building		-18,085,379	11,556,046	-3,129,193	-9,658,526
B	Road Transport & Safety		30,387,606	3,340,784	-111,672	33,616,718
C	Water Services		-12,661,880	173,673	-115,271	-12,603,478
D	Development Management		-115,080,043	2,785,977	-7,820,866	-120,114,932
E	Environmental Services		-14,179,150	1,489,803	-241,026	-12,930,373
F	Recreation & Amenity		-2,250,742	2,735,301	-254,555	230,004
H	Miscellaneous Services		-74,667,392	2,498,486	-5,067,270	-77,236,176
	Total		-206,536,980	24,580,069	-16,739,853	-198,696,764
NB***						
The Opening Balance for 2021 is subject to change as the AFS 2020 is not finalised						

SUMMARY OF CORPORATE DEBTORS TO 28/02/2021				
	Balance at 01/01/2021*	Balance at 28/02/2021	Current debt	> 1 Year
	€	€	€	€
RATES	-14,751,274	134,769,618	133,107,913	1,661,705
LOANS	1,701,915	1,747,865	307,435	1,440,430
RENTS	7,082,917	7,182,429	3,510,031	3,672,398

Figures for rents and loans are unadjusted by credits/prepayments

*Note: Balances at 1/1/2021 are only provisional and will be finalised on completion 2020 AFS.

**COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

**COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 8TH MARCH 2021**

ITEM NO. 40

MAYOR'S BUSINESS - ONLINE PLANNING FILES

Motion: Councillor D. Healy

“That the Council recommends that where possible, particularly in the case of planning applications involving Environmental Impact Assessment, fully electronic copies (as opposed to scans of printed copies) of planning documents be put on the online file, to assist the public in searching and analysing what are often extensive quantities of documents, and that fully electronic copies of documents generated by the Council be put on the online file as a matter of course in relation to all applications.”

Report:

Current legislation requires that planning application documentation must be submitted in hard copy to the Planning Authority when making an application. The documentation submitted is subsequently scanned to the online file. The Local Government Management Agency are currently working with all Local Authorities to develop an online facility (e-Planning) for the submission of planning applications which will allow electronic copies of planning documents to be put onto the online file and is scheduled to begin a test site on same in Q1 2022.

Minister Anne Rabbitte T.D.
minister_rabbitte@health.gov.ie

12th February 2021

Minister's Reference: DJE-MO-04953-2020

Dear Minister Rabbitte,

I am writing to you concerning your correspondence on behalf of Mr. Brian Buckley and the Members of Fingal County Council regarding Parental Alienation. I apologise for the delay in issuing this response.

I am writing to you concerning your correspondence on behalf of your constituent, regarding Parental Alienation. I apologise for the delay in replying to your correspondence.

First and foremost, I appreciate the significant distress that family separation and those engaged in family court proceedings can experience - such as the traumatic and stressful situation that the constituent describes.

I am aware of the concerns that have been raised in relation to parental alienation as an issue. This is a complex area and in order to better inform further discussion, I intend to arrange for research to be carried out by my Department this year.

Changing the legislation is not the only option. There may be appropriate interventions that need to be done at an earlier stage to deal with behaviours. The best interests of the child will of course be paramount in any considerations.

In the meantime, there have been a number of recent actions by my Department across the area of family justice.

A Family Justice Oversight Group has been established by my Department, and this group will agree a high-level vision and key medium and longer-term objectives for the development of a national family justice system in parallel with the establishment of a dedicated Family Court structure as envisaged by the forthcoming Family Court Bill. The Group comprises officials from my Department, the Department of Children and Youth Affairs, the Courts Service, the Legal Aid Board as well as nominees of the Chief Justice from the High Court, Circuit Court and District Court.

A Family Court Bill is currently being drafted following approval of the General Scheme of the Bill by Government. The Family Court Bill, the enactment of which is a commitment in the Programme for Government, will be a key element in the development of a more efficient and user-friendly family court system that puts families at the centre of its activities, provides access to specialist supports and encourages the use of alternative dispute resolution in family law proceedings. The development of sensible, comprehensive and sensitive family law procedures, particularly for vulnerable families, will be central to the new system. In the preparation of the General Scheme of the Family Court Bill, account has been taken of the Report of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Justice and Equality which published its Report on Reform of the Family Law System just a year ago.

