Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall
Fingal County Council

Minutes of the County Council Meeting held on Monday, 10th January, 2022 in the MS Teams, at 5.00 pm

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

The Mayor, Councillor S. Ó Rodaigh, 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); Oliver Hunt (Head of Finance); Liam Burke (A/Director of Services/Housing and Community), Brian Buckley (Senior Executive Officer); Mary Egan (Senior Executive Officer); Bronagh Corry (Administrative Officer), Helena Bergin (Senior Exec Arch Conservation Officer).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor, Cllr. S. Ó Rodaigh, reminded Members that Standing Orders would apply to all aspects of the meeting.

The Mayor then extended sympathies on behalf of herself and the Members to Cllr. Ann Graves following the death of her mother.

F/1/22 (Agenda Item No 1)

Confirmation and Re-Affirmation of Minutes of meeting held 13th December 2021.

Minutes of the County Council Meeting held on 13th December 2021 which had been circulated were considered.

It was **PROPOSED** by Councillor S. Ó Rodaigh, seconded by Councillor D. Whooley and **RESOLVED –**

"That the minutes of the County Council Meeting held on 13th December 2021 be **ADOPTED."**

F/2/22 (Agenda Item No 2)

Election of Chairperson to the Community Development, Heritage Culture & Creativity Strategic Policy Committee

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

As the group voting system applied to the nomination of the Chairperson for this Committee, as set out in Schedule 10 of the LG Act 2001, as amended, a group had been formed comprising of the Sinn Féin Councillors and other Councillors and this group put forward the name of Councillor Joan Hopkins. It was

proposed by Councillor A. Graves, seconded by Councillor P. Mulville and AGREED:

"That Councillor J. Hopkins be elected as the Chairperson of the Community Development, Heritage Culture & Creativity Strategic Policy Committee."

Following the appointment of Cllr. J. Hopkins, a vacancy existed on the Transport and Infrastructure Management SPC and it was AGREED that Cllr A. O'Rourke would fill this vacancy.

F/3/22 (Agenda Item No 3)

Election of Members to the Marine and Coastal Management Strategic Policy Committee

The report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was CONSIDERED. Following discussion, it was proposed by Cllr. S Ó Rodaigh, seconded by Cllr. D. Whooley and RESOLVED that:

"In accordance with Section 41 of the Local Government Reform Act 2001 (as amended), it is hereby resolved that the following Councillors be appointed as members of the Marine and Coastal Management Strategic Policy Committee –

Councillors Ann Graves; Tom O'Leary; Paul Mulville; Cathal Boland; Eoghan O'Brien; Brian Dennehy; Robert O'Donoghue; Karen Power; Adrian Henchy and David Healy."

F/4/22 (Agenda Item No 4)

Election of Chairperson to the Marine and Coastal Management Strategic Policy Committee

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

Following discussion, it was proposed by Cllr J. Newman and seconded by Cllr. J. Hopkins –

"That Councillor Paul Mulville be appointed as the Chairperson of the Marine and Coastal Management SPC."

It was then proposed by Cllr T. Murphy and seconded by Cllr. G Maguire –

"That Councillor Cathal Boland be appointed as the Chairperson of the Marine and Coastal Management SPC."

It proposed by Cllr D. Butler and seconded by Cllr. H. Mahony –

"That Councillor Eoghan O'Brien be appointed as the Chairperson of the Marine and Coastal Management SPC."

It was then proposed by Cllr P. Conroy and seconded by Cllr. I. Carey –

"That Councillor Karen Power be appointed as the Chairperson of the Marine and Coastal Management SPC."

Cllr. Cathal Boland then advised the Members that he would be withdrawing his nomination for the position of Chairperson.

The Mayor then instructed that a roll call vote be taken and on a division the voting resulted as follows:

MULVILLE: 10 TEN
O'BRIEN: 18 EIGHTEEN
POWER: 10 TEN
ABSTAIN: 1 ONE

MULVILLE: Councillors Burtchaell, John; Doyle, Tania; Graves, Ann; Hanaphy, Breda; Hopkins, Joan; Mulligan, Dean; Mulville, Paul; Newman, Joe; Tormey, Aoibhinn; Treacy, Natalie.

O'BRIEN: Councillors Boland, Cathal; Butler, Darragh; Dennehy, Brian; Dennison, Kieran; Guerin, Jimmy; Henchy, Adrian; Kitt, Tom; Lavin, Anthony; Leddy, Ted; Maguire, Grainne; Mahony, Howard; Manton, Brigid; Murphy, Tony; O'Brien, Eoghan; O'Leary, Tom; Onwumereh, JK; Rane, Punam; Shovlin, Siobhan.

POWER: Councillors Carey, Ian; Conroy, Pamela; Healy, David; McCamley, Mary; McDonagh, Brian; O'Donoghue, Robert; Ó Rodaigh, Seana; Power, Karen; Walsh, John; Whooley, Daniel.

ABSTAIN: Councillors Humphreys, James

As the votes for Councillors Mulville and Power resulted in a tie, in accordance with Section 37 (i) of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended), both names were written on similar slips of paper, mixed and then a name was drawn at

random by Brian Buckley, Meetings Administrator. Councillor Power's name was drawn first and was therefore excluded from the vote.

The Mayor then instructed that a second roll call vote be taken and on a division the voting resulted as follows:

MULVILLE: 12 TWELVE
O'BRIEN: 28 TWENTY EIGHT

MULVILLE: Councillors Burtchaell, John; Doyle, Tania; Graves, Ann; Hanaphy, Breda; Hopkins, Joan; Humphreys James; Mulligan, Dean; Mulville, Paul; Newman, Joe; O'Rourke, Aaron; Tormey, Aoibhinn; Treacy, Natalie.

O'BRIEN: Councillors Boland, Cathal; Butler, Darragh; Carey, Ian; Conroy, Pamela; Dennehy, Brian; Dennison, Kieran; Guerin, Jimmy; Healy, David; Henchy, Adrian; Kitt, Tom; Lavin, Anthony; Leddy, Ted; Maguire, Grainne; Mahony, Howard; Manton, Brigid; McCamley, Mary; McDonagh, Brian; Murphy, Tony; O'Brien, Eoghan; O'Donoghue, Robert; O'Leary, Tom; Onwumereh, JK; Ó Rodaigh, Seana; Power, Karen; Rane, Punam; Shovlin, Siobhan; Walsh, John; Whooley, Daniel.

The Mayor then DECLARED Cllr Eoghan O'Brien elected as the Cathaoirleach of the Marine and Coastal Management SPC.

F/5/22 (Agenda Item No 5)

Appointment of Members for Inter Local Authority Special Committee on Fire and Ambulance Services and Emergency Management

This item was DEFERRED to the February meeting of the County Council.

F/6/22 (Agenda Item No)

QUESTIONS

It was proposed by Councillor S. Ó Rodaigh, seconded by Councillor D. Whooley and RESOLVED:

"That in accordance with Standing Order No. 53, Questions numbered 6 to 15, be ADOPTED."

F/7/22 (Agenda Item No 6)
Councillor P. Mulville - European Edge Cities Network

F/8/22 (Agenda Item No 7)
Councillor B. Dennehy - Employment Hubs in Fingal.

F/9/22 (Agenda Item No 8)
Councillor B. Manton - Active Travel Budget.

F/10/22 (Agenda Item No 9)
Councillor B. Manton - Establishment of Coffee Carts.

F/11/22 (Agenda Item No 10)
Councillor J. Hopkins - Provision of Sports and Recreational Facilities.

F/12/22 (Agenda Item No 11)
Councillor E. O'Brien - Pedestrian wait times at Junctions.

F/13/22 (Agenda Item No 12)
Councillor K. Power - Step Down Housing in Fingal.

F/14/22 (Agenda Item No 13)
Councillor JK. Onwumereh - St. Patrick's Day Parade 2022.

F/15/22 (Agenda Item No 14)
Councillor J. Humphreys - VAS Contract.

F/16/22 (Agenda Item No 15)
Councillor A. Henchy - Footpaths and Road Repairs/Reinstatements

F/17/22 (Agenda Item No 16)
Report of Committees

a Report of Organisation, Procedure & Finance Committee Meeting held on 13th December 2021

The report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was **CONSIDERED**. It was proposed by Councillor S. Ó Rodaigh, seconded by Councillor D. Whooley and **RESOLVED:**

"That the recommendations contained in the report of Organisation, Procedure & Finance Committee meeting held on 13th December 2021 be **ADOPTED.**"

b Report of Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on Thursday 6th January 2022

The report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was **CONSIDERED** and **NOTED.**

F/18/22 (Agenda Item No 17)

Financial Matters

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

F/19/22 (Agenda Item No 18)

Proposed Disposal of Properties.

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

F/20/22 (Agenda Item No 19)

Declaration of Roads/Taking in Charge

a Weavers Wood, Clonsilla, Dublin 15

The report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated was **CONSIDERED**. It was proposed by Councillor S. Ó Rodaigh, seconded by Councillor P. Rane, and **RESOLVED:**

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

b Hammerhead extension at The Old Golf Links, Malahide, Co. Dublin

The report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated was **CONSIDERED**. It was proposed by Councillor S. Ó Rodaigh, seconded by Councillor D. Healy, and **RESOLVED:**

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

c Foul Sewer and Watermains at St. Mary's , Baldoyle, Dublin 13

The report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated was **CONSIDERED**. It was proposed by Councillor S. Ó Rodaigh, seconded by Councillor D. Healy, and **RESOLVED**:

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

F/21/22 (Agenda Item No 20)
Climate Change Action Plan Annual Progress Report

The report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was **CONSIDERED** and **NOTED**.

F/22/22 (Agenda Item No 21)
Draft Strategic Policy Programme 2022

The attached report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated was **CONSIDERED**. Following discussion, it was proposed by Cllr. S. Ó Rodaigh, seconded by Cllr. M. McCamley and **RESOLVED**:

"That the SPC Policy Programme 2022 is hereby **ADOPTED**."

F/23/22 (Agenda Item No 22)
Report on Architectural Grant Schemes 2021

The report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was **CONSIDERED**. Following a presentation to the Members the report was **NOTED**.

F/24/22 (Agenda Item No 23)
Chief Executive's Report

The report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was **CONSIDERED.** Following discussion, the report was **NOTED.**

F/25/22 (Agenda Item No 24)

Mayors Business - Councillor S. Ó Rodaigh - 15 minute City or Town Centre First approach Feasibility Studies.

The motion, in the name of Councillor S. Ó Rodaigh was proposed by Councillor S. Ó Rodaigh and seconded by Councillor R. O'Donoghue.

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

F/26/22 (Agenda Item No 25)

Conference Report.

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

F/27/22 (Agenda Item No 26)

Departmental/Ministerial Correspondence

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

F/28/22 (Agenda Item No 27)

Correspondence.

a Letter from Sligo County Council dated 10th December 2021 re Prospecting License to Flintridge Resources for 50 townlands in Nth Leitrim.

The correspondence which had been received was **NOTED.**

b Letter from Donegal County Council dated 16th December 2021 re Section 140 Motions

The correspondence which had been received was **NOTED.**

c Letter from Monaghan County Council dated 20th December 2021 re Coroner Service Provision

The correspondence which had been received was **NOTED.**

d Letter from Galway County Council dated 22nd December 2021 re Help to Buy Scheme Extension for 5 years

The correspondence which had been received was **NOTED.**

e Letter from Louth Co Council re Epilepsy Ireland Campaign Support

The correspondence which had been received was **NOTED.**

F/29/22 (Agenda Item No 28)
Councillor A. Lavin - Remove large debris and rubbish dumped into the Broadmeadows Estuary

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

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

F/30/22 (Agenda Item No 29)
Councillor P. Conroy - Universal Design in Housing

The motion, in the name of Councillor P. Conroy was proposed by Councillor P. Conroy and seconded by Councillor I. Carey.

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

F/31/22 (Agenda Item No 38)
Councillor D. Healy - Bye-Laws on Election Posters.

The motion, in the name of Councillor D. Healy was proposed by Councillor D. Healy and seconded by Councillor J. Newman and the report was **NOTED.**

The Meeting concluded at 8pm.

MAYOR _____ DATE _____

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2022

ITEM NO. 02

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS FOR INTER LOCAL AUTHORITY SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FIRE AND AMBULANCE SERVICES AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Dublin Fire Brigade has responsibility for the delivery of services in the four local authority areas of Dublin. The service is also funded by the four Dublin local authorities. In 2021, the other three Dublin Local Authorities will provide 52.4% of the total funding for the service with the balance coming from the City Council.

In January 2020, a proposed Inter Local Authority Special Committee on Fire & Ambulance Services and Emergency Management was proposed by Dublin City Council, comprised of Elected Members from the four Dublin local authorities, four of which will be from Fingal County Council.

The remit of this Committee is as follows:

- Assisting the four Dublin local authorities in the formulation, development and review of policy on Emergency Services and Emergency Management.
- Taking a strategic overview of the relevant policy areas in the wider context of the Dublin region.
- The preparation of a Fire and Emergency Operations Plan under Section 26 of the Fire Services Act, 1981.
- The achievement of greater integration and co-ordination between the Dublin Fire Brigade and the National Ambulance Service.
- Oversight of progress on the implementation of measures to address the recommendations from the Health and Quality (HIQA) reports in December 2014 and March 2017.
- Considering the progress of various proposed reform programmes.

This Committee will meet four times per annum.

Dublin City Council is now seeking the agreement of this Council to the formation of this Committee and the nomination of four Members.

To the Lord Mayor and
Members of Dublin City Council

Report No. 344/2021
Report of the Chief Executive

Comhairle Cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council

Proposed Inter Local Authority Special Committee on Fire &Ambulance Services and Emergency Management

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In May 2016, a Special Committee on Fire & Ambulance Services and Emergency Management was established by the City Council (Report No. 123/2016). The work of this Committee ceased on the expiry of the previous City Council.

As Councillors are aware Dublin Fire Brigade, while managed by Dublin City Council, has responsibility for the delivery of services in the four local authority areas of Dublin. The service is also funded by the four Dublin local authorities. In 2021, the other 3 Dublin local authorities will provide 52.4% of the total funding for the service with the balance coming from the City Council.

In January 2020, a proposed Inter Local Authority Special Committee on Fire & Ambulance Services and Emergency Management was proposed (Report No 350/2019), comprised of Elected Members from the four Dublin local authorities. The suggested membership breakdown, based on the respective funding contributions, was as follows:

10	Councillors from Dublin City Council
4	Councillors from South Dublin County Council
4	Councillors from Fingal County Council
3	Councillors from Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council
21	

The remit of the Committee was as follows

- Assisting the four Dublin local authorities in the formulation, development and review of policy on Emergency Services and Emergency Management.
- Taking a strategic overview of the relevant policy areas in the wider context of the Dublin region.
- The preparation of a Fire and Emergency Operations Plan under Section 26 of the Fire Services Act, 1981.
- The achievement of greater integration and co-ordination between the Dublin Fire Brigade and the National Ambulance Service.
- Oversight of progress on the implementation of measures to address the recommendations from the Health and Quality (HIQA) reports in December 2014 and March 2017.
- Considering the progress of various proposed reform programmes.

The Special Committee was to meet 4 times per annum. In between meetings, a Special Meeting could be called by the Chairperson with the agreement of Members. As is the case with the Strategic Policy Committee structure and remit, this Committee would not be involved in operational or industrial relations issues.

Dublin City Council voted to amend the proposed make-up of the Committee, including altering the membership of Councillors from

10	Councillors from Dublin City Council
4	Councillors from South Dublin County Council
4	Councillors from Fingal County Council
3	Councillors from Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council
21	

to

10	Councillors from Dublin City Council
3	Councillors from South Dublin County Council
3	Councillors from Fingal County Council
2	Councillors from Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council
18	

As this membership breakdown was not acceptable to the other Dublin local authorities the Special Committee has not been established.

The City Council also decided that the Special Committee should include 3 external members with relevant expertise one of whom will be an ICTU representative/nominee and that the criteria/selection process to choose the remaining external members would be agreed by the Councillors on the Special Committee, ahead of its initial meeting.

In order to expedite the establishment of the Special Committee, I am proposing that the Council revisit the matter and agree to proceed on the basis of the originally proposed membership breakdown with the external members, as proposed by the City Council. In addition, I am proposing that the Chair of the Committee would be selected by the City Council representatives and the Vice Chair by the other Council representatives. A quorum for the Special Committee will be 6, with a requirement that at least 3 members from Dublin City Council and 3 members from the other local authorities present.

If the resolution below is adopted, invitations will be sent to our neighbouring local authorities to seek their agreement to the proposed arrangements for the Special Committee.

Resolution:
'That Dublin City Council notes the contents of Report No. 344/2021 and hereby approves the contents therein'.

Owen P.Keegan
Chief Executive

17 November 2021

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2022

ITEM NO. 03

MEMBERSHIP OF STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES

A request has been received from Councillors Ian Carey and Pamela Conroy to switch their SPC membership, with Councillor Carey moving to the Economic, Enterprise & Tourism Development SPC and Councillor Conroy moving to the Climate Action, Biodiversity, Environment SPC.

The change of SPC membership is before the Members for approval.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 14th FEBRAURY 2022

ITEM NO. 04

MOTOR TAX OFFICE – TELEPHONE SERVICE

Question: Councillor P Mulville

"To ask the Chief Executive if information could be provided in relation to the telephone service for the Motor Tax Office, a service provided by Dublin City Council on behalf of the three other Dublin Local Authorities, as some people who are trying to renew their car tax online are running into difficulties with the online system and when they ring to speak with someone, they only get an automated service, as opposed to a member of staff who can help resolve their query?

Reply:

The service provided by Dublin City Council in relation to Motor Tax relates principally to postal applications received as well as dealing with general Motor Tax queries. Members of the public can contact the Motor Tax Office at 01- 222 8000 or by emailing motortax@dublincity.ie. Dublin City Council have advised that this phone line is manned 5 days a week from 9.00am to 5.00pm and the email account is monitored daily.

Dublin City Council have further advised that the Motor Tax Online System is operated by the Department of Transport in Shannon, Co. Clare. Contact has been made with this office and the Members will be updated when further information is received.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2022

ITEM NO. 05

PUBLIC BINS WASTE COLLECTION

Question: Councillor J. Hopkins

"To ask the Chief Executive for a breakdown of the amount of waste collected from public bins, i.e. percentage of contents recycled versus going to landfill, given that the majority of items going to public bins are recyclable, i.e. aluminium cans, plastic bottles etc."?

Reply:

The materials collected from the general waste street bins are too highly contaminated to be considered for dry recycling processing. General waste goes for incineration/energy recovery and 2-3% of the waste gets recovered and recycled as metal.

The Council's Waste Collection Contractor, AES- Bord Na Móna Recycling, have recently commenced construction of an MBT Facility (Mechanical Biological Treatment) which will primarily accept and process municipal solid waste (MSW) and will provide for an overall capacity of 250,000 tonnes per annum. Mechanical Biological Treatment, through a combination of mechanical processing and biological treatment (such as composting and dry anaerobic digestion), reduces the volume of waste which requires treatment by more traditional methods of disposal, such as landfill and incineration. The approximate recovery rates expected for the MBT Plant are 8% recyclables, 14% moisture, 25% organic fines & 53% Solid Recovered Fuels.

This will be Ireland's largest MBT facility and is anticipated to cost over €80 million. It represents the largest single investment in waste infrastructure since Dublin Waste to Energy Project in 2014. It is hoped that the Drehid Facility will start accepting waste in November 2022. This means that all of Fingal's general waste from Nov/Dec 22 will achieve a recycle rate of 47% and the remaining 53% going to energy recovery.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2022

ITEM NO. 06

UPDATE ON FINGAL COASTAL WAY

Question: Councillor K. Power

"To ask the Chief Executive for an update on the status of the preferred route options for the Fingal Coastal Way?"

Reply:

The Fingal Coastal Way is a proposed 32km high quality greenway cycling and walking route running from Donabate to Balbriggan. It is a long-standing objective of the Fingal Development Plan and is currently being progressed under the Fingal Capital Programme 2022-2024 with funding being provided by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage's Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) and the Department of Transport's Greenways Strategy funding.

Following a non-statutory public consultation in April 2021, which set out a small number of routes (c.3-5 route options) over the entire 32km route corridor, the Project Team is engaged in ongoing stakeholder consultation to help inform the emerging preferred route. This includes consultation with landowners who engaged through the consultation process, residents and statutory consultees as well as individual meetings and meetings with residents' groups and other interested parties. Following the completion of this process an emerging preferred route is expected to be published for further consultation in Q3 2022. Given the scale of the scheme, it is likely that the project will be the subject of an application for planning consent to An Bord Pleanála in 2023.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2022

ITEM NO. 07

Question: Councillor D. Healy

"To ask the Chief Executive what progress has been made in discussions with Irish Water, in relation to making information available publicly on sewage overflows and unplanned discharges in the County that Council or Irish Water become aware of as soon as practicable after learning of the overflow or discharge, in line with our shared duty under Regulation 5 of the access to information on the Environment Regulations?"

Reply:

The Council wrote to Irish Water on 28th June 2021 with regard to the availability of the information on foot of a request by the SPC. Further contact was made with Irish Water on 13th January 2022. The Council requested a meeting with Irish Water to discuss the provision of this information. A response is awaited.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2022

ITEM NO. 08

DIRECT VISION STANDARD AND HGV SAFETY PERMIT SYSTEM

Question: Councillor D. Healy

"To ask the Chief Executive to report on progress in discussions with the other 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, as agreed at the July 2019 Council Meeting?"

Reply:

As agreed, the Council brought this forward to the NTA chaired Regional Greater Dublin Area Transport Coordination Group of which the 4 Dublin Local Authorities are members. The issue of Direct Vision Standard and HGV permit has been raised again with the NTA and there is no further update at this time.

It is not within the power of the Regional Greater Dublin Area Transport Coordination Group to introduce a similar system to that introduced by TFL (Transport for London) in Dublin, as it would require national legislative change and approval which is a matter for the National Transport Authority and the Minister for Transport. The 3.5t weight restriction through the towns and villages of Fingal provides a very similar arrangement to the HGV permit.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2022

ITEM NO. 09

HOUSING FOR ALL DELIVERIES

Question: Councillor B. Manton

"To ask the Chief Executive if she could outline how this Council plans to deliver the number of houses outlined, as a requirement in the Housing for All document for our Council area by identifying the areas for growth; outlining how the Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP) will impact on the supply of housing and how many social homes are included in the projections?"

Reply:

The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly (EMRA) sets out a strategic plan and investment framework to shape development and manage planning in the eastern and midland region, including Fingal. The Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP) forms part of the RSES and is a regional framework which aligns population and employment growth with associated transport and infrastructure investment priorities. Fingal is located within the Dublin Region and partly within the MASP area, with the remainder of the county outside the MASP boundary, located within the Core Region.

MASP identifies a number of large-scale strategic areas based on key transport corridors with a capacity to deliver significant development up to the year 2031. Future growth will be directed to these strategic residential and employment locations based on their current and future development capacity, their ability to deliver outcomes such as compact development, placemaking, accessibility to

public transport, potential for economic development and ability to reduce the carbon footprint.

In this regard, the RSES recognises the strategic location of Swords as one of three 'Key Towns' in the MASP area (the remaining two being Bray and Maynooth). Also relevant to Fingal are the strategically important corridors of the 'Metrolink – LUAS Corridor' and the 'Dublin – Belfast Economic Corridor'.

The Settlement Hierarchy for Fingal which is set out in Table 1 below aligns with the County's Core Strategy comprising a series of levels derived from and consistent with RSES and MASP. This ranges from those areas of Fingal defined as either Metropolitan or Core, extending from rural areas, towns and villages through to the Key Town of Swords and areas classified as Dublin City and Suburbs at the top of the structure. The resultant Settlement Hierarchy takes into account the important roles and functions which each town and village performs in a regional context and ensures that future growth and accompanying investment is appropriately directed.

Within Fingal, areas of construction activity, e.g. Hansfield, Blanchardstown, Baldoyle, and Santry identify as Dublin City and Suburbs and development has in the main occurred on lands subject to land use management plans/frameworks such as the Strategic Development Zones, Local Area Plans and Masterplans. Further residential development is occurring countywide, including within the key town of Swords and within the Self-Sustaining Growth Town of Donabate, thereby aligning with the provisions of the RSES and MASP.

The delivery of housing within these areas will ensure that the target to deliver 3,640 social homes during 2022-2026 is met via Part V arrangements, the Council's own construction programme and other social and affordable housing initiatives under 'Housing for All'.

Note: The Fingal Development Plan review process which is ongoing, will shortly progress to Draft Development Plan stage with public consultation to commence in February 2022. The Draft Plan will include in Chapter 2 and associated appendices, a review of the County's Core Strategy, Settlement Hierarchy and Housing Strategy informed by a Housing Need and Demand Assessment (HNDA).

Table 1: Fingal Settlement Hierarchy

<table>
<tr><th>Metropolitan Area</th><th>Core Area</th></tr>
<tr><td>Dublin City and Suburbs Consolidation Area
Blanchardstown
Baldoyle
Castleknock
Clonsilla
Howth
Mulhuddart Village
Sutton
Santry (incl. Ballymun)
Balgriffin & Belcamp
Charlestown & Meakestown</td><td rowspan="3"></td></tr>
<tr><td>Key Town
Swords</td></tr>
<tr><td>Other Metropolitan Areas
Portmarnock
Baskin</td></tr>
<tr><td>Self-Sustaining Growth Town
Donabate

Self-Sustaining Town
Malahide</td><td>Self-Sustaining Towns
Balbriggan
Lusk
Rush
Skerries</td></tr>
<tr><td>Towns and Villages
Portrane
Coolquay
Kinsaley
Rivermeade
Rowlestown</td><td>Other Core Towns and Villages
Balrothery
Loughshinny
Ballyboghil
Naul
Balscadden
Oldtown
Garristown
Ballymadun</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Rural- Clusters and Rural Areas
See Chapter 5 Fingal Development Plan entitled ‘Rural Fingal’ for a full list of rural clusters.</td></tr>
</table>

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2022

ITEM NO. 10

ACCESSING UTILITIES FOR NEW BUILDS

Question: Councillor B. Manton

"To ask the Chief Executive if accessing utilities such as water, electricity and broadband is a problem in some areas where new builds are happening and whether there is adequate headroom in the system to cater for the increased requirement for electricity in newly developed areas?"

Reply:

The Council has no direct control over the timing of upgrades or new schemes relating to wastewater upgrades, treatment plants and drainage projects. These are made by Irish Water and their timing is established in Irish Water's Capital Investment Plans.

However, Fingal has engaged with Irish Water (IW) during the development plan making process in order to understand the status and capacity of the County's water service infrastructure in accordance with the requirements of the draft Water Service Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2018) and draft Development Plan Guidelines (2021).

The Irish Water Services Strategic Plan (2015) sets out a number of key projects to maintain and improve existing water services and service further growth.

Irish Water's 'Statement of Capacity', included in the draft Development Plan, contains the broad strategic water and wastewater capacities at present and the

relevant infrastructural investments programmed by Irish Water in its Investment Plan. This shows no fundamental constraints have been identified.

In relation to the provision of electricity infrastructure and of broadband services, the Council has no direct control.

However, the Council will continue to support the development of a safe, secure, and reliable supply of electricity and to support the development of enhanced electricity networks and facilitate new transmission infrastructure projects including those under EirGrid's Grid Development Strategy, to service the existing and future needs of Fingal.

The Council will also continue to facilitate the coordinated provision of telecommunications/digital connectivity infrastructure across the County and the extension of telecommunications infrastructure including broadband connectivity as a means of improving economic competitiveness and enabling more flexible work practices.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2022

ITEM NO. 11

FREE TREES FOR BABIES SCHEME

Question: Councillor P. Conroy

"To ask the Chief Executive if she is considering a scheme similar to that undertaken by Cambridge City Council, which provides a free tree to plant in private property to mark a baby's birth, celebrate an adoption or commemorate a lost child?"

Reply:

The Council have a series of events planned for National Tree week 2022. The events are being co-ordinated across a number of Departments within the Council and a free tree giveaway is being planned as part of the week. It is planned to distribute 16,000 trees to Fingal residents from four designated locations. The trees are for private residents to plant within their own property and residents can choose to commemorate in whatever way they wish. National Tree week runs from 21st to 27th March 2022.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2022

ITEM NO. 12

CROÍ CÓNAITHE FUND INITIATIVE

Question: Councillor I. Carey

"To ask the Chief Executive if this Council has looked into the Croí Cónaithe (Towns) Fund initiative or have any plans or locations been identified?"

Reply:

Objective 19.11 of the Housing for All Policy provides for the introduction of a Croí Cónaithe (Towns) fund to tackle vacant/derelict housing. The introduction of the new Croí Cónaithe (Towns) fund will enable Local Authorities to provide serviced sites at a reduced cost for people to build their own homes, and support the refurbishment of vacant properties, enabling people to live in small towns and villages.

The terms of reference and timelines for the Croí Cónaithe (Towns) fund have not yet been introduced by Government. The Council will collaborate with all delivery partners to assist in the activation of relevant sites under the fund when introduced.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2022

ITEM NO. 13

COUNCIL'S RETROFITTING FIGURES IN THE COUNTY

Question: Councillor I. Carey

"To ask the Chief Executive for an update on the Council's retrofitting figures across the County and plans for the coming year?"

Reply:

Works were completed on 65 properties across the County in Fortlawn Park Villas (10), Greenridge Court (13), Windmill (36) and Inbhir Íde (6), under the Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme 2021.

Retrofitting works included external wall & attic insulation, Windows & Doors, heat pumps and solar PV panels as deemed necessary to bring properties to a B2/Cost Optimal standard.

The 2022 proposed works programme is currently under review.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2022

ITEM NO. 14

GRAVEYARD CAPACITY

Question: Councillor C. Boland

"To ask the Chief Executive to present a report on the graveyards within the management of this Authority, detailing the number of fresh openings in each graveyard for the years 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 and to also advise on the numbers of plots still available for purchase in each graveyard and the facilities in each for the public?"

Reply:

The Operations Department manages, maintains and administers Burial Ground Services for 35 cemeteries located in the administrative area of Fingal. There are currently 3,164 existing plots available for purchase throughout the County. In addition, there are 1,598 pre-purchased plots, and a further 3,640 plots awaiting development as outlined by location in Table 1 below.

A total of 1,725 new burial plot sales were administered for the years 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021, breakdown of locations and summary of which is included in Table 2 of this report below.

Table 1. Fingal Burial Grounds Pre-Purchased and Available Plots

Fingal Burial Grounds Pre-Purchased and Available Plots			
Burial Ground	**Pre-purchased Plots**	**Available Plots**	**Future Development**
Mulhuddart	68	562	
The Ward	0	15	
St. Margarets	0	0	
St. Fintans	545	275	
Ardla	107	503	
Balbriggan	118	0	
Baldongan	15	7	
Ballyboughal	60	245	
Ballymadun	9	91	
Balscadden	15	0	
Balrothery Ext.		89	
Donabate	139	115	240
Garristown Ext.	26	44	
Grallagh	31	140	
Hollywood	11	43	
Naul	9	9	
Rolestown	27	26	900
Westpalstown	3	318	
Whitestown	224	78	
Flemington	0	114	2500
Holmpatrick	120	0	
Kenure	23	0	
Palmerstown	4	0	
Chapelmidway	4	0	
Killeek	3	0	
Balgriffin Ext.	3	230	
Old Balgriffin	7	10	
Fingal	27	250	
Total	**1598**	**3164**	**3640**

Table 2. New Burial Plot Sales Fingal Burial Grounds 2018 – 2021

New Burial Plot Sales Fingal Burial Grounds 2018 - 2021				
Cemetery	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**
Ardla	16	20	16	14
Baldungan	2	0	0	2
Balgriffin	14	12	6	6
Balgriffin Extension	97	171	206	175
Ballyboughal	6	3	4	2
Ballymadun	1	0	0	1
Balrothery	13	11	9	9
Balscadden (Delahassey)	1	0	0	2
Donabate (Ballalease)	21	14	11	33
Fingal	98	67	22	17
Flemington	8	12	8	18
Garristown	2	0	4	0
Hollywood			2	0
Holmpatrick	1	0	1	4
Kenure (Old Church)	1	0	0	1
Kilbarrick	0	2	1	0
Lusk	1	0	0	1
Malahide	1	5	0	0
Mulhuddart	5	3	9	8
Mulhuddart Extension	35	46	48	51
Rolestown	11	9	14	19
St. Fintan's	54	42	49	53
St Margarets	0	1	0	0
The Grallagh	0	5	1	1
The Naul	2	1	3	1
The Ward	5	1	0	4
Westpalstown	1	0	0	0
Whitestown	16	14	10	28
Total yearly sales	**412**	**439**	**424**	**450**

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2022

ITEM NO. 15

BLUE FLAG STATUS FOR FINGAL BEACHES

Question: Councillor A. Henchy

"To ask the Chief Executive for an update and summary on all Blue Flag status for beaches across Fingal and what beaches are the Council expecting to obtain Blue Flag status in 2022?"

Reply:

Applications have been submitted to An Taisce for Blue Flag Awards for the following beaches for the 2022 bathing season:

- Velvet Strand, Portmarnock - renewal of award.
- Balcarrick Beach, Donabate – new application.
- South Beach, Rush – new application.

The decision of the Blue Flag jury on these applications is expected in May 2022.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2022

ITEM NO. 16

PARKING CHARGES

Question: Councillor J. Humphreys

"To ask the Chief Executive when was the last time parking charges was increased by Fingal County Council and in preparation for the 2023 Budget if there are any plans for a review on the rates?"

Reply:

The Fingal Parking Control Bye-Laws adopted by the Council in June 2020 prescribed increases in parking charges as outlined below:

<u>On-street Short Stay Pay & Display locations:</u>

- Increased from €1.00 to €1.20 p/hr subject to minimum purchase of €0.50.

<u>Car Park Parking Charges:</u>

- Quay Street Car Park, Balbriggan - €2.00 all day parking increased to €3.00 all day parking
- Bridgefield Car Park, Malahide - €1.00 p/hr subject to minimum purchase of €0.50

<u>Visitor Parking Permits:</u>

- Increased from €1.20 per permit to €1.50 per permit

In light of the recent increases in parking charges, the Council does not propose any further increases in 2022. All expenditure and income will be considered when preparing the budget for 2023. This process has not commenced.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2022

ITEM NO. 17

LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Question: Councillor B. Dennehy

"To ask the Chief Executive to outline when the Community Liaison Committees will begin to have meetings namely the Skerries, Rush and Donabate Liaison Committees?"

Reply:

With the recent relaxation of Covid 19 restrictions the reinstatement of in person meetings can be considered. Contact has already been made in relation to holding an in person Skerries Liaison Committee meeting which can happen in the coming months. There is an outstanding issue in relation to the membership of the Rush Liaison Committee and once this issue is addressed it should be possible to schedule the first meeting of this committee. The Donabate Committee will be reactivated in the coming months also.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2022

ITEM NO. 18

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2022

ITEM NO. 18a

REPORT OF BLANCHARDSTOWN-MULHUDDART/CASTLEKNOCK/ONGAR AREA COMMITTEE SERVICES B MEETING HELD ON THE 11TH JANUARY 2022

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

Application for Community Funding

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

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**
Briarwood, Huntstown Lawn & Woodlands Residents Association (Activities	€412.00	Group Insurance	Yes	2020 - €155.98	€329.00

Funding)					
Huntstown Family Resource Centre Ltd. (Activities Funding)	€840	Relaxation, breathing /yoga sessions fee & Fitbug exercise sessions fee.	Yes	2020 -€1246.82 2021 - €1600	€672.00

The Application for Funding which was received, was AGREED

That this Committee recommends that the County Council APPROVE of the funding in the foregoing report.

Signed:

_____

Councillor P. Conroy
Area Cathaoirleach

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2022

ITEM NO. 18b

REPORT OF HOWTH/MALAHIDE AREA COMMITTEE SERVICES B MEETING HELD ON 2nd FEBRUARY 2022

APPLICATIONS FOR 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 these organisations, in accordance with the conditions of the scheme up to the amount set out hereunder: -

Applications for Funding (Arts)
Community Activity Funding Applications Matrix

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
Malahide Musical and Dramatic Society	€5,000	Production of Musical – the Addams Family	Y	2020 - €5,000 2019 - €5,000 2018 - €5,000 2017 - €5,000 2016 - €5,000 2015 - €4,000 2014 - €3,000 €32,000	€5,000
Malahide Portmarnock ETSS	€960	Cross curricular project led by visual art and ethical ed. Dept. – 1st year students will study sustainable development goals	Y	2021 - €860 2020 - €775 **€1,635**	€960

It was proposed by Councillor E. O'Brien and seconded by Councillor B. McDonagh:

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

Signed: Councillor E. O'Brien
Area Cathaoirleach

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2022

ITEM NO. 19

FINANCIAL MATTERS

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, 14th FEBRUARY, 2022

ITEM NO. 19a

STATUTORY AUDIT REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 31/12/2020

The report of the Principal Local Government Auditor on the Accounts of Fingal County Council for the year ended 31st December 2020, which include my responses to him, is attached.

The Draft Annual Financial Statement for 2020 was considered by the Council at its meeting held on 10th May 2021. 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 2021, with the audit formally commencing on the 1st day of June 2021. The Audit was concluded in September 2021.

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 2020 and its income and expenditure for the year then ended."

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.

The 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 the 2nd November 2021. The Audit Committee's report is also before the meeting today.

Copies of the accounts are available 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 2020

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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 2020. 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 2020 is €2.989bn.

Expenditure for the year 2020 on the revenue account, excluding transfers to reserves, amounted to €323.5m, while income on the account amounted to €388.4m. The revenue account outturn for 2020 is €323 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 €159.9m. The combined total expenditure impact of our Revenue and Capital Accounts for 2020 is €483.4m.

The total indebtedness of the Council on foot of loans outstanding at the 31st December 2020 was €327m. The corresponding figure for the 31st December 2019 was €336m, or a reduction of 2.552%. The reduction in borrowing relates principally to the redemption of mortgage and affordable loan redemptions.

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

AnnMarie Farrelly
Chief Executive
9th April 2021

Fingal County Council

Certificate of Chief Executive and Head of Finance for the year ended 31 December 2020

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 2020, 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, Local Government and Heritage.

Chief Executive

Date 9/4/2021

Head of Finance

Date 9/4/2021

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 2020 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, Local Government and Heritage.

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 2020 and its income and expenditure for the year then ended.

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

Daragh Mc Mahon
Local Government Auditor

Date: 21 September 2021

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 Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) at 31st December 2020. 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 Housing, Local Government and Heritage. 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 there 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 Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

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 2020 due to Irish Water but not paid over to Irish Water in 2020 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, Local Government and Heritage 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, Local Government and Heritage 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

Details of the companies in which the Council has an interest are listed in Appendix 8.

