

**Comhairle Contae Fingal
Fingal County Council**

Minutes of Economic, Enterprise & Tourism Development Strategic Policy
Committee

Thursday, 30th November, 2023

PRESENT

Councillor Siobhan Shovlin.

Councillor Anthony Lavin.

Councillor Howard Mahony.

Councillor Tony Murphy.

Apologies for inability to attend were received for Councillor Ian Carey

The Chairperson, Councillor Darragh Butler, presided.

OFFICIALS PRESENT

EETD/31/23 (Agenda Item No 1)

Confirmation and Re-affirmation of the Minutes of the Economic, Enterprise & Tourism Development Strategic Policy Committee meeting held on the 23rd of October 2023

Minutes of the Economic, Enterprise & Tourism Development Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 12th September 2023 which had been circulated were considered.

It was **PROPOSED** by Councillor H. Mahony and seconded by Councillor A. Lavin and **RESOLVED**:

“The minutes of the meetings of the 23rd October 2023 be **ADOPTED**.”

EETD/32/23 (Agenda Item No 2)

Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP)

Mr. Lorcan Blake, Grant Thornton Consultants gave a presentation on the Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP) 2023-2028

It was proposed that the Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP) will be presented to ACM with a view to being presented to a full council meeting scheduled for January 24.

The presentation was well received by the SPC Members.

EETD/33/23 (Agenda Item No 3)
Economic Development Strategy

Mr. Lorcan Blake, Grant Thornton Consultants gave a presentation outlining all the areas within the Economic Development Strategy.

It is proposed to be brought to the January 24 full Council Meeting.

The presentation was well received by the SPC Members.

EETD/34/23 (Agenda Item No 4)
Fingal Skills Strategy

Ms. Aoife Sheridan Senior Executive Officer made a presentation on the Fingal Skills Strategy. A video summary of the "Xplore your Future" expo event was played to councillors highlighting the interaction between the exhibitors and the target audience of TY students. A second video presentations showing the feedback received from teachers and the TY students who attended the event was also shown.

The Xplore your Future event was well received by the SPC Members.

A review with the Fingal Skills Strategy Implementation Group has recommended another 1day event to be held in the Helix in October 2024 for the same TY target audience. Engagement with exhibitors to facilitate this event will begin in Q1 2024.

SKLA Project

Presentation by Aoife Sheridan Senior Executive Officer on the Interreg Europe Skyla Project. Updates were provided to the members on the recent SKLA Project partners visit to Fingal. Partners in SKYLA were able to meet and engage with the local stakeholders. They visited the Baldoyle Training Centre and through exchange with the centre staff, partners identified elements as best practices in the centre, including the strong engagement with local stakeholders. The partners also visited the DCU campus.

Next meeting will take place in April 2024 in Italy.

Report noted and accepted by Members.

Fingal Skills Strategy 2024

A new chairperson will be agreed in Q1 2024.

2024 will see a focus on expansion and participation.

Workshops to be facilitated in Q1 2024 to identify problems and issues. SPC members wish to express their gratitude to the previous chairperson, Ms.

Siobhan Kinsella of The Noel Recruitment Group for her dedication and work on the development and implementation of the Fingal Skills Strategy.

EETD/35/23 (Agenda Item No 5)
Policy Programme 2024

Mr. John Quinlivan, Director of Services, outlined the draft policy programme for 2024. Following discussion, it was agreed that further review of the program will be presented to the SPC in Q1 2024.

