

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Email: corporate.services@fingal.ie

County Hall
Swords
Co Dublin

Thursday, 21st August 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 **Thursday, 18th September,
2025** to consider the following Agenda.

Yours faithfully

Ciara O hAodha
Meetings Administrator
Corporate Services

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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
Wednesday 25th June 2025**
- 2 Fingal Libraries Update**

- 3 **Fingal Arts Plan 2019 - 2025**
- 4 **Fingal Heritage Plan 2024 - 2030**
- 5 **Community Activities Funding**

MOTIONS

- 6 **Councillor J. Humphreys - Replacement and Upgrade of Sports Facility Audit**

“That this Committee recommends to the full Council that the Chief Executive begin the process of replacing the current Sports Facilities Audit, the new audit should take a broader view covering not just outdoor pitches, but also swimming facilities, indoor sports and wider community recreational infrastructure, this work should be completed in advance of the next County Development Plan, so that zoning, land use and investment decisions are based on a proper evidence base that reflects where the Council is at now, and where it is going, the updated audit should:

- 1) Move away from UK-based benchmarks like Fields in Trust, which are not part of WHO or EU planning frameworks and do not reflect modern thinking around inclusion, accessibility or long-term public need;
- 2) Look to European planning models, where infrastructure is planned over 25–50 years and access is what is measured;
- 3) Include real indicators of pressure, such as waiting lists, club oversubscription, changing demographics and access gaps for particular age groups or communities;
- 4) Recognise public access to swimming and indoor sport are essential;
- 5) Support the planning of integrated, multi-use community spaces, as set out in Fingal’s Culture & Creativity Strategy and Active Together plan;
- 6) Identify and protect sites for future facilities, particularly in high-growth areas where infrastructure is already struggling to keep pace.”

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Comhairle Contae Fine Gall Fingal County Council

Minutes of Community, Sports and Culture Strategic Policy Committee

Wednesday, 25th June, 2025

PRESENT

Councillor Eoghan Dockrell
Councillor Angela Donnelly
Councillor John Walsh
Councillor Mary McCamley
Councillor Tom Kitt
Abi Wise PPN Representative

The Area Chairperson, Councillor Eoghan Dockrell , presided.

OFFICIALS PRESENT

Chloe Farrell A/Principal Sports Officer, Linda Ennis Principal Community Officer, Cathrina Murphy Senior Community Development Officer, John Quinlivan Director of Services, Aoife Sheridan Senior Executive Officer, Betty Boardman County Librarian Libraries, Lilian Whelan Senior Executive Librarian, Rosanne Martin Senior Staff Officer, Geraldine Whelan Staff Officer

SPC/3/25 (Agenda Item No 1)

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

Minutes of Meeting of Community, Sports and Culture Strategic Policy Committee held on 26th March 2025 which had been circulated, were **CONSIDERED.**

It was proposed by Councillor M. McCamley and seconded by Councillor A. Donnelly and **RESOLVED:**

"That the recommendations contained in the Minutes of the Community, Sports and Culture Strategic Policy Committee 26th March 2025, be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED**."

SPC/4/25 (Agenda Item No 2)

Social Inclusion - Active Inclusion

Councillor A. Donnelly opened the discussion by outlining her understanding of Social and Active Inclusion, emphasising the need to support people entering the country, as well as individuals with disabilities, older adults, and youth. She expressed concern over the absence of a drop-in system to assist with form-filling for housing, grants, etc., particularly for those with limited English. It was agreed that form-filling challenges also affect older residents. She also proposed reviewing more accessible appointment options for those requiring assistance.

Linda Ennis, Principal Community Officer, referenced the Integration Strategy which is currently under review. She confirmed that translation services are available under the scheme.

Lillian Whelan, Senior Executive Librarian, suggested that libraries support written English and literacy needs through dedicated programmes.

John Quinlivan advised that SICAP and Empower currently support vulnerable groups, including Roma, Travellers and jobless households in addressing concerns raised by Members regarding a perception that services are overly concentrated in Dublin 15 and the need for improved reporting and wider geographic coverage, gave an undertaking to raise the matter at the LCDC.

