Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall
Fingal County Council

Chief Executive's Management Report

Fingal County Council Meeting

Monday 13th April 2015

Item No: 19

fingal.ie

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Local Economic and Community Plan

- The LECP (Local Economic & Community Plan) is on target for completion by end June 2015. The socio-economic statement was brought to the SPC and the LCDC and was approved to go to public consultation and submissions can be made on the discussion document until 22nd April, 2015. Meetings with focus groups and stakeholders are also taking place together with meetings with the Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly to coordinate between the Dublin local authorities.

Operation and progress of the LCDC

- The SICAP contract was recently signed by the Chief Executive, the chairperson of the LCDC and the CEO of the Blanchardstown Area Partnership. This enables the continuation of service delivery throughout the County from April 1st, 2015.
- Expressions of Interest have been sought for implementation of LEADER Rural Development Programme 2014 – 2020. LEADER in Ireland will be programmed under Priority 6 of the EU Rural Development policy in the 2014 – 2020 programming period – "Promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas". The focus areas of Priority 6 are facilitating diversification, creation of new small enterprises and job creation; promoting local development in rural areas; and enhancing accessibility to, and use and quality of ICT in rural areas. The Fingal LCDC has decided to submit an Expression of Interest to be the Local Action Group. The closing date for making this application is 15th May, 2015.

Tourism

- The three year County Tourism Strategy was brought to the Economic and Enterprise Development SPC and to the March County Council meeting. Following comments made by the elected members, the strategy will be modified to reflect these comments and will be brought to the May County Council meeting for noting.
- Applications for funding were requested from community groups in Fingal for the Community Tourism Diaspora Initiative. The initiative, launched last year, builds on the community involvement legacy of The Gathering 2013, and is a joint partnership between Fingal County Council, IPB Insurance and Fáilte Ireland. Now in its second year, the scheme provides a national fund of €1m – a Fingal fund of €33,000 - to support local community-based events and festivals each year. Last year, a total of 18 local events were supported in Fingal attracting over 750 visitors from overseas. The closing date for applications was 31st March, 2015 and 10 applications were received.

Business Interface:

- The Business Promotion Grants scheme was launched as a pilot scheme in late 2014. Below are the figures for the 2014 allocation.
    - 15 applications were received.
    - 10 applications were successful.
    - €52,000 was awarded to successful applicants.
    - Initiatives approved included Fingal Film Festival, Portmarnock Village Christmas event, Business Information Seminar and Business Awards competition in Howth, new village signs in Balrothery, Economic Conference in Balbriggan, promotion of Fingal Activity Breaks, Establishment of the Mulhuddart Business Association and website, an online marketing campaign for a business sector, and support to the Dublin Bay Prawn Festival, Howth.

  The 2015 scheme is currently being finalised and will be publicised shortly. A fund of €100,000 will be available under this scheme in 2015 (€20,000 per electoral area).
- The Brand for the Dublin 15 Enterprise Zone has been finalised and the brochure will be available shortly. Quotations have been sought for a marketing strategy and it is hoped to launch the new branded offering at the ITLG Conference in May.
- Work is continuing with the Fingal Dublin Chamber of Commerce to plan the ITLG event, taking place on 25th and 26th May, 2015.
- Economic Development Services has collaborated with the Balbriggan Chamber to develop a value proposition, brand and video to market Balbriggan as an investment location http://balbriggan.ie. The Balbriggan Chamber launched this new value proposition as part of its 2020 Vision for Balbriggan on Friday 27th March, 2015.
- Work is continuing on the application for a Purple Flag for Swords in collaboration with Fingal Dublin Chamber and local business and community stakeholders. The application is due to be submitted in July 2015.

Local Enterprise Office– Activities Report month ending 31st March 2015

Fingal Student Enterprise Awards programme. The Student Enterprise Awards grand finale took place on 12th March 2015 in the Crowne Plaza Hotel Blanchardstown. 2,268 students from 28 Fingal schools participated in the SEA programme in 2014/15, making this the biggest programme of its kind in Ireland. The winning businesses were:

Sutton Park School (Senior Category winner "Holly's Pet Patisserie")
Skerries Community College (Intermediate winner "Book Snaps")
Santa Sabina Dominican College, Sutton (Junior winner "LOK")

These finalists will represent Fingal at the National Enterprise Awards in Croke Park on 22nd April 2015.

