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COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

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County Hall
Swords
Co Dublin

Wednesday 28th May 2025

To Each Member of the Community, Sports and Culture Strategic Policy Committee

Dear Member

A meeting of the **Community, Sports and Culture Strategic Policy Committee** will be held **Hybrid** in the **Council Chamber - Grove Road, Blanchardstown/MS Teams** at **4.30 pm** on **Wednesday, 25th June, 2025** to consider the following Agenda.

Yours faithfully

Ciara O hAodha
Meetings Administrator
Corporate Services

A G E N D A

1 Confirmation and Re-Affirmation of Minutes of the Community, Sports and Culture Strategic Policy Committee meeting held on 26th March 2025

2 Social Inclusion - Active Inclusion

3 Age Friendly Strategy

4 Oversight of Community elements of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

5 Update from Libraries

MOTIONS

6 Councillor J. Walsh - Non-profit and Public Early Childhood Education and Care - AI103049

"That this Committee initiates the formulation of a Council policy on non-profit and public facilities for early childhood education and care and establishes a timescale for policy formation in this area."

****

Comhairle Contae Fine Gall
Fingal County Council

Minutes of Community, Sports and Culture Strategic Policy Committee

Wednesday, 26th March, 2025

PRESENT

Councillors	**Members**
Dockrell, Eoghan	Vanderzee, Brenda
Donnelly, Angela	Wise, Abi
Kitt, Tom	
McCamley, Mary	
Walsh, John	

Apologies for inability to attend were received for Councilor James Humphreys.

The Chairperson, Cllr E. Dockrell , presided.

OFFICIALS PRESENT

Paul Carroll, Director of Services, Housing & Community, Naomi Weir, Senior Executive Officer, Community Development, Lilian Whelan, Senior Executive Librarian, Libraries, Emily Crawley, Sports Programme Admin Manager, Sports, Rosanne Martin, Senior Staff Officer, Community Development

SPC/1/25 (Agenda Item No 1)

Confirmation and Re-Affirmation of Minutes of Community, Sports and Culture Strategic Policy Committee meeting held on 11th December 2024

Councillor Walsh asked that the minutes be amended to state “Chairperson” as opposed to “Area Chairperson”

Abi Wise requested that the minutes of 11th December 2024 reflect her attendance at the meeting.

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th December 2024 were considered.

It was proposed by Councillor Donnelly and seconded by Councillor Dockrell and **AGREED**. "That Minutes of 11th December 2024 be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED**."

SPC/2/25 (Agenda Item No 2)
Community, Sports and Culture Strategic Policy Committee Workplan 2025

The policies to be presented to the Community Sports & Culture SPC are as follows:

- Community Development and Inclusion
- Strengthen communities through participation, connectivity, inclusion and building capacity of community leaders
- Social Inclusion = Active Inclusion
- Gender Equality
- Oversight of Community elements of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)
- Fingal Libraries Development Plan 2024 – 2029
- Creative Ireland Programme
- Arts Plan 2019 – 2025
- Enhance and Protect the Heritage of the County

- Promotion of Irish Language
- Sports Activities
- Public Participation and Resident Engagement
- Focus on capabilities rather than disabilities
- Active Citizenship
- Age Friendly Strategy

The Committee agreed to prioritize three items for the June meeting as follows:

- Social Inclusion = Active Inclusion
- Oversight of Community elements of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)
- Age Friendly Strategy

Councillor Walsh requested that Childhood Education and Care take a priority for 2025.

Councillor Dockrell requested that the committee focus on a strategy to increase female participation in sport in Fingal and a Local Artist Fair.

The Workplan was **NOTED** by all.

The Meeting concluded at 5.00pm.

CHAIRPERSON **DATED**

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMUNITY, SPORTS AND CULTURE
STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

WEDNESDAY 25th JUNE 2025

ITEM NO. 02

SOCIAL INCLUSION - ACTIVE INCLUSION

A presentation will be given on the day of the meeting.

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Fingal Age Friendly Strategy 2026 - 2030

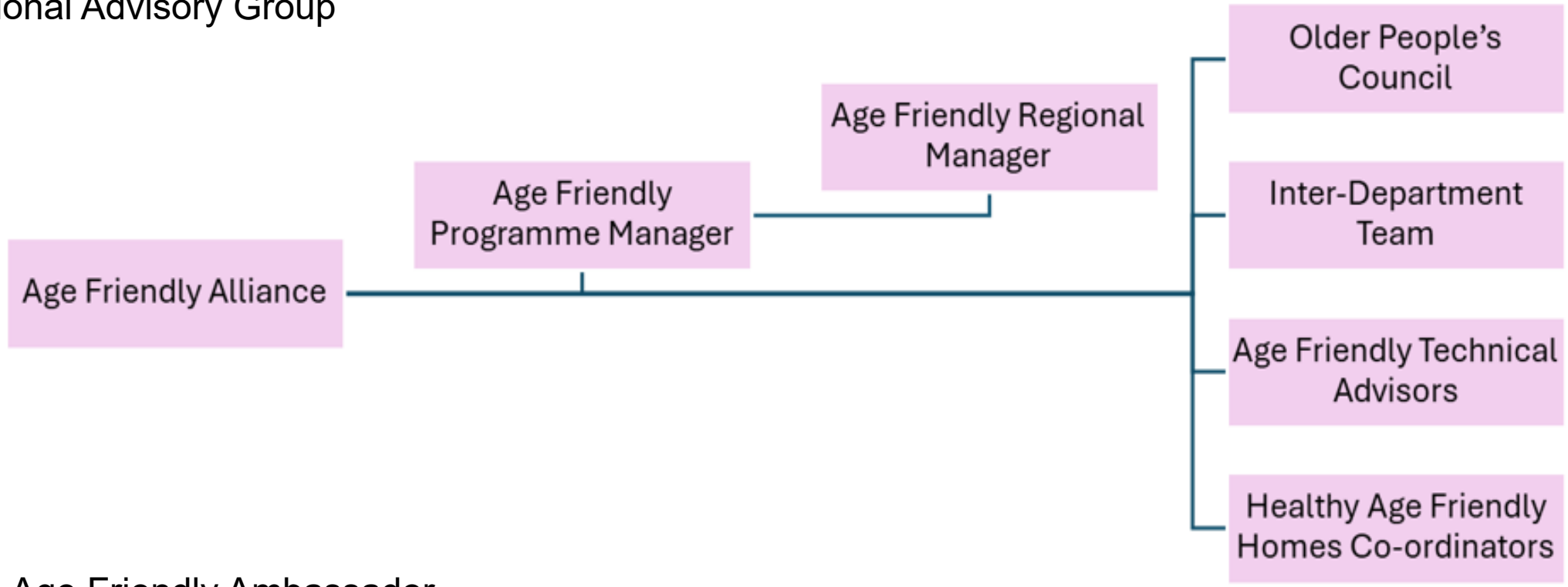
Cathrina Murphy

Age Friendly Programme Manager

Fingal Age Friendly Initiative

2018 LGMA : Age Friendly Ireland national shared service in Meath County Council.

National Advisory Group



Age Friendly Ambassador

Developing the Strategy: Time Frame

Engage MCA Consultants	May 2024
Consultation Process	June - October 2024
Analysis of Date	November – December 2024
Co-Design of Actions	January – April 2025
Draft Strategy	May 2025

FINGAL AGE FRIENDLY STRATEGY ROADMAP

Process design

Inception Meeting with Age Friendly Team to agree and refine process and timeline

Desk research

Demographic analysis and review of national and regional strategies

Public Consultation meetings

In person public meeting, event attendance and one to one meetings

Surveys

Older Persons and Service providers surveys

Co-design meetings

Analysis and presentation of Consultation process findings and facilitated planning session with AFA

Drafting and Adoption

Drafting of Themes, Objectives and Smart actions, editing and presentation for adoption

