

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Email: corporate.services@fingal.ie

County Hall
Swords
Co Dublin

Tuesday 18th November 2025

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

Dear Member

A meeting of the **Community, Sports and Culture Strategic Policy
Committee** will be held **Hybrid** in the **Council Chamber – Grove Road,
Blanchardstown/MS Teams** at **4.30 pm** on **Tuesday, 2nd December,
2025** to consider the following Agenda.

Yours faithfully

Ciara O hAodha
Meetings Administrator
Corporate Services

.....

A G E N D A

- 1 Confirmation and Re-Affirmation of Minutes of the Community,
Sports and Culture Strategic Policy Committee meeting held on
18th September 2025. (Pages 1 - 6)**

- 2 Non-profit and Public Early Childhood Education and Care** (Pages 7 - 8)
- 3 Public Art Strategy** (Pages 9 - 30)
- 4 Sports Group Funding** (Pages 31 - 36)
- 5 Sports Equipment Grants**

**Comhairle Contae Fingall
Fingal County Council**

Minutes of Community, Sports and Culture Strategic Policy Committee

Thursday, 18th September, 2025

PRESENT

Councillor Eoghan Dockrell (Chairperson)
Councillor Angela Donnelly
Councillor Tom Kitt
Councillor James Humphreys

Apologies for inability to attend were received for Councillor John Walsh

The Area Chairperson, Councillor Eoghan Dockrell, presided.

OFFICIALS PRESENT

Paul Carroll, Director of Services Housing & Community
David Storey, Director of Services Environment, Climate Action, Active Travel & Sport
Naomi Weir, Senior Executive Officer Community
Linda Ennis, Principal Community Officer Community
Gene Griffin, Administrative Officer Community
Geraldine Whelan, Staff Officer Community
Betty Boardman, County Librarian Libraries
Lilian Whelan, Senior Executive Librarian Libraries
Declan Power, Senior Executive Officer Tourism Development
Sarah O'Neill, County Arts Officer Tourism Development
Sile Stewart, Deputy County Arts Officer Tourism Development
Caroline Cowley, Public Arts Co-ordinator Tourism Development
Christine Baker, Heritage Officer Planning & Strategic Infrastructure

CSC/9/25 (Agenda Item No 1)

Confirmation and Re-Affirmation of Minutes of the Community, Sports and Culture Strategic Policy Committee meeting held on Wednesday 25th June 2025

The minutes of the Community, Sports and Culture SPC meeting held on the 25th June 2025 which were circulated were **CONSIDERED**.

It was **PROPOSED** by Councillor E. Dockrell and seconded by Councillor A. Donnelly and **AGREED**: "That the minutes of the meeting of 25th June, 2025 be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED**."

CSC/10/25 (Agenda Item No 2)

Fingal Libraries Update

Betty Boardman, County Librarian provided a report on Capital Projects ongoing and scheduled in Fingal Libraries. Lilian Whelan, Senior Executive Librarian briefed the meeting with the range of planned initiatives, activities and events being hosted by Libraries in the Fingal County Council area.

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

CSC/11/25 (Agenda Item No 3)

Fingal Arts Plan 2019 - 2025

An update on the Fingal Arts Plan 2019-2025 was presented by Sarah O'Neill, County Arts Officer which proposed to extend the current Arts Plan.

Following discussion, the presentation was **NOTED**. It was **AGREED** to bring the proposal to extend the current Arts Plan to the Full Council Meeting.

CSC/12/25 (Agenda Item No 4)

Fingal Heritage Plan 2024 - 2030

Christine Baker, Heritage Officer, presented the 2024-2030 Heritage Plan and outlined the policy implementation matrix.

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

CSC/13/25 (Agenda Item No 5)

Community Activities Funding

Linda Ennis, Principal Community Officer provided a presentation on the current Community Activities Funding Grant Scheme and proposed changes to the scheme to come into effect in 2026 subject to the agreement of the Full Council.

Queries were raised on the detail of the proposed changes. These were responded to by Linda Ennis and Naomi Weir.

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

CSC/14/25 (Agenda Item No 6)

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

SPCCSC 10/25 (Agenda Item No 6) **Motion**

The motion below in the name of Cllr J.Humphreys was **PROPOSED** by Cllr J. Humphreys and **SECONDED** by Cllr E Dockrell.

