

# Fingal Local Community Development Committee

# **Annual Report**

# **2021**



Coiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Áitiúil Fhine Gall  
Fingal Local Community Development  
Committee

**Comhairle Contae  
Fhine Gall**  
Fingal County  
Council









ABBREVIATION	EXPLANATION
CEP	Community Enhancement Programme
CYPSC	Children & Young People's Services Committees
DLRCC	Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council
DEASP	Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection
DEZ	Dublin Enterprise Zone
EETD	Economic Enterprise Tourism Development
ESF	European Social Fund
ESOL	English for Speakers of Other Languages
FCC	Fingal County Council
FLP	Fingal Leader Partnership
IP	Implementing Partner
LAG	Local Action Group
LEADER	'Liason Entre Actions de Developpement de l'Economie Ru' Links between the rural economy and development actions
LCDC	Local Community Development Committee
LDC	Local Development Company
LECP	Local Economic Community Programme
LES	Local Employment Services
LDS	Local Development Strategy
MABS	Money Advice & Budgeting Service
NEETS	Not in Education Employment or Training
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
PPN	Public Participation Network
PEIL	Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning
PI	Programme Implementer
SICAP	Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme
SDCC	South Dublin County Council
TUS	Community Work Placement Initiative

This report has been prepared in the context of Chapter 2, Section 128B (1)(i) Local Government Act 2001, as Inserted by the Local Government Reform Act 2014, which states that one of the functions of a Local Community Development Committee is: *“to prepare, adopt and submit to the local authority a report in relation to the performance of its functions during the year immediately preceding the year in which the report is submit”*

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# Chief Officer and Chairperson Joint Statement



While 2021 was a challenging year for many people across our County, there have been many achievements in Community and Local Development as we move forward with confidence in a post-Covid Environment.

Fingal is in a strong position to develop and grow, and many Fingal Local Community Development Committee supported initiatives launched in 2021 will be the foundation for the development and success of our local communities well into the future.

The members of the Fingal Local Community Development Committee with the support of staff from Fingal County Council continue to work hard to strengthen the resilience and opportunities available to our local communities through the many programmes and funding streams delivered through the Committee. The Committee's strong partnerships with Fingal LEADER Partnership in the delivery of the Dublin Rural LEADER Programme, and Empower in the delivery of the Fingal Social Inclusion Activation Programme have been instrumental in addressing numerous challenges and opportunities in the County.

The Healthy Ireland Programme continued to be delivered in 2021 with the support of the Healthy Ireland Committee, and provided many solutions to challenges in our communities as a result of Covid 19.

The many community support grants schemes administered during 2021 have helped our communities in maintaining and enhancing their facilities while also providing relief towards running costs at a time of difficulty.

The achievements in 2021 have happened as a result of unwavering support and co-operation from the Statutory and Non-Statutory members of the Fingal Local Community Development Committee. The role of the Fingal Public Participation Network in highlighting on-the-ground Community issues and opportunities has been particularly important in the Committee's decision making processes. The Committee has seen first-hand the wonderful community spirit that exists, the tremendous enthusiasm and commitment people have to create sustainable, healthy and vibrant communities for future generations.

Finally a special thanks to the Fingal Local Community Development Committee staff based in the Council's Local Development Section for all your hard work and support during 2021 and beyond.

**Declan Ryan: Chief Officer Fingal Local Community Development Committee**  
**Laurence Ward: Chairperson Fingal Local Community Development Committee**

# LCDC Members



The Local Government Reform Act 2014 gives legislative effect to the commitments in ‘Putting People First’, including the establishment of LCDC’s in each local authority administrative area, for the purposes of developing, co-ordinating and implementing a coherent and integrated approach to local and community development.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE		
A clear focus on Social Inclusion, marginalised communities and the marginalised within communities	Promotion of enterprise, employment development, training and education, as key element in supporting sustainable communities	Planning and programme implementation that makes the best use of available resources for citizens and communities

## THE FUNCTIONS OF THE LCDC

- Prepare and arrange for the implementation of the Community element of a six year Local Economic and Community Plan.
- Co-ordinate, manage and oversee the development of local community development programmes.
- Review, monitor and revise actions and strategies set out to achieve the objectives of the Local Economic and Community.
- Plan Promotion of enterprise, employment development, training and education, as a key element in supporting sustainable communities.
- Improve the co-ordination of all public funded local and community development programmes in the administrative area.