Consultation Process: Key Engagements

482
People attended consultation events in person

237
Surveys completed

20
Public meetings

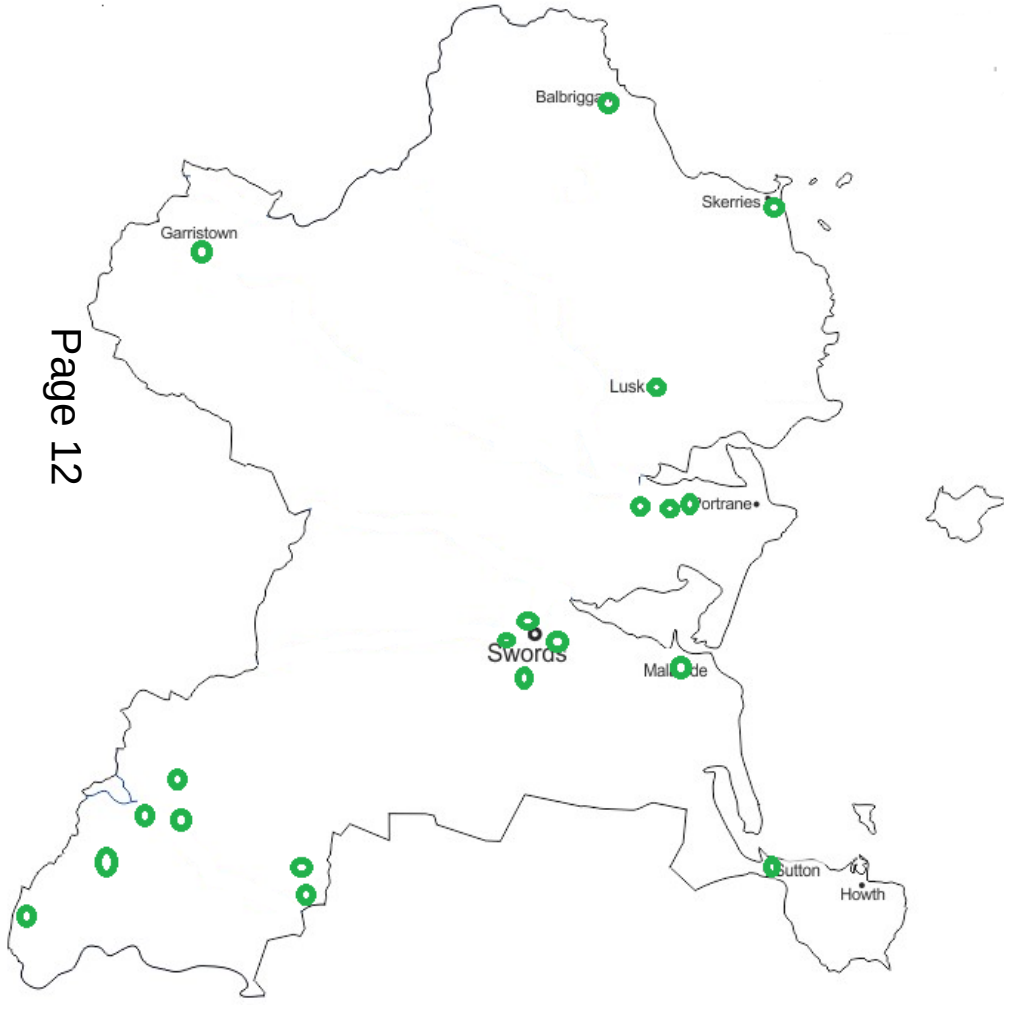
3
Public events

12
Service providers consulted

12
Members of Fingal Age Friendly Alliance

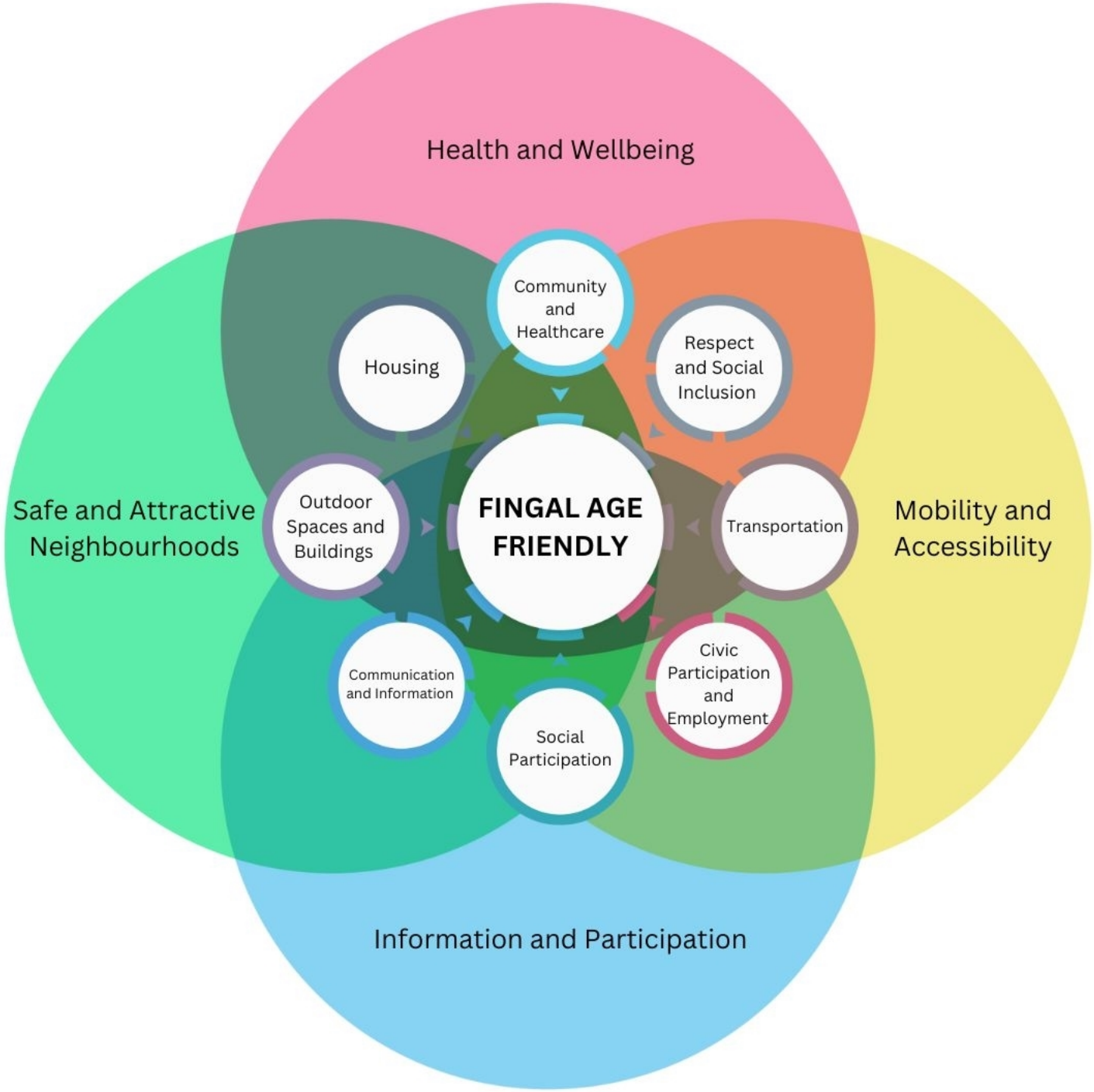
10
Sections in Fingal County Council consulted

Public Consultations



Location	Venue	No. of Attendees
Balbriggan Seniors		22
Blanchardstown	Library	12
Castleknock	School beside church	38
Castleknock Mens Network	Laurel Lodge Community Centre	4
Centre for Independent Living Blanchardstown	Blanchardstown Centre for Independent Living	14
Corduff	Corduff Community Resource Centre	13
Donabate	Donabate Portrane Community Centre	3
Fingal Traveller Community members	Parlickstown house in Mullhuddart	4
Flavours of Fingal	Newbridge House and Farm	19
Flavours of Fingal	Newbridge house and Farm	32
Howth Sutton Baldoyle Bayside	Suttonians RFC	25
Huntstown	Huntstown Community Centre	16
Malahide Portmarnock	Malahide Library	26
Mulhuddart	Mulhuddart Community Centre	5
Older Peoples Council	Council offices	9
Ongar	Ongar Community Centre (Family Day)	61
PPN Plenary	Radisson Hotel – directions TBC	17
Rural Villages - Garristown	Garristown Community Centre	16
Rush Lusk Loughshinny	Lusk Community Cultural Centre	15
Skerries	Skerries Community Centre	8
Swords	Riverside Community Centre	20
Swords	Senior Citizens Club- AGM – Chapel Lane	32
Vintage Picnic	Swords Castle	71
		482

Findings


Health and Wellbeing
Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods
Mobility and Accessibility
Information and Participation
Community and Healthcare
Housing
Respect and Social Inclusion
Outdoor Spaces and Buildings
FINGAL AGE FRIENDLY
Transportation
Communication and Information
Civic Participation and Employment
Social Participation

Fingal Age Friendly Strategy 2026-2030

THEME A - Health and Wellbeing

- Objective 1 – Optimise Health outcomes for older people
- Objective 2 – Build strong and inclusive services

THEME B - Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods

- Objective 3: Improve safety and security for older people.
- Objective 4: Enhance accessibility in public spaces
- Objective 5: Facilitate provision of age appropriate housing

THEME C - Mobility and Accessibility

- Objective 6: Improve availability and access to public transport for older people

THEME D - Information and Participation

- Objective 7: Provision of a single easily accessible information source for all older people
- Objective 8:Embrace active participation of Older People in Society

Theme A: Health & Wellbeing

Challenges

- Access to health and exercise programmes
- Information on health-monitoring devices and grants
- Training in digital literacy for healthcare access
- Information and assistance accessing supports and funding for groups.
- Age Friendly Public Domain and Buildings.

Actions

- Promote and develop initiatives and campaigns to support health and wellbeing
- Support older people to prevent and manage chronic disease
- Introduce a programme to target those experience loneliness and isolation
- Support older people with dementia and their carers through dementia cafes
- Continue to provide capacity building supports to community groups
- Expand the Age Friendly Towns initiative

Theme B: Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods

Challenges

- Personal, public and online safety
- Amenities such as public seating, toilets and safe walking routes.
- Suitable age-friendly housing options
- Accessible information and support for home retrofitting and maintenance.

Actions

- Provision of crime prevention advice and road safety training
- Provision of online Cyber Safety Training.
- Link walkability studies with significant infrastructure programmes to inform public realm infrastructure.
- Implement and formalise proposed practices in relation to the new Right Sizing Policy
- Expand the Healthy Age Friendly Homes (HAFH) Programme
- Provide a minimum percentage of homes developed to Universal design standards

Theme C: Mobility and Accessibility

- **Challenges**
- Public transport routes, cross-county connectivity, trains stations
- Infrastructures: shelters, seating
- Parking in town centres and parking meters/apps
- Communication and awareness around available services

- **Actions**
  - Engage with Age Friendly Ireland/National bus and rail organisations to address identified gaps in transport
  - Work with local transport providers to explore better use of current resources regarding routes
  - Support the expansion of the community car scheme
  - Provide support and assistance to further develop the Cycling Without Age Initiative

Theme D: Information and Participation

Challenges

- Access to information and the digital divide.
- Need for a one-stop information shop
- Need for more volunteer opportunities
- Support for accessing funding for community and voluntary organisations.
- Lack of intergenerational interaction

Actions

- Explore the possibility of developing a schedule of drop-in clinics for older people with Citizen's Information in conjunction with libraries.
- Organise Information/Showcase in local communities
- Establish a database for the distribution of information specifically for older people
- Develop an Older Volunteer enabler initiative
- Devise and resource a programme to build on existing intergenerational work

Monitoring & Review

- Bottom-up approach
- Actions based on the outcome of the consultations and challenges identified.
- Challenges similar across the county.

- An Annual Implementation Plan will be developed.
- The Alliance will meet quarterly to monitor and review.
- The Older People's Council will play a key role in reviewing the Action Plan.
- The FCC Interdepartmental Team will convene as needed to advance key projects.
- Annual progress report.

Questions?

FINGAL AGE FRIENDLY STRATEGY

2026 - 2030

DRAFT DOCUMENT

Version – Fingal.2

DRAFT

Contents

Abbreviations

Foreword – Alliance Chair

Foreword – CE

1. Introduction
2. The Age Friendly Cities and Counties Programme
3. Age Friendly Fingal
4. Demographic Profile of Older People in Fingal
5. Developing the Strategy
6. The Strategy
7. Action Plan
8. Monitoring and Evaluation
9. Supporting the implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan
10. The Policy Context
11. References

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Foreword – Chair, Age Friendly Alliance

TO BE INSERTED – PHOTO AND TEXT

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Foreword – Chief Executive, Fingal County Council

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1. Introduction

Fingal County is home to a growing and vibrant population of older people who make a vital contribution to the social, cultural, and economic life of the region. As people are living longer, healthier lives, the demographic profile of our county is changing significantly and the number of people aged 65 and over in Fingal is projected to continue rising over the coming decades. This demographic shift presents both opportunities and challenges that require a coordinated, thoughtful, and inclusive response.

In recognition of this, Fingal County Council is delighted to present the *Fingal Age Friendly Strategy 2025–2029*, a comprehensive plan to ensure that Fingal remains a great place to live and grow old in—where everyone, regardless of age, is valued, respected, and supported to live full and active lives.

The vision for this Strategy is grounded in Fingal's commitment to creating inclusive communities that enable older people to participate fully in all aspects of life. Whether it is access to quality public spaces, transportation, healthcare, housing, lifelong learning, or social inclusion, we recognise that an age-friendly approach benefits everyone—older people today, and all of us into the future.

This Strategy builds on the success and learnings from previous Strategies published in 2012 and 2018 and shaped by the voices of older people across Fingal, as well as the many organisations and service providers who support them. Throughout 2024, extensive consultations were undertaken, including public engagement events, focus groups, surveys, and meetings with stakeholders. Older people shared their lived experiences, identified priorities, and voiced both the opportunities and barriers they face in their daily lives. The data gathered have guided the development of this Strategy and have helped identify key areas for action. Importantly, they also highlight the need for strong local collaboration and national advocacy.

The implementation of this Strategy will be overseen by the Fingal Age Friendly Alliance, a partnership of statutory, community and voluntary organisations working collaboratively to deliver age-friendly outcomes for the county's older residents. The Alliance will be responsible for driving the delivery of the Strategy's goals through a dedicated Action Plan that outlines clear, measurable steps and timelines.

However, we acknowledge that not all the challenges identified during the consultations fall within the remit or influence of the Alliance. Where local resolution is not possible, these issues will be referred to Age Friendly Ireland for national-level consideration and response, ensuring that the voices of Fingal's older people continue to be heard at the highest levels.