Online Trading Vouchers. The third call for applications got underway on the 25th March with an OTV training seminar held for ca. 60 potential applicants. Closing date is 15th April 2015. The drawdown documentation submission period for the second call concluded on the 22nd March. The drawdown process for that round is now underway. Total drawn down to date is €35,034 (from the first call).

IBYE: The €10,000 prize fund for Joseph Kuye (winner of the Best New Category Not Yet Established) was drawn down based on verified expenditure. €30,000 in prizes drawn down to date. Contact ongoing with Dan Davern (winner of the Best Existing Business with Add-on Category) regarding the drawdown of his €20,000 prize.

Enterprise Centres:

- Drinan: Currently 82% of Available Units occupied. Conversion of Unit J2 into 3 new own-door food-grade units underway, to be available in June.
- BASE: Currently 100% of Available Units occupied. National Learning Network Training facility now open. Pobal Grant Application for Salary Costs submitted.
- Beat: Currently 100% of Available Units occupied. Internal conversion works completed with addition of new kitchen and toilet facilities in common areas.

Start Your Own Business programme. Two SYOB programmes continued in March, with a third one commencing at the end of March, totalling 33 participants between the three courses.

Mentoring: 11 Mentoring assignments were approved in March, the total approved year to date now stands at 42.

Management Development Workshops: 7 workshops took place in March; total year to date is 17 (with 170 participants).

Business Clinics: Clinics are offered to citizens and those that wish to start or expand their business and are provided by skilled mentors from the LEO mentor panel and qualified business advisory staff. They are typically of one hour duration. 130 business clinics were undertaken in March (318 clinics year to date)

A new all-Dublin Hi-Start programme commenced with 10 participants, two of which are Fingal LEO clients. The Hi Start programme is a 6 month management development programme geared at high potential start-ups with prospects for significant growth and expansion.

Other LEO activities/events included:

- A PLATO Business seminar was held in the Carlton Hotel Swords, with over 90 businesses in attendance;
- LEO Fingal presented to 40+ potential exporters at an EI "First time exporters" event in Eastpoint;
- International Women's Enterprise Day was held in Dublin City on 5th March with Fingal female-owned businesses represented;
- Enterprise Europe Network: UK and Ireland, London conference to plan the rollout of this new EU-funded programme to be led by LEO Fingal in the Dublin region;
- Head of Enterprise participating on inter-agency group established to address the Mandelez redundancies in the Cadbury plant. The chair of the group is Michael Broughan of Enterprise Ireland and Fingal's Head of Enterprise has been invited to participate due to the proximity of the plant to the Fingal border.

Lastly, all Councillors and Senior FCC staff are invited to join LEO Fingal in a special celebratory first birthday business networking event. Venue is Malahide Castle. This will take place exactly on **15th April 2015 (5.30pm to 7.30pm),** exactly one year since the establishment of the Local Enterprise Office in Fingal. This will provide Councillors with an opportunity to network with clients of the LEO & other stakeholders and celebrate the many successes of the new unit since its establishment.

PLANNING & STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE

Requirements and progress in respect of the introduction/roll out of Government policy through the local

government system.

- Continuing engagement with Construction 2020 Dublin Housing Supply Task Force.

Development Plans and Local Area Plans

- National Forensic Mental Hospital proposal for St. Ita's, Portrane. Submission made by planning authority re further information, and circulated to Swords/Balbriggan Elected Members.
- NTA Fingal/North Dublin Transport Study & Swords BRT. Background work continuing.
- Development Pan Review – public notice in newspapers 20th March 2015. 4 public information meetings in April.
- Donabate LAP – draft available end April 2015.
- Airport LAP – work on review to commence shortly.
- Airport Masterplan completed.
- Kinsealy LAP – draft availability date under review.

ENVIRONMENT & WATER SERVICES

Environment:

The Council has submitted a list of nine identified bathing waters to the EPA for the 2015 Bathing Water Season. There is no change from 2014. The identified bathing waters are:- Balbriggan Front Beach, Skerries South Beach, Loughshinny Beach, Rush South Beach, Portrane Brook Beach, Donabate Balcarrick Beach, Portmarnock Velvet Strand Beach, Sutton Burrow Beach and Howth Claremont Beach. While the EPA has not yet published the water quality status for 2015, the provisional status for Rush South Beach is "poor" (based on water quality results for the 2011 – 2014 period). A Beach Management Plan for Rush South Beach has been submitted to the EPA dealing with the sources of pollution, the measures to improve water quality and a communications strategy. It will be necessary to put in place an Advisory Notice against bathing at Rush South Beach for the 2015 Bathing Water Season.