Action

- Commitment to link in with Integration Section with regards to broadening the scope for inclusion in the new Integration Strategy.
- Follow up with LCDC, SICAP & Empower regarding the broadening of their inclusion focus.

The presentation was **NOTED**.

SPC/5/25 (Agenda Item No 3)

Age Friendly Strategy

Cathrina Murphy, Age Friendly Programme Manager gave the committee a presentation on the Draft Age Friendly Strategy. The main points to note were:

- Age Friendly Initiatives.
- Development of the Strategy.
- Fingal Age Friendly Road Map
- Consultation Process and Findings
- Fingal Age Friendly Themes and Objectives
- 4 Themes – Health & Wellbeing; Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods; Mobility & Accessibility; Monitoring & Reviewing.

Questions & Comments from the floor

It was agreed loneliness and isolation was a growing issue. Activities like knitting and exercise often attract the same people. Hard-to-reach individuals rely on word of mouth, centre managers, and trusted companions for engagement.

It was agreed that older people are more likely to attend when invited by someone they know. Informal events like movie mornings can encourage participation it was agreed that gender and cultural barriers may hinder wider involvement.

Accessibility – transport was also highlighted as an issue; the meeting was advised that efforts are ongoing to improve accessibility.

Funding was flagged as an issue; the meeting was advised National Age Friendly is seeking more funding for additional staff and coordinators.

The presentation was **NOTED**.

The Draft Age Friendly Strategy was **APPROVED**.

SPC/6/25 (Agenda Item No 4)

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

Aoife Sheridan, Senior Executive Officer gave the committee a presentation on the LECP 2023-2028. The main points to note were the six themes of the Plan:

1. Sustainability & Climate Action
2. Prosperous Economy
3. Skills for Life & Work
4. Healthy, Inclusive, Connected Communities
5. Rich Arts, Culture & Heritage
6. Safe, Accessible, Vibrant Places.

The SICAP Budget and Targets during the course of the LECP were outlined.

The presentation included links for promotional videos on various initiatives in the LEA.

- Sensory Garden Trail/Floraville Park
- Rush Multipurpose Youth Facility Development
- The Pipers Garden Music Project
- Ballyboughal Hedgerow Society – Environmental Awareness.

Healthy Fingal initiatives were also highlighted in the presentation.

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

The presentation was **NOTED**.

SPC/7/25 (Agenda Item No 5)

Update from Libraries

Both Betty Boardman, County Librarian and Lilian Whelan provided verbal updates on the Library Capital programme and Library Programming and Development. The main points to note were:

- Baldoyle Library refurbishment & re-opening
- Progress report on Skerries Library refurbishment and extension

- Ballisk House Conversion.
- Update on New County Library and Cultural House Swords.
- Success of My Open Library in Baldoyle and the plan for Blanchardstown and Malahide.
- Plans to upgrade junior areas and shelving replacement in Balbriggan, Blanchardstown and Malahide libraries
- Library programming and development and Creative Ireland updates on success of many events facilitated by library staff were presented to the meeting.

Attendees praised the valuable work being done in libraries. Concerns were raised about safety in My Open libraries, but these were addressed during the meeting.

It was agreed that health and safety measures are in place, and any issues that arise in the future will be dealt with promptly and appropriately.

The presentation was **NOTED**.

MOTIONS

SPC/8/25 (Agenda Item No 6)

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

Discussion

Councillor J. Walsh raised the issue of the childcare crisis, noting a lack of affordable, non-profit childcare and insufficient spaces. While not the Council's direct responsibility, he proposed exploring how the Local Authority (LA) could support or facilitate non-profit childcare—particularly through inclusion in housing developments and community buildings.

Councillor M. McCamley advised that Blakestown childcare facility is closing, it was deemed another loss to the area. It was volunteer-led, and while childcare isn't the Council's responsibility, she stressed the importance of support to help parents return to work. Linda Ennis, Principal Community Officer outlined the reasons this volunteer lead group had to cease was due to regulatory demands.

