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COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Email: corporate.services@fingal.ie

County Hall
Swords
Co Dublin

25th February 2026

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 **Chamber - Grove Road, Blanchardstown** at **4.30 pm** on **Wednesday, 25th March, 2026** 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 2nd December 2025.** (Pages 1 - 4)

2 **Work Programme Updates & Discussion** (Pages 5 - 16)

3 **LECP Progress Report** (Pages 17 - 72)

MOTIONS

4 **Councillor A. Donnelly - Leading by Example with Job Opportunities for Disabled People in Fingal County - AI106921** (Pages 73 - 74)

"That the Chief Executive produce a report on how Fingal County Council can lead by example with job opportunities within this Council for disabled people, the report to examine areas that could facilitate diverse skills and abilities within our workforce."

5 **Councillor J. Walsh - Fingal Participation in New State-Led Capital Programme for Early Childhood Education and Childcare - AI107070** (Pages 75 - 76)

"That this Committee requests the Chief Executive to identify relevant projects and/or appropriate buildings in Fingal that could be included in the new State-led capital programme to enable the delivery of State-led early learning and childcare services."

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Comhairle Contae Fine Gall
Fingal County Council

Minutes of Community, Sports and Culture Strategic Policy Committee

Tuesday, 2nd December, 2025

PRESENT

Councillor Eoghan Dockrell (Chairperson)
Councillor Angela Donnelly
Councillor Tom Kitt
Councillor James Humphries
Councillor Mary McCamley
Councillor John Walsh

The SPC Chairperson, Eoghan Dockrell , presided.

OFFICIALS PRESENT

Paul Carroll, Director of Services Housing & Community
David Storey, Director of Services Environment, Climate Action, Active Travel & Sport.
John Quinlivan, Director of Services Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Cultural Development
Owen McGrath, Sports Development Officer Environment, Climate Action, Active Travel & Sport
Linda Ennis, Principal Community Officer Community
Gene Griffin, Administrative Officer Community
Geraldine Whelan, Staff Officer Community
Declan Power, Senior Executive Officer Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Cultural Development
Sarah O'Neill, County Arts Officer
Sile Stewart, Deputy County Arts Officer
Caroline Cowley, Deputy Arts Officer

SPC/15/22 (Agenda Item No 1)

Confirmation and Re-Affirmation of Minutes of the Community, Sports and Culture Strategic Policy Committee meeting held on 18th September 2025.

The minutes of the Community, Sports and Culture SPC meeting held on the 18th September, 2025 which were circulated were **CONSIDERED**.

It was **PROPOSED** by Councillor Tom Kitt and seconded by Councillor Angela Donnelly and **AGREED**: "That the minutes of the meeting of 18th September, 2025 be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED**."

SPC/16/22 (Agenda Item No 2)

Non-profit and Public Early Childhood Education and Care

Verbal updates provided by Paul Carroll (Director of Services) and John Quinlivan (Director of Services) were **NOTED**. Following discussion, it was **AGREED** that Early Childhood Education and Care would form part of the 2026 SPC Work Programme.

SPC/17/22 (Agenda Item No 3)

Public Art Strategy

An update on the Fingal Public Arts Strategy was presented by Sarah O'Neill, County Arts Officer and Caroline Crowley, Deputy Arts Officer.

Following discussion, the presentation was **NOTED**.

SPC/18/22 (Agenda Item No 4)

Sports Group Funding

Owen McGrath, Senior Sports Officer and David Storey, Director of Services provided a Sports Group Funding presentation.

Following discussion, the presentation was **NOTED** and it was **AGREED** to bring the matter to the Full Council.

SPC/19/22 (Agenda Item No 5)

Sports Equipment Grants

Owen McGrath, Senior Sports Officer referenced a presentation by Choe Farrell, Senior Sports Officer, at the Community, Sports and Culture SPC on the 11th December 2024, that outlined the review of the Sports Equipment Grants. It was added that the presentation was noted and grant scheme agreed at the SPC meeting on the 11th December, 2024 meeting but this not recorded in the minutes so it was necessary to note the presentation again and agree the content of same.

Following discussion the presentation was **NOTED,** and it was **AGREED** to bring the matter to the Full Council.

The Meeting concluded at 17:50

CHAIRPERSON **DATED**

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COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMUNITY, SPORTS AND CULTURE STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 25th MARCH 2026

ITEM NO. 02

SPC PROGRAMME UPDATES

Implementation & Updates	**Report**
Community Development and Inclusion	The Community Development Team continues to strengthen inclusion and participation across Fingal by putting our values into action—promoting community well-being, advancing equality, fostering social cohesion, and empowering residents. In 2025, this was demonstrated through major engagement, funding, and integration initiatives, alongside significant use and investment in community centres. All of this reflects our core commitment to supporting connected, resilient, and empowered communities: 2.9 million visitors to our community centres 38 centres supported 350 Board of Management meetings held 4 new community centres were delivered representing a €23 million investment

	153 groups were funded through our Community Activities funding of €340k 41 Summer projects were funded 26 Safer Halloween Events 12 Festival in a Van events 80 Fingal Inclusion events 3 Africa Day events 19 Keen to be Green Climate action events In 2026, the focus remains on upgrading facilities, expanding digital and climate action initiatives, delivering a full programme of community, inclusion, and capacity building supports to empower diverse communities countywide
Strengthen communities through participation, connectivity, inclusion and building capacity of community leaders	The Corduff Place Standards Tool and the Our Fabric project in Churchfields both demonstrate how community led processes can strengthen participation, inclusion, and local leadership. The Place Standards Tool supports residents in shaping their environment through structured dialogue and shared priorities, fostering stronger connectivity and community voice. Similarly, the Our Fabric project cultivates local engagement in a developing neighbourhood, building the capacity of emerging community leaders and creating a foundation for long-term inclusion and resilience. The Corduff Place Standard Research and Plan launched 10th March 2026. Our Fabric, Churchfields Neighbourhood Network mid pilot interim report has been

	issued with strong community engagement and outputs.
Gender Equality Inclusion	Each year the Community Development Office deliver and fund International Women's Day (IWD) events, creating spaces that celebrate women, promote equality, and strengthen women's participation in community life. In 2026, a bursary of €18,000 has been provided across 63 groups for IWD. Supporting Men's Sheds also plays an important role in promoting gender equality and well-being in communities. Men's Sheds provide a complementary space that supports men's mental health, social connection, and skill building and is supported through funding, engagement structures, and community development assistance.

Creative Ireland Programme	In 2025, Creative Fingal delivered 81 creative projects across Fingal. A total of €276,000 funded 294 creatives from core Creative Ireland funding. A total attendance of 40,000 was recorded for Creative Ireland events in 2025 Funding of €87,000 for Cruinniú enabled a full day of Creativity for children and young people. Cruinniú will take place on the 6 June in 2026 and a youth music festival & spoken word event is planned for Swords Castle. There will also be a full library programme and a programme in Draoicht and the Seamus Ennis centre. Festival in a Van took music and performance into many underserved communities and the joint project with the community section will be repeated in July 2026. Creative Fingal will continue to support artists and programmes to develop capacity, audiences and content for Culture House including residency programmes Funding has been applied for 2 projects under Creative Health and well-being and for 0ne Creative Communities on a Shared Island project.
Promotion of Irish Language	Compliance with, and education regarding, the requirements of Irish Language legislation continues with regard to Signage, Advertising, Correspondence etc including reporting on our compliance with the bilingual Advertising requirements.

	We continue to promote the language within the Council and the County with all Press releases available in Irish and the language prominent on social media and in internal communications. Under the Fingal County Council Gaeltacht Scholarship Scheme 2026, 15 partial scholarships of €500 each were awarded to 2nd level students attending courses in the Gaeltacht. Staff Irish language training continues in 2026 with the Certificate in Professional Irish and evening Gaelchultur courses. An Irish language episode of Inside Fingal podcast recorded during Heritage week 2025 has become a quarterly broadcast. Many events took place during Seachtain na Gaeilge including a bilingual walk in Ardgillan and a County Hall Celebration on 11th March and Logainmneacha and Seanfhocail were promoted on social media and internally. Lanyards with Labhair Gaeilge Liom have been introduced to identify staff who are happy to use Irish. Fingal Staff continue to take part in the An Comhairle Craiceáilte programme as part of Gaeilge 365 and were part of the Fís event in the Convention Centre during Seachtain na Gaeilge **Our Libraries are active promoting Irish language initiatives**

	An Leabharlann Fhailteach pilot, Donabate library. The “Welcome Library programme is part of the Gaeilge 365 initiative which aims to make the Irish language more accessible on an everyday basis. “An Leabharlann Fhailteach” aims to make libraries hubs for the Irish language by encouraging Irish speaking librarians to use the language in their day to day interactions with families. There is also an increased emphasis on events as Gaeilge and Irish/bi-lingual stock. Donabate library held 5 Irish language events in Q1 2026 An annual Irish language festival “Bronntanas” took place in September of 2025 with events across the four local authorities in Dublin. Fingal had 12 events. This is planned for 2026 also. Seachtain na Gaeilge will run across library branches from 1-17th March. 7 events will be held including a schools event in Draoicht that will be open to 250 local school children
Sports Strategy	Under the ‘Improving Opportunities and Choices For Everyone’ strand, schools in 7 Electoral areas with emphasis on DEIS schools have been given access to subsidised swimming for 6 weeks. The Area-Based programmes are a continued success with numbers exceeding 600 participants across 7 locations per week aligning with the ‘Making Physical Activity a Priority’ strand of the Sports Strategy.