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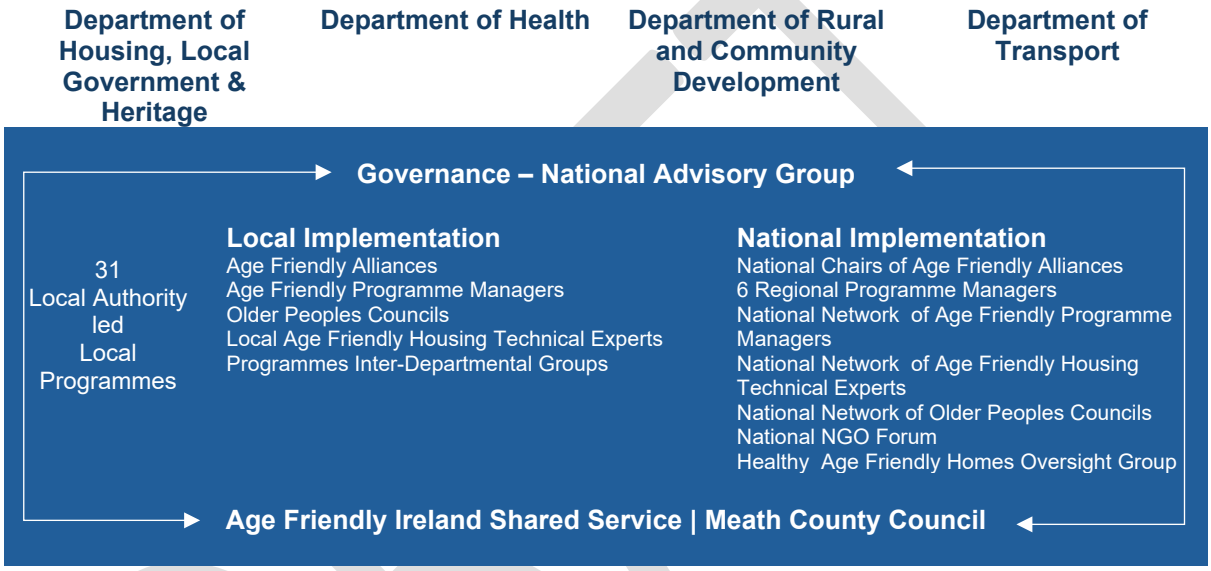
2. The Age Friendly Cities and Counties Programme

The Age Friendly City and Counties programme in Ireland grew from the World Health Organisation's (WHO) Age Friendly initiative (WHO 2005). In recognition of the need to support our ageing society, the Age Friendly Cities and Counties Programme (AFCCP) was established. Age Friendly Ireland (AFI), a national shared service of Local Government hosted by Meath County Council is responsible for delivering this programme through local authorities. Age Friendly Ireland is overseen by the National Advisory Group, consisting of representatives from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Department of Health, Department of Transports, Department of Rural and Community Development, representatives of Local Authority Chief Executives, HSE, An Garda Siochana Commissioner and Chambers Ireland



Source:

Age Friendly Ireland guides and supports 31 Local Authority-led age-friendly programmes across the country. These programmes address a wide range of environmental, economic, and social determinants that impact the daily lives of older people, aligning closely with the World Health Organization's framework for age-friendly communities.

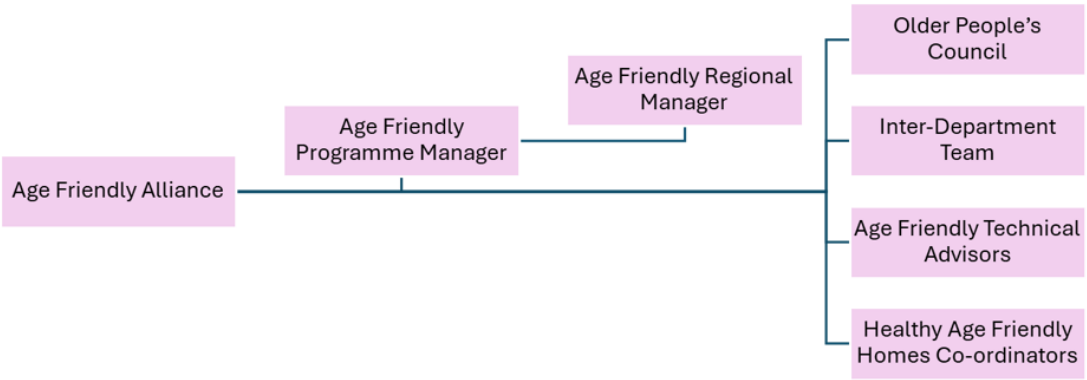
Age Friendly Ireland promotes a collaborative, multi-agency approach to planning and service delivery at local authority level. Under the leadership of local authorities, and through the coordinated efforts of key stakeholders, this integrated approach ensures that actions are not developed in isolation but are part of a cohesive strategy. Partner agencies align their resources to deliver joined-up solutions across areas such as the built environment, housing, health, safety, lifelong learning, social inclusion, and cultural and physical engagement.

3. Age Friendly Fingal

In 2011, Fingal County Council signed the Dublin Declaration on Age-Friendly Cities and Communities, marking a commitment by Fingal to address the needs and opportunities of its older residents. This is the third Age Friendly Strategy to be delivered by Age Friendly Fingal, having successfully delivered on the two previous Strategies (DATES)

Age Friendly Fingal is committed to creating an environment where older people can live active, healthy, and fulfilling lives. The programme focuses on improving the quality of life for older people by ensuring that Fingal's communities are inclusive, accessible, and responsive to their needs. The strategy aims to enhance public services, promote safe mobility, support social inclusion, and foster intergenerational connections. It also emphasises the importance of creating age-friendly spaces that promote physical, mental, and emotional well-being. By engaging with older people, local organisations, and service providers, Age Friendly Fingal strives to build a community where all ages can thrive together.

Age Friendly Fingal Framework



A robust framework supports the implementation of the Age Friendly Programme and the delivery of this Strategy's actions. The programme is overseen by the Age Friendly Alliance, with Fingal Older People's Council ensuring that the voice of older people informs and influences relevant policies and initiatives. The Interdepartmental Team works to embed Age Friendly principles across all aspects of Fingal's operations. Delivery is further supported by Age Friendly Technical Advisors, Healthy Homes Coordinators, Fingal's Age Friendly Programme Manager, and Age Friendly Ireland's Regional Manager. Fingal's Age Friendly Ambassador plays a key role in promoting awareness and engagement with Age Friendly initiatives. Their roles are outlined in Section 9.

Age Friendly Alliance

INSERT PHOTO OF MEMBERS OF AFA IN SESSION

Fingal's Age Friendly Alliance is a cross-sectoral partnership that brings together key organisations and stakeholders committed to making Fingal a better place in which to grow older. The Alliance plays a central role in leading and overseeing the implementation of the Fingal Age Friendly Strategy.

Chaired by an Independent Chair, the Alliance includes members from a wide range of agencies and groups, including:

- Fingal County Council (Elected Representatives, Community, Healthy Fingal, Libraries and Housing Departments)
- Health Service Executive (HSE)
- An Garda Síochána
- Local Link
- Dublin City University
- Dublin Dunlaoghaire Education and Training Board
- Fingal Older People's Council

The Alliance serves as the main coordinating and decision-making body for Age Friendly initiatives in Fingal. Its core responsibilities include:

- Driving Implementation: Overseeing the delivery of the goals and actions set out in the *Age Friendly Strategy* and ensuring that all partners are working together effectively.
- Promoting Collaboration: Encouraging joint initiatives between agencies, services, and community groups to meet the needs of older people in a holistic way.
- Monitoring Progress: Tracking outcomes, measuring impact, and reporting regularly on the progress of the strategy's implementation.
- Identifying and Addressing Gaps: Responding to challenges raised by older people and stakeholders and referring issues beyond its remit to Age Friendly Ireland for national-level action.
- Championing Older People: Ensuring that the voice of older people is central to planning and decision-making, and that they are involved in shaping the services and supports that affect their lives.

By bringing diverse organisations together with a shared purpose, Fingal's Age Friendly Alliance ensures that age friendly actions are not just the responsibility of one agency but a joint commitment to building an inclusive, supportive community for all.

4. Demographic Profile of Older People in Fingal

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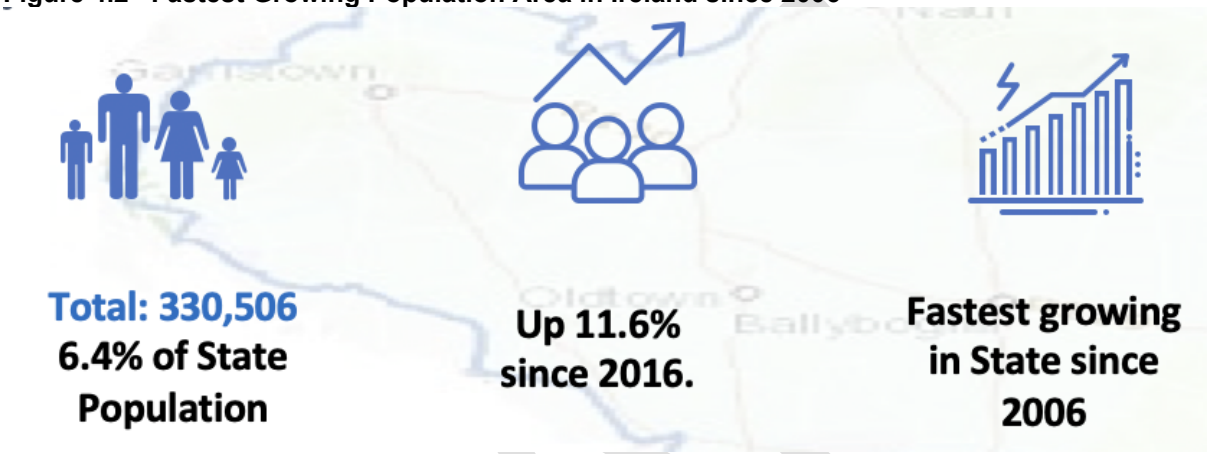
Fingal County is one of Ireland's fastest-growing counties in Ireland with a blend of urban, suburban, and rural communities. As of the 2022 Census, the population reached 330,506, marking an 11.6% increase since 2016, well above the national growth rate. This rapid growth, driven by both inward migration and natural population increases, has contributed to Fingal maintaining one of the youngest demographic profiles in the country. However, alongside this youthful population, there is a marked and growing cohort of older adults. While those aged 55 and over currently represent about 21% of the population, this group has grown by 59% since 2011, far exceeding the national average increase of 35.8%.

Figure 4.2 Fastest Growing Population Area in Ireland since 2006



Diversity among Fingal's older population

Fingal's older population reflects a growing diversity in terms of health, caregiving roles, ethnicity, and nationality, all of which have important implications for the development of inclusive, age friendly policies. A significant and increasing number of older people are living with disability. In 2022, 23,571 people aged 55 or older identified as have a disability, highlighting the need for targeted supports and accessible services to enable full participation and quality of life for older people with disabilities.

Caring responsibilities are another key aspect of diversity among older people. A total of 6,175 people aged 55+ identified as unpaid carers in 2022, with the largest share in the 55–59 age group (2,235 carers). These older carers often support spouses, adult children with disabilities, or grandchildren, placing additional emotional and physical demands on them. As the population ages, these dual roles, as older individuals and caregivers require recognition and support.

Living alone can significantly impact the wellbeing of older people, particularly in areas such as social isolation, access to services, and health outcomes. As of Census 2022, 6,929 people aged 65 and over were living alone in Fingal, of which 2,036 were aged 80 years or over. Older people living alone are more vulnerable to social isolation, particularly those who are widowed, have limited mobility, or live in more rural or poorly connected areas. Targeted supports for this group, including right-sizing housing options and enhanced social inclusion

initiatives will be essential in creating a more age friendly Fingal where older people living alone can remain safe, connected, and supported. Social isolation is not just experienced by those living alone, it is recognised that this can be felt even when surrounded by people living in towns and villages across the county.

Ethnic and cultural diversity is also a growing feature of older age in Fingal. While the majority of older residents are Irish nationals (92% of those aged 65+ and 88% of those aged 55–64), a notable 6,765 people aged 55 and over are non-Irish nationals. This figure, alongside trends showing increased numbers of residents born outside Ireland (26.7% in 2022), suggests an increasingly multicultural older population. Ensuring that services are culturally competent, linguistically accessible, and reflective of diverse life experiences will be essential to fostering a truly inclusive, age friendly environment in Fingal. Moreover, it is crucial to continue engaging these communities to better understand and respond to their specific needs and aspirations as they age.