The Meeting concluded at 18.25

CHAIRPERSON

DATED

**COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

ENCONOMIC, ENTERPRISE & TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

13 MARCH 2024

ITEM NO. 02 POLICY PROGRAMME UPDATE 2024

Implementation & Updates –	Report
Tourism Strategy	Tourism Strategy launched February 2024; implementation procurement underway.
Food Policy	Launch scheduled for June 2024.
Local Economic & Community Plan	LECP adopted in January 2024 and launched in February 2024. Implementation commencing.
Economic Development Strategy	Economic Development Strategy adopted in February 2024. Preparing for a launch event in April 2024.
Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor	El Smart Regions Funding Streams being reviewed to advance recommendations of Shared Island funded Feasibility Study on Innovation Hubs in DBEC Region. Skills Research Audit across DBEC Region in progress with Working Group.
Local Development Strategy	New Leader Development Strategy approved and implementation programme commencing in March 2024 with Information Sessions scheduled in Fingal on Tuesday 12 th March at 5pm in Lusk Cultural Centre. New Dublin Rural LAG met in February for briefing on new LDS. A call is out for suitably skilled members to participate on the LAG's Independent Evaluation Committee.

Development of Economic Zones	Work in progress on the preparation of Stephenstown Framework Plan in Balbriggan. Lands at Cherryhound in preparation to be brought to market in 2024.
Industrial Estate Improvement Programme	Update to be delivered in September 2024
Enterprise Development & Support	Update to be delivered in 2024.
Policy Development & Review -	
Sustainable Fingal/Circular Cities Strategy	Update to be delivered in November 2024.
Review of Fingal Skills Strategy	Sectoral sub-groups met in January to agree priorities for 2024. Consultants being appointed for the next iteration of the Strategy in March 2024. Stakeholder consultations anticipated to commence in April 2024. Xplore Your Future Expo scheduled in The Helix on Tuesday 15th October 2024 – procurement underway for various services required & consultation in progress with stakeholders.
Review of Events Strategy	Approaching completion. Update to be delivered in June 2024.
Review of Heritage Property/Visitor Attraction Strategy	Approaching completion. Update to be delivered in June 2024.
Fingal Economic & Tourism Development Marketing Strategy	Economic Marketing Plan in development. Update to be delivered in September 2024. Tourism Marketing plan to be developed as part of Tourism Strategy implementation.
Town Regeneration	
Review / Development of Town Centre First	The formation and structure of the Town Regeneration Office has now been completed with the integration and inclusion of Our Balbriggan Rejuvenation Project, Town Centre First Measures, URDF, RRDF, Town and Village Renewal Schemes,

	URDF Revolving Vacant Property Acquisitions Fund, and Derelict Sites. An Update on the new Town Regeneration Office will be brought to the SPC in Q3
Regeneration Plans for Towns & Villages	The Town Centre First Plan for Lusk is at Draft Stage awaiting sign off. It is expected that a presentation on the Completed Plan will be brought to the SPC in Quarter 2. Rush has been selected by the DRCD as Fingal's second Town Centre First Town and procurement for a consultant for that plan will begin shortly.

Fingal Skills Strategy Implementation Group 2023 Outturn Report

The Fingal Skills Strategy Implementation Group, chaired by Siobhan Kinsella of Noel Recruitment, draws its members from education and training bodies involved in provision for the Fingal region as well as prominent employers from industry sectors included in the Skills Strategy.

Organisations include the DDLETB, CDETB, Fingal Chamber Skillnet, Dublin Regional Skills Forum (DRSF), Solas, DSP and third level colleges DCU and TU Dublin. Sectoral interests include Aramex, Glenveagh, Pavillons Shopping Centre and Malone Group.

The Action Plan for 2023 focused on the delivery of the following objectives:

Information, Promotion, Raising Awareness

- 3rd March 2023 – Online Skills Strategy Implementation Group meeting. Terms of Reference for the Skills Strategy Group to be prepared for next meeting. Presentation by Nora Condon, Solas - Regional Skills Infographics
- 24th May 2023 - The Skills Strategy Implementation Group met in Newbridge House and reviewed progress of sectoral sub-groups and agreed new Terms of Reference. Plans for the Interreg Skyla Project were discussed along with plans to review and build on the Skills Strategy. Plans for the Student Skills Expo in the Helix in October were discussed.
- 1st November 2023 - The Skills Strategy Implementation Group met in Newbridge House. The Chair of the Fingal Skills Strategy, Siobhan Kinsella, stepped down as chair of the Fingal Skills Strategy and her work on the Fingal Skills Strategy was recognised.