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT STATEMENT)

FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

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 2020 €	Income 2020 €	Net Expenditure 2020 €	Net Expenditure 2019 €
Housing and Building		59,911,347	65,562,862	(5,651,515)	(5,432,183)
Roads, Transportation & Safety		26,793,608	8,117,621	18,675,987	18,896,906
Water Services		15,579,868	17,203,842	(1,623,973)	(2,159,022)
Development Management		50,950,623	37,338,511	13,612,112	13,874,639
Environmental Services		40,768,857	7,733,164	33,035,694	33,091,047
Recreation & Amenity		39,267,114	3,072,387	36,194,727	36,031,524
Agriculture. Education, Health & Welfare		895,997	264,065	631,933	531,849
Miscellaneous Services		89,305,628	92,828,907	(3,523,280)	(3,359,101)
Total Expenditure/Income	**15**	323,473,042	232,121,359		
Net Cost of Division to be funded from Rates and Local Property Tax				91,351,684	91,475,658
Rates				148,736,900	128,177,804
Local Property Tax				7,528,476	7,524,670
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year before Transfer				64,913,691	44,226,816
Transfers from/(to) Reserves	**14**			(64,913,368)	(44,225,894)
Overall Surplus/(Deficit) for Year	**16**			323	923
General Reserve at 1st January				15,979,356	15,978,433
General Reserve at 31st December				15,979,679	15,979,356

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (BALANCE SHEET) AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	2020	2019
		€	€
Fixed Assets	1		
Operational		1,444,433,990	1,367,549,188
Infrastructural		1,167,309,183	1,144,378,186
Community		104,005,920	103,703,179
Non-Operational		273,175,582	270,855,813
		2,988,924,675	**2,886,486,366**
Work-in-Progress and Preliminary Expenses	2	**57,610,142**	**94,371,432**
Long Term Debtors	3	**322,830,882**	**268,689,633**
Current Assets			
Stock	4	444,501	496,056
Trade Debtors & Prepayments	5	71,442,311	95,003,088
Bank Investments		277,000,000	210,000,000
Cash at Bank		27,811,839	3,052,451
Cash in Transit		390,323	349,971
		377,088,974	**308,901,566**
Current Liabilities			
Bank Overdraft		-	-
Creditors & Accruals	6	114,546,758	91,115,247
Finance Leases		839,753	803,581
		115,386,511	**91,918,828**
Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)		**261,702,462**	**216,982,738**
Creditors (Amounts greater than one year)			
Loans Payable	7	307,929,896	316,264,687
Finance Leases		1,448,933	1,119,476
Refundable Deposits	8	37,230,913	34,507,311
Other		83,946,510	26,500,785
		430,556,252	**378,392,259**
Net Assets / (Liabilities)		**3,200,511,910**	**3,088,137,909**
Represented By			
Capitalisation	9	2,988,924,675	2,886,486,366
Income WIP	2	52,264,543	81,171,850
General Revenue Reserve		15,979,679	15,979,356
Other Specific Reserves		-	-
Other Balances	10	143,343,013	104,500,338
Total Reserves		**3,200,511,910**	**3,088,137,909**

*Bank Investments include a sum of €1.4m re Section 49 Levies for Metro North and Hansfield

STATEMENT OF FUNDS FLOW (FUNDS FLOW STATEMENT)

AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2020

	Note	2020 €	2020 €
REVENUE ACTIVITIES			
Net Inflow/(outflow) from Operating Activities	**17**		**47,044,167**
CAPITAL ACTIVITIES			
Returns on Investment and Servicing of Finance			
Increase/(Decrease) in Fixed Asset Capitalisation Funding		102,438,310	
Increase/(Decrease) in WIP/Preliminary Funding		(28,907,307)	
Increase/(Decrease) in Reserves Balances	**18**	27,221,105	
Net Inflow/(Outflow) from Returns on Investment and Servicing of Finance			**100,752,108**
Capital Expenditure & Financial Investment			
(Increase)/Decrease in Fixed Assets		(102,438,310)	
(Increase)/Decrease in WIP/Preliminary Funding		36,761,289	
(Increase)/Decrease in Other Capital Balances	**19**	5,649,103	
Net Inflow/(Outflow) from Capital Expenditure and Financial Investment			**(60,027,918)**
Financing			
Increase/(Decrease) in Loan & Lease Financing	**20**	(4,664,685)	
(Increase)/Decrease in Reserve Financing	**21**	5,972,468	
Net Inflow/(Outflow) from Financing Activities			**1,307,782**
Third Party Holdings			
Increase/(Decrease) in Refundable Deposits			**2,723,602**
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	**22**		**91,799,740**

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
	€									
Costs										
Accumulated Costs at 1st Jan	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
Additions - Purchased	2,353,681	-	42,240,513	7,716,327	1,877,932	19,245	-	-	-	54,207,699
Additions - Transfer WIP	-	-	31,566,862	-	-	-	-	26,972,186	-	58,539,049
Disposals\Statutory Transfers	(791,013)	-	(3,405,512)	(200,000)	(1,056,252)	-	-	-	-	(5,452,777)
Revaluation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-
Historical Costs Adjustments	-	-	200,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	200,000
Accumulated Costs 31/12/2020	**298,371,383**	**27,770,899**	**1,187,632,570**	**316,020,724**	**14,337,244**	**1,103,794**	**1,099,130**	**1,081,001,395**	**202,059,449**	**3,129,396,588**
Depreciation										
Accumulated Depreciation at 1st Jan	-	14,842,326	-	121,695	7,341,818	747,809	-	-	112,362,605	135,416,252
Provision for year	-	413,859	-	-	1,168,155	129,324	-	-	4,041,189	5,752,526
Disposals\Statutory Transfers	-	-	-	-	(696,866)	-	-	-	-	(696,866)
Accumulated Depreciation 31/12/2020	**-**	**15,256,185**	**-**	**121,695**	**7,813,107**	**877,132**	**-**	**-**	**116,403,794**	**140,471,913**
Net Book Value at 31/12/2020	**298,371,383**	**12,514,714**	**1,187,632,570**	**315,899,030**	**6,524,138**	**226,661**	**1,099,130**	**1,081,001,395**	**85,655,655**	**2,988,924,675**
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 by Category										
Operational	40,967,092	-	1,187,632,570	209,083,529	6,524,138	226,661	-	-	-	1,444,433,990
Community	-	12,514,714	-	90,509,276	-	-	981,930	-	-	104,005,920
Non-Operational	256,752,158	-	-	16,306,224	-	-	117,200	-	-	273,175,582
Infrastructural	652,133	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,081,001,395	85,655,655	1,167,309,183
Net Book Value at 31/12/2020	**298,371,383**	**12,514,714**	**1,187,632,570**	**315,899,030**	**6,524,138**	**226,661**	**1,099,130**	**1,081,001,395**	**85,655,655**	**2,988,924,675**

2. Work in Progress and Preliminary Expenses

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

	Funded 2020 €	Unfunded 2020 €	Total 2020 €	Total 2019 €
Expenditure				
Preliminary Expenses	33,179,023	15,408,163	48,587,186	59,876,854
Work in Progress	9,022,957	-	9,022,957	34,494,577
Total Expenditure	**42,201,979**	**15,408,163**	**57,610,142**	**94,371,432**
Income				
Preliminary Expenses	34,005,213	9,250,763	43,255,976	52,246,062
Work in Progress	9,008,566	-	9,008,566	28,925,788
Total Income	**43,013,780**	**9,250,763**	**52,264,543**	**81,171,850**
Net Expended				
Work in Progress	14,390	-	14,390	5,568,790
Preliminary Expenses	(826,191)	6,157,400	5,331,210	7,630,792
Net Over/(Under) Expenditure	**(811,800)**	**6,157,400**	**5,345,600**	**13,199,582**

3. Long Term Debtors

A breakdown of long term debtors is as follows:

	2020 Balance @ 01/01/2020	2020 Loans Issued	2020 Instalments	2020 Early Redemptions	2020 Other Adjustments	2020 Balance @ 31/12/2020	2019 Balance @ 31/12/2019
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
Long Term Mortgage Advances *	138,216,484	13,167,800	(7,546,903)	(2,084,798)	(337,145)	141,415,438	138,216,484
Tenant Purchase Advances	90,996	-	(190,396)	(3,678)	255,276	152,198	90,996
Shared Ownership Rented Equity	3,702,328	-	-	(330)	(543,214)	3,158,784	3,702,328
	142,009,808	13,167,800	(7,737,299)	(2,088,806)	(625,082)	144,726,421	142,009,808
Recoupable Loan Advances						86,321,973	91,775,603
Capital Advance Leasing Facility						83,946,510	26,500,785
Long Term Investments - Cash						19,006,866	19,073,224
Long Term Investments - Associated Companies						286,831	1,053,552
Other						-	-
						334,288,601	280,412,972
Less: Current Portion of Long Term Debtors (Note 5)						(11,457,719)	(11,723,339)
Total amounts falling due after one year						**322,830,882**	**268,689,633**

* Includes HFA agency loans

4. Stocks

A summary of stock is as follows:

	2020	2019
	€	€
Central Stores	95,590	19,411
Other Depots	348,911	476,645
Total	**444,501**	**496,056**

5. Trade Debtors and Prepayments

A breakdown of debtors and prepayments is as follows:

	2020	2019
	€	€
Government Debtors	17,171,445	29,291,916
Commercial Debtors	15,067,344	11,773,219
Non-Commercial Debtors	6,635,509	4,837,531
Development Contribution Debtors	65,943,484	65,501,048
Other Services	238,499	303,565
Other Local Authorities	3,830,047	2,400,885
Revenue Commissioners	-	-
Other	-	-
Current Portion of Long Term Debtors (Note 3)	11,457,719	11,723,339
Total Gross Debtors	**120,344,046**	**125,831,503**
Less: Provision for Doubtful Debts	(52,683,912)	(49,599,280)
Total Trade Debtors	**67,660,134**	**76,232,223**
Prepayments	3,782,176	18,770,865
Total	**71,442,311**	**95,003,088**

6. Creditors and Accruals

A breakdown of creditors and accruals is as follows:

	2020	2019
	€	€
Trade Creditors	12,557,371	13,425,885
Grants	125,993	171,235
Revenue Commissioners	3,185,448	1,816,638
Other Local Authorities	11,781	54,420
Other Creditors	286,811	319,324
	16,167,403	**15,787,502**
Accruals	24,841,406	27,527,066
Deferred Income	53,988,556	28,008,542
Add:Current Portion of Loans Payable (Note 7)	19,549,393	19,792,137
Total	**114,546,758**	**91,115,247**

7. Loans Payable

(a) Movement in Loans Payable

	2020 HFA €	2020 OPW €	2020 Other €	2020 Total €	2019 Total €
Opening Balance	303,345,463	-	32,711,361	336,056,824	334,910,923
Borrowings	15,331,282	-	-	15,331,282	29,796,900
Repayment of Principal	(14,402,783)	-	(5,107,688)	(19,510,472)	(24,272,999)
Early Redemptions	(4,398,345)	-	-	(4,398,345)	(4,363,823)
Other Adjustments	-	-	-	-	(14,178)
	299,875,617	**-**	**27,603,673**	**327,479,289**	**336,056,824**
Less: Current Portion of Loans Payable				19,549,393	19,792,137
Total amounts falling due after one year				**307,929,896**	**316,264,687**

(b) Application of Loans

An analysis of loans payable is as follows:

Mortgage					
Mortgage Loans *	137,034,879	-	-	137,034,879	133,489,376
Non Mortgage					
Assets/Grants	35,478,372	-	10,032,725	45,511,096	51,915,816
Revenue Funding	-	-	-	-	-
Bridging Finance	54,306,136	-	-	54,306,136	54,306,136
Recoupable	68,751,025	-	17,570,948	86,321,973	91,775,603
Shared Ownership Rented Equity	4,305,205	-	-	4,305,205	4,569,894
Balance at 31st December	**299,875,617**	**-**	**27,603,673**	**327,479,289**	**336,056,824**
Less: Current Portion of Loans Payable				19,549,393	19,792,137
Total Amounts Due after one year				**307,929,896**	**316,264,687**

* Includes HFA Agency Loans

8. Refundable Deposits

The movement in refundable deposits is as follows:

	2020 €	2019 €
Opening Balance at 1st January	34,507,311	41,884,045
Deposits received	6,470,201	2,614,329
Deposits repaid	(3,746,599)	(9,991,063)
Closing Balance at 31st December	**37,230,913**	**34,507,311**

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:

	2020 Balance @ 01/01/2020 €	2020 Purchased €	2020 Transfers WIP €	2020 Disposals/ Statutory T/F's €	2020 Revaluation €	2020 Historical Cost Adjustments €	2020 Balance @ 31/12/2020 €	2019 Balance @ 31/12/2019 €
Grants	515,695,769	42,710,415	42,351,566	(709,390)	-	-	600,048,360	515,695,769
Loans	170,614,448	-	-	-	-	-	170,614,448	170,614,448
Revenue Funded	13,966,104	477,707	-	-	-	-	14,443,811	13,966,104
Leases	9,902,574	1,506,892	-	(594,470)	-	-	10,814,996	9,902,574
Development Contributions	81,210,355	-	11,060,317	-	-	-	92,270,672	81,210,355
Tenant Purchase Annuties	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unfunded	128,521,514	7,132,561	2,918,171	-	-	-	138,572,247	128,521,514
Historical	2,073,668,559	-	-	(377,520)	-	200,000	2,073,491,039	2,073,668,559
Other	28,323,293	2,380,123	2,208,995	(3,771,396)	-	-	29,141,015	28,323,293
Total Gross Funding	**3,021,902,617**	**54,207,699**	**58,539,049**	**(5,452,777)**	**-**	**200,000**	**3,129,396,588**	**3,021,902,617**
Less: Amortised							(140,471,913)	(135,416,252)
Total *							**2,988,924,675**	**2,886,486,366**

* As per note 1

10. Other Balances

A breakdown of other balances is as follows:

	Note	2020 Balance @ 01/01/2020 €	2020 * Capital Reclassification €	2020 Expenditure €	2020 Income €	2020 Net Transfers €	2020 Balance @ 31/12/2020 €	2019 Balance @ 31/12/2019 €
Development Contributions Balances	(i)	153,415,160	-	14,129,317	38,205,155	(27,330,132)	150,160,866	153,415,160
Capital Account Balances including Asset Formation and Enhancement	(ii)	(76,446,370)	(6,919,081)	128,537,506	92,592,233	39,182,904	(80,127,821)	(76,446,370)
Voluntary & Affordable Housing Balances								
- Voluntary Housing	(iii)	(2,438,816)	-	6,847,576	9,109,696	(148,076)	(324,771)	(2,438,816)
- Affordable Housing	(iii)	(11,470,827)	-	-	-	7,216,509	(4,254,318)	(11,470,827)
Reserves Created for Specific Purposes	(iv)	145,886,243	-	715,817	3,632,740	27,558,475	176,361,642	145,886,243
Net Capital Balances		**208,945,390**	**(6,919,081)**	**150,230,216**	**143,539,824**	**46,479,680**	**241,815,598**	**208,945,390**
Balance Sheet Accounts relating to Loan Principal outstanding (including Unrealised TP Annuities)	(v)						(98,759,416)	(105,498,604)
Interest in Associated Companies	(vi)						286,831	1,053,552
Total Other Balances							**143,343,013**	**104,500,338**

* 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 consiting 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:

	2020	2019
	€	€
Net WIP and Preliminary Expenses (Note 2)	(5,345,600)	(13,199,582)
Capital Balances (Note 10)	241,815,598	208,945,390
Capital Balance Surplus/(Deficit) at 31st December	**236,469,998**	**195,745,808**

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

Opening Balance at 1st January	195,745,809	178,080,783
Expenditure	159,889,491	225,853,660
Income		
- Grants	96,079,734	124,732,163
- Loans	30,682	-
- Other	52,601,166	87,799,507
Total Income	148,711,582	212,531,670
Net Revenue Transfers	51,902,098	30,987,016
Closing Balance	**236,469,998**	**195,745,809**

12. Mortgage Loan Funding Position

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

	2020 € Loan Annuity	2020 € Rented Equity	2020 € Total	2019 € Total
Mortgage Loans/Equity Receivable (Note 3)	141,415,438	3,158,784	144,574,223	141,918,812
Mortgage Loans/Equity Payable (Note 7)	(137,034,879)	(4,305,205)	(141,340,084)	(138,059,269)
Surplus/(Deficit) in Funding @ 31st of December	**4,380,559**	**(1,146,420)**	**3,234,139**	**3,859,543**

NOTE: Cash on Hand relating to Redemptions and Relending	363,608

13. Summary of Plant and Materials Account

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

	Plant 2020 €	Materials 2020 €	Total 2020 €	Total 2019 €
Expenditure	(1,856,837)	(51,555)	(1,908,392)	(1,985,212)
Charged to Jobs	1,856,837	-	1,856,837	1,874,509
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year	**-**	**(51,555)**	**(51,555)**	**(110,703)**
Transfers from/(to) Reserves	-	-	-	-
Surplus/(Deficit) before Transfers	**-**	**(51,555)**	**(51,555)**	**(110,703)**

14. Analysis of Transfers to/from Reserves

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

	2020 Transfer From Reserves €	2020 Transfer To Reserves €	2020 Net €	2019 Net €
Principal Repaid - Non Mortgage Loans (Own Asset)	-	(5,414,345)	(5,414,345)	(5,391,987)
Principal Repaid - Non Mortgage Loans (Recoupable)	-	(6,474,686)	(6,474,686)	(6,587,022)
Principal Repaid - Finance Leases	-	(1,122,239)	(1,122,239)	(1,259,868)
Transfers - Other Balance Sheet Reserves	-	-	-	-
Transfers - Capital Account	(487,700)	(51,414,398)	(51,902,098)	(30,987,016)
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year	**(487,700)**	**(64,425,668)**	**(64,913,368)**	**(44,225,894)**

15. Analysis of Revenue Income

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

	Appendix No	2020 €		2019 €	
State Grants & Subsidies	3	169,527,795	43.6%	49,928,244	20.2%
Contributions from other Local Authorities		2,539,725	0.7%	714,060	0.3%
Goods and Services	4	60,053,839	15.5%	61,019,403	24.7%
		232,121,359	**59.8%**	**111,661,707**	**45.1%**
Local Property Tax		7,528,476	1.9%	7,524,670	3.0%
Rates		148,736,900	38.3%	128,177,804	51.8%
Total Income		**388,386,734**	**100.0%**	**247,364,181**	**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
	2020 €	2020 €	2020 €	2020 €	2020 €	2020 €	2020 €	2020 €	2020 €	2020 €	2020 €
Housing & Building	59,911,347	8,538,622	68,449,970	73,607,726	5,157,757	65,562,862	-	65,562,862	68,082,071	(2,519,209)	2,638,547
Roads Transportation & Safety	26,793,608	1,538,439	28,332,047	28,709,620	377,573	8,117,621	-	8,117,621	6,987,942	1,129,680	1,507,253
Water Services	15,579,868	3,786,361	19,366,230	18,550,526	(815,703)	17,203,842	-	17,203,842	17,609,619	(405,778)	(1,221,481)
Development Management	50,950,623	4,506,189	55,456,812	24,048,714	(31,408,098)	37,338,511	-	37,338,511	4,713,692	32,624,819	1,216,721
Environmental Services	40,768,857	6,013,556	46,782,414	47,711,352	928,938	7,733,164	-	7,733,164	7,067,784	665,380	1,594,318
Recreation & Amenity	39,267,114	11,468,499	50,735,612	45,249,482	(5,486,131)	3,072,387	(487,700)	2,584,687	2,547,568	37,119	(5,449,012)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	895,997	293,847	1,189,844	1,087,982	(101,862)	264,065	-	264,065	218,517	45,548	(56,314)
Miscellaneous Services	89,305,628	28,280,155	117,585,783	31,004,697	(86,581,085)	92,828,907	-	92,828,907	6,364,706	86,464,202	(116,884)
Total Divisions	**323,473,043**	**64,425,668**	**387,898,711**	**269,970,099**	**(117,928,612)**	**232,121,359**	**(487,700)**	**231,633,659**	**113,591,899**	**118,041,760**	**113,148**
Local Property Tax	-	-	-	-	-	7,528,476	-	7,528,476	7,528,500	(25)	(25)
Rates	-	-	-	-	-	148,736,900	-	148,736,900	148,849,700	(112,800)	(112,800)
Dr/Cr Balance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Divisions	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**156,265,375**	**-**	**156,265,375**	**156,378,200**	**(112,825)**	**(112,825)**
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year	**323,473,043**	**64,425,668**	**387,898,711**	**269,970,099**	**(117,928,612)**	**388,386,734**	**(487,700)**	**387,899,034**	**269,970,099**	**117,928,935**	**323**

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

	2020
	€
Operating Surplus/(Deficit) for Year	323
(Increase)/Decrease in Stocks	51,555
(Increase)/Decrease in Trade Debtors	23,560,777
Increase/(Decrease) in Creditors Less than One Year	23,431,511
	47,044,167

18. Increase/(Decrease) in Reserve Balances

Increase/(Decrease) in Development Contributions	(3,254,294)
Increase/(Decrease) in Reserves created for specific purposes	30,475,398
	27,221,105

19. (Increase)/Decrease in Other Capital Balances

(Increase)/Decrease in Voluntary Housing Balances	2,114,045
(Increase)/Decrease in Affordable Housing Balances	7,216,509
(Increase)/Decrease in Capital account balances including asset formation/enhancement	(3,681,451)
	5,649,103

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

(Increase)/Decrease in Long Term Debtors	(54,141,249)
Increase/(Decrease) in Mortgage Loans	3,545,504
Increase/(Decrease) in Asset/Grant Loans	(6,404,719)
Increase/(Decrease) in Revenue Funding Loans	-
Increase/(Decrease) in Bridging Finance Loans	-
Increase/(Decrease) in Recoupable Loans	(5,453,630)
Increase/(Decrease) in Shared Ownership Rented Equity Loans	(264,689)
Increase/(Decrease) in Finance Leasing	365,630
(Increase)/Decrease in Portion Transferred to Current Liabilities	242,744
Increase/(Decrease) in Long Term Creditors - Deferred Income	57,445,725
	(4,664,685)

21. Increase/(Decrease) in Reserve Financing

	2020 €
(Increase)/Decrease in Other Specific Reserves	-
(Increase)/Decrease in Balance Sheet accounts relating to loan principal & Unrealised TP Annuities	6,739,189
(Increase)/Decrease in Reserves in Associated Companies	(766,721)
	5,972,468

22. Analysis of Changes in Cash & Cash Equivalents

Increase/(Decrease) in Bank Investments	67,000,000
Increase/(Decrease) in Cash in Transit	40,352
Increase/(Decrease) in Cash at Bank/Overdraft	24,759,388
	91,799,740

23. Accounting for the Rates Waiver/Credit in Lieu in relation to Commercial Rates

To support both the local government sector and commercial rate payers, a funding package of €900m was allocated by the Government to fund the cost of a waiver of commercial rates for 9 months (27th March 2020 - 27th December 2020) for businesses forced to close and business that experienced significant negative economic disruption due to public health restrictions imposed in response to COVID-19.

The cost of this support is reported in Appendix 1 as a Payment of Subsidies and Grants under the Operational Expenses heading. The income appears in Appendix 3 under the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage under Miscellaneous. The credit in lieu is reported in Appendix 7 under Waivers/ Credits. The full Rates Accrued Income for 2020 appears in the Income and Expenditure Account as normal.

A number of rates customers who were entitled and received a rates waiver continued to pay their rates in 2020. In most cases these rate payments were not refunded to customers. On a once off basis, any customer who had a credit balance as a result of the rates waiver, this credit was treated as deferred income.

24. Accounting for Restart Grant/Restart Grant Plus

As part of the Government July stimulus package, the Restart Grant was introduced as a direct aid to micro and small business to help with the costs associated with re-opening and re-employing workers following the Covid-19 closures. The scheme was funded by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment but was administered on their behalf by the Local Authorities. The cost of this support is reported in Appendix 1 as a Payment of Subsidies and Grants under the Operational Expenses heading. The income appears in Appendix 3 under Local Enterprise Office. The expenditure and income is also reflected in Appendix 2, Division D, Service 09 (Economic Development and Promotion).

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1

ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE

FOR PERIOD ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

	2020	2019
	€	€
Payroll		
- Salary & Wages	69,807,233	67,354,628
- Pensions (Incl. Gratuities)	15,858,822	14,595,507
- Other Costs	-	-
Total	**85,666,055**	**81,950,135**
Operational Expenses		
- Purchase of Equipment	1,745,919	1,096,653
- Repairs & Maintenance	1,998,860	1,985,478
- Contract Payments	20,117,955	20,274,537
- Agency Services	41,459,390	34,966,097
- Machinery Yard Charges (Incl Plant Hire)	1,882,977	1,945,898
- Purchase of Materials & Issues from Stores	3,070,635	3,031,437
- Payments of Subsidies & Grants	117,981,321	6,072,572
- Members Costs	339,250	616,171
- Travelling & Subsistence	583,877	1,013,515
- Consultancy & Professional Fees Payments	3,813,488	4,341,799
- Energy Costs	4,263,553	4,802,437
- Other	17,015,103	17,484,738
Total	**214,272,329**	**97,631,333**
Administration Expenses		
- Communication Expenses	1,157,715	1,167,915
- Training	746,168	1,082,334
- Printing & Stationery	445,660	516,061
- Contributions to Other Bodies	1,712,916	2,194,671
- Other	4,764,648	3,940,593
Total	**8,827,106**	**8,901,575**
Establishment Expenses		
- Rent & Rates	1,771,867	3,028,949
- Other	1,207,427	1,110,723
Total	**2,979,294**	**4,139,672**
Financial Expenses	9,375,765	8,168,569
Miscellaneous Expenses	2,352,493	2,346,080
Total Expenditure	**323,473,043**	**203,137,364**

Appendix 2

SERVICE DIVISION A

Housing and Building

Service	EXPENDITURE	INCOME			
	TOTAL	State Grants and Subsidies	Provision of Goods and Services	Contributions from other Local Authorities	TOTAL
A01 Maintenance/Improvement of LA Housing	11,564,145	343,238	20,662,091	5,477	21,010,806
A02 Housing Assessment, Allocation and Transfer	1,677,264	-	35,686	2,126	37,812
A03 Housing Rent and Tenant Purchase Administration	1,855,263	-	45,371	2,503	47,874
A04 Housing Community Development Support	2,251,711	-	43,102	2,064	45,166
A05 Administration of Homeless Service	3,746,254	-	24,492	380,146	404,638
A06 Support to Housing Capital & Affordable Prog.	8,826,571	5,867,785	65,784	3,920	5,937,489
A07 RAS Programme	29,665,025	27,327,367	4,659,743	1,467	31,988,577
A08 Housing Loans	4,522,687	142,367	4,003,737	1,719	4,147,823
A09 Housing Grants	2,423,462	1,446,911	13,724	806	1,461,441
A11 Agency & Recoupable Services	1,328,894	403,300	3,291	196	406,787
A12 Housing Assistance Programme	588,693	58,500	15,052	897	74,449
Total Including Transfers to/from Reserves	**68,449,970**	**35,589,468**	**29,572,073**	**401,321**	**65,562,862**
Less: Transfers to/from Reserves	8,538,622	-	-	-	-
Total Excluding Transfers to/from Reserves	**59,911,347**	**35,589,468**	**29,572,073**	**401,321**	**65,562,862**

SERVICE DIVISION B

Road Transport & Safety

Service	EXPENDITURE	INCOME			
	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	6,038,731	1,957,223	123,333	7,349	2,087,905
B04 Local Road - Maintenance and Improvement	8,831,869	1,957,223	97,169	5,790	2,060,182
B05 Public Lighting	4,220,596	485,424	17,397	1,037	503,858
B06 Traffic Management Improvement	3,415,409	-	80,987	1,780	82,767
B07 Road Safety Engineering Improvement	-	-	-	-	-
B08 Road Safety Promotion/Education	1,915,179	12,000	50,228	2,988	65,216
B09 Maintenance & Management of Car Parking	660,706	-	1,365,383	104	1,365,487
B10 Support to Roads Capital Prog.	1,915,898	-	42,031	2,504	44,535
B11 Agency & Recoupable Services	1,333,659	553,552	1,353,666	453	1,907,671
Total Including Transfers to/from Reserves	**28,332,047**	**4,965,422**	**3,130,194**	**22,005**	**8,117,621**
Less: Transfers to/from Reserves	1,538,439	-	-	-	-
Total Excluding Transfers to/from Reserves	**26,793,608**	**4,965,422**	**3,130,194**	**22,005**	**8,117,621**

SERVICE DIVISION C

Water Services

Service	EXPENDITURE TOTAL	INCOME State Grants and Subsidies	INCOME Provision of Goods and Services	INCOME Contributions from other Local Authorities	INCOME TOTAL
C01 Operation and Maintenance of Water Supply	10,358,287	2,274,478	8,076,797	-	10,351,275
C02 Operation and Maintenance of Waste Water Treatment	6,070,837	-	6,075,551	-	6,075,551
C03 Collection of Water and Waste Water Charges	-	-	-	-	-
C04 Operation and Maintenance of Public Conveniences	1,497,272	-	8,017	478	8,495
C05 Admin of Group and Private Installations	7,636	7,636	-	-	7,636
C06 Support to Water Capital Programme	501,501	-	501,501	-	501,501
C07 Agency & Recoupable Services	-	-	49,806	-	49,806
C08 Local Authority Water & Sanitary Services	930,696	6,240	174,742	28,595	209,577
Total Including Transfers to/from Reserves	**19,366,230**	**2,288,355**	**14,886,414**	**29,073**	**17,203,842**
Less: Transfers to/from Reserves	3,786,361	-	-	-	-
Total Excluding Transfers to/from Reserves	**15,579,868**	**2,288,355**	**14,886,414**	**29,073**	**17,203,842**

SERVICE DIVISION D

Development Management

Service	EXPENDITURE	INCOME			
	TOTAL	State Grants and Subsidies	Provision of Goods and Services	Contributions from other Local Authorities	TOTAL
D01 Forward Planning	2,892,229	15,000	79,416	4,711	99,127
D02 Development Management	7,772,218	-	1,780,102	9,733	1,789,835
D03 Enforcement	610,163	5,502	71,339	671	77,512
D04 Op & Mtce of Industrial Sites & Commercial Facilities	598,680	-	24,399	950	25,349
D05 Tourism Development and Promotion	466,597	9,000	6,776	404	16,180
D06 Community and Enterprise Function	1,691,961	236,919	44,447	2,648	284,014
D07 Unfinished Housing Estates	-	-	-	-	-
D08 Building Control	1,814,589	-	271,022	2,481	273,503
D09 Economic Development and Promotion	36,578,434	33,708,508	234,134	31,879	33,974,520
D10 Property Management	1,653,514	-	612,111	1,089	613,200
D11 Heritage and Conservation Services	1,378,427	180,518	4,487	267	185,272
D12 Agency & Recoupable Services	-	-	-	-	-
Total Including Transfers to/from Reserves	**55,456,812**	**34,155,446**	**3,128,233**	**54,833**	**37,338,511**
Less: Transfers to/from Reserves	4,506,189	-	-	-	-
Total Excluding Transfers to/from Reserves	**50,950,623**	**34,155,446**	**3,128,233**	**54,833**	**37,338,511**

SERVICE DIVISION E

Environmental Services

Service	EXPENDITURE	INCOME			
	TOTAL	State Grants and Subsidies	Provision of Goods and Services	Contributions from other Local Authorities	TOTAL
E01 Operation, Maintenance and Aftercare of Landfill	3,800,059	-	31,461	1,875	33,336
E02 Op & Mtce of Recovery & Recycling Facilities	3,293,666	149,225	1,560,669	34,169	1,744,063
E03 Op & Mtce of Waste to Energy Facilities	865,117	-	-	1,767,744	1,767,744
E04 Provision of Waste to Collection Services	-	-	-	-	-
E05 Litter Management	1,197,026	31,500	77,649	1,571	110,720
E06 Street Cleaning	7,494,374	-	167,007	9,951	176,958
E07 Waste Regulations, Monitoring and Enforcement	1,704,818	330,000	161,356	1,588	492,944
E08 Waste Management Planning	251,654	132,960	2,994	178	136,132
E09 Maintenance and Upkeep of Burial Grounds	2,301,357	-	1,138,635	3,118	1,141,753
E10 Safety of Structures and Places	1,184,845	30,010	25,147	8,324	63,481
E11 Operation of Fire Service	21,758,558	-	-	-	-
E12 Fire Prevention	198,346	-	951,231	-	951,231
E13 Water Quality, Air and Noise Pollution	1,833,378	-	1,110,644	761	1,111,405
E14 Agency & Recoupable Services	-	-	-	-	-
E15 Climate Change and Flooding	899,216	-	3,207	191	3,398
Total Including Transfers to/from Reserves	**46,782,414**	**673,695**	**5,229,999**	**1,829,470**	**7,733,164**
Less: Transfers to/from Reserves	6,013,556	-	-	-	-
Total Excluding Transfers to/from Reserves	**40,768,857**	**673,695**	**5,229,999**	**1,829,470**	**7,733,164**

SERVICE DIVISION F

Recreation and Amenity

Service	EXPENDITURE	INCOME			
	TOTAL	State Grants and Subsidies	Provision of Goods and Services	Contributions from other Local Authorities	TOTAL
F01 Operation and Maintenance of Leisure Facilities	720,119	-	279,718	437	280,155
F02 Operation of Library and Archival Service	15,537,651	112,252	295,207	16,644	424,103
F03 Op, Mtce & Imp of Outdoor Leisure Areas	19,915,523	1,000	568,671	26,940	596,611
F04 Community Sport and Recreational Development	9,654,187	910,890	79,678	3,267	993,835
F05 Operation of Arts Programme	4,908,133	154,684	132,807	2,492	289,983
F06 Agency & Recoupable Services	-	-	-	-	-
Total Including Transfers to/from Reserves	**50,735,612**	**1,178,827**	**1,356,080**	**49,780**	**2,584,687**
Less: Transfers to/from Reserves	11,468,499	-	(487,700)	-	(487,700)
Total Excluding Transfers to/from Reserves	**39,267,114**	**1,178,827**	**1,843,780**	**49,780**	**3,072,387**

SERVICE DIVISION G

Agriculture, Eductaion,Health and Welfare

Service	EXPENDITURE	INCOME			
	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	527,698	-	6,101	364	6,465
G03 Coastal Protection	-	-	-	-	-
G04 Veterinary Service	604,175	7,925	229,434	112	237,471
G05 Educational Support Services	57,970	19,878	237	14	20,129
G06 Agency & Recoupable Services	1	-	-	-	-
Total Including Transfers to/from Reserves	**1,189,844**	**27,803**	**235,772**	**490**	**264,065**
Less: Transfers to/from Reserves	293,847	-	-	-	-
Total Excluding Transfers to/from Reserves	**895,997**	**27,803**	**235,772**	**490**	**264,065**

SERVICE DIVISION H

Miscellaneous Services

Service	EXPENDITURE	INCOME			
	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	206,199	-	-	-	-
H03 Adminstration of Rates	110,564,673	81,035,615	140,245	2,251	81,178,112
H04 Franchise Costs	463,204	-	7,053	900	7,952
H05 Operation of Morgue and Coroner Expenses	572	-	-	-	-
H06 Weighbridges	29,735	-	-	-	-
H07 Operation of Markets and Casual Trading	-	-	3,050	-	3,050
H08 Malicious Damage	-	-	-	-	-
H09 Local Representation/Civic Leadership	2,136,871	-	21,688	1,887	23,574
H10 Motor Taxation	-	-	-	-	-
H11 Agency & Recoupable Services	4,184,529	9,613,165	1,855,339	147,715	11,616,219
Total Including Transfers to/from Reserves	**117,585,783**	**90,648,780**	**2,027,374**	**152,753**	**92,828,907**
Less: Transfers to/from Reserves	28,280,155	-	-	-	-
Total Excluding Transfers to/from Reserves	**89,305,628**	**90,648,780**	**2,027,374**	**152,753**	**92,828,907**
TOTAL ALL DIVISIONS (Excluding Transfers)	**323,473,042**	**169,527,795**	**60,053,839**	**2,539,725**	**232,121,359**

APPENDIX 3

ANALYSIS OF INCOME FROM GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES

	2020	2019
	€	€
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage		
Housing Grants & Subsidies	35,589,468	29,894,837
Local Improvement Schemes	-	-
Road Grants	3,914,446	3,914,446
Water Services Group Schemes	-	-
Environmental Protection/Conservation Grants	9,000	220,000
Library Services	75,000	75,000
Urban and Village Renewal Schemes	15,000	-
Miscellaneous	93,068,657	11,669,375
	132,671,571	**45,773,658**
Other Departments and Bodies		
Road Grants	1,050,976	731,359
Local Enterprise Office	33,688,642	1,611,832
Community Employment Schemes	-	-
Civil Defence	-	-
Higher Education Grants	-	-
Miscellaneous	2,116,606	1,811,394
	36,856,225	**4,154,586**
TOTAL	**169,527,795**	**49,928,244**

APPENDIX 4

ANALYSIS OF INCOME FROM GOODS AND SERVICES

	2020	2019
	€	€
Rents from Houses	25,239,700	23,398,090
Housing Loans Interest & Charges	3,106,554	2,839,733
Domestic Water	-	-
Commercial Water	-	-
Irish Water	14,356,066	14,289,624
Domestic Refuse	1,091,123	903,410
Commercial Refuse	-	-
Domestic Sewerage	-	-
Commercial Sewerage	-	-
Planning Fees	1,843,977	1,588,369
Parking Fines/Charges	1,364,474	2,098,734
Recreation & Amenity Activities	87,731	639,253
Library Fees/Fines	309	2,030
Agency Services	35,128	-
Pension Contributions	2,161,641	2,082,206
Property Rental & Leasing of Land	1,108,968	1,239,353
Landfill Charges	-	-
Fire Charges	951,231	1,103,407
NPPR	1,347,525	1,705,956
Miscellaneous	7,359,411	9,129,238
	60,053,839	**61,019,403**

APPENDIX 5

SUMMARY OF CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND INCOME

	2020	2019
	€	€
EXPENDITURE		
Payments to Contractors	33,706,202	61,137,290
Purchase of Land	14,253,329	22,014,094
Purchase of Other Assets/Equipment	38,499,120	55,614,099
Professional & Consultancy Fees	7,992,623	7,632,183
Other	65,438,217	79,455,995
Total Expenditure (Net of Internal Transfers)	**159,889,491**	**225,853,660**
Transfers to Revenue	(487,700)	(1,707,582)
Total Expenditure (Including Transfers)*	**159,401,791**	**224,146,079**
INCOME		
Grants and LPT	96,079,734	124,732,163
Non-Mortgage Loans	30,682	-
Other Income		
Development Contributions	38,205,155	50,128,785
Property Disposals - Land	5,865,779	1,125,216
- LA Housing	1,478,365	2,740,100
- Other Property	43,450	278,070
Tenant Purchase Annuities	(321,259)	25,524,957
Car Parking	-	-
Other	7,329,676	8,002,380
Total Income (Net of Internal Transfers)	**148,711,582**	**212,531,670**
Transfers from Revenue	51,414,398	29,279,435
Total Income (Including Transfers) *	**200,125,980**	**241,811,105**
Surplus/(Deficit) for year	**40,724,189**	**17,665,026**
Balance (Debit)/Credit @ 1st January	195,745,809	178,080,783
Balance (Debit)/Credit @ 31st December 2020	236,469,998	195,745,809

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

APPENDIX 6

ANALYSIS OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ON CAPITAL ACCOUNT

					INCOME			TRANSFERS			
		Balance at 01/01/2020	*Expenditure*	*Grants & LPT*	*Non Mortgage Loans **	*Other*	*Total Income*	*Transfers from Revenue*	*Transfers to Revenue*	*Internal Transfers*	*Balance at 31/12/2020*
01	HOUSING & BUILDING	36,816,097	93,648,084	82,079,662	30,682	4,492,807	86,603,152	3,380,000	-	-	33,151,165
02	ROAD TRANSPORTATION & SAFETY	(23,162,527)	23,025,407	8,485,733	-	2,288,152	10,773,885	2,415,000	-	15,497,756	(17,501,293)
03	WATER SERVICES	14,803,701	2,148,087	25,040	-	1,165,985	1,191,025	-	-	(1,293,888)	12,552,750
04	DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT	109,842,777	25,249,001	4,288,152	-	40,781,788	45,069,940	4,670,000	-	(32,856,518)	101,477,199
05	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	12,699,108	5,306,730	1,089,406	-	3,427,944	4,517,350	2,458,000	-	313,461	14,681,189
06	RECREATION & AMENITY	1,575,613	7,632,320	88,594	-	74,126	162,720	6,784,998	(487,700)	10,920,802	12,299,513
07	AGRICULTURE, EDUCATION, HEALTH & WELFARE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
08	MISCELLANEOUS	43,171,040	2,879,862	23,147	-	370,363	393,510	31,706,400	-	7,418,388	79,809,475
		195,745,809	**159,889,491**	**96,079,734**	**30,682**	**52,601,166**	**148,711,582**	**51,414,398**	**(487,700)**	**-**	**236,469,998**

*Mortgage related transactions are excluded

APPENDIX 7
Summary of Major Revenue Collections for 2020

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
Debtor Type	Opening Arrears at 01/01/2020	Accrued	Vacant Property Adjustments	Write Off	Waivers & Credits**	Total for Collection	Amount Collected	Closing Arrears at 31/12/2020	Specific Doubtful Arrears*	% Collected
						=(B+C-D-E-F)		.=(G-H)		.=(H)/(G-J)
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	
Commercial Rates	4,842,767	148,736,900	82,572	636,460	80,970,506	71,890,129	65,016,434	6,873,695	251,257	91
Rents & Annuities	4,313,711	25,099,970		51,950		29,361,730	23,385,050	5,976,680		79.6
Housing Loans	367,065	14,663,728				15,030,793	14,512,062	518,731		96.5

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

**To alleviate the impact of Covid19 on eligible businesses during 2020 the Government announced a 9 month rates waiver scheme. The amounts waived are shown in the Waivers&Credits column in the table above and results in a corresponding reduction in the total for collection. This also has the effect of reducing the % collected in the final column. The Council received a grant equal to the amount waived and this is included in the grant income in Appendix 3. For prior year comparison purposes if the income was included in the Amount Collected column rather than the Waivers & Credits column the % collected would have been 96%.