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

"That this Committee recommends to the full Council that the Chief Executive begin the process of replacing the current Sports Facilities Audit, the new audit should take a broader view covering not just outdoor pitches, but also swimming facilities, indoor sports and wider community recreational infrastructure, this work should be completed in advance of the next County Development Plan, so that zoning, land use and investment decisions are based on a proper evidence base that reflects where the Council is at now, and where it is going, the updated audit should: 1) Move away from UK-based benchmarks like Fields in Trust, which are not part of WHO or EU planning frameworks and do not reflect modern thinking around inclusion, accessibility or long-term public need; 2) Look to European planning models, where infrastructure is planned over 25–50 years and access is what is measured; 3) Include real indicators of pressure, such as waiting lists, club oversubscription, changing demographics and access gaps for

particular age groups or communities; 4) Recognise public access to swimming and indoor sport are essential; 5) Support the planning of integrated, multi-use community spaces, as set out in Fingal's Culture & Creativity Strategy and Active Together plan; 6) Identify and protect sites for future facilities, particularly in high growth areas where infrastructure is already struggling to keep pace."

Report:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Source of Reply: David Storey, Director of Service for Environment, Climate Action, Active Travel and Sport Department

Discussion:

David Storey, Director of Services advised that the Draft Audit Report was presented to Councillors at the briefing sessions in May 2025 and that the Final Audit Report would be presented to Councillors in the coming months.

The report was **NOTED** and it was **AGREED** that the matter would be revisited following presentation of the Final Audit Report

The Meeting concluded at 18:15

CHAIRPERSON

DATED

**COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

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

TUESDAY 2ND DECEMBER 2025

ITEM NO. 02

**NON-PROFIT AND PUBLIC EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND
CARE**

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

This page is intentionally left blank



Introduction

Building on twenty years of excellence and ambition in delivering projects with and for its local communities, in 2027 Fingal County Council will be recognised as leading Public Art practice in Ireland.

More people across our communities in Fingal will know and enjoy art in their lives. They will see and experience art as something to **be part of** and not as something **apart from** them. People across the county will be taking part in conversations about art, will be collaborating in projects and be feel an enhanced sense of pride and belonging within their community and about the county.

We will have the rich resource of a panel of artists with the capabilities (knowledge, skills and experience) to deliver on our Public Art ambitions for Fingal.

Our colleagues across relevant departments within the Council will be actively and practically supporting Public Art initiatives, appreciating its powerful role in achieving corporate priorities such as community cohesion, social integration, climate action, health and well-being, economic development, brand reputation.

Public Art in Fingal has been fully documented and properly archived. We understand its influence and impact over time.

There will be new Public Art work in Balbriggan and in key locations across the county.

A number of signature, durational projects will be coming to fruition to mark the opening of Swords Cultural Centre & Public Realm.

We will have established systems to ensure revenues due from private development have been collected and are available to support appropriate public art initiatives.

We will have ensured the capacity within the Arts Office team to develop on Fingal County Council's Public Art ambitions and priorities.

Public Art Commissioning Strands

Fingal County Council commissions Public Art under the following commissioning strands

The Per Cent for Art Scheme

A national initiative where an agreed percentage of the cost of publicly funded capital programme is ringfenced for the commissioning of new artwork in any art form.

Strategic Infrastructure Capital Programmes

Where Fingal County Council has allocated funding towards public art linked to variety of local infrastructural and public realm developments.

Private commercial / residential development

Where a condition of planning in projects over 100 units or 2000sqm is to commission public art.

Policy Context

Fingal County Council operates Public Art Policy 2025 – 2027 sets out a clear vision, purpose and principles around the potential opportunities around Public Art Commissioning

Our Vision

Public Art brings people together and inspires a new appreciation of our communities, and of Fingal as an ambitious, imaginative, compassionate county: a great place to live, work and visit.

Our vision holds our aims to:

- > Foster togetherness, pride and a sense of belonging in people across the county through art.
- > Contribute to the cultural, social, and economic value of Fingal.
- > Be regarded as a destination for Public Art and a model of best practice.
- > Make work of ambition, innovation and audacity led by artists of distinction.
- > Create more Public Art, increase the visibility and accessibility of Public Art and so deepen the understanding and appreciation of Public Art in people's lives.
- > Have a well-resourced, highly skilled, cross-Council team working with clarity, cohesion and a strategic focus to deliver Public Art projects.

Purpose | What do we need from our strategy?

Public Art encourages us to imagine and experience a place in new ways. It reflects and reveals who we are and what we value, a chronicle of our present that becomes part of our public history and culture.