	4 projects are now complete as part of the Governments Sports Capital Grants alongside financial contributions from FCC: • Rush Athletic – New artificial training pitch • Rivervalley Rangers – Replace all weather pitch surface • Hartstown Sports & Leisure – Upgrade of All Weather Pitch • Lucan BMX – safety gate replacement All completed Sports Capital Grants projects with part funding from FCC enter into a Memorandum of Agreement for shared use of those new facilities. As part of our strategy will "Enhance our access to quality Sport and Physical Activity facilities" A new social media strategy across the sports channels coupled with a new payment system for programmes has seen a marked increase in attendance and commitment to programmes. It has also increased our online visibility due to our growing number of followers and engaging content published on our channels.
Public Participation and Resident Engagement	Total number of organisations included in the County Register (maintained in accordance with section 128 of the Local Government Act 2001) for the local authority area as at 31/12/2025. **930** Total number of those organisations that registered for the first time in 2025. **68**

	Number of organisations that opted to join the Social Inclusion Electoral College on whatever date they registered for the PPN. **147** Our work strengthens participation and resident engagement by providing structured supports that help communities organise, connect, and influence local decision-making. In 2025, this included 10,424 engagements with community participants and 164 residents and tenants' associations registered on our database, demonstrating strong, ongoing collaboration with local groups The 2026 plan builds on this through targeted capacity-building, tenant inductions, Residents' Association Networks, and initiatives such as the Place Standards Tool and local development groups, all designed to empower residents, enhance their participation, and strengthen their role in shaping their communities.
Focus on capabilities rather than disabilities.	The Community Development and Inclusion Dept designs our community development work around people's strengths, interests, and contributions rather than their limitations. Our programmes—such as Inclusion Week, Age Friendly initiatives, and community capacity training—create opportunities for everyone to participate meaningfully and on their own terms, celebrating abilities and encouraging leadership across all groups.

	This approach is reflected in the wide range of accessible, inclusive events and supports delivered in 2025, including 80+ inclusion events and extensive engagement with diverse community participants
Active Citizenship	We continue to provide supports for groups engaging with democratic structures like the PPN and Comhairle na nÓg, all of which empower individuals to become active contributors to community life and local decision-making. In 2025, the annual meeting of Comhairle had attendance from 27 secondary schools in Fingal In 2026 Foroige has received a new two year contract for the coordination of Fingal Comhairle na nÓg with oversight by the Community Development & Inclusion Dept.
Community Not For Profit Early Childhood Education & Childcare	• National policy on childcare in planning is set by the *Childcare Facilities Guidelines* (2001), which cover **land-use only**, not operating models. • The **Fingal County Development Plan 2023–2029** supports childcare provision in line with these Guidelines. • **Fingal County Council does not operate or establish childcare services**; its role is limited to planning facilitation. • The Council collaborates with sector partners through the **County Childcare**

	Committee, **CYPSC**, and **LCDC**. Childcare is on the **2026 Community SPC Work Programme**. • Support is provided to volunteer community centre boards, where childcare is delivered to -**800 children**. Quality of service depends on delivery standards, not provider type. • The national childcare sector is **under review** by the Minister for Children. • Once national direction is clarified, the position in Fingal will be reviewed through the **Community SPC**.
Fingal Age Friendly Strategy	Our work within the Age Friendly programme strengthens active citizenship, inclusion, and community participation by ensuring that older people are meaningfully involved in shaping local services and community life. In 2025 Positive Ageing Week was supported by 23 activity events. There were 700 attendees at the Vintage Picnic. The Korale project (addressing loneliness in older people) held a conference last October with 150 people attending from across the county, with consortium partners attending from 5 European countries. 9 Older Peoples Council meetings and 4 Age Friendly Alliance meetings took place. In January 2026 the new 5-year Fingal Age Friendly Strategy was launched with an action plan.

	Work is continuing in the development of the Pavillion Shopping Centre as the first major Age Friendly retail centre. An information expo for older people will take place in Castleknock on 31st March with a second expo planned for the North County in Sept.

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COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMUNITY, SPORTS AND CULTURE
STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

WEDNESDAY 25TH MARCH 2026

ITEM NO. 03

LECP PROGRESS REPORT

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Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall
Fingal County Council

Fingal LCDC

LECP Implementation Plan Review 2026 - 2028

25th February 2026

LECP Aim and Vision

- The Fingal Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2023–2028 sets out the strategic vision to promote and support the economic, local and community development of the county over a six year timeframe.

- 6 Themes, 15 High-Level Goals and 31 Objectives of the LECP to achieve the vision:

- **“Fingal will be a vibrant, sustainable, progressive and climate resilient county, underpinned by inclusive, healthy, empowered communities and a dynamic economy.”**

LECP Implementation Plan – 2024 & 2025

- The 2021 Guidelines requires an LECP Implementation Plan to cover a period of two years to provide flexibility within the LECP to respond to emerging needs and opportunities on an ongoing basis

- The first Implementation Plan ran from 2023 – 2025

- In 2024 and 2025 progress on implementation was reported through manual updates and then the LECP Digital Update Portal

- The second Implementation Plan will run from 2026 - 2028

LECP Implementation Plan - Review

- Review Requirements:
  - Review the relevancy of LECP Implementation Actions
  - Review updates provided in 2024 & 2025
  - Review named stakeholders
  - Identify other relevant stakeholders for engagement

- Review Process:
  - Engagement meeting with stakeholders from each Pillar - Economic, Community, Environmental - dates TBA in April 2026
  - Pillar Report to be provided in advance of each meeting
  - Discussion & review of implementation progress, ongoing relevance of actions, fitness of KPI's for measuring progress, need for additional stakeholder input
  - Proposed action amendments
  - Updated LECP Implementation Plan 2026 - 2028

LECP Implementation Plan - Outcomes

A new Implementation Plan for 2026 – 2028 including:

- Updated actions
- Updated KPIs and metrics
- Updated list of stakeholders
- An updated digital portal for reporting in next period

Thank You

Questions?

FINGAL LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT **2025**

Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall
Fingal County Council

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

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DUBLIN RURAL LEADER 2023-2027

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ABBREVIATIONS

ABBREVIATION	EXPLANATION
CRF	Community Recognition Fund
CYPSC	Children & Young People's Services Committees
DLRCC	Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council
DRCDG	Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht
DSP	Department of Social Protection
DETE	Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment
DEZ	Dublin Enterprise Zone
EETCD	Economic Enterprise Tourism and Cultural Development
ESF	European Social Fund
ESOL	English for Speakers of Other Languages
FCC	Fingal County Council
FLP	Fingal Leader Partnership
IP	Implementing Partner
LAG	Local Action Group
LEADER	'Liason Entre Actions de Developpement de l'Economie Rurale' 'Links between the rural economy and development actions'
LCDC	Local Community Development Committee
LDC	Local Development Company
LECP	Local Economic and Community Plan
LEP	Local Enhancement Programme
LES	Local Employment Services
LDS	Local Development Strategy
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
PPN	Public Participation Network
PI	Programme Implementer
SICAP	Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme
SDCC	South Dublin County Council
TUS	Community Work Placement Initiative

This report has been prepared in the context of Chapter 2, Section 128B (1)(i) Local Government Act 2001, as Inserted by the Local Government Reform Act 2014, which states that one of the functions of a Local Community Development Committee is: *"to prepare, adopt and submit to the local authority a report in relation to the performance of its functions during the year immediately preceding the year in which the report is submit."*

Joint Chief Officer and Chairperson Statement

Welcome to the 2025 Annual Report of the Fingal Local Community Development Committee (LCDC). Fingal LCDC has responsibility for implementing a coherent and integrated approach to local and community development through the Implementation Plan for the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2023 – 2028.

The LECP 2023 – 2028 sets out an ambitious vision for Fingal, outlining 15 high-level goals, 31 supporting objectives and a series of actions to progress delivery of the Implementation Plan. In 2025, the LCDC administrative team worked with Fingal's IT Team to create an online portal to streamline reporting for stakeholders. Updates on progress in relation to the implementation of the action plan have been provided by stakeholders, a summary of which is outlined in Section Two of this report. Updates provided by Fingal County Council Departments including Community, Climate Action, Economic Development, Tourism, Town Regeneration and Libraries, highlight strong cross-departmental collaboration on the delivery of the Implementation Plan as staff progress Fingal's mission *'to be a vibrant, outward looking, well-run Council that shows leadership and embraces diversity and opportunity.'* Updates provided by external stakeholders including LDCs, various government departments, HSE and CYPSC highlight areas of focus for future collaboration and development, while drawing attention to the impressive work these stakeholders do in our local communities.

Fingal LCDC also has a key role to play in overseeing and managing a number of programmes such as the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) and Healthy Ireland and administering various funding streams including the Community Recognition Fund and the Local Enhancement Programme which provide vital support to community groups across the county. In addition, Fingal commenced the rollout of the Sláintecare Programme in the Blanchardstown area with the allocation of initial funding for Q4 2025 and will progress with the recruitment of a Local Development Officer to administer the programme in 2026.

The SICAP Programme is co-funded by the Irish Government through the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, and the European Social Fund, administered by Pobal, and managed at local level by the LCDC. In 2025, Fingal was allocated €1,568,717 to support interventions to tackle poverty and promote social inclusion and equality at a local level under SICAP. Fingal received an additional amount of €375,372 with one additional allocation during the year of €50,000 to assist with the Ukrainian Refugee Crisis response. The SICAP Programme Implementer, Empower, successfully achieved targets in the delivery of the SICAP Programme and provided targeted supports to disadvantaged individuals and groups in Fingal.

The Dublin Rural LEADER Local Action Group (LAG) has responsibility for the delivery of the LEADER Programme in the Dublin area. The Dublin Rural area has a budget of €4.7 million over the period 2023 – 2027 and in 2025, the Dublin LAG approved 41 projects to the value of €602,058, with drawdown expected to be completed in 2026. Fingal LEADER Partnership carried out four targeted calls in 2025 and strengthened partnerships with Town Teams, Dublin Mountain Partnership, PPNs, LEOs, Teagasc, and local government bodies.

Healthy Fingal continued with the implementation of the approved workplan and a focus on reducing age-standardised heavy episodic drinking and promoting smoking/vaping cessation for Fingal. This workplan has been extended for a further year until the end of 2026. €104,755.70 was spent on Healthy Fingal projects in 2025. Healthy Fingal continued to work with stakeholders such as Empower and the North Dublin Drugs Task Force and develop strong new initiatives such as Healthy Ireland at Your Library offering resources and events on physical and mental wellbeing, the Healthy Steps Walking Programme expansion to four locations, Sailing into Wellness and the Talking Heads suicide prevention initiative.