These demographic shifts highlight the urgent need to prepare for an ageing population. Although Fingal has traditionally been seen as a county of young families, the population aged 70 and over has doubled since 2011, and the large numbers currently in the 40–50 age bracket indicate a coming surge in demand for age-related services in the next 10 to 15 years. This evolving age profile demands a robust, forward-thinking age friendly strategy that balances the needs of a youthful population while ensuring adequate support, infrastructure, and services for older residents. As the county develops, promoting inclusion, accessibility, and active ageing will be essential to building a truly age-friendly Fingal.

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5. Developing the Strategy

The development of this strategy employed a robust and inclusive methodology, ensuring that the voices of older people and the wider community were central to the process. The approach combined extensive public consultation, targeted engagement with key stakeholders, and surveys to gather diverse perspectives and insights.

As with previous Age Friendly Strategies in Fingal this strategy is structured around the eight thematic areas identified by the World Health Organisation (2007) as augmented and categorised by the WHO Age Friendly Environments in Europe project (AFEE) 2018. However, in the public consultation phase of the development of this strategy there was strong emphasis placed on gaining an insight and identifying priorities from the seven Local Electoral Areas in the Fingal County Council area within those eight strategic focus areas.

Figure 5.1 Fingal Age Friendly Strategy Roadmap

The initial stages involved a desktop review of Census 2022 data and relevant reports and strategic policy documents, that assisted in the selection of venues for consultation meetings (Appendix A).

Engagements

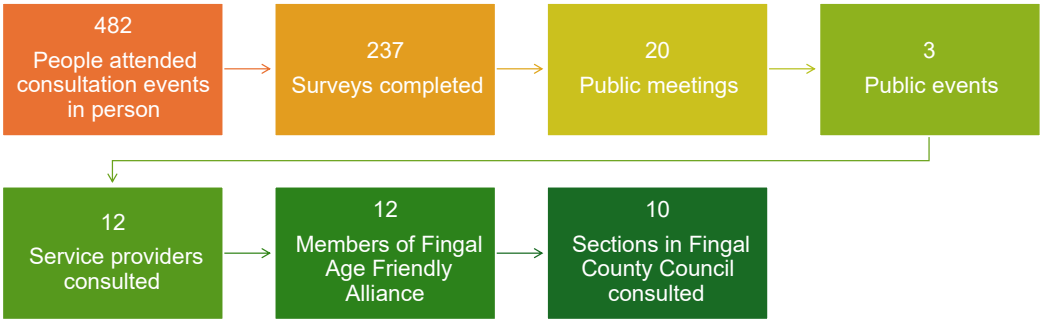
A broad and inclusive engagement approach was adopted to inform the development of the Age-Friendly Strategy. Public participation was promoted through posters in community venues, direct outreach to older persons' groups, communication via the Public Participation Network (PPN), and coordination with stakeholder organisations such as the Older People's Council and the Age-Friendly Alliance. Fingal County Council Community Development Officers played a key role in mobilising local engagement and encouraging participation from older people and their representative groups.

A total of 23 consultation events were held across the county, attracting 482 participants. These localised sessions provided an accessible platform for individuals and groups to share their experiences, voice concerns, and offer suggestions. Many attendees represented community or advocacy organisations, broadening the range and depth of input collected.

Key stakeholders, including the Age-Friendly Alliance and the Older People's Council, were actively involved through dedicated meetings. Their insights were essential in shaping the strategy's direction and ensuring alignment with the needs and aspirations of older people. In addition, each member of the Council's Age-Friendly interdepartmental team was interviewed, with findings integrated into the overall analysis.

To complement the qualitative input, a survey was disseminated both online and in hard copy, with over 300 paper versions distributed and a 36% return rate in hard copy. In total, 257 responses were received, providing valuable quantitative data on the priorities and challenges facing older people in Fingal.

Consultation Process: Key Engagements



Reaching Underrepresented Groups
Early feedback identified gaps in participation from certain groups, including men, members of the Traveller and migrant communities, and people with disabilities. The engagement process was adapted to address this by organising targeted sessions with these groups, ensuring their perspectives were included in the strategy's development. The PPN, with over 600 member groups, supported outreach which enabled engagement with a broad spectrum of community organisations, enhancing the strategy's inclusivity and depth.

Data Analysis
Data from consultations, targeted engagement, surveys, and stakeholder interviews was analysed to identify recurring themes and priority areas. This evidence-based process informed the development of a strategy that is responsive to the unique demographic and social context of Fingal.

The collaborative, multi-agency approach used placed the voices of older people at its core. By integrating broad public input with targeted outreach and data analysis, a strong foundation for an inclusive and actionable Age-Friendly Strategy was built.

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6. The Strategy

Fingal Age Friendly Strategy (2025-2029) sets out the vision of Fingal as an Age Friendly County. Since its inception, Age Friendly Fingal has been committed to enhancing the quality of life for older people through a diverse range of initiatives, in collaboration with organisations, agencies and volunteer groups. These efforts have helped create an inclusive, supportive and empowering environment where older people can thrive, remain active, and continue to contribute meaningfully to their communities.

However, with a growing and more diverse population of older people, it is necessary to evaluate the work we have done and continuously improve to ensure we meet the needs and interests of a changing cohort of older people. While the majority of the respondents in the consultation provided constructive and positive feedback, gaps in service provision and their priorities were identified. For the service providers represented on the Fingal Age Friendly Alliance this process provided solid foundations from which to jointly develop services for older people who, while identifying the significant number of deficits, are still more than willing to acknowledge the positive actions that were taken, and that this feedback should encourage greater alignment of delivery of services over the next four to five years.

Vision

Our vision is for Fingal to be recognised as an age-friendly community, one that celebrates the diversity of its older residents, fosters inclusion, and empowers them to lead meaningful lives while fulfilling their potential.

Mission

To work together as partners to enhance the wellbeing of older people in Fingal through:

- Improving the provision of, and access to key services, supports and facilities
- Addressing gaps and creating synergies through co-ordination of an interagency approach in partnership with local communities.

Values

Our core values in approaching delivery of this strategy reflect those of the National programme:

Inclusion: Recognising the diversity of our older persons population and as a priority striving towards equality of access for all regardless of ethnicity, economic or social status.

Collaboration: Working with others to be a champion and exemplar, and to set standards, creating an environment where all resources available to deliver the strategy are both harnessed and optimised for maximum benefit for the current and future generations of older people.

Innovation: To be pioneering in introducing new ways of addressing everyday challenges and needs of older people by piloting and bringing forward new ideas, methods and approaches.

Future proofing: Planning for the significant projected increase in the older people in the next 10 to 15 years through investing in infrastructure and services.

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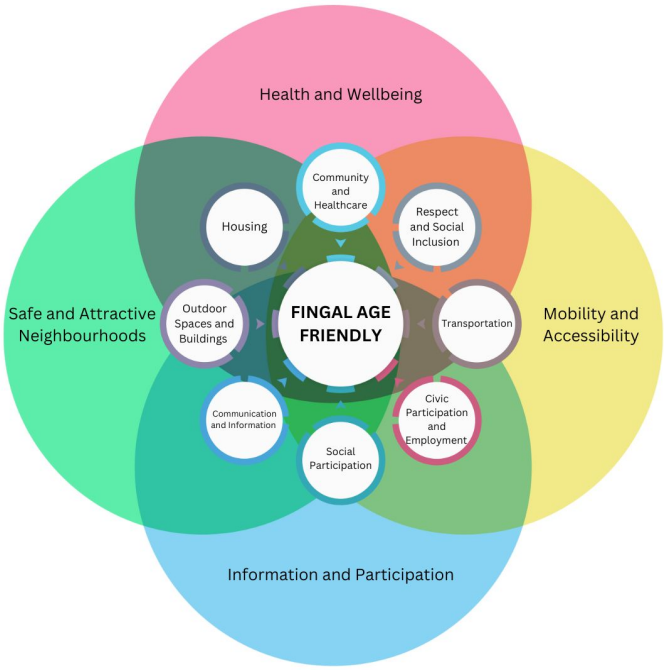
Strategic Goals

This Strategy aims to address some of the challenges identified in the consultation process with older people across the county. While challenges are diverse representing not only a heterogenous cohort but also the geographic diversity within in Fingal with urban, suburban and rural towns and villages all presenting different challenges. However, the consultations highlighted similar issues across the county which are presented under four overall themes.

The four thematic areas relate directly to the eight domains of the World Health Organization's Age Friendly Communities.



These four key themes emerged from the analysis of the findings from the community and stakeholder consultations:

1. Health and Wellbeing
2. Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods
3. Mobility and Accessibility
4. Information and Participation

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THEME A: HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Progress has been made with the introduction of the health and wellbeing programmes for older people. Health Promotion Talks in libraries and community centres with the HSE and Healthy Fingal to provide older residents with information on maintaining health and preventing illness. Exercise programmes both in person and online have been developed by Fingal's Sports Officers for all levels of ability including walking groups, sofa to saddle programme, aqua-aerobics and exercise classes for older people. Tai Chi and Yoga are regular classes available in Fingal Libraries. Community Development Officers continue to support groups through training and funding. Age Friendly initiatives such as Age Friendly Towns and Business and training are well established.

Objective 1: Health Outcomes

During the consultation process issues were identified pertaining to health services across the county. While recognising constraints in the HSE and staff shortages as well as the rising ageing population, concerns were raised about a lack of basic health services in some of the more rural areas in Fingal with long waiting times to see GPs. There is growing concern over privatisation of local GP services and limited access to affordable care with a need for age-specific drop-in clinics.

Older people are cognisant of the benefits of taking preventative measures to ensure their health and wellbeing. However, there is lack of awareness of the health and exercise programmes and a need for clearer pathways to accessing these programmes. Information on health-monitoring devices to enable older people to remain living at home is lacking, as is financial support in the form of grants for these devices. Social prescribing is geographically based and should be expanded.

A need for training in digital literacy for healthcare access via smartphones was identified during consultations. While transport to hospitals remains challenge for older people across Fingal, as is the cost of carparking at hospitals, this is addressed under Theme C: Mobility and Accessibility.

Actions

To support older people in Fingal to overcome challenges on access to health services and health promotion initiatives, as well as supports to remain living at home, the Strategy will:

- Promote initiatives and campaigns to enhance and support the health and wellbeing of older people.
- Support older people to prevent and manage chronic disease
- Deliver the Frailty Prevention Programme currently being developed by the HSE and Age Friendly Ireland
- Continue to promote and develop programmes of physical activities for older people across the county.
- Promote cycling for exercise and mobility
- Implement initiatives to address substance misuse in older people
- Introduce a programme to target those experience loneliness and isolation

- Support older people with dementia and their carers through dementia cafes
- Develop partnerships between the Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme and external stakeholders

Objective 2: Strong and inclusive services

The need for clearly designated, visible, and welcoming Age Friendly spaces for older people, such as ground-floor areas in public libraries, arose during consultations. There is a need for a coordinated approach to expand the age friendly towns and communities' initiative to ensure inclusivity in design, planning, and service delivery. There is a variance among supports for 'senior groups' and while many groups appreciate the support they received, a need for structured supports to navigate and access the full range of available services and resources was identified.

Actions

- Fingal County Council will continue to provide capacity building supports to community groups which benefit older people through capacity building, networking and funding supports.
- Using existing expertise DCU will deliver training session and short courses to support groups and individuals
- Age Friendly Towns initiative will be expanded to other towns in Fingal
- Work will commence on an attaining a designation of Age Friendly Sports Campus in a major facility in Fingal.