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*	38	Associate	25,996	-12,210	195,802	-178,512	17,290	N	31/12/2019
BASE Enterprise Centre CLG*	38	Associate	388,555	-206,443	336,371	-303,651	32,720	N	31/12/2019
Balbriggan Enterprise and Training Centre CLG,	20	Associate	380,227	-32,130	170,697	-190,907	-20,210	N	31/12/2019
Castlecurragh Management CLG.	33	Associate	163,946	-28,685	148,710	186,763	-38,053	N	31/08/2020
College Business & Technology Park Management Services CLG	100	Subsidiary	-	-	-	-	-	N	31/05/2019
Domville Woods Property Management Company CLG.	100	Subsidiary	56,194	-9,495	20,260	12,351	7,909	N	31/12/2019
Draiocht CLG.	14	Associate	852,588	-552,839	1,575,415	1,606,386	-30,971	N	31/12/2019
Drinan Enterprise Centre Ltd, Swords. *	57	Subsidiary	778,150	-610,774	302,312	-311,921	-9,609	N	31/12/2019
Fingal Community & Recreation Services CLG* number 373487	80	Subsidiary	770,528	-715,742			-	N	31/12/2019
Fingal Parks & Heritage Trust Ltd.*	100	Subsidiary	43,222	-43,219	-	-	-	N	31/12/2019
Fingal Tourism CLG.*	33	Associate	69,069	-50,265	-	-	-	N	31/12/2018
Kettle's Lane Management CLG	75	Subsidiary	149,019	-3,076	51,050	35,942	15,108	N	31/12/2019
Ladyswell Property CLG.	100	Subsidiary	135,607	-10,291	171,555	151,297	20,258	N	31/12/2019
MALAHIDE CASTLE AND NEWBRIDGE HOUSE LIMITED	73	Subsidiary	7,219,933	-7,134,536	1,008,028	-935,306	72,722	N	31/12/2019
Montini Property Management Company Ltd	43	Associate	12,012	-1,789	6,576	6,026	550	N	31/12/2019
Mullhuddart Community Centre CLG	38	Associate	117,950	-21,543	489,520	-473,073	16,447	N	31/12/2019
Ongar Community Centre CLG.	33	Associate	244,554	-54,953	265,198	-236,199	28,999	N	31/12/2019
Plato Dublin Business Support Company Limited by Guarantee	33	Associate	66,069	-57,922	172,848	-164,867	7,981	N	31/12/2020
Parslickstown House Facilities Management Ltd	50	Subsidiary	305,887	-74,080	610,457	-603,289	7,168	N	31/12/2019
Rossan Court Owners Management Company limited by guarantee.	100	Subsidiary	5,126	-5,018	36,456	31,181	5,275	N	31/12/2019
The Seamus Ennis Cultural Centre Company CLG.	14	Associate	583,390	-253,991	553,159	-458,158	95,001	N	31/12/2019
Tyrellstown Community Centre CLG	17	Associate	191,411	-50,186	228,365	-215,594	12,771	N	31/12/2019
Whitestown Property Management Company Ltd.	33	Associate	27,154	-774	8,550	8,670	-120	N	31/12/2019

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

Statutory Audit Report to the Members of Fingal County Council for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

Local Government Audit Service

Prepared by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

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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 2020, 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 2020 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 COVID-19 – Impact on Local Authorities

2.1 Overview

The COVID-19 outbreak and the emergency measures taken to mitigate it have had a significant impact on the finances of local authorities during 2020. This has resulted in a reduction in income from some sources, an increased level of COVID-19 related expenditure and related government subvention for the local authority.

At a national level, the Government introduced a number of schemes including the restart grant schemes and rates waiver scheme to support businesses, as noted in paragraphs 2.2 and 2.3. In addition, local authorities were reimbursed by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (the Department) for the loss of income from goods and services and for additional COVID-19 expenditure incurred by them (see paragraph 2.4).

In June 2021, it was agreed by the General Accounts Working Group to amend Note 23 and include an additional Note 24 in relation to Restart Grants / Plus in the audited Annual Financial Statements 2020.

2.2 Restart Grants Scheme

During 2020, the Government decided to support commercial micro, small and medium businesses, through the Restart Grant Scheme and later the Restart Grant Plus Scheme. The qualifying businesses were required to have a rateable premises and experienced a loss of turnover due to the COVID-19 restrictions. The scheme provided for assistance with the costs of reconnecting with the marketplace, reopening their business and re-employing staff. Qualifying businesses who met the specified eligibility criteria could apply to the local authority for grants under these schemes.

Under the service level agreement between Enterprise Ireland, Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, the Department and each local authority, the Council had responsibility to manage within its functional area the processing of applications and payments, in accordance with the criteria specified. The Council also reported to the above Government departments to enable oversight and review of the scheme. Each business was responsible to self-certify in completing its application that it met these criteria.

The Council only verified the application against a rate account, where one existed, and confirmed that the applicant had fully completed the application including the declaration. The Council did not have to verify any other information included in the application. Where rates were not assessed in 2019 or 2020, estimates of liability were made by the local authority. This was necessary to determine the support available to the relevant business.

Accordingly the audit of expenditure under these schemes, which amounted to €30.1m in Fingal County Council for the year ended 31 December 2020, was limited to the specific responsibilities of local authorities, as set out above, and did not include the verification of other eligibility criteria declared by the applicants.

The accounting treatment for this is set out in Note 24 in the AFS.

2.3 Rates Waiver Scheme

In order to support both the local government sector and commercial ratepayers, a funding package of €900m was allocated by the Government to fund the cost of a waiver of commercial rates for nine months from 27 March 2020 to 27 December 2020.

The waiver was available to businesses, which were forced to close, and those, which experienced significant negative economic disruption due to public health restrictions, imposed in response to COVID-19. The total amount received by Fingal County Council for the year ended 31 December 2020 was €81m.

The accounting treatment for this is set out in Note 23 in the AFS and further disclosure is included in Appendix 7.

The methodology and manner for calculating rates income collection differs in 2020 compared to prior years.

2.4 Reimbursement for loss of goods and services income and COVID-19 related expenditure

The Department reimbursed the Council for the loss of goods and services income and additional expenditure incurred by them as a result of COVID-19. The total amount received by Fingal County Council for the year ended 31 December 2020 was €4.7m, split between €1m for the loss of goods and services income and €3.7m for additional COVID-19 related expenditure.

Chief Executive's Response

COVID-19 resulted in additional costs to the Council in order to comply with public health guidelines while at the same time ensuring continuity of service throughout the pandemic. It also resulted in reduced income in certain areas such as parking and events. The financial supports from the Department were welcome in order to reduce the strain on Council finances during 2020.

3 Financial Standing

3.1 Statement of Comprehensive income

The Council broke even for the year with the cumulative revenue surplus remaining at €16m. At the Council's Annual Budget meeting held on 24 November 2020, the Council approved revised budget expenditure for 2020. On 10 May 2021, the Council further approved additional expenditure of €20.3m and also transfers to the capital account of €15.7m in accordance with S.104 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

Chief Executive's Response

The capital transfers provided for in the AFS allow the Council to have a financial foundation in place in order to deliver on the very significant capital plan for the County. It also includes provision to allow the Council to mitigate the financial risks arising out of the commercial property revaluation, which became effective in 2020.

3.2 Financial Position

The Statement of Financial Position recorded an increase of €113m, resulting in year-end net assets/total reserves of €3,201m (2019: €3,088m). The significant movements are included in the table below:

	31-Dec-20 €m	31-Dec-19 €m	Movement During Year €m	Explanations for Increases or Decreases
Fixed Assets/WIP	3,047	2,980	67	Increase in housing and building assets
Long-Term Debtors	323	269	54	Increase in CALF loans to AHB's
Current Assets	377	309	68	Increase in bank/cash
Current Liabilities	(115)	(92)	(23)	Increase in deferred income (see paragraph 4.2)
Long-Term Liabilities	(431)	(378)	(53)	Increase in CALF loans from the Department.
	3,201	**3,088**	**113**	

The Council has maintained its strong financial position during the year ensuring that the Council's services were not impacted by the financial uncertainty surrounding COVID-19.

Chief Executive's Response

The financial position reflects the prudent management of the Council's finances and it needs to be viewed in the context of the infrastructural deficits in the County and the future capital expenditure plans of the Council. It also reflects the mitigations put in place to deal with the very significant financial risks arising out of the commercial property revaluation, which became effective in 2020.

4 Income Collection

4.1 Summary of Income Collection

Sources of Income	Yield 2020	Yield 2019	Debtors 31-Dec-20	Debtors 31-Dec-19
Rates	91%	98%	€6.9m	€4.8m
Rents	80%	84%	€6.0m	€4.3m
Housing Loans	97%	98%	€0.5m	€0.4m

Cash from rents and loans is automatically receipted through the Council's financial management system (Agresso). The rent and loan charges are accounted for in the rental system (OHMS) and loans system (Cygnus) respectively. 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. As previously reported, 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 continues to be a high priority of the Council. The COVID-19 pandemic has increased the challenges in this regard. Work is ongoing to replace the current rents system with NPS (Northgate Public Services) OHMS. Work is also ongoing to source a replacement system for Cygnus, the current loans management system.

4.2 Rates

The collection yield during the year decreased by 7% to 91% with arrears increasing by €2.1m to €6.9m. In accordance with Note 23 in the AFS, the Council transferred customers credit balances of €21.5m into deferred income where customers continued to pay their rates, were entitled to, and received a rates waiver, and did not receive a refund by year-end.

The full year's accrued income for 2020 of €148.7m is recorded in the Income and Expenditure Account. As part of a national rates revaluation process, all of the Council's rateable properties were revalued, with the new valuations list being effective from 1 January 2020. 44% of the rateable valuation in Fingal is still under appeal and if successful, these appeals will have a significant impact on the Council's finances. The Council has a capital reserve of €32.5m to cover future liabilities where receipts may have to be returned to those rate account customers arising from successful appeals.

The Council has a bad debt provision of €5m for the arrears at the year-end of €6.9m which represents 74% of the total debtors. This level of provision will cover the Council from future potential losses. A general COVID-19 capital reserve of €2m was also created to provide for bad debts on a longer term basis arising from the pandemic.

Chief Executive's Response

The financial challenges arising out of the high level of valuation appeals due to the countywide commercial property revaluation, effective from January 2020, are significant. In recognition of this, the Council has and continues to make significant financial provision to mitigate possible losses in income arising from successful appeals.

The Council has also increased its provision in order to mitigate against a potential increased level of uncollectable rates arising out of the economic consequences of the pandemic. This will need to be kept under review particularly in the light of the tapering of supports to business.

4.3 Rents

Rents arrears increased by 39% to €6m. The 6,832 rent accounts at the year-end can be analysed as follows:

- 183 accounts with nil balance
- 2,545 accounts with a credit balance (overpaid) amount to €1.1m
- 4,104 accounts in arrears amounting to €7.1m. 554 of these accounts are over 12 months in arrears and amount to €3.9m.

There were limited demands that could be placed on customer accounts due to the COVID-19 pandemic and government restrictions, however the Council must concentrate and actively engage with those tenants in serious arrears. The Council increased its bad debt provision by €784k to €3.4m. This provision will cover the Council from future potential losses.

Chief Executive's Response

A new process to maximise rent collection has been introduced. This involves close monitoring of account balances and early intervention with customers to avoid arrears build up. Legal proceedings in relation to serious arrears cases have also been recommenced. The team continue to proactively engage with tenants and closely monitor collection rates.

4.4 Housing Loans

Housing Loan arrears increased by 41% to €518k. The 1,848 loan accounts at the year-end can be analysed as follows:

- 482 accounts with nil balance
- 1,016 accounts with a credit balance (overpaid) amount to €1.2m
- 350 accounts in arrears amounting to €1.7m. 107 of these accounts are over 12 months in arrears and amount to €1.4m.

The Council engaged with customers during the year and agreed with 124 different households a COVID-19 mortgage payment break. There is a reserve in the capital account of €4m for those loans not covered by the mortgage arrears resolution process and the provision will cover the Council from future potential losses.

Chief Executive's Response

A new approach to maximising collection on housing loans has been introduced. This includes daily monitoring of account balances with graded level of escalation depending on the arrears involved. The loans team have restarted referral of serious arrears cases to the Law Agent, these cases were set aside following public health guidance in 2020. The loans team continue to proactively engage with borrowers and closely monitor collection rates.

4.5 Bad Debt Provisions

The Council has finalised their bad debt provision policy for all the major income sources. This policy is based on the Council's 2020 bad debts provision review working paper. Any material changes to the level of bad debts provision on each individual major income source will in future, require this policy to be formally amended.

Chief Executive's Response

The Council has put a formal policy in place and will keep under review in terms of relevance and fitness for purpose.

5 Fixed Assets

The Council has continually failed to address the issue of reconciling the Property Interest Register (PIR) to the Council's Fixed Asset Register (FAR). This reconciliation is important to ensure that the Council has recorded full ownership of its land. The following issues were recorded during the audit:

- Sale of land of 3.8 acres in the current year in Damastown Industrial estate had never been included in the FAR.
- The 2018 Audit Report recommended that 97 acres of land acquired by the Council in Portmarnock for a nominal €10 under a planning condition should be included in the FAR. This land remains excluded from the FAR.
- The 2019 Audit Report recommended that 6 acres of land in Balbriggan should be brought into the FAR. This land is now registered to the Council and is part of a road development but remains excluded from the FAR.

Chief Executive's Response

The reconciliation has commenced assisted by a new graduate recruited under the Local Authority graduate recruitment programme. This significant piece of work will be progressed with urgency.

All land is included in the Councils property interest register, which is managed by the property department. As per the fixed asset guidelines, only land with a value of over €10,000 is included on the Council's FAR. Any disposal of land is approved by the Members.

We note the auditor’s comments regarding the Damastown land. This land had been included on the PIR.

Per the auditor’s comments, the land at Portmarnock will be included on the FAR.

We will review the treatment of the land at Balbriggan with a view to regularising its treatment on the FAR.

6 Capital Account

6.1 General

In October 2020 the 2021-2023 capital programme was presented to the members in accordance with Section 135 of the Local Government Act 2001. The programme identifies 233 individual projects with an estimated spend of €767m over 3 years. The projected sources of funding for this is as follows:

- Development Contributions €122m
- Grants €495m
- Revenue €19m
- Other €131m

The surplus in the Capital Account has increased by €40m to €236m at year-end and this balance is mainly attributable to the following:

- Development Contributions €150m (see paragraph 7)
- Housing Reserves €65m (€22.8m relates to paragraph 6.2)
- Rates €32.5m (see paragraph 4.2)
- Insurance Fund €19.5m (specific reserve)
- Water Contingency Fund €9m (specific reserve)
- General COVID-19 Fund €8.5m (general reserve)
- Industrial Land Acquisitions (€58m) (expenditure balances unfunded)

Chief Executive's Response

The capital reserves of the Council need to be viewed in the context of the infrastructural deficits in the County and the ambitious capital programme in place to deal with these deficits. With regards to the individual reserves identified above which are not dealt with elsewhere in the report the following should be noted:

(i) The Housing reserves is a gross figure and does not reflect a number of debit balances that have arisen particularly where we were waiting on the Department's permission to utilise internal capital receipts. The net position is a credit balance at 31 December 2020 of €33.7m.

(ii) The insurance fund is in place to chiefly underwrite public liability claims that are made against the Council. The Council proactively manages claims, which has allowed us to mitigate against the trend of increased insurance costs in the market over the past number of years.

(iii) The water contingency fund was created a number of years ago and was funded from water levies. It has been agreed with Irish Water that this fund will be used to finance specific water related projects in Fingal in the future.

(iv) The COVID-19 fund was created in the 2019 AFS with further allocation in the 2020 AFS. This fund was created in order for the Council to have reserves in place to mitigate against financial implications of the pandemic. A portion of this fund (€5m) was utilised in balancing the 2021 budget. Further utilisation of this fund will be considered as part of the 2021 outturn and 2022 budget.

(v) The Council has very significant debit balances arising out of land acquisitions. The Council will continue to keep the level of debit balance under review.

6.2 Unsold Affordable Properties - General

The Council has 437 housing properties on their fixed asset register that are being managed under the following basis:

- 275 unsold affordable units leased to the Approved Housing Bodies (AHB) under the Social Leasing Scheme to address social housing needs

- 162 unsold affordable units at the Parnell Estate are managed by a property company and an AHB on the Council's behalf.

Bridging loans of €54.3m remain outstanding on an interest only basis, in respect of the 437 unsold affordable housing units. The Council reduced their contingency fund during the year by €6.3m to €22.8m to fund historic legacy unfunded affordable housing job codes.

Chief Executive's Response

The Council is working closely with the Department through a working group established to consider a long-term strategy for unsold affordable properties nationally.

6.3 Unsold Affordable Apartments - Parnell Estate

As reported in previous audits, the 162 Council owned apartments in the Parnell Estate, Mulhuddart, were leased by a property company to private tenants. The Council continues to regularise this situation by allocating these apartments for social housing when they become vacant. The Council has now entered into a caretaker agreement with an AHB for the 22 apartments that were vacated by private tenants. This caretaker agreement is temporary and a more permanent arrangement needs to be agreed between the different stakeholders. The funding of the capital costs of these vacated units must be an essential part of any agreement.

The Council's management agreement with the property company for all 162 units has been extended until 31 December 2021. While the provision of these services was not consistent with procurement procedures it provided continuity of services for the existing tenants. The Council need to review the terms of any future agreement, to take into consideration the continuing reduction in the number of units leased to private tenants.

Chief Executive's Response

The Council will continue to work with the AHB and the Department to regularise the situation. The terms of the management agreement with the property manager will be reviewed at year end.

6.4 Swords Cultural Quarter Development

The Council has spent €4.3m on purchasing land and property interests in North Street, Swords. There will be further property purchases necessary for this development to proceed. The project is currently at stage 1, which is the procurement of the professional team and outline design of the project.

Both as the sponsoring and approving authority, the Council must adhere to the public spending code, procurement legislation, and the Capital Works Management Framework. The Council's consultants have completed the detailed project brief, project procurement strategy and a cost benefit report. The final business case must be completed before the award of the construction contract and this will reassess the ongoing validity of continuing with the project. The Council believe that the cost of the project will be under €75m and therefore does not require seeking advice from the National Development Finance Agency. The Council must ensure however that a budgetary plan is in place before the award of the contract.

Chief Executive's Response

All EU procurement directives are being adhered to along with the public spending code requirements. The project is now at design stage with the appointed team engaging with the key stakeholders at preliminary design stage. A final business case and budgetary plan with funding streams will be developed before progressing to awarding a construction contract.

6.5 Mayne Road/Hole in the Wall Road Junction Upgrade Project

The cost of this project was originally budgeted for €11.4m. The Department is providing funding, through the Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund Initiative, of €4.7m. The Council is liable to pay from their own resources the balance of the cost of this project, which may also include additional costs due to change orders and contractor claims.

In 2006, the Council appointed consultants from a framework agreement to progress the preliminary design phase of the project. Subsequent CE Orders approved additional payments for additional works and services. In 2020, the Council re-appointed the same consultants for the construction and close out stage of the project for a new contract amount of €516k exc. VAT. This was not retendered.

Chief Executive's Response

The costs incurred on this project have been appropriately documented and incurred in line with the provisions of the contract. Any further additional costs arising through necessary change orders and contractor claims in line with the provisions of the contract will also be documented.

The relevant Chief Executive's Order on 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. It outlines the benefits to the Council in terms of value for money, programme and intellectual property rights.

7 Development Contributions

7.1 Development Contributions Financial Systems

As reported in previous years, 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 controls the financial element of the planning permissions. None of the systems operate a credit control function and this is performed manually. The continued use of these systems as currently configured represents a risk to the Council. The capital reserves for development contributions amount to €150m at year-end.

The Council has a service contract with the CBS providers up to 31 December 2021 however the providers are no longer developing the system and a replacement is now required as matter of urgency. I note a Project Board has been set up to design a new financial module within APAS, however it is not yet clear when the specification, design and commissioning will be completed.

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. The project team are currently finalising the product specification. The service provider will be in a position to extend the current service support contract beyond December 2021 if required.

7.2 Development Contribution Debtors

Development contribution debtors amount to €65.9m. The Council conducted an exercise to remove invoiced income on the larger developments of €34.3m where there were multiple planning permissions on the same site and for units not yet started. During 2020, the impact of COVID-19 hindered the inspection of sites however I wish to acknowledge the Council's attempts to ensure that a level of commercial sites as recommended last year was included in the exercise. As conditions allow, it is recommended that the Council continues this exercise, thus ensuring the findings from site inspections updates the Council's knowledge of construction activity, which in turn is reflected in the AFS.

Chief Executive's Response

The procedure to reduce the debtor amounts on residential sites has continued and was expanded to include inspections on large commercial sites during 2021.

8 Procurement

The Council has a centralised procurement unit (CPU) responsible for the strategic and operational procurement policy and compliance across the organisation to deliver on the Council's corporate procurement plan. The CPU manages key procurement processes for all departments facilitating improved procurement compliance. Audit testing showed that there were levels of non-compliance in revenue contracts during 2020 however these issues were resolved in 2021. The Council should ensure that it always follows its own procurement procedures and policies.

Chief Executive's Response

The centralised procurement unit objective is to enhance strategic and operational procurement and compliance within the Council. We note the auditor's comments with regards the importance of the Council following its own procurement procedures and policies.

9 Governance and Propriety

9.1 Audit Committee

The Audit Committee met 6 times during 2020. At the April 2021 Council meeting, the 2020 annual report of the Audit Committee and its 2021 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. During 2020, the committee raised the governance levels of the Council by increased engagement with management and by constant review of the Governance Action Reports.

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.

9.2 Internal Audit Function

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some staff in the Internal Audit Unit were temporarily redeployed to assist in other sections of the Council during the year. However, the Unit finalised 9 audit reports during the year. The Unit also carried out quality assurance work on the Public Spending Code, which I have taken into consideration as part of the audit process.

The Council plans to increase its level of outsourcing for internal audit work. The Council are currently procuring a new contract for this service with the intention of external consultants conducting a greater proportion of regular internal audit work. The remaining staff in the Internal Audit Unit will assist in coordinating this work with the individual departments, concentrate on tracking actions on the Governance Action Reports and managing the Risk Management Process.

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.

9.3 Risk Management Process

In March 2021, the Council approved their new Risk Management Policy. The policy outlines the Council's new risk assessment approach that creates more appropriate and meaningful Strategic and Departmental Risk Registers. There is also the intention to create an Emergency Risk Register. These registers will enhance the overview required to ensure that all high-level risks throughout the Council are highlighted and that required action is recorded and followed up. The Risk Management Policy and the Strategic and Corporate Risk Registers were presented to the March 2021 Audit Committee meeting.

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.

9.4 Local Authority Companies

The Council listed the 2019 results for all of the Council's 23 associated companies in the Council's draft 2020 AFS. The Council is not adhering to the Accounting Code of Practice through the omission of the 2020 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. There is a significant deviation between the Accounting Code of Practice and legislative requirement with regards the timeline for the finalisation of the year end accounts. It was requested again that the annual accounts for subsidiary and associate companies were 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 audit by the management and staff of the Council.



Daragh Mc Mahon

Local Government Auditor

21 September 2021

housing.gov.ie

Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2022

ITEM NO. 20

AUDIT COMMITTEE

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2022

ITEM NO. 20a

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE OF FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

Fingal County Council Audit Committee
Annual Report 2021

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 2021 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 2021 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 2021. 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 2021 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.

As chairperson, I am very satisfied with the performance of the AC, in particular as it was faced with challenges presented by the Pandemic. We met on seven occasions in 2021. 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.

Endeavouring to deliver on corporate goals and objectives, during a pandemic, truly presents new and unexpected challenges. 2021, the second year of the Covid19 Pandemic, had wide reaching effects on all of society. The AC were very pleased to note, on foot of discussions with the Local Government Auditor (LGA), that not only did FCC maintain the status quo, but improved their performance in certain areas that had been previously highlighted by the LGA. 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 and their efforts to continue to support and drive a culture of good governance across FCC.

Finally, I would like to thank colleague members of the Audit Committee, past and present, for their time, commitment and considered debate, which adds to the effectiveness of the work programme of the AC of Fingal County Council. I have enjoyed my time working with the Audit Committee of FCC, since 2014, and I am grateful for the opportunity to work with so many dedicated professionals and elected members.

Noreen Fahy

Audit Committee Chairperson 2021

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 2021.

The table below outlines the membership and attendance records throughout the period covered by this report and reflects a number of resignations (three) and a number of new appointments (four) during 2021 bringing the committee back to its full complement of seven members made up of three Councillors and four External Members.*

Member:	Meeting Date: 26/01/2021	Meeting Date: 22/03/2021	Meeting Date: 24/05/2021	Meeting Date: 05/10/2021	Meeting Date: 10/11/2021	Meeting Date: 02/12/2021	Meeting Date: 06/12/2021
Cllr. Cathal Boland*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cllr. Brian McDonagh	No	No	Yes				
Cllr. Brigid Manton*				Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cllr. Punam Pane*				Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Peter Coyle	Yes	Yes	Yes				
Noreen Fahy (Chair)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Dearbhla Fitzsimons*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Donagh Waters*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Chris Harmon*				Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Noel O'Connell*							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 2021, the work programme and timeframes and the use of 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
- and maintenance of integrated risk management structures
- prevention and detection of fraud and irregularities and resolution of
- any such situation
- support of the work of internal audit including the provision of
- information
- Responding in a timely manner to audit queries and implementation of agreed audit recommendations.

5.0 Review of 2021 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 2021, the focus of these engagements was informed by the Covid 19 response and associated risk.

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 2020 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 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 2021 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

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. The review of the Risk Management Process that commenced in January 2021, involving the introduction of a revised risk management assessment process, was the focus of work in the Internal Audit Unit in the first quarter of 2021. The process involved the engagement of Internal Audit in workshops with all departments on the revised risk assessment methodology, engagement with the Executive Management Team and presentation of the Risk Management Policy and the Strategic and Corporate Risk Registers to the Audit Committee in March 2021. The process resulted in the reduction in the number of risks from over 700 to under 200.

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 10th November 2021, the Audit Committee met with the Local Government Auditor, Mr. Daragh McMahon, and considered and discussed the audited Annual Financial Statement and Statutory Audit Report for Fingal County Council for the year ended 31st December 2020. The meeting was a virtual meeting using the medium MS Teams, in line with Covid-19 protocols.

- 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.

- It was noted that the County Council had responded very well to the challenges of the Covid 19 Pandemic, with the successful roll out of schemes such as the Restart Grants Scheme and the Rates Waiver Scheme, which were of great assistance to businesses in Fingal.

- Improvements on certain areas highlighted in the prior year Statutory Audit Report were noted by the LGA – for example in the areas of bad debt provisioning, development levies.

- In relation to Fixed Assets, some time was spent discussing this area. It was noted that the County Council has not yet succeeded in reconciling the Property Interest Register to the Fixed Assets Register. As part of the response to this issue additional resources have been tasked with this reconciliation.

- The resourcing of the Internal Audit function, and the Finance function generally, were also discussed. The importance of ensuring that that sufficient qualified and experienced resources are allocated to these areas was emphasised.

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.

In 2020, it was agreed that a formal, external and independent evaluation of the Audit Committees effectiveness would be undertaken. Phase 1 was undertaken in 2021. Phase 2 is planned for 2022.

8.0 Acknowledgements

On behalf of the AC, I would like to give special recognition to the contribution of Mr Peter Coyle and Cllr Brendan McDonagh, who both resigned from the committee in 2021.

The Committee would like to thank the Chief Executive, Directors, senior management and other colleagues for their co-operation and assistance during 2021. It was challenging for the AC to continue to meet given the restricted arrangements that are necessary during a Pandemic. The Fingal team continued to provide a seamless virtual infrastructure 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 2021 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 ***(Section 59 Local Government Reform Act 2014)***
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 2021

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 2021
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.)

No.	Topic
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 CE's responses where relevant and follow up as necessary
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 2021 to December 2021 (Regulation 15 Report)
16	Annual Report 2021 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 2022 Audit Committee Work Programme
21	Review resourcing of Internal Audit

Appendix 3.

Internal Audit Reports for the period January to December 2021

Department	Audit Report	Date Signed	Audit Committee
Housing & Community	Management of Housing Loans – Audit Review	30/09/2021	Oct'21
Operations & Finance	Operations Sub-Threshold Procurement 2019/2020	30/09/2021	Oct'21
	Annual Public Spending Code Review		

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2022

ITEM NO. 20b

ANNUAL REPORT 2021
AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT ON AUDITED AFS

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

On 10th November 2021, the Audit Committee met with the Local Government Auditor, Mr. Daragh McMahon, and considered and discussed the audited Annual Financial Statement and Statutory Audit Report for Fingal County Council for the year ended 31st December 2020. The meeting was a virtual meeting using the medium MS Teams, in line with Covid-19 protocols.

The audit was carried out in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice, as prescribed under Section 117 of the Local Government Act, 2001. The Audit Committee is pleased to note the unqualified opinion of the local government auditor as follows:

'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 2020 and its income and expenditure for the year then ended.'

Overview of key discussion points:

- 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 risk 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.

- It was noted that the County Council had responded very well to the challenges of the Covid 19 Pandemic, with the successful roll out of schemes such as the Restart Grants Scheme and the Rates Waiver Scheme, which were of great assistance to businesses in Fingal.

- Improvements on certain areas highlighted in the prior year Statutory Audit Report were noted by the LGA – for example in the areas of bad debt provisioning, development levies.

- In relation to Fixed Assets, some time was spent discussing this area. It was noted that the County Council has not yet succeeded in reconciling the Property Interest Register to the Fixed Assets Register. As part of the response to this issue additional resources have been tasked with this reconciliation.

- The resourcing of the Internal Audit function, and the Finance function generally, were also discussed. The importance of ensuring that that sufficient qualified and experienced resources are allocated to these areas was emphasised.

The Audit Committee wish to confirm that the Audited Annual Financial Statement, the Statutory Audit Report and our general discussion with Mr. McMahon, will continue to inform the Audit Committee's work and will be considered during the development of the Internal Audit Workplan for 2022.

The Audit Committee will also monitor the implementation of recommendations made by Mr. McMahon during the coming year through the Governance Action Tracker, regular management reports and presentations.

Noreen Fahy

Chairperson, Fingal Audit Committee

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2022

ITEM NO. 20c

AUDIT COMMITTEE CHARTER

1. Purpose

The Audit Committee has an independent role in advising Fingal County Council on financial reporting processes, internal control, risk management and audit matters, as part of the governance arrangements that operate within Fingal County Council.

2. Functions

The functions of the Audit Committee are as prescribed by section 59 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014, as follows:

a. To review the financial and budgetary reporting practices and procedures within Fingal County Council:

- Adoption of Annual Budget
- Gain an understanding of the budgetary practices used
- Review budgetary outturns and variance analysis of actual versus budget
- Review of financial management and reporting arrangements
- Meet with Head of Finance as necessary

b. To foster the development of best practice in the performance by Fingal County Council of its internal audit function:

- Approval of the annual Internal Audit Plan
- Approval of the Internal Audit Charter
- Review of periodic Internal Audit reports
- Obtain feedback from the External Auditor
- Assessment of the resources available to Internal Audit
- Assessment of the training requirements of Internal Audit

c. To review any financial statement auditor's report or auditor's special report in relation to Fingal County Council and assess any actions taken within the Council by its chief executive in response to such a statement or report and to report to the Council on its findings:

- Meet with the External Auditor within three months following the submission of the auditor's report to the Council
- Review the Annual Financial Statement
- Review of the Management Letter findings by the External Auditor
- Review of assurances given by Management on issues raised by the External Auditor
- Undertake follow-up in relation to any significant issues raised by the external auditor
- Report to the Council on the outcome of the annual external audit

d. To assess and promote efficiency and value for money with respect to Fingal County Council's performance of its functions:

- Review of Internal Audit reports addressing efficiency and value for money within the activities audited
- Review of National Service Indicators and the relevant position of the council in key areas
- Meet with Heads of Services and enquire as to measures taken to promote efficiency and Value for Money
- Review relevant recommendations and findings made by the NOAC and the external auditor on the subject of efficiency and value for money

e. To review systems that are operated by Fingal County Council for the management of risks:

- Review the Risk Register documentation and assess how this links to the Internal Audit Plan
- Assess and understand how the Risk Register was compiled
- Review the Risk Management Policy
- Meet with Heads of Services and gain an understanding of how they manage perceived risks

f. To review the findings and recommendations of the NOAC and the response of the Chief Executive to these and take further action as appropriate:

- Review relevant findings of the NOAC for inclusion in the annual work programme
- Review the Chief Executive's responses to issues raised by the NOAC
- Direct Internal Audit to undertake audits on relevant matters raised by the NOAC

3. Composition and Operation of Audit Committee

Membership

The Audit Committee is established by resolution of the Council upon nomination by the Corporate Policy Group, who will consult with the Chief Executive.

The Committee will consist of seven members, including four external members. The term of the Audit Committee will be approximately five years, up until 31 May 2024.

A Chairperson will be selected by the Audit Committee in accordance with Regulation 4(10) and will be one of the Committee's external members.

The position of Chairperson may be rotated during the five-year term, with the agreement of the Audit Committee members.

Where an Audit Committee vacancy arises, the Chairperson will inform the Chief Executive and the vacancy will be filled in accordance with Regulation 4(13). In considering an appropriate replacement, the CPG and Council, in consultation with the Chairperson, should consider the existing skills mix of the Committee and reflect on

how best the vacancy can be filled in order to ensure that the Committee continues to be comprised in such a way that it can effectively discharge its functions.

Training and Induction

It is the duty of the Chairperson to ensure that the training needs of the Audit Committee are reviewed on an annual basis. Where training needs are identified the Chief Executive should be informed and facilitate the provision of training, where practicable.

New members will undertake an induction programme as soon as is practicable after appointment.

Meetings[1]

The Committee will meet at least four times per year, with authority to convene additional meetings as circumstances require. All Committee members are expected to attend each meeting, but no less than 75% of meetings in a single year. A member may be disqualified where he or she fails to attend 75% of the meetings of the Committee in any calendar year.

The quorum for each meeting will be four members. In the absence of the Chairperson, the members of the Committee shall elect a member present to act as Chairperson for the meeting.

The Committee will invite members of management, internal and external audit, or others to attend meetings and provide information, as necessary.

The Secretary will be responsible for the preparation and circulation of meeting agendas and minuting all decisions in consultation with the Chairperson. Minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee will be proposed and approved at the meeting immediately following.

Working Procedures and Access

The Committee should adopt its own working procedures.

The Annual Work Programme will be drafted by the Secretary in consultation with the Chairperson and presented to the Committee for review and approval. The Annual Work Programme will be provided to the Council at the start of each year.

The work programme will include:

- The approval of the annual Internal Audit plan
- A review of the Annual Financial Statement
- A review of the external auditor's reports
- The preparation of the Annual Report prepared under Regulation 15
- The review of periodic internal audit reports
- The review of the relevant findings and recommendations of the National Oversight and Audit Commission and the response of the Chief Executive to such findings and recommendations; and take further action as appropriate
- Any other actions necessary to discharge its functions

The Audit Committee will have access to documents or other data and information as it reasonably requires in order to discharge its functions.

The Audit Committee may request the attendance of the Chief Executive, the external auditor, staff of the Internal Audit Unit and other staff of the Council as required. The Audit Committee shall meet separately at least annually with the external auditor, the Internal Audit Unit and the Chief Executive.

Where advice is required in relation to a matter that is being considered by the Audit Committee and is sufficiently material to warrant the services of a specialist consultant, external to Fingal County Council, the Audit Committee may request the Chief Executive to make such expert assistance available.

4. Confidentiality

The agendas, papers, reports, documentation and discussions of the Committee are confidential and will contain sensitive material and information necessary to allow members to carry out their duties. Members and those in attendance, cannot without the approval of the Chairperson, discuss matters arising with third parties or directly or indirectly disclose to these parties' information obtained in the course of their duties, either during the term of their membership or at any time afterwards.

1. Independence

The Audit Committee shall be independent in the performance of its functions and responsibilities and shall not be subject to direction or control from any other party. The Audit Committee is accountable to the Council.

2. Media Protocol

Members of the Audit Committee will forward all queries, requests for interviews or comments from the media or outside parties immediately to the Secretary of the Audit Committee.

3. Conflict of Interest Procedures

Audit Committee members should declare any matter in which they have an interest. Each member of the Committee should take personal responsibility for declaring pro-actively at the outset of each meeting any potential conflict of interest relating to business arising on the Committee's agenda or from changes in the member's personal circumstances.

As appropriate, the Chairperson shall decide how this should be addressed and may ask the member to leave the meeting while the particular item of business is taken or, in more extreme cases, the member may be asked to step down from the Committee. Where the conflict of interest is with the Chairperson, the Council will ask another member of the Committee to lead in determining the appropriate course of action. Declarations of interest will be a standing agenda item.

Each year, members of the Audit Committee will make an annual declaration and disclosure of interests, as detailed in the Ethical Framework for the Local Government Service and set out in Part 15 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended).

4. Reporting

In accordance with Section 60 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014, the Audit Committee will consider the Audited Financial Statement and auditor's report, or special report reports at the next meeting of the Committee following their receipt. The auditor

who conducted the audit shall attend the meeting of the Committee where the reports are discussed. The Committee shall report formally to the Council on its findings.

In accordance with Regulation 15, the Audit Committee will prepare and submit a report to the Council on its activities and findings during that year within three months of the end of each year. The report should also include the Committee's assessment of its own effectiveness and performance in so far as it relates to the work programme agreed by the Council. The report should be formally submitted to the Council and the Chief Executive on the agreement of the Committee.

5. Review of Performance and Effectiveness

In accordance with Regulation 13, the Audit Committee shall undertake a review of its own effectiveness annually. This review should assess its performance and achievements against the Audit Committee Charter and the Annual Work Programme. The aim of this assessment is to ensure that the Audit Committee is meeting its objectives efficiently and effectively. The findings of the self-assessment should be included in the Annual Report of the Committee that is presented to the Council.

Where the assessment highlights a need for enhancements of the role, operational processes or membership of the Committee, the Chairperson should take action to ensure that such enhancements are implemented. The Chairperson may need to consult with the Chief Executive to obtain appropriate support to ensure all enhancements are implemented.

6. Protected Disclosures

The Committee will ensure that policies and procedures are in place whereby employees may in confidence raise concerns about possible irregularities in financial reporting or other financial matters. The Committee will be informed of any occurrences of Protected Disclosures.