# Category Membership of Fingal Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

NAME	CATEGORY	ORGANISATION
Cathal Boland	Local Authority Member Balbriggan/Swords/Rush/Lusk	Fingal County Council
Mary McCamley	Local Authority Member Blanchardstown/Mulhuddart	Fingal County Council
Joan Hopkins	Local Authority Member Howth/Malahide	Fingal County Council
Emer O’Gorman	Local Authority Official Chief Executive’s Nominee	Fingal County Council
Oisin Geoghegan	Local Authority Official Local Enterprise Office	Fingal County Council
Pat O’Connor	State Agency Higher Education Institute	Technological University of Dublin
Claire Shanahan	State Agency Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection	Dept. of Employment Affairs & Social Protection
Una Caffrey	State Agency TUSLA	TUSLA Child and Family Agency
Ellen O’Dea	State Agency HSE	HSE Head of Service Health & Wellbeing
Amaku Chucks	Community Voluntary Interest The Bold Women Association	Fingal Public Participation Network
Ian Lennon	Community Voluntary Interest Naul Community Council	Fingal Public Participation Network
Raghu Nath	Social Inclusion Interest Ireland Telugu Association	Fingal Public Participation Network
Geraldine Rooney	Social Inclusion Interest Blanchardstown Centre for Independent Living	Fingal Public Participation Network
Ann Lynch	Environmental Interest The Ballyboughal Hedgerow Society	Fingal Public Participation Network
Brid Walsh	Community Interest	North Dublin Regional Drugs & Alcohol Task Force
Adeline O’Brien	Local Development	Empower
Eilish Harrington	Local Development	Fingal LEADER Partnership
Laurence Ward	Farming and Agriculture	The Irish Farmers Association
Anthony Cooney	Business and Employers	Chambers Ireland

PUBLIC (STATUTORY)	
PRIVATE (NON-STATUTORY)	

# LCDC Funding 2021

## HEALTHY IRELAND –Round 3

Healthy Ireland is a government led initiative aimed at improving the health and wellbeing of everyone living in Ireland.

In 2021, through the Covid 19 Pandemic, the LCDC oversaw the continuing progression and financial administration of Round 3 of the Healthy Ireland Programme. The actions included five CYPSC led projects and two Community Mental Health projects. Round 3 also included the continued provision of a pilot Social Prescribing Project in Dublin 15 with a geographical emphasis on Mulhuddart, a designated area of disadvantage.

In early 2021 under Community Engagement Action over 300 individual merchandise packs were created and disseminated to 13 individual community groups and services in Fingal. Some merchandise was held for distribution at community events in late 2021, in line with Covid-19 restrictions.

In June 2021, the Healthy Fingal Strategic Plan 2021 – 2025 was launched by the Mayor of Fingal. The launch included a video which showcased health and well-being activities in Fingal and recorded messages from the Minister for Public Health, Well Being and National Drugs Strategy, CEO of Fingal County Council and the Head of Health and Well Being, HSE. A brochure was created providing a snapshot of the plan and action items. Seven animations were also created to provide a simplified and short message regarding the plan and each action item which could be shared digitally. Each animation and the launch video included Irish Sign Language interpretation.

In late 2021, the Healthy Fingal Keep Well webpage which was initially created as part of the Community Resilience Fund was re-designed as the Healthy Fingal webpage. The webpage includes information and links to community-based services, programmes, and events under each pillar of the Healthy Fingal Strategic Plan 2021- 2025.

2021 saw the recipients of the Community Mental Health Fund Small Grants Scheme delivering local level initiatives which promoted and enhanced mental health and well-being.





# Community Enhancement Programme 2021

The Community and voluntary groups in Fingal were invited to apply for Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) 2021 funding. The CEP is funded by DRCD and administered by Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs). Fingal was allocated €150,521 in grant funding.

The Programme has a particular focus on supporting groups in areas of disadvantage. The 2021 CEP provided small grants to assist re-opening facilities such as community centres, men's and women's sheds, parish halls, clubs, and youth centres. The grants range from a few hundred euro to €10,000. Funding helped groups and clubs to get back on their feet and could be used to carry out necessary renovations and repairs, to purchase equipment such as tables and chairs, tools and signage, laptops and printers, lawnmowers, canopies, training equipment and so on. The key theme of the 2021 Community Enhancement Programme is supporting groups as they re-opened facilities which have been closed due to COVID-19.