While there is no specific legislative provision regarding parental alienation in Irish family law, section 246 of the Children Act 2001 does provide for an offence of frightening, bullying or threatening a child in a manner likely to cause unnecessary suffering or injury to the child's physical,

mental or emotional health or wellbeing. There are also legislative provisions in place to deal with child welfare particularly regarding the relationship between a child and his/her parents or guardians, providing the framework for a legal response to a wide spectrum of child welfare issues.

However, as I have said, further research is to be carried out by my Department. The Department's Research and Data Analytics Unit is in the process of planning a research project, to be undertaken this year, which will examine the international approaches to parental alienation in order to inform thinking on whether any new policy or legislative responses are required in this jurisdiction.

The Children and Family Relationships Act 2015 inserted a new Part V into the Guardianship of Infants Act 1964 which sets down the factors and circumstances that the court shall have regard to when determining what is in the best interests of the child. These factors include the benefit to the child of having a meaningful relationship with each of his or her parents. Section 11D of the 1964 Act obliges the court in proceedings under section 11 to consider whether the child's best interests would be served by maintaining personal relations and direct contact with each of his or her parents on a regular basis. Section 25 of the 1964 Act also requires the court, as it thinks appropriate and practicable, to take into account the child's wishes in custody and access matters, having regard to the age and understanding of the child.

Section 12A of the 1964 Act (inserted by section 58 of the Children and Family Relationships Act 2015) provides that in making any order under the Act, the court may impose such conditions as it considers to be necessary in the best interests of the child. It is a matter for the courts when making orders under the 1964 Act in relation to matters such as the guardianship, custody or upbringing of, or access to, a child to consider whether or not any conditions should be attached to such orders.

There has also been an amendment to family law legislation to assist parents who need to return to court because the other parent has breached a court order in relation to custody of or access to a child. Section 56 of the Children and Family Relationships Act 2015 inserted a new section 18A into the Guardianship of Infants Act 1964 and this provides that where a parent or guardian of a child has been granted custody of or access to the child under the 1964 Act, but he or she has been unreasonably denied such custody or access by another guardian or parent, that person may apply to court for an enforcement order.

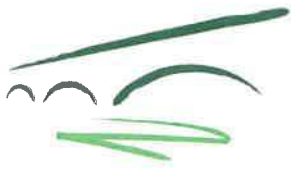
As Minister I have no role in the making of court orders in relation to custody, access or maintenance. This is a function of the courts, which are, subject to the Constitution and the law, independent in the performance of their functions.

I trust the above information is of some assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Helen McEntee T.D.
Minister for Justice

An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt
Department of Justice
51 Faiche Stiabhna, Baile Átha Cliath 2, D02 HK52
51 St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2, D02 HK52



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Agenda Item 42a

Seirbhís Chorpóra agus
Comhairle Cathrach agus Contae Luimnigh,
Ceanncheathrú Chorpóraideach,
, Cé na gCeannaithe,
Luimneach

Corporate Services,
Limerick City and County Council,
Corporate Headquarters,
Merchants Quay,
Limerick

EIRCODE V94 EH90

t: +353 (0) 61 557150
f: +353 (0) 61 415 266

2nd February, 2021.

To: Each Local Authority

A Chara,

I write to inform you that at a Meeting of Limerick City and County Council held on 25th January, 2021, the following resolution was adopted and it was agreed to circulate it to all Local Authorities for support:

“That, Limerick City and County Council acknowledge the oversight role played by Councils in mother and baby homes, and call on all Councils to write to the Government to establish a national day of recognition for the women and their children impacted; and that the Council write to the Minister for Children asking that the survivors be given access to a written copy of Final Report of the Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes.”

Is mise le meas,

James Clune,
Meetings Administrator.



