

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Email: Corporate.Services@fingal.ie

County Hall
Swords
Co Dublin

Wednesday, 2nd December 2025

**To Each Member of the
Marine and Coastal Management Strategic Policy Committee**

Dear Member

A meeting of the **Marine and Coastal Management Strategic Policy Committee** will be held **Hybrid** in the **Council Chamber, County Hall, Swords/MS Teams** at **4.30 pm** on **Tuesday, 16th December, 2025** to consider the following Agenda.

Yours faithfully

Ciara O hAodha
Meetings Administrator
Corporate Services

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A G E N D A

- 1 Confirmation and Re-Affirmation of the Minutes of Marine and Coastal Management Strategic Policy Committee meeting held on Wednesday 24th September 2025**
- 2 Presentation on Biodiversity Plan – Coastal Aspect**
- 3 Marine and Coastal Management SPC 2025 Work Programme Report**

MOTIONS

- 4 PPN - M. O'Brien - Policy of Fixed Moorings in Environmentally Sensitive Coastal Areas**

“That Fingal adopt the policy of laying fixed moorings with buoys in sheltered environmentally sensitive coastal areas, for use by boats who wish to stop there temporarily, as such, this will reduce the damage to seagrass, other seabed plants and the seabed itself by unregulated anchoring.”

Comhairle Contae Fingal Fingal County Council

Minutes of Marine and Coastal Management Strategic Policy Committee

Wednesday, 24th September, 2025

PRESENT

Councillor C. Boland
Councillor A. Donnelly
Ms. Máire O'Brien

Councillor C. Johnston
Councillor P. Mulville
Mr. Charles Sargent

The Chairperson, Councillor A. Donnelly, presided.

OFFICIALS PRESENT

David Storey, Director of Services, Catherine O'Donovan, Senior Executive Officer, John Daly, Senior Engineer, David T Byrne, Senior Executive Engineer, Kevin Halpenny, Senior Parks and Landscape Officer, Grainne Carroll, Administrative Officer, Maria Hand, Senior Staff Officer.

MCM/47/25 (Agenda Item No 1)

Confirmation and Re-Affirmation of the Minutes of the Marine and Coastal Management SPC meeting held on Thursday the 9th of June 2025

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th March 2025 were agreed. The minutes were proposed by Mr. Charles Sargent and seconded by Councillor A. Donnelly.

MCM/48/25 (Agenda Item No 2)

Coastal Erosion in Fingal

A presentation was given by Kevin Halpenny, Senior Parks and Landscape officer and was followed by a discussion and questions from the members. Councillor A. Donnelly requested that a further update/report be given to this SPC committee in Q1 2026.

The presentation was **NOTED**.

MCM/49/25 (Agenda Item No 3)

Balleally Landfill Quarterly Update

A presentation was given by David T Byrne, Senior Executive Engineer, Environment Department

The presentation was **NOTED**.

MCM/50/25 (Agenda Item No 4)

Councillor P. Mulville - Rogerstown Park - Balleally Landfill

The Motion in the name of Councillor P. Mulville was proposed by Councillor P. Mulville and seconded by Councillor A. Donnelly.

Motion:

"That the Chief Executive report on progress towards the long-promised extension of the opening hours for Rogerstown Park (Balleally Landfill) and also the current position regarding the planned new cycle/pedestrian route from Lusk to the park."

Report:

A Park Development Plan has been developed by Fingal County Council for Rogerstown Park (former Balleally landfill). The Council is seeking confirmation from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that this Park Development Plan is acceptable to them in the context of the Closure and Aftercare Plan for the former landfill. If this confirmation is received from the EPA, the Council will progress relevant statutory planning approval for the Park Development Plan and the closely related active travel route between the park and the town of Lusk. Pending a response from the EPA, the Council is allowing for a limited level of public access, and it is planned to extend this public access in the context of the further development of the park as planned.

The Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Meeting concluded at 17:11

CHAIRPERSON

DATED

**COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

**MARINE & COASTAL MANAGEMENT
STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**

WEDNESDAY 16TH DECEMBER 2025

ITEM NO. 02

PRESENTATION ON BIODIVERSITY PLAN – COASTAL ASPECT

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

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**COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

**MARINE & COASTAL MANAGEMENT
STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**

WEDNESDAY 16TH DECEMBER 2025

ITEM NO. 03

**MARINE AND COASTAL MANAGEMENT SPC 2025 WORK
PROGRAMME REPORT**

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

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COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

MARINE & COASTAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

WEDNESDAY 16TH DECEMBER 2025

ITEM NO. 04

POLICY OF FIXED MOORINGS IN ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE COASTAL AREAS

Motion: Ms M. O'Brien

"That Fingal adopt the policy of laying fixed moorings with buoys in sheltered environmentally sensitive coastal areas, for use by boats who wish to stop there temporarily, as such, this will reduce the damage to seagrass, other seabed plants and the seabed itself by unregulated anchoring."

Report:

The Council have no plans to adopt a policy for the laying of fixed moorings with buoys. The adoption of such a policy would indicate that the Council had plans for such works. The installation of additional moorings would require funding to be made available for the planning process, design, installation and maintenance of this infrastructure, including safe access to fixed moorings. There is no provision within the Council's 3 year Capital Programme for these works.

Ireland's Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA) sets out the authorisation procedure for proposals for new mooring buoys in Irish waters under the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021. Under this Act, one must submit an application for a Maritime Usage Licence (MUL) to MARA. For information the link to the MARA website is: <https://www.maritimeregulator.ie/our-work/maritime-usage-licences/licensing-of-maritime-usages/>. Fingal County Council will not be submitting applications to MARA for the provision of new mooring systems for private vessels in any of the Natura 2000 sites.

There are four harbours under the control of Fingal County Council. These working harbours are at Balbriggan, Skerries, Loughshinny and Rush. Vessel owners can apply for a mooring in one of the four harbours of their choice. Information on moorings and harbours can be found at the following link: <https://www.fingal.ie/council/service/harbours> This includes the application forms for each specific harbour along with different Byelaws and regulations applying to each location. These govern the use of moorings and other activities within the harbours. In addition, there is berthage available for private vessels upon application at Malahide Marina, Howth Harbour and Howth Yacht Club. There is ample provision for mooring & berthage provided for vessels in the Fingal area.

The Council is not aware of damage to seagrass, seabed and other seabed plants caused by unregulated anchoring nor has the Council received any complaints or requests for moorings in the Natura 2000 sites.

Source of Report:

Mary T. Daly, Director of Service, Operations Department.