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Theme B: Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods

Significant progress has been made in recent years to ensure that neighbourhoods in Fingal are safe, accessible, and welcoming for older people. Key improvements include the introduction of Age Friendly parking spaces across the county, along with walkability audits aimed at enhancing the public realm to ensure older people feel secure and confident in their neighbourhoods. Fingal County Council continues to actively support local initiatives such as Tidy Towns, enhancement groups, and community gardens, all of which contribute to creating more attractive and inclusive environments. Fingal continues to incorporate principles of universal design in newly developed housing schemes and public building. Two Health Age Friendly Homes Coordinators, are assigned to Fingal to provide guidance to older people on home adaptation grants and support services, enabling them to age safely in place. Two members of staff have been designed as Age Friendly Technical Advisors and have received training to ensure they continue to offer expertise on inclusive housing design and assist in the development of suitable housing options. To further support community safety, regular safety talks by An Garda Síochána equip older residents with practical information on personal security and crime prevention. These combined efforts reflect a strong commitment to building communities where older people can live independently, safely, and with dignity

Objective 3: Improve safety and security for older people

Older people participating in consultations expressed a range of concerns related to safety and security, both in public spaces and within their homes. Personal safety fears are heightened in public parks, where anti-social behaviour and the presence of unsupervised dogs contribute to feelings of vulnerability and isolation. The growing use of e-scooters and bicycles on footpaths, combined with a perceived lack of Garda presence, adds to these anxieties. Additionally, the increasing shift to online services has introduced new risks, with many older individuals expressing fear and uncertainty about navigating websites, clicking links, or falling victim to scams.

Actions

- Provision of crime prevention advice to older people to enhance personal safety, safety in the home.
- Provision of training and advice to ensure older people are safe on the roads as drivers, cyclists and pedestrians
- Provision of online Cyber Safety Training in places accessible to all.

Objective 4: Enhance accessibility in public spaces

Consultations with older people revealed a broad range of challenges related to the public realm, infrastructure, and outdoor accessibility. A consistent concern was the deficit in amenities such as public seating, toilets and safe walking routes. Many parks and open spaces lack basic features like benches, lighting, and accessible toilets, essential for older people to comfortably enjoy outdoor areas. While acknowledging the numerous regional parks across the county Participants noted their scale may be preventative to use by older people and also noted a shortage of outdoor exercise facilities and the development of smaller park areas for rest and relaxation.

Outdoor accessibility was another major issue, particularly the poor condition of footpaths, which it was reported are often uneven, cracked, or obstructed by parked vehicles, posing serious safety risks for those with mobility aids and challenges. In the more rural areas, narrow and busy roads make walking hazardous. The lack of clear signage to separate walkers and cyclists adds further safety concerns. Overall, these findings highlight a pressing need for more inclusive, well-maintained, and safe outdoor environments to support older people's mobility, wellbeing, and social engagement.

Actions

- Link walkability studies with significant infrastructure programmes to inform public realm infrastructure to ensure works meet the needs of older people.
- Identify additional areas suitable for age friendly car parking spaces during walkability audits
- Develop and promote Age Friendly walking routes

Objective 5: Facilitate provision of age-appropriate housing

Consultations highlighted significant housing-related challenges, particularly around the lack of suitable, age-friendly options to support ageing in place or facilitate rightsizing. There is a clear deficit of smaller, accessible homes that would allow older residents to rightsize within their own communities, with few affordable or appropriate properties available for purchase. There is a demand for sheltered housing, assisted living, and retirement villages, with a preference for these to be located locally to maintain social connections and community ties.

Another key issue is the lack of accessible information and support for home retrofitting and maintenance. Older people reported difficulties in understanding and accessing grants and in evaluating the affordability or cost-effectiveness of energy efficiency upgrades. There is a strong sense among older people for the need for greater housing choice, clearer guidance, and financial support to remain safe, independent, and comfortable in their homes without being pressured to relocate for the benefit of younger populations

Actions

- Implement and formalise proposed practices in relation to the new Right Sizing Policy
- Expand the Healthy Age Friendly Homes (HAFH) Programme
- Provide a minimum percentage of homes developed to Universal design standards
- Encourage the delivery of Age Friendly homes as referenced in policies and objectives of the Fingal Development Plan 2023-2029

Theme C: Mobility and Accessibility

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Fingal County has made significant strides in enhancing mobility and accessibility for older residents through a range of initiatives. The introduction of Active Travel programmes, such as *Cycling Without Age* has created opportunities for older individuals to enjoy safe, leisurely cycling experiences, fostering both physical well-being and social engagement. The Trishaw is now available in three locations to allow those who can no longer cycle themselves to enjoy the cycling experience.

To further support independent travel, Community Car Schemes have been established, offering convenient and reliable transport for older people to attend essential appointments in their community. In addition, over 20 Age Friendly car parking spaces have been strategically installed throughout the county to ensure easier access to services and amenities. Complementing these efforts, *Local Link* has tailored and expanded its rural transport routes to better serve the specific needs of older residents in rural Fingal, enhancing their connectivity and reducing isolation. In addition, Public Libraries in Fingal have been awarded the Age Friendly Charter, recognising the considerable improvements made to facilities and services for olde people in recent years.

Objective 6: Improve availability and access to public transport for older people

Consultation findings across Fingal have highlighted several critical challenges affecting older people's access to public transport and related infrastructure. One of the most prominent concerns is the lack of direct bus routes to essential destinations such as hospitals. Poor cross-county connectivity and inadequate transport options in growing communities like Lusk and Donabate further compound the issue. The limited frequency of existing services, the lack of synchronisation between bus and train schedules, and the unreliable nature of some infrastructure, such as train station lifts also present significant barriers to mobility for older residents.

Participants also pointed to physical accessibility and comfort as areas needing urgent improvement. This includes the need for more bus shelters, seating, and designated, secure parking, especially in town centres. There is also a strong demand for the expansion and better promotion of age-friendly transport options such as Local Link to medical and retail facilities, as well as community car schemes. Additionally, older people expressed concerns about safety, poor taxi availability in rural areas like Garristown, the usability of parking meters that rely solely on apps, and a lack of respect or inclusion when using public transport. The need for clearer communication and awareness around available services was a recurring theme, as many older individuals feel socially excluded or uninformed.

Actions

- Engage with Age Friendly Ireland to address identified gaps in transport provision involving National Organisations for Bus and Rail.
- Work with local transport providers to explore how current resources can be used to better facilitate the needs of older people to access local hospitals in Fingal.
- Support the expansion of the community car scheme to additional locations in Fingal and add additional schemes across the County
- Provide support and assistance to further develop the Cycling Without Age Initiative across the county

- Identify opportunities to promote bike share as a viable form of public transport for older adults and pilot age friendly bike share initiatives

Theme D: Information and Participation

A wide range of initiatives to promote the active participation of older people in community life, celebrating their contributions while ensuring inclusion, creativity, and connection, have been implemented across Fingal. Events such as the *Vintage Picnic*, which welcomes over 700 participants annually, create joyful spaces where older people can engage in music, dance, and cultural expression. Libraries across Fingal also play a key role, offering tailored programmes and hosting events during the *Bealtaine Festival* to celebrate creativity in later life. In addition, Fingal supports *Positive Ageing Week* by partnering with community centres countywide to showcase a vibrant, active image of ageing and encourage meaningful community involvement.

Targeted programmes such as *Walk and Talk* and *Men on the Move* provide accessible ways for older people, particularly older men, who are often underrepresented in social initiative to stay physically active and socially connected. Fingal has also supported the development of a countywide network of *Men's Sheds* and provide supports through events like the annual Mental Health Week initiative, which highlights the importance of mental wellbeing and community belonging.

Information-sharing and empowerment are central to Fingal's approach. Biannual *Information Events for Older People* provide valuable advice and resources from a range of public and voluntary organisations, while the *Annual Older People's Council (OPC) Conference* offers a platform for senior groups to voice concerns and shape policy. Ongoing support for senior social groups and intergenerational projects such as *Cricket4All* and *Cross Border–Cross Generations* helps bridge generational divides and strengthen community ties. In parallel, lifelong learning and digital skills development—delivered through DDLETB and DCU—are empowering older adults to stay engaged and informed. DDLETB also provides tutors for classes in a wide variety of topics to groups across the county. These efforts are further complemented by the weekly *Age Friendly Newsletter*, which keeps older residents updated on services, opportunities, and initiatives throughout Fingal and beyond

Objective 7: Embrace active participation of Older People in Society

Older people across the county have highlighted a broad range of challenges that hinder their full and active participation in society, particularly around communication, access to information, social engagement, and inclusion. A consistent theme is the digital divide. Many older people do not use smartphones or struggle with online platforms, leaving them behind in an increasingly digital-first environment. Websites are often difficult to navigate, and critical updates are not always delivered reliably. There is a strong desire for more human-based communication and printed materials, including local newsletters, physical information points in community centres, and better use of non-digital outlets like local radio. Calls were made for the creation of a one-stop information shop or expanded Citizen Information-type service.

In terms of civic and social participation, many respondents reported a lack of accessible venues. There's also a need for increased subsidies for social and physical activities, such

as swimming, line dancing, and exercise classes, to accommodate those on fixed income. Older people called for more volunteer opportunities and better awareness of the Volunteer Centre, alongside improved funding access for community and voluntary organisations. Demand exists for more intergenerational activities. Finally, participants highlighted broader inclusion issues and accessible sports options for those with reduced mobility. Older residents have asked for joined-up, coordinated communication efforts and greater recognition of the valuable social, civic, and cultural contributions they continue to make.

Actions

- Explore the possibility of developing a schedule of drop-in clinics for older people with Citizen's Information in conjunction with libraries.
- Organise Information/Showcase in local communities to provide information for older people on the services and activities available in their area
- Establish a database for the distribution of information specifically for older people to include individuals, 'senior' groups, service providers and social media channels
- Develop an Older Volunteer enabler initiative to promote volunteer roles for older people in Fingal
- Devise and resource a programme to build on existing intergenerational work to enable and empower older people to participate in their communities and facilitate transfer of knowledge and skills between the generations.
- Design intergenerational programs that pair older residents with students for cultural, educational, or mentorship exchanges.

This Strategy builds on strong foundations and a proven commitment by the organisations represented on the Age Friendly Alliance, to enhancing the lives of older people in Fingal. As Fingal's population grows older and more diverse, the strategy acknowledges the need to evolve and respond to emerging challenges. The doubling of the population aged 70 and over since 2011, along with a significant cohort currently aged 40–50, signals a need to prepare for future demand on age-related services.

By focusing on the four key themes; Health and Wellbeing, Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods, Mobility and Accessibility, and Information and Participation, the strategy offers a comprehensive roadmap to address these needs.

Consultation feedback has been instrumental in shaping the strategy, highlighting both achievements and service gaps. The willingness of older people to share their experiences and suggestions, combined with the collaboration of the Fingal Age Friendly Alliance, will ensure a more aligned, inclusive, and proactive approach to service delivery.

As Fingal continues to grow, balancing the vibrancy of a youthful population with the needs of its older residents will be vital. This strategy will build on previous work to ensure Fingal is a place where people of all ages can live, age, and thrive in a supportive, accessible, and age-friendly environment.

