

**COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

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

17th SEPTEMBER 2026

ITEM NO. 02

2026 WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

Implementation & Updates	Report
Community Development and Inclusion	See LECP update
Strengthen communities through participation, connectivity, inclusion, and Building capacity of community leaders	See LECP update
Gender Equality Inclusion	The Community Development and Inclusion Office have developed a staff resource which was promoted with FCC staff during LGBTQIA+ Pride month. The resource highlights key organisations and supports for LGBTQIA+ staff, support for family and friends of LGBTQIA+ people and information on how to be a good ally, both in and out of the workplace. The CDI office also hosted an information stand for staff in the Swords and Blanchardstown office with additional information and print resources available which was intended to celebrate

	diversity and continue building an inclusive workplace where everyone feels respected, safe, and valued.
Creative Ireland Programme	Magic of Stories Festival Creative Fingal is delighted to continue supporting The Magic of Stories Festival in collaboration with Fingal Libraries. The hugely popular children's event is celebrating a 5th year in Swords Castle on 26th September with a day of author and illustrator events, street theatre, creative workshops, music, children's entertainment, and lots more. The Magic of Stories started with one great idea that has grown bigger and better over five years and continues to engage young readers with Irish children's literature. This year, we are introducing our new mascot, Dany the Dragon, and her pals - book-loving dragons bringing magic to Swords Castle. Dany was designed by author and illustrator Alan Nolan, also the creator of the very popular Magic of Stories activity book, which allows young people to get involved in the magic before the festival begins. Culture Night Fingal Libraries are delighted to present an exciting programme of free cultural events across several libraries on Culture Night, Friday 18th September. Venues include Swords Library, Skerries Library, Blanchardstown Library, Balbriggan Library, Malahide Library and Local Studies and Archives. The programme includes music from the Blanchardstown Brass Band, the Blanchardstown Library Singing

	Circle, the Balbriggan Gospel Choir, and the Bits and Bobs Orchestra Creative Health and Wellbeing in the Community Creative Fingal's Health and Wellbeing in the Community Scheme 2026–2028 projects are both well underway. Weaving Worlds: Creative Fashion Upcycling Across Borders and Ages brings together an intergenerational group from Fingal comprising Fingal's Older People Council and a local youth group along with a similar group from Northern Ireland. Participants will collaborate on fashion design and upcycling, transforming old garments into creative, sustainable pieces. Imagine, Create, Grow: Helium Inspiring Life Through Art is a project that will support children with lifelong physical health conditions living in Fingal, alongside their families. Designed for those aged 8–12, and in some programme strands up to age 16, the initiative aims to provide creative health support through community workshops, seasonal camps, outpatient paediatric clinics, and online access.
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. 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. The Flavours of Fingal event once again hosted a Pop-up Gaeltacht, providing an informal space during the festival for attendees to chat and relax as Gaeilge

	An Irish Innovation Officer is in place, and comes in response to the expansion of the Gaeilge 365 project backed by the Government. The aim of the initiative is to create best practices through Local Authority services which create enhanced opportunities for the public to speak Irish. Following the success of its inaugural run last year, Fingal will once again be hosting events in the Bronntanas festival this September. Designed to be inclusive, with events that will help parents and children create memories through Irish, family-friendly Irish-language events are being held in a number of locations across the county. The focus is on active, joyful engagement rather than formal lessons, with interactive learning helping people to discover Irish together.
Sports Strategy	Under Commitment 2 of Fingal's Sports Strategy the Sports Office delivered a series of Disability Summer Camps in conjunction with our NGB partners. The series began with a 2-week water sports camp with Howth Yacht club and included 6 different sports and over 200 participants with additional needs. The summer also was an opportunity to target Commitment 4 in the strategy to 'Focus participation in the Outdoors'. This was achieved through their Summer Series of programmes in Fingal's parks and beaches with over 1000 participants involved in over 20 different programmes. The Sports Office flagship event in Malahide Castle involved 'Collaborating with local, regional and national stakeholders' - another key commitment in our strategy with 25 NGBs attracting over 8000 people to the site in early August.