The purpose of Public Art in Fingal is to explore and celebrate the communities and places of Fingal, enriching an appreciation of our county and of each other, in thoughtful and extraordinary new ways.

Principles

In working towards its vision, true to its purpose, Public Art in Fingal is guided by a strict set of principles that adhere to best standard of practice.

- >Public Art is a professional practice that is artist-led and community-focused.
- >Public Art pursues artistic excellence with imagination and unabashed ambition.
- >Public Art encompasses all art forms.
- >Public Art requires, encourages and enables public engagement.
- >Public Art is for everyone. It is designed to be visible and accessible to all people.
- >Public Art is made with, for and about the people of Fingal in response to a community, situation or place.
- >Public Art responds to the culture and conditions of our time and imagines and enacts new futures.
- >Public Art promotes innovation and sustainability, piloting and pursuing environmentally responsible approaches.

Current Financial Picture

Funding identified under our commissioning strands, some allocated, some spend to be initiated and some currently being gathered.

Per cent for Art Funding	€2,497,598.86
Strategic Infrastructure	€780,000
Private Developer Commercial/ Residential Contribution	€250,000
Total	€3,527,598

Current Public Art Programme of Work

Per cent for Art

Churchfields/ Mulhuddart
Corduff Community Centre
Ballough Place
Project Olive/ Hunstown
Swords R & D for SCC

Strategic Infrastructure

Balbriggan Quay Street/ Harry Reynolds Road
Malahide New Street Public Realm
R&D Swords Public Realm
St Patrick's Way & Art Trail, Skerries

Private Commercial Development

Management of commissioning process for
Arora Group – Dublin Airport Hotel
Vantage Business Park
Horizon Business Park
Cairn Homes – Pipers Square, Niven Oaks,
Hampden Hill
Glenveagh Homes Taylor Hill, Balbriggan
Auburn Woods, Malahide

Strategic Priorities

The successful delivery of an effective Public Art Strategy for Fingal centres on the following Strategic Priorities.

Strategic priority	Financial Management/ Governance	Enable Excellence	Create Connection	Develop Capacity
	Recognising the scope of the investment for the council and the requirements for clear administration and reporting mechanisms to be in place. Roles & Responsibilities communicated and shared across the organisation to support successful delivery	By Developing the capacity of artists and the capabilities of Fingal County Council to deliver on the ambitions for Public Art in the county.	With Communities and places through public art	To ensure the relevant expertise and skillsets and capacity are available for any potential project.
Objectives	Appoint Steering Group who will support the arts office deliver on the strategy through decision making on timelines, identifying funding sources and Allocation of appropriate project teams for successful delivery of projects deemed to be priority as aligned with the Capital Programme and available resources Agree with the Steering group to set up a Public Art Register which will align with both existing and future commissioning programmes associated with the capital programme but also community initiated requests. Develop a countywide Public Art Inventory to support maintenance, de-commissioning	Develop specific strands for Public Art Panel Call outs that build in a professional programme for artists of all abilities to build and develop skills to be able to deliver on the range of opportunities. Develop Team Capacity and insights through partnerships with organisations, international visits and knowledge sharing	Build Public Awareness of Public Art in The County through local, mapping, talks and signage. Develop specific commissioning opportunities to situate artists with communities to co – create work. Public Art Countywide Fund – A developing commissioning fund that will allow communities access to specific funding for Public Art Projects Develop a community commissioning toolkit to empower local communities to commission artists in Fingal with a clear set of guidelines and supports.	Explore a range of tender opportunities to manage specific requests ie Dublin Canvas, Hoardings, Murals Partner with organisations to share resources and knowledge of changing landscapes and practices

Outcomes	The Steering Group will agree the operational register of public art projects The Steering Group will provide decision making and direction and agree programmes of work allocating resources and agreeing timelines A Countywide register of all public art in Fingal will be set up with a maintenance plan	That Fingal is confident that work will be delivered at a high standard, that opportunities for potential commissions will be open to as many artists and artforms regardless of their career stage. Our work will feed into the Department of Department of Culture, Communications and Sport and the Arts Council's Public Art Unit Profiled on National Platforms such as Publicart.ie	A digital Map of Public Art in Fingal (especially private) Community Engagement with Public Art Programme at SCC/SCQ Communities feeling empowered and supported to commission work in collaboration with Fingal County Council for their area or interest.	A dedicated Public Art Core Team made up of a range of expertise – curatorial, production, project management, community engagement.
-----------------	--	--	--	---

Implementation of Public Art Strategy

Steering Group Appointed

Public Art Project Register is set up

Programme Priorities identified in line with capital programme

Budgets identified/confirmed/ project management resources allocated, timelines agreed

Call for Artists – Public Art Panel Call Out outlining specific Categories, Career Stages/ Including specific supports offered.