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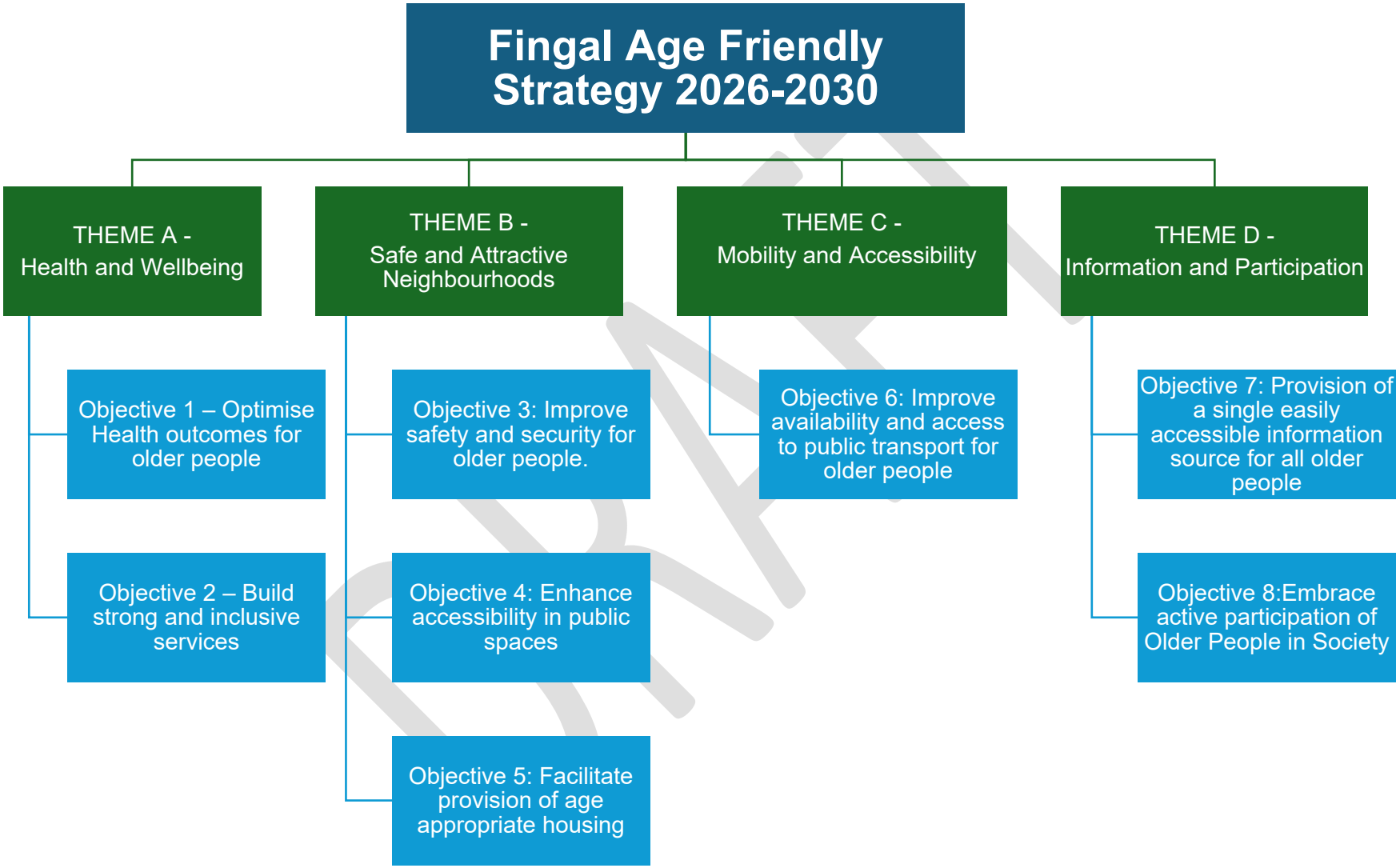
7. Action Plan

Alignment of Fingal Age Friendly Strategy Themes to National Programme
The action plan has been developed on the basis of delivery of SMART actions with clear deliverables clustered under 4 themes. These 4 themes encompass the 8 strategic focus areas considered under the National Strategy. Objectives have been prepared under each of these 4 themes and SMART actions will directly work towards achieving these. The strategy consists of 4 themes, 7 objectives and 34 actions.

Structure of Fingal Age Friendly Strategy 2025-2029



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Theme A: Health and Wellbeing

Objective 1 – Optimise Health outcomes for older people

No.	Action	Description	Lead Partner(s)	Supporting Partners	Timescale	Indicators	Target Areas
1.1	Promote initiatives and campaigns to enhance and support the health and wellbeing of older people. Support older people to prevent and manage chronic disease	1. Promote both national and targeted local campaigns in relation to healthy eating & active living, cancer prevention, brain health, dementia awareness self-management support, smoking cessation, reduction in binge drinking and mental health and wellbeing. 2.Council wide health and wellbeing information campaigns to support early intervention, prevention and self-management of chronic disease. 3.Plan, support and promote activities during National Positive Ageing Week 4.Distribution of HSE booklet on services for older people	HSE (Health Promotion and Improvement Team)	Healthy Ireland at your Libraries Co-ordinator, Healthy Fingal Coordinator, Local Sport Partnership, HSE Older persons/Mental Health and Primary Care services	2025-2029	1.Data capture of older people accessing stop smoking services 2.Data capture of campaigns/information sessions delivered to HSE staff and local community members 3.Activities completed and attended during positive ageing week 4.No of booklets disseminated	Entire County

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1.2	Deliver Frailty Prevention Programme	Promote HSE's new Age Friendly Healthy Programme Course of 7 modules in frailty prevention.	HSE	Age Friendly Fingal. Community Centres	2026-2029	One course in 2026 with the aim of increasing in subsequent years. Number will depend on delivery method and interest among groups	Entire county
1.3	Implement & promote a programme of physical activities for older people	Launch a campaign to improve health and fitness of older people. Provide structured and easily accessible exercise for older people of differing mobility levels on a year round basis. 1.Run an annual programme of physical activities for older people called Active for Life. 2.Identify gaps in physical activities for older people in Fingal, through the Fingal Active Cities Dublin Initiative in line with Fingal Sports Office, Local Sports Plan 2024-2029. 3.Undertake campaigns to promote the benefits of physical activity for older people. Promote "active for all" in campaigns and promotions, and ensure the	Fingal Active Cities & Sports Dept	Libraries HSE Age Friendly Fingal/OPC	2025-2029	Active for life programme to increase from 6 to 8 locations by 2026 250-300 older people per week participating in Active for Life exercise programmes.	Entire county

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		visibility of older people in advertisements and promotional material.					
1.4	Encourage older people to cycle for exercise and mobility	Activities to increase access to cycling for older people	Active Travel & Sports	Age & Opportunity	2025-2028	Sofa to Saddle Programmes. 40 new people per year (4 courses)	Areas to be agreed
1.5	Implement initiative to address Substance misuse in older people	Targeted programme of support and information provision to target alcohol misuse and binge drinking in particular amongst older men 55-74. Information campaign on alcohol misuse and binge drinking.	HSE Healthy Fingal office	n/a	2025-2029	Data capture of older adults reporting a decrease in binge drinking	Targeting areas of disadvantage/ areas of identified need
1.6	Programme to tackle loneliness and isolation amongst older people	Explore good practice initiatives identified in the KORALE EU Project on loneliness with a view to piloting these initiatives in Fingal and showcasing best practice.	FCC Community Development	HSE (PHN) DCU Alone Libraries Age Friendly Skerries	2025-2029	Pilot 2 social engagement initiatives in 2025 and roll-out to other identified areas from 2026-2029	Roll out successful initiatives, prioritising areas with identified needs.
		Continue to support groups to develop and engage with Walk & Talk	Sports/Active Travel	Get Ireland Walking	2025-2028	Increased presence of Walk & Talk Groups from 5 to 15	Entire County

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						across the County	
1.7	Support older people with dementia and their carers	Continue to support Dementia Cafes in Fingal. Identify gaps and support the expansion of dementia cafes in areas identified	FCC Community Development	HSE ASI	2026	Support the establishment of 1 café in an area with an identified need.	Dublin 15
1.8	Develop partnerships between the Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme and external stakeholders	Develop working relationships with key stakeholders and service providers to align actions to support older people to age well while continuing to live in their own home. Promote the Healthy Homes Initiative with relevant agencies to ensure relevant supports for older people to remain living in their own homes	Age Friendly Ireland/Healthy Homes	n/a	2025-2029	**Suggested:** Increase in referral numbers or an increase in referrers.	Entire County

Objective 2 – Build strong and inclusive services

No.	Action	Description	Lead Partner(s)	Supporting Partners	Timescale	Indicators	Target Areas
2.1	Continue to provide capacity building supports to community groups	Through the Community Development sections First Steps Programme provide capacity building, networking opportunities, and funding supports for groups and activities for older people	FCC Community Dept	DCU DDLETB	2025-29	The number of groups for older people supported each year.	Entire County

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						No of newly established groups	
		Harness DCU-led training modules: Use university existing expertise in areas such as digital literacy, healthy ageing, and community leadership to deliver training sessions or short courses.	DCU	DCU	2025-2029	Number of training sessions delivered, disaggregated by topic (digital literacy, healthy ageing, community leadership).	Entire County
2.3	Build on the Age Friendly Towns initiative	Designation of additional towns to Age Friendly Status	Fingal Community Section	FCC EETCD FCC Operations An Gardai Local businesses Other FCC Depts identified	2025-2026 2026-2027	Revisit Age Friendly Skerries 1 no. new Age Friendly Town	Skerries Area to be identified
2.4	Age Friendly Sports Campus	Establish an Age Friendly National Sport Campus	Age Friendly Fingal/Age Friendly Ireland	National Sports Campus & other identified partners	2026-2027	1 no. Age Friendly Sports Campus in Fingal	To be identified

Theme B: Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods

Objective 3: Improve safety and security for older people.

No.	Action	Description	Lead Partner(s)	Supporting Partners	Timescale	Indicators	Target Areas
3.1	Provide regular safety	Provision of crime prevention advice to older people to enhance	Fingal Community Office	An Garda Siochana	2025-2029	To engage on a minimum of 20 occasions	Entire county

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	information for older people initiative across the council area.	personal safety, safety in the home.		Age Friendly Programme OPC		with associated groups, annually Participate in FCC Age Friendly Showcase/Expo Events x 2 annually	
3.2	Road Safety	Provision of training/advice to ensure older people are safe on the roads as drivers, cyclists and pedestrians Deliver road safety talks to older people	Age Friendly Fingal Road Safety Authority	OPC Community Officers	2026-2029	Deliver Mobility Matters, a road safety awareness programme for older adults as required. At least one annually	Entire county
3.3	Online Safety	Online Cyber Safety Training	DDLETB	-	2026	1 training session per annum	Entire County

Objective 4: Enhance accessibility in public spaces

No.	Action	Description	Lead Partner(s)	Supporting Partners	Timescale	Indicators	Target Areas
4.1	To upgrade and expand public realm infrastructure that is Age Friendly	Link walkability studies with significant infrastructure programmes to inform public realm infrastructure	Age Friendly Fingal	OPC Town Team Projects FCC Access Officer	2026-2029	The number of development programmes which include Age Friendly walkability audits/consultations	Entire County

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		to ensure works meet the needs of older people.		Fingal Interdepartmental team		as part of the programme	
4.2	Age Friendly carparking spaces	Identify areas suitable for age friendly car parking spaces as identified during walkability audits	Age Friendly Fingal	OPC Active Travel	2025-2029	No of additional carparking spaces	Entire County
4.3	Age Friendly Walking Routes	Develop and promote Age Friendly walking routes	Active Travel	Get Ireland Walking Tidy Towns	2025-2028	Establish 2 walking routes in each LEA designated age friendly (6 in total)	Entire County

Objective 5: Facilitate provision of age-appropriate housing

No.	Action	Description	Lead Partner(s)	Supporting Partners	Timescale	Indicators	Target Areas
5.1	Implement and formalise proposed practices in relation to the new Right Sizing Policy	Launch and Implement a rightsizing initiative to ensure that housing meets the needs of older people and rightsizing options available to those who wish to avail of it. Impact study to be conducted by academic partners. Strategy launched, actioned and communicated to older property owners that wish to downsize.	Fingal CC Housing section	Approved housing bodies	2025-2026	Rightsizing policy implemented	Entire County
5.2	Expand the Healthy Age Friendly Homes (HAFH) Programme	Provide a signposting and hands on advice to older people through the Age Friendly Homes initiative. One to one provision of support for older people in their own homes by dedicated professional staff with	Age Friendly Ireland/ Healthy Homes	FCC Housing Dept	2025-2029	Increase to 600 home visits per year.	Entire County