# Covid-19 Emergency Fund Round 2 -2021

The COVID-19 Emergency Fund was funded by the DRCD and administered by Fingal LCDC.

Round 2 of the COVID-19 Emergency Fund offered funding of €1.7m nationally with €59,820 allocated to Fingal County Council.

## The type of expenditure supported included

- Adapting facilities to safely accommodate people
- Adapting services to increase virtual participation
- Positive impacts on the environment such as a reduction in energy consumption
- Collaboration with the Local Authority or other relevant bodies in Fingal
- The creation of a sense of place within the community
- Technology investment which will be accessed by individuals and communities
- The return to community activity while complying with COVID19 guidelines

This funding scheme was of particular interest to local community and voluntary groups as there was no requirement for them to have match funding. This enabled greater flexibility and opportunity for groups when applying for funding.

In addition to supporting groups involved in the Community Call initiative, Fingal County Council considered funding applications from community groups and community services to support Safe Return to Community Activity whilst complying with COVID 19 guidelines. These costs could relate to COVID signage, protective screening i.e. perspex, cleaning/sanitizing equipment and materials i.e. steamers, sprays, hand sanitizers, etc. Under the scheme, 30% of available funds were ring-fenced to provide small grants of €1,000 or less.

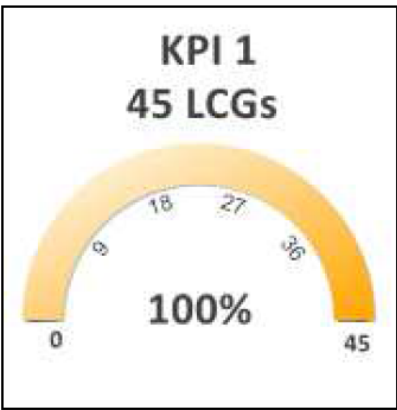


# Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme


The Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) is a key intervention for the harder to reach groups. Delivery is being overseen and managed by Fingal LCDC. SICAP aims to address poverty, long term unemployment and social exclusion through local engagement and partnership between disadvantaged individuals, community organisations and public sector agencies. The total budget for SICAP in Fingal in 2021 is €1,246,141 for which a contribution comes from the European Social Fund (ESF) Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning (PEIL). The Programme Implementer, Empower achieved its two key performance indicators (KPI's) for 2021 and ensured that the programme and services were delivered within the financial parameters approved by the LCDC.

In 2021, the local development company Empower met all the targets set out in the Annual Plan as approved by the LCDC.

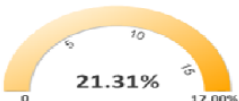
## Goal 1 - Local Community Groups

	Fingal Lot	National
Newly registered LCGs as % of KPI 1	13%	
Average number of Interventions per LCG	9.80	7.35
Average duration of Intervention	80 mins	72 mins
Number of LCG Grants	0	
Total LCG Grant Amount	€0.00	
Total number of LCG interventions	441	

## Goal 2 - Individuals

 <p><b>KPI 2</b> 685 Individuals</p> <p>100%</p>		
Newly registered Individuals as % of KPI 2	44%	
	<b>LOT</b>	<b>NATIONAL</b>
Average no. of Interventions per Individual	6.79	4.30
Average duration of Intervention	43 mins	48 mins
% of Individuals (KPI 2) with SI barriers*	66%	61%
• 1-2 barriers	83.94%	83.67%
• 3-4 barriers	15.57%	15.45%
• 5-6 barriers	0.49%	0.55%
Top two SI barriers		
• Jobless household (308 individuals)		
• Ethnic Minority (146 individuals)		
Number of Individual Grants	0	
• Education Grants	€0.00	
• Enterprise Grants	€0.00	
Total number of Individual Interventions	4,692	
Total number of SICAP funded course placements	84	
*List of barriers: Disability, Ethnic Minority, Homelessness, Jobless household, Lone Parent, Transport		