During 2025 Fingal LCDC administered the Local Enhancement Programme (LEP) and an allocation of €268,827 in funding for groups across the county with €230,423 available for capital works and €38,404 available for current costs. Fingal LCDC also administered the Community Recognition Fund (CRF) 2024, which has an allocation of €1,538,573 from the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht (DRCDG) to deliver projects over 2024, 2025 and 2026, with funding allocated across 3 application windows. This funding has now been allocated and projects are underway.

We wish to express our appreciation to all members of the Fingal LCDC for their work throughout the past year. We are grateful to the representatives from community organisations, government bodies, the business sector and wider stakeholder groups for their ongoing engagement and contributions to the work of the LCDC during 2025. Their commitment has been key to the progress achieved over the year.

We would like to thank John Quinlivan, Director of Services, Economic Enterprise Tourism & Cultural Department, and all the staff of the directorate for their work in supporting the LCDC and ensuring the successful delivery of the LECP Implementation Plan and the many programmes and funding streams for which the LCDC has responsibility.

At the December LCDC meeting, Laurence Ward stepped down as Chairperson of the LCDC. Throughout his tenure, Laurence has provided steady and considered leadership, guiding the committee through a wide range of important work including the procurement of the 2024–2028 SICAP contract and the development of the 2023–2028 LECP. As Laurence concludes his term, we extend our sincere appreciation for his dedication and the thoughtful manner in which he has chaired the committee. We now welcome Anthony Cooney, who will assume the position of Chairperson in 2026. We look forward to working with him in the year ahead and wish him every success as he takes on this role.

We look forward to working with all members of the LCDC and all stakeholders in 2026 to realise the LECP vision: *"Fingal will be a vibrant, sustainable, progressive and climate resilient county, underpinned by inclusive, healthy, empowered communities and a dynamic economy."*

Aoife Sheridan | *Laurence Ward*

AOIFE SHERIDAN
Chief Officer Fingal LCDC

LAURENCE WARD
Chairperson Fingal LCDC

SECTION 1

Fingal Local Community Development Committee

LCDC

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

SECTION 1
Fingal Local Community Development Committee Members 2025

Members of Fingal LCDC

(L-R: Cllr Eoghan Dockrell, Aoife Sheridan, John Quinlivan, Eilish Harrington, Mary Attridge Jones, Ellen O'Dea & Laurence Ward)

The Local Government Reform Act 2014 gives legislative effect to the commitments in 'Putting People First', including the establishment of LCDC's in each local authority administrative area, for the purposes of developing, co-ordinating and implementing a coherent and integrated approach to local and community development.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
• A clear focus on Social Inclusion, marginalised communities and the marginalised within communities
• Promotion of enterprise, employment development, training and education, as key element in supporting sustainable communities
• Planning and programme implementation that makes the best use of available resources for citizens and communities

THE FUNCTIONS OF THE LCDC ARE
• Prepare and arrange for the implementation of the Community element of a six year Local Economic and Community Plan
• Co-ordinate, manage and oversee the development of local community development programmes
• Review, monitor and revise actions and strategies set out to achieve the objectives of the Local Economic and Community Plan
• Promotion of enterprise, employment development, training and education, as a key element in supporting sustainable communities.
• Improve the co-ordination of all public funded local and community development programmes in the administrative area

Note: Section 1288 of the Local Government Act 2001 sets out the functions of the LCDC's

The functions of a local authority regarding promoting the interests of communities as set out in Section 66 of the 2001 Local Government Act, delegated to LCDCs, section 128(2)

Fingal Local Community Development Committee Members

Cllr. Eoghan Dockrell

Eoghan is a Fine Gael councillor representing the Rush-Lusk local electoral area. With a career foundation rooted in finance, Eoghan worked as a tax consultant for several years, providing him with a comprehensive understanding of financial systems and strategies. Prior to that, he served as a Revenue auditor in the Office of the Revenue Commissioners, gaining valuable experience in financial oversight and public accountability. This background has equipped him with a strong knowledge of financial procedures, governance, and justice-skills that are essential in his work as a councillor. Currently, Eoghan lives in Donabate and through his work on the council, Eoghan is dedicated to ensuring that the planning of communities is done in a sustainable and responsible manner. He strongly believes in creating long-term strategies that promote both growth and environmental sustainability, ensuring that future generations can enjoy thriving, well-planned communities.

Cllr. Eimear Carbone-Mangan

Eimear is a Fianna Fáil councillor representing the Castleknock local electoral area. As a communications professional with a proven record, Eimear has spent most of her career to date working for Government agencies on the delivery of major transport, infrastructure and planning projects, and was a key contributor to the delivery of all Luas lines that have been built in Dublin. Having operated in the context of high-profile projects of national and international relevance has given her an excellent understanding of delivering for the wider benefits to the public, local community and other stakeholders. Eimear is committed to supporting and delivering for our community to improve the quality of life for people and families. As a trained classical singer, she is passionate about the arts and developing more cultural spaces and facilities for our talented young people and artists. Eimear holds a BA (Economics and Sociology) from National University of Ireland, Maynooth.

John Quinlivan

John Quinlivan is the Director of Services of Economic, Enterprise, Tourism & Cultural Development in Fingal County Council. John has over 30 years of experience in local government, working in 6 Local Authorities in rural, urban, and metropolitan areas and in that time he has been involved in every function of local government. His current role is to advance the economic, community and cultural development of Fingal.

Pat O'Connor

Pat O'Connor is Head of School of Social Sciences, Law, and Education in the Faculty of Arts and Humanities at Technological University Dublin. Pat holds a doctoral degree from the University of Manchester and has been involved in further and higher education for over 30 years. He has been on the Council of Fingal Chamber since 2010 and was appointed President of the Chamber in 2025. Pat's teaching interests extend across business, accountancy and humanities and he has extensive experience in programme design and review in higher education. His research interests include higher education, research methodology and community development. Pat's community contributions include Chair of the Board of Management of St Patrick's Junior National School, Corduff and coach at Hartstown Huntstown Football Club.

Oisin Geoghegan

A Master of Business Studies graduate of University College Dublin and post-grad of Trinity College Dublin, Oisín Geoghegan is Head of the Local Enterprise Office in Fingal, since his appointment in 2014. Prior to this he served 14 years as Chief Executive at Fingal County Enterprise Board. Oisín previously held managerial positions in Export Sales and Marketing for Irish and Scandinavian manufacturers of industrial equipment in the food processing sector operating in the UK and Ireland. He previously served as Chairperson of the Network of 31 Local Enterprise Offices and has many years' experience chairing various enterprise development strategy groups and national committees.

Ellen O'Dea

Ellen O'Dea is Head of Service for Health and Wellbeing in the HSE Community Health Organisation Dublin North City and County since November 2016. From 2002, she has worked in management roles within the HSE, previous roles include General Manager for Primary Care and Disability Services, Primary Care Manager & Occupational Therapy Manager. She has a particular interest in community participation in health and in supporting Healthy Communities. Ellen has a BSC (Hons) in Occupational Therapy, Diploma in Leadership and Quality in Healthcare and an MSc in Health Service Management.

Una Caffrey

Una is the coordinator of Fingal Children and Young Peoples Services Committee (FCYPSC). Una's role is to support FCYPSC in its work to bring together a diverse group of agencies in Fingal to engage in joint planning and co-ordination of services for children and young people. Una is a firm believer in working together to achieve better outcomes for children and young people and supports the participation of children and young people to inform the work of FCYPSC. Una brings to FCYPSC a wealth of experience of working in the community and voluntary sector having worked for Focus Ireland, Barnardo's, Fingal County Childcare Committee to name a few. In her previous role Una coordinated the delivery of child protection training to early years professionals in Fingal. Una holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Dublin Institute of Technology and a post grad in child protection from Trinity College Dublin.

Mary Attridge-Jones

Mary Attridge-Jones is actively involved in numerous environmental and community-focused initiatives. She currently works with the Portrane Village Renewal Group and contributes to organisations such as Tidy Towns, DP Sustainable Energy Community, Biodiversity, Eco Congregation, Clean Coasts, Coast Watch, Bird Watch Ireland, Global Action Plan, Wellbeing Economy Alliance, Doughnut Economics Action Laboratory, LEO Fingal, and Hedgerow Ireland. She facilitates group coaching in communities and outdoor meetings, promoting well-being and environmental awareness. Beyond her coaching role, Mary is dedicated to hands-on community work, including litter picking, composting, Adopt-A-Patch, attending community garden events, and supporting biodiversity action plans. She holds a Leadership Coach Practitioner qualification, is currently studying Environmental and Biodiversity Studies.

Anne Marie Brady

Anne Marie volunteers with Balbriggan Tidy Towns and Our Waters and Wild, both striving to enhance and protect our local environment. As Treasurer of the Balbriggan Community Council, she works alongside others to advocate for residents and support community-driven projects. She is an active member of her local residents' association; Chapel Gate/Pine Ridge as Treasurer, ensuring that local issues are addressed and that our neighbourhoods thrive. Anne Marie serves on the Aisha AED Initiative, a community campaign aimed at creating a network of 24 hour accessible AEDs (Defibrillators) and providing education and training on CPR and AED usage. Anne Marie served on the Balbriggan Skatepark Committee and the Playground Committee, both which were successful in achieving the goals of a skatepark and playgrounds for Balbriggan.

Seamus Quigley

Shay is the area manager for the Employment Services Division of the Department of Social Protection (DSP) in North Dublin. He has 20 years' experience in all aspects of DSP services and is a graduate of Dundalk IT, Institute of Public Administration and the National College of Ireland. He sits on various committees in North Dublin and has a strong interest in GAA and soccer.