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**
Limerick City
& County Council

Agenda Item 42b

Scribhneoir Chorpóraideach,
Comhairle Cathrach agus Contae Luimnigh,
Ceanncheathrú Chorpóraideach,
, Cé na gCeannaithe,
Luimneach

Corporate Services,
Limerick City and County Council,
Corporate Headquarters,
Merchants Quay,
Limerick

EIRCODE V94 EH90

2nd February, 2021.

t: +353 (0) 61 557150
f: +353 (0) 61 415 266

To: Each Local Authority

A Chara,

I write to inform you that at a Meeting of Limerick City and County Council held on 25th January, 2021, the following resolution was adopted and it was agreed to circulate it to all Local Authorities for support:

"That, Limerick City and County Council requests the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to immediately suspend the statutory time period for the preparation of the Draft Limerick Development Plan 2022 - 2028 until such time as (a) public health restrictions are lifted to allow for safe face-to-face engagement between the Elected Members, the public and the Executive and (b) the Department provides a definition of the 'social and economic need' as referred to in the National Planning Framework."

Is mise le meas,

James Clune,
Meetings Administrator.



COMHAIRLE | CLARE
CONTAE AN CHLÁIR | COUNTY COUNCIL

3rd February, 2021.

Our Ref: December 20-17

Dear Meetings Administrator,

At the December meeting of Clare County Council the members passed the following resolution:

“That Clare County Council call on the Minister for Transport, Climate, Environment and Communication to provide specific funding to all local authorities in order to create a role for an active and sustainable travel officer so that alternatives to the dependency on cars can be worked on. The role would also include modal shift, behavioural change and designing for the active mobility of people of all ages and abilities who have a right of access to our public streets.”

It was agreed that this resolution would be circulated to other local authorities.

Yours sincerely,

Ann Reynolds,
A/Senior Executive Officer,
Corporate Services Department,
Finance and Support Services Directorate.



3rd February, 2021.

COMHAIRLE | CLARE
CONTAE AN CHLÁIR | COUNTY COUNCIL

Our Ref: January 21-10

Dear Meetings Administrator,

At the January meeting of Clare County Council the members passed the following resolution:

“I am calling on Minister Darragh O’Brien and Minister of State Peter Burke to urgently review planning policy in relation to the Development of Residential property.

1/ What I am looking for is more clarity and transparency in relation to developers applying for private residential development and disposal of the total development when completed for social housing.

2/ Developers are required to deliver on Part V of their obligations in the delivery of a portion of the development for Social and Affordable Housing and this has to be agreed with the planners with input from Senior Officers within the housing section.

3/ Planning and housing have a duty to deliver balanced tenure and sustainable communities where a mix of housing would be available for both private and social needs.

4/ The development of large scale social housing requires considerable assistance and support at local level and in some instances local services are not sufficient to provide school placements and other essential supports for some vulnerable families and this has to be a consideration for planners.

5/ Currently members of the public wishing to purchase their own property are finding it very difficult to find private property for sale as the policy in planning is mostly focused on the delivery of social housing and in turn this policy puts more pressure on local authorities waiting lists and for the lower to middle income bracket they cannot get on the list due to income thresholds.

Public confidence needs to be strengthened in the whole planning process and I am hopeful the Ministers will find the balance required in the development of vibrant communities.”

It was agreed that this resolution would be circulated to other local authorities.

Yours sincerely,

Ann Reynolds,
A/Senior Executive Officer,
Corporate Services Department,
Finance and Support Services Directorate.
An Roinn Seirbhísí Corparáideach

Stiúrthóireacht Airgeadais agus Seirbhísí Tacaíochta

Áras Contae an Chláir, Bóthar Nua, Inis, Co. an Chláir, V95 DXP2

Corporate Services Department
Finance and Support Services Directorate

Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare, V95 DXP2



COMHAIRLE | CLARE
CONTAE AN CHLÁIR | COUNTY COUNCIL

3rd February, 2021.

Our Ref: January 21-12

Dear Meetings Administrator,

At the January meeting of Clare County Council the members passed the following resolution:

“In light of the incredible service and commitment given to the country by our frontline staff, healthcare workers, carers and lifesavers over the period of the Covid 19 Global Pandemic I call on the government to explore any and every manner to tangibly recognise this extraordinary above and beyond service.

I propose this recognition should be in the form of direct tax free bonus payment similar to the €500 one off payment scheme introduced in Scotland, a tax credit, additional paid leave, or other appropriate clear and tangible reward to mark this commitment.

To do this I call on the Department of Health to lead a cross department group with the achievement of above as its one objective.”

It was agreed that this resolution would be circulated to other local authorities.