John Quinlivan, Director of Services stated this is an interagency issue. The Planning SPC might address childcare inclusion in development plans. He proposed taking the matter to the LCDC for further discussion.

It was **AGREED** to defer the motion and revisit the matter in December 2025 when an update from Economic Development and developments with the LCDC will be available.

Action:

- The issue will be added to the Agenda for the Community, Sports & Culture SPC as a headed item in December 2025.

The Meeting concluded at 6:30 pm.

CHAIRPERSON

DATED

**COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

**COMMUNITY, SPORTS AND CULTURE
STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**

THURSDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER 2025

ITEM NO. 02

FINGAL LIBRARIES UPDATE

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

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Arts Plan extension to 2029

Sustaining focus, achieving ambitions

Strategic Policy Committee

Thursday 18 September 2025



**This presentation makes the case to extend
Fingal County Council's Arts Plan 2019 – 2025
until 2029**



Rationale in summary

- 01 On-going relevance of current Arts Plan
- 02 Alignment with County Development Plan to 2029
- 03 Opportunity to synchronise new Arts Plan with new 2030 Development Plan
- 04 Opportunity to be informed by and respond to pending new national arts policies
- 05 Need for immediate focus on County's investment in cultural infrastructure

WITH DUE CARE AND ATTENTION TO RESPONSIBLE USE OF RESOURCES AND PUBLIC MONEY



Arts Plan 2019 – 2025

A quick recap and context



Arts Plan 2019 – 2025 | very well-informed

The Arts Plan was developed following **extensive consultation** with

- Arts, Culture, Heritage and Community Strategic Policy Committee
- elected members of Fingal County Council
- senior management within Fingal County Council
- the public
- members of the Public Participation Network
- primary and post primary schools and Comhairle na nÓg
- local professional and amateur artists, organisations or groups
- local creative and cultural practitioners



Arts Plan 2019 – 2025 | launched Nov 2019

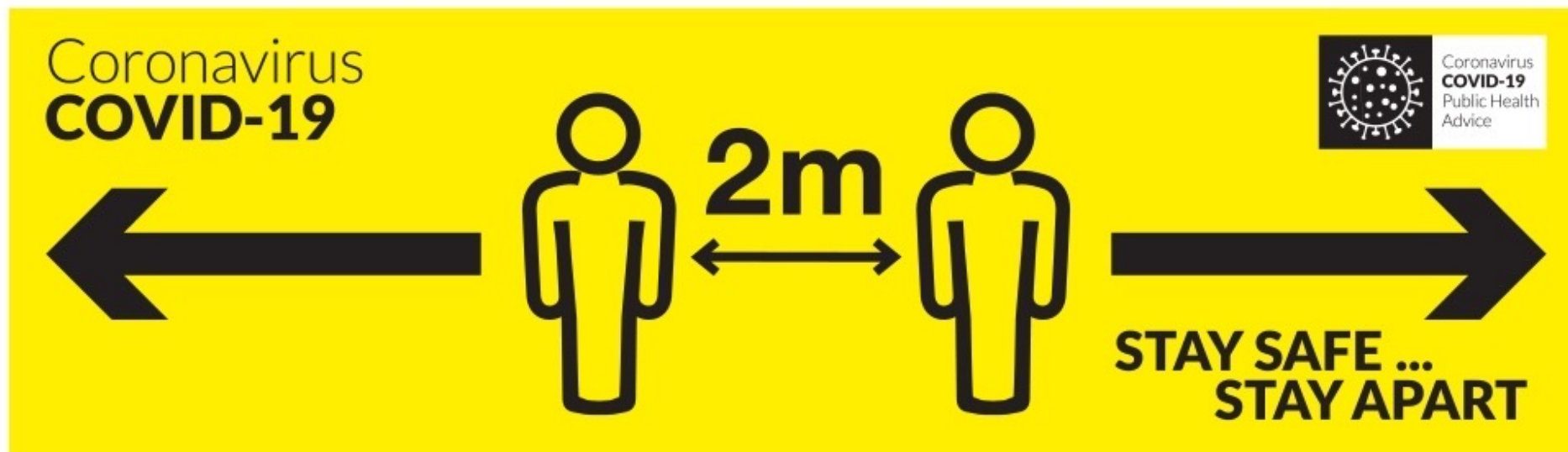


'... the arts are essential to the life and wellbeing of our community.'