7. Fraud

The Committee will ensure that policies and procedures are in place to prevent and detect fraud. The Committee will be informed of any occurrences of fraud.

8. Qualified Privilege

Members of the Audit Committee are entitled to qualified privilege in relation to any statements made by them at any meeting that they attend under the Local Government (Audit Committee) Regulations 2014, or in their capacity as a member of the Audit Committee.

9. Review of the Audit Committee Charter

The Audit Committee Charter will be subject to annual review by the Audit Committee and the Council.

This Audit Committee Charter was adopted by resolution of Fingal County Council on……

Signed By: _____ Date: _____

Chairperson,

Fingal County Council Audit Committee

Signed By: _____ Date: _____

Chief Executive,

Fingal County Council

[1] By Ministerial Order Signed on 20th October 2020, Council meetings and meetings of local authority committees are permitted to be held remotely through a virtual medium (Section 29 of the Civil Law and Criminal Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020. (S.I. No. 445 of 2020) refers.)

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2022

ITEM NO. 21

PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF PROPERTIES

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
(FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL)

Property Services,
Economic, Enterprise Tourism &
Cultural Development
County Hall,
Swords,
Fingal,
Co. Dublin.

File Ref: LD 1377

1st February 2022

To: Each Member of the Council

Re: Proposed Disposal of land to facilitate the construction of a substation and associated ancillary works at Liscappagh Avenue Cappaghfinn, Dublin 11 to ESB Networks

---

An application was made by Fingal County Council to ESB Networks for the construction of a substation and associated ancillary works to facilitate housing construction, which requires the disposal of land and the granting of a permanent wayleave at Liscappagh Avenue, Cappaghfinn, Dublin 11.

It is proposed, subject to the necessary statutory approvals, to dispose of lands comprising 7.32 square meters approximately, outlined in red and to grant a permanent wayleave over lands coloured yellow on Drawing No. 18-362-9000 comprising 115.87 square meters approximately to ESB Networks, in accordance with Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 and subject to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 on the following terms and conditions:

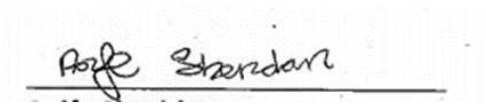
1. Any and all terms and conditions in the Principle Components of the Offer as set out in the ESB Networks Connection Agreement dated 6th June 2021.

2. ESB Networks shall discharge the Council's Legal Fees up to €750.00 plus VAT and reasonable outlay.

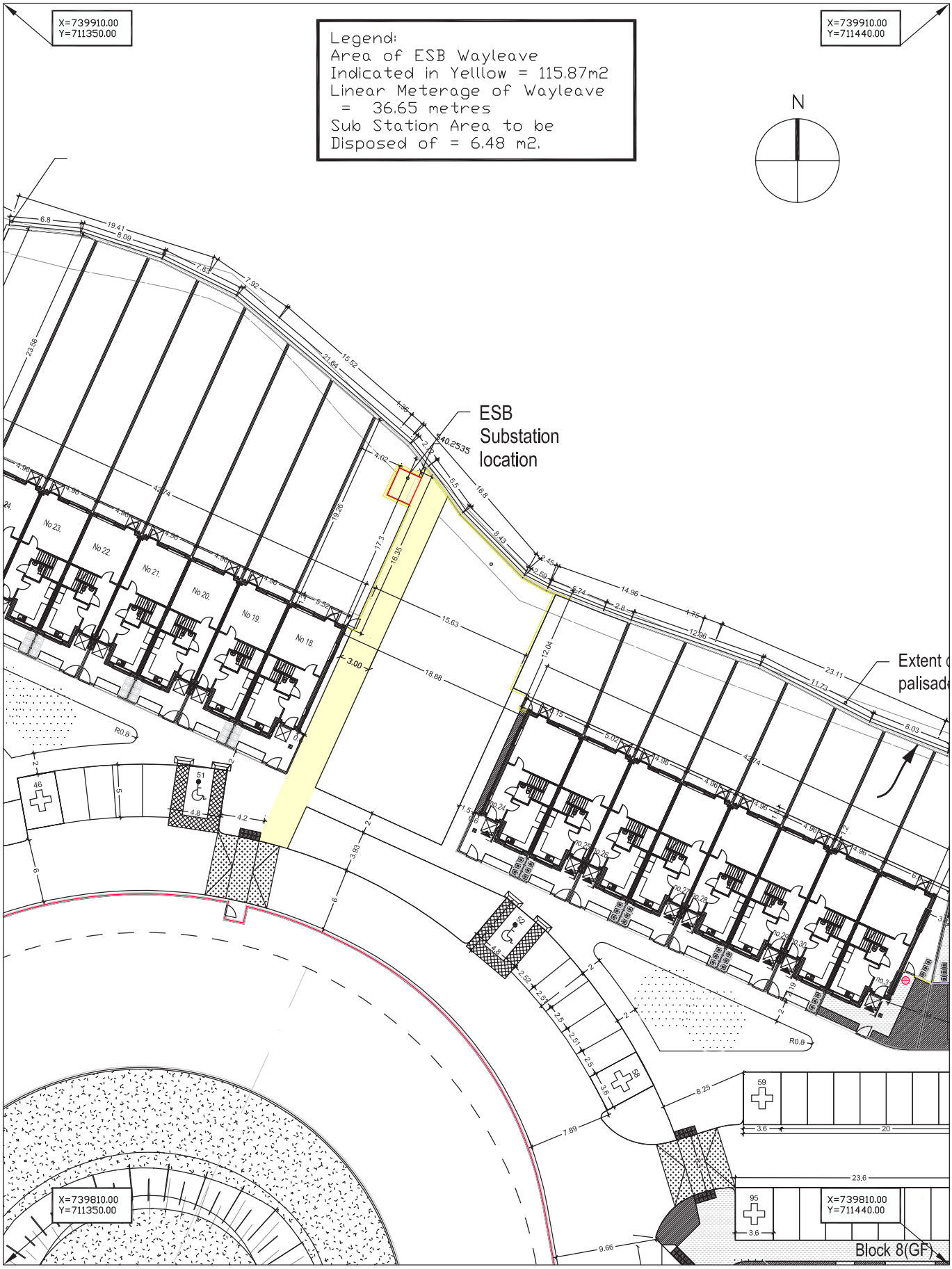
3. All other terms and conditions will be set out in the legal documentation.

The land to be disposed of was acquired from Mr. Bruce Thompson in 1990 for road construction purposes.

A report on this matter was noted at the meeting of the Blanchardstown, Mulhuddart, Castleknock, Ongar Area Committee (Services B) held on 11th January 2022.



SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER
ECONOMIC, ENTERPRISE, TOURISM & CULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT



NAME: ESB - DISPOSAL MAP FOR WAYLEAVE					
TITLE: CAPPAGHFINN, PHASE 3.					
DRG. NO. 18-362 - 9000	REV C	SCALE: 1:500 @ A4	DATE: OCT 2021	DRAWN:	

Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall
Fingal County Council
ARCHITECTS DEPARTMENT
FINGAL COUNTY HALL
MAIN STREET, SWORDS, Co. DUBLIN.
TEL. 8905050. FAX. 8905079.
COUNTY ARCHITECT
FIONNUALA MAY Dip.Arch., B.Arch. Sc., M.U.B.C., M.R.I.A.I.

Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall
Fingal County Council

Fingal County Council

Full Council Meeting, Monday 14th February at 5pm

Item 22 - Report pursuant to part XI of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Part VIII of the Local Government Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended)

Proposed Maintenance Building Development at Balleally Landfill Site, Balleally West, Lusk, Co. Dublin.

February 2022

Contents

1.0 Introduction

2.0 **Description** of the nature and extent of the proposed development and the principal features thereof

3.0 **Evaluation** whether or not the proposed development would be consistent with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area to which the development relates, having regard to the provisions of the development plan and giving the reasons and the considerations for the evaluation

4.0 **List of the persons or bodies who made submissions** or observations with respect to the proposed development

5.0 **Summary of the issues** with respect to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area in which the proposed development would be situated and the response of the manager thereto
- 5.1 Submissions received from statutory consultees
- 5.2 Submissions received from public consultation

6.0 **Recommendation** whether or not the proposed development should be proceeded with as proposed, or as varied or modified as recommended in the report, or should not be proceeded with, as the case may be

Appendix 1. **Planning Report**

Appendix 2. **List of submissions or Observations made**

1. Introduction

Part VIII of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) outlines the requirements in respect of certain classes of Local Authority Developments. These regulations apply to the Proposed Maintenance Building Development at Balleally Landfill site.

The proposal was placed on public display (from Tuesday 16th November 2021 up to and including Tuesday 14th December 2021, excluding bank holidays and weekends) online at https://consult.fingal.ie. Notice of the public consultation on the proposal was placed in the press and council social media accounts. During the public consultation phase the Council encouraged submissions/observations on the proposal either online or in writing (prior to the closing date of 7th January 2022).

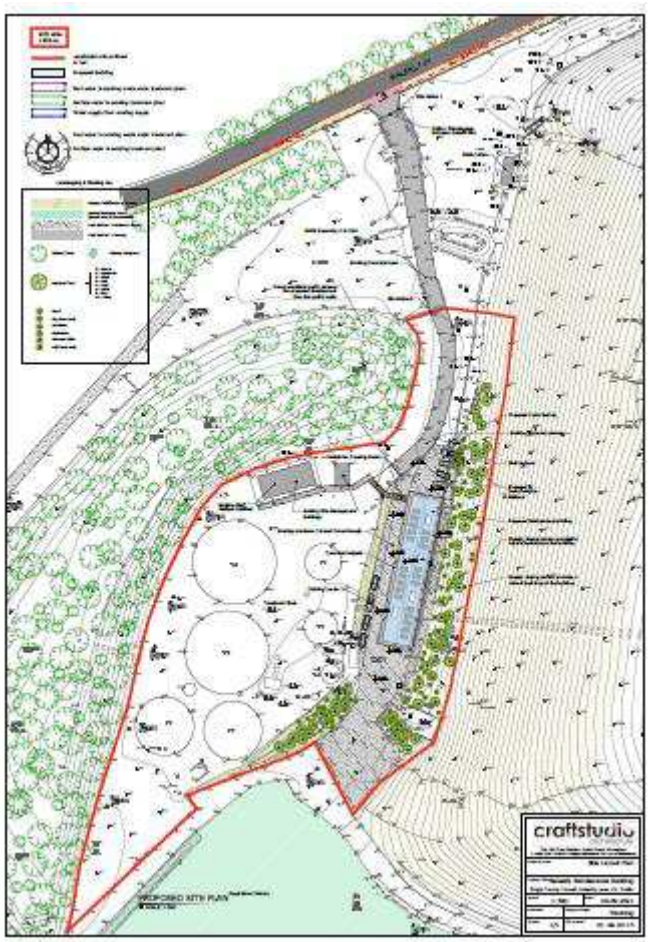
2. Description of the nature and extent of the proposed development and the principal features thereof

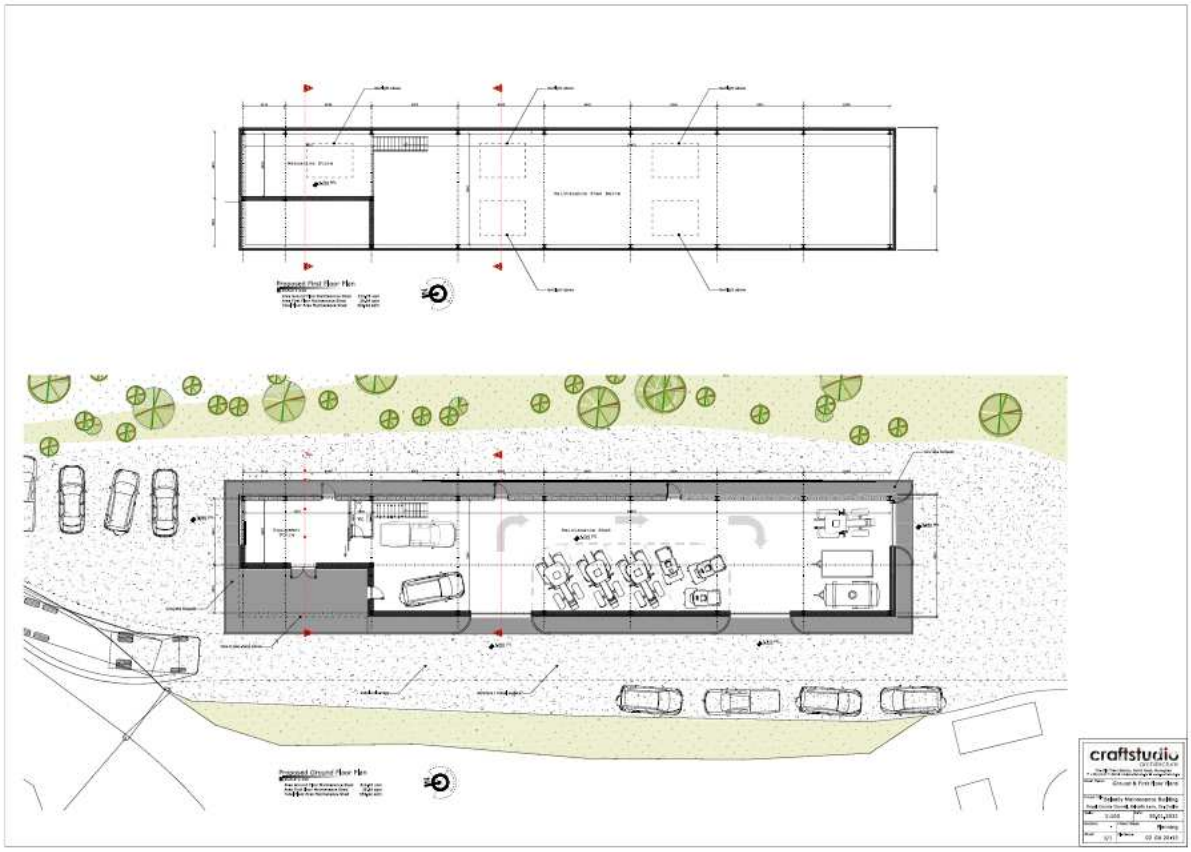
The proposals for the Proposed Maintenance Building Development at Balleally Landfill site incorporate the following:

Proposed Maintenance Building Development at Balleally Landfill Site.

- Construction of a two-storey detached maintenance building to store vehicles and equipment used to operate and maintain Balleally Landfill Site.
- All associated site development works.
- The maintenance building will be approximately 8.5m wide by 45m long with a total height of 8.2m. The total floor area for the development is approximately 354m2 comprising a ground floor level area of approximately 315m2 and a first-floor area of approximately 39m2.
- The ground floor level will be divided into the following areas:
- Maintenance Shed for the storage of maintenance vehicles associated with Rogerstown Park.

- Water Closet (WC) connected to existing foul drainage.
- Equipment Store-a separately lockable storage room for general maintenance equipment.
- The following areas are proposed at the first-floor level:
- Mezzanine Store-additional small item storage room accessible via stairs.
- At roof level solar PV panels will be installed at each front and rear of the building.
- Rooflights will also be installed to allow natural lighting into the building.


craftstudio



Proposed Maintenance Building











3. Evaluation whether or not the proposed development would be consistent with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area to which the development relates, having regard to the provisions of the development plan and giving the reasons and the considerations for the evaluation.

It is considered that the proposed maintenance building development at Balleally Landfill site is consistent with the land use zoning objectives pertaining to the lands set out in the Fingal Development Plan, 2017-2023. The proposal is also considered to accord with the relevant and applicable objectives of the Fingal Development Plan, 2017-2023, as set out in the planning report.

For further detail see Appendix 1. Planning Report

4. List of the persons or bodies who made submissions or observations with respect to the proposed development

No submissions were received

5. Summary of the issues with respect to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area in which the proposed development would be situated and the response of the manager thereto

5.1. Submissions received from statutory consultees

The following statutory consultees were notified of the proposed development and invited to make a submission:

- The Dept of Housing Local Government & Heritage
- Heritage Council
- Irish Water
- An Taisce

There were no submissions received from the statutory consultees listed above

5.2 Submissions received from public consultation

Approach to Consideration of Submissions

Following the initial recording of all submissions, each submission was read first to allocate the planning issues raised to the appropriate themes listed below.

No submissions received.

Recommendations:
No changes are recommended.

6. Recommendation whether or not the proposed development should be proceeded with as proposed, or as varied or modified as recommended in the report, or should not be proceeded with, as the case may be

It is considered that the proposed maintenance building development at Balleally Landfill site is consistent with the land use zoning objectives pertaining to the lands set out in the Fingal Development Plan, 2017-2023. The proposal is also considered to accord with the relevant and applicable objectives of the Fingal Development Plan, 2017-2023, as set out in the planning report (Appendix 1). It is recommended that the Council approve the proposed maintenance building development as proposed.

Appendix 1. Planning Report

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

PLANNING & STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Register Reference: PARTXI/009/21

Proposed Development:
The proposed development will comprise a two-storey detached maintenance building in the former Balleally Landfill Site, Lusk, Co. Dublin. The maintenance building will provide storage room for vehicles and equipment used to operate and maintain Rogerstown Park.

The maintenance building, will be approximately 8.5 m wide by 45m long with a total height of 8.2 m. The total floor area for the development is approximately 354m2 comprising a ground floor area of approximately 315m2 and a first-floor area of approximately 39m2.

The ground floor level will be divided into the following areas:

- Maintenance Shed for the storage of maintenance vehicles associated with Rogerstown Park.
- Water Closet (WC) connected to existing foul drainage.
- Equipment Store – a separately lockable storage room for general maintenance equipment.

The following areas are proposed at first floor level:
- Mezzanine Store – additional small item storage room accessible via stairs.

At roof level solar PV panels will be installed at each front and rear of the building. Rooflights will also be installed to allow natural lighting into the building.

Vehicular access to the maintenance building will be provided from the existing access to the Leachate Treatment Plant and via three installed roller shutter doors to the building.

Location: Former Balleally Landfill Site, Lusk, Co. Dublin

Proposing Department: Environment Department, Climate Action

Application Type: Part XI/ Part 8 (Dev by LAs)

Purpose of report
The following report has been prepared by the Planning and Strategic Infrastructure (P&SI) Department to assess the proposal with regard to the provisions of the Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023 and outlines the planning considerations relating to the impact of the proposal on the amenities of the receiving area. The report is based on the information provided to P&SI by the Climate Action Division of the Environment Department. The information includes plans, particulars, an Architect's Report, and a Report to Inform Screening for Appropriate Assessment. The comments of other sections of the P&SI Department and any other Department of the Council are also considered.

Nature of development
The proposals for the two-storey detached maintenance building in the former Balleally Landfill Site incorporate the following;

- Maintenance building, c.8.5m wide, c.45m long and height of c.8.2m. The total floor area c.354sqm (comprising c.315sqm at ground floor and c.39sqm at a first-floor).
- Ground floor provides storage of maintenance vehicles associated with Rogerstown Park, a WC connected to existing foul drainage and a separately lockable storage room for general maintenance equipment.
- First(Mezzanine) floor provides a small item storage room accessible via stairs.
- Roof level solar PV panels and rooflights will be installed.
- Vehicular access provided from the existing access to the Leachate Treatment Plant via three installed roller shutter doors to the building.

Site Location & Description
The site is within the former Balleally Landfill located at Balleally Lane, Lusk, Co. Dublin, about 4.5km south of Lusk Village. No site area is provided, and no indication of the full landholding is shown. The subject site is estimated from the drawings to be c. 1.06 hectares in area and is located off an existing driveway c.100m from the lane on its southern side. A number of other buildings (tanks and maintenance structures) are located on the subject site served by an existing driveway. The site of the proposed structure is relatively flat at the foot of the raised landfill area to the east. A number of vehicles and cargo containers are located on the subject site.

Two dwellings are situated to the north west of the application site (c. 250m). The site is at present densely screened with vegetation.

Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023
Relevant Development Plan objectives

Land-use zoning:
The site of the proposed development is located in an area designated with Zoning Objective 'HA' High Amenity to 'Protect and enhance High Amenity Areas' in the Fingal Development Plan 2017 – 2023.

Vision: Protect these highly sensitive and scenic locations from inappropriate development and reinforce their character, distinctiveness and sense of place. In recognition of the amenity potential of these areas opportunities to increase public access will be explored.

The application site is subject to a 'Highly Sensitive Landscape' designation on account of its location in proximity to the coast.

Landscape Character Area is "Coastal" and within an Estuary buffer. The subject site is located within an Ecological Buffer Zones but is adjacent to the former Ballealy tiphead (classified as Parkland).

The Fingal Ecological Network sets out a spatial framework for biodiversity conservation and management in Fingal. The ecological network consists of the following elements (See Green Infrastructure Maps):
- Core Biodiversity Conservation Sites,
- Ecological Buffer Zones,
- Nature Development Areas,
- Ecological Corridors and Stepping Stones including Trees and Hedgerows.

Disposal
Objective WM16
Ensure the full restoration of the Balleally landfill site and the development of both it and the former Dunsink landfill into amenities for recreation and nature conservation. Undertake this process in co-operation with all relevant stakeholders and in compliance with all legislative and regulatory requirements.

12.14 Contaminated Land
Decontamination activities should ensure there is no off-site migration of contaminants via runoff, soils or groundwater and the area is available for use. It is noted both Balleally and Dunsink landfills are being developed as Regional Parks.

Map Based Local Objective 27:
Implement in full the measures outlined in 'The Landfill Restoration Plans' in The Rogerstown Estuary Study and to provide for a landscaped public amenity space incorporating woodland and screen planting, pathways and seating areas, carparking, visitors centre and a boardwalk southwards alongside the railway line to Donabate.

Planning History
No recent planning history, although it is noted that a number of gas-powered generators were permitted on the landfill c. 500m to the east.

Lands to the east
F98A/1076 – Permission GRANTED to extend the compound to incorporate three extra gas generators and transformers, an ESB Switchroom and a gas valve unit
at Balleally Landfill site. Applicant: Wimpey EPC Ltd.

F94A/0526 – Permission GRANTED for 2 no. gas powered electric generating units, control container, E.S.B. sub station and gas valve chamber in palisade fenced compound at Balleally Landfill site. Applicant: Wimpey Minerals E.D.C. (Ireland) Ltd.

Reports from Internal Sections of the Planning & Strategic Infrastructure Department:
Water Services Engineering Section: No objection subject to conditions
Transportation Planning: No objection subject to conditions
Parks and Green Infrastructure Division: No objection
Biodiversity Officer: No report at time of writing this report.

Details of Proposed Development:
The proposals for the two-storey detached maintenance building in the former Balleally Landfill Site incorporate the following;

- Maintenance building, c.8.5m wide, c.45m long and height of c.8.2m. The total floor area c.354sqm (comprising c.315sqm at ground floor and c.39sqm at a first-floor).
- Ground floor provides storage of maintenance vehicles associated with Rogerstown Park, a WC connected to existing foul drainage and a separately lockable storage room for general maintenance equipment.
- First(Mezzanine) floor provides a small item storage room accessible via stairs.
- Roof level solar PV panels and rooflights will be installed.
- Vehicular access provided from the existing access to the Leachate Treatment Plant via three installed roller shutter doors to the building.

Assessment:
The primary issues for consideration include:

- Compliance with Development Plan objectives
- Impact on amenities of the area
- Water & drainage
- Transportation considerations
- Ecological issues
- Appropriate Assessment;
- EIA Screening.

Compliance with Development Plan objectives
The site of the development is located in an area designated with Zoning Objective 'HA' High Amenity to 'Protect and enhance High Amenity Areas' in the Fingal Development Plan 2017 – 2023. Maintenance shed and equipment storage are not specifically listed as "Permitted' or 'Not Permitted' under the High Amenity Zoning Objective. The proposed development of a maintenance building associated with Rogerstown Park is considered ancillary to the primary use of Open Space in Rogerstown Park.

Open Space is listed as 'Permitted' on the 'HA' zoned site. 'Open Space' is defined in the Technical Guidance notes in Appendix 4 of the Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023 as *'Any land, including water, whether enclosed or not, used primarily for active or passive recreation on which there are no buildings, or on which any buildings are intrinsically linked to the active or passive outdoor recreational use, and the remainder of which is laid out as a garden or for the purposes of recreation or lies vacant, waste or unoccupied.'*

In addition, the following objectives are contained within the Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023;

Ancillary Uses
Planning permission sought for developments which are ancillary to the parent use, i.e. they rely on the permitted parent use for their existence and rationale, should be considered on their merits irrespective of what category the ancillary development is listed in the 'Zoning Objectives, Vision and Use Classes' section

Objective Z06
Ensure that developments ancillary to the parent use of a site are considered on their merits.

The following objective relates to agricultural buildings:

Objective DMS178
Appropriate roof colours are dark grey, dark reddish brown or a very dark green. Where cladding is used on the exterior of farm buildings, dark colours (preferably dark green, red or grey) with matt finishes will normally be required.

Impact on amenities of the area
The proposed maintenance shed and equipment storage is to be located within the curtilage of the Rogerstown Park/former Balleally Landfill and is co-located with support buildings to the former landfill (i.e. tanks capturing leachate for the Leachate Treatment Plant).

The proposed facility will comprise various elements including improved storage and protection of existing maintenance vehicles, equipment, along with the staff toilet facilities and roof level solar PV panels.

The nearest dwellings to the subject site are to the north-west across a public road (c.250m away).

Car parking is proposed to the north and west. Bike parking is indicated on drawings submitted. Having regard to the separation distance of proposed maintenance shed which are some distances from the nearest residential properties (c.250m), dense screening with vegetation and the nature of the uses, no undue impacts on the residential amenity of nearby property or on the amenity of the adjoining area are anticipated.

In relation to visual amenity, it is noted that the proposed structure follows a contemporary take on the form of rural vernacular buildings. The relative form, size, height and general mass of the structure (c.8.2m in height with a total floor area of c.354sqm) is in keeping with agricultural style rural vernacular buildings. The contemporary aspect of the design relates to the choice of colour i.e. light grey for upper floor metal cladding and roof (argued to dissipate into the grey winter skies) and what appears to be dark pigmented concrete lower floor, oversized aluminium vehicular doors and dark painted timber doors (argued to anchor the building to the ground). The proposed colours are in line with *Objective DMS178*. The proposed design is acceptable at this location noting the dense screening with vegetation.

The Parks and Green Infrastructure Division has no objections to the above development.

In conclusion, it is considered that the proposition will enhance the amenity through the provision of quality vehicle storage facilities ancillary to operation and management of Rogerstown Park.

Water and Drainage
The Water Services Planning Section have no objection to the details submitted regarding surface water proposals, the commensurate Flood Risk Assessment, water supply proposal and foul sewer drainage proposal subject to condition.

Transportation considerations
The Transportation Planning Section have no objection to the proposed development subject to condition. The Section has assessed the clarifying information prepared by Fehily Timoney (dated 20/09/2021) which proposes a reconfigured car parking, pedestrian movement, as well as improved information regarding sightlines and intervisibility at the existing site entrance.

The proposed car parking design has been updated to include two number double electrical car charger locations (i.e. four total charging cables) to the North of the proposed building. The proposed car parking design has also been updated to include appropriate cycle parking infrastructure to the North of the proposed building. Welfare facilities including showers, changing areas and lockers are available within the existing Landfill Office building adjacent the proposed development.

Ecological issues:
The site is located within an Ecological Buffer Zone. Having regard to the nature and scale of the proposed development and the proposed location on made ground proximate to existing development relating to maintenance of former Balleally landfill, the proposal is considered acceptable in this regard.

Appropriate Assessment
The closest Natura 2000 site is the Rogerstown Estuary SPA (004015) and SAC (000208), located approximately 65 metres south/southwest of the subject site.

Fehily Timoney have prepared a 'Report to Inform Screening for Appropriate Assessment'. The report provides information to allow for the screening of the need for a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment.

Section 5.5 'Stage One Screening Conclusion' states the following:
'It is concluded beyond reasonable scientific doubt that there are not likely to be significant effects from the proposed development on any European sites, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.'. The Planning Officer concurs with the findings of the report

The Proposed Project site is not connected with any European (Natura 2000) site and there is no realistic pathway between the Proposed Project site and these or any other European sites. Having regard to the nature, scale and location of the Proposed Project, in comparison with the existing baseline, it is considered that there is no likelihood of significant effects on any European sites during the construction or operation of the Proposed Project, and it is further considered that there are no other plans or projects that will act in combination with the Proposed Project to have a significant effect on European sites. It is considered that the Proposed Project, individually or in combination with another plan or project, will not have a significant effect on any European sites. This assessment was reached without considering or taking into account mitigation measures or measures intended to avoid or reduce any impact on European sites.

EIA Screening
The clarifying information prepared by Fehily Timoney (dated 20/09/2021) states that the proposed development (i.e. a 2-storey maintenance building) does not fall under any of the criteria listed below:

- does not fall under any of the activities listed in Part 1 of Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) (developments for which an EIA is mandatory);
- does not fall under any of the activities listed in Part 2 of Schedule 5 (sub-threshold developments requiring EIA);
- is not a change or an extension to an existing EIA project (the building will be used for the maintenance of the park);
- is not integral to an EIA project.

As such an EIAR is not required.

The conclusions are considered reasonable taking into account the proposed development is not listed in Schedule 5 (Part 1 or Part 2) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) nor does the proposed development meet the requirements for sub-threshold EIA as outlined in Section 103 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended). No Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is therefore required.

Conclusion:
The proposed development is considered to accord with the 'HA' High Amenity land use zoning of the subject site and is also considered to generally comply with the applicable objectives contained in the *Fingal Development Plan 2017 – 2023*. The development would enhance the amenities of the area through improving the range of maintenance facilities in the park. The proposed development is generally considered to accord with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

Recommendation:
It is considered that the proposed development is acceptable in principle subject to the following recommendations.

1. The development shall be carried out in accordance with the plans and particulars and specifications lodged with the application except where conditions hereunder specify otherwise.

2. The following requirements of the Water Services Department in relation to surface water drainage shall be carried out in full;
   (i) No surface water/rainwater shall discharge into the foul sewer system under any circumstances.
   (ii) The surface water drainage shall be in compliance with the 'Greater Dublin Regional Code of Practice for Drainage Works Version 6.0' FCC April 2006.

3. Note that the statutory consultee in this regard is Irish Water. Accordingly:

(i) Where the applicant proposes to connect directly or indirectly to a public water/wastewater network operated by Irish Water, the applicant must sign a connection agreement with Irish Water prior to the commencement of the development and adhere to the standards and conditions set out in that agreement.

(ii) In the interest of Public Health and Environmental Sustainability, Irish Water Infrastructure capacity requirements and proposed connections to the Water and Waste Water Infrastructure will be subject to the constraints of the Irish Water Capital Investment Programme.

4. The following requirements of the Transportation Planning Section shall be complied with:

(i) No objects, structures or landscaping shall be placed or installed within the visibility triangle required (i.e. exceeding a height of 900mm) which would interfere or obstruct (or could obstruct over time) the required visibility envelopes for the proposed entrance to the new parking area and maintenance building development.

(ii) Cycle parking shall be covered and secure

(iii) All above works to be carried out at the applicant's expense according to the specifications and conditions of Fingal County Council.

5. During any demolition and the construction phase, all necessary steps shall be taken

(i) To contain dust and airborne pollutants arising from the site and to prevent nuisance to persons in the locality.

(ii) By the contractor to prevent the spillage or deposit of clay, rubble or other debris on adjoining roads during the course of the works and make good any damage.

Senior Engineer
Environment Department

D Murray

a/Senior Planner

Planning and Strategic Infrastructure Department

David Storey

Director of Services

Environment, Climate Action and Active Travel Department

Appendix A - Copies of Reports from Internal Sections of the Planning & Strategic Infrastructure Department

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL INTERNAL CONSULTEE

PLANNING REPORT

Report of the Water Services Department

Register Reference: PARTXI/009/21

Registration Date: 09-Jul-2021

Development: The proposed development will comprise a two-storey detached maintenance building in Balleally Landfill Site, Lusk, Co. Dublin. The maintenance building will provide storage room for vehicles and equipment used to operate and maintain Rogerstown Park.

The maintenance building, will be approximately 8.5 m wide by 45m long with a total height of 8.2 m. The total floor area for the development is approximately 354m2 comprising a ground floor area of approximately 315m2 and a first-floor area of approximately 39m2.

The ground floor level will be divided into the following areas:

- Maintenance Shed for the storage of maintenance vehicles associated with Rogerstown Park.
- Water Closet (WC) connected to existing foul drainage.
- Equipment Store – a separately lockable storage room for general maintenance equipment.

The following areas are proposed at first floor level:

- Mezzanine Store – additional small item storage room accessible via stairs.

At roof level solar PV panels will be installed at each front and rear of the building. Rooflights will also be installed to allow natural lighting into the building.

Vehicular access to the maintenance building will be provided from the existing access to the Leachate Treatment Plant and via three installed roller shutter doors to the building.

Location: Balleally Landfill Site, Lusk, Co. Dublin

Applicant: Environment Department, Climate Action, Kevin Vallely

Application Type: Part XI (Dev by LAs)

DRAFT

Report

Foul Sewer: No Objection subject to:

1. The foul sewer drainage proposal is acceptable in principle.
2. IW standard details document IW-CDS-5030-01 and IW Code of Practice IW-CDS-5030-03 apply.
3. Note that the statutory consultee in this regard is Irish Water, accordingly:
    a. Where the applicant proposes to connect directly or indirectly to a public water/wastewater network operated by Irish Water, the applicant must sign a connection agreement with Irish Water prior to the commencement of the development and adhere to the standards and conditions set out in that agreement.
    b. In the interest of Public Health and Environmental Sustainability, Irish Water Infrastructure capacity requirements and proposed connections to the Water and Waste Water Infrastructure will be subject to the constraints of the Irish Water Capital Investment Programme.

Surface Water: No Objection subject to:

1. The drainage strategy which incorporates suds through the use of rainwater harvesting and a vegetated swale is deemed acceptable.

2. No surface water / rainwater is to discharge into the foul water system under any circumstances.

3. The surface water drainage must be in compliance with the "Greater Dublin Regional Code of Practice for Drainage Works, Version 6.0, FCC, April 2006.

Flooding:

1. A commensurate flood risk assessment has been prepared by Fehily Timoney, on behalf of the applicant.

2. In accordance with The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities, the proposed development is considered to be a less vulnerable development but located in its entirety within Flood Zone C (ie <0.1% AEP).

3. Mitigation measures (finished floor levels - + freeboard) have been incorporated into the design for tidal /overland flows.

Water Supply: No Objection subject to:

1. The water supply proposal is acceptable in principle.
2. IW standard details document IW-CDS-5020-01 and IW Code of Practice IW-CDS-5020-03 apply.
4. Note that the statutory consultee in this regard is Irish Water, accordingly:
    a. Where the applicant proposes to connect directly or indirectly to a public water/wastewater network operated by Irish Water, the applicant must sign a connection agreement with Irish Water prior to the commencement of the development and adhere to the standards and conditions set out in that agreement.
    b. In the interest of Public Health and Environmental Sustainability, Irish Water Infrastructure capacity requirements and proposed connections to the Water and Waste Water Infrastructure will be subject to the constraints of the Irish Water Capital Investment Programme.

Officer: _____DC_____

Date: _____06/10/2021_____

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL INTERNAL CONSULTEE

PLANNING REPORT

Additional Information

Report of the Transportation Planning Section

Register Reference: PARTXI/009/21

Registration Date: 09-Jul-2021

Development: The proposed development will comprise a two-storey detached maintenance building in Balleally Landfill Site, Lusk, Co. Dublin. The maintenance building will provide storage room for vehicles and equipment used to operate and maintain Rogerstown Park.

The maintenance building, will be approximately 8.5 m wide by 45m long with a total height of 8.2 m. The total floor area for the development is approximately 354m2 comprising a ground floor area of approximately 315m2 and a first-floor area of approximately 39m2.

The ground floor level will be divided into the following areas:

- Maintenance Shed for the storage of maintenance vehicles associated with Rogerstown Park.
- Water Closet (WC) connected to existing foul drainage.
- Equipment Store – a separately lockable storage room for general maintenance equipment.

The following areas are proposed at first floor level:

- Mezzanine Store – additional small item storage room accessible via stairs.

At roof level solar PV panels will be installed at each front and rear of the building. Rooflights will also be installed to allow natural lighting into the building.

Vehicular access to the maintenance building will be provided from the existing access to the Leachate Treatment Plant and via three installed roller shutter doors to the building.

Location: Balleally Landfill Site, Lusk, Co. Dublin

Applicant: Environment Department, Climate Action, Kevin Vallely

Application Type: Part XI (Dev by LAs)

Item 3 of the additional information submitted refers to Transportation.

The additional information has mostly addressed the Transportation Planning Sections concerns.

In order to ensure visibility requirements from the proposed car parking area to the internal road network No objects, structures or landscaping shall be placed or installed within the visibility triangle required which would interfere or obstruct (or could obstruct over time) the required visibility envelopes, from a point 2.4m back from the road edge at the entrance to the parking area to the existing entrance gate to the west and for a distance of 45 meters to the north east near side road edge.

Consequently, the Transportation Planning section has no objection to the development subject to the following conditions:

(i) No objects, structures or landscaping shall be placed or installed within the visibility triangle required which would interfere or obstruct (or could obstruct over time) the required visibility envelopes for the proposed entrance to the new parking area and maintenance building development.
(ii) Cycle parking shall be covered and secure
(iii) All above works to be carried out at the applicant's expense according to the specifications and conditions of Fingal County Council.

Officer: _____ Endorsed: _____

Date: _____ Date: _____

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL INTERNAL CONSULTEE
PLANNING REPORT
Report of Parks and Green Infrastructure Division

Register Reference: PARTXI/009/21
Registration Date: 09-Jul-2021
Development: The proposed development will comprise a two-storey detached maintenance building in Balleally Landfill Site, Lusk, Co. Dublin. The maintenance building will provide storage room for vehicles and equipment used to operate and maintain Rogerstown Park.

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Vehicular access to the maintenance building will be provided from the existing access to the Leachate Treatment Plant and via three installed roller shutter doors to the building.

Location: Balleally Landfill Site, Lusk, Co. Dublin
Applicant: Environment Department, Climate Action, Kevin Vallely
Application Type: Part XI (Dev by LAs)

Report

The Parks & Green Infrastructure Division has no objection to the proposed development.

Officer: Mark Finnegan Endorsed: Gemma Carr

Date: 27/07/21 Date: 28/07/21

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2022

ITEM NO. 23

Report pursuant to Part XI of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Part VIII of the Local Government Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) for Proposed extensions to existing Autistic Spectrum community facility operated by St. Michaels House in an existing bungalow at 61 Dublin Road, Swords, Co. Dublin, K67 R6W8, including revised site boundaries incorporating a new car park (on lands within overall approximate site area of 0.168 hectares), and associated infrastructure, site works, landscaping, tree planting, remedial management of existing trees and boundary treatment

Report to be sent by link.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2022

ITEM NO. 24

Report pursuant to Part XI of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Part VIII of the Local Government Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) for the proposed construction of a Community Sports Centre with ancillary infrastructure and associated site development works at Lanesborough Park, Lanesborough Road, Meakstown, Dublin 11

Report to be sent by link.

cOMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2022

ITEM NO. 25

St. PATRICK'S DAY EVENTS

Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall
Fingal County Council

St. Patrick's Day & Events Update

Presentation to February Council Meeting

Emer O'Gorman
14th February 2022



Parades

- Open to all community and business organisations
- EVs only - promoting Fingal County Council's Climate Change policy and Clean, Green on March 17
- A special '*Come cycle'* the parade imitative will be introduced



Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall
Fingal County Council

6

St Patricks Day Parades

Swords - 11am
Blanchardstown - 12pm
Rush - 1pm
Lusk - 1.30pm
Balbriggan - 2pm
Skerries - 3pm

Halcyon Days by Deirdre Kinahan, Draíocht Arts Centre

The Dubliners Show, Draíocht Arts Centre

CUA in Concert, Seamus Ennis Centre

Mary Coughlan, Draíocht Arts Centre

St Patricks Day Traditional Music Session, Seamus Ennis Centre

Greening of 20 buildings in Fingal including:

Rush Library
Floraville- Skerries
Round Tower - Lusk
Castleknock Church
Casino - Malahide
Swords Castle
Draíocht
Blanchardstown Library
Ballyboughal

20

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Invites You To Come Join Us For Our Remembrance & Recognition Event.