## KPI 2 living in disadvantaged areas by Pobal HP Deprivation range

 <p><b>146 Individuals</b></p> <p>21.31%</p>		
<b>HP Deprivation Range</b>	<b>No. of Individuals (KPI 2)</b>	
Disadvantaged	118	
Very disadvantaged	28	
Extremely disadvantaged	0	
<b>Total disadvantaged</b>	<b>146</b>	



# Connect & Include

In 2021, one of our primary actions under Goal 2 of SICAP is Digital Poverty (Action 10). Digital exclusion and disadvantage was the most prominent barrier to surface during the Covid pandemic for the most hard-to-reach target groups. Connect & Include is Empowers digital inclusion initiative that seeks to support vulnerable and disadvantaged individuals and families who may be experiencing digital exclusion. Research has shown that the level of an individual’s digital connectivity has always had a direct correlation to levels of prosperity and poverty. As educational and social supports moved online, this has caused a digital divide for children and young people from disadvantaged families. Empower continues to collaborate with local Community Groups, Family Support Agencies, disability services and DEIS schools to identify individuals and families most in need of digital connection and support during this crisis.



Fingal Community Anti-Racism Network (FCARN)



The FCARN is a new network of volunteers, community groups and other stakeholders committed to Anti-Racism and supporting those affected by racism. It was established by Empower SICAP staff in September 2021. The Network aims to:

- Build safe communities
- Build inclusive communities
- Educate and create awareness about racism, and how to respond within communities
- Support witnesses and victims, break isolation and get support from other members of the community network

Empower has already supported associated members formulate an Anti-Racism Protocol, Terms of Reference and engage with the communities of interest to inform them about the Network. We have also collaborated with other stakeholders such as INAR and Fingal Communities Against Racism to become part of the network to offer support to its members.



### Early-Years Provision Deficit

Fingal CYPSC carried out extensive research and published a report in 2021 entitled *Double Disadvantage – Reduced access to early childhood care and education for children at risk of poverty in Fingal*, which highlighted the lack of early years provision and impact it has on disadvantaged communities. Fingal has the lowest proportion of community-based childcare services in Ireland, with only 10 not-for-profit early years services, and only 1 in the North County. Fingal is the youngest county in Ireland and Balbriggan the youngest town. Lack of not-for-profit early years services is a major barrier for SICAP target groups to engage. Not-for-profit community services provide high-quality, responsive provision, early intervention, and family supports to reduce the risk of poverty. They are much more than just a childcare service. SICAP staff were part of the FCYPSC who commissioned the report and were also at the forefront of advocating for the implementation of its recommendations.





# SICAP 2021

## Key Achievements



Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme

# 45

LCGs assisted by SICAP (KPI 1)



**18 Social Enterprises** received supports



**21 LDC Collaborations** received supports

# 668

Individuals assisted by SICAP (KPI 2)



**73 people** completed a life-long learning course



**35 people** got jobs & **53** received in-work supports

**68 people** set up their own business



Ireland's European Structural and Investment Funds Programmes 2014-2020

Co-funded by the Irish Government and the European Union



EUROPEAN UNION

Investing in your future

European Social Fund



Riádas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland



pobal

government supporting communities



# Dublin Rural LEADER

Growth, Sustainability & Inclusion

2021 was a challenging year for all but there were still many positive projects approved under Dublin Rural LEADER. Projects ranged from responses to Covid 19, environmental themes and capacity building for community groups. The LAG continued with online meetings which proved effective in approving the projects and re-viewing emerging trends. Rural Communities and Enterprises in Dublin received a major boost in 2021 with the announcement that the geographical area eligible for funding under the LEADER Programme was significantly expanded. The new areas included in the expanded Dublin Rural LEADER Programme are Balbriggan, Skerries, Portmarnock, Dubber, Castleknock-Knockmaroon, Lucan North, Glencullen, and Shankill-Rathmichael.