The Implementation Group discussed the success of the Xplore Your Future Expo in The Helix on the 3rd October and acknowledged the excellent work of the event managers on the day, the fantastic collaboration between the education/ training providers, public services and private businesses on the day and the positive feedback received from exhibitors, teachers and TY students. Plans for a further Expo in 2024 were discussed and will be brought to the next SPC meeting and the next Implementation Group meeting in January 2024.



➤ In 2023, meetings were held by the Construction, Transport & Logistics and Green Skills Sub-Groups, the following presentations were made to Group Members:

- **Sinead Heneghan – Learning & Development Institute**
Current Trends and Insights in Learning and Talent Development.
- **Feargal Malone – Network Manager, Fingal Chamber Skillnet**
Supporting Businesses in Fingal through Training, Networking and Collaboration'
- **Laura Carville, Aramex**
Review of first National Logistics and Supply Chain Skills Week
- **Jenna Eccles, Development Manager DCU Educational Trust - Access to the Workplace Programme**
Professional summer internships for DCU Access students from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds, and for neurodivergent students
- **Maeve Long, Head DCU Internship - INTRA (INtegrated TRAINing)**
DCU's internship programme - Opportunity for employers to hire interns and benefit from the talent and skills of students across a range of disciplines.

Fingal Skills Strategy support meetings/engagement:

➤ **Dublin Regional Skills Forum**

5 Meetings: 7th February; 18th April; 13th June; 3rd October; 12th December where progress on the Fingal Skills Strategy, Xplore Your Future Expo and the Interreg SKYLA Project were brought to the attention of stakeholders.

2023 also saw business workshop meetings in June and September which were specific to Construction. A Business workshop took place in November.

➤ **Balbriggan Loves Learning Festival**

5 Meetings: 11th January; 1st February; 21st February; 15th March; 23rd March.

Working in collaboration with DDLETB, Balbriggan Adult Education, Intreo and Empower to Focus on the themes of enterprise, community and digital learning for the Balbriggan Loves Learning Festival which took place 27th March – 1st April. The festival offers a range of engaging events to aid stronger adult learning opportunities and more information about education and training services available to local people.



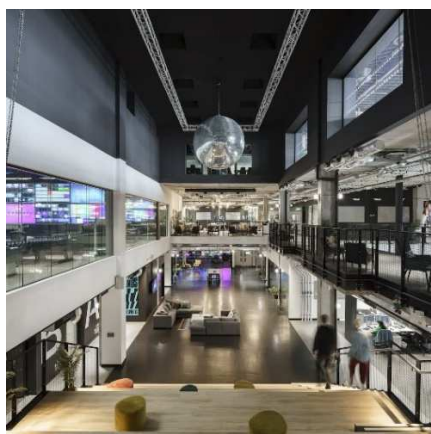
➤ **Education Skills and Training Pillar Group – Balbriggan Regeneration Office**

3 Meetings: 9th February; 16th May; 20th September

Fingal Skills Strategy working with the pillar group on their objectives to make Balbriggan a place with excellent Education, Training & Employment opportunities and addressing issues such as apprenticeships, lack of further education opportunities in the area and the challenges that students face with public transport to other colleges outside the Balbriggan area.

➤ **February 2023 onwards**

Fingal Skills Strategy and Fingal Chamber Skillnet facilitated discussions with Riot Games to discuss their immediate and future skills needs. A breakdown of skills required for Riot Games immediate roles were identified and discussions took place with DCU and TU Dublin in regard to facilitating a special purpose award for a short intensive course to upskill degree graduates from broadcast engineering disciplines to meet Riot Games immediate needs in 2023.