The Draft Eastern Midlands Regional Waste Management Plan 2015 – 2021 is currently being updated following receipt of 60 submissions during the public consultation phase. It is envisaged that the final Plan will be adopted by the Chief Executives of the constituent Local Authorities in the near future. Dublin City Council is currently establishing the Regional Office to oversee implementation of the Plan. In addition, a business case is currently being developed by the CCMA to establish a Lead Regional Waste Enforcement Office.

Water Services:

Fingal County Council's Letter of Representation/Balancing Statement reflecting the financial position of Water Services at 31st December 2013 was signed by the CE, Head of Finance and Director of Environment & Water Services on 27th March 2015.

Water Services continue to adhere to the DECLG programme of asset transfer to Irish Water for 3rd, 4th & 5th ministerial orders (through 2015).

Further to last month's CE report, the closing date for submissions for the Water Services Strategic Plan (WSSP) for the delivery of water services in Ireland, is 17th April 2015 and can be made through https://consult.water.ie.

HOUSING & COMMUNITY

Housing:

Annual Rent Assessment.

The 2015 rent review is underway. Rent assessment forms issued in respect of c 5,200 tenancies and 55% of forms were returned by the designated March date. Reminders will issue to those who have not yet returned forms. The effective date for the rent review is 25th April 2015.

National Social Housing Strategy

The Dublin Social Housing Delivery Taskforce has been established and is preparing the regional response to the delivery of social housing in the Dublin Region. The Chief Executives of the four Dublin Authorities are members of the Task Group.

Mr Alan Kelly, T.D., Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government recently announced targets for the delivery of social housing to 2017 for each local authority. The announcement indicated a target of 1376 housing units to be delivered in the period 2015-2017 in Fingal with a provisional funding allocation (Current and Capital) of €81,041,413.

Call for Capital Assistance Scheme 2015

The Department of Community and Local Government recently announced the above Call. Approved Housing Bodies are invited to submit proposals to the Council to build and/or acquire properties in Fingal which may be funded under the Scheme. All proposals are to be submitted to the Housing Department by 20th April 2015.

New Units
The planning process is underway for the delivery of additional 114 social units across the County. In addition the Council continues to acquire units with an initial budget allocation of €2M.
Voids
There were 43 void social housing units at the end of March; pre-let repair works will be completed as soon as possible to ensure their early letting.

Housing Need Assessment:
A letter of update recently issued to each applicant informing them of their list position with an estimated period to an offer of housing. A similar update will continue to be issued annually to each applicant.

Community:
Integration Conference
The Mayor's Conference "Immigration to Integration" will take place on the 19th May 2015, in the Castleknock Hotel, the subjects covered will include The Receiving Communities, Mental Health and Education. Other issues covered in workshops will be Enterprise, Youth and Education, Civic Participation. Details of key note speaker will follow.

The Fingal Community Network (FCN)
Fingal County Council's Public Participation Network the FCN will hold its second Plenary on Saturday 25th April from 9am to 3pm in the Radisson Hotel, Dublin Airport. Election will be held at the plenary to fill the places on various committees, the 11 seats on the Strategic Policy Committees, 7 seats on the Joint Policing Committee, 5 seats on the Local Community Development Committee and 12 seats on the FCN Secretariat.
Pre Memory Makers Workshops
A joint initiative between the Community Office and Libraries will start in April to support the over 55s to participate in the Memory Maker Event. Workshops have been scheduled which will encourage the participants to share their memories in story, music and song. The workshops will run from 6.45 to 7.45 at the following Venues:

Library	Date
Howth	1st April
Swords	2nd April
Rush	8th April
Baldoyle	9th April

1916 Commemoration Working Group Progress Report
The Commemoration Working Group continues to make progress on the development of the 1916 Commemoration Programme for Fingal which will showcase the Fingal Connections to 1916. The County has a unique story to tell and the programme will reflect this in its content. The National Programme of Commemoration Events was launched March 31st in Collin's Barracks. A full presentation will be made to the Council today.

The Age Friendly Alliance Housing Sub-Committee
Members of the Fingal Age Friendly Housing Sub-Committee met on Wednesday 1st April. The Group are collating current data on older people in Fingal to develop a clear picture of the housing needs of older people in Fingal.