Yours sincerely,

Ann Reynolds,
A/Senior Executive Officer,
Corporate Services Department,
Finance and Support Services Directorate.

An Roinn Seirbhísí Corparáideach
Stiúirtheoireacht Airgeadais agus Seirbhísí Tacaíochta
Áras Contae an Chláir, Bóthar Nua, Inis, Co. an Chláir, V95 DXP2

Corporate Services Department
Finance and Support Services Directorate

Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare, V95 DXP2

Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
Custom House
Dublin, D01 W6X0
February 4th 2021

Dear Minister O'Brien

The Dublin City Council Women's Committee, a cross party committee composed of 26 of the 29 female Councillors on Dublin City Council is writing to implore your department to make appropriate legal provisions to allow sitting Councillors to avail of Maternity Leave.

Currently there is no mechanism which allows women Councillors to take maternity leave whilst serving on the Council. We find this to be unjust and discriminatory. The Employment Equality Acts 1998 - 2015 prohibits discrimination in employment related settings, which includes 'family status'. Discrimination is referred to as 'less favourable treatment' and can be either direct or indirect. We have provided quotes from Councillors who had given birth whilst serving on the council which highlight how unjust and discriminatory the current situation is. Additionally, the absence of maternity leave is a proven barrier to participation for women entering politics and a contributing factor for the relative lack of women putting themselves forward for political office. This leads to government structures that are fundamentally unrepresentative of the general population of Ireland.

We deem Section 18 (4) (b) within the current Local Government Act 2001 to be an appropriate basis upon which leave for maternity reasons could be provided for. It states that a Councillor may be absent for more than 6 months from meeting for a reason "in good faith" where this "is accepted by the local authority and approved by resolution under this paragraph before the end of the relevant period, in which case the period shall stand extended to 12 months from the relevant date".

In addition, we concur with the Moorhead Report recommendation which states: 'Councillors who wish to take parental leave should be able to notify the elected council one month in advance, rather than be obliged to seek the council's approval to take time away from their role' and would ask for clarity how this is likely to be implemented.

Minister, we are calling on you to put in place the appropriate legislation and/or directive to rectify this unjust anomaly for Councillor, and to ensure that this action required is expedited in recognition of the seriousness of this inequity. We are available to engage with you and your department and we look forward to hearing from you.

Yours Sincerely



Darcy Lonergan, Chair of the Women's Committee

Quotes of councillors who have been pregnant whilst serving on Dublin City Council

"I took 2 weeks off after I had my baby and came back to my council role, I took him to meetings with me when I could manage. Child care wasn't an issue. I had family members willing to help but I wanted him with me so I could feed him and bond with him. I felt pressured to come back to work because there was at the time still no set maternity leave for cllrs. I worked in other jobs whilst having my two other boys and took the full entitlement to maternity leave for both births. Rushing back to my council role didn't help me and I suffered a bout of postpartum depression. I believe then and I believe now that we need full maternity leave entitlements. I was part of a group of cross party Cllr who campaigned for a parenting room in city hall. We were successful in getting this room and I was delighted to be able to use it on one or two occasions after I had Bródy"- **Cllr. Janice Boylan**

"After the birth of each my kids, I was back in the Council Chamber 2 weeks later. When I think back I have no idea how I did that after the first one as I had been back in hospital with complications and had only been back out a few days. I was breastfeeding so I had to leave him at home and then run back home straight after the important votes were cast. With no maternity leave, and no remote or proxy voting, as a new mother you are completely compromised in trying to keep up your role as Councillor and balance motherhood. You also don't have proper child care established when they are really small, and there are no longer spaces available for Councillors in the Dublin City Council creche, a facility that was originally set up for the elected representatives and used to provide a drop in service, even for the late night meetings. This changed when there were less women in the Chamber and the demand dropped. This is why we had to fight to change the rules to allow us to bring babies to Council meetings and to establish a parenting room in City Hall. It was surprising how many other Cllrs resisted it, but we got there in the end. It made it so much easier having my second child being able to bring him with me as a small baby, but we still need proper maternity leave. We are entitled to 6 months sick leave but when you aren't sick it feels wrong to take it. But it's too much to expect women to go back to work weeks after giving birth'- **Cllr Claire Bryne**

"Tom was born 13 days after the council election in 2019, on the day of the vote to elect a new Lord Mayor I was in the Rotunda being admitted for monitoring, I missed the vote because there was no facility for a proxy vote or even online voting at the time, which was awkward as my vote was needed as part of the Dublin Agreement and people outside my group weren't sure why I hadn't turned up!" - **Cllr Jane Horgan Jones**



COMHAIRLE | CLARE
CONTAE AN CHLÁIR | COUNTY COUNCIL

9th February, 2021.