➤ May 2023

Fingal Chamber Business Expo took place in the Crowne Plaza Dublin Airport on 31st of May 2023. The Fingal Skills Strategy stand at the trade show and networking event was successful in engaging with business owners and professionals from across the region informing them of the work of the strategy and encouraging new members to join the implementation group.



➤ June 2023

Meeting with DDLETB, Adult Education Services, Balbriggan/ Swords in relation to an overview of how the Fingal Skills Strategy works in the area.

➤ October 2023

Ongoing engagement with Yvonne Hynes, Year head and Coordinator, Programmes Department,

Bremore Educate Together Secondary School.

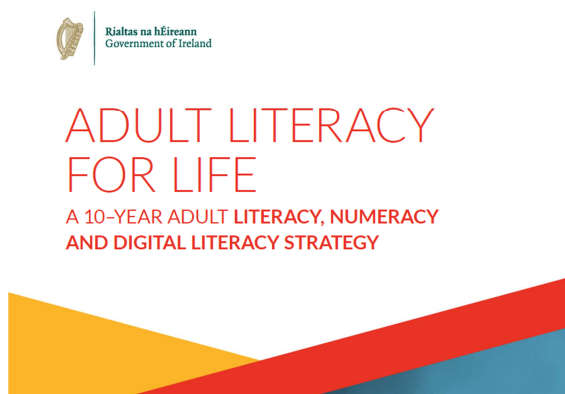
Request for role models and speakers within industry to speak to the students particularly contacts from construction and technology industries. As a developing school they have a limited number of past pupils in all areas of the workforce.

Following engagement with Fingal Skills Strategy members the following volunteered their time:

- Dave Gannon, Managing Director of Malone Group
- Carolina Concialdi, Training & Development Manager, Walls
- Orla Dunne, Group HR Manager, Techrete
- Grace McNally, McNally Joinery
- Deirdre Breen, Head of HR, Flynn
- Cllr. Tony Murphy on behalf of Balbriggan Chamber

➤ November 2023

- Fingal County Council Recruitment Team attended the Balbriggan Community College Career Fair for 2nd and 4th year students.
- Balbriggan/Swords Literacy Network Meeting took place on 21st November.
A discussion of plans for the creation of a Regional Literacy Coalition for the region and to give an overview of the Adult Literacy for Life (ALL) Strategy and the pivotal role it will play in shaping the landscape of literacy over the next ten years. This coalition is made up of key stakeholders within the region and members should be in a position of sufficient authority within their organisations to direct and drive action regionally and be able to influence policy and decision making.

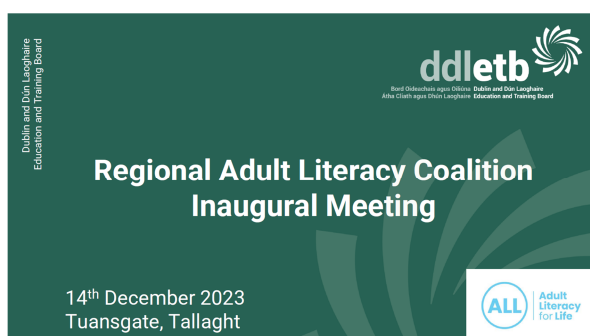


- DRSF Strategy workshop to enhance engagement between Higher/Further Education and Businesses. The workshop took place on 28th November with stakeholders to discuss how we can enhance engagement between Higher/Further education and Businesses & agree an action plan for 2024.



December 2023

The inaugural Meeting of the Regional Adult Literacy Coalition for the region of County Dublin and Dún Laoghaire Rathdown took place on 14th December 2023. Fingal Skill Strategy representing Fingal County Council giving commitment to the Regional Adult Literacy Coalition (RALC). The November network meeting created valuable input which shaped a robust action plan and Terms of Reference that reflected the perspectives of the members.