## A

TRANSITIONAL PROGRAMME BUDGET	1,039,126
EURI BUDGET	434,348
TOTAL BUDGET	1,473,474
EXPENDITURE	
1 ECONOMIC, ENTERPRISE & JOB CREATION	154,046
2 SOCIAL INCLUSION	438,898
3 RURAL ENVIRONMENT	158,454
4 EURI	145,025
TOTAL SPENT	896,422
REMAINING BUDGET	577,052

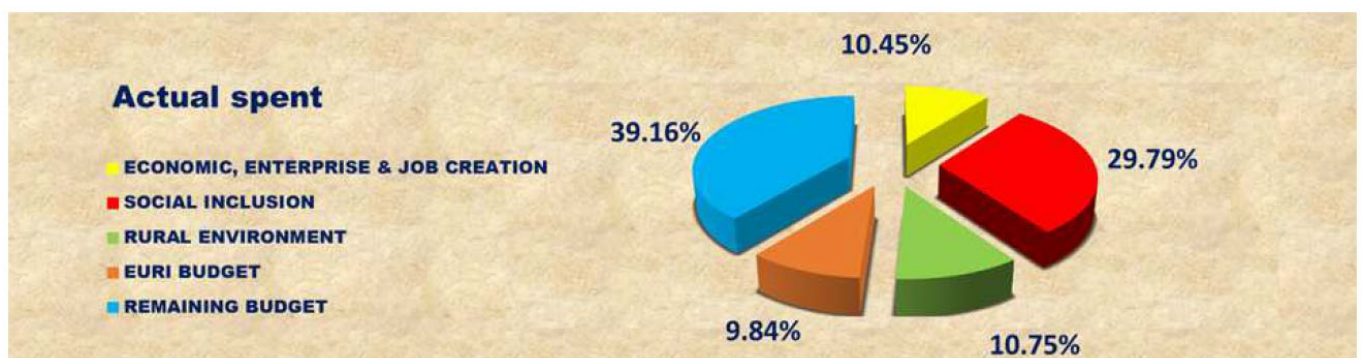
### Breakdown of the projects approved in 2021 under the transitional programme

Total number of projects approved under the Transition Programme was 19 and the value to €896,422

The remaining Budget for the Transition Pro-gramme = €577,052

**Theme 1:** Economic, Enterprise & Job Creation = 4 Projects, value = €154,046

**Theme 2:** Social Inclusion = 10 Projects, value = €438,908



### Theme 3:

Rural Environment = 3 Projects, Value = €158,454

EURI Projects: 2 Projects, Value = €145,025

Dublin LEADER total money committed to date = €5,786,656 (Last Programme plus Transition) Claims paid out to date = €2,786,557 = 48%



## Project Examples:

**Promoter Name:** Balbriggan Meals CLG

**Project Name:** EURI - Outdoor Dining Area for Balbriggan Meals on Wheels

**Theme:** Social Inclusion

**Project Description:** This project will provide an outdoor dining area to the rear of the premises at 14 Hampton Street, Balbriggan with Perspex roof and partially open to one side, with smooth level flooring. This will be of enormous help to facilitate the provision of meals to their clients in a safe outdoor setting. Also, part of this project is purchasing suitable furniture to be used outdoors.

**Area:** Balbriggan, Fingal

**LEADER Funding:** €24,063.75



**Promoter Name:** St Maur's GAA Club

**Project Name:** St Maurs GAA Club, Rainwater Harvesting and Irrigation project

**Theme:** Rural Environment

**Project Description:** This project is to install rainwater harvesting and irrigation in St Maur's GAA Club premises and for use on the pitches. The Project will reduce the demand on the public water supply and reduce the volume of water going into the public drainage system. This project will enable the club to become self-sustaining in their water usage taking it away from the public system, using rainwater for both bathrooms in the clubhouse, which would lower their demand for public water.

**Area:** Rush, Fingal

**LEADER Funding:** €89,154.58



**Promoter Name:** Fingal LEADER Partnership CLG

**Project Name:** Caring for Water Training Programme in County Dublin

**Theme:** Rural Environment - Protection and Sustainable use of water resources

**Project Description:** This training programme will train 50 people across ten communities in Fingal, South Dublin and Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown) in a variety of water-related themes as follows:

**FREE Training**

**Water Biodiversity Training**

Fingal LEADER Partnership are kicking off a new training course this autumn, this exciting opportunity is all about getting to know rivers and streams and what your community can do to protect them.