FIREWORKS

Viewing at Coast Road Malahide

FRIDAY 18TH MARCH - 8pm

"Join us for a moment of reflection at 8pm & shine your torch or light in remembrance"

Bring your own torch or light

FREE PARKING at Malahide Castle

MORE INFO ON:

FACEBOOK.COM/EVENTSINFINGAL

@EVENTSINFINGAL

WWW.FINGAL.IE/EVENTS



PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS
14th & 15th JUNE 22
DUBLIN MALAHIDE CASTLE
TICKETMASTER.CO.UK | GIGSANDTOURS.COM | THEKILLERSMUSIC.COM
RESCHEDULED DATES – ORIGINAL TICKETS REMAIN VALID

JUNE 2021
19th JUNE 22
ALL TICKETS FOR ORIGINAL SHOWS REMAIN VALID

RESCHEDULED DATES - ORIGINAL TICKETS REMAIN
SAT 29 MAY NEWCASTLE THIS IS TOMORROW
SUN 30 MAY CARDIFF CASTLE
TUE 01 JUNE LONDON ALEXANDRA PALACE
FRI 04 JUNE BRIGHTON CENTRE
SAT 05 JUNE MANCHESTER ARENA
SUN 06 JUNE SHEFFIELD FLYDSA ARENA
FRI 11 JUNE BIRMINGHAM
20th JUNE 22

DERMOT KENNEDY
25th JUNE 22

PICTURE THIS
26th JUNE 22

KODALINE
WHEREVER YOU ARE
27th JUNE 22
ALL TICKETS FOR OLYMPIA THEATRE 2020 DATES ARE VALI


Flavours
of Fingal
2nd & 3rd July 2022
SAVE THE DATE
Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gall
Fingal County
Council

Thank You

Emer O'Gorman
14th February 2022

Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall
Fingal County Council

Chief Executive's Management Report

14th of February, 2022
Item 26

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S MANAGEMENT REPORT – FEBRUARY 2022

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Chief Executive's Foreword

We received the welcome news from Government at the end of last month that most of the public health measures which were in place could be removed. This included a return to physical attendance in workplaces on a phased basis. We received the Transition Protocol from Government which reflects the most recent public health advice and is the current guidance for the safe return and continued safe operating of workplaces. Our Health and Safety team will continue to advise on measures that should be adopted by employees to prevent COVID-19 from spreading.

It is almost two years since we had the full workforce physically attending the workplace five days a week and this has led to new ways of working. It has also inspired an examination of our workplaces to see if they need to be adapted to accommodate this new approach to working. Over the past few months the Architects Department has been working on a Spatial Strategy and we are now looking at a major revamp of our offices to facilitate the new ways of working. It will take significant investment and over a year for this project to be fully completed but it will give us a much better place to work in. I expect developments in relation to a remote working strategy to emerge in the coming weeks.

Last month I referred to a busy start to the year with the commencement of the development plan meetings. The Elected Members have put in significant time to attend the busy schedule of meetings and their contributions, participation and constructive debates will ensure we will move on to the next stage of the process in a strong position with a robust draft plan. I must express my gratitude to all the staff who have worked tirelessly to facilitate these meetings. It is a great example of the professional and dedicated workforce we have which is regularly remarked upon by councillors and citizens.

The Operations Works Programmes for 2022 are in the process of being agreed with the Elected Members. These are the largest programmes to be undertaken by the department with increased budgets and upon delivery will greatly enhance our county. A public lottery took place for County Wide Trading and 24 successful applicants were offered locations throughout the county. Trading is expected to commence by the end of the month when site inspections have taken place and relevant documentation has been submitted. This is just one aspect of preparations which are underway for an outdoor Summer.

I am delighted that we will see the return of live events with the Events Unit managing St. Patrick's Day parades in Swords, Blanchardstown and Balbriggan and we will also be supporting parades in Rush, Lusk and Skerries through our Festival and Events funding scheme. To coincide with the Government's decision to designate a once-off public holiday, on Friday 18th March 2022, in recognition of the efforts of the general public, volunteers and all workers during the COVID-19 pandemic, and in remembrance of people who lost their lives, Fingal County Council's Events Office are planning a spectacular firework display on the coast at Malahide.

We have established a Fingal Age Friendly Team which is an interdepartmental team consisting of representatives from Architects, Active Travel, Communications, Community, Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Cultural Development, Housing, Operations and Planning & Strategic Infrastructure with the support of Age Friendly Ireland - Healthy Homes representative and the Age Friendly Regional Programme Manager. The work of this team will be critical over the next number of months & years in enhancing the quality of life for Fingal's citizens now and in the future by developing and implementing age friendly policies and strategic objectives.

I look forward to more in person meetings with Elected members and staff where we can engage once again in a physical setting.

AnnMarie Farrelly
Chief Executive

HR, CORPORATE AND GOVERNANCE

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Major Emergency Management

The Major Emergency Management structures in place within the Council continue to be effective and serve us well as we continuously review and respond to advice issued by Government and ensure compliance with public health measures.

Fingal County Council's Executive Management Team and senior management continue to meet regularly to ensure continuity of services and put measures in place to align with public health advice with recent alterations in this regard having been implemented.

Human Resources

The Human Resource Department continues to plan for and respond to the challenges brought by Covid19 in line with the Government's updated **COVID-19** guidelines and the phased return to the workplace.

The Human Resources Department has a large scale recruitment campaign continuing in 2022.

Recruitment Programme 2022	
Recruitment Campaigns	33
Interviews Held to date	230
Number of Appointments	17
Number of Leavers/Retirements	15
Number of Job Offers Year to date	101
Number of Offers Declined	29
Number of Current Job Offers	72

Learning & Development

The following training courses are scheduled to take place in February 2022:

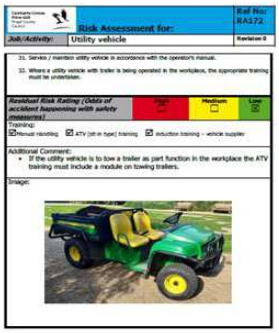
Health & Safety
Evacuation Chair
Mini Digger
Confined Space High Risk
Confined Space Rescue
Site Dumper
Manual handling
Mobile Elevated Work Platform
Grab Truck
Forklift Refresher
Forklift New Entrant

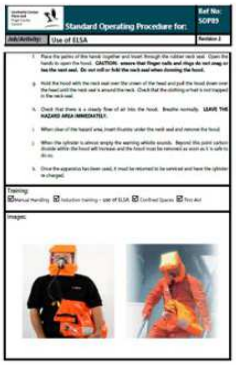
Business Skills
Ignite Programme (grade 3 & 4 Staff Development Prog)
Intercultural Diversity
Dignity & Equality
Project Supervisor Construction Stage
Interviewer Skills
Managing Aggressive Behaviour
Personal Effectiveness (grades 3 & 4)

Health & Safety Unit (HSU)

The HSU continues to monitor incidences of staff self-isolations due to Covid-19 during the month of January along with answering staff queries on public health measures in place at the time in addition to general staff H&S enquiries. Safety audits, site safety inspections and accident investigations continued. The Unit reviewed standard operational procedures ranging from use of power tools, confined space cutting works, wood chipper operations, to use of emergency life support apparatus along with risk assessments for confined space works, working during Covid-19 pandemic, operation of utility

vehicles [sit-in quads] and portable power tools. HSU staff were retrained in Safe Pass and also supported the Training Section with manual handling for outdoor staff.







Register of Electors

The Register of Electors for 2022/2023 was published on 1st February 2022 and will come into effect on 14th February 2022.

The total electorate for Fingal is 192,710. The table below shows a breakdown per Local Electoral Area.

Local Electoral Area	Total
Balbriggan	23,337
Blanchardstown-Mulhuddart	17,073
Castleknock	32,301
Howth-Malahide	43,759
Ongar	20,714
Rush-Lusk	23,623
Swords	31,903
	192,710

Customer Services

On Monday, 7th of February, our offices re-opened to the public.

The Council's Customer Care Agents dealt with a total of -
14,804 Phone Calls and 1,892 Emails in the month of January .

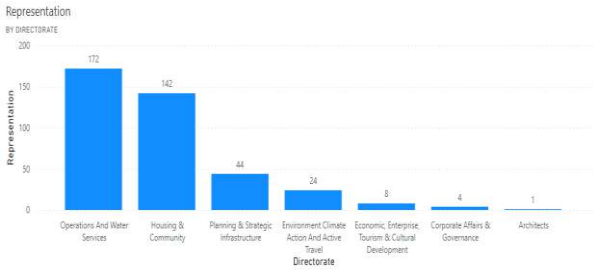
CRM

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 January had a total of 395 Councillor's representations.



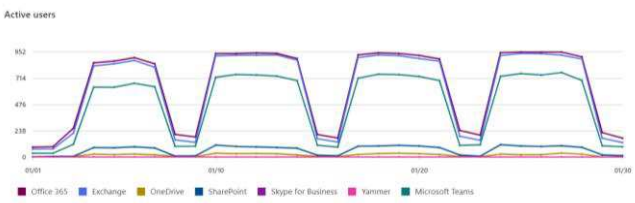
The table below shows the total number of Councillor's representations assigned to each Department to date in 2022.



Information Technology

Digital Working

In January staff took part in 9,918 Teams meetings, 32,047 calls took place, and 747,727 emails were received or sent by the Council.



IT Infrastructure & Support

687 support calls were logged by Council staff with the IT Service Desk in the past month and 14 calls were logged by Councillors with Sord. 100% server availability and 100% network availability were achieved in the month of January.

Development Plan



The IT Department have been providing on-going support to Planning Department for the Development Plan process. Work over the past month has included development and support of the Report Management and Administration Systems (RMAS) to enable management of production of reports for Development Plan motions; development and support of GIS map capture facility for Councillors' motions; training sessions for Councillors; support for production of agendas and document packs for Development Plan meetings; configuration, setup and support of IT facilities for Development Plan meetings.

National Broadband Plan

National Broadband Ireland (NBI) surveying works in Fingal (Donabate/Portrane Deployment Area)

Surveying and design works for the National Broadband Plan (NBP) rollout continues in Fingal on week beginning 7th February 2022. NBI are the company undertaking the fibre network roll-out to enable high speed internet connectivity for 544,000 premises across the country.

NBI would like the public to know that contractors will be on the ground in these counties, both inspecting and recording pictures of infrastructure such as poles, cables and underground ducts. The teams have been fully trained in physical distancing practices, hygiene, appropriate use of personal protective equipment and how to engage with the public in a safe manner if and when required.

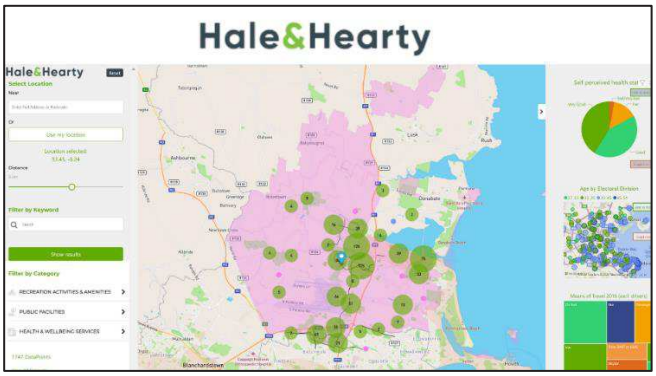
In Fingal, the surveys will take place in the following areas –

- Baldoyle
- Donabate/Portrane
- Howth
- Malahide
- Portmarnock
- Rowlestown
- Sutton
- Swords

Entegro are the contracting company commencing this work and they will have vehicles and signage with both their own, and NBI logos. Employees will also wear hard hats and high visibility vests featuring the NBI logo. All contractors will also carry official ID cards & essential worker letters.

The NBI customer call centre number is 0818 624 624 (local call rate) or email contactus@nbi.ie for any queries. For further information on the National Broadband Plan see www.nbi.ie

Hale and Hearty



Fingal County Council are partners in the "Hale and Hearty" EU-funded project that aims to improve access to health and wellbeing information. The project uses multiple open data sources (including local authority data) to provide a comprehensive health and wellbeing knowledge base. The Hale and Hearty Knowledge Base is now available for use at http://data.gov.ie/haleandhearty Please take the time to fill out the short feedback survey.

The project is managed by the Open Data Unit in the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER) and project partners are –

- Central Statistics Office
- Department of Health
- Fingal County Council
- Derilinx
- Ireland's Data Cloud Cluster (IDCC)

To find out more information about the Hale and Hearty project visit the project website at https://haleandhearty.ie/

Communications

Seachtain na Gaeilge

Seachtain na Gaeilge takes place from March 1-17 and it is a time when everyone is encouraged to use as much Irish as possible. Fingal County Council will be putting together a programme which can be found on Fingal.ie/SeachtainnaGaeilge22. Watch out for our Social Media channels where we will be sharing Irish content also. To share information on events you are organising contact eolas@fingal.ie

Seachtain na Gaeilge

Beidh Seachtain na Gaeilge ar siúl ón 1 go 17 Márta agus mana na féile ná triail a bhaint as an gcuid Gaeilge atá agat - Bain Triail Aisti. Beidh Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall ag cur clár le chéile arís i mbliana agus má theastaíonn uaibh bhur n-ócáid a bheith san áireamh sa chlár sin téigh i dteagmháil le eolas@fingal.ie n Beidh go leor ábhar ar fáil inár meáin shóisialta freisin. Beidh an t-eolas go léir ar fáil ar www.fingal.ie/seachtainnaGaeilge22.

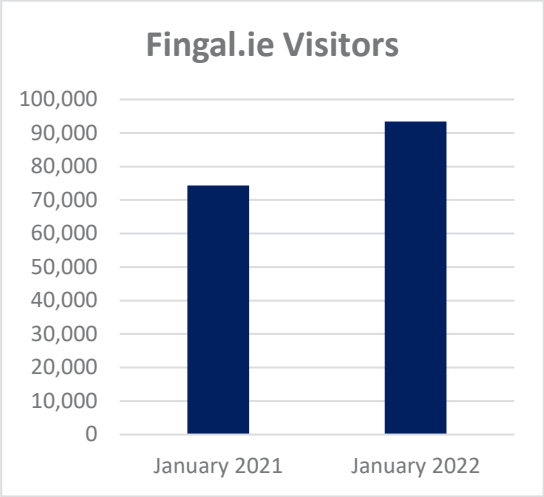
International Women's Day

To celebrate International Women's Day the Fingal County Council Communications team will be marking this occasion by celebrating women's achievements, highlighting some of the talented women working for Fingal County Council and also focussing on the female councillors. Watch out for content on Social Media and the website www.fingal.ie

Website

The fingal.ie website attracted 93,400 visitors during January and recorded 259,500 page views. This represents increases of 25.7% and 24.22% respectively on the figures for January 2021 when 74,300 visitors and 208,900 page views were recorded.

The most visited pages in January, after the home page, were planning applications, choice based lettings, recycling and jobs.



Social Media

Our Twitter account, @fingalcoco, had 555,300 impressions during January and an average engagement rate of 1.5% from 238 tweets.

The best performing tweet, with 18,955 impressions and 416 engagements was a post about the installation of new protected cycle lanes along the Sutton to Howth cycleway which highlighted that this new infrastructure makes the space safer for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists alike.

On Facebook the best performing post was about the advanced works on the Harry Reynolds Road which had an audience reach of 24,242 and an engagement rate of 11.16%. The number of followers on Facebook is now 26,645 which is a 7.36% increase since December 31.

The Council's Instagram account saw its number of followers rise to 4,756 while LinkedIn broke the 5,000 barrier as the number of followers rose by 204 to 5,197.

The You Tube account increased its number of subscribers to 647. It published seven videos during the month with the most watched being a news report of the Taoiseach's visit to Balbriggan to view some of the sites for Our Balbriggan projects and launch the Irish Institute of Music and Song.



Projects and Campaigns

The Communications Unit worked with colleagues in the Strategic Infrastructure, Architects and Housing departments to organise the official sod-turning by the Mayor of Fingal Cllr Seána Ó Rodaigh at the new Church Fields Link Road and Cycle Network in Mulhuddart. The event also included a viewing of the site of Phase 2B of the Church Fields project where construction is already underway for 67 homes. Attendees included councillors and Oireachtas members and they were briefed by officials on the Church Fields project.

The Unit also provided communications support to the Strategic Infrastructure Department for advanced works on the Pedestrian and Cycle Route along the Harry Reynolds Road in Balbriggan which helped to explain to residents and stakeholders why trees along the road were being taken down now and the benefits this would have for the overall project. Photographs were also shared on social media showing the planting of some of the 304 new trees to compensate for the 130 trees removed to accommodate construction of the new cycle lanes.

Press Releases and Media Queries

We issued 16 press releases during January including one welcoming the allocation of €25.5m in funding for Active Travel projects across the county and dealt with 21 media queries that covered Planning, Housing, Active Travel, Environment and Events.

ECONOMIC, ENTERPRISE, TOURISM & CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

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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

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

EVENTS

ST. PATRICK'S DAY EVENTS 2022



This year sees the return of live events and they start with Fingal's 6 St. Patrick's Day Parades. The Events Unit will directly manage parades at Swords -11am, Blanchardstown - 12pm and Balbriggan – 2pm. We will also, through our Festival and Events funding scheme, be supporting parades at Rush - 1pm, Lusk – 1.30pm and Skerries – 3pm.

This year, in line with Fingal County Council's Climate Change Action Plan we are only allowing electric and hybrid vehicles into the Swords, Blanchardstown and Balbriggan Parades. We are also inviting and encouraging members of the public to join the parade on their bicycles.

REMEMBRANCE AND RECOGNITION EVENT



To coincide with the Government's decision to designate a once-off public holiday, on Friday 18th March 2022, in recognition of the efforts of the general public, volunteers and all workers during the COVID-19 pandemic, and in remembrance of people who lost their lives, Fingal County Council's Events Office are planning a spectacular firework display on the coast at Malahide.

EVENTS & FESTIVALS FUNDING 2022



A total of 46 successful applications were received under the Events and Festivals Funding Scheme in 2021. The events unit were able to assist with 35 events/festivals that could not go ahead physically or had a significantly reduced capacity. We enabled some to migrate to the blended, hybrid or virtual models while others could proceed under government guidelines that existed at that time.

The updated Festival and Events Funding Scheme launched in December 2022 has now received over 75 applications to date.

The Events Unit are also calling on all festival and event organisers to provide details of their planned events for 2022 for inclusion in Fingal's annual Events Calendar 2022.

LOCAL LIVE PERFORMANCE PROGRAMMING SCHEME

During 2022, The Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media announced a series of LLPPS (Local Live Performance Programming Scheme) funding. Fingal County Council were successful in being awarded 100% of the funding under the 3 LLPPS streams. Phase 3 is currently being implemented by the Arts and Events Units of EETCD. They are currently working on a programme of events for the County.

TOURISM

Local Tourism Development Groups

Howth Tourism – at the January meeting sub-groups were established to work on a Howth Digital Strategy and a 5-year tourism strategy for Howth, with input from Failte Ireland.

Skerries Tourism is working on a familiarisation trip, in association with Failte Ireland, set for end early March 2022 in line with launch of Dublin Coastal Trail. This event will target front line tourism staff, Failte Ireland's press team, social media influencers and journalists. The purpose of the trip is to promote Skerries as a destination.

Balbriggan Tourism is finalising updating www.visitbalbriggan.ie website, is planning a tourism seminar to encourage further engagement with local stakeholders and has agreed an action plan for 2022.

Malahide Tourism – Failte Ireland will co-host a meeting with a wider stakeholder group to invite stakeholder priorities for 2022 and to establish action groups.

Dublin 15 Tourism is focusing on developing a new visitor focused event for September 2022.

UNESCO Dublin Bay Biosphere Working Group is finalising promotional material that will feature in a major Irish Rail / DART campaign. A meeting of the group, held 11th January, discussed planning for 2022 including a conservation programme and a heritage/tourism/business strategy.

Dublin Coastal Trail





Signage for the trail has been installed and Fáilte Ireland intend to have a corporate launch in February. Dublin Coastal Trail saleable experiences and local stories have been developed in association with the local tourism development groups and shared with stakeholders. Failte Ireland invested in additional photography and videography in December 2021 which is available on www.irelandscontentpool.com,

Dublin's Coast and Fields

Dublin's Coast & Fields

Fingal Tourism, in association with the local development groups, is working on a Fingal Seafood Trail. This trail will feature sections for Howth, Malahide, Rush, Skerries and Balbriggan, each section will feature food producers, restaurants and scenic areas plotted on Fingal's existing suite of maps for each area. It is intended that the Fingal Seafood Trail will dovetail with the Dublin Coastal Trail.

HERITAGE PROPERTIES

UPDATE ON HERITAGE PROPERTIES CONSERVATION WORKS:





Skerries Mills – The new branding for Skerries Mills is now in use as part of the suite of branding used for Fingal's heritage properties and a new sign bearing the branding has been erected at the entrance to the mills.





Malahide Castle – Conservation work on the Great Hall is due to be completed this month.



Newbridge House – A tender will issue in early February for the upgrading of mechanical and electrical services at Newbridge House. It is envisaged that a contractor will be on site by early Summer.

A works tender for the major roof conservation works at both Newbridge House and Ardgillan Castle is being finalised and is due to issue in March.

Skerries Martello Tower - The tender for the integrated design team for the restoration of Skerries Martello Tower has been published on eTenders.

MARKETING/PROMOTION OF HERITAGE PROPERTIES

Malahide Castle – A mid-week combination ticket promotion is being marketed on social media for Malahide Castle tours and Casino Model Railway Museum.

International Women's Day Talks confirmed for Malahide Castle & Newbridge House on 8th March 2022.

Newbridge House – A 'Lovers in History' Tour at Newbridge House confirmed for 11th February.

A report is being completed on Fingal's Collection of Horse Drawn Vehicles to appraise their historical value and research into them. The author of the report is Elizabeth Jamieson, National Trust Advisor on Historic Stables and Carriages in collaboration with OPW and the National Museum of Ireland.

ARTS OFFICE

Fingal County Council, Tyrone Guthrie Centre, and Bealtaine Festival Residency Award 2022



Fingal County Council, in association with the Tyrone Guthrie Centre and the Bealtaine Festival are offering two month-long residencies at the Tyrone Guthrie Centre during May 2022. The award aims to celebrate and support older artists at all stages of their careers working in visual arts and literature.

The residencies will offer a professional visual artist and writer, working in any discipline, the opportunity to research or develop new work in response to the Bealtaine Festival theme of 'Interdependence,' with the potential, if desired, to present work during Bealtaine 2023.

To be eligible to apply applicants must be aged 50+, have been born, studied, or currently reside in Fingal and be available from 1 - 31 May.

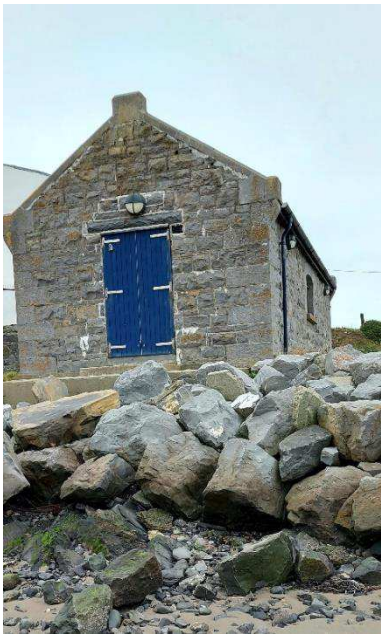
Applications are welcomed and encouraged from artists from diverse cultural or minority backgrounds.

Closing date for receipt of applications: Friday 25th March 2022 at 4pm

For further information and to apply please visit www.fingalarts.ie/news or www.fingal.ie/arts

Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall
Fingal County Council
The Tyrone Guthrie Centre at Annaghmakerrig
Bealtaine Festival
An Age & Opportunity arts initiative

Loughshinny Boathouse Artists' Studio



This restored former boathouse is in the beautiful setting of Loughshinny, a coastal village that lies between Rush and Skerries. The boathouse is a dual-purpose building providing a lifeguard station for lifeguards and a day studio for artists. The dramatic location of the boathouse on the water's edge and at one end of the harbour offers a unique fully subsidised workspace for professional artists. The objective of the studio is to provide a working space for professional artists working in all art disciplines to develop their artistic practice. Artist can apply for a residency through an open call application. On the 25th of January 2022, Fingal artist, Martin De Porres Wright, took up residency at the studio.

Public Art Balbriggan



Fingal Artist Sean Molloy has completed his painting commission for the partnership with Irish Rail, the work has been developed into a bespoke di-bond edition which has been installed at "The Banks". The work is accompanied by a local Billboard campaign announcing its arrival to the public and is part of Fingal Arts Office's work activating public space through art with our colleagues in Our Balbriggan.



LIBRARIES

Renew Your Fingal Library Card!

We are reminding library users in Fingal that their library card has an expiration date and needs to be renewed. This can be done by telephone, by email or by calling into a branch library with the card. Once membership is renewed, all our usual services are available including book loans, eservices, printing and photocopying. All branches are open and services are operating as normal as Covid restrictions continue to be removed.



Call for new members

New library members are always welcome and the benefits of joining for all ages include access to a wealth of books, ebooks, eaudiobooks, emagazines and a host of other eservices. Libraries provide study spaces, access to technology and programmed events both in person and online. All this is provided free of charge so there are no barriers to becoming a member.



Fingal Libraries Spring events brochure

The Fingal Libraries Spring 2022 events brochure which is available at https://www.fingal.ie/news/fingal-libraries-spring-2022-brochure contains a full programme of interesting and helpful online activities for all the family. Throughout the COVID pandemic, we reached new audiences through our YouTube and social media channels generally and so will continue to offer online events. However, as restrictions continue to be lifted, we are starting to welcome our regular groups back into libraries and to plan in person events and activities.

Ireland Reads 2022

All library members will be able to take part in **Ireland Reads 2022** which will launch in early February. They will be encouraged to sign up and take the pledge to 'squeeze in a read' on **Ireland Reads Day, Friday 25th February**. More details will be available on our social media channels and in library branches during the month of February.

Shout Out to Students – eduroam WiFi is now available at Fingal Libraries!

Balbriggan,Baldoyle, Blanchardstown, Donabate, Howth, Malahide, Rush and Swords Libraries are now offering eduroam (education roaming) Wi-Fi. Pioneered by HEAnet, Ireland's National Education and Research Network, eduroam aims to improve the learning experience of students and to reduce the digital divide. Students whose college/university participates in eduroam can simply open their laptop or mobile device in one of the above named libraries and have immediate internet connectivity.

Fingal Maker Space at Blanchardstown Library

A reminder that the new Maker Space at Blanchardstown Library is a dynamic and diverse new facility delivering engaging hands-on maker education programmes to the Fingal community. Upcoming courses for the public include 2D Design, 3D Design, Electronics, Laser Cutting, 3D Printing, Sustainability, and Crafts.

Sensory toys and resources in Fingal Libraries

As part of a pilot project, a range of educational and developmental toys and resources is now available at Balbriggan, Blanchardstown, Garristown and Malahide Libraries. The toys and resources have been chosen to develop motor, social and sensory skills. They can be enjoyed by all children in the community and in particular by children with autism and other neurodiverse conditions. A catalogue is available at: https://www.fingal.ie/autism-friendly-resource-programme-libraries The toys include learning frames, pegboards, scooter boards and wooden doorbell houses. Books are among the resources included in the catalogue, including both fiction and non-fiction titles.

Healthy Ireland at Your Library

Healthy Ireland at your Library

As part of Healthy Ireland at your Library, Fingal Libraries is delighted to partner with St. John Ambulance Ireland to share two online workshops, the first on the 9th March and the second on 6th April, both at 7pm. St John Ambulance Ireland believes that everyone should have immediate access to first aid no matter where they are or what they are doing at the onset of illness. These workshops include a demonstration of CPR and AED use, how to recognize heart attacks or stroke and the management of severe bleeding.

Psychotherapist Stella O' Malley will present two online talks in February. The first talk on the 14th at 7pm will focus on helping parents and teenagers develop more positive relationships. How to experience less stress and to develop effective strategies to feel calmer and stronger is the subject of Stella's second talk on 17th also at 7pm.

Parents of babies and young children will find plenty of practical advice from a series of online talks over the coming months on such topics as weaning your baby, feeding your toddler, and developing good sleep routines and practices.

Booking for the above events is through https://www.eventbrite.ie/

Orlaith O'Sullivan's monthly Creative Writing Circle for Teens, starting in February will be a safe, kind space in which to strengthen the ability

to create and develop written work. Participants will learn how to develop practices to care for the mind and heart, so that they have the energy and courage to keep creating. For full details and for registration see: https://www.orlaithosullivan.com/creative-writing-for-teens

Seachtain na Gaeilge: 1st - 17th Márta

Beidh an t-iriseoir agus an t-údar Edel Coffey i mbun comhrá le Manchán Magan faoina leabhar is déanaí 'Tree Dogs, Banshee Fingers and Other Irish Words for Nature'. Trí Bhéarla le beagán Gaeilge, ionas gur féidir le gach duine a bheith páirteach agus éisteacht le chéile ar an Mháirt 1 Márta, 8.00pm. Journalist and Author Edel Coffey will be chatting in English with Manchán Magan, about his latest book. The conversation will be in English with a little bit of Irish so everyone can join in and listen on Tuesday 1st March, 8.00pm. Booking: https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/249331686787

Códúchán as Gaeilge don chlann uilig l'Olus Education
Leibhéal: Réamhléiriú
Aois: 10 -12
Trealamh atá ag teastáil: Ríomhaire glúine nó ríomhaire le ceamara, micreafóin agus callairí
Satharn 5th Márta, 11.00am Cuir d'áit in áireamh ar line https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/252099786247

Engineers Week: 5th – 11th March

It's not just humans that can be engineers! From providing homes for other animals to live in, to helping plants grow, many animals are 'ecosystem engineers'. Join Fingal Libraries and our Dublin Zoo educator on 5th March to learn about some of the animals that help to engineer their environments in important ways, and how their behaviour helps other species survive and thrive in their environment. Booking: https://www.eventbrite.ie/

Designer Minds have set a fantastic engineering challenge for our junior members which will be available to view on Fingal Libraries YouTube channel: "*There's been a huge flood and your grandmother's house has been cut off! She's starting to get cold and very, very hungry. Can you, as a Rescue Engineer design something that will overcome the challenges of gravity, friction and flood waters to get much needed supplies to her?*" The challenge involves you to use bits of recycling and other basic, household materials to construct a zip line to carry materials to nana.

Scratch Coding Workshops: Saturday 5th and 12th March. Bookings via https://cccskerries.com/fingal/

Europe Direct: Celebrating Women Entrepreneurs in the EU

Starting on 21st February, Europe Direct, Blanchardstown Library will host an interview series aimed at celebrating women entrepreneurs across the European Union. The interviews will feature a mix of personal experience and advice from a selection of women entrepreneurs from Ireland and other EU countries.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Town Centre First

The Town Centre First Programme will focus on re-imagining and revitalising rural communities and making town centres more attractive places to live, work, socialise and do business.

Fingal County Council has been allocated €100,000 from the Department of Rural and Community Development to support the development of a Town Centre Masterplan in Lusk.

Fingal Skills Strategy



The Fingal Skills Strategy Implementation Group continues to work with sub-groups for Transport & Logistics and Construction on the requirements of these sectors. A Fingal Skills webpage is in development to signpost skills and training opportunities.

Urbact Playful Towns

URBACT
Driving change for better cities

As part of the Let's Play Rush initiative which aims to increase the playfulness of the residents of the town the Rush Urbact Local Group (ULG) met in January 2022 to discuss the initiative's objectives and plans for 2022 and potential funding streams to support the work. The ULG's plans for 2022 will be informed by public engagement with the residents of Rush which will be advanced by ULG stakeholders in February.

Let's Play! RUSH

Our Balbriggan 2019 – 2025 Rejuvenation Plan – A Socio-Economic Strategy



The Our Balbriggan Programme Office continues to support the Leadership Group and its five pillars, who meet regularly, to progress work across a range of economic and social measures including: Growing the Local Economy, Public Realm & Infrastructure, Education, Skills & Employment, Community Integration, Health & Well Being and Community Safety.

The Education, Skills & Employment Pillar Group met on 13th January and work has commenced on developing the Loves Learning Festival 2022 which is due to take place between 24th and 29th April 2022.

The demolition of the former O'Shea's Night Club building (Harbour) continues with ongoing archaeology monitoring of the site. The demolition of the building has now progressed to phase 3 and is due to complete in February 2022.





Paul Keogh Architects, the appointed Integrated Design Team (IDT) for the re-imagined Quay Street & Harbour Area, continue to progress work, including engagement with a wide range of internal and external stakeholders. Review of the Stage (1) preliminary design and feasibility study was signed off on 21st December in advance of more detailed design and a further round of consultations in Q1 2022.



The acquisition of 2-4 Dublin Street has been completed and Paul Keogh Architects have been appointed as the Integrated Design Team (IDT). Stage 1 project initiation commenced in mid-January on the design and planning for the renovation of the buildings into artistic & creative studios, courtyard and digital & maker space hub.

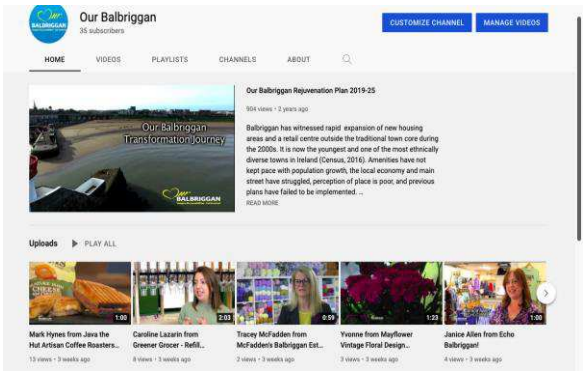


DBFL Consulting Engineers, Our Balbriggan Active Travel and Transport Consultants, are progressing preliminary work on the town's draft transportation and active travel plan. DBFL are working closely with Paul Hogarth Company (Masterplanning Consultants) who are developing in tandem a Town Public Realm Plan & Design Guide. Stakeholder consultations on these elements will take place in Q 1. 2022.



Taoiseach Micheál Martin was briefed on the Balbriggan Regeneration Plan when he visited Balbriggan on the 14th January for the official launch of the Irish Institute of Music & Song. The Taoiseach, who was accompanied by Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien TD, was shown the sites for several major regeneration projects which have received funding from the Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF).

Among the projects the Taoiseach was shown was the Heart of Main Street, with the help of almost €9m in URDF and matched funding, this area will be transformed into a Green Corridor linking Millpond Park with the centre of Balbriggan's main street, flowing down to the Harbour area. The Taoiseach was also taken to Quay Street, the Harbour and the Beach where approximately €10m of URDF and matched funding support will transform this area.



Our Balbriggan Communications highlights 2021:

- 41 published print press articles
- 4,500 What Next? Town Rejuvenation Plan Update 2021 newsletter's, hand delivered to local households & business
- 722,912 number of people reached on Facebook (4,479 followers)
- 409 new twitter followers (1,439 total)
- +90 new followers on LinkedIn (189 total)
- 3,037 subscribers to Our Balbriggan mailing list
- 282 subscribers on the Smart Balbriggan mailing list
- 19 direct e-bulletins sent to subscribers

LOCAL & RURAL DEVELOPMENT

FINGAL LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

LCDC

Coiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Áitiúil Fhine Gall
Fingal 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 also manages the Healthy Ireland Initiative, the Community Resilience Fund and the Social Enterprise Grants Scheme.

hi Healthy Ireland | Healthy Fingal

FINGAL LOCAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITY PLAN 2022-27

The Guidelines for preparing new LECPs have been published by the Department of Rural and Community Development. The new Fingal LECP will be a 'Whole-of-Council Plan' and will involve extensive consultation and engagement with internal and external stakeholders. The process of devising the new Fingal LECP will begin in the first half of 2022.

An Roinn Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail
Department of Rural and Community Development

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES FUND

Details of the new Community Activities Fund under the Community Enhancement Programme were launched in early January. Fingal LCDC has been allocated €301,042 to distribute to qualifying community and voluntary groups. The Community Activities Fund will support groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas with running costs and small capital items and facilities improvements. This funding is about giving a helping hand to communities, local groups and clubs. This new fund is being administered by the Fingal LCDC and is currently open for applications with a closing date of February 18th 2022. Details of the scheme and the online application form is available on the Council's website.

SICAP

A full review of the 2021 Fingal SICAP Annual Plan was carried out in January by the Fingal LCDC. Another successful year of KPIs have been delivered. The 2022 SICAP Plan will be presented to the Fingal LCDC at its next meeting in February for approval. The 2022 Fingal SICAP Plan has seen a considerable increase in budget to €1.39 million for the coming year.

LEADER PROGRAMME

The Dublin Rural LEADER Local Action Group and the Dublin Rural LEADER Programme continues to deliver funding and support to eligible projects in the administrative areas of Fingal, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown and South Dublin.

The updated 2021/22 Transitional Funding Arrangements for the LEADER Programme has the Dublin Rural LEADER LAG approved for €1,882,175 to cover both projects funding and administration funding for the period April 2021 – December 2022. Of this amount, €1,411,631 is available for LEADER Project Applications under the categories of Rural Enterprise, Social Inclusion and Rural Environment. Historically, Fingal Projects comprise 65-70% of the total LEADER Projects approved, roughly corresponding to Fingal's share of the Dublin Rural LEADER Geographical Area.

The LEADER Programme reverted on the 1st April to EU Transition Rules for the period 2021-22 with a new Dublin Rural LEADER Local Development Strategy to be prepared and put in place for 2023 onwards. Under the Transitional Arrangements the Dublin Rural LEADER LAG and LEADER Programme will continue to be funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development under the same eligibility and LEADER implementation rules as before. LEADER continues to approve and fund new projects as usual.

During 2021, Dublin Rural LEADER approved 19 Projects with a total value of €766,899.48. Of these, 16 Projects were in Fingal with a total value of €685,658.83.

Going forward there is currently over €3 million in the new LEADER projects pipeline of which over €1 million is for Rural Enterprise.

The next LAG Project Approvals meeting will be held in March.



ENTERPRISE CENTRES

Fingal's Enterprise Centres continue to participate in ConnectedHubs.ie ConnectedHubs.ie is a one-stop-shop for remote working hubs throughout Ireland.

All three Enterprise Centres have space available to businesses who wish to avail of remote working options and facilities. Bespoke options or generic office fit-outs can be considered.

Occupancy rates at the Council's three enterprise centres at the end of November were Drinan 84%, BASE 90% and Beat 92%. The three Enterprise Centres currently support 65 businesses and over 320 direct jobs.





LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE FINGAL

LEO Fingal provides a broad suite of support services to stimulate enterprise and enable small businesses to succeed. Some of the LEO highlights for January 2022 are as follows:

Local Enterprise Week 2022



Local Enterprise Week 2022 will be officially launched on the 7th of February 2022. Local Enterprise Office Fingal will host a series of both in person and online events as part of the celebrations for Local Enterprise Week 2022 including a Startup Bootcamp, Cyber Security Workshop, Trading Online Voucher Webinar, Ethnic Entrepreneurship Event and a Fingal Enterprising Women networking event.

Green for Micro Initiative – Mentoring/Consulting Programme for SMEs



The Green for Micro is an initiative from the Local Enterprise Office to help prepare small businesses for the low carbon, more resource efficient economy of the future. This programme is available to businesses with up to ten employees.