LAMA Awards

The Fingal Skills Strategy was nominated for a LAMA Award in the category of Best CSR (Corporate social responsibility) Project in a Community for the School Mentoring Programme in Balbriggan. Project title: Fingal Skills Strategy: Balbriggan School Mentoring Programme.

Secondary schools in Balbriggan took part in a community mentoring programme where members of the local community mentored small groups of students typically in transition year or fifth year. Mentors were individuals with a connection to the Balbriggan area and with career or academic experience which aided them in listening to and advising students on their future studies/careers. The awards were held on the 15th April 2023 in Clonmel, unfortunately we were unsuccessful this time.

Community Mentoring Programme – Balbriggan



PROJECT SKYLA

SKYLA is a SMART Interreg Europe project with 11 regional partners seeking to put VET at the centre of smart specialisation for the twin transition.

SKYLA's overall objective is to support public authorities in putting future skills at the centre of the twin transitions for a smarter, more resilient development, by boosting and adapting the role of Vocational Education and Training (VET) in innovation ecosystems and smart specialisation strategies. The key action is to Refresh Skills Strategy.

February 2023

Confirmation that all conditions for approval for the SKYLA project were passed. The project was officially approved, and the Subsidy Contract was sent to the Lead Partner for signature. Partners were given access to the project through the Interreg Portal

March 2023

First official online meeting Partners were introduced to the Lead Partners (Tuscany, Italy) and the project plan was rolled out.

Virtual meeting – 3rd April 2023

Kick off meeting – Brussels May 2023

The Fingal Skills Strategy Team attended the kick off meeting in for the SKYLA Project “Smart Specialisation Skills Ecosystems for the Twin Transition”. The project will have a term of 4 years and will focus on enhancing the role of VET in smart specialisation sectors. Projects partners include Italy, Poland, Sweden, Lithuania, Bulgaria, Greece and Belgium. The kick-off meeting in Brussels on 16th & 17th May focused on baseline and SWOT analysis of policy instruments in each country and on project management requirements. The Fingal team presented their policy instrument – Fingal Skills Strategy.

Project Website Training June 2023

On June 20th, the Fingal Skills Strategy team attended training in preparation for the launch of the project website.

Formal Communications 12th July 2023

The first formal communications meeting took place in July 2023 via Zoom.

Monthly meeting – 11th September 2023

Ongoing Partner Activities were discussed.

Completion of Territorial Analysis was requested.

Financial and Technical Reporting requirements were discussed.

Communication Assignments were outlined in terms of Posters.

Monthly meeting –12th October 2023

This meeting primarily focused on finalising the agenda for the upcoming transnational city visit to Balbriggan. Policy Needs Documentation and Progress Reporting were requested.

SKYLA Partners visit to Fingal November 2023

Representatives from the project partners visited Fingal on the 7th & 8th November where representatives engaged in a policy workshop and project work relating to the policy challenges and opportunities that each of the partners is facing. The visit included keynote addresses to the partners from Nora Condon of Solas on skills forecasting and Natasha Kinsella of the Dublin Regional Skills Forum (DRSF) on the work being done by DRSF in engagement with industry stakeholders and developments in Ireland in micro-credentials and apprenticeships.

DAY 1 – 07/11/2023

Mayor of Fingal, Cllr. Adrian Henchy welcomed the delegates and underlined the relevance of the SKYLA project themes for Fingal at local and regional levels. The Mayor emphasised the importance of the Vocational Education and Training (VET) Sector to ensure Fingal has a competitive economy through expansion of skills.

Lorenzo Sabatini (ASEV – LP) briefly introduces objectives and rationale of the two-day meeting.

The following presentations were made on the day:

- Workshop on Policy Needs

A representative from each SKYLA region briefly presents the main policy needs identified in the analysis carried out at regional level.