Our Ref: February 21-29/AR/MMcI

Dear Meetings Administrator,

At the February meeting of Clare County Council the members passed the following resolution:

“Given the impact Covid 19 has had nationally on work and living patterns, and the opportunities this creates to ‘proactively address issues of town/village decline’ and to promote ‘compact growth’ in those settlements, we would ask the Minister of Housing, Local Government and Heritage that he undertake a review to the current National Planning Framework, and prior to the outcome, he remove reference to, and requirement for local authorities to adhere to, the two tiered approach to land zoning in the delivery of the next County Development Plan due to its negative impact on the ‘facilitation of the building of homes within the existing footprint of rural settlements’ and the ability to deliver on our own rural development goals.

We further request this motion be forwarded to every one of our Oireachtas members and to every other local authority in Ireland for their observations.”

It was agreed that this resolution would be circulated to other local authorities.

Yours sincerely,

Ann Reynolds,
A/Senior Executive Officer,
Corporate Services Department,
Finance and Support Services Directorate.



COMHAIRLE | CLARE
CONTAE AN CHLÁIR | COUNTY COUNCIL

9th February, 2021.

Our Ref: February 21-27/AR/MMcI

Dear Meetings Administrator,

At the February meeting of Clare County Council the members passed the following resolution:

“We are calling on the Government to enforce the laws of the land that exist in relation to tackling the unauthorised occupation of public lands all over Ireland. Level 5 Covid restrictions have been in place for some time and are likely to continue in to the future. Local authorities are precluded from taking action at this time and in the interest of Public Health & Environmental considerations we are calling on the Government to engage a Task force and design a mechanism or policy to protect all citizens in Ireland from the unauthorized occupation of Public Lands. We would also request the circulation of this motion to the other 30 Local Authorities, The Oireachtas Members, LAMA & The AILG.”

It was agreed that this resolution would be circulated to other local authorities.

Yours sincerely,

Ann Reynolds,
A/Senior Executive Officer,
Corporate Services Department,
Finance and Support Services Directorate.

An Roinn Seirbhísí Corparáideach
Stiúrthóireacht Airgeadais agus Seirbhísí Tacaíochta
Áras Contae an Chláir, Bóthar Nua, Inis, Co. an Chláir, V95 DXP2

Corporate Services Department
Finance and Support Services Directorate

Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare, V95 DXP2



Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary County Council

Comhairle Contae
Thiobraid Árann,
Oifigí Cathartha,
Cluain Meala,
Co. Thiobraid Árann

Tipperary County Council,
Civic Offices, Clonmel,
Co. Tipperary

Agenda Item 42f

Comhairle Contae
Thiobraid Árann,
Oifigí Cathartha,
An tAonach,
Co. Thiobraid Árann

Tipperary County Council,
Civic Offices, Nenagh,
Co. Tipperary

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e customerservice
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tipperarycoco.ie

15th February, 2021

To: Each Local Authority

A Chara

I write to inform you that at a Meeting of Tipperary County Council held on 8th February, 2021, the following resolution was adopted and it was agreed to circulate to all Local Authorities for support: -

"That Tipperary county Council calls on the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, Ms. Catherine Martin, T.D., to consider providing extra supports to regional newspapers who provide an essential service to many communities including in County Tipperary during the Covid pandemic".

Is mise le meas

Ger Walsh,
Meetings Administrator

16th February 2021

Our Ref 02/0121

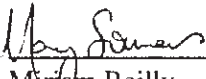
Dear Meetings Administrator

The following Motion was AGREED at meeting of South Dublin County Council held on 11th January 2021.