We are proud of our service which continues to help shape the culture of our county and to make it a better place to live, work and visit'.

AnnMarie Farrelly, Chief Executive

Arts Plan 2019 – 2025 | and then CRISIS AND CHANGE ...



ALSO

CHANGED DIRECTORATE, **CHANGED** ARTS OFFICER,
CHANGED ARTS OFFICE CAPACITY



Extending the Arts Plan to 2029

01 Ongoing relevance

01. Relevance | Purpose and vision still hold true



OUR PURPOSE

**To bring the arts to life in Fingal
and Fingal to life through the arts**

OUR VISION

**A county where the arts are valued
in people's everyday lives**





01. Relevance | Strategic goals remain County priorities

MAKING SPACE FOR ART

**CONNECTING PEOPLE
AND IDEAS**

MAKING SPACE FOR ART / CONNECTING PEOPLE AND IDEAS



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01. Relevance | Strategic priorities remain County priorities

MAKING SPACE FOR ART

**CONNECTING PEOPLE
AND IDEAS**

ENABLING EXCELLENCE

DEVELOPING OUR CAPACITY



Extending the Arts Plan to 2029

02 Alignment with Development Plan

Arts Plan aligned with Development Plan Vision

At the core of the vision is healthy placemaking, building cohesive and sustainable communities, where our cultural, natural and built environment is protected.

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Fingal will continue to be a County of **distinctive environmental, historical and cultural assets and local communities**, with sustainable development fostering **a high-quality of life for those who live, work and visit here**.

In working to deliver all of this, we are **committed to engaging with stakeholders**, including local communities and residents to develop better solutions to the complex challenges we face and provide an **improved quality of life for all**.



Arts Plan propelling action on each cross-cutting theme



- ✓ **Climate Action**
- ✓ **Healthy place-making and sustainable development**
- ✓ **Social inclusion**
- ✓ **High quality design**



Extending the Arts Plan to 2029

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03 Opportunity to synchronise new Arts Plan and new Development Plan to ensure the vision for the County



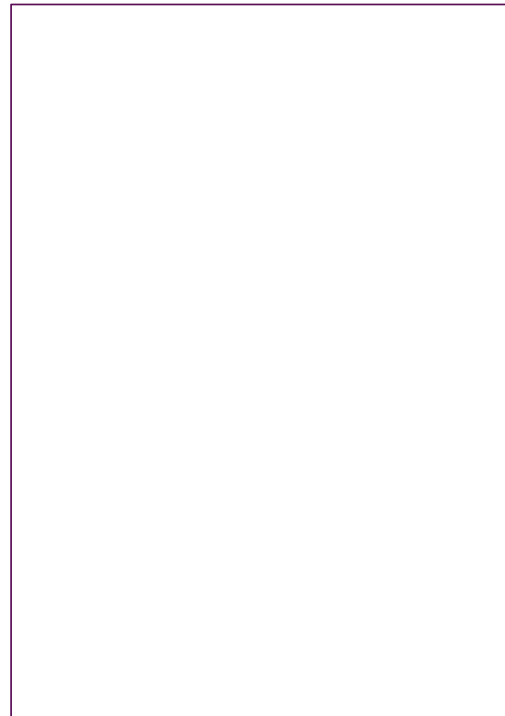
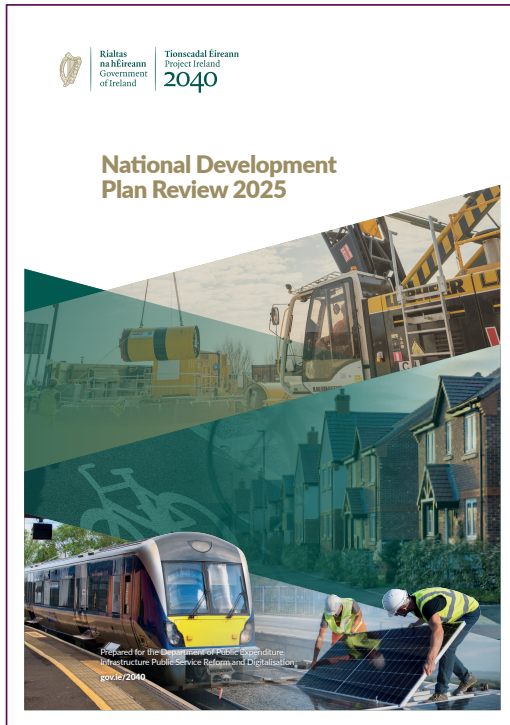
Extending the Arts Plan to 2029