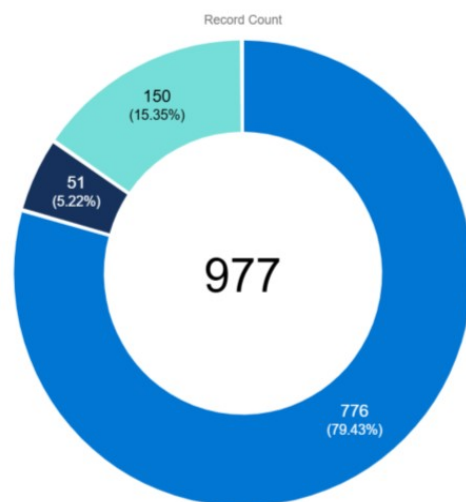
Public Participation and
Resident Engagement

Fingal PPN are engaging a consultant to prepare the new strategic plan 2027-2031.

Members and staff of Fingal PPN attended the Swords Main Street transformation consultation in July.



PPN staff has presence at Flavours of Fingal in July to engage with residents and community groups.



Re-registration of members underway. Currently, there are 977 registered groups;

	776 community and voluntary, 150 social inclusion and 51 environmental.
Focus on capabilities rather than disabilities.	The Draft Access Strategy is due to the September Council meeting for adoption
Active Citizenship	Fingal Comhairle na nÓg attended a summit event hosted by the Dublin City Council Comhairle to mark the EU Presidency on 15th September. Organised by DCC Comhairle with all four Dublin Comhairle in attendance. The summit's aim was to highlight youth participation in democracy and its role in strengthening the local level as the frontline of the democratic process. It will provided young people across Dublin with a direct platform to engage with Ambassadors, MEPs, local representatives, and the Lord Mayor. Building Inclusive Communities: Integration Office engaged with the Hope and Courage Collective on the third <i>Workshop - Building the Fingal Values Charter</i> on the 9th of September. The workshop explored the draft development of the charter while also exploring the development of a Building Inclusive Communities Network group in 2027 to support collaboration, information –sharing, and ongoing engagement among community and statutory stakeholders across Fingal. Fingal Community Dialogue Consultation: National Migration Strategy Consultation in partnership with the Community Engagement Team in the Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration, the CDI Division hosted the Fingal Community Dialogue on Migration and Integration on

	28 July, attended by 47 stakeholders. The discussions generated valuable insights to inform both local and national migration and integration strategies.  Fingal Migrant Strategy: Fingal Migrant Strategy currently being reviewed, awaiting National Strategy, additional feedback sought from stakeholders to capture any new themes/actions. When National Strategy launched, we will look to develop new strategy at that stage.
Community Not For Profit Early Childhood Education & Childcare	Fingal County Development Plan 2023-2029 supports childcare provision in line with national policy set by the Childcare Facilities Guidelines (2001). National Childcare Sector is under review with the Minister for Children The Council is proactively engaging with the Department regarding provision of facilities for not-for-profit childcare in Fingal and also proactively engaging with the Fingal County Childcare Committee Support continues to be provided to volunteer community centre boards where childcare is delivered to c. 800 children
Fingal Age Friendly Strategy	Progress on Fingal's Age Friendly Strategy continues, with most actions advancing well. While addressing social isolation remains

	challenging, partnership work with ALONE and local groups is supporting small-scale, informal activities such as senior sing-alongs in Dublin 15 and the over-55s Movie Matinee in Skerries. A successful Creative Ireland grant has enabled Weaving Worlds, a cross-border intergenerational upcycling project in Huntstown and Newtownards. The theme of the annual OPC Conference was safety and attracted 120 older people, while another successful Vintage Picnic took place in Millennium Park, Dublin 15. Work with Pavilion Shopping Centre towards becoming the first major shopping centre to achieve Age Friendly Business Recognition is progressing and 10 age-friendly parking spaces have been installed. Planning is underway for the next information showcase which will take place in Garristown Community Centre. A promotional video highlighting the work of Fingal's Older People's Council has been recorded, with a social media campaign scheduled for September to encourage participation by older residents in Fingal.
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