“During the massive struggle that has been waged by ex- Debenhams workers across the companies 11 stores in Ireland the deficit of workers protection in liquidations has again been sharply exposed. This Council calls for the immediate implementation of the Duffy/Cahill Report, compiled in 2016 in the aftermath of The Clery’s dispute- as one way of strengthening workers’ rights and tackling the legal outs provided to major corporations who engage in tactical liquidations in order to avoid their obligations under hard won workers’ rights. If passed this Council communicates such in writing to Government, to all Local Authorities and to the ICTU offering its support for implementation”.

It was agreed that this motion would be circulated to all local authorities.

Yours sincerely


Miriam Reilly
Meetings Administrator



16 February 2021

To/ Each Local Authority

A Chairde,

I write to inform you that the members of Kerry County Council at their recent meeting adopted the following resolution.

“That this Council writes to Ms. Samantha Power, newly appointed Head of US Aid by President Biden to address this Council at some future date.”

It was agreed to circulate this motion to all local authorities for their attention and consideration.

Mise, le meas,

Pádraig Corkery
Riarthóir Cruinnithe / Meetings Administrator
Comhairle Contae Chiarraí / Kerry County Council



16 February 2021

To/ Each Local Authority

A Chairde,

I write to inform you that the members of Kerry County Council at their recent meeting adopted the following resolution.

“That this Council calls on the Government to utilise its seat on the United Nations Security Council to deliver Statehood to the Palestinian people.”

It was agreed to circulate this motion to all local authorities for their attention and consideration.

Mise, le meas,

Pádraig Corkery
Riarthóir Cruinnithe / Meetings Administrator
Comhairle Contae Chiarraí / Kerry County Council



23rd February, 2021

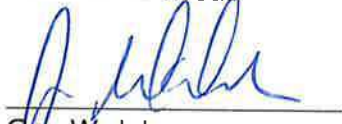
To: Each Local Authority

A Chara

I write to inform you that at a Special Meeting of Tipperary County Council held on 15th February, 2021, the following resolution was adopted and it was agreed to circulate to all Local Authorities for support: -

"That Tipperary County Council call on the Government to introduce a National day of recognition for the survivors and victims of Mother and Baby Homes. That Survivors of Mother and Baby Homes should have the right to information about their birth Mother and their full identity. The Government would Establish a proper redress scheme for survivors and victims and immediately provide counselling and other mental health services to survivors of Mother and Baby Homes to support them in this remarkably difficult time. Also, that we as a council recognise the Historical role that County, Borough and Town Councils from Tipperary played in the running of Mother and Baby institutions in this County, so that we can be sure that this sad part of our past is known and not hidden away. That the government would also support the excavation, exhumation and where possible the identification of remains of babies buried at institutions and insure their dignified reburial and in particular support the endeavours of the We are Still Here Sean Ross Group to complete a 3D scan dig of identified burial locations at Sean Ross. The Council also calls on Minister Roderic O 'Gorman to extend the lifetime of the commission to allow the DPC (data protection commission) to fully investigate the destroying of recordings of evidence without making full transcripts. This immediate action is required to preserve the testimony of witnesses".

Is mise le meas


Ger Walsh,
Meetings Administrator



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE LAOISE LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL

Agenda Item 42k

Comhairle Chontae
Laoise
Áras an Chontae
Port Laoise
Contae Laoise
R32 EHP9

Laois County Council
Áras an Chontae
Portlaoise
County Laois
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Mr. Darragh O' Brien,
Minister for Housing, Planning,
& Local Government,
Custom House,
Dublin 1.

March 1st 2021

Dear Minister O' Brien,

At the February meeting of Laois County Council held on the 22nd of February 2021, I raised the matter of the new Land Development Agency Bill 2021 which was published on the 5th of February 2021. We, the Members of Laois County Council are expressing our strong opposition to this Bill. If enacted, it will remove the powers from Local Authority Members in particular, the local knowledge and also our reserved functions under Section 183 notices for the disposal of public lands owned by Local Authorities. It is a further erosion of Local Authority Member's power.

The Members requested that the matter be referred to you as a matter of urgency. We are strongly requesting that this part of the Bill be dissolved.

I would be obliged to receive your comments/observations on the matter in early course.

I look forward to hearing from you in this regard.

Kind Regards,

Yours sincerely,

Catherine Fitzgerald
Cathaoilreach of Laois County Council

Tá Fáilte Romhat
Gnó a Dhéanamh
as Gaeilge