04 Opportunity to be informed by and respond to new national arts policies

National policies pending | Creative Ireland ending or evolving



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Clár Éire Ildánach
Creative Ireland
Programme





Extending the Arts Plan to 2029

05 Need for immediate focus on County's investment in cultural infrastructure

What matters most in the next few years



We secure the success of Fingal County Council's
€40+ million investment in cultural infrastructure

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Also: 2 – 4 Dublin Street, Balbriggan



To secure Fingal's investment in cultural infrastructure



The Arts Office must also be builders

Page 30 We must invest time, imagination and resources to **build the interest and enthusiasm** of the **public** and the **capacity** of amateur and professional **artists and arts organisations** to engage with Fingal's new cultural spaces.



In conclusion

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In conclusion



A decision to extend the Arts Plan to 2029 makes sense because of:

- ✓ The **on-going relevance** of the current Arts plan and its alignment with priorities of the current Development Plan to 2029
- ✓ The opportunity to **synchronise development** of a new Arts Plan alongside a new County Development Plan
- ✓ The opportunity to be **informed by and respond to** new national arts policies
- ✓ The immediate **need to focus on** the County's **investment in cultural infrastructure**



I look forward to your comments or questions

Sarah O'Neill, County Arts Officer

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Community, Sport & Culture SPC

Christine Baker, Heritage Officer

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18 September 2025

Fingal Heritage Plan 2024-2030

Policy Implementation Matrix 2025



Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall
Fingal County Council



Phlean Oidhreacht
Fhine Gall
2024 – 2030

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Fingal Coastal Zone project	FHP Action 3.2; 3.3.; Action 1 PP; FDP HCAO21; FDP HCAO12, FDP HCAO46; FCAP F27; SP Climate Change
Fingal Fieldnames	FHP Action 2.10; FDP HCAO54; HCAO53; SP Education & Engagement
Historic Street Elements Audit	FHP Action 5.5.; FDP HCAO43; SP Communities
Oral Heritage Recording Training	FHP Action 4.6; FHP Action 5.1. SP Communities
10 Years of Fingal Community Archaeology	FHP Action 5.3; FDP HCAO19; HCAO20; SP Research
Digging Drumanagh 2025	FHP Action 5.3; FDP HCAO19; HCAO20; SP Research
Heritage Week	FHP Action 2.7; FDP HCA054; SP Communities
Community Monuments Fund	FHP Action 1.4; FHP Action 1.6; FDP HCAO5; FCAP F29; SP Climate Change
Planning	FHP Action 1.2; FDP HCAO1; HCAO8, HCAO9; HCAO10; HCAO11; HCAO14

Digging Drumanagh 2025



RTÉ News Sport Entertainment Business Lifestyle Culture Gaelige Player
News Politics Regional Ireland Middle East Climate Nuacht World RTÉ Invest

Archaeologists find 'first ever' intact Roman pot in Ireland

Updated / Saturday, 24 May 2025 20:09



The intact pot will be sent to the National Museum of Ireland for further analysis (Photo: Christine Baker)



By Philip Bromwell



Phase 1- Five Year Consent cycle.