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		universal knowledge of supports and interventions that help maintain independent living					
5.3	Provide a minimum percentage of homes developed to Universal design standards	Fingal County Council to continue to implement their policy of 30% of social homes in new housing developments to be developed to Universal Design standards, making them Age Friendly. All new housing developments proofed for compliance with Minimum Universal design limits.	Fingal Housing Section	n/a	2025-2029	Continued increase in Universal Design social housing stock from commencement of strategy.	Entire County
5.4	Implement and Formalise proposed Age Friendly practices as referenced in policies and objectives of the Fingal Development Plan 2023-2029	Encourage delivery of Age Friendly Housing as per Section 3.5.7.1 of the Fingal Development Plan 2023-2029 and as required by Objective DMSO37- Age Friendly Housing of the Development Plan which requires that new residential developments in excess of 100 units provide 10% of the units as age friendly accommodation. Objective SPQHO19 of the Development Plan seeks to ensure a range of housing options for older people and includes the requirement that all Local Area Plans (LAP's) and Masterplans are assessed for suitability so as to provide housing for older people.	Planning Dept	Fingal County Council	2025-2029	Compliance with the stated Development Plan objectives is ongoing through the Development Management and policy/plan-making functions of the local authority.	Entire County

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Theme C: Mobility and Accessibility

Objective 6: Improve availability and access to public transport for older people

No.	Action	Description	Lead Partner(s)	Supporting Partners	Timescale	Indicators	Target Areas
6.1	Explore the development of transport routes in Fingal to hospitals i.e. Beaumont and satellite hospital (Josephs) and Connolly .	High level engagement with national organisations and Age Friendly Ireland needed to address identified gaps Liaise with local transport providers to explore how current resources can be used to better facilitate the needs of older people to access local hospitals	Age Friendly Alliance	FCC HSE Active Travel Unit An Garda Siochana Local Link NTA Dublin Bus Bus Eireann	2026-2028	Improved services for older people to hospitals in Fingal.	Entire County
6.2	Support the expansion of the community car initiative	Identify funding sources that would support the expansion of the community car scheme to additional locations in Fingal and add additional schemes across the County	FCC	Car Share Operators & Local Link	2025 - 2028	Improved access to Community Cars across Fingal through increase from 1 to 3 community cars.	Donabate, Mulhuddart and Castleknock
6.3	Cycling without Age	Provide support and assistance in the further development of the Cycling Without Age Initiative leading to Inclusion of additional areas in the Cycling Without Age Scheme	Active Travel	-	2025 - 2028	Addition of 3 more towns & villages involved in Cycling Without Age,	Skerries, Malahide, Santry, Dublin 15 and Baldoyle

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						bringing total to 6.	
6.4	Bike Share	Identify opportunities to promote bike share as a viable form of public transport for older adults and pilot age friendly bike share initiatives.	Active Travel	Bleeper Bike	2025 - 2028	Increased uptake in Bike share among adults over 55	Skerries, Malahide, Castleknock and Howth

Theme D: Information and Participation

Objective 7: Embrace active participation of Older People in Society

No.	Action	Description	Lead Partner(s)	Supporting Partners	Timescale	Indicators	Target Areas
7.1	Enhance access to information for older people in the council area	Explore the possibility of developing a schedule of drop-in clinics for older people with Citizen's Information in conjunction with libraries.	CIC	Libraries	2025-2029	Develop a pilot in an area to measure success and roll out in areas identified with biggest needs	Entire County
7.2	Information/Showcase Events for Older People	Provision of information for older people on services and activities available in their area	Community Dept	Alliance Members	2025-2029	2 showcases per year	Entire County
7.3	Age Friendly Fingal Advertising events	Establish a database for the distribution of information specifically for older people to include individuals, 'senior' groups, service providers and social media channels	Age Friendly Fingal	FCC Comms OPC Alliance Members	2025-2029	Database increase year-on-year.	Entire County

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7.4	Develop an Older Volunteer enabler initiative	Scope out opportunities to promote volunteer roles for older people in Fingal	Fingal Volunteer Centre Age Friendly Fingal	Fingal Community Section PPN	2026	Develop a pilot initiative in year 1 to be rolled out in identified areas. 1 event per year.	Entire County
7.5	Extend Intergenerational practice in Fingal	Devise and resource a programme to build on existing intergenerational work to enable and empower older people to participate in their communities and facilitate transfer of knowledge and skills between the generations.	FCC Community Section DDLETB	Libraries FCC Arts Office DCU Schools, Youth Clubs 'Senior' groups	2026-2029	1 no. intergenerational programme framework developed for Fingal area.	Expand by one area per year for duration of strategy
		DCU to design intergenerational programs that pair older residents with students for cultural, educational, or mentorship exchanges.	DCU	Age Friendly Fingal – National youths groups	2026-2027	Number of intergenerational programmes designed and launched Number of older adults and students participating Number of sessions or contact hours completed	Entire county
7.6	Continue to provide supports to empower older people with	Continue to organise talks, workshops and advice sessions	Libraries DDLETB	Organisations providing information in	2025-2029	Number of events organised and	Entire area

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	essential literacy skills to navigate modern life.	throughout the library network in Fingal covering essential skills, including digital skills, media literacy, financial literacy, health awareness and sustainable lifestyles.		these literacy skills. Other FCC Depts		audience numbers	

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8. Monitoring and Evaluation

The successful implementation of the Fingal Age Friendly Strategy relies on ongoing monitoring, collaboration, and accountability. To ensure that actions are progressing as intended and continue to reflect the needs of older people, a structured monitoring and evaluation framework will be put in place.

An **Annual Implementation Plan** will be developed at the beginning of each year, outlining specific actions, responsible lead agencies, expected outputs, and timelines. Progress on these actions will be monitored through quarterly meetings of the Fingal Age Friendly Alliance, where lead agencies will provide regular updates.

The **Older People's Council** will play a key role in reviewing the Action Plan each year, offering feedback and recommendations to the Alliance. This ensures that the views, ideas, and concerns of older people remain central to the strategy's delivery. Outcomes and progress will be communicated widely to ensure transparency and to raise awareness of available supports and initiatives.

The **FCC Interdepartmental Team** will convene as needed to advance key projects, particularly those aligned with emerging funding opportunities or national programmes. Fingal's Age Friendly Programme will also maintain active links with the Regional and National Age Friendly offices to align with national policy and best practice.

A comprehensive Annual Progress Report will be compiled and presented at the first Alliance meeting of each year. This report will assess achievements, highlight challenges, and inform priorities for the year ahead, ensuring the strategy remains responsive, accountable, and focused on improving the lives of older people in Fingal.

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9. Supporting the implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan

A comprehensive framework has been established to support the delivery of the Action Plan, with defined roles and responsibilities assigned to the following groups and individuals.

Older People's Council

Fingal's Older People's Council (FOPC) serves as the representative voice of older people across the county. Integral to the Fingal Age Friendly Programme, the FOPC collaborates closely with Fingal Age Friendly Alliance, and Age Friendly Ireland to inform and influence both local and national policies affecting older people. Comprising individuals with diverse backgrounds and experiences, the Council meets regularly to discuss issues pertinent to older people and to co-design solutions that enhance their quality of life.

The FOPC actively contributes to various initiatives in Fingal, including the development of this Strategy, the organisation of information, cultural and social gatherings. They participate in local and national consultations to ensure the voice of older people in Fingal is included in all decisions that impact on them. Through these efforts, the Council ensures that the perspectives and needs of older people are central to community planning and service delivery in Fingal.

Fingal Age Friendly Ambassador

The Age Friendly Ambassador for Fingal plays a pivotal role in advocating for and promoting age-friendly policies and practices within the county. This honorary position is held by Terry Prone, media personality and communications. With her extensive experience in strategic communication and media relations, Terry is well-equipped to champion the Age Friendly Programme in Fingal. She is committed to standing up for issues facing society and aims to change attitudes towards ageing.

Age Friendly Fingal

- **Interdepartmental Team**: Fingal's Inter-departmental Team comprises of representatives from across departments in Fingal, including Housing, Communications, Active Travel, Planning, Architects, Community Development, Libraries and Economic Development. The team works collaboratively to ensure that the age friendly agenda is incorporated into Fingal County Council's work across the organisation.

- **Age Friendly Technical Advisor**: A core principle of the Government's housing policy is to enable older individuals to live independently and with dignity in their own homes for as long as possible. The two Age Friendly Technical Advisors in Fingal play a vital role as the primary point of contact for age-friendly housing-related technical inquiries, particularly in the areas of designing for life and universal design

principles. This role involves referring to best practice models from other regions and sharing technical plans and development specifications. Additionally, the advisors provide appropriate contacts for individuals outside the local authority who can offer technical guidance, especially concerning universal design and crime prevention through environmental design principles.

- **Age Friendly Programme Manager**: The Programme Manager plays a central role in coordinating and driving the implementation of the Age Friendly Strategy across the county. Working closely with key stakeholders, including the Age Friendly Alliance, the Older People's Council, and internal departments, the Programme Manager ensures that Age Friendly principles are embedded in local policies, services, and initiatives. The role involves strategic planning, stakeholder engagement, monitoring progress against action plans, and reporting on outcomes. Additionally, the Programme Manager acts as a liaison with Age Friendly Ireland, supporting the alignment of local efforts with national objectives, and fostering innovation and best practice in promoting active, healthy, and inclusive ageing in Fingal

Age Friendly Ireland

- **Healthy Homes Co-ordinators**: This service is overseen by Age Friendly Ireland with two co-ordinators allocated to Fingal. They are integral to ensuring that older people in Fingal have access to safe, comfortable, and appropriate housing that supports their health, well-being, and independence. They act as a central point of contact for older people in the community, offering information and support on housing-related services such as home adaptations, repairs, and energy efficiency measures. They work closely with local and national agencies, including health services, social services, and non-governmental organizations, ensuring a holistic approach to addressing the housing needs of older people. Additionally, the coordinator assists older individuals and their families in making informed decisions about home modifications, whether it involves safety features like grab rails or ramps, energy efficiency improvements, or enhancing overall accessibility.

- **Age Friendly Regional Manager (Eastern Region) -** The Regional Manager plays a key role in supporting the implementation of the Age Friendly Programme across Fingal and neighbouring local authorities. The Regional Manager provides strategic guidance, facilitates knowledge sharing, and ensures consistency with national Age Friendly policy and frameworks. They act as a critical link between local Age Friendly Programmes and the national office, offering support on best practices, capacity building, and coordination of regional initiatives. Their role also involves fostering collaboration across local authorities to enhance the delivery of age-friendly actions and to ensure a cohesive approach to improving the quality of life for older people across the region.

10. Policy Context

Fingal's Age-Friendly Strategy (2025-2029) is set within an inter-connected network of international, national and local strategies and policies, many of which are informed by global trends and drivers for change. It is vital that during the bottom-up process of the strategy formulation phase, that goals, objectives and actions that ultimately form Fingal's Age-Friendly Strategy are congruent, complement, and are consistent with these strategies and policies to address the challenges and issues raised. While the timelines for the development and implementation of these strategies and plans are not always the same, every effort is made to ensure that these policies align to maximise their effectiveness. This section presents an overview of some key relevant International, National, and local policies and plans.

WHO: *National programmes for age-friendly cities and communities: a guide* (2023)

In April 2023, the World Health Organization (WHO) released a comprehensive guide to developing national programmes for age-friendly cities and communities. This guide aims to assist countries in creating environments that support older individuals in living healthy, active, and fulfilling lives. It outlines a step-by-step approach encompassing leadership, stakeholder engagement, resource allocation, capacity building, and monitoring. The guide emphasizes the importance of partnerships and networks in fostering age-friendly initiatives and provides a living toolkit to support implementation.

***Programme for Government: Securing Ireland's Future* (2025)**

The Programme for Government, *Securing Ireland's Future*, outlines a comprehensive approach to supporting older people and fostering age-friendly communities. Recognising the importance of enabling older people to live independently and remain integrated within their communities, the government commits to several key initiatives such as an expansion of home supports services including meals-on-wheels and care and repair scheme,and increasing housing adaptation grants.