Samina Ahmed

Samina Ahmed is a dedicated community advocate and a member of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC), where she represents the community and voluntary interest from the Public Participation Network (PPN). As a representative of the Irish Women's Network, Samina brings her passion for empowering women and promoting equality to the forefront of her work. Through her involvement in the LCDC, she plays an active role in shaping community development initiatives and ensuring that the voices of diverse groups, particularly women, are heard in local decision-making processes. Samina's commitment to creating a more inclusive and equitable society is reflected in her tireless advocacy for the needs and rights of women at the community level.

William Wanjihia

William Wanjihia is an active member of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC), serving as the Social Inclusion Interest representative for the Fingal Africa Association. A passionate advocate for equality, William works to ensure the voices of the African community in Fingal are heard and represented. He is dedicated to promoting social inclusion and addressing the challenges faced by marginalized groups. Through his role, William strives to influence policies and initiatives that foster equal opportunities, access to resources, and community support. His work focuses on creating a more equitable and inclusive environment for all residents of Fingal.

Adeline O'Brien

Adeline O'Brien has worked in the not for profit and social enterprise sector for twenty years. Roles have ranged from Development Director (Cork Opera House) to Director of the Fundraising Institute of Ireland and CEO of an Education & Training facility for at risk young people and their families in Dublin 10. Adeline was a founding Director of the Cherry Orchard Regeneration Company, and a founding member of the Dublin 10 Restorative Practice steering group. Adeline worked as consultant in the not-for-profit sector particularly in the areas of Governance, Strategy and Management, Work & Organisational Psychology / Behaviour. Adeline also provided support in terms of crisis management, operational quality audits and evaluations. Adeline was appointed CEO of Blanchardstown Area Partnership in January 2017, now Empower CLG.

Anthony Cooney

Anthony Cooney is CEO of Fingal Chamber of Commerce. Fingal Chamber is affiliated to Chambers Ireland and is representative of the business community covering the greater Fingal Region. Anthony has more than 25 years' experience at director level working with Private Equity Operators of businesses in the B2B sectors of major companies operating in both the UK and Ireland specialising in the acquisition and management of "Recurring Income" organisations. Anthony will Chair the Local Community Development Committee from 2026 onwards.

Annie Byrne

Annie Byrne has lived in the Dublin 15 area for nearly 40 years as a person with a physical impairment. Since 2008, she has become an advocate for the disability community, campaigning for various causes. She has earned a qualification as a support worker, facilitator, and information research officer, and has worked with Blanchardstown Centre for Independent Living (BCIL) and Greater Dublin Independent Living (GDIL). Annie is experienced in assistive technology, disability equality, social inclusion, group work, and self-advocacy. She designed and delivered a self-advocacy program at the Central Remedial Clinic for adults with cross impairments. Annie has conducted accessibility audits for BCIL, GDIL, Fingal County Council, and others. She has also written an article and given talks on independent living. Over the past 16 years, she has remained actively engaged in advancing human rights, aiming to make a positive societal impact. She believes everyone has a role in supporting the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and is a member of the CRC Human Rights Committee and the Irish Wheelchair Association.

Eilish Harrington

Eilish Harrington is the CEO with Fingal LEADER Partnership since September 2018. In this role Eilish works with her team to deliver the LEADER programme across rural Dublin, Rural Social Scheme for Co. Dublin, Care & Repair Service in the North County, Ability and Tús Programmes in the Fingal area. She has a background in Community Development and brings experience and knowledge in this field to her role in FLP. Eilish graduated with a BA Honours Degree in Public and Social Policy from NUI Galway. After her studies she worked with Special Olympics Munster as a Development Officer and as Co Ordinator of Employ Ability Services West Cork.

Laurence Ward

Laurence is a dry stock farmer near Oldtown, North County Dublin. His passions are GAA football and farming. In 2025, he served as chairperson of Fingal Local Community Development Committee, stepping down at the December meeting. Laurence is also a member and chairperson of the Dublin Rural LEADER Local Action Group. Laurence has taken a role as a member of the Farm Business Committee of the Irish Farmers Association.

Resigned Member of Fingal Local Community Development Committee 2025

Cllr. Cathal Haughey

CATEGORY MEMBERSHIP OF FINGAL LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC) 2025

NAME	CATEGORY	ORGANISATION
Eoghan Dockrell	**Local Authority Member** Rush-Lusk	Fingal County Council
Eimear Carbone-Mangan	**Local Authority Member** Castleknock	Fingal County Council
Cathal Haughey	**Local Authority Member** Howth-Malahide	Fingal County Council
John Quinlivan	**Local Authority Official** Chief Executive's Nominee	Fingal County Council
Oisín Geoghegan	**Local Authority Official** Local Enterprise Office	Fingal County Council
Pat O'Connor	**State Agency** Higher Education Institute	TU Dublin
Seamus Quigley	**State Agency** Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection	Department of Social Protection
Una Caffrey	**State Agency** TUSLA	CYPSC Child and Family Agency
Ellen O'Dea	**State Agency** HSE	HSE
Samina Ahmed	**Community and Voluntary Interest** Irish Women's Network	Fingal Public Participation Network
William Wanjihia	**Social Inclusion Interest** Fingal Africa Association	Fingal Public Participation Network
Mary Attridge-Jones	**Environmental Interest** Portrane Village Renewal Group & Tidy Towns	Fingal Public Participation Network
Anne Marie Brady	**Community Interest** Chapel Gate/Pineridge Residents Committee	Fingal Public Participation Network
Annie Byrne	**Social Inclusion Interest** Blanchardstown Centre for Independent Living	Fingal Public Participation Network
Adeline O'Brien	**Local Development**	Empower
Eilish Harrington	**Local Development**	Fingal LEADER Partnership
Laurence Ward	**Farming and Agriculture**	The Irish Farmers Association
Anthony Cooney	**Business and Employers**	Chambers Ireland
VACANT	**Community Interest**	VACANT

PUBLIC (STATUTORY)	PRIVATE (NON-STATUTORY

Local Enhancement Programme 2025

The Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht announced the Local Enhancement Programme (LEP) on the 7th of November 2024. The LEP, administered by the LCDC, provided capital and current supports to small community groups and organisations, particularly those who serve disadvantaged areas in rural and urban areas.

Unlike the Local Enhancement Programme 2024, groups were eligible for both capital and current funding as part of the 2025 programme. Eligible capital supports included the purchase of physical items for community use such as water boilers, tables and chairs, lawnmowers, and canopies, as well as funding for improvement works such as kitchen installation costs, doors, paint, and fire upgrade works. Current supports included energy costs such as electricity and heating, operating costs such as rental and insurance, as well as website maintenance fees and audit/accountancy fees.

Fingal County Council was allocated €268,827 in funding for groups across the county. €230,423 was earmarked for Capital Funding, with the remaining €38,404 allocated for Current Funding. Applications for the fund went live on the 13th of December; 101 applications were received for Capital Funding and 87 applications for Current Funding. Requests received for capital support totaled €619,417.46 while requests for current support totaled €229,534.66. All applications were evaluated (viewed and discussed) by the LCDC Evaluation Committee. 63 groups were approved for Capital Funding and 61 groups were approved for Current Funding.

A full list of successful applicants can be found here: https://assets.gov.ie/static/documents/Fingal_LEP_06_2025.pdf

Rush Dramatic Society Millbank

Portrane Village Renewal Group

Mulberry Resident's Association

HEALTHY FINGAL

Healthy Ireland is a national government-led strategy aimed at improving the health and wellbeing of everyone living in Ireland. The Healthy Ireland Fund (HIF), funded under the Healthy Ireland national strategy, supports Local Authorities to deliver activities which will improve health and wellbeing locally. Pobal provides funding for HIF Round 4 to each Local Authority and under HIF Round 4, the Local Authority is the contract holder and is accountable for the implementation, oversight and management of the funds awarded, with the Healthy County Coordinator (HCC) and Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) leading out on the planning and implementation. Previous rounds of HIF were primarily activity-led. In contrast, an outcome-led approach has been introduced to Round 4 to:

- enable the implementation of more targeted and evidence-based activities
- provide a more structured approach to the collection and reporting of relevant data and information which can be used for greater oversight and improved programme evaluation
- provide a clearer understanding of how the work of the funded organisations contributes to HIF programme objectives.

The Healthy Fingal sub-committee is made up of 18 reps from Fingal County Council departments, HSE, Drugs Task Force, Fingal Leader Partnership, Empower, Dublin and Dun Laoghaire Education and Training Board (DDLETB), and Children and Young People's Services Committee (CYPSC).

There were 5 meetings held in 2025 with an average attendance of 10 people, which provided an opportunity to network, collaborate, and to contribute to a healthier Fingal.

Niall McGuirk was appointed as the new Healthy Fingal Coordinator in December 2022 and was tasked with the development of a workplan for 2023-2025 and a focus on reducing age-standardised heavy episodic drinking and promoting smoking/vaping cessation for Fingal. This workplan has been extended for a further year until the end of 2026. .

In 2025 Healthy Fingal through Empower and Fingal's People Services offered Fingal staff in D15 the opportunity to attend a free 10-week We Can Quit Class delivered by Empower in Blanchardstown library. 32 people completed the expression of interest in attending a class with 6 ultimately registering and 2 participants completing the course quitting smoking.

Healthy Fingal is working with Coolmine Therapeutic Centre to support individuals availing of drug rehabilitation services to quit smoking through the Breath Strong Programme, which provides 1 to 1 quit smoking support as well as tailored physical activity options for users. Healthy Fingal also support people in recovery through supporting the North Dublin's Drugs Task Force.

Healthy Fingal supported the development of the 'Talking Heads' initiative in conjunction with CYPSC and the HSE, which seeks to promote the Let's Talk About Suicide awareness training to barbers to enable them to support their clients and signpost them towards an array of mental health supports with plans to widen the reach of the programme around the county.

The Smoke Free Homes Programme in Dublin 15 aims to create healthier living environments by encouraging residents to implement smoke-free policies in their homes and cars. The initiative combined community outreach, educational resources, and weekly emails to reinforce positive behaviors and raise awareness about the risks of smoke and vapor exposure. A key focus was on households with children, emphasizing the long-term health benefits of a smoke-free space.