Post-excavation-38,000 shells; 14 boxes of animal bones; 449 finds-206 sherds of Roman pottery; gaming pieces, stone lamps, bone pins & tools

<https://www.fingal.ie/digging-drumanagh>

Fingal Historic Street Elements Audit



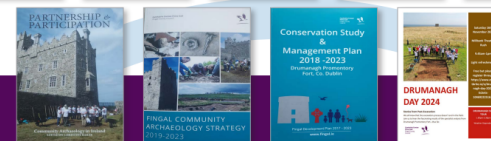
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- Postboxes
- Kerbs & Cobbling
- Historic water pumps
- Milestones
- Other

<https://www.fingal.ie/historic-street-elements-audit>

10 Years of Fingal Community Archaeology



Over the past 10 years Fingal County Council has been leading the way nationally, by promoting awareness, best practice and understanding of the local archaeological resource among individuals and community groups. Through the implementation of the Fingal Community Archaeology Strategy 2019-2023, we have contributed to education, tourism, responses to climate change, social inclusion and well-being. The work of volunteers and participants has not only added to our sum of knowledge by uncovering new sites and artefacts but is changing our historical narrative and understanding of Fingal's past and that of Ireland itself. Each project has generated articles, talks, books, heritage guides, art projects and videos to share the discoveries made. Each project demonstrates the value of all sections of society engaging directly with our past.

**Thank you to everyone who has participated, contributed and supported
10 Years of Community Archaeology in Fingal**



Celebrating 10 Years...

Heritage Week Exhibition

Seminar-Saturday 27 September 2025, Millbank, Rush.