Public Art Countywide fund

Partnering with Creative Producer Programme with Kunstervein Aughrim to work on research commissioning case studies to deliver potential community commissioning toolkit which we can review and test on above as a pilot.

Public Art Collection Inventory with maintenance plans in place

Reporting and Engagement Department of Culture Communications & Sport and The Arts Council through its All Ireland Government Public Art Policy and the Public Art Unit

Steering Group Appointed

Public Art Project Register Created

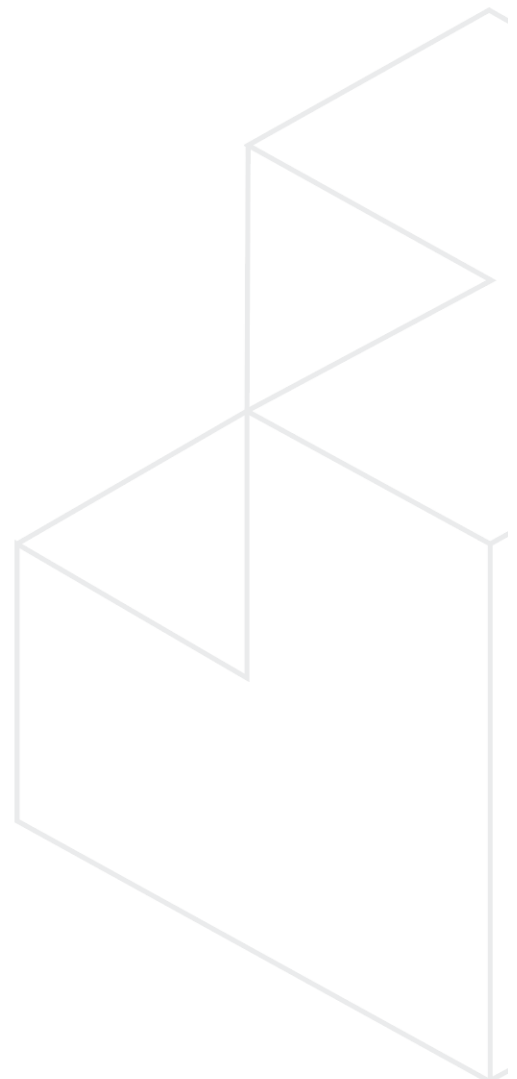
Programme Priorities Identified

**Budgets + Project
Management Confirmed**

Call for Artists Issued

Creative Producer Partnership

Reporting & Engagement



arts.
fingal.ie



An Roinn Cultúir,
Cumarsáide agus Spóirt
Department of Culture,
Communications and Sport

This page is intentionally left blank

Fingal Public Art Strategy

Page 17

2025-2027

Building on 20 Years of Excellence and Ambition



Our Four Strategic Priorities

Our Core Principles



The successful delivery of our strategy centres on these four key pillars.

A New Vision for 2027

To be recognised as leading Public Art practice in Ireland. More people will experience art as something to be part of, not apart from them. We will foster pride and belonging across the county.



Our Guiding Policy

Our Vision

Public Art brings people together and inspires a new appreciation of our communities and of Fingal as an ambitious, imaginative, compassionate county.

Our Purpose

To explore and celebrate the communities and places of Fingal, enriching an appreciation of our county and of each other in thoughtful and extraordinary new ways.



Public Art Commissioning Strands

1

Per Cent for Art

From the cost of publicly funded capital programmes.

2

Strategic Infrastructure

Linked to local infrastructural and public realm developments.