Fingal Senior Citizen's Forum
Under the Age Friendly Initiative, the Fingal Senior Citizen's Forum was supported by Age & Opportunity to develop a "Calling Card". The work has been completed; a copy of the Calling Card will be circulated to all Councillors. Members of the Fingal Senior Citizens have collaborated with Dublin City University to develop a Newsletter for Seniors in the county. A copy of the completed eZine will be forwarded to all Councillors.

Sport:
The Soccer Sister Easter Camps took place during the Easter School Holidays around the country. There are 23 camps throughout Dublin Fingal hosted the majority - 12 Camps took place throughout the county catering for in excess of 340 girls. This is as a result of our prioritising the development of women / girls sports.

In addition the Balbriggan Ladies Rugby Team won the Div 4 finals.

The Primary and Secondary School Athletics finals will take place in Morton Stadium on Tuesday 28th April. In excess of

1,500 young people are expected to attend.

The Leprechaun Cup (Cricket) will take place in 26 National Schools throughout the county. Four new schools have joined this year's programme.

We are piloting table cricket for people with disabilities in two venues.

We have launched a Football For All programme in conjunction with Skerries Town FC, 35 boys and girls of varying abilities ages between 8-18 years are participating in the programme.

Arts:

Youth Film Club

The Arts Office is offering young people in Fingal the opportunity to establish a Youth Film Club in Draíocht. An eight week course will be delivered on Tuesday evenings by multimedia experts *CreateSchool* in the form of a pilot project to ascertain interest levels among those aged 12-18 years in establishing something more long term.

Room 13

Room 13 is an innovative arts-in-education programme that establishes art studios in primary schools in Fingal. The programme was initiated this academic year and includes a student-run art studio, a student management committee, and an artist-in-residence. Two schools are currently participating with more to be invited to express an interest shortly.

Music Appreciation

Initiated two 12 week programmes 'Music for life' in partnership with the Libraries Dept.

Swords Castle Architectural Master Plan

In collaboration with the Architect Depts. facilitated consultation with professional artists for the Swords Castle Master Plan.

The Hide Sculpture, Balleally Landfill

E- Tender completion and competition assessment with architects &, procurement section

Tolka Flood Defence Commission

DCC, FCC, OPW and Meath Co Co awarded the public art commission to a group of artists who will begin delivering workshops and research activities in the Mulhuddart area, gathering suitable contacts and arranging meetings

Grants Awarded (Arts Act 2003)

- Face of Fingal Exhibition , Balbriggan
- Phoenix Writers Group, D. 15
- Pop up Artists exhibition , Naul
- Portmarnock Arts group
- Rush Musical & Dramatic Group

Carnegie Library Swords initiative;

Meeting with B Marks, upgrading computer equipment, roof fix, grant award, discussions on future destination of contents of museum.

Balbriggan Cultural Quarter initiative;

Collaborating with Economic Development and The Crafts & Design Council of Ireland in relation to 'craft pods' for Balbriggan town, as part of the Balbriggan Public Realm Project.

Swords Cultural Quarter Initiative;

Meeting with local artists, office space has been arranged in Drinan. Information meeting organised for 26th April for Swords Artists to outline supports available.

Floraville Public Garden Skerries 'Stone Seals' sculpture / film documentary. Arts office making documentary of the jointly commission public art work for the public garden space in Skerries.

Arts Centres:

Seamus Ennis Arts Centre - New Office space under construction and outdoor courtyard is complete.
Full programme of events
Draiocht Arts Centre - Full programme of events.

Libraries:

Technology

- **Library Management System**
  Libraries have started the process of moving to a new library management system for staff and borrowers. The new system is being supplied by Innovative Interfaces and will go live from mid to late June 2015.
- **Apple devices in Fingal Libraries**
  Ipads with literacy and numeracy software will be installed in junior libraries in the coming weeks.

A Mac PC will be installed in each of the larger branch libraries. Apple Mac will be useful for community groups considering the high cost of publishing brochures/posters etc. for community groups e.g. Swords men's sheds. The library will organise training from graphic designers to help community groups familiarise themselves with the system with a view to producing community literature.

Events:

Irish Design 2015 (ID15)

ID2015 will promote Fingal's events on their website http://www.irishdesign2015.ie/

Ashleigh Myles: Creative skill of Millinery: Two workshop with in Rush library 18th April & 9th May'

Jennifer Rothwell -Established fashion designer and creative director and mentor with the Design & Crafts Council of Ireland, Dublin City Local Enterprise Office LEO) and Intertrade Ireland. Workshop, Fashion Show and Exhibition on the Art of dress with Balbriggan Community School.