Our Shared Future: Policy Statement on the Future of the Community and Voluntary Sector in Ireland (2020)

The Government's national policy, *Our Shared Future*, outlines a comprehensive approach to fostering a sustainable, inclusive, and empowered society. While the policy encompasses various aspects of community development, its implications for older people and age-friendly communities are particularly significant. The policy emphasizes the importance of creating environments that support the well-being and active participation of all citizens, including older individuals.

It supports the development of age-friendly communities through policies that promote accessible housing, healthcare, and social services tailored to the needs of older populations. By fostering collaboration between government agencies, local authorities, and community organizations, the policy facilitates the creation of environments where older individuals can live independently and participate fully in community life. This holistic approach ensures that the voices of older people are heard, and their needs are met, contributing to the overarching goal of a more inclusive and equitable society.

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National Positive Ageing Strategy (2013)

The National Positive Ageing Strategy (NPAS) provides a high-level framework aimed at promoting positive ageing across Ireland. It outlines four national goals: removing barriers to participation, supporting health and wellbeing, enabling independent living, and using research to inform policy. These goals emphasise the need for a whole-of-government approach to address the social, economic, and environmental factors that impact older individuals.

Project Ireland 2040: National Planning Framework (2018)

Project Ireland 2040 acknowledges the need to plan for Ireland's ageing population by prioritising accessible services, healthcare, and appropriate housing. It calls on local authorities and Age Friendly Programmes to deliver a range of housing options that support older people to live independently in their communities. Key priorities include accessible, well-located homes, opportunities to downsize, and accommodation with care supports, all designed using universal design principles. The framework reinforces the role of local government in creating inclusive, age-friendly environments that promote healthy, connected, and confident living for older adults.

Housing for All – A New Housing Plan for Ireland (2021)

Housing for All, Ireland's national housing plan running to 2030, places a strong emphasis on supporting older people to remain in their homes and communities for as long as possible. Aligned with the Programme for Government's vision of an age-friendly Ireland, the plan promotes independent living, community participation, and access to a range of suitable housing and health supports. It reiterates many of the key initiatives recommended in the Policy Statement *Housing Options for Our Ageing Population*. These include the provision of dedicated social housing, increased availability of appropriately sized homes to support rightsizing, and the application of Age Friendly and Universal Design principles. The plan also supports a national network of Age Friendly Technical Advisors, enhanced funding for Housing Adaptation Grants for Older and Disabled Persons, and the continued use of the Capital Assistance Scheme to facilitate age-appropriate housing solutions.

Housing Options for Our Ageing Population – Policy Statement (2019)

The Irish Government's *Housing Options for Our Ageing Population* policy aims to support older individuals in living independently within their communities. Key initiatives include dedicated social housing, rightsizing opportunities, Age-Friendly Technical Advisors, the implementation of Universal Design Principles, increased funding for housing adaptation grants and capital assistance to support the development of housing for older individuals.

Sláintecare – A New Health Service for Ireland (2022)

Sláintecare aims to transform the health and social care system to ensure equitable access to services based on need, not ability to pay. A central focus of Sláintecare is to support older

people in living healthy, independent lives within their own communities, thereby reducing reliance on acute hospital services. Key initiatives include Integrated Care for Older People, Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme and community-based supports to help older people stay healthy in their own homes and communities, reducing the need for hospital admissions. These initiatives reflect Sláintecare's commitment to addressing the needs of older people through integrated, community-based care models.

Healthy Ireland Framework (2019–2025)

The *Healthy Ireland Framework 2019–2025* is Ireland's national strategy aimed at improving the health and wellbeing of its population. A core objective of the framework is to enable people to age with confidence, security, and dignity in their own homes and communities for as long as possible. This aligns with the broader vision of an age-friendly Ireland, where older individuals can live healthy, active lives and participate fully in society. There are several key relevant initiatives under the framework including promoting healthy ageing by encouraging older people to maintain physical and mental health through regular activity, balanced nutrition, and social engagement. Supporting independent living and community integration are also key as well as implementing policies that address the specific needs of older people, including the development of a statutory scheme for homecare to improve access to services.

National Volunteering Strategy (2021–2025)

This Strategy aims to make volunteering more inclusive and accessible, including for older people. The strategy encourages the creation of flexible volunteer roles, supports diversity, and works to remove barriers to participation, such as digital illiteracy and transportation issues. While not specifically targeting older people, it promotes volunteer opportunities that allow older individuals to contribute in ways that suit their needs, such as short-term, virtual, or home-based roles. The strategy also focuses on supporting volunteer organizations to engage older volunteers and create welcoming environments. This approach aligns with age-friendly volunteering principles, which emphasize flexibility, inclusivity, and leveraging the strengths of older volunteers.

National Strategic Framework for Lifelong Guidance (2024–2030)

The National Strategic Framework for Lifelong Guidance (2024–2030), published in December 2023, outlines Ireland's vision for a unified, high-quality guidance system that supports individuals across all stages of life, including older adults. While the framework does not explicitly focus on older people, its emphasis on access, inclusion, and universal design ensures that guidance services are accessible to all individuals, regardless of age. This approach is particularly relevant for older people seeking to re-enter the workforce, transition careers, or engage in lifelong learning. By promoting lifelong career mobility and embedding guidance within various sectors, including public employment services, the framework aims to provide older individuals with the support needed to make informed decisions about their education, career, and life choices

OECD Skills Strategy for Ireland (2023)

This strategy highlights the importance of fostering greater participation in lifelong learning, particularly for older people, to adapt to the evolving labour market and societal changes. The strategy emphasises the need to strengthen incentives for both individuals and employers to engage in lifelong learning and to make learning opportunities more flexible and accessible. This approach aims to equip older individuals with the necessary skills to remain active and competitive in the workforce, thereby supporting their economic participation and wellbeing.

***Sustainable, Inclusive and Empowered Communities: A Five-Year Strategy to Support the Community and Voluntary Sector in Ireland (2019–2024)*.**

The strategy outlines the Irish Government's vision to strengthen communities through enhanced collaboration with the community and voluntary sector. It promotes social inclusion initiatives which encourages community support for vulnerable older individuals, enabling them to live securely and independently in their homes. This aligns with the broader goal of fostering inclusive communities where all members have an opportunity to participate fully and benefit from available services. The strategy acknowledges the pivotal role of community and voluntary organisations in delivering services that support older people, often providing essential service. By enhancing the capacity of these groups, the strategy aims to improve the quality of life for older people, ensuring they remain active, engaged, and supported within their communities.

Fingal County Development Plan (2023–2029)

The Development Plan outlines a comprehensive approach to supporting older residents through accessible housing, community engagement, and age-friendly infrastructure. A key policy, SPQHO22, mandates that 30% of new social housing units be designed with universal accessibility, facilitating "ageing in place" and accommodating diverse mobility needs. The plan also promotes the development of senior living communities, including retirement homes and sheltered accommodation, within towns and villages to ensure proximity to essential services and social inclusion.

Beyond housing, the plan emphasizes the importance of integrating age-friendly principles into urban planning. This includes the provision of accessible green spaces, safe outdoor environments, and the incorporation of social and care facilities within residential developments.

Fingal Local Economic and Community Plan (2023–2028)

The Fingal Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) provides a strategic framework for fostering inclusive economic and community development in the county. While the LECP does not explicitly focus on older people, its objectives encompass principles that indirectly support the wellbeing of older people. The plan emphasises the importance of social inclusion, aiming to alleviate poverty and deprivation, and to ensure that all citizens, including older people, can participate actively in society.

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Through collaborative efforts involving various stakeholders the LECP contributes to initiatives that enhance the quality of life for older residents. These initiatives focus on improving access to services, promoting social participation, and ensuring that the needs of older people are considered in community planning and development.

Fingal County Council's Corporate Plan (2022–2026)

The Corporate Plan underscores Fingal County Council's commitment to fostering an inclusive environment that supports the wellbeing of older people. It emphasises the importance of creating age-friendly communities by embedding age-inclusive principles across housing, mobility, public spaces, and community services. This aligns with the objectives of this Age Friendly Strategy, which focuses on enhancing the quality of life for older people through accessible infrastructure, supportive services, and opportunities for social participation.

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Fingal County Council
Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall

LCDC
Coiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Áitiúil Fingal
Fhine Gall Local Community Development Committee

Local Economic & Community Plan

SPC 25th June 2025

Agenda Item 4

Fingal County Council
Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall

Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP) 2023 – 2028

- Socio-Economic Profile of Fingal
- 6 Themes; 15 High Level Goals
- 21 Community Objectives (SCO) & 10 Economic (SEDO)
- Implementation Plan
- Online reporting developed in 2024
- Bi-annual reporting to LCDC
- LCDC focus - 1 Theme per meeting
- LCDC Annual Report

Fingal County Council
Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall

Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP)

Theme	Key Actions/Update
1 Sustainability & Climate Action	Climate Action Plan 2024 - 2029 Future Fingal: Sustainable Fingal Strategy LEADER Fingal Keen to be Green CCRI Community of Practice
2 Prosperous Economy	Future Fingal: Economic Development Strategy SICAP Fingal Leader Partnership – TÚS Enterprise Centres DBEC Dublin Economic Monitor

Fingal County Council
Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall

Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP)

Theme	Key Actions/Update
3 Skills for Life & Work	Future Fingal: Fingal Skills Strategy Capacity Building – SICAP & Leader Fingal Libraries & PPN Programmes TY Xplore Your Future Expo & Competition
4 Healthy, Inclusive, Connected Communities	Healthy Fingal Programme Fingal Libraries Programmes County Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP)/ORIS Fingal CYPSC Strategy Fingal Age Friendly & Fingal Older People's Council HSE Workshops/Training/Promotion Community Place Standard Tool

Fingal County Council
Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall

Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP)

Theme	Key Actions/Update
5 Rich Arts, Culture & Heritage	Arts Policy for Fingal Fingal Artist's Support Scheme Creative Places Balbriggan Fingal Libraries Tourism/Heritage Sites
6 Safe, Accessible, Vibrant Places	Fingal Tourism Strategy Fingal Food & Drink Policy Our Balbriggan Town Centre First Ongoing liaison with An Garda Siochana

Fingal County Council
Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall

SICAP

- Budget 2024 €1,520,811
  Budget 2024 New Arrivals €375,372

- 2025 Target for Local Community Groups: **71**

- 2025 Target for Individuals: **895**

- Budget 2025 €1,568,717
  Budget 2025 New Arrivals €375,372
  Additional Allocation of €50,000 for New Arrivals (June 2025)

SICAP
Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme

Fingal County Council
Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall

Dublin Rural LEADER
Growth, Sustainability & Inclusion

LEADER 2023 - 2027

- Promotional videos

Dublin Rural LEADER Funding - Sensory Garden and Trail / Floraville Park

https://vimeo.com/1047895258/397da0d2a7

Dublin Rural LEADER Funding - Rush Multi-purpose Youth Facility Development

https://vimeo.com/1048607448/7a880291f8

Dublin Rural LEADER Funding - The Pipers Garden Music Project

https://vimeo.com/1048567332/a5e954f87c

Dublin Rural LEADER Funding - Ballyboughal Hedgerow Society- Environmental Awareness T

https://vimeo.com/1048884049/0e7f460b81

Fingal County Council
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Healthy Ireland | Healthy Fingal

Healthy Fingal

- Healthy Ireland Co-Ordinator
- Focus on Alcohol and Smoking
- HSE, Drugs Taskforce, Empower, Mental Health Ireland

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMUNITY, SPORTS AND CULTURE
STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

WEDNESDAY 25th JUNE 2025

ITEM NO. 05

UPDATE FROM LIBRARIES

A presentation will be given on the day of the meeting.

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