Trading Online Voucher Scheme



An initiative under the Government's National Digital Strategy, the TOV scheme continues to support small businesses by allowing them to enhance their online offering by providing a grant of up to €2,500 for ecommerce and digital marketing activities. The first Trading Online Voucher webinar of 2022 was hosted by Fingal Local Enterprise Office on the Thursday 13th January 2022 and 129 clients registered for this event. Six applications were approved in January 2022, in the amount of €13,850. The next TOV webinar will take place during Fingal Local Enterprise Week on the 11th of March 2022.

Fingal Enterprising Women's Network

The Fingal Enterprising Women Network is continuing to welcome new members in 2022. As part of Local Enterprise Week 2022 Fingal Enterprising Women Network will host a special event on the 11th of March 2022 entitled "Dare to Change" which will feature guest speaker Lorraine Keane.

Business Advice Clinics and Mentoring

Business Advice Clinics and mentoring services continue to be offered online. In January 2022, seven Business Advice Clinic days were held, offering advice and support to 62 clients in Fingal. In addition, clients are continuing to receive one to one business mentoring from a newly updated panel of mentors and 35 Fingal clients have received this mentoring to date so far in 2022.

Management Development & Training

LEO Fingal will continue to provide a series of management development initiatives and workshops to assist the growth of small businesses throughout 2022. A new training programme commenced in January 2022 with new courses and programmes on offer some of which include Key to Cash Flow Management, Lean for Micro: Growing Lean, Instagram for Business, Protecting Intellectual Property, Prepare Your Business for Customs, and

Consumer & Market Research. To date 241 clients have availed of training in 2022.

Start Your Own Business (SYOB)



The first Start your Own Business course of 2022 took place on the 18th of January 2022 with 20 clients taking part. The next Start Your Own Business course will commence on the 8th of February 2022.

Microfinance Ireland Loans

LEO Fingal provides a loan scheme through its partnership with Microfinance Ireland, with "soft" loans of up to €25,000. LEO Fingal is actively promoting the availability of loans from businesses that have difficulty raising finance from their bank. Seventeen applications were processed, assessed and submitted to MFI in 2021

Showcase 2022



Showcase Ireland 2022 will take place from the 27th of February - 2nd of March 2022. The event will be hosted at the RDS, Dublin and will feature 8 clients from Fingal who will exhibit their products and creations. The eight Fingal companies are: Pamela and Suzanne Hughes - Love the Mug, Gillian Halpin - Jane Darcy, Aisling Howley - Little Paper Mill, Lorna Venton - Berry Be Beauty, Sarah Rossney - Sarah Rossney Art, Julie Peelo - Julie Peelo Accessories, Sandra Hickey - Milkbath, Yvonne Kelly - Yvonne Kelly Art.

Student Enterprise Programme



Ireland's largest student enterprise programme has been launched in what is now its 20th year. An initiative of the Local Enterprise Offices to encourage entrepreneurship in schools, the Student Enterprise Programme has seen over 300,000 school students take part nationally since it first began and over 13,250 taking part in Fingal from 2014 up to 2021. Preparations have also commenced for the Fingal Student Enterprise Programme (SEP) County Final which will take place in March 2022, 23 Second level Fingal schools are participating in the Fingal 2021/22 programme.

Fingal Enterprise Awards 2022

Preparations are underway for the Fingal Enterprise Awards 2022. Six finalists have been shortlisted and will now move to the next stage of the competition. Judging for the Fingal Enterprise Awards takes place on Monday 7th of February. The final of the Fingal Enterprise Awards takes place on the evening of Thursday the 10th March 2022. The Fingal Enterprise Awards competition is organised annually by the Local Enterprise Office to acknowledge and highlight the achievements of small businesses. This is part of a national competition in which one overall winner from each of the 31 Local Enterprise Office areas will compete for the National awards which will be held during local Enterprise Week. The competition is open only to businesses that have received financial support or investment from LEO Fingal.

OPERATIONS & WATER SERVICES

Contents

1. Works Programmes
2. Car Parking Services
3. Burial Grounds Services
4. Traffic Operations County-wide
5. Fleet Management & Plant Hire Unit
6. Street Lighting LED Programme
7. Recycling Centre Update
8. Road Opening Licences
9. Water Services

1. Works Programmes

Balbriggan/Swords Area

Parks Programme of Works Rush



Before – Grass Margin at Tesco, Whitestown Road, Rush



After – New Landscaping Complete



Before – Pump opposite Harbour Park, Rush



After – New Landscaping Complete

Parks Programme of Works Swords



Castlegrange Estate - Levelling of grass area. Beech hedging also will be planted along entire length of wall. Further landscaping works planned in Autumn 2022 after phase one improvements are established.

Dog Off Leash Signage Regional Parks





Ardgillan Demesne - Recently installed Dog Off Leash Signage

Winter Works Programme



River Valley Swords - recent vegetation Removal from side and rear of private property boundaries





Delivery of Trees from Irish Nursery for planting in areas where trees were previously removed.

Howth/Malahide Area

Improvement Works - Howth Tram Line



Before



After

Improvement Works - Little Green, Malahide Seafront

Work to improve access, tidy areas under existing seating & repair the low retaining wall along the path edge have been carried out.



Before



After



Improved entrance ramp



Resurfacing under existing seats



Before - The low limestone wall along the path edge has had the missing stones replaced and been repointed along its length



After

Parkvale Entrance area to Seagrange Park, Baldoyle



Muddy island areas resulting from additional paths being surfaced at the entrance have been converted to low raised beds. They will be planted up this spring.



St Michaels Special School, Baldoyle

A smart new wheelchair accessible gate has been added to the car park entrance of the school to allow for easier flow between the playground & garden while limiting access into the adjacent carpark, by pupils.



Programme of Works

Balgriffin Cottages - Road Resurfacing Works took place at in the last week of January at Balgriffin Cottages. These works were included on the original programme of works for 2021 but due to the appointment contractor's unavailability the works were carried forward to Q1 of 2022**.**



Before



After

Part of the works also included remedial drainage works and the construction of a new asphalt car park area.



Footpath Works

R106 Swords Road - The appointment Contractor has poured nearly 75m2 of new concrete paths which were previously in need of repair and a constant source of CRM's.



Before



After

Portmarnock Walk - a large number of CRM's have been made against FCC. The new footpaths have been constructed with new tree pits to allow the girth of the expand freely without damaging the concrete path.



Before



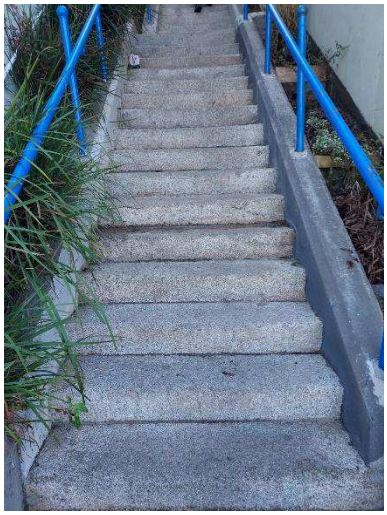
After

Drainage & Other Works

The Roads Depot outdoor staff have been busy working on remedial road drainage issues and localised potholing repairs.



Church Road Howth - Pressure Washing of Granite Steps



Castleknock/Mulhuddart Area

Casual Trading

The Public Lottery for County Wide Casual Trading took place on 26th January 2022 via teams with all valid applicants.

Successful applicants have been offered the following locations:-

Balbriggan/ Swords	Howth/ Malahide	Castleknock/ Mulhuddart
Donabate Beach	Malahide Beach	St. Catherine's Park
Newbridge Demesne	Portmarnock Beach	Millennium Park
Red Island Carpark	Malahide Demesne	Porterstown Park
Ardgillan Demesne	Howth Summit Carpark	
Santry Demesne	Paddy's Hill	
Tower Bay, Portrane	Fingal Burial Ground	
Rush Beach South	Balgriffin Burial Ground	
Loughshinny		

The next stage is for all applicants to submit relevant documentation, followed by a site meeting with relevant officials. Permits will then be issued to traders.

Tree Removal Works - Broadway/Clonsilla







After

Clean Up Works

- **Macetown Substation**

The Operations Crew carried out a clean-up following large scale fly-tipping at Macetown Substation.



Before



After

Flower Boxes - Lanesborough Gardens



Before

Entrance to Coolmine Woods Grove Road



Before

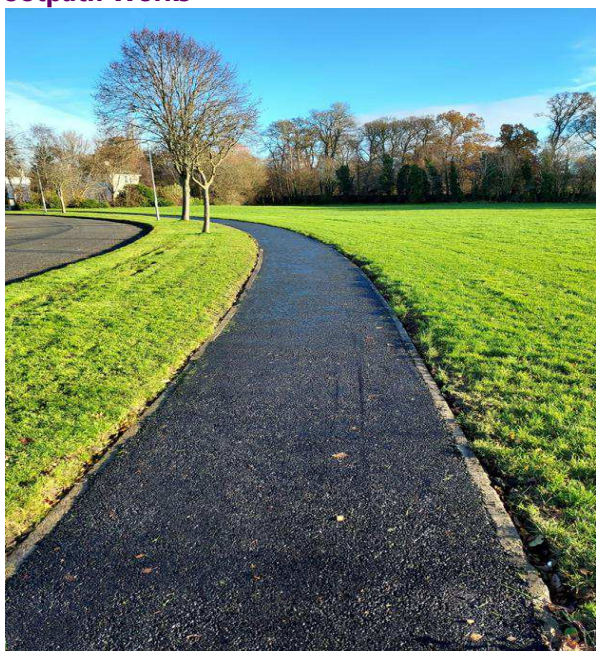


After

Disposal of Christmas tree in Millennium Park



Footpath Works



Georgian Village Footpath Improvement works

Road Resurfacing Works



Line Marking Renewals at Clonsilla Road/ Huntstown Way/ Parkway Road.





Ballycoolin Road Surface Restoration

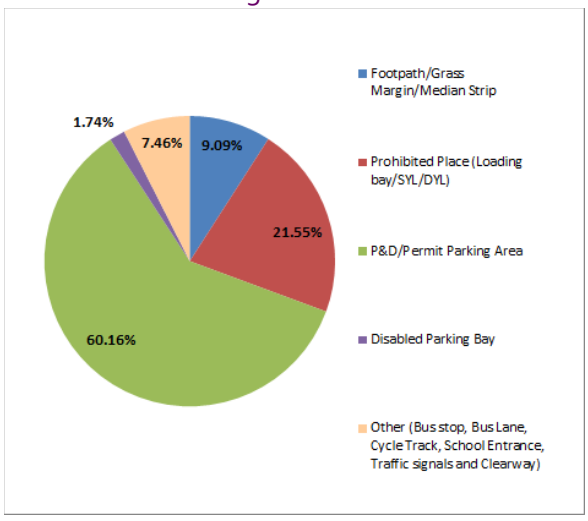


Castleknock Way and Crescent Surface Restoration

2. Car Parking Services

There was a total of 979 parking tickets issued during December 2021.

Breakdown of Parking Offences:

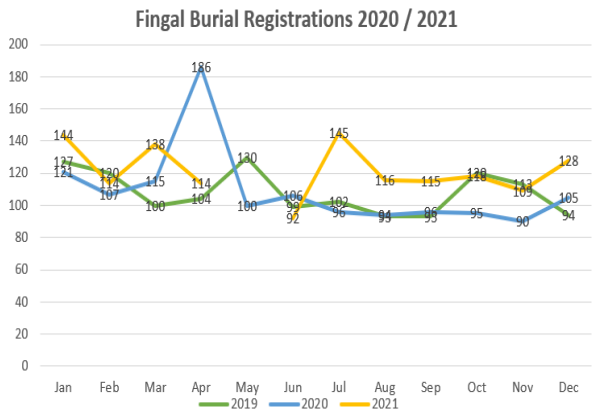


Breakdown of Parking Offences	Total	Percentage
Footpath/Grass Margin/Median Strip	89	9.09%
Prohibited Place (Loading bay/SYL/DYL)	211	21.55%
P&D/Permit Parking Area	589	60.16%
Disabled Parking Bay	17	1.74%
Other (Bus stop, Bus Lane, Cycle Track, School Entrance, Traffic signals and Clearway)	73	7.46%
Total	**979**	**100%**



3. Burial Ground Services

The Operations Department are continuing to administer and monitor delivery to ensure business continuity for Fingal's Burial Ground Service.



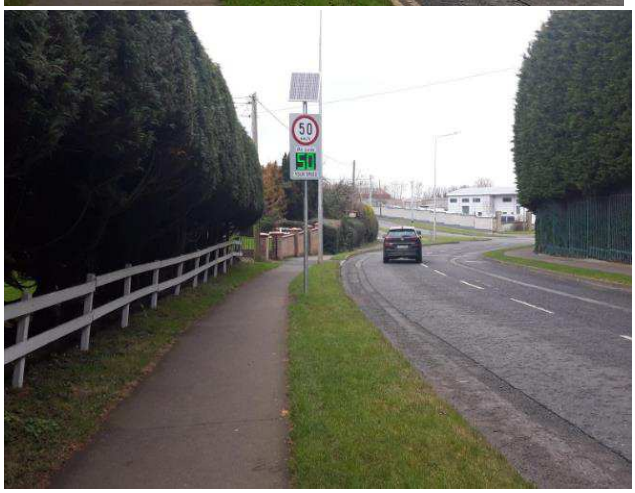
4. Traffic Operations County-wide

Balbriggan/Swords Area



Seatown Road, Swords – 2 No. Junction ramp upgrades





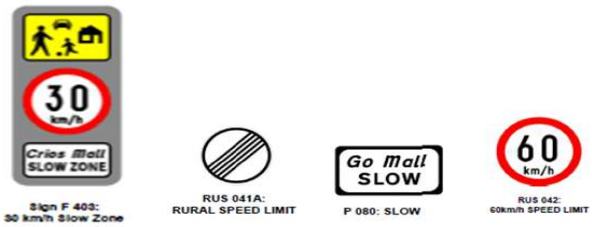
Watery Lane, Swords – 2 No. VAS Speed Readers

Howth/Malahide Area

Speed Limit Review 2021- Update

Actavo Ltd were appointed in 2021 during the pandemic to implement the Speed Limit review signage project county wide. The Contractor to date has installed over 1200 poles with signage attachment still ongoing by Contractor and Depot Staff. The project is entering its completion stage with about 55 residential areas further identified to be poled and signed. Additional works are also planned respect to new speed limit gateway signs in the Howth-Malahide area where speed limit boundaries have changed.

Typical signs including the SLOW ZONE signs (30km/hr.) are shown below.



Typical road signs in place

5. Fleet Management & Plant Hire Unit

110 hires were put in place from 1st January 2022 – 31st January 2022, engaging 23 suppliers.

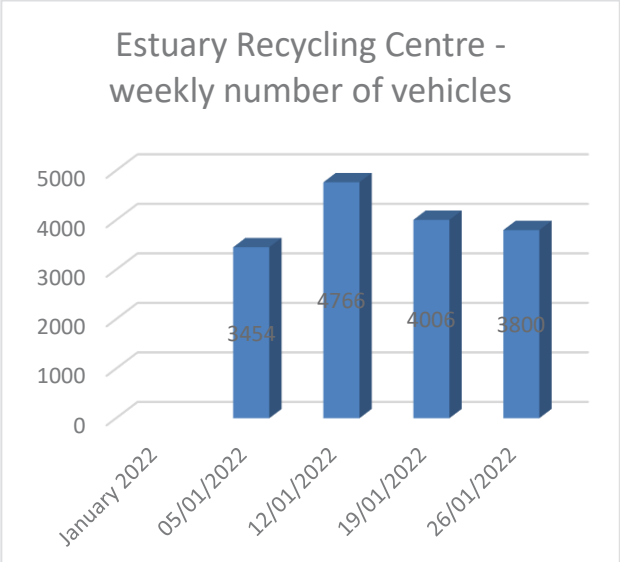
Hires include:

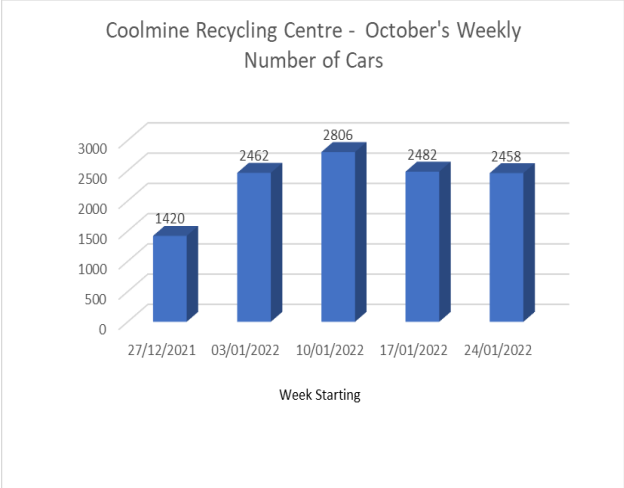
- Jet Vac,
- Large Articulated Vacuum Tank
- Hot wash and Confined Space Entry for the Cleaning and maintenance of Tanks at Rogerstown Park.

6. Street Lighting LED Programme

The Public Lighting Section will continue with the LED Programme in 2022.

7. Recycling Centre's Update

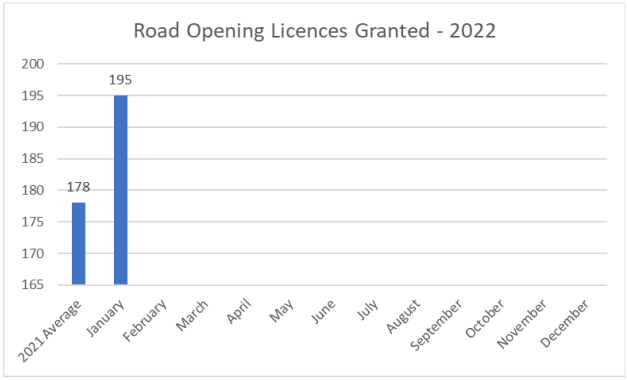


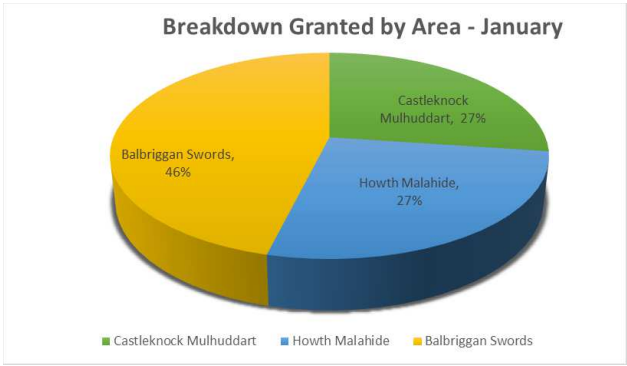


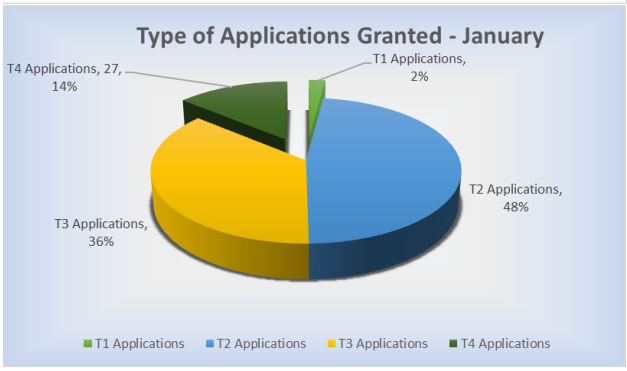
A review on the Recycling Centres at Coolmine and Estuary is currently underway. This review will look at net cost to the Council alongside the current charges.

8. Road Opening Licences

The Licensing unit continues to process and manage the licensing system for the County, applications are allocated by area for examination and conditioning which includes reviews of the existing carriageway, footpaths, cycleways, and grass verges. Applicants submit temporary traffic management plans for review to ensure all works are carried out safely within the public domain. Road Opening Licences are a cross functional process for the department and is essential for the asset management of Fingal County Council Road network.
195 licences were granted in January 2022.







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. **Ongoing Projects**
There are a currently a number of significant road opening licence projects on going including under the supervision of the Operations Engineering Team.

9. Water Services

Water production and distribution, wastewater 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 summary:

- Phase 2 works to install a section of new stormwater (surface water) network in Ballyboughal are still on hold pending the agreement of wayleaves.
- The Storm water manhole cover and frame replacement programme for replacing assets at the end of life is ongoing – Covers and frames were replaced at various locations in Skerries, Baldoyle and Portmarnock areas.
- Funding is being sought and a tender is being completed for a detailed design for an upgrade to the Storm water network within and around The Bawn and the Old Bawn. It is hoped that construction works on this new network will take place in late 2022.
- CCTV surveys are complete in the St Benedicts estate in Malahide and La Verna in Baldoyle to ascertain the location of misconnections to the Stormwater network from the foul system. Misconnections were identified and passed to the Management company responsible for La Verna who are now procuring a contractor to commence repairs.
- CCTV surveys were carried out in the Seabury estate in Malahide and a number of misconnections were identified. The locations of these have been passed to the property owners who are now procuring contractors to remove and connect to the foul sewer.
- Other maintenance and minor works programmes are ongoing. Works to CCTV, drag and clean the Storm Water network in Inbhir Ide, Texas Lane and Yellow Walls road in Malahide are nearing completion. FCC are awaiting the removal of a gas service by Gas Networks once removed this programme will be complete. Completion by Gas Networks has been scheduled for Mid Term break as not to interfere with school traffic at this location.
- Works are complete at No: 18 Dublin Rd, Bayside to fit a stainless steel grate on an overflow culvert to stop material being washed up the from the coast. Works to seal and path a section of the line have also been complete to resolve a rodent issue.
- Tenders have been finalised for contractors to jet, drag and CCTV survey the Stormwater network in Chalfont, Malahide to assist road operations with the alleviation of ongoing road flooding. Works will be commencing in early January 2022.
- Works were carried out at Millview Lawns to resolve and issue with strong odours (Kerosene) emanating from the network and into private property. A home heating oil leak was discovered and since repaired. A number of misconnections were also discovered and reported to the householders to repair.
- Work has begun with formalising a 2022 Storm Water preventative maintenance cycle, recording and mapping programme. A contractor has been procured with a jet vac recycler truck and CCTV camera van. Hire has been arranged to commence from the 1st of February initially on a 4 week hire which may be extended. The objective of this work is to undertake maintenance in jetting the network, and to identify any deficiencies with cctv and to record the stormwater networks.

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: Review options for the existing pumping station
  Status: Project planning / scoping
- Howth Surface Water Culvert Replacement
  Scope: Prepare a design to replace the existing surface water culvert
  Status: Procurement

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 with regard to water.

Communication with Irish Water for Elected Representatives

The Local Representative Support Desk

1) Make contact at **localrepsupport@water.ie** or by phone at **0818 178 178 / 0818 578 578**.

2) Staff are available Monday – Friday from 9am to 5.30pm to deal with queries from elected representatives about any topic related to Irish Water.

3) Outside these hours, the 24/7 customer care line is available for urgent queries at **1800 278 278.**

4) 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)

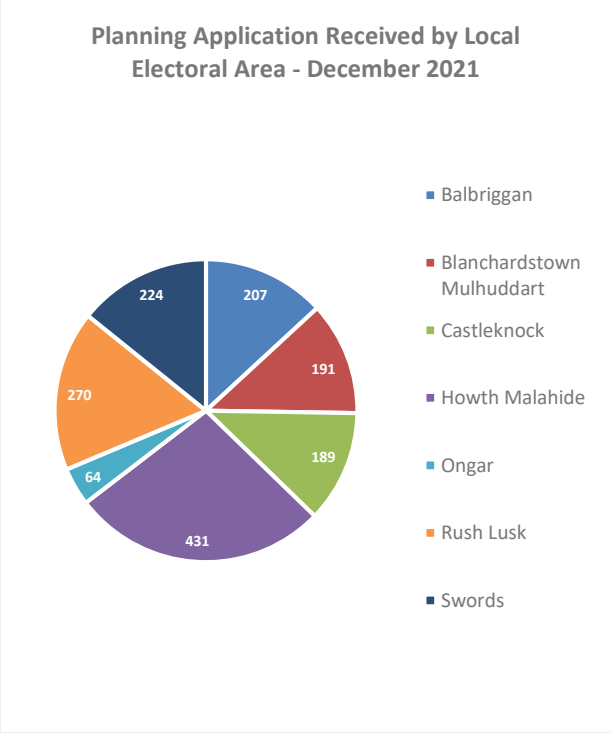
Contents

Planning Applications
Planning Decisions
Building Control Admin
Planning Enforcement/Derelict Sites
Strategic Policy Unit
Heritage Office
Parks & Green Infrastructure Division
Built Environment Division
Transportation Planning

Planning Applications – 2021 Statistics

There have been 1,576 planning applications received to the end of December 2021, 102 of these applications were invalid leaving a total of 1,474 valid applications. The volume of applications received by Local Electoral Area (LEA) is detailed in the table below.

Up to end of December 2021, 12 Strategic Housing Development (SHD) applications were made to An Bord Pleanála, plus 1 for amendments totalling 6,188 units. 10 decisions were made by the board up to end of December 2021. Of these, 8 were granted, 1 in February, 1 in March, 3 in September and 2 in November (3,426 units). 1 was one granted in July for amendments. 3 applications were Refused, 1 in March, 1 in June and 1 in July. There is a total of 5 SHD's (2,623 units) currently in the formal application process.



Planning Decisions – 2021 Statistics

A total of 1,490 planning decisions have been made to the end of December 2021. There have been 1,269 decisions to grant permission (85%) and 221 refusals of permission (15%). There have been 97 grants of permissions in respect of single house construction, 797 grants of permission for domestic extensions, 310 commercial/retail grants of permission and 35 grants of permission in respect of housing developments of which 16 relate to development of 2 - 20, 3 relate to development of 20 – 50, 9 relate to development of 50 -100 and 7 of which relate to development of 100+ housing units.

Building Control Admin – 2021 Statistics

In 2021, there were 156 Disability Access Certificate applications submitted, of these 146 were granted, 1 was invalidated and 5 are currently on time extension. There were 14 Revised Disability Access Certificate applications submitted, 11 were granted and 2 are currently on time extension. There were also 17 Dispensation/Relaxation applications submitted, all 17 were granted.

There were 248 Fire Safety Certificate applications submitted, of these 176 were granted, 2 were refused, 7 were invalidated and 35 are currently on time extension. There were 34 Revised Fire Safety Certificate applications submitted, 26 were granted and 2 were invalidated and 4 are currently on time extension. There were 22 Regularisation Certificate applications submitted, 5 were granted, 2 were invalidated and 15 are currently on time extension.

A total of 1,347 building control decisions were processed in 2021, this includes decisions that were made on applications submitted pre 2021 in addition to the applications submitted during 2021. This is made up of 482 decisions to grant, 7 refusals, 13 invalids, 3 amendments and 842 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 or in hard copy directly into the office.

Planning Enforcement/Derelict Sites

309 Warning Letters and 28 Enforcement notices issued in 2021. There was ongoing referral of enforcement files to the Law Department to initiate legal action. 15 new cases were referred to the Law Department during 2021 to initiate legal action bringing to 23 the number of enforcement cases currently with the Law Department or at varying stages in the court system.

The Derelict Sites Section issued correspondence to site owners/occupiers of 19 sites during 2021 with on-going engagement arising from this. Statutory Notices issued under the Derelict Site Act with respect to 2 sites during 2021 with both sites placed on the Derelict Sites register.

Strategic Policy Unit

Fingal Development Plan 2023 – 2029



The Chief Executive's Draft Plan was issued to the Elected Members on 3rd December 2021, along with the sheets, appendices and environmental information.

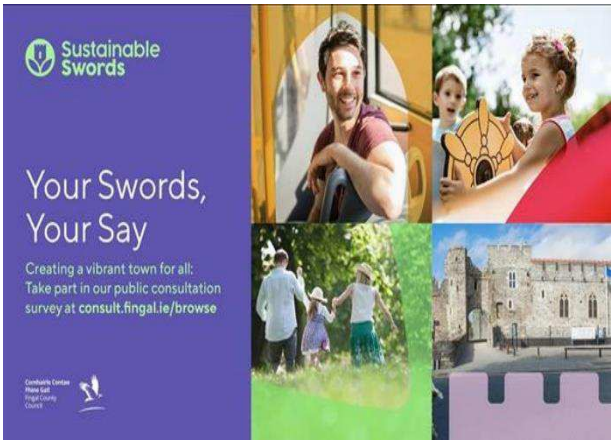
Motions were accepted up to 7th January 2022. 915 motions were received and meetings to discuss the same began on 18th January 2022. The draft Plan will be issued for public consultation in February 2022.

Sustainable Swords

Work continues on the Sustainable Swords project. The ambition of Sustainable Swords is to create a multi-faceted approach to the planning, design and management of the town, in order to achieve better quality places as the physical setting for life in Swords. Sustainable Swords plans to consolidate and strengthen the historic town centre of Swords. The project will also set specific objectives for the town centre with the goal of increasing the resilience of the local economy and fostering an enhanced, accessible, inclusive, child friendly and healthy urban environment.

A second stage of consultation took place in October 2021. This follows the 'Your Swords, Your Say' survey which was carried out in May and the briefing session with Elected Members in July.

The submissions and comments received are being considered, with the draft Strategy expected to issue early 2022.



Vacant Site Register

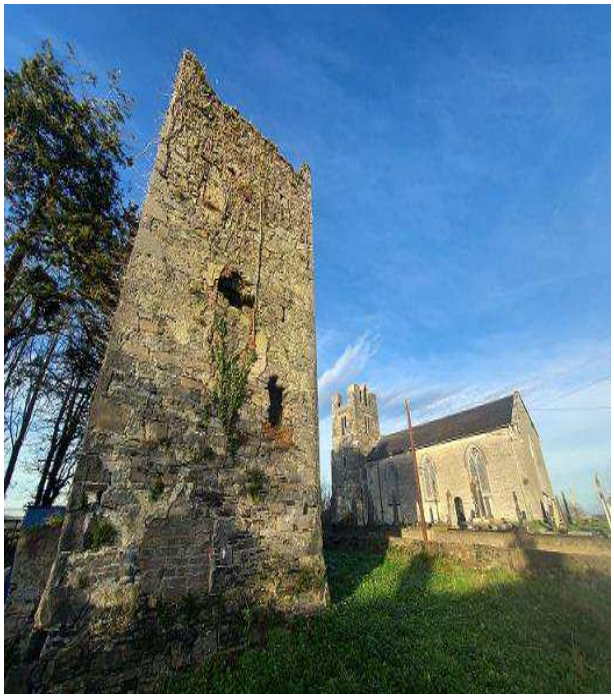
There are currently 11 sites on the Vacant Sites Register (VSR). These include 3 residential sites and 8 regeneration sites.

Heritage Office

The Community Monuments Fund for 2022 is now open for applications until February 15th. The core aims of this Fund are the conservation, maintenance, protection and presentation of archaeological monuments. It will:

- enable conservation works to be carried out on monuments which are deemed to be significant and in need of urgent support;
- encourage access to monuments and improve their presentation;
- build resilience in our monuments to enable them to withstand the effects of climate change.

Find out more and apply: https://www.fingal.ie/news/community-monuments-fund-2022



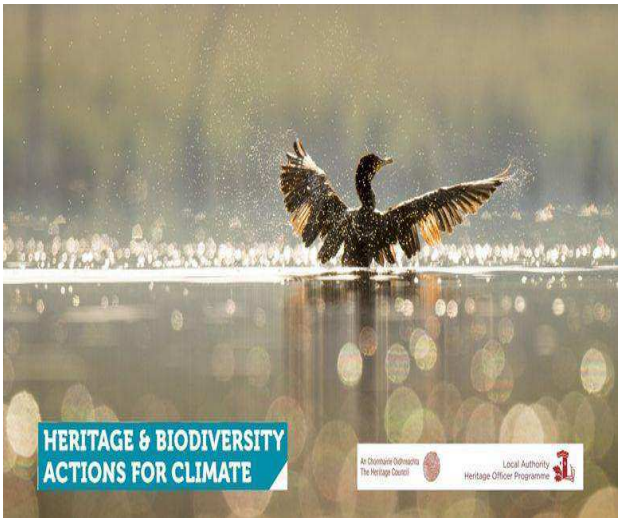
The Heritage Council's Community Grant Scheme for 2022 is now OPEN for applications for the following:

- capital projects that apply good heritage practice to the management of places, collections, or objects (including buildings).

capital projects that improve access and inclusion to heritage sites;

the purchase of essential equipment.

This scheme enables communities and heritage non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to continue their work in this area or to start new initiatives. Closing date is Wednesday 16th February 2022 at 5:00pm. Full details at https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/.../community-heritage...



Malcom Noonan, Minister for State for Heritage launched the first in a new series of Climate Action webinars on Thursday 27th January. Featuring members of the Local Authority Heritage Officer Network, the free webinars are supported by the City and County Managers Association and the Heritage Council. The Fingal Cultural Heritage and Climate Change Risk Assessment and Fingal Heritage X Climate featured in the Embedding Climate in Heritage session. The one-hour webinars are every Thursday at 9.30 until 17th February– Wetlands, Community and Climate; Nature-based solutions for Climate; People, Heritage and Climate. Register at https://kilkennyheritage.ie/.../save-the-dates-heritage.../

Parks & Green Infrastructure Division

Phase 1 Balbriggan Sports and Recreational Hub at Bremore Regional Park

Detailed Design & Construction of New GAA Pitch & ancillary works



Works are scheduled to begin on the construction of the new full size public GAA pitch facility at Bremore Regional Park. In addition to the pitch, the works include provision of vehicular and pedestrian access and boundary fencing. The project represents the first phase of construction of the Balbriggan Sports and Recreational Hub. It is anticipated the construction works will be completed by late Summer this year. Following construction, the grass on the newly formed pitch will need to establish for 12 months before use to ensure the best outcome for future users of the new facility.

Update on Construction of Recreational Hub at Ward Rivervalley Regional Park



Works are progressing on the site of the new all-weather pitch at Ward Rivervalley Regional Park. Significant earth grading works have been carried out to create the base for the new car park and future access. The contractor has also begun the topsoil strip on the site of the new all-weather pitch and has arranged the required permissions for all utility connections on site. The Parks and Green Infrastructure Division have worked in consultation with local sports clubs to expand the scope of works to include significant upgrade works to the adjacent soccer pitch together with the provision of a GAA Go Games Pitch. This initiative will greatly expand the usability of the wider recreational hub throughout the year and to the greatest age range possible. It is anticipated that the new facility will be completed by late Summer this year and will become a valuable sporting amenity for the people of Swords and wider area.

Built Environment Division

Building Control/Taking in Charge Section – 31/01/2021

Building Control

- BCMS – 41 CNs were received in November 2021 and there were 33 Completion Certificates processed.
- Enforcement – There was a Part L non-compliance discovered during a site inspection of a site in Portmarnock this week commencing 24th January 2022. This non-compliance relating to lack of insulation over rear patio doors, was pointed out to the builder and is being addressed.



Insulation missing above patio doors at a development in Portmarnock

Taking in Charge

- Weavers Wood Clonsilla, foul sewer and watermains in St. Marys, Baldoyle, and a hammerhead extension at Old Golf Links, Malahide were Taken in Charge in January 2022. There is currently 1 estate "The Hawthorns" in Castleknock put up for being Taken in Charge in the next Council meeting in April.
- We have 46 Developments with formal TIC requests and a further 306 developments on our system, of which 62 are likely to remain private.
- Phase 1 TIC works on the following estates - Chieftain's way, Martello, New Haven Bay are currently underway.

- Phase 2 TIC works – Drynam, are under construction at the moment. There is also works almost complete in Thornleigh Swords by a completion contractor on behalf of the bondsman.
- The contract documents for engagement of Consulting Engineers to manage the Ongar remediation works necessary to bring the estates in Ongar up to Taking in Charge standard were published on the 10th December 2021 on Etenders.ie within a closing date of the 7th January 2022. Unfortunately, both consultants on the framework declined to submit a tender. We have been forced to set retender through an open procedure with the contract due to be advertised next week.
- There are currently 38 developers set up on our External Taking in Charge SharePoint Site to upload Taking in Charge documentation. This SharePoint site is now also being used by the Parks Department and Public Lighting Department in order to review uploaded Taking in Charge information.
- A yearly review of the Taking in Charge Policy and Specifications is underway and meetings between Building Control and other Sections responsible for producing the Policy and Specifications have been carried out. The final documents are currently being reviewed and the updated Policy and Specification will be published in the site in February 2022.

Dangerous Structures

- We currently have 48 active dangerous structures. There was 1 new notification in November, 2 new notifications in December and 2 notifications so far in January 2022.

References

- The number of reference requests received in December and January (so far) are 170 and 354 respectively.



Seabees being reset in Portrane

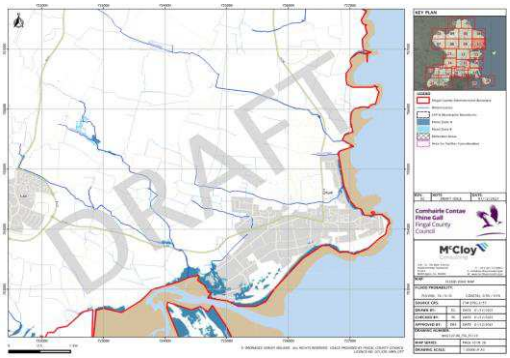
Development Management/Forward Planning (Water Services) Section

Development Management December 2021

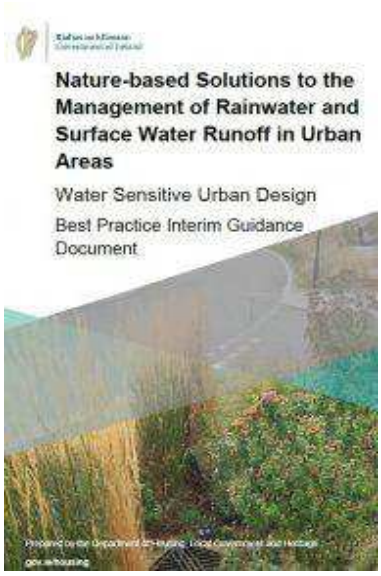
- 96 no. new planning files have been received.
- 18 no. Additional Information files have been received and 2 clarifications on Additional Information.
- 1 no. Compliance Submissions have been received, 3 no. have been processed.
- 9 no. SHD applications have been received, 2 no. have been assessed.
- 1 no. Part 8/Part XI applications has been received, 4 no. have been processed.
- Pre-planning consultations – During December, staff from Planning (Water Services) have engaged in 8 no. pre-planning discussions with developers 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.

Flood Risk Assessments/ Drainage Strategies

- FCC staff continue liaising with the appointed consultants developing the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for the upcoming County Development Plan. The SFRA DRAFT flood mapping and DRAFT report has been completed. This mapping and report will be updated over the coming months subject to new information (Tolka Flood Study) and submissions received from Councillors/public. The Water Services Planning Department are currently preparing responses to the motions received from the Councillors under the motion headings of green infrastructure, flooding, Irish Water and re-zoning.



- A new document "Nature-based Solutions to the Management of Rainwater and Surface Water Runoff in Urban Areas - Water Sensitive Urban Design - Best Practice Interim Guidance Document" has been issued by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. It is intended as a high-level best practice interim guidance document for all those whose work impacts on the urban environment, for urban planners and all built environment professionals involved in the planning process such as engineers, architects and landscape architects and shows how to move towards a more systematic and sustainable approach to urban planning and design that seeks to mimic the natural water balance of rural areas through "water sensitive urban design".



- Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) – The Fingal SuDS guidance document (Green/Blue Infrastructure for Development) has been reviewed to include changes in technical standards. This document along with the Draft SFRA documents have been incorporated into the new development plan.



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. However, there have been no new CDS applications during October/November.
- Staff continue to complete Irish Water templates for every planning file completed.