Heritage Week 2025



Heritage Week 2025-16th-23rd August

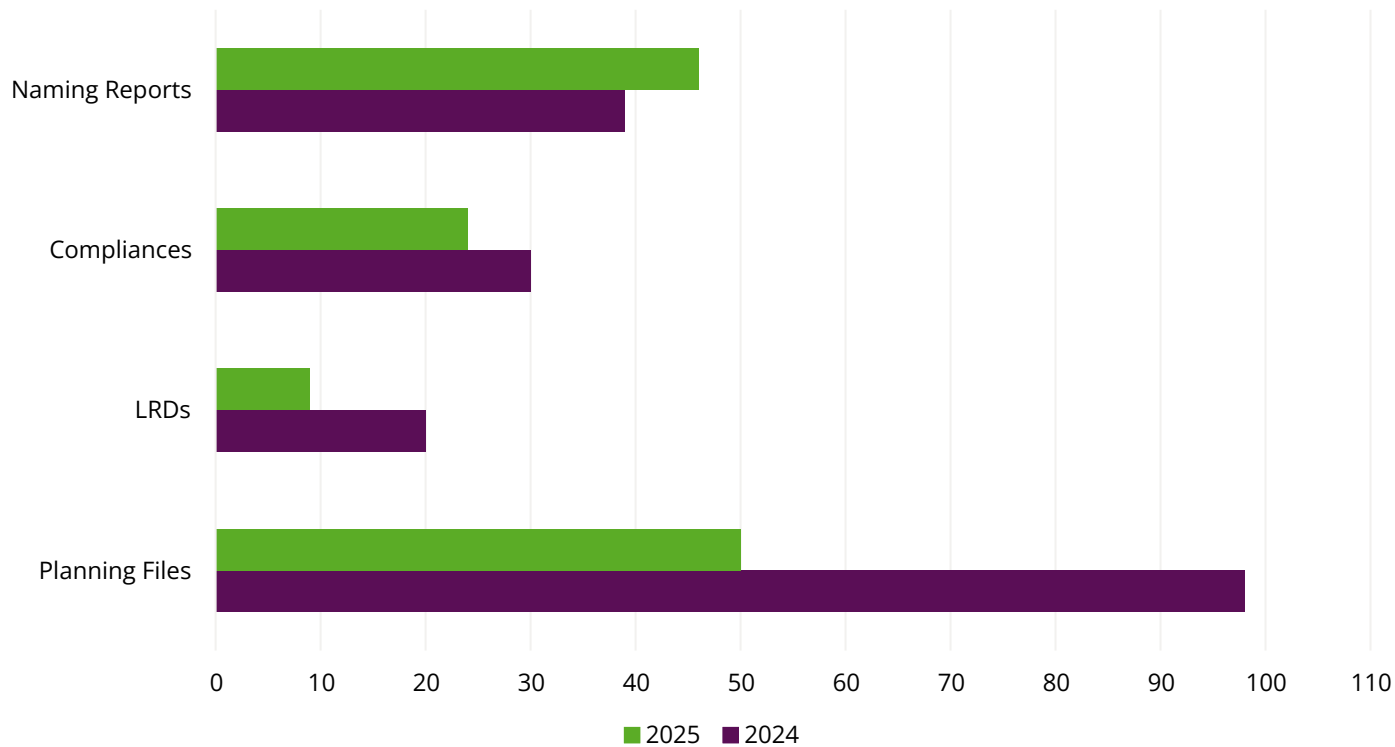
Over 60 events-up 18% on 2024

Community groups, Community Councils, Heritage Officer, Libraries, Local Studies & Archives, Heritage Properties, Irish Officer



Planning

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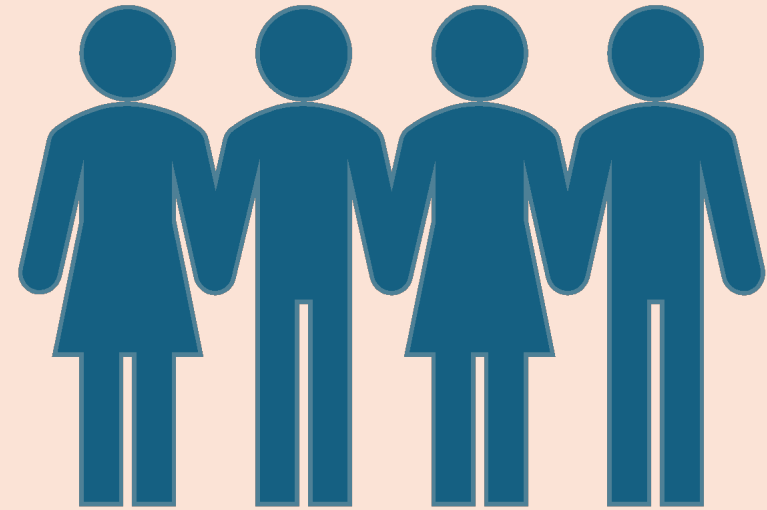


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Community Activities Funding Scheme

Presentation to Community Sports & Culture SPC

18th September 2025





Background to Community Activities funding scheme

- Supports a community activity that has a developmental aspect, contributing to the growth, development or advancement of a community group
 - Introduced in 2000/Reviewed in 2006 and 2018
 - Only available to groups registered on County Database with a focus on community development
 - Tool used by the community office to collaborate with local groups to address local needs
 - Capped at €3000 per annum subject to budgets –increased from €2000 on 2018
-

Proposed amendments to the funding scheme

- Scheme opens on 1st January and closes 30th June
- Insurance costs capped at €500 per annum
- Professional services: Tutor/facilitators/speakers capped at 50% of funding application
- Transport costs for older adult groups only, capped at 25% of funding application
- Laptops/smartphones: must be for the use of a group and will be capped at 25% of funding application
- Second hand items eligible – high risk items with conditions
- All sports groups will be referred to the Sports Department funding

Proposed amendments to the funding scheme

- High risk items (List required from IPB e.g. Inflatables, power tools) proof of insurance and council indemnity for €13 million
- Defibrillator: Terms and conditions applies re: training, maintenance

Additional ineligible items:

- Photographer/Videographer
- Disposable items
- Event MC
- Specialist inspirational speakers
- Legal fees

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMUNITY, SPORTS AND CULTURE STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

THURSDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER 2025

ITEM NO 06

Motion: Councillor J. Humphreys - Replacement and Upgrade of Sports Facility Audit

“That this Committee recommends to the full Council that the Chief Executive begin the process of replacing the current Sports Facilities Audit, the new audit should take a broader view covering not just outdoor pitches, but also swimming facilities, indoor sports, and wider community recreational infrastructure, this work should be completed in advance of the next County Development Plan, so that zoning, land use and investment decisions are based on a proper evidence base that reflects where the council is at now, and where it is going, the updated audit should:

- 1) Move away from UK-based benchmarks like Fields in Trust, which are not part of WHO or EU planning frameworks and don't reflect modern thinking around inclusion, accessibility or long-term public need;
- 2) Look to European planning models, where infrastructure is planned over 25–50 years, and access is what's measured;
- 3) Include real indicators of pressure, such as waiting lists, club oversubscription, changing demographics, and access gaps for particular age groups or communities;
- 4) Recognise public access to swimming and indoor sport are essential
- 5) Support the planning of integrated, multi-use community spaces, as set out in Fingal's Culture & Creativity Strategy and Active Together plan
- 6) Identify and protect sites for future facilities, particularly in highgrowth areas where infrastructure is already struggling to keep pace.”

Report:

The Sports Audit was undertaken by KPMG on behalf of the council. The draft audit was presented to the members in May and the consultant is currently dealing with a number of queries raised. The final report will be presented to Area Committees later this year.

1) Move away from UK-based benchmarks like Fields in Trust, which are not part of WHO or EU planning frameworks and don't reflect modern thinking around inclusion, accessibility or long-term public need;

The Fields in Trust method has been identified as a well-established and well-regarded measurement for open space provision, including active recreation provision, going back several decades by the Fingal Sports Department/Parks & Green Infrastructure Division. This methodology employs a sport-agnostic methodology for identifying an appropriate benchmark that is applicable to pitch-based sports, allowing for benchmarking recommendations across a wider pitch sports category. The level of provision outlined in this model is in alignment with the adopted provisions of the County Development Plan.

2) Look to European planning models, where infrastructure is planned over 25–50 years, and access is what's measured;

As part of the audit, sports facility demand models were reviewed from the UK, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. Growth patterns were assessed to 2029, the end year of the current Fingal County Development Plan.

3) Include real indicators of pressure, such as waiting lists, club oversubscription, changing demographics, and access gaps for particular age groups or communities;

The audit assesses changing demographics, including concentrations of younger and older people, as well as areas of high historic and anticipated population growth, using these as indicators of heightened pressure on facilities. Levels of club subscription and waiting lists were highlighted by respondents to the public consultation survey conducted as part of the audit along with stakeholder meetings with Fingal's co-funded officers.

4) Recognise public access to swimming and indoor sport are essential

Distinctions between different types of swimming pool and indoor facility (including those requiring paid access or membership fees) were made in the individual settlement profiles and LEA-scale summaries. On a county scale, access was measured on the basis of distance and demand, noting that localised access could vary based on type of facility.

5) Support the planning of integrated, multi-use community spaces, as set out in Fingal's Culture & Creativity Strategy and Active Together plan

The audit highlighted the particular benefits of community centres. Feedback was received on community centres as part of the public consultation, identifying these facilities as particularly valuable due to their multi-functional nature, including their particular value to young people and teenagers. Given the unique importance of community centres, their connection to FCC through the Fingal Community Facilities Network and the wide range of uses they offer, a recommendation was made that a more detailed examination be undertaken as part of a community facilities audit in order to give them the appropriate level of attention.

6) Identify and protect sites for future facilities, particularly in high-growth areas where infrastructure is already struggling to keep pace.

The audit placed special attention on high growth areas, identifying where heightened demand could be anticipated to be placed on local facilities and where further support could be required. Locations such as St Catherine's Park were identified as suitable sites for future facility development and have been identified by Parks & Green Infrastructure Division.

Source of Report:

David Storey, Director of Services for Environment, Climate Action, Active Travel and Sport Department

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