While many of the 36 households who engaged in the initiative already practiced smoke-free living, the programme helped strengthen their commitment with face-to-face engagement proving the most effective in driving participation, highlighting the need for more personal interaction in future initiatives.

Healthy Fingal linked with the HSE Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (Balbriggan & Swords) to set up a 'Woodlands for Health' programme servicing up to 20 young people every week who are currently receiving mental health support from the HSE. The programme which operates during the summer months uses walking in wooded, peaceful areas to assist young people in their recovery and signpost individuals to Quit Smoking and Alcohol services where required. Healthy Fingal also developed the Healthy Steps programme in conjunction with Fingal's Active Travel section and the HSE to set up GP referral walks in 4 locations around the county which are supported by walking tutors and information on Quit Smoking and Alcohol services, as well as mental health supports provided to participants.

Healthy Fingal linked with the Blanchardstown Drug and Alcohol Task Force to support the Think Before You Buy initiative to be rolled out in key areas of Dublin 15 in Q1 of 2026. The initiative focuses on raising awareness about the dangers of purchasing illegal drugs and highlights the social, health, and community impacts of drug use, urging individuals to make informed choices that protect wellbeing and reduce harm.

Healthy Fingal continues to support the ExWell programme, which provides supervised exercise rehabilitation in Mulhuddart for individuals with chronic illnesses, promoting physical and mental well-being. The programme has grown massively in 2025 with two classes in operation in Mulhuddart and a waiting list due to demand. As a result, a second site was set up in Blakestown in Q4 of 2025, which will run throughout 2026 supported by the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Fund.

Healthy Fingal continues to use the services of MediaSocial to assist in the communication of the Healthy Fingal message, develop engagement and improve brand awareness across multiple social media platforms. We had 621 published items across Facebook and Instagram in 2025 and we have seen a 12.5% growth in our audience compared to 2024 to 2,275 with overall engagement increased by 11.2%. The highest performing post was around the 'Talking Heads' initiative which had over 18,000 views.

COMMUNITY RECOGNITION FUND
2024 & 2025

Administered by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, The Community Recognition Fund aims to support the development of community infrastructure and facilities for the entire community in recognition of the contribution being made by communities across the country in welcoming and hosting significant numbers of arrivals from Ukraine and other countries.

The funding is specifically targeted at projects that are located in cities, towns and villages that are hosting the Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection and/or International Protection Applicants.

As part of the Community Recognition Fund 2023, Fingal County Council received €1,748,912 divided across 26 projects being delivered by 6 FCC Departments. By the end of 2024 a number of programmes had been granted extensions by the department with completed drawdowns of €896,098.81, remaining funds to be spent and drawdown applications submitted to the Department by March 31st, 2025.

Based on the continued impacts of the 2023 iteration of the fund on communities and the country, and the need to support these communities in welcoming new arrivals, a further €50 million was being provided across the country under the Community Recognition Fund 2024.

Fingal County Council allocated €1,538,573, divided across three application windows. Under Call 2, seven projects were approved by the DRCDG, totaling €596,802.00, and under Call 3, 5 projects were approved, totaling €309,753.00. Drawdown and completion of projects is now underway. A full list of successful projects can be found here: https://www.fingal.ie/community-recognition-fund-2024

SECTION 2

Fingal Local Economic & Community Plan 2023-2028

LOCAL ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY PLAN | FINGAL LECP 2023 2028

Fingal Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2023-2028

Theme 1: SUSTAINABILITY & CLIMATE ACTION

Fingal County Council continue its leadership to embed sustainability across economic development, community engagement and climate resilience to progress objectives set out in the Local Economic and Community Plan, the Climate Action Plan and the Active Travel Strategy, through a series of strategic, community-focused initiatives.

In 2025, the Economic Development Section commenced the development of the *Future Fingal: Fingal Sustainability Strategy*, a key action within the Fingal LECP, with the appointment of consultants, research and stakeholder engagement. The Strategy aims to build on the Fingal Climate Action Plan and advance external climate action by expanding the Sustainable Fingal Initiative into a Strategy which includes collaboration and engagement with businesses, communities and organisations, embedding circular economy principles and supporting a Just Transition to Net Zero. Stakeholder engagement occurred in November and December 2025 to inform the Strategy's objectives and implementation plan for adoption in Q2 2026.

These actions demonstrate Fingal County Council's leadership in embedding sustainability across economic development, community engagement and climate resilience, ensuring progress towards the objectives set out in the Fingal Climate Action Plan 2024–2029 and related strategies.

Fingal County Council completed work on its URBACT EcoCore Project which focuses on advancing the green industrial transition on industrial lands along strategic transport corridors, with the Project Team focusing on Balbriggan along the Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor. The Project completed with the launch of the Balbriggan Integrated Action Plan in December 2025 which sets out a roadmap for the development of the Council's industrial landbank in Balbriggan as a green innovation zone. Project EcoCore won the "**Best CSR Project in a Community Award**" at the LAMA 2025 All-Ireland Community & Council Awards.

The Project Team also developed an EcoCore Podcast Series to share lessons learned with the European Project Partners on EcoCore. The EcoCore Hackathon in November 2024 produced a proposal for a circular economy digital platform and hub, during 2025 the Hackathon Team collaborated with Smart Balbriggan and the Council's Economic Development Team to develop a feasibility study on the proposal which should be complete in Q2 2026.

Fingal County Council progressed delivery on commitments under the Circular Cities Declaration with a variety of initiatives promoting circularity such as the reuse of musical instruments on the Replay Project and support for local clothes swaps.

Other initiatives included embedding circular approaches to economic development in the EcoCore Project, exploring potential circular economy projects, advancing delivery under the Council's Active Travel Plan with delivery of School Streets and various active travel and greenway projects across the county.

In 2025, the Council commenced participation in a working group CCRI Community of Practice on supporting local circular businesses. Senior officials from Fingal County Council also participated in a European Urban Initiative City-to-City Exchange with Nokia in Finland on circular economy and innovation hubs, bringing good practice back for incorporation into Fingal's approach to economic development.

Fingal Local Enterprise Office (LEO) continued to provide support to businesses transitioning to a climate-resilient economy through the Green for Business Programme which provided support to 41 Fingal based businesses in 2025, allowing 20 of the businesses to successfully apply for the Energy Efficiency Grant with funding of up to €10,000 and 75% of eligible costs to acquire energy efficient equipment and implement sustainable business processes.

Fingal County Council's Community Development Section's Keen to Be Green Facilities Project achieved its second milestone in water conservation during Dublin Climate Action Week. The Climate Action Heroes Challenge engaged 140 participants across 22 community centres, collectively saving 12,794 kg of CO_2.

Sustainability Ideas for SMEs

Good for Business - Good for the Environment - Good for Customers

SUSTAINABLE FINGAL
An initiative of Fingal County Council

Business-focused sustainability efforts advanced in 2025 with a series of briefings by Conscious Kitchens in collaboration with Fingal County Council and Fingal Chamber, showcasing practical case studies in the area of food sustainability to inspire local restaurants/cafes/ hotels to commence their sustainability journeys.

The LEADER Programme in the Dublin Rural Area supported entrepreneurs, SME's and community groups/organisations through targeted calls for electric equipment, while promotional videos highlighted best practice in sustainable construction and manufacturing.

Dublin Rural LEADER

Theme 2: PROSPEROUS ECONOMY

The Council continued to implement the Future Fingal: An Economic Development Strategy to promote and drive economic growth in the county. The development of strategic industrial landbanks was a priority in 2025, with the Council adopting the Stephenstown and Folkstown Little Framework Plans in 2025. These planning frameworks set the vision for the sustainable development of the industrial lands at Balbriggan strategically located along the Dublin Belfast Corridor.

The Council's URBACT EcoCore Project, focused on advancing the green industrial transition and developing a vision for the future development of the landbank in Balbriggan. As part of the project, a branding and marketing exercise commenced for investment attraction to Balbriggan. The Project launched the document Balbriggan – An Integrated Action Plan in December 2025 as the culmination of two and a half years of work with the URBACT Local Group, comprising local Councillors, national and regional economic development representatives and stakeholders across the Council, universities and local business.

Fingal County Council presented key learnings from the EcoCore Project at the Smart City Expo in Barcelona in October, raising Fingal's profile at an international level.

Across the Council, staff participated in a number of webinars highlighting good practices developed in Fingal including green industrial development and sustainable modes of travel.

As part of a regional collaboration, Fingal joined the other Dublin-based local authorities to further develop and promote the DUBLIN place-brand with an advertising campaign to promote the Dublin region in Q1 2025 and ongoing engagement throughout the year to develop marketing collateral and advance objectives under the Dublin Regional Enterprise Plan and contributing articles to the Dublin Economic Monitor to highlight the economic work in Fingal.

SPECIAL REPORT

FUTURE FINGAL: A BOLD LEAP FORWARDS TOWARD A GREEN ECONOMIC FUTURE

SPECIAL REPORT

FINGAL FOCUSSED ON TOURISM

Fingal County Council hosted 50 tourism-related Fingal businesses to the inaugural business-to-business event 'Fingal Tourism Together' in Malahide in May 2025 bringing together key stakeholders and businesses in the tourism, leisure and food sectors in Fingal. The event provided briefings on the implementation of the Tourism Strategy and Food & Drink Policy, as well as a presentation by award-winning travel writer Nicola Brady.

Supported by Failte Ireland and Tourism Ireland, the Council joined with South Dublin County Council and Dublin City Council to promote Dublin as part of the Failte Ireland 'Winter in Dublin' campaign and the new brand 'Ireland Home of Halloween' at Irishfest, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Irishfest is the largest Irish festival in the USA and the world's largest celebration of Irish culture and music in the world attracting over 130,000 visitors over 4 days.

Fingal was one of seven destinations awarded funding under Fáilte Ireland's new Home of Halloween Destination Development Pilot Scheme for 2025–2028, receiving funding of €100,000 annually to craft immersive, culturally rooted Halloween experiences. This investment is part of a broader €1.5 million initiative to position Ireland as the global home of Halloween, generate regional economic growth, and attract tens of thousands of visitors.