Transportation Planning

R132 Connectivity Project

The Council was pleased to recently receive An Bord Pleanála's notification of the successful granting of planning permission for the R132 Connectivity Project, following our planning submission in April 2021. The project involves upgrade works from north of Pinnock Hill Roundabout to north of Estuary Roundabout, to facilitate installation of new protected cycle and pedestrian facilities, removal of hard shoulders, conversion of roundabouts to signalised junctions and a reduction in speed limit to 50km/h. The P&SI team worked closely with TII and the NTA to ensure the proposed scheme ties in and facilitates MetroLink, BusConnects and the delivery of the Sustainable Swords strategy.



Churchfields



The Planning and Strategic Infrastructure Department recently appointed Fox Building and Engineering Ltd to deliver the Church Fields Link Road and Cycle Network. The contractor has commenced site set up with work expected to last 18-months. The Mayor of Fingal, Cllr Seána Ó Rodaigh turned the first sod on the project on Friday 28th January and she was joined by the Tánaiste, Leo Varadkar TD, the Minister for Housing Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien TD, Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Roderic O'Gorman TD, Minister of State at the Department of the Taoiseach, Jack Chambers TD, as well as Councillors and Oireachtas members from Dublin 15.

The Church Fields Link Road and Cycle Network is co-funded by the NTA and the Dept of Housing, Local Govt and Heritage. It will create new connectivity to facilitate the development of the Church Fields Masterplan which will deliver significant housing, retail and community amenities to support the sustainable growth of Mulhuddart. It will also feature Ireland's first 'Dutch Style' cycle-friendly roundabout, optimised for safe use by pedestrian, cyclists and motorists. High quality segregated cycle and pedestrian infrastructure is also included throughout the scheme, including a new cycle route linking Damastown Avenue and Church Road Roundabout to Gaelscoil an Chuilinn and Powerstown Educate Together National School on Powerstown Road. This will include construction of new crossings on all arms of the existing roundabout, making walking and wheeling to schools in the area safer for students.

Snugborough Interchange Upgrade



Site works continue on this major infrastructural project with the contractor Bam having recently completed piling in the median island on the N3, to support the foundation of the bridge pier. Work on the bridge abutments and retaining walls on either side of the mainline N3 are ongoing and traffic management is in place to facilitate the safe operation of this complex construction site. The interchange is scheduled to be completed in March 2023.



HOUSING

Housing
Supply
Asset Management
Support
Tenancy Services

Church Fields, Dublin 15

The Part 8 public consultation period for the proposed 300 dwellings and the Eastern Linear Park concluded on 31st January 2022. The Chief Executive report will be presented to the Members for their consideration at the March Area Committee.



The Planning and Strategic Infrastructure Department recently appointed Fox Building and Engineering Ltd to deliver the Church Fields Link Road and Cycle Network. The contractor has commenced site works.



Friday 28th January 2022 marked the first step in the construction of new infrastructure at the Church Fields site in Mulhuddart, as the Mayor of Fingal, Cllr Seána Ó Rodaigh turned the first sod on the project.

The Mayor was joined in viewing the Church Fields site by the Tánaiste, Leo Varadkar TD, the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien TD, Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Roderic O'Gorman TD, Minister of State at the Department of the Taoiseach, Jack Chambers TD, as well as councillors and Oireachtas members from Dublin 15.





Construction of Affordable Homes in Lusk

Construction of the 39 affordable and 12 social homes continues at Dun Emer in Lusk alongside the upgrade works to the road infrastructure which is funded by the Affordable Housing Fund (formerly the SSF)

Current construction work on the site at Dun Emer, Lusk.





Housing Delivery

Construction Programme

Summary of unit numbers in pipeline	units
Under Construction	207
Tender Stage	129
Planning and Design	1,114
Part V	206
TOTAL	**1,656**

Schemes on Site

Site Name	No. Units	Status Detail	On Site Date	Handover (estimated)
Dun Emer, Lusk	51	On Site	Q2 2021	Q4 2022
Wellview Cul de Sacs, Wellview, D15	20	On site	Q4 2020	Q3 2022
Cappagh, Dublin 11	69	On Site	Q2 2021	Q3 2022
Church Fields Phase 2B, Mulhuddart, D15	67	On Site	Q4 2021	Q4 2022

Schemes with Part 8 Planning Approval and at Tender stage

Site Name	No. Units	Status Detail	On Site Date	Handover (estimated)
Tucketts Lane, Howth	8	Tender process concluded. Stage 4 application for funding submitted to DHLGH.	Q2 2022	Q3 2023
Outlands, Swords	11	Detail design in progress. Issue tender to appoint contractor in Q1 2022.	Q2 2022	Q2 2023
Church Road, Lusk	5	Detail design in progress. Issue tender to appoint contractor in Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q2 2023
Former Leonards Garage, Lusk	10	Detail design in progress. Issue tender to appoint contractor in Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q2 2023
Hayestown, Rush	62	Stage 2 procurement process underway.	Q3 2022	Q3 2023
Infill Sites in Dublin 15	2	Detail design in progress.	Q3 2022	Q2 2023
Kilhedge Lane, Lusk - Tuath Housing	31	Detail design in progress. Issue tender to appoint contractor in Q2 2022.	Q3 2022	Q4 2023

Schemes at Pre-Planning Stage

Site Name	No. Units	Status Detail	On Site Date	Handover (estimated)
Garristown – North and East Housing Association	6	Stage 2 approval received from DHLGH. Part 8 being prepared.	Q4 2022	Q4 2023
Church Fields, D15	1,000	Part 8 being prepared. Part 8 process commenced in Dec 2021 for 300 units.	Q4 2022	Q4 2023
Mayeston, Dublin 11	100	Feasibility being prepared	Q4 2022	Q4 2023
North Street, Swords	8	Feasibility being prepared	Q2 2023	Q2 2024

Fingal County Council construction scheme at Cappagh, Dublin11





Fingal County Council construction scheme at Wellview, D15





Fingal County Council construction scheme at Church Fields



CALF completed units at St Josephs, Clonsilla, Dublin 15.







Part V completed unit at Lusk village.



Local Authority Home Loan

The Local Authority Home Loan is a Government backed mortgage for first-time buyers or other eligible applicants through local authorities. The scheme is for the purchase of new or second-hand residential properties and for self-builds. It also includes the purchase of homes through State

schemes such as the Tenant Purchase Scheme and Affordable Housing Schemes. This loan has now replaced the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan with slightly different eligibility criteria.

The "Fresh Start" principle means that people who are divorced or separated and have no interest in the family home, or who have undergone personal insolvency or bankruptcy arrangement or proceedings or other legal process, will be eligible to apply. The loan also revised the maximum salary of a single person who may apply under the scheme to 65K per annum.

The Local Authority Home Loan became available nationwide from all local authorities from **4th January 2022**. The loan is a normal Capital and Interest-bearing mortgage which is repaid by direct debit on a monthly basis. A successful applicant can borrow up to 90% of the market value of the property. In Fingal the maximum value of a property that can be purchased is 320,000.

For more information please see:

https://www.fingal.ie/council/service/localauthorityhomeloan

https://localauthorityhomeloan.ie/

Rent Payments – Council Tenants

The Rents Team are available to engage with tenants who may have experienced a change in circumstances to their tenancy (e.g. change of income or family composition) or who may have fallen into arrears. Should tenants have any queries regarding their rent charge or arrears they should contact the Council immediately at email: rents.assessments@fingal.ie or rents.arrears@fingal.ie Further details are available on the Council's website www.fingal.ie.

Housing Asset Management Report

Energy Efficiency/Retrofitting Programme

The proposed works programme for 2022 is currently under review with the DHLGH.

Returning Dwellings to Productive Use

The number of casual voids within social housing stock which are currently in the re-let process set out below:-

Voids for Re-letting	at 4th February 2022
In letting process	36
Undergoing re-let repairs	25
With County Architect for procurement of pre-let repairs	11
TOTAL	**72**

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 tenants. The Council releases batches of work to dedicated Contractors throughout the course of the year. To date, the Council has provided Contractors with 20 of 20 batches totaling 5131 properties and servicing is progressing well.

Cyclical Maintenance - Scheme Painting

The programme provides for external painting and joinery repairs to council housing stock which currently operates on a 6/7 year cycle. A new programme will issue in the coming weeks.

Housing Tenancy Services Report

Over 200 applicant submissions have been made for HAP through the online portal since it went live in October 2021 with 88 of those accepted as complete. The remainder are in progress for completion by tenant/landlord or did not progress for various reasons (over income limit, unaffordable property etc). 40 HAP Tenancies were set up in January 2022.

Since its inception in Fingal County Council in 2017, the HAP team has set up over 3,200 tenancies.

Housing Support

Housing List Position

The Housing Support Team are finalising the preparation of the yearly list position which is scheduled to issue in March.

Contact Details for Tenancy Services Division

Set out below are the **Housing Support Team** Contact details 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
Tenancy Services Contact Details	
Homeless Services	01 890 5090 homeless@fingal.ie
Estate Management **(Maintenance, ASB)**	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

Choice Based Lettings

Fingal County Council launched a new online portal to facilitate the Choice Based Letting (CBL) scheme. CBL is an approach used for the allocation of designated Social Housing Units. It allows housing applicants to express an interest in being considered for the allocation of designated Social Housing Units.

Applicants with active applications may now access Choice Based Letting by logging onto https://cbl.fingal.ie using their unique username and password. To access their unique username and password applicants must contact choicebasedlettings@fingal.ie with their housing reference number and phone number. The housing team has issued 1,060 secure passwords and usernames to date. CBL is being advertised through social media which is increasing requests for passwords and usernames. Applicants are actively

encouraged to obtain their passwords and usernames to express interest in any properties advertised.

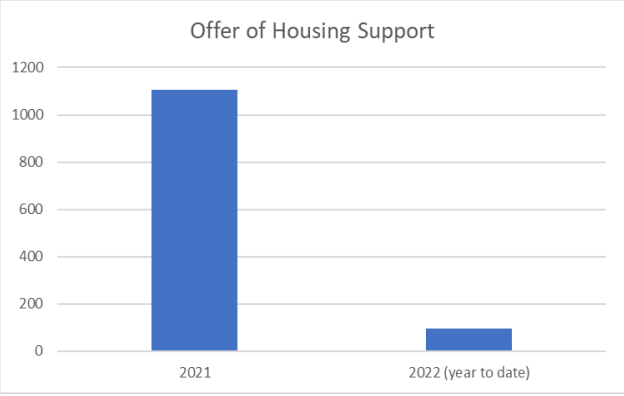
Available CBL properties will be advertised on a weekly basis from Wednesday to the following Tuesday on https://cbl.fingal.ie

Approved Social Housing applicants log in each week to check the dwellings that are available using their username and password. Expression of interest in a property must be made online by the following Tuesday.

On January 12th – 18th, Miller's Glen, Swords was advertised through Choice Base Lettings. A new housing development managed by the Approved Housing Body - Iveagh Trust. The scheme includes 1 bed, 2 bed and 3 bed apartments. 302 applicants made an expression of interest through the portal for Millers Glen.

Offers of Housing Support

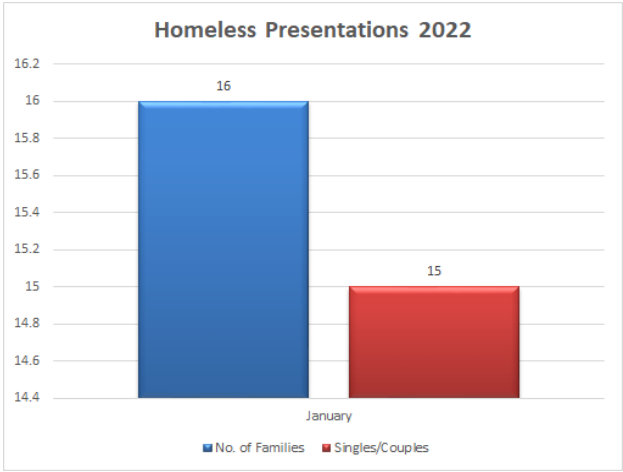
The Housing Allocations Team has continued to provide offers of social housing throughout all levels of **COVID-19 restrictions** and this is demonstrated in the chart below. During the month of January 2022 95 offers of Housing Support were made to approved applicants.



Homeless Services

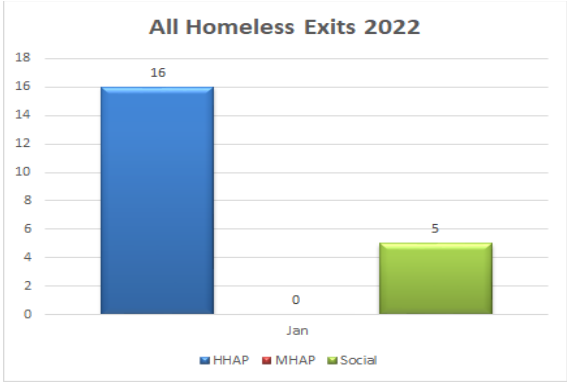
The Council's Homeless Team continue to engage with those experiencing homelessness to offer advice and support. Homeless Assessments continued over the phone through all levels of Public Health Restrictions.

In January 2022 there were 31 new homeless presentations, comprising 16 families and 15 singles/couples.



During January 2022, 21 households, comprising 15 families and 6 singles/couples, exited homeless circumstances into various forms of social housing support- including into private rented tenancies under Homeless HAP.

Homeless HAP accounts for 16 of these tenancies.



Cold Weather Strategy 2021/ 2022

The Dublin Region Homeless Executive (DRHE) has activated its Cold Weather Strategy 2021/ 2022 which runs from November 2021 to the end of March 2022. 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.

Should there be a cold weather or any emergency event, the DRHE will co-ordinate the response to homelessness on behalf of the four Dublin Local Authorities. Whilst services continue to 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.

Draft Homeless Action Plan 2022- 2024

The DRHE is currently preparing the Draft Homeless Action Plan Framework for Dublin 2022-2024.

Traveller Accommodation Plan

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 for further progression in 2022. Refurbishment work is planned for a number of sites in accordance with the provision of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024 which is pending a review and will be presented to the Council in the near future.

The Annual Estimate of Accommodation of Travellers Families 2021 has been completed with a return of 554 families residing within the Fingal administrative area.

Daily site visits by Housing Inspectors are continuing on all Fingal County Council Traveller specific sites while checking on vulnerable residents and advising on the continued supports available.

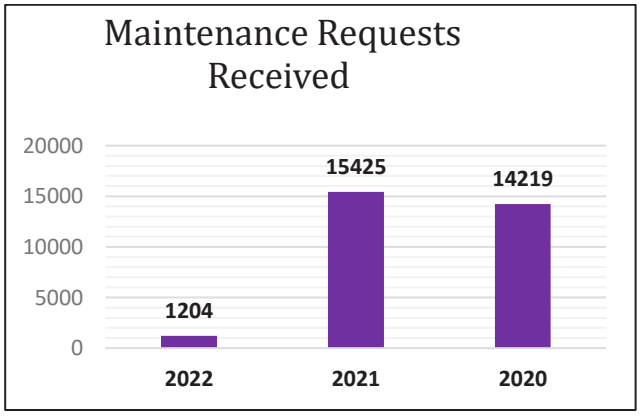
Senior Officials are engaged on an ongoing basis with various external agencies and traveller advocacy groups

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.

The Estate Management Section continues to work with the most vulnerable and complex of our Tenants in collaboration with our Social Workers, Tenancy Sustainment Officers and external statutory agencies to protect and assist the most vulnerable of our tenancies.

Maintenance Requests



15,425 maintenance requests were received last year with 1,204 year to-date.

A letter is due to issue to all Tenants to remind them of their responsibilities with regard to maintenance of their homes and to provide them with a useful reference and contact detail information for the Council's maintenance service including the out of hours service which is for emergencies only.

Anti-Social Behaviour/Inspectorate Unit

The ongoing management and sustainment with 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 however when the vulnerabilities, complexities and heath related issues associated with a tenancy require tenancy sustainment and welfare 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 may be required to ensure all agencies work collaboratively with a view to achieving best outcomes for our Communities.

The Council recently worked in collaboration with An Garda Síochána to issue a letter to all residents of a specific area in Dublin 15 which is experiencing escalating incidents of anti-social behaviour by youths involved in criminal damage and intimidation.




Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall
Fingal County Council

Re: ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Dear Resident

Stock Management

Active Caseload

Breach of Ten.	35
Miscellaneous	28
Regularisation	9
Rightsizing	22

Surrenders on Estate Management Grounds 2022

– 0 (Jan)

ASB Caseload Management

Jan 2022	Active Investigation	Active Monitoring	Closed
Dublin 15	**34**	**11**	**8**
North County	**40**	**12**	**34**
Total	**74**	**23**	**42**

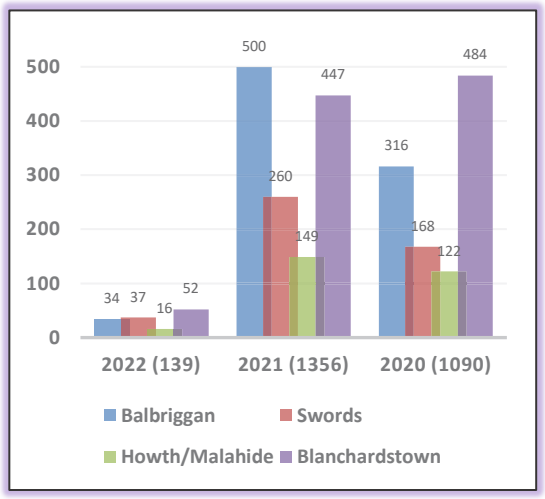
All ASB complaints received are followed up and investigated by a designated team within the ASB Unit and allegations of breaches of Tenancy are pursued accordingly. All complaints are received in confidence.

Estate Management are working with the Communications Unit to finalise an online video to induct new Tenants to their homes and provide them

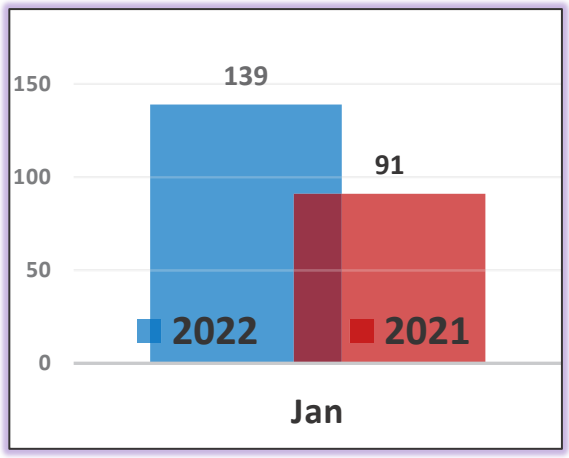
with useful and necessary information pertaining to their Tenancy.



Area Breakdown 2020-2022



Monthly Breakdown of Complaints Received 2020-21



Anti-Social Interventions

Interviews Held 2022 **Interviews Held 2021**	**5** 47
Tenancy Alerts 2022 **Tenancy Alerts 2021**	**2** 31
Tenancy Warnings 2022 **Tenancy Warnings 2021**	**0** 2

Inspectorate

Traveller Specific Inspections 2022 Traveller Specific Inspections 2021	**134** 1746
Estate Inspections 2022 Estate Inspections 2021	**112** 1202
EM/ASB Inspections 2022 EM/ASB Inspections 2021	**168** 3117



Mural created by local youths in collaboration with Foróige/Community Department/Estate Management – Racecourse Commons, Lusk

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Community Development Office
Facilities
Dublin 15 Community Office
North County Community Office

Interagency
Planet Youth Implementation group

Strategic
Fingal Public Participation Network
Fingal Comhairle na nÓg

Integration
Winter Pride

Age Friendly
Older People – Peer to Peer Teaching

Funding
Period Poverty Pilot Project
2021 Community Amenities Grant Funding Report
Sports Equipment Funding

Age Friendly
Intergenerational Activities
Age & Opportunity Active National Grant Scheme 2022
Fingal Older Person Council

Sports Office
Nutrition Webinars
KickFit Inclusion
Couch to 3k

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Facilities



Meeting Pod at Applewood Community Centre

Connected Hubs in Community Centres

Facilities across Fingal were invited to apply for funding under the Connected Hubs Fund. The fund is intended to develop and leverage the capacity and quality of **existing remote working facilities & Broadband Connection Points (BCPs)** in support of the National Hub Network initiative.

Four community facilities were successful in securing funding as part of the Connected Hubs Fund in 2021. Applewood Community Centre, Liam Rodgers Community Centre, Luttrellstown Community Centre and Tyrrellstown Community Centre were the four centres selected. They received a combined total of €40,000 from the community development office.

This project was developed to provide remote working spaces in the heart of the local community and work has commenced to install a range of digital media equipment, including large tv screens, that will

support remote working. As well as enabling facilitating online meetings the pods offer a great opportunity for people to have physical meetings and with the improved Internet access also supports a range on community training initiatives.

Workspaces are available in designated meeting rooms and pods are available for information meetings. Members of the public can book a slot at their local community centre.

The Community Office is currently exploring the installation of an enclosed meeting pod that will provide a soundproofed meeting / workspace. It is proposed to install this unit in Castlelands Community Centre to facilitate group meetings as well as remote working and smaller one to one meetings.

DUBLIN 15 COMMUNITY OFFICE

Fingal LCDC Communities Activities Funding CAF Information Evening



Over 100 groups attended the Fingal LCDC Community Activities Funding Scheme Information session organised by the Community Development Office held Wednesday 26th January. This session provided an opportunity for community and voluntary groups across Fingal to learn about the funding scheme, understand criteria and eligibility and acquire key practical skills to making an application.

Churchfield Development and East Linear Park Development Local Awareness Initiative



The Community Development Office arranged for the **Churchfield Development and East Linear Park Development plan** to be displayed the Mulhuddart Community Centre throughout Dec & Jan 2022. This initiative supplemented the existing public consultation process to inform an extended reach out into the local community.

The initiative was supported by the Housing and Architects Departments

2022 Summer Project Expressions of Interest

Fingal County Council's Summer Project funding is administered by the Community Development Office. In 2022 €70,000 funding will be made available to groups within the community and voluntary sector to provide a supervised programme of recreational and educational activities for young people. The maximum funding available to groups will be €2,000.

From the 27th January, community and voluntary groups are invited to register their interest to host a Summer Project. Closing date for this Expression of Interest is the 28th February – click here to register https://consult.fingal.ie/en/content/fingal-county-council-2022-summer-project-expression-interest-form

Groups that do not register will not be eligible for the grant

NORTH COUNTY COMMUNITY OFFICE

Sister Shed Baldoyle

Sister Shed Baldoyle is a new initiative in co-operation with Baldoyle Family Resource service and the FCC community development office. The group is supporting women of all ages and backgrounds to meet to work together on community projects in the area. The group will be based in the Baldoyle family resource centre. An initial meeting has taken place. The community development office is exploring the possibility of the group hosting a local event to celebrate international women's day on 8th March.

Meakstown

The community development office is working with several groups in Meakstown area, as the development of the new community centre continues to progress. We have met with two new groups, *Sunshiny Days Voluntary Youth Club and the Mayeston Green resident's group* and have provided them with information. The newly reformed Meakstown tidy towns group has also received support on the development of their workplan for 2022 and Meakstown Community Council is receiving support in their application for funding for a community day in Summer 2022, following on the highly successful Christmas celebration, which included the first FCC supplied Christmas tree for the area. Ongoing work with the Finglas community safety forum provides a channel for communication between local group and An Garda Síochána.

Lusk community engagement initiative

Following on from the very successful sports progamme and family day in 2021, the Community Development Office have continued to support residents of Racecourse Green & Place with the set up of their Residents Association. The initial meeting took place on 31st January. Graffiti Art mural boards that were created by the children on the family day are now pride of place in the centre of the green creating a great sense of pride in the community.



Oldtown community council Celebrates 75th Anniversary

Saturday 15th January 2022 marked the 75th anniversary of Oldtown being the 1st rural village in

Ireland to be electrified. The night of 15th January 1947 changed rural Ireland forever.

The Community Department will be supporting Oldtown Community Council in the hosting of a number of planned events during the year to mark this significant anniversary. For more information on this remarkable event, see the ESB archives on their website: https://esbarchives.ie/rural-electrification/ https://esbarchives.ie/2017/04/11/how-you-can-get-electricity-to-your-rural-home/
Check out this great video on Youtube which features a minute on Oldtown (22 minutes into the video) https://esbarchives.ie/2018/11/14/death-of-the-banshee-1996/


First pole at Kilsallaghan 5 November 1946
Photo Credit: ESB Archives


First Rural Customer White's Spirit Grocery 1947 – now Oldtown House
Photo Credit: ESB Archives

Balbriggan Baking Social Group supporting community in Reducing Isolation

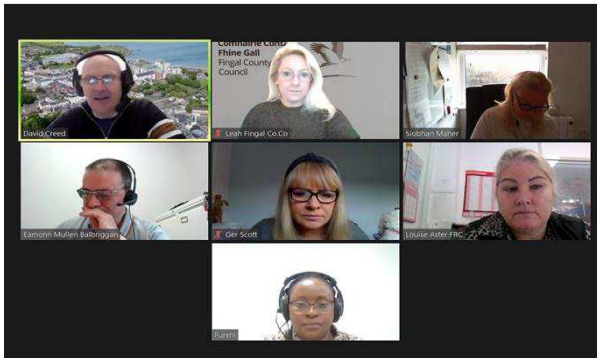
On Wednesday the 19th of January 2022 Fingal Community Office supported Balbriggan Baking Social Group to meet for the first face to face meeting in Flemington community centre. The multicultural group took a hybrid approach in order to allow for those still in isolation to participate in the group discussions. The group have been meeting online over the past year sharing their experiences through baking recipes. The group was formed with the aim of reducing isolation and safely linking with other members of the community in Balbriggan who share baking as an interest.

The Community Officer in Balbriggan met the group to welcome them to the Flemington Community Centre and to help them to develop their constitution prior to registering on the County Register as an established group. The group hope to support local charities at events in Balbriggan throughout the year by supplying baked goods and in turn supporting the development of a stronger volunteering culture built on their goodwill. The group come under the Community Office Hub approach and are a very welcome addition to the community centre.



Interagency

Planet Youth Implementation group



On the 28 of January 2022 Fingal Community Office in association with Planet Youth Balbriggan Implementation group met for the first time to discuss an interagency collaboration around the data collected from local schools across Balbriggan relating to youth ages 14-16. The implementation group consists of Fingal County Council Community Office, HSE, Foroige, Fingal Families, Aster Family Resource Centre and Crosscare.

Planet Youth is an international evidence-informed primary prevention model. It was initially developed in order to reduce substance use rates amongst young people.

The model uses a whole population approach and offers the opportunity to improve health and life outcomes for young people in Balbriggan.

Strategic

Fingal Public Participation Network

Online Training for Stakeholders of the Public Participation Networks

The Department of Rural and Community Development have commissioned Social Justice Ireland with the support of Waterford Institute of Technology to develop a comprehensive training course for PPN Stakeholders. Participants from Fingal PPN have been invited to take part in the second iteration of this training course from January to March. Six participants from Fingal PPN will join Laois, Kildare, South County Dublin, DLR and Dublin City PPNs in this training programme called 'Creating Capable Communities.' Feedback from the first round of participants has been positive. It is anticipated that there will be five rounds of this training.

PPN Linkage Group Meetings Round 1 2022



The PPN is delighted to confirm that round one of Linkage Groups will commence on 3rd February. Linkage Groups are an opportunity for community

organisations from across Fingal to meet in networks, to highlight issues or concern and organise collective advocacy campaigns. Any community organisation who is a member of the PPN can participate. For more see www.fingalppn.ie.

FINGAL COMHAIRLE NA NÓG

Fingal Comhairle na nÓg have secured a researcher to compile a piece of research examining barriers to participation and engagement with Fingal Comhairle na nÓg, and the development of a Stakeholder Engagement Plan. The research will particularly focus on reaching out to young people from seldom heard and hard to reach backgrounds, looking at ways to ensure these voices are heard. This research piece is due for completion in March 2022.

A Comhairle na nÓg survey on Mental Health during Covid 19 which was completed in 2021 is currently being compiled into report format.

Fingal Comhairle na nÓg have assigned member roles for the coming year and their upcoming first meeting of 2022 will see them make their final decision on the topics for 2022.

INTEGRATION

Winter Pride



Following the success of its inaugural Pride Festival earlier this year, the Community Office are now planning to host a series of events over the winter months with the launch of Fingal Winter Pride.

The events have been organised to support LGBTQ+ community, friends and allies across Fingal. It will showcase the journey of pride and provide support through the provision of information at what is recognised as a particularly isolating time of year.

A highlight of Winter Pride will be the unveiling of the National Library's photographic exhibition Living with Pride.

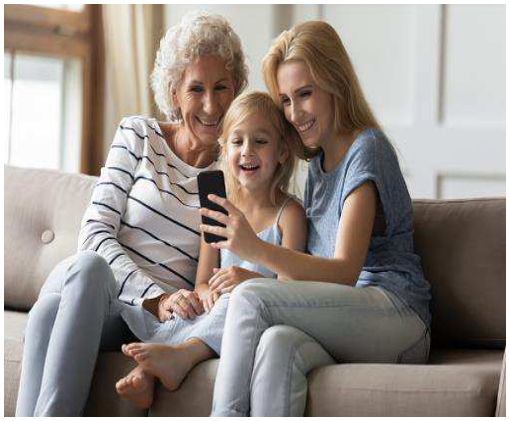
The exhibition will be on display in County Hall Swords followed by Blanchardstown Library and Balbriggan Library on the first leg of a national tour.

A series of awareness raising LGBTeas will also take place in the Cottage Community Centre, Lusk on the 8th February, Swords Library on 15th February and Blanchardstown Library on 22nd February.



AGE FRIENDLY

Intergenerational Initiatives



Intergenerational practice ***"aims to bring people together in purposeful, mutually beneficial activities which promote greater understanding and respect between generations and contributes to building more cohesive communities"*** (Beth Johnson Foundation, 2011). However, it is more than just bringing younger and older people together, it is a systemic approach to community development and wellbeing that recognises and values the contribution of all generations who live in the community. A programme of Fingal intergenerational initiatives for 2022 in being development.

Intergenerational Environmental Project, Baldoyle. Progress has been made on developing an Intergenerational environmental project with St. Laurence National School, Baldoyle and older users of Baldoyle Community Centre. The project is in development stage but is expected to commence in the first quarter of 2022.

Cricket4All: Intergenerational Multi-ability Cricket Initiative. Funding from Disability Participation and Awareness Fund 2021 was awarded in December 2021 for this collaboration between the Community Department and Cricket Leinster. Cricket Leinster have advertised for a Project Co-Ordinator and progress has been made on identifying suitable venues in Balbriggan and Skerries. The recruitment of participants is ongoing.

Physical Activities for Older People

Physical Activity Leaders (PALs) Training: Age & Opportunity have, in partnership with the Sports Department, agreed to run PALs training in Dublin 15 in March/April 2022. PALs (Physical Activity Leaders) is an initiative which trains older people in leading sport and activity sessions such as short exercise routines, fun games and simple dances and sports, like pitch and toss and bowling. It is aimed at Active Retirement and community groups, as well as local sports clubs or community centres. Recruitment for participants will focus initially on Fingal Community Facilities in Dublin 15.

AGE & OPPORTUNITY ACTIVE NATIONAL GRANT SCHEME 2022

This grant is aimed at encouraging older people back to participating in physical activities in their clubs. Groups and community centres are being encouraged/supported by the community office in completing applications. The closing date for applications is Friday 25th February 2022.

FINGAL OLDER PERSONS COUNCIL



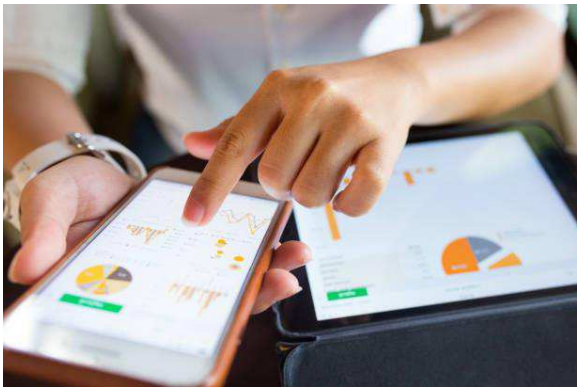
The Fingal Older Persons Council held their first in-person meeting since the pandemic began in January. The group, who have been meeting on zoom throughout the pandemic were delighted to meet face to face again and the meeting was a great success.

Fingal's OPC is the voice of the Older Age citizens living in Fingal. It is made up of representatives of community groups from across the county and the work they do form an integral part of the decision and policy making for council activities, initiatives and service improvements for Fingal's older citizens.

The group meet on the 1st Tuesday of every month to discuss issues and seek resolutions through engagement with the Council to challenges facing the older aged living in Fingal.

Fingal's OPC is currently seeking new members who would like to make a positive difference to aging well in Fingal. For more information email the Fingal Age Friendly Programme manager tricia.matthews@fingal.ie

FUNDING



Period Poverty Pilot Project Funding

The Community Department has been successful in its funding application for participation in the Government's Period Poverty Pilot Project. The funding received will be available to provide free period products in the bathrooms of several Fingal Community Facilities. The funding application also included the potential to collaborate on the pilot with an organisation in Fingal working with vulnerable groups.

2021 Community Amenities Grant Funding Report

In 2021, the Community Development Office received a total of 90 funding applications under the Community Activities Funding Scheme. 75 applications were processed and successfully received funding to the value of €95,511. Of the remaining 15 applications, 9 were withdrawn by the group and 6 are currently being processed. Approximal 40% of groups that received funding were from the Swords/Howth/ Malahide, 35% of groups were from the Castleknock/Mulhuddart and 25% of group were from the Balbriggan area.

Sports Equipment Funding

In 2021, the Sport Office received a total of 70 funding applications under the Community Activities Funding Scheme. 59 applications were processed and successfully received funding to the value of €106,959.97. Of the remaining 11 applications, 9 were withdrawn by the group and 2 are currently being processed. Approximal 29% of groups that received funding were from the Swords/Howth/ Malahide, 26% of groups were from the Castleknock/Mulhuddart and 55% of group were from the Balbriggan area.

Summer Project Funding

In 2021, the Community Development Office received a total of 6 funding applications under the Summer Project Funding Scheme. 34 applications were processed and successfully received funding to the value of €34,120.67. Of the remaining 2 applications, 1 was withdrawn by the group and 1 was not processed due to eligibility. Approximal 8% of groups that received funding were from the Swords/Howth/ Malahide, 73% of groups were from the Castleknock/Mulhuddart and 9% of group were from the Balbriggan area.

Youth Sports

In 2021, the Sport Office received a total of 50 funding applications under the Youth Sport Funding Scheme. 45 applications were processed and successfully received funding to the value of €19,125. Of the remaining 5 applications, 2 were withdrawn by the group and 3 were not processed due to eligibility. Approximal 46% of groups that received funding were from the Swords/Howth/ Malahide, 25% of groups were from the Castleknock/Mulhuddart and 29% of group were from the Balbriggan area.

SPORTS OFFICE

Nutrition Webinars

During the month of January the Sports Office held online Nutrition Webinars with Bridge Nutrition which focused on Eating Well in the Winter months, Nutrition as we Age, Eating for Mental Health and The importance of Nutrition in maintaining Gut Health. The Sessions went out live on Mondays at 8pm with the recordings released the following Wednesday, over 200 people signed up for the Webinars.



KickFit Inclusion

The Kickfit Inclusion Programme in partnership with the FAI has just started in Liam Rogers Community Centre, Swords with Prosper Fingal. The programme encourages people with additional needs to keep fit through exercise and football and will also be delivered in Skerries and Balbriggan during February.

Older Adult Programmes

The Sports Office is collaborating with DDLETB and FCC Community Centres to deliver exercise programmes for Older Adults in St. Maccullin's Church in Lusk and Balbriggan Sports Centre. The classes are led by a qualified instructor sourced from the Sports Office's coaching panel and are being run on a pilot basis to promote the facilities and to encourage older adults to engage with in-person activity.

Couch to 3k

The Couch to 3K programme is a 6-week online training programme that will help participants steadily progress to 3K through a walking and jogging interval style training plan and is open to all.



ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE ACTION & ACTIVE TRAVEL

Contents

Active Travel
Climate Action
Circular Economy
Bring Centres
Litter Management
Water Quality Protection
Waste Enforcement

Active Travel

On the 24th January, 2022, the Minister for Transport Eamon Ryan confirmed that the National Transport Authority (NTA) has allocated funds to Ireland's local authorities with a view to spending €289 million on walking and cycling infrastructure in 2022.

The Allocation to FCC's Active Travel Projects is listed in the table which is Appendix 1 of this report. This includes projects being managed by two departments – Planning & Strategic Infrastructure Dept and by the Environment, Climate Action & Active Travel Dept.

Secure bicycle stand Infrastructure



Howth Summit Carpark & Howth Summit Inn



Burrow Beach

Strategic Planning:

The Active Travel team has engaged consultants to prepare an Active Travel Strategy. We are currently engaging with the Strategic Planning unit in this regard and are providing input to the draft County Development Plan 2023-2029 in the context of the strong promotion of Active Travel.

The Active Travel unit is engaged with our colleagues in other departments on other important strategic projects such as Our Balbriggan and Sustainable Swords projects.

Cycle Protected Lanes:

Baldoyle-Howth Protected Cycle Lane Scheme:

Works are progressing on Howth Road regarding bollard installation. Minor line marking works remain to be completed on Howth Road. Line marking and bollard installation to move to Dublin Road next and is projected to start in February. Epoxy resin works are projected to start in March for all roads – weather permitting.



Baldoyle –Howth Protected Cycle Lane: Bollard install works on Howth Road

Towns & Villages

Works are ongoing in the development of a brief for some of our Towns & Villages. A brief is being developed by our Active Travel Team for Balrothery Village to look at the scope of works required to be delivered under our Active Travel pillars. This scope will form the basis of a similar study to be conducted for Skerries. Once these briefs are fully developed we will procure and engage with a consultant to carry out the required overall studies of these areas.

Connectivity/Permeability

We are continuing to receive various requests for Permeability and Connectivity improvements from various stakeholders across the county. These requests are being recorded in detail for evaluation and if appropriate identification of a means of delivery on the ground.

Where there are other projects being progressed in the area at either design or construction stage we endeavour to include these Connectivity and Permeability improvements within those projects.

A number of the requests that have been received, evaluated are being developed within a brief to go out to consultants in the first quarter of 2022. This will allow the projects to be developed to detailed design for implementation. Once these are further developed, we will make available to the members.

Greenway connectivity support teams have been convened to review, design, and deliver active travel infrastructure that will enhance accessibility between the proposed strategic greenways and residential, educational, amenity and commercial zones. These support projects have been set up for Fingal Coastal Way, Broadmeadow Way/Sutton to Malahide Greenway and Royal Canal Greenway. This will help to optimise the use of the proposed greenway by both leisure and commuter users.

Road Safety

The RSA (Road Safety Authority) recently published some interesting statistics for 2021:

* A total of 134 people lost their lives on our roads in 2021 – down by 12 compared to 2020
* In 2021, there were 99 males and 35 females who lost their lives on our roads
* 49% of fatalities occurred between 2pm and 10pm
* Tuesday was the most dangerous day of the week with 24 fatalities

* 28% of all drivers and passengers killed were NOT wearing a seatbelt
* There was a decrease in pedestrian and cyclist fatalities and an increase in motorcyclists' fatalities
* 21% of fatalities were aged between 16-25 years compared to 13% in 2020
* 37% of fatalities occurred on 80 km/h roads

In Fingal, the Road Safety Section will continue to promote Road Safety throughout 2022 through various online awareness campaigns and school engagement through the Axa Road Safe Roadshow and the 'Your Life, Your Choice' VR Headset campaign. We remain focused on achieving 'Vision Zero' which means no road deaths or serious fatalities by 2050.

The provision of the School Warden service to keep some of our most vulnerable road -users safe, remains a priority.