- Introducing the Policy Improvement

Pietro Collini (Resolvo) presented the concept of Policy Improvement, final goal of the project, within the context of the next steps foreseen in the project methodology. In particular, Policy Solutions/Good Practices are described and are available for you to take away, providing a timeline for future exchange.



- **Workshop on Policy Solutions**

Lorenzo Sabatini (ASEV) presented the Higher Technological Institutes (ITS Academy) part of the tertiary education system in Tuscany.

- **SKYLA Approach with a Broad Spectrum**

Karl Löfmark (Region Skåne) and Richard Greyling (Industrial Development Centre South) presented on understanding and planning how SKYLA partners approach challenges to identify common solutions. The direct exchange among partners was considered the added value of the project and delivery of SKYLA outputs are crucial, but cooperation to a larger extent is also to be sought.

- **Initiatives in Ireland addressing skills for the Twin Transition**

Nora Condon (SOLAS), from the State Agency that oversees the building of the Further Education & Training (FET) sector in Ireland, gives a presentation using data to monitor the balance of skills supply and demand. The full presentation is available on TRELLO.

The skills and labour market research unit of SOLAS identified current and possible future demand for skills, analysing data from a range of sources. The analysis covered data on the demand side for demographic, employment, job adverts, skills audits, survey to recruit agencies and immigration. On the supply side, data refer to graduates and unemployed people. Studies from other agencies are also used.

Natasha Kinsella (DRSF) presents the Dublin Regional Skills Forum activity. Objectives of the forum are to provide analysis of regional employer needs, align provision with skills needs, help employers access provision, enhance links between providers, inform national funding decisions.

Regional Fora are active in Ireland. The Forum builds on a stakeholder engagement process with industry, educators, sector links (hospitality-tourism, construction, logistic-transport, retail, ICT, pharma), and Fingal Skills group. Stakeholders are involved to prioritise skills needs, sign-post companies to solutions, identify skills gaps. A number of initiatives from the DRSF were presented, e.g. IUA micro-credentials, Skills to Advance, Generation Apprenticeship, Skillnet networks.



DAY 2 – 08/11/2023 - Site Visit to Baldoyle Training Centre

Site visits for the delegates were facilitated by DDLETB at Baldoyle Training Centre where new developments in training provision were showcased. The visit focused on a number of introductory presentations from the managers of the training centre and on its facilities.



DAY 2 – 08/11/2023 - Site Visit to Dublin City University

At the site visit to DCU partners heard about DCU's work in the fields of sustainable aviation, climate action, water quality and citizen science initiatives.

The partnership received a series of presentations revolving around themes from the green transition. The speakers were Marina Efthymiou on Aviation: a sector that needs to be decarbonised, David Robbins on the DCU Centre for Climate and Society, Ruth Clinton and Laura Ribero from the DCU Water Institute on the Waterblitz 2022 initiative.





Xplore Your Future 2023

The first-of-its-kind event in Ireland drew over 1,600 TY students from across Fingal was hailed as major success by organisers, not only setting a benchmark in youth empowerment but demonstrating the potential to shape a brighter, more sustainable future for all.



Fingal County Council, in conjunction with Dublin City University (DCU), Dublin Regional Skills Forum (DRSF), the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (DFHERIS) proudly hosted the inaugural “Xplore Your Future TY Skills Expo” across three levels at The Helix. The ground-breaking initiative, organised as part of the Fingal Skills Strategy and the European Year of Skills 2023, looked to provide TY students with inspiration for their educational and career prospects, with interactive exhibits, informative workshops, and engaging presentations aimed at stimulating the imaginations of the young students attending for their future endeavours.

The first-ever event received an overwhelmingly positive response from exhibitors, students, and educators, sparking a new interest in exploration and learning for those involved. Xplore was seen as an innovative platform for sharing knowledge and building valuable connections between young talents and industry leaders. Attendees left the event with fresh insights, motivation, and a better understanding of the many educational and career opportunities available to them.