COME ALIVE Fáilte Ireland

In March 2025, the Fingal Food and Drink Network held an event to showcase the opportunities and benefits of being part of the network. Fingal launched the new Fingal Food Circle brand at Flavours of Fingal and during 2025 the Network developed an Autumn programme to support food markets and commence a pilot project with Fáilte Ireland on developing the network and saleable experience.

FINGAL FOOD CIRCLE

dublin belfast economic corridor

The Council continued to engage with the Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor and its partners, focusing on collaborative projects including tourism, enterprise development and skills development. DBEC held a successful summit in February 2025 with more than 550 attendees learning about the work of the regional partnership to promote economic growth and job creation.

BASE, BEAT and Drinan Enterprises came together to form a new entity in 2025, Innovate Fingal, to develop a new strategic approach to enterprise and innovation in the county. Innovate Fingal seeks to actively seek out new opportunities for funding, collaboration and move beyond the walls of the traditional enterprise centre by providing outreach enterprise services into local communities.

Fingal County Council continued to enhance strategic engagement across the business ecosystem through collaboration with IDA, Fingal Chamber, the Local Enterprise Office and other stakeholders. In parallel, efforts to address labour market under-representation focused on barriers such as childcare and transport, with Empower providing targeted career guidance and training for disadvantaged groups under SICAP, Local Area Employment Services (LAES), TÚS and WorkAbility. Employability programmes, including the Skills for Life initiative across Fingal Libraries, supported upskilling and reskilling.

Fingal County Council is committed to fostering a prosperous, inclusive economy through strategic land development, skills enhancement, business engagement and targeted supports, ensuring alignment with the objectives of the *Future Fingal: An Economic Development Strategy* and the Local Economic and Community Plan 2023 – 2027.

Theme 3: SKILLS FOR LIFE & WORK

Fingal County Council made significant progress in advancing skills development and lifelong learning with the launch of the next iteration of the Future Fingal: Fingal Skills Strategy 2024–2029.

FUTURE FINGAL: FINGAL Skills STRATEGY
IDEAS COLLABORATION ACTION

Officially launched in February at Baldoyle Training Centre, the Future Fingal: Fingal Skills Strategy aims to forecast skills gaps, address workforce needs and strengthen Fingal's position as a leading economic hub. The Strategy has a strong focus on raising awareness of skills/training provision, upskilling and reskilling as part of lifelong learning and the importance of engagement with SME's to address their skills needs.

Fingal County Council promoted sector-specific skills development through events such as the Transport & Logistics Skills Event in April 2025. The event featured industry leaders, highlighted career opportunities in the sector and provided networking opportunities.

In April 2025, Eolas Magazine published an article on how the Fingal Skills Strategy is enhancing the county's economic attractiveness.

Fingal County Council continues to collaborate with Trinity Connect, the Academy of the Near Future and Smart Balbriggan to promote STEM in Fingal schools. The first Design Your Future Fingal week was held in Balbriggan, challenging students to tackle real-world urban issues and develop creative technology-driven solutions.

Not So Different

The SSIG engaged with Not So Different, a social enterprise which promotes inclusion, equality and diversity about the development of a pilot programme to support employability skills for neurodivergent individuals for commencement in 2026.

The Xplore Student Skills Competition was rolled out to Fingal schools to encourage students to explore careers in Construction and Transport & Logistics, replicating good practice learned through participation in the Interreg SKYLA Project.

International collaboration under the Interreg SKYLA Project facilitated knowledge exchange on good practices for skills development with transnational meetings held in Lithuania and Poland. Fingal also hosted a delegation from Skane, Sweden to further explore good practices around labour market intelligence communication and skills audits for businesses.

Lifelong learning opportunities were enhanced through Fingal libraries' extensive programming including literacy, STEM and health awareness workshops. Other key skill actions included the rollout of the Skills for Life programme across Fingal libraries, emphasizing media and financial literacy, and outreach to hard-to-reach cohorts such as older people and those with additional needs.

Fingal County Council also worked with community organisations through SICAP to identify and address barriers to training, including childcare and access to space, while supporting over 70 community groups with tailored interventions.

Capacity-building programmes were delivered by Dublin Rural LEADER for volunteers and community groups, covering governance, financial management and planning for the future.

The Fingal TY Xplore Your Future Expo attracted over 2,500 students from schools across Fingal, offering interactive career and education/training signposting from more than 70 exhibitors.

In November 2025 Fingal County Council hosted the inaugural Fingal Skills Summit in The Riasc Centre, Kinsealy in collaboration with Dublin Regional Skills Forum, Fingal Skillnet, Dublin College FET, Fingal LEO, Department of Social Protection (Intreo) and DCU, providing employers with practical guidance on recruitment, upskilling and availability of training supports and insights from industry experts from Aramex, Hawthorne Logistics, Esmark Finch and Dublin Regional Skills Forum on their experience engaging with skills audits and collaborating with education/training providers.

Fingal County Council continues to demonstrate leadership in supporting the development of a strong future talent pipeline to build a skilled, adaptable workforce in Fingal, supporting the needs of business and fostering inclusive access to education and training in alignment with the objectives of the Future Fingal: Fingal Skills Strategy and the Local Economic and Community Plan.

Theme 4: HEALTHY, INCLUSIVE, CONNECTED COMMUNITIES

Healthy Fingal delivered programmes such as *Healthy Ireland at Your Library*, offering resources and events on physical and mental wellbeing, including talks on menopause, positive ageing and yoga. The Healthy Steps Walking Programme, supported by the HSE and Fingal Active Travel, expanded to four locations - Balbriggan, Donabate, Millennium Park and Mulhuddart - engaging over 100 participants and enabling GP referrals to encourage physical activity and mental health. Plans are in place to grow this initiative to seven venues in 2026.

Fingal also partnered with the HSE to promote the T*alking Heads* suicide prevention initiative, launched during World Mental Health Day, with a promotional campaign targeting barbers to signpost mental health supports.

In Q4 2025, Fingal County Council agreed the rollout of the Sláintecare Programme for the Blanchardstown area with allocation of initial seed funding for 2025 and agreement reached for the recruitment of a Local Development Officer to administer the programme to advance in 2026.

Sláintecare. Healthy Communities

Fingal County Council continued to enhance access to health and wellbeing services through community-based initiatives. Fingal County Council supported Thrive Balbriggan and Swords, fostering mental health awareness and reducing isolation, and delivered playful events for families through the *Let's Play Rush* initiative.

Significant investment in community facilities across the county saw the opening of four new community centres - St Margaret's Parish Hall, Meakstown, Hartstown and Baldoyle - providing vital hubs for social connection, education and local services.

HEALTHY FOOD MADE EASY

Programmes such as *Healthy Food Made Easy*, delivered in partnership with Empower, addressed barriers to healthy eating, while webinars led by the HSE on fussy eating, baby weaning and obesity awareness supported families across Fingal.

Collaboration with Drug and Alcohol Task Forces remained a priority, with Fingal County Council supporting recovery-focused activities including water sports days, the Sailing into Wellness project and the *Recovery Run* in Swords.

Fingal County Council also worked with Coolmine Therapeutic Centre to deliver quit-smoking supports and physical activity programmes, reflecting a holistic approach to rehabilitation.

Fingal County Council promoted inclusion through initiatives such as Fingal Inclusion Week, celebrating diversity and equality, and supported autism-friendly projects in Howth, Skerries and Swords. Sensory-friendly resource packs were distributed to ten community centres to create accessible environments.

Migrant integration was supported through the Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT), outreach clinics and cultural events such as Africa Day, while Balbriggan and Blanchardstown libraries achieved *Library of Sanctuary* status.

Fingal County Council also advanced the *Fingal Age Friendly Strategy*, approved in October following extensive consultation with older residents, and continued to coordinate Fingal Comhairle na nÓg, ensuring young people's voices influence decision-making.

A collaborative approval with local, regional and national partners ensures alignment with the objectives of the Local Economic and Community Plan and promotes health, wellbeing and inclusion, addressing inequalities and fostering vibrant, connected communities.

Theme 5: RICH ARTS, CULTURE & HERITAGE

A key achievement under this theme was the approval of a new Public Art Policy, designed to streamline commissioning processes and ensure a coordinated approach across Council departments.

The Tradfest Fingal festival took place in January 2025 in venues throughout the County in an expanded programme that saw 10 venues and 41 headline act performances as well as a large list of fringe events which took place in smaller venues. Although impacted by Storm Éowyn with a small number of concerts postponed over safety concerns, the majority proceeded, were well attended and well received by all who attended, with considerable media coverage locally and nationally.

The Flavours of Fingal County Show attracted c. 70,000 visitors over two days at the historic Newbridge House and Farm. The event was delivered by Fingal County Council in partnership with key stakeholders, featuring local artisan produce and livestock displays to live entertainment, kids' activities, and interactive exhibitions.

The launch of Creative Places Balbriggan, a three-year Arts Council-funded programme, marked a significant step in increasing community participation in the arts. The annual Fingal Artist's Support Scheme, now in its tenth year, attracted 303 applications for grants of up to €5,000 to support professional development, residencies and new work creation.

Smart Balbriggan, with funding from Science Research Ireland, in collaboration with the SCÉAL community, held the How's Its Made: Unmasking AI series of events in Balbriggan promoting collaboration between the creative arts and technology sector, with more than 225 attendees at the events.

Fingal County Council worked with heritage property operators and agencies such as Fáilte Ireland and the National Transport Authority to improve accessibility to heritage sites, including promoting new points along the Dublin Coastal Trail that are accessible by rail.

Fingal County Council also collaborated with local tourism groups and historical societies to protect and enhance cultural assets, providing funding and marketing support for festivals and events, and advancing plans for new walking trails in Rush and Skerries.

Fingal Libraries continued to play a central role in cultural engagement, hosting flagship events such as Cruinniú na nÓg, the *Magic of Stories* children's literature festival, the Festival of History, and Write Time literary events. Culture Night and a series of autumn and winter festivals further enriched Fingal's cultural calendar. Community Activities Funding supported local groups to deliver cultural events, reinforcing Fingal County Council's commitment to grassroots engagement.