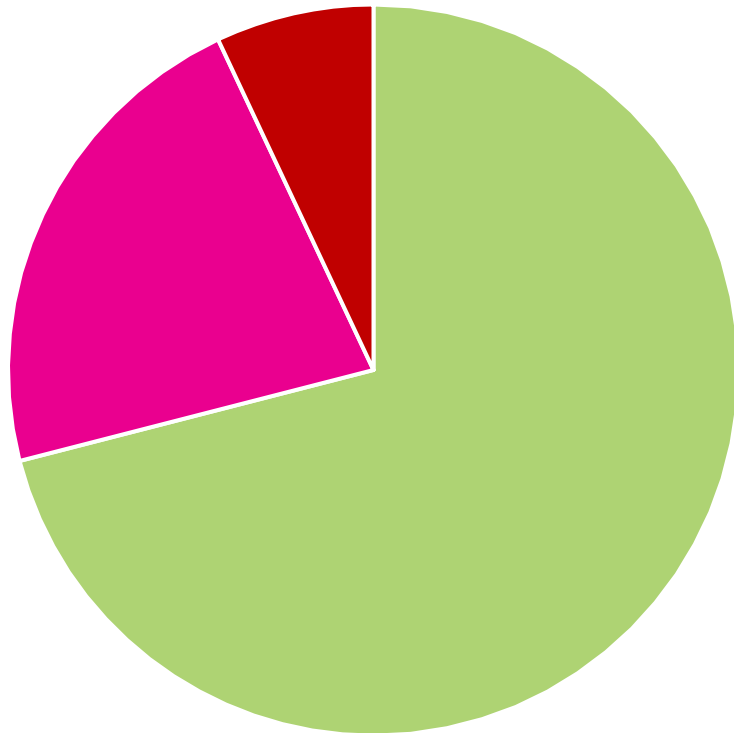
3

Private Development

Contributions from commercial and residential projects.

Current Financial Picture

Page 22



- **Per Cent for Art (71%) - €2,497,599**
- **Strategic Infrastructure (22%) - €780,000**
- **Private Contributions (7%) - €250,000**

A total of €3,527,598 is identified to support our public art initiatives.



Current Programme of Work

Strategic Infrastructure

Balbriggan Quay Street / Harry Reynolds Road

Malahide New Street Public Realm

R&D Swords Public Realm

St Patrick's Way & Art Trail, Skerries

Churchfields/ Mulhuddart

Per Cent for Art

Churchfields/Mulhuddart

Corduff Community Centre

Ballough Place, Lusk

Swords CC/Public Realm R&D

Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall

Fingal County Council

Private Commercial Development

Arora Group – Dublin Airport Hotel

Vantage Business Park

Horizon Business Park

Glenveagh Homes – Taylor Hill, Balbriggan

Cairn Homes – Pipers Square, Niven Oaks, Hampden Hill

Auburn Woods, Malahide

Our Four Strategic Pillars

Details

Page 24

1

Financial Management & Governance

Recognising the scope of investment and requirements for clear administration and reporting.

2

Enable Excellence

Developing the capacity of artists and the capabilities of Fingal County Council to deliver on ambitions.

3

Create Connection

Building connections with communities and places through the co-creation of public art.

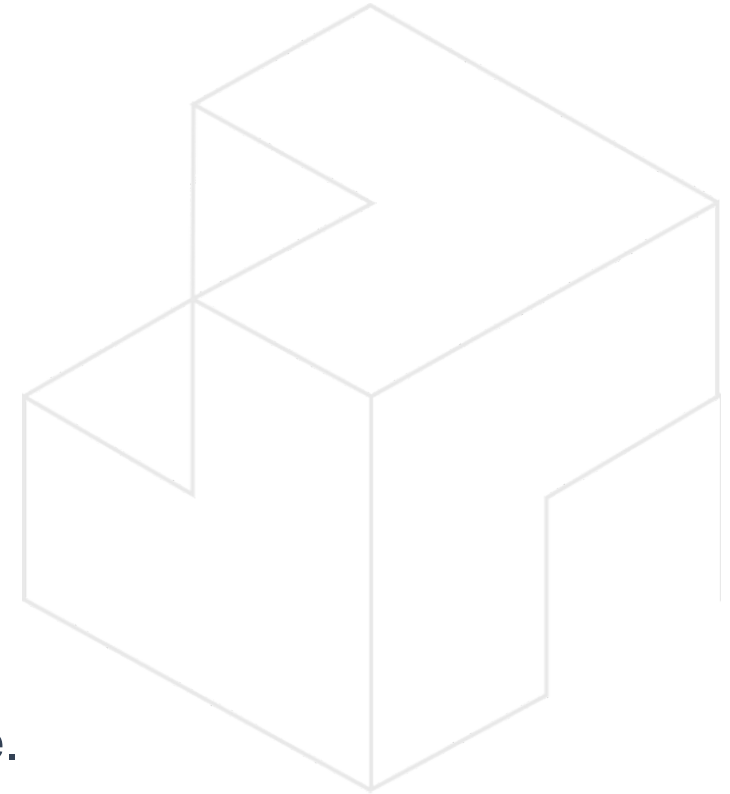
4

Develop Capacity

Ensuring the relevant expertise, skillsets, and capacity are available for all potential projects.