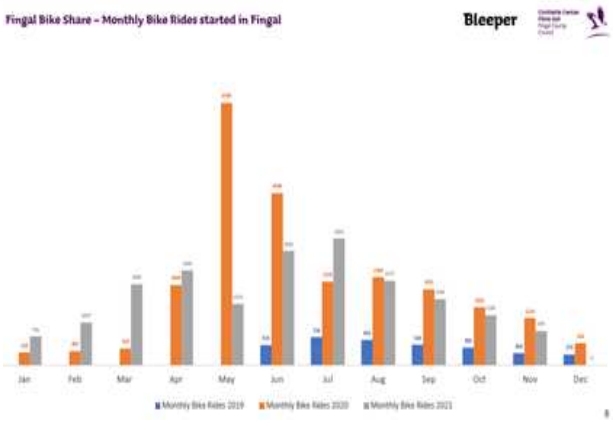


Mobility

Bleeper Bikes

December Stats – Bike Share Countywide:

662 bike journeys started within Fingal operating zone in December, down from 879 in November.
685 bike journeys ended within existing Fingal operating zone in December (excess bikes are collected by Bleeper and returned to city centre).
Highest usage recorded on Fridays with 19.78% followed by Sundays with 15.86%.
Blanchardstown shopping centre was the most popular location in December
Average number of 136 bikes in Fingal (SLA = 120) available for hire each day of the month.



We will continue to promote usage of Bleeper through our social media platforms.
All Fingal staff and Elected Members can avail of free bleeper bike hire. Contact active.travel@fingal.ie for more information

Bike Week 2022

The Active Travel Team have commenced preparations for Bike Week 2022 which will be held from Saturday 14th to Sunday 22nd May 2022. An application for funding has been submitted to the NTA to support our events and activities throughout the week.

A total of 108 people replied to a recent public survey where we sought feedback on the 2021 Bike Week events and welcomed new suggestions for 2022. We received some good suggestions to include desired locations and timing of events being held. We have taken this feedback on board and are currently preparing a draft schedule for Bike Week which will include a wide range of events and activities across the county for people of all ages and abilities to participate and enjoy such as Community Cycles, Adult Cycle Training, Cycle Treasure Hunt, 'Cycle to' Movie day and much more. We will share the Bike Week Schedule once it is finalised.

Climate Action

Weather Station for Schools Project

42 applications to the Chief Executive's Innovation Fund were received from which 16 Champion primary schools were selected across Fingal County Council's seven Local Electoral Areas to receive automatic weather stations. These stations produce real time information about rainfall, temperature, wind speed, wind direction, humidity, pressure and dew point temperature.

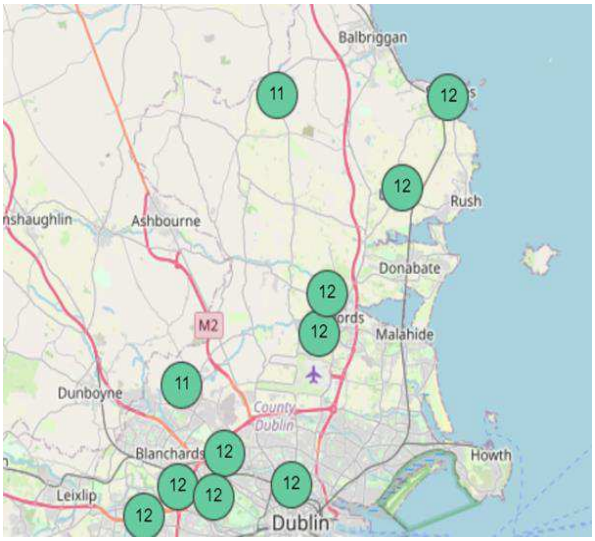
The 16 Champion primary schools have now received the automatic weather stations. 7 schools are currently live on Met Eireann at https://wow.met.ie they are Rush and Lusk ETNS, Naul National School, St Patricks SNS Skerries, Holy Family Swords, Thornleigh ETNS Swords, St Luke's Tyrrelstown and St Patricks Diswellstown, Castleknock. The remaining schools are due to go live before Easter on the Met Eireann website.

The next phase is the outdoor air quality monitors this will record particulate matter (PM). Lusk and Rush ETNS is the first school in Fingal to record real time data on PM 1, PM 2.5 and PM 10. Dust, smoke and soot are examples of particulate matter. 16 air quality monitors have recently been procured for the Champion schools. This real time information is available on https://www.weatherlink.com/map

The Weather Station for Schools project has been nominated for two LAMA Community and Council awards.

Background Information

Weather Station For Schools



https://wow.met.ie

St Luke's National School, Tyrrelstown. Fingal County Council.

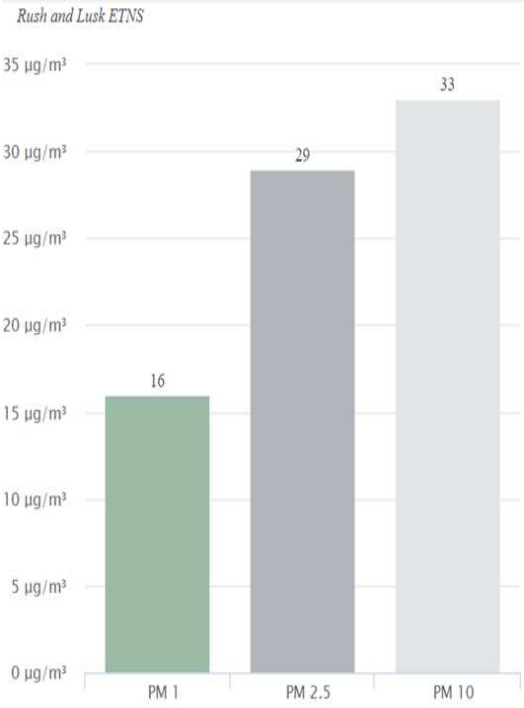
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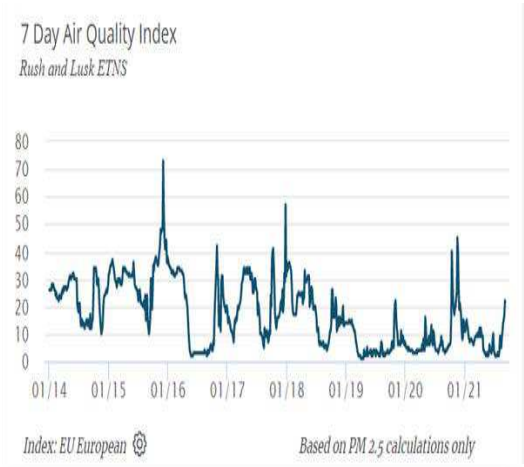
Summary	Forecast

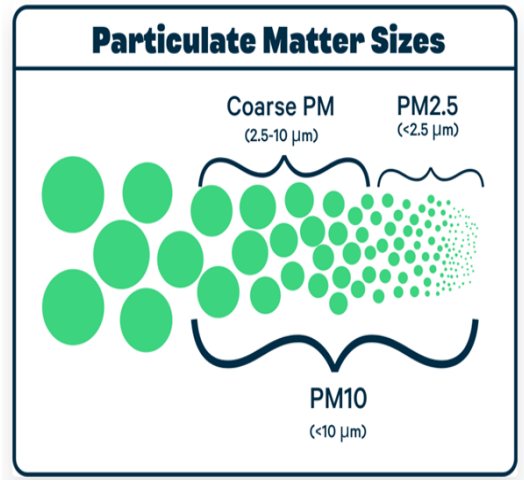
Temperature	**6.2**	°C
Humidity	**76**	%
Rainfall Accumulation	**-**	mm
Pressure (MSLP)	**1038.6**	hPa
Wind Speed	**1.7**	knots
Wind Speed	**3**	km/h
Wind Direction	**310**	deg
Wind Direction	**NW**	compass
Dew-Point Temperature	**2.2**	°C

VIEW FULL OBSERVATION

Air Quality







The 16 Champion Schools are:

Balbriggan Local Electoral Area
St Patrick's SNS, Skerries
St Oliver Plunkett's, Balrothery

Rush and Lusk Electoral Area
Rush and Lusk Educate Together National School
Naul National School

Howth-Malahide Local Electoral Area
St Marnocks, Portmarnock
Howth Primary School
Oliver Plunkett's Primary School, Malahide

Swords Local Electoral Area
St Colmcille's BNS, Swords
Holy Family SNS, River Valley
Thornleigh Educate Together National School, Applewood

Blanchardstown-Mulhuddart Local Electoral Area
St Luke's National School, Tyrrelstown

Castleknock Local Electoral Area
Scoil Bhride Cailini/St Brigid's Boy
St Patricks Diswellstown, Carpenterstown, Castleknock
Scoil Oilibheir, Coolmine

Ongar Local Electoral Area
Castaheany Educate Together National School
Hansfield Educate Together National School

Circular Economy

Government launched Ireland's first Whole of Government Circular Economy Strategy

The Minister of State with responsibility for the Circular Economy at the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications, Ossian Smyth TD, launched Ireland's first Whole of Government Circular Economy Strategy in mid-December 2021.

In a circular economy, waste is minimised. Products are kept in use for as long as possible, through design, repair and reuse. When a product has reached the end of its life, its parts are used again and again – to create further useful products.

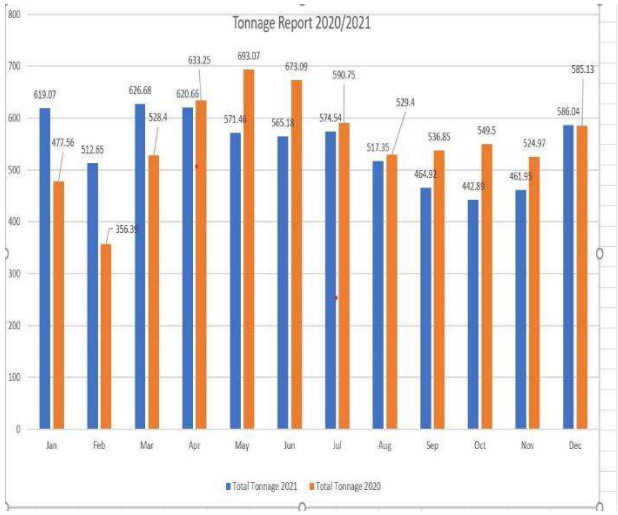
"The days of extracting virgin natural resources, making things with them and then throwing them away must come to an end. The transition to a circular economy has a key role to play in climate action. 45% of our emissions are directly related to producing goods.
"We all understand how saving energy and being energy efficient are critical for the climate. Now, we need to think this way about our material resources, like food, metals, plastic, concrete. A circular economy shows us how we can do this. This new strategy provides a really important policy.
Minister of State, Ossian Smyth, TD

The strategy was the subject of a public consultation early in 2021 – one of a series of consultations undertaken since early 2020 in this area and public feedback was strongly supportive of moving towards a circular economy.

Additionally, the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Environment and Climate Action began its pre-legislative scrutiny of a Circular Economy Bill in October 2021 and a report was published in December. Following consideration of the recommendations of the Committee, the Minister intends to proceed with publication of the Bill early in 2022.

Links to the strategy and to the newly launched EPA Circular Economy Programme 2021-2027 are below:
https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/16a69-government-launches-irelands-first-whole-of-government-circular-economy-strategy/
https://www.epa.ie/publications/circular-economy/resources/the-circular-economy-programme-2021-2027.php

Bring Centres

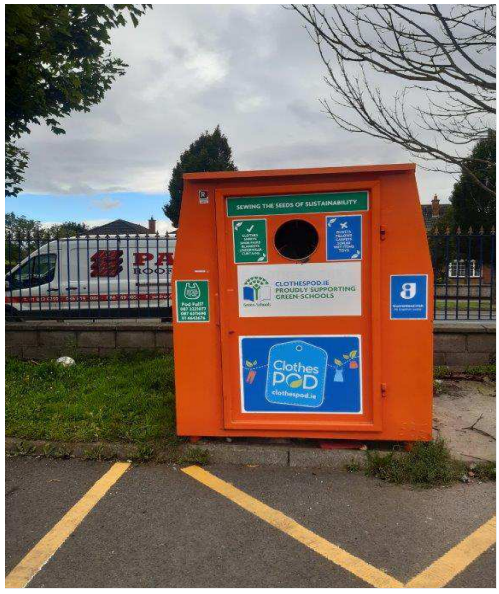


The above chart shows the monthly tonnage figures for glass collected for recycling in 2020 and 2021. The yearly figures for 2021 and 2020 were 6563.69 and 6678.36 tons respectively.

In January 2022, up to 26 of January, 490.69 tons of glass was collected.

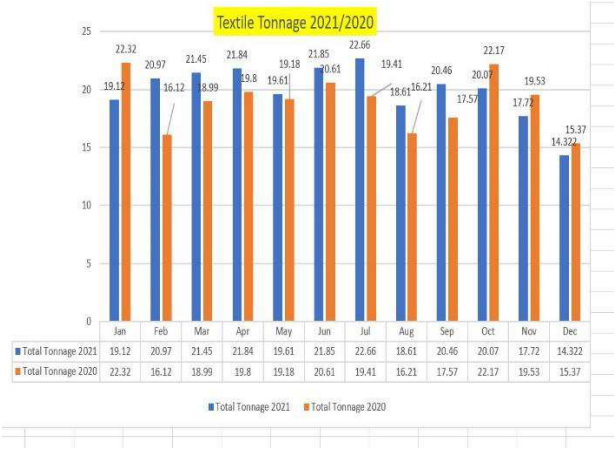
The Environment Department continues to look for new opportunities to expand our network,
Painting of botte banks will recommence in February 2022.

Textile Banks



The above image shows our textile banks. All banks will have Fingal logo and details of our charity partner. The monthly tonnages for textiles collected for 2020 and 2021 is shown below.

The yearly figures for 2021 and 2020 were 238.68 and 227.28 tons respectively.



Litter Management

A total of 300 planned route inspections were carried out by the Litter Wardens in January 2022.

Details of fines and warning notices for January 2022 are shown in the table below.

Month	Fines issued 2021	Warnings Issued 2021	Fines Issued 2022	Warnings Issued 2022
January	3	16	27	85

There were no fines in January relating to dog fouling. In the District Court there were 2 fines successfully prosecuted cases in January.

Dog Warden & Dog Shelter Service

In January a total of nine dogs entered the dog shelter. Two dogs were surrendered, and 7 dogs were strays. No dogs were seized. Of the nine dogs that entered the shelter one dog was reclaimed and four were rehomed to members of the public. Four dogs currently remain at the shelter. A video on the dog shelter has been circulated to the Members and can be viewed on our social media sites and website.



The dog wardens undertake regular patrols throughout Fingal, including Parks and Beaches. New signs have been erected in Fingal Parks giving notice of the park byelaws and also to the Regulations under the Control of Dogs Act 1998.



Fines issued under the Control of Dogs Act

Month	Fines	10 Day Notices Issues
January	0	5

Water Quality Protection

Good Agricultural Practices - Use Low Emission Slurry Spreaders (LESS) in 2022



From 13th January the prohibition period for the application of fertiliser (chemical/organic) ends for Fingal area (Zone A). Check out www.met.ie/forecasts/farming to see weather analysis for the week ahead when planning such applications to land.

There are two out of the five National Enforcement Priorities relating to Water Protection for the period 2022-2024 which have been determined to tackle the pressures of agricultural activity on water quality in the environment. The following identified pressures will be the focus of our enforcement in the coming year.

- Pressures from Agriculture (slurry/soiled water collection and storage)
- Pressures from Agriculture (slurry and fertiliser spreading)

The traditional method of spreading slurry for the last 30 to 40 years was by means of slurry tankers with splash plates. However, things are changing at a very fast rate which is part due to knowledge built up through some excellent research and the use of low emission slurry spreaders (LESS) techniques by innovative farmers. Read more about this technique and make better use of slurry while improving the environment see link here - https://www.teagasc.ie/news--events/daily/environment/why-less-is-more.php

Draft River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2022-2027



Public participation is key to giving a voice to communities and water users in the production of this Plan which is hoped to be finalised in 2022. Our first public consultation meeting in Fingal took place online on 24th November, 2021 and a second date on **22nd February, 2022 @7pm** via Zoom is now available for registration.

REGISTER FOR MEETING USING LINK BELOW:
https://lawaters-ie.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcsceiqrTksGdE8y4-Y65UpQbdsCmrrGJL8

To make a submission visit https://www.gov.ie/en/consultation/2bda0-public-consultation-on-the-draft-river-basin-management-plan-for-ireland-2022-2027/

To find Fingal rivers visit; https://www.fingal.ie/council/service/river-and-lake-water-quality-monitoring

Public consultation closes on Thursday 31st March, 2022. A visit to the Virtual Consultation Room at www.lawaters.ie is recommended – use easy online submission form to put your views forward and read a summary of the plan.

NATIONAL Environmental Complaints Line – phone number has changed
Reporting pollution is key to improving your local environment – the choice is yours.

You can also use the App below to make a phone call to the National Environmental Complaints Line 1800 365 123. The phone line is open 24hrs a day, 7 days a week and all calls will be answered by dedicated staff. The details of the complaint, such as location, nature of the complaint, will be recorded and passed to the relevant local authority, and followed up by them, the Gardaí or the EPA as appropriate.

Or
Email Fingal's Environment Section on environment@fingal.ie with your water pollution report.

Environmental Inspection Plan (RMCEI) 2022

Work has started for the preparation of the Environmental Inspection Plan 2022 (Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections), with input from the teams responsible for inspections in the litter, air and noise, water pollution and waste enforcement sections. The plan sets out what inspections are planned for the year ahead, taking into account the various National Enforcement Priorities in Water, Air and Noise and Waste areas for the period 2022-2024.

National Water Priorities

The Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) have set out the following high-level priorities for 2022 to 2024:

- ✓ Pressures from agriculture (slurry soiled water collection and storage)
- ✓ Pressures from agriculture (slurry and fertiliser spreading)
- ✓ Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems (DWWTS) and Septic Tanks
- ✓ Discharge licences and Misconnections
- ✓ Local priorities and water quality monitoring

National Waste Priorities 2022

The Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) have set out the following high-level priorities for 2022 to 2024:

- ✓ Tackling Significant Illegal Waste Activity
- ✓ Construction and Demolition Activity
- ✓ End-of-Life (ELV) Directive & the Waste Metal Industry
- ✓ Waste Collection- Household & Commercial
- ✓ Producer Responsibility Initiatives and Additional Local Priorities

National Air and Noise priorities

- ✓ Solid Fuel
- ✓ Air Quality Monitoring and Data Use
- ✓ Environmental Noise Directive
- ✓ Air and Noise Control (including Planning)
- ✓ Ongoing Air and Noise Enforcement Work

Waste Enforcement

End of Life Vehicle Project

Tackling unauthorised End of Life Vehicle (ELV) sites continues to be a National Waste Enforcement Priority for 2022. Follow-up inspections were carried out in January at suspected illegal car breaking yards. When the ELV project started a total of 63 potential illegal ELV sites were identified which increased to 82 potential sites during 2021. Significant progress has been made to date with over 66 illegal sites cleared of ELVs and closed down and hundreds of ELV's brought to authorised treatment facilities for recovery and disposal. A total of 24 high risk ELV sites were identified in the Fingal area. 10 of these sites have been cleared of ELVs and closed. Additionally, a total of 58 low risk ELV sites were identified in the Fingal area. 56 of these sites have been cleared of ELVs and closed. Higher risk ELV sites require a multi-agency approach with assistance from An Garda Síochána as the individuals operating these illegal car breaking yards can be violent or threatening. A number of legal files have been prepared to tackle the more difficult high risk ELV sites where the operator/landowner is refusing to remove the ELV's.

Complaints
Responding to waste related complaints continues to be a major priority for enforcement officers in 2022. A total of 16 complaints were recorded for the month of January 2022. 63% of complaints recorded in

January relate to household waste/waste presentation complaints including backyard burning. A further 30% of complaints relate to fly tipping or illegal dumping (not including at bottle banks). Awareness and education around the management of domestic waste in a sustainable and environmentally safe manner is crucial to ensure all households participate in waste collection service as per the waste presentation bye-laws and use all three bins (black, green and brown) to manage their waste. A bin service project to identify households who don't currently have a bin collection service in place is proposed for 2022 once GDPR issues have been resolved with the Data Commissioner.

Packaging Regulations

16 companies registered in 2021 with Fingal County Council as self-compliers under the European Union (Packaging) Regulations 2014 have been contacted to remind them that their applications for registration for the year 2022 have to be submitted by 31st January 2022.

FINANCE

Contents
Rates **Financial Report**

Rates

Making of the Rate

Following determination of the Annual Rate on Valuation by the Members at the Annual Budget Meeting, the rate was made by the Chief Executive on the 24th January 2022. The total amount of current rates assessed for 2022 is €154,432,400. Rates Bills were issued to customers by post in the last week of January 2022.

Financial Reports

Monthly financial reporting of the Revenue/Capital accounts and on Debtors will commence, as normal, from the period ending February 28, 2022 for the March Council meeting.

Appendix 1

Sustainable Transport Measures Grants: 2022 Allocations		
Project Code:	**Project Name**	**2022 Allocation**
FCC/19/005	Schools Streets non SRTS	€100,000
FCC/20/000	Bicycle Parking (Covid)	€150,000
FCC/20/0006	Safe Routes to Schools Programme – Infrastructure (with NTA)	€1,500,000
FCC/21/0001	Snugborough Road – NAC to Ongar	€400,000
FCC/21/0002	Baldoyle to Howth	€1,700,000
FCC/21/0002	Baldoyle to Howth Phase 2 (Dublin Road to Dublin Street)	€1,250,000
FCC/21/0006	Clonee to Blanchardstown Shopping Centre	€250,000
FCC/21/0000	FCC Castleknock to Blanchardstown via Farmleigh	€50,000
FCC/22/XXX	St. Cronins Road	€1,750,000
FCC/22/XXX	Hartstown/Huntstown/Mountview Rd D1	€1,100,000
FCC/22/XXX	Rathingle/Rivervalley Rd. Swords	€1,200,000
FCC/22/XXX	R132 Ministers Rd to Blakes Cross + Kilhedge Lane	€550,000

FCC/22/XXX	Seatown Roundabout to Estuary Rd (Swords to Malahide)	€1,225,000
FCC/22/XXX	Donabate to Portrane (R126) - Distributor Road to Portrane Avenue	€1,225,000
FCC/22/XXX	Balbriggan – Coney Hill from Devlin Bridge to Bremore Cottages	€925,000
FCC/22/XXX	Skerries – Harbour Road (footpath build outs)	€925,000
FCC/22/XXX	Rush South Beach (Bawn Rd across carpark and out to South Shore.	€500,000
FCC/22/XXX	New Street Permanent Scheme	€500,000
FCC/22/XXX	Local connections to S2M and Broadmeadow	€200,000
FCC/22/XXX	Data collections traffic air, noise.	€500,000
FCC/22/XXX	Permeability Links North County	€500,000
FCC/22/XXX	Skerries Active Travel Plan	€100,000
FCC/22/XXX	Balbriggan Road Mill Street and Drogheda Street	€100,000
FCC/22/XXX	Castleknock to Dunsink Lane	€150,000
FCC/22/XXX	Strawberry Beds Active Travel Study	€150,000
FCC/22/XXX	Fingal Active Travel Strategy	€40,000

FCC/22/XXX	Balrothery Active Travel Review	€185,000
FCC/22/XXX	Seamount Heights to Old Golf Links Park	€300,000
FCC/22/XXX	Broomfield to Paddy's Hill via Naomh Marnog GAA	€20,000
FCC/22/XXX	Chapel Road to An Teagasc Building	€20,000
FCC/22/XXX	Scoil an Duinninigh to Waterside footpath and cycleway	€20,000
FCC/22/XXX	Royal Canal Greenway Connectivity	€50,000
FCC/22/XXX	Fingal County Council Active Travel Office – Staff Costs	€1,100,000

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2022

ITEM NO. 27

STUDY OF WOMEN AND CHIDREN'S SAFETY IN THE PUBLIC REALM

Motion: Councillor S. Ó Rodaigh

"That the Council will complete a study of Women and Children's Safety in the public realm in order to identify the factors that make women and children feel safe and unsafe in public spaces to guide future public realm changes and developments."

Report:

The Council, in terms of the provision of public realm infrastructure has a responsibility for the safety of all citizens, most especially women and children. It is An Garda Síochána that has overall responsibility for public safety. The completion of a study, as set out in the motion, is highly desirable but would require a detailed scoping exercise and strong interagency collaboration.

The Joint Policing Committee (JPC) is considered to be the best forum to progress any such study given the shared responsibility of An Garda Síochána and the Council for public safety. It is therefore proposed to bring this matter to the next meeting of the JPC for consideration.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2022

ITEM NO. 28

CONFERENCE REPORT

No business under this heading.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2022

ITEM NO. 29

DEPARTMENTAL/MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE

No business under this heading.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2022

ITEM NO. 30

CORRESPONDENCE

Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Phort Láirge
Waterford City & County Council

Our Ref: HD/AOS/R117

17th January, 2022

To: **Each Local Authority**

The following was resolved and agreed by the members at a meeting of Waterford City and County Council held on 13th January, 2022

"That the members of Waterford City and County Council:

- *unequivocally supports the retention of a full-time air sea rescue service at Waterford Airport as currently provided by the crew of Rescue 117*
- *rejects any moves to end, restrict or reduce the service in the new 10 year air sea rescue contract*
- *believes that ending, restricting or reducing the service would negatively affect safety at sea, in the mountains and the overall safety of coastal communities on the South Coast coast.*
- *calls on the Minister for Transport Eamon Ryan to ensure the current service is retained in Waterford in the new 10 year contract"*

Yours sincerely,

Honor Dunphy
Meetings Administrator

Comhairle Contae Liatroma
Leitrim County Council

Áras an Chontae
Cora Droma Rúisc
Contae Liatroma
N41 PF67

Áras an Chontae
Carrick on Shannon
Co. Leitrim
N41 PF67

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14th January 2022

Minister Stephen Donnelly
Minister for Health,
Department of Health,
Hawkins House,
Dublin 2
D02 VW90

Re: Spina Bifida and/or Hydracephalus

Dear Minister Donnelly,

I wish to inform you at the January meeting of Leitrim County Council the members passed the following resolution:

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Health, Mr. Stephen Donnelly TD, as a matter of urgency, to put measures in place to deal with children who are on long waiting lists and are suffering from Spina Bifida and/or Hydracephalus. These children are in urgent need of Orthopaedic intervention".

I look forward to hearing from you in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

Kieran Brett

Kieran Brett
Meetings Administrator
Email: kbrett@leitrimcoco.ie

CC: All Local Authorities

Comhairle Contae Liatroma
Leitrim County Council

Áras an Chontae
Cora Droma Rúisc
Contae Liatroma
N41 PF67

Áras an Chontae
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14th January 2022

Mr. Darragh O'Brien T.D.
Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government
Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government
Custom House,
Custom Quay,
Dublin 1
DO1 W6XO

Re: Increase grant limits for Community Wastewater Connection Networks

Dear Minister O'Brien

I wish to inform you at the January meeting of Leitrim County Council the Members passed the following resolution:

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage to significantly increase the grant limits for Community Wastewater Connection Networks in the new Multi Annual Rural Water Programme 2022 – 2024, to allow some of these schemes to go ahead in County Leitrim. The current level of maximum available grants in the Programme 2019 – 2021 for Group Sewerage Schemes is fixed at €6,250 per house is insufficient and makes it impossible for such schemes to progress in County Leitrim and that a meeting be requested with Minister O'Brien in this regard"

I look forward to hearing from you in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

Kieran Brett

_____

Kieran Brett
Meetings Administrator
Email: kbrett@leitrimcoco.ie

CC: All adjoining local authorities

COMHAIRLE CONTAE SHLIGIGH
ÁRAS AN CONTAE COIS ABHAINN SLIGEACH

SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY HALL RIVERSIDE SLIGO

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25th January 2022

To/ **Each Local Authority**

At the Ordinary meeting Sligo County Council held on 17th January 2022, the Members agreed the following resolution:

"To call on the HSE and the Department of Health to end the practice of pursuing patients, including cancer patients with private commercial debt collection agencies and to review exemptions to the inpatient charge by the Department of Health, and for this be shared with all other local authorities around the country."

The Meeting also asked that the Department of Health review the practice of withdrawing medical cards from terminally ill patients.

It was agreed to circulate this motion to all other local authorities for their support.

Yours sincerely,

Kevin Colreavy
Meetings Administrator

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CC1-1a-0025 – Nov. 2021

Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

JB/cw

To all Local Authorities

25th January 2022

RE: Resolution of Galway County Council – Epilepsy Ireland

A chara,

At a recent meeting of Galway County Council, the following resolution was passed:

"That Galway County Council supports the campaign of Epilepsy Ireland to address long-standing issues that continue to impact on people with epilepsy and their families in Ireland today, namely:

1. Access to Free Travel.

2.Provision of Reasonable Accommodations for State Examinations for students with epilepsy." The Motion, if agreed, to be then sent to the Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly TD, Minister for State for Disabilities, Anne Rabbitte, T.D. Minister for Social Protection, Heather Humphreys TD, Minister for Education, Norma Foley TD, Michael Moynihan TD (Chair, Oireachtas Committee on Disability Matters) and to other local authorities for correspondence purposes."

I would be obliged if you could consider and revert to me with your views on the above Motion so that I can advise the Elected Members. Please arrange to reply directly to Ms. Jean Brann, County Secretary at secretar@GalwayCoCo.ie

Mise, le meas,

Jean Brann

Ms. J. Brann
County Secretary

Tá mile fáilte roimh chomhfhreagras agus ghnó i nGaeilge.
gaeilge@cocogaillimh.ie www.gaillimh.ie

Comhairle Contae Chorcaí
Cork County Council

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Dear Members,

I wish to inform you at Full Council on 24/01/22 the Members discussed and approved the following Notice of Motion:

"Can I request Cork County Council to provide special parking spaces at schools in the county for persons with hidden disabilities, similar to existing disability parking spaces. These spaces would be clearly marked with a sunflower and lining. These would be courtesy spaces*, at the discretion of the public to leave them for use by those with a sensory disability".*

The Members agreed it would be circulated to all Local Authorities.

Yours sincerely,

Mairead Lucey

MAIREAD LUCEY
SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 14th FEBUARY 2022

ITEM NO. 32

DETAILED INDEPENDENT REPORT PRIOR TO THE APPLICATIONS OF ANY PLANNING PERMISSIONS SOUGHT FOR COASTAL PROTECTION MEASURES

Motion: Councillor B. Dennehy

"That the Chief Executive provide a detailed independent report prior to the application or applications of any planning permissions sought for coastal protection measures so as to evaluate and examine the scientific advice as well as carrying out a risk assessment on advice received to date from consultants advising on coastal erosion measures of which implementation of same is not recommended along the coastal areas of Fingal."

Report:

The consultants engaged by Fingal County Council to prepare plans for coastal protection measures have been engaged through a public procurement process. This procurement process took account of the relevant specialist expertise demonstrated by the successful consultancy firm and the extent and nature of their experience in addressing similar requirements for coastal protection in other locations.

The planning process for coastal erosion measures is at an advanced stage and has involved engagement by the Council and its consultants with a large number of stakeholders at local and national level. A requirement to procure and engage additional consultants to assess the work undertaken to date would lead to delays

and additional expense in an already onerous and complex process. Given that the plans in preparation will be the subject of detailed assessment through an independent statutory planning process, the addition of a further assessment process with the previously mentioned negative implications is not considered necessary or advisable.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2022

ITEM NO. 35

NEED FOR WATER SERVICES TO STAY IN PUBLIC OWNERSHIP

Motion: Councillor P. Mulville

"That this Committee, in recognizing the essential need for water services to stay in public ownership, as this is the only way in which we can improve what is a hugely under-invested area, calls on the Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage, who has responsibility for water services, to bring forward legislation as a matter of urgency to hold a referendum to prohibit the privatization of water services."

Report:

Irish Water is the National Water Utility for Ireland. In accordance with the Water Services Act 2013 the delivery of water services has been transferred to Irish Water.

This Motion is a matter for the Members.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2022

ITEM NO. 36

SUPPORT FOR TIDY TOWNS/COMMUNITY GROUPS

Motion: Councillor J. Walsh

"That this Council calls upon the Chief Executive to identify and provide dedicated funding within the Operations budget to support the setting up and community activity of Tidy Towns groups throughout the County."

Report:

The Operations Department supports and promotes the work of the Tidy Towns groups throughout the County. A meeting is held annually with the Tidy Towns groups who set out their priority work in each of the towns and these priorities are then included in the Annual Programme of Works or the 3-year Capital Programme as individual projects are identified. In addition, the Operations Department provide equipment and assistance to the groups as they develop their own projects. While there is not a specific line budget allocation for Tidy Towns groups they are continuously supported by provision of horticultural and cleansing equipment and through the delivery of individual projects.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2022

ITEM NO. 38

OPEN WATER SWIMMING ACROSS FINGAL

Motion: Councillor A. Henchy

"That the Chief Executive, take an interdepartmental approach within Fingal County Council to carry out a comprehensive review and audit of facilities at key strategic locations all along the Fingal Coastal Community especially taking into account public toilets, changing rooms and storage facilities with a view to working in partnership with Swim Ireland, Open Sea Water Swimming and Bord Fáilte in order to improve and enhance these destinations as an all year round venue that accommodates open sea water swimming."

Report:

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. It should be acknowledged that this 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 have increased. In late November of this year, 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.

Water Safety Ireland, who are the statutory, voluntary body and registered charity established to promote water safety and reduce drownings in Ireland, strongly recommends that open sea swimmers wear a wet suit, a neoprene hat for the winter months and use a tow float. They have produced a brochure for open water swimming, which contains very important information on all who partake in open-swimming. This guide is available on their website: https://watersafety.ie/open-water-swimming/

There are currently no changing facilities or showering facilities operated by the Council for open swimmers. The provision of these services is currently under review. There is a local arrangement in place with the public toilets at Tower Bay.

There are two shelters either side of the steps at Low Rock, Portmarnock, which are used by a local swimming group from the area. While they are owned by the Council they are not a public facility and the Operations Dept. have no involvement in their management. The local swimming group use it as a changing room/tea/coffee facility etc. and they maintain it themselves.

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 unsafe locations. The only locations considered safe for bathing are those which are currently life-guarded for the bathing season.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2022

ITEM NO. 39

REPORT ON THE COSTINGS FOR A COMMUNITY PROJECT FUND

Motion: Councillor D. Whooley

"That the Chief Executive commissions a report to examine the possibility of creating a specific funding stream that would provide resources for Residents Associations and Tidy Towns to fix and maintain decorative railings, walls or pillars on the boundary between housing developments and open spaces or public roads."

Report:

The Council provides Residents Associations and Tidy Towns Groups with supplies to include paint on request from the specific groups where they plan works such as fixing and maintaining decorative railings, walls or pillars in the public domain in housing estates. In addition, the Special Works element of the Annual Programme of Works, approved by Councillors in each area, provides flexibility to direct financial resources at projects such as those mentioned in the motion.

To date Councillors have used this element of the Programme of Works funding to replace footpaths in estates or to address flooding issues associated with problems in the road drainage network. Funds from this element of the Programme of Works have also been utilised in the Dublin 15 area in the recent past.

The 2022 Programme of Works will be presented to the Area Committees in February.

Environmental Awareness & Projects:

As part of the 2022 budget the Environment Department has provided funding to be allocated to Tidy Towns & Community Groups under a number of headings

Litter & Graffiti Awareness €40k
Biodiversity Projects €20k
Waste Prevention Projects €15k

The funding includes the costs associated with the Community Environmental Action Fund, Anti-Litter & Anti-Graffiti Projects, Greener Communities, Adopt-a-Patch support, regional environmental awareness campaigns in waste prevention, advertising, re-use and recycling, biodiversity and supporting communities in transitioning to a more sustainable way of living.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2022

ITEM NO. 40

ESTABLISH A MUSEUM OF WORLD ARTEFACTS IN FINGAL

Motion: Councillor JK Onwumereh

"That the Chief Executive supports the establishment of a Museum of World Artefacts in Fingal to house replica world artefacts, clothes, and other historic items, this museum, if properly promoted and resourced could become a tourist attraction capable of raising a steady stream of income for the Council."

Report:

In Fingal the Council houses artefacts and other memorabilia in our Heritage houses, objects which are appropriate to that location and place and have relevant history to the buildings.

Historical societies also retain their own memorabilia and items relevant to their respective areas. For example, the Council recently rehoused the Donabate Historical Society in the grounds of Newbridge House Courtyard and they open to the public on certain days. Skerries and Balbriggan Historical Societies store memorabilia items at Ardgillan Castle.

Consideration could be given to hosting exhibitions in arts facilities in the County and in the SCQ when delivered. Absent data on demand for such a service it would be premature to consider same given that such a museum operates at Newbridge Silverware.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2022

ITEM NO. 41

LGBTIQ FREEDOM ZONE

Motion: Councillor R. O'Donoghue

"That this Council declare Fingal as an LGBTIQ Freedom Zone, following the European Parliament's declaration for the European Union of 11 March 2021, and commit to public policies promoting and protecting LGBTIQ rights on the one hand, while explicitly sanctioning/rejecting structural discrimination mechanisms and that the Council agree to fly the Rainbow Flag outside County Hall, Swords and Civic Offices, Blanchardstown during Pride Month."

Report:

The Council's Corporate Plan contains, as a strategic objective, a commitment to deliver on the Public Sector Duty under the Irish Human Rights Act and Equality Act 2014. The Public Sector Duty requires public bodies…*" in the performance of their functions, to have regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, promote equality and protect human rights of staff and people availing of their service."*

The declaration of Fingal as an LGBTIQ Freedom Zone would be consistent with this objective and would be consistent with the EU Parliament declaration.

The Rainbow Flag has been flown outside Council offices previously during Pride Month. Should the Members pass this Motion this will occur every year.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2022

ITEM NO. 42

VEHICLE ACTIVATED SIGNS (VAS)

Motion: Councillor J. Humphreys

"That information captured by the Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) installed in Fingal County Council be collected and made available to the Local Area Committees on a quarterly basis."

Report:

The purpose of Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) is to display a message to approaching traffic to warn drivers of a hazard ahead (e.g. a sharp bend) so that they can approach at a safe speed. A VAS can also be used to remind drivers to adhere to the speed limit. The Traffic Signs Manual published by the Dept of Transport says that VASs are supplementary to and never a substitute for fixed warning or regulatory signs and that they should be used sparingly.

The Council installs VAS purely as a traffic calming measure. It is not the purpose of VASs to collect speed data and the Council do not use them for this purpose as any such information is merely indicative and of limited value for engineering purposes.

The Council's Data Protection Officer is currently assessing the most recent decision taken by the Data Protection Commissioner against Limerick City and County Council on the processing of personal data with CCTV cameras for the purposes of traffic management, its implications in the use of VAS signage and specifically related to the recording of information.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2022

ITEM NO. 43

ELECTED MEMBERS – AN BORD PLEANÁLA SUBMISSION FEES

Motion: Councillor T. Doyle

"That this Council writes to the Department of Local Government to request the cancellation and withdrawal of the requirement for Elected Members to make payment in respect of submissions/observations which they may make to An Bord Pleanála in the performance of their duties."

Report:

If the Motion is passed, the contents shall be forwarded to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage and when a response is received the Council will be informed.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2022

ITEM NO. 44

EXEMPTIONS FROM PLANNING PERMISSION FOR SOLAR PANELS

Motion: Councillor K. Power

"That this Council requests the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government to include as a matter of urgency schools and community buildings in the exemptions from planning permission for the installation of solar panels that cover less than 50% of the rooftop (which commercial, industrial buildings, etc. all benefit from already)."

Report:

If the Motion is passed, the contents shall be forwarded to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage and when a response is received the Council will be informed.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 14TH FEBRUARY 2022

ITEM NO. 45

PERSONAL ASSISTANCE SERVICE

Motion: Councillor S. Ó'Rodaigh

"That this Council supports the right to Personal Assistance Service (PAS) for people with disabilities to live independently, providing individuals with the freedom and flexibility they need to live their lives as they choose."

Report:

No report