Inclusivity was promoted through the Community Facilities Network, which supports 38 community centres with newsletters, training and networking workshops. A notable initiative was the partnership with Conaí Clubhouse, a recovery-oriented service for people living with mental health challenges, introducing a 12-week work placement programme in Huntstown and Corduff Community Centres to foster pathways to employment and social integration.

Section 6: SAFE, ACCESSIBLE, VIBRANT PLACES

Fingal County Council advanced its vision of creating safe, accessible and vibrant places with the progression of the establishment of Local Community Safety Partnerships and confirmation of the membership by the Minister in 2025 with meetings due to be held in Q1 2026. Community safety and cohesion were prioritised with initiatives such as Safer Halloween, which provided diversionary activities for young people, promoting safety and discouraging anti-social behaviour.

As part of Fingal Inclusion Week, Fingal County Council supported an intercultural event in Donabate and Portrane, fostering connections between new and existing residents and celebrating cultural diversity. This event launched a community campaign promoting inclusivity through visible signage and messaging.

Town regeneration remained a priority under the Town Centre First Policy. The Our Balbriggan Rejuvenation Programme progressed significantly, with works at Quay Street, the RNLI Boathouse and Harbour Public Realm progressing during 2025. Improvements to Balbriggan Beach facilities and the design phase for the DeBruns site both advanced in 2025.

Fingal North
LOCAL COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

Town and Village Healthchecks were completed for Donabate, Balrothery and Ballyboughal. Draft Town Centre First Plans for Rush and Lusk were developed, alongside capacity-building measures for emerging Town Teams in Skerries and other areas. Community Fora were supported to deliver local projects under these plans, ensuring inclusive participation in shaping vibrant town centres.

SECTION 3

Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme 2024-2028

Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Arna chomhchistiú ag an Aontas Eorpach
Co-funded by the European Union

pobal
government supporting communities

SICAP
Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme

The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) is co-funded by the Government of Ireland, through the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, and the European Union.

SICAP
Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme

SECTION 3
Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme 2024-2028

The Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme (SICAP) is a key intervention for harder to reach groups and individuals.

SICAP aims to address poverty, long-term unemployment and social exclusion through local engagement and partnership between disadvantaged individuals, community organisations and public agencies. Delivery of SICAP is overseen and managed by Fingal LCDC. Empower CLG, is the Programme Implementer for SICAP 2024-2028.

The budget for 2025 was €1,568,717.00. The programme implementer achieved its two Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) for 2025 (see table 1 below) and ensured that the programme and services were delivered within the financial parameters approved by the LCDC.

The Horizontal Themes of SICAP are Human Rights and Equality, Quality Community Development Approaches, Collaborative Approaches, and Climate Justice. These themes are fundamental to Fingal LCDC and Empowers' values and are evident through the strategies, reviews, programme planning and daily delivery.

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2024 – 2 Key Performance Indicators (KPI's)				
Goal		Target	Actual	%
Goal 1	LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUPS	71	71	100%
Goal 2	INDIVIDUALS	895	895	100%

Table 1

GOAL 1: Local Community Groups

Local Community Groups are supported under Goal 1 of SICAP. Empower work closely with both issue-based community groups and target-group representative community groups and have built significant social capital through intense work over time. This includes developing social capital, directly supporting SICAP target groups to address barriers they have identified and respond to their needs.

In 2025 Empower supported 71 Community Organisations, comprised of 47 community groups, 15 collaborative networks and 9 social enterprises. The types of interventions these Community Organisations received include: Supports to expand services (17%); Support to improve organisational capacity (38%); Planning and Review (31%); and Supports to develop and improve governance capacity (15%).

9 social enterprises were supported as part of Empower's work. They include Aster Family Resource Centre, BASE Enterprise Centre, Genesis Psychotherapy & Family Therapy Service, Little Learners, Musicantia, One Step Closer, Our Table, Phoenix FM and You First. Empower assist them to become more sustainable, to access funding and to help them engage with more people/marginalised groups.

Empower's supports included governance, strategic engagement and ongoing developmental input. One Step Closer, a community-based training service operated by Empower, applies a person-centred wraparound approach and is central to Empower's SICAP training provision, particularly for International Protection Applicants and Ukrainian beneficiaries. Empower subcontract Musicantia as part of their Roma engagement strategy. Empower's Deputy CEO also supports the advisory board of BASE Enterprise Centre, strengthening links between social enterprise and community development practice.

Empower also supported Thrive Balbriggan, a mental-health promotion network Chaired by an Empower team member. In February 2025, Thrive received the national Local Authority Members Association Award for Best Mental Health Initiative for the Great Places and Spaces Project. Additionally, Empower established and supported the Balbriggan Social Inclusion Network, bringing together 15 organisations with a shared equality focus to exchange information on funding, venues, local activity and education opportunities, and to develop collaborative actions that benefit SICAP target groups.

GOAL 2: Individuals

IIndividuals are supported primarily under Goal 2 of SICAP. Empower continute to use a Social Role Valorisation approach to support individuals most in need on a one-to-one basis. This person-centred approach allows individuals to explore their options and choose the most appropriate course of action for them and their families.

Individuals were supported by Empower to address food and fuel poverty. Empower continued to provide a foodbank in Balbriggan, based in the Social Inclusion Hub which provides food and hygiene parcels to adults and children weekly. In Mulhuddart, Empower collaborate with Blanchardstown Traveller Development Group, Islamic Centre of Ireland, St Vincent de Paul and local community groups to provide food and sanitary products to approximately 300 people from SICAP target groups each week.

Many people also received career guidance, CV preparation and interview skills from a case officer that helped support 73 people into a new job. In addition, 93 people who were already in employment at their point of SICAP registration were supported. 51 of these were educationally disadvantaged and therefore more likely to be living in low-income household and holding down precarious jobs.

104 people received self-employment supports in 2025 including mentoring and workshops such as Business Resilience, Start Your Own Business, Book-keeping for the Sole Trader, Selling online training. 49 people subsequently set up their own business who received new business after care self-employment supports.

Over 200 people attended a combination of soft skills and labour market courses throughout 2025 many of which were industry certified. These included: English language courses, Emergency First Aid, Food Safety, Forklift Counterbalance, HACCP, Manual Handling, People Movement, Pre-Employment Skills, Reception Skills, Safe Pass, and WRAP.

INDIVIDUAL CASELOAD BY TARGET GROUP 2025

	FINGAL LCDC LOT CASELOAD KP1 2	
TARGET GROUP	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
People living in Disadvantaged Communities	127	14%
People impacted by educational disadvantage	432	48%
People living in jobless households or households where the primary income source is low-paid and/or precarious	560	63%
People who are long-term unemployed	302	34%
People with a criminal history	14	2%
Refugees	89	10%
International Protection Applicants	298	33%
People with Disabilities	98	11%
Heads of One-parent Families	89	10%
Travellers	45	5%
Roma	201	22%
Island residents	0	0%

Table 2: List of all SICAP target groups: People living in Disadvantaged Communities, People impacted by educational disadvantage, People living in jobless households or households where the primary income source is low-paid and/or precarious, People who are long-term unemployed, People with a criminal history, Refugees, International Protection Applicants, People with Disabilities, Heads of One-parent Families, Travellers, Roma, Island residents.

SICAP Supports Provided to the Ukrainian Arrivals & International Protection Applicants

Funds of €425,372.00 were allocated by DRCDG to support SICAP working with Ukrainian arrivals and International Protection Applicants. Initial funding of €375,372.00 was allocated to Empower, with an additional injection of €50,000.00 provided to support the year.

New Arrivals continue to experience multiple, compounding challenges arising from reduced resources, restrictive policies, and an increasingly hostile public discourse. Policies such as forced relocations, evictions, deportations, and periods of rough sleeping have had a significant cumulative impact, undermining human rights and contributing to widespread stress and uncertainty among individuals and families residing in accommodation centres.

Empower provides holistic supports to New Arrivals across accommodation, health, education, employment, child and family supports, and integration. A core delivery mechanism is the regular advocacy clinics held within accommodation centres. These clinics provide information on available services, assess needs, and facilitate referrals to internal and external supports

Through this engagement, Empower responds to individual issues such as health-related advocacy, shared needs including language and employment training, and broader structural challenges. For example, tailored supports were developed for LGBTQI+ New Arrivals, including safe spaces for connection, targeted training, wellbeing supports, and an art project entitled Identity as part of Pride which showcased at local libraries and a European inclusion event.

Open and ongoing communication enables Empower to tailor employment-related supports, including pre-employment training such as CV preparation and interview skills, ensuring alignment with participants' individual goals and circumstances.

Empower's Child & Family Team provided a range of interventions and supports, both in IPAS Centres and in their own premises to New Arrivals. In collaboration with Focus Ireland, Empower provided a range of intervention to New Arrival Children & Families in response to identified needs. These included social skills, resilience building, positive peer interactions and social development. In addition, Empower provided a weekly Parent & Toddler group for families from multiple IPAS Centres.

SECTION 4

Dublin Rural LEADER 2023-2027

The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Europe investing in rural areas

Dublin Rural LEADER
Growth, Sustainability & Inclusion

SECTION 4
The Dublin Rural Leader Local Action Group

2025 Review & Key Achievements – Dublin Rural LEADER Programme
The Dublin Rural LEADER Programme built successfully on 2024's foundation, securing strong project approvals, and expanding its collaborative reach across rural communities. The Independent Evaluation Committee and Local Action Group convened five times throughout the year, resulting in the approval and recommendation of 41 projects totalling €602,058 in funding.

Project Approvals & Strategic Calls
The Programme accepted applications through both rolling calls and four targeted initiatives designed to address rural priorities. The Optimise Digitalisation call supported digital skills and connectivity projects, while the Female and Young Entrepreneurs in Rural Dublin call strengthened business support for underrepresented groups. The Go Green with Electric Tools initiative helped community organisations transition to sustainable maintenance, and Feasibility Studies funding advanced strategic development across key themes for rural Dublin.

