

**COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of Community, Sports and
Culture Strategic Policy Committee**

**Wednesday 25th March, 2026 Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Grove Road,
Blanchardstown/MS Teams at 4.30pm**

Present

Elected Members

Councillor Angela Donnelly (Chairperson)
Councillor Tom Kitt
Councillor James Humphreys
Councillor Mary McCamley
Councillor John Walsh

Members/Others

Absent

Brenda Vanderzee Social Inclusion PPN
Abi Wise PPN Representative

Apologies

Councillor Eoghan Dockrell

Council Officials

John Quinlivan, Director of Services
Aoife Sheridan, Senior Executive Officer
Cormac Healy, Senior Executive Officer
Brian Mulcahy, Senior Executive Librarian
Linda Ennis, Principal Community Officer
Gene Griffin, Administrative Officer
Valerie McAllorum, Administrative Officer
Geraldine Whelan, Staff Officer
Sile Stewart, Deputy County Arts Officer
Bernie Kelly, Staff Officer
Monika Markowska, Clerical Officer

Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and
Cultural Development
Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and
Cultural Development
Community
Libraries
Community
Community
Community
Community
Arts Office
Corporate Affairs
Corporate Affairs

SPCCSC 01/26 (Agenda Item No 1)

Minutes

Confirmation and Re-Affirmation of Minutes of the Community, Sports and Culture SPC held on 2nd December, 2025.

The minutes of the Community, Sports and Culture SPC meeting held on the 2nd December, 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 the 2nd December, 2025 be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED**.”

SPCCSC 02/26 (Agenda Item No 2)

Work Programme Updates & Discussion

John Quinlivan, Director of Services presented on the report circulated. As part of same, it was put to the group that a discussion is necessary to take place on the specific actions the SPC wish to advance against the individual SPC programme items.

A discussion took place and the identified actions, recorded in the Actions column in the table below. Following this discussion, the Report was noted.

Implementation & Updates	Report	Actions
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.	Future SPC Updates will be provided under the LECP agenda item.

	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 Plan launched 10th March 2026. Our Fabric, Churchfields Neighbourhood Network, mid pilot interim report has been issued with strong community engagement and outputs.	The success of the Corduff Place Standards Tool was noted and it was agreed to examine providing similar in other locations in the County.
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.	Presentation to be provided to SPC on "She Leads" Project
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 Draocht 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 One Creative Communities on a Shared Island project.	
Promotion of Irish Language	Compliance with, and education regarding, the requirements of Irish Language legislation is continuing 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 Draocht 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	Updates to be provided going forward under the LECP Agenda item.

	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.	Access Strategy Presentation to be provided at the June 2026 SPC meeting
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.	To be covered under the LECP update agenda item at future SPC meetings

Community Not For Profit Early Childhood Education & Childcare	• National policy on childcare in planning is set by the <i>Childcare Facilities Guidelines</i> (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.	Invite Fingal County Childcare Committee to the September SPC meeting
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.	

SPCCSC 03/26 (Agenda Item No 3)

LECP Progress Report

LECP Progress Report was presented by Aoife Sheridan, Senior Executive Officer. Following discussion, the report was **NOTED**. The meeting was advised that an update on LECP Progress will be provided at each SPC meeting going forward and this was **AGREED**

SPCCSC 04/26 (Agenda Item No 4)

Motion: Councillor A. Donnelly - Leading by Example with Job Opportunities for Disabled People in Fingal County - AI106921

The item was **PROPOSED** by Councillor Angela Donnelly and **SECONDED** by Councillor Tom Kitt. Following discussion, the report was **ACCEPTED** and it was **AGREED** that this matter would be further discussed on the next SPC Agenda under a Headed Item - Access Strategy with the Council's Access Officer to be invited to attend as part of this presentation

SPCCSC 05/26 (Agenda Item No 5)

Motion: Councillor J. Walsh - Fingal Participation in New State-Led Capital Programme for Early Childhood Education and Childcare -AI107070

The item was **PROPOSED** by Councillor John Walsh and **SECONDED** by Councillor Angela Donnelly. The report was **ACCEPTED**, and it was **AGREED** to have the item listed on the September SPC meeting agenda for review.

The Meeting concluded at 5.40pm

CHAIRPERSON

DATED