One City One Book *Barrytown trilogy* in collaboration with Dublin City Libraries: An initiative to encourage everyone to read a book connected with Dublin. Fingal's events will include:

- **Pete Holidai** member of The Troubled Pilgrims, songwriter and producer a series of talks on the development of the Irish music industry in the '80s and '90s, Blanchardstown 14th April, Balbriggan 15th April, Rush 22nd April, Baldoyle 28th April, Malahide 29th April, all at 6.45pm
- **Exhibition** - photographic celebration of Dublin's youth culture, street style and teen life, from the 1950s to the late 1990s By Garry O'Neill**:** Swords Library 13th – 17th April, Rush 20 – 24th April, Baldoyle 27th April – 1st May.
- **Author Donal Fallon** examines the historical context and backdrop to Roddy Doyle's *A Star Called Henry* and *The Commitments* Blanchardstown Library, 15th April and Baldoyle 27th April at 6.45pm**.**

Memory Makers

John Carpenter – Painting Sessions and craft sessions have taken place in library branches across the County and have been well received.

Bealtaine events

- Murder mystery CSI sessions for adults: Donabate Library 5th May at 11am, Blanchardstown Library 11th May at 11am.
- Joyce: A musical tale of three citizens: 6th May at 6.30pm, Rush Library
- Carnation Theatre: Blow Dry: 11th May at 4.00pm, Baldoyle Library

Easter events for children including science and art workshops took place in branch libraries and proved to be very popular.

OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT

Flooding:

Byrne Looby Partners have been appointed as Consulting Engineer's on the Howth Flood Relief Scheme. A public consultation meeting with the engineering consultants on the Offington Court/Old Castle Ave. Flood Alleviation Study took place recently in Baldoyle Library.

Speed Limits in Residential Estates:

Approximately 100 submissions of interest have been received to be considered for inclusion in the pilot phase of the introduction of 30 km speed limits in residential estates. The submissions have received initial consideration at the Transportation SPC 8th April 2015 and it is now intended to bring them to the Area Committee A meetings for information and consideration.

Joint Policing Committee (JPC)

A series of 4 regional meetings are being held to which the public are invited to attend and raise issues or ask questions. The meetings are attended by Senior Garda Management for the Region and Senior Staff in Fingal County Council and are chaired by the Chairperson of the Joint Policing Committee. Meetings to date have been held in Mulhuddart Community Centre (25th March), Royal Marine Hotel, Sutton (1st April) and Combined Clubs Hall, Balbriggan (8thApril).The fourth meeting is scheduled for Malahide Library (7-9pm 15th April).

FINANCE

- Circular Fin 04/2015 Accounting for Development Contributions following the transfer of Water Services functions to Irish Water in the Financial Statements of the Local Authorities (attached)
- Report on "Overview of the work of the Local Government Auditors". This report, produced by DECLG

in March 2015, relates to the accounts of Local Authorities for the year ending 31st December 2013 (attached)

Financial Reports – Appendix 1 attached

- Revenue Account Income & Expenditure to 31st March 2015
- Capital Account Income & Expenditure to 31st March 2015
- Summary of Corporate Debtors to 31st March 2015

CORPORATE AFFAIRS:

Review of the Communications Section:
Consultants have been engaged to carry out a review of the Council's Communications Section to determine its future structure and areas of responsibilities. This review comprises the areas of internal & external communications and online & social media as well as evaluating how to more strongly market Fingal County Council. The elected members will be kept informed of progress on this review through the monthly Chief Executive report.

Forthcoming Events:

Spring Break- Blanchardstown	02nd April
Dublin Bay Prawn Festival- Howth	23rd- 26th April
Ireland V England ODI Malahide	08th May
Darkness into Light- Malahide & Skerries	09th May

Audit Committee:
The next meeting of the Audit Committee is scheduled for 27th April.

Annual Declarations:
The Annual Declarations are now available on the Council website.

Councillors' Representations System
The Councillors' Representations System has now been up and running successfully for three months. To date 133 Representations have been submitted via the system. As indicated when the system was implemented, all future Representations should be submitted via the online system.

HR:

Gateway:
There are currently 191 participants of the Scheme who are engaged in different projects across the county.

JobBridge:
There is currently 1 intern working in Fingal under the above scheme. This scheme is a National Internship scheme that provides work experience placements for interns for a 6 or 9 month period.