Collaboration & Community Impact
Dublin Rural LEADER deepened partnerships with Town Teams, Dublin Mountain Partnership, PPNs, LEOs, Teagasc, and local government bodies. A highly successful collaborative Teagasc event engaged local farmers with fully booked attendance, showcasing available supports. The team also produced promotional videos with Fingal County Council highlighting past programme success stories and delivered free capacity-building training for community groups.

International Recognition
In November, European Commission officials visited Taylor's Irish Chillies - a LEADER-funded project representing the Programme's strongest outcomes. The visit demonstrated the effectiveness of Dublin Rural's governance structure and collaborative approach, with officials particularly impressed by the innovation and measurable family farm impact.

Rialtas na hÉireann Government of Ireland | Tionscadal Éireann Project Ireland 2040
Arna chomhchistiú ag an Roinn Forbatha Tuaithe agus Pobail
Co-funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development
Ár dTodhchaí Tuaithe Our Rural Future
Arna chomhchistiú ag an Aontas Eorpach Co-funded by the European Union

PROJECT EXAMPLES

Promoter Name:	Hill Mill CLG
Project Name:	Skerries Harvest Festival
Theme:	Rural Economic Development, Enterprise Development and Job Creation
Area:	Fingal
LEADER Funding:	€12,102.09

Project Description

The Harvest Time Festival was held at Skerries Mills Industrial Heritage Museum, bringing together the community to celebrate local agricultural heritage and land stewardship. This pilot initiative provided free public access to the historic site's windmills and watermill, creating a joyful, inclusive family day centred on themes of sharing, food, and sustainability.

The festival featured five live musical performances alongside craft demonstrations using traditional techniques and grown crops, including basket weaving. Visitors enjoyed looped mini tours of the historic mills, children's activities including a mini farm and harvest crafts, and opportunities to meet local farmers demonstrating machinery and sharing knowledge about food production. The day culminated with the harvesting and baling of barley in the crop field.

The festival attracted 2,990 visitors who provided excellent feedback on the educational and entertaining experience. The event successfully raised awareness of Skerries Mills and surrounding attractions amongst both established residents and newcomers to the area. Going forward, increased footfall to the heritage site and neighbouring community spaces is expected as awareness of these local assets continues to grow through word-of-mouth and media coverage.

PROJECT EXAMPLES

Promoter Name:	St Margarets GAA Club
Project Name:	St Margarets Community Walking Track
Theme:	Rural Infrastructure and Social Inclusion
Theme:	Rural Infrastructure and Social Inclusion
Area:	St Margarets, Fingal
LEADER Funding:	€40,068.86

Project Description

St Margaret's successfully delivered a new walking path project that has had significant positive impact on local wellbeing and cohesion. The path, constructed with a hard-core sub-base and dust surface, extends from an existing route and provides a robust, accessible facility for non-motorised public use.

The community undertook this initiative to enhance the local area through sustainable and inclusive design whilst stimulating community cohesion and overall wellbeing. The project recognised that access to quality green infrastructure was essential for social interaction, mental health support, and quality of life in a small rural setting.

The walking path incorporated several key innovations centred on sustainability and accessibility. The construction utilised eco-friendly materials and sustainable design practices, whilst the track was engineered to accommodate all users, including those with disabilities and mobility challenges. The robust surface ensured durability and comfort across all seasons.

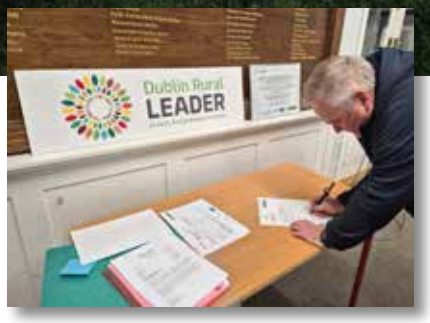
The project has achieved all intended objectives. The completed pathway has become a valued community asset, encouraging regular use and interaction amongst residents.

Promoter Name:	St. Maur's GAA Club
Project Name:	St. Maur's Electric Lawnmower
Theme:	Sustainable Development of Rural Environment & Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation
Sub Theme:	Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation
Area:	Rush, Fingal
LEADER Funding:	€19,759.95

Project Description

St. Maur's GAA Club successfully completed a project funded under the Dublin Rural LEADER Targeted Call for Electrical Tools, acquiring a robotic electric lawnmower to replace aging petrol-powered equipment. The initiative has delivered significant environmental and operational benefits to the club and its volunteers.

The club sought to modernise its groundskeeping operations through sustainable alternatives to traditional fuel-based machinery. The project aimed to reduce carbon emissions and noise pollution, lower long-term maintenance costs, minimise manual labour for volunteers, and demonstrate environmental commitment within the community.



St. Maur's GAA Club successfully procured and implemented the robotic electric lawnmower, which now manages the club grounds with minimal volunteer intervention. The equipment operates autonomously, freeing up volunteer time previously dedicated to manual groundskeeping tasks.

The project achieved all intended objectives. The electric mower has significantly reduced the club's carbon footprint and operational noise levels, whilst delivering measurable cost savings on fuel and maintenance. Volunteers now redirect their efforts towards core community activities, strengthening the club's capacity to serve members. The initiative positions St. Maur's GAA as a leader in sustainable facility management within rural Dublin and demonstrates the practical viability of transitioning rural organisations towards greener operations.

Dublin Rural LEADER LOCAL ACTION GROUP (LAG) Members 2025

SECTOR	AGENCY	NAME
Statutory	Local Authority Member, Fingal LCDC	Cllr Eoghan Dockrell
	Local Authority Official, Fingal LCDC	John Quinlivan
	Local Authority Official, Fingal LCDC	Oisin Geoghegan
	Higher Education Authority, Fingal LCDC	Dr. Pat O'Connor
	Local Authority Member, South Dublin LCDC	Cllr Sarah Barnes
	Local Authority Official, South Dublin LCDC	Lorna Maxwell
	Local Authority Official, South Dublin LCDC	Fionnghuala Ryan
	Local Authority Member, Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown LCDC	Cllr Jim Gildea
	Local Authority Official, Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown LCDC	Deirdre Baber
	Local Authority Official, Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown LCDC	Dave Lawless
Non stat	Farming and Agriculture, Fingal LCDC	Laurence Ward
	Community & Voluntary Interest (Youth Rep), South Dublin LCDC	Andy Leeson
	Environmental Interest, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown LCDC	Annette McAllister
	Community & Voluntary Interest (Youth Rep), Fingal LCDC	Jean O'Gorman
	Local Business Community	Vacant
	Local Development, Fingal LCDC	Adeline O'Brien
	Local Development (Implementing Partner), Fingal Leader Partnership	Eilish Harrington
	Social Inclusion, Marginalised & Disadvantaged Communities, Fingal	Geraldine Rooney
	Environmental Interest, Fingal	Richie Bowden
	South Dublin County Partnership, South Dublin LCDC	Simon Monds

PUBLIC (STATUTORY) PRIVATE (NON-STATUTORY

CAHER STAR

Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gall
Fingal County
Council

Fingal County Council
Economic Enterprise Tourism and Cultural Development,
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COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMUNITY, SPORTS AND CULTURE STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 25th MARCH 2026

ITEM NO. 04

LEADING BY EXAMPLE WITH JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISABLED PEOPLE IN FINGAL COUNTY – AI106921

Motion: Councillor A. Donnelly

"That the Chief Executive produce a report on how Fingal County Council can lead by example with job opportunities within this Council for disabled people, the report to examine areas that could facilitate diverse skills and abilities within our workforce."

Report:

Fingal County Council is committed to providing a fair and inclusive environment that ensures equal opportunities for all candidates for employment, regardless of their physical or mental health, disabilities, or other personal circumstances.

Fingal County Council, as an equal opportunities employer, encourages people of all abilities to apply to work with us. We ensure fair treatment in hiring, training, promotion, and pay, prohibiting discrimination based on characteristics such as gender, age, race, religion, disability, or sexual orientation.

The recruitment process provides for reasonable accommodation which can help alleviate a disadvantage for a person with a disability and enable candidates with disabilities to compete on an equal footing. Examples include modifications to the interview environment, provision of assistive technology or software, providing additional assistance during the application process, modifying communication

methods (e.g., providing materials in alternative formats like braille, large print, or audio) and additional time being allocated for the interview.

Our Reasonable Accommodations Policy for Candidates outlines the supports available through the recruitment process. It is intended to support candidates who may have a disability, health condition, or other individual needs that could impact their ability to partake in a fair and impartial recruitment process.

Fingal County Council ensures that all employees involved in recruitment, including interview board members, are informed about this policy and trained on their rights and responsibilities regarding reasonable accommodations. The aim is to promote awareness of diversity, inclusion, and disability in the workplace.

Fingal County Council is currently participating in AHEAD's Willing & Able Mentorship (WAM) Programme where graduates with disabilities can apply for work experience with us.

Source of Report:
Mary Egan, Director of People, Corporate and Digital Services

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMUNITY, SPORTS AND CULTURE STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 25th MARCH 2026

ITEM NO. 05

FINGAL PARTICIPATION IN NEW STATE LED CAPITAL PROGRAMMES FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CHILDCARE - AI107070

Motion: Councillor J. Walsh

"That this Committee requests the Chief Executive to identify relevant projects and/or appropriate buildings in Fingal that could be included in the new State-led capital programme to enable the delivery of State-led early learning and childcare services."

Report:

The Council is actively engaging with the Department of Children, Disability and Equality regarding the provision of State-led not-for-profit early learning and childcare services in Fingal as part of the scheme announced in January 2026.

This engagement is aimed at establishing an understanding of the requirements of the Programme in relation to capital investment, operating models and the local structures in relation to the oversight of childcare in the county.

All parts of the county will be included in the discussions and any site that can meet the requirements / criteria will be put forward.

Source of Report:
Aoife Sheridan, Senior Executive Officer, Economic, Community & Cultural Development Department