Key Objectives & Actions

- Appoint a Steering Group to guide the strategy.
- Establish a Public Art Register for all new and future projects.
- Develop a countywide Public Art Inventory for maintenance.
- Launch new Public Art Panel Call Outs for artists.
- Build public awareness through digital mapping, talks, and signage.
- Empower communities with a new Countywide Fund and Commissioning Toolkit.



PUBLIC ART STRATEGY

2025-2027

Page 26

Steering Group Appointed

Public Art Project
Register Created

Programme Priorities Identified

Budgets + Project
Management Confirmed

Call for Artists Issued

Creative Producer Partnership

Reporting & Engagement



Implementation: First Steps



What Success Looks Like (Outcomes)

Governance & Excellence

A complete countywide register of all public art with a maintenance plan.

High-standard work delivered and profiled on national platforms including Publicart.ie.

Connection & Capacity

A dedicated, expert Public Art Core Team.

A digital map of all public art in Fingal.

Communities feeling empowered and supported to commission work.

Strong community engagement, especially at SCC/SCQ.

On the Horizon

Page 29

Signature, durational projects will mark the opening of the new Swords Cultural Centre & Public Realm, alongside new Public Art work in Balbriggan and key locations across the county.







Sports Clubs Grant Schemes



Sports Equipment Grants

Launched in
January 2025

71 applications in
total

38 Essential
Sports equipment
grants

33 Large Sport
equipment grants

€142,000 awarded

Sports Equipment Grants



Eligible Sports Equipment for Large Sports Equipment Grant

- Large Sports Equipment Grant
- Maximum funding available up to €4,000
- To assist clubs in acquiring larger equipment or embarking on projects that demand a significant investment
- Large Sports Equipment grant can only be applied for every two years

- Full-size portable goalposts for training fields
- Line marking machines for pitch maintenance
- Lawnmowers for field upkeep
- Floodlights for training
- Permanent goalposts for senior matches
- Gym equipment
- Rebound walls for technical skill training
- Pitch covers to protect against weather damage
- Large scrum machines for advanced training
- Pitch aerators and scarifiers for turf maintenance
- Practice nets and swing cages
- Maintenance equipment for fairways (mowers, rollers)
- Mobile cricket nets for outdoor practice
- High jump mats
- Timing systems for races
- Sandpit covers for long jump
- Storage racks for rowing boats and kayaks
- Trailer for transporting boats to events
- Canoes or kayaks for training
- Digital scoreboards
- Spectator benches and seating
- Basketball Baskets and backboards
- PA systems for event management
- Storage containers or sheds for equipment

Sports Equipment Grants



Eligible Sports Equipment for Essential Sports Equipment Grant

- **Essential Sports Equipment Grant**
- **Maximum funding available up to €1,500**
- **To help clubs purchase essential sports equipment needed for daily training and activities**
- **Can only apply for one grant per year**

- Training balls
- Training cones and markers
- Hurleys and sliotars (for beginner shared groups, not for singular/personal use)
- Handball gloves and balls
- Whistles and stopwatches for coaches
- Portable first aid kits
- Portable corner flags
- Ball bags and pumps
- Small-sided training goals for youth sessions
- Tackle bags and shields
- Scrum sleds (basic models)
- Rugby balls (training-grade)
- Goalpost protectors
- Tennis rackets (starter kits for juniors)
- Tennis balls in bulk
- Basic ball pickers and caddies
- Nets for practice courts
- Stick bags and safety equipment (not for singular use)
- Cones for dribbling practice
- Basic maintenance tools (spare tires, pumps, and repair kits)
- Indoor turbo trainers for off-season training
- Swim kickboards, pull buoys, and hand paddles
- Portable lane ropes
- Swim caps for competitions

Proposed Sports Activity Grant



- Create a new fund similar to Communities Get Moving fund that was in effect in 2023 and 2024
- Eligible to all sports club affiliated to NGB's
- Scheme open all year round and capped at €500 per club
- Clubs can apply for this scheme and sports equipment grant in the same calendar year



Source of funding/eligible criteria



Page 36



It is proposed that the community department would transfer €30K annually in funding to the sports office who would administer the scheme



They will need to demonstrate the benefits of the event and the amount of people who will benefit or participate in the event