- Ballyboughal
- Bohernabreena/Firmhouse
- Brittas
- Kilsmanon
- Luoon
- Lusk/Donabate
- Partmarnock
- Rathpooie
- Sranahill
- Talloight

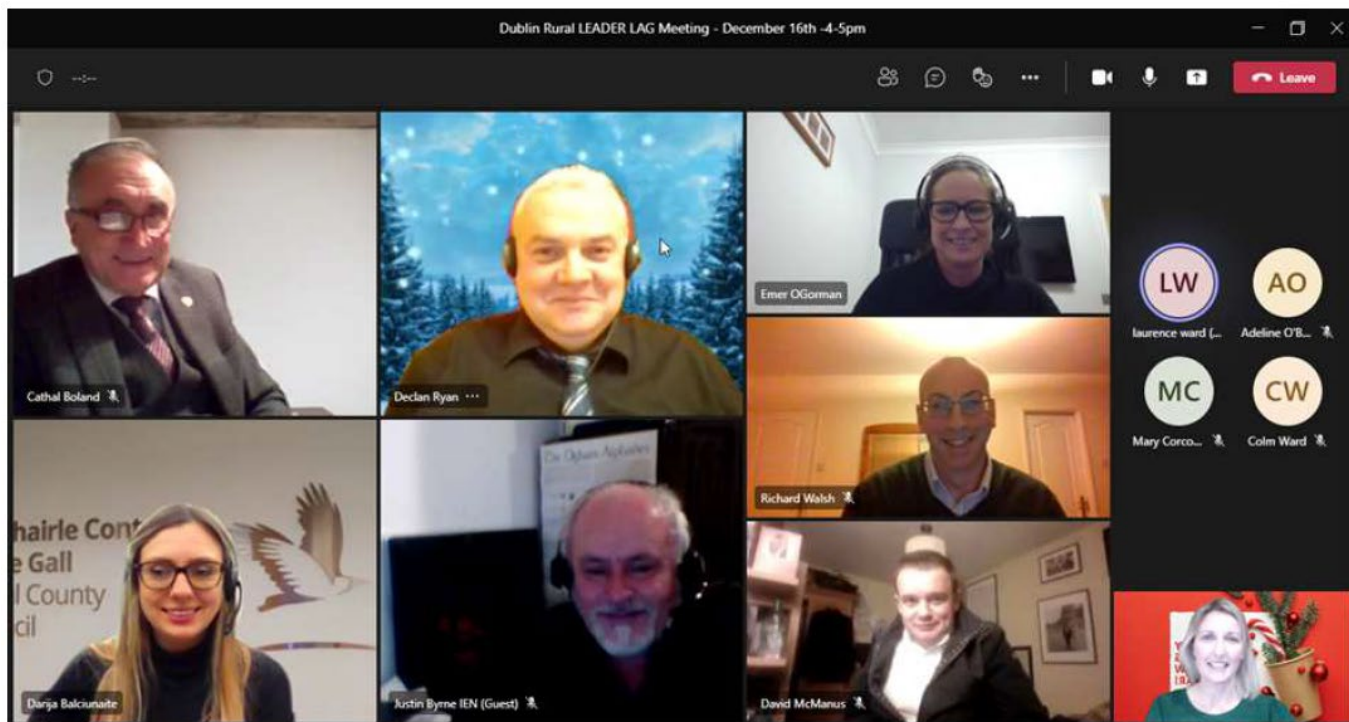
You will have the opportunity to put together a Water Biodiversity Action Plan so that your community can apply for funding to put the ideas into action.

**REGISTRATION**

In order to register please go to [www.dublinruralleader.ie](http://www.dublinruralleader.ie) or email [onboarding@veri.ie](mailto:onboarding@veri.ie)

**Closing Date for Registration 17th September**

Logos: European Union, Fingal LEADER Partnership, Local Authority Waters, Veri.



The last Dublin Rural Leader Local Action Group Meeting of 2021





# Dublin Rural Leader Local Action Group (LAG)

NAME	CATEGORY	ORGANISATION
Cathal Boland	Local Authority Member	Fingal County Council
Emer O’Gorman	Local Authority Official, Chief Executive’s nominee	Fingal County Council
Oisín Geoghegan	Local Authority Official, Head of Local Enterprise Office	Fingal County Council
Pat O’Connor	State Agency, Higher Education Institute	Technological University Dublin
Colm Ward	Local Authority Official, Chief Executive’s Nominee	South Dublin County Council
David McManus	Local Authority Member	South Dublin County Council
Lettie McCarthy	Local Authority Member	Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown County Council
Ann Lynch	Environmental Interest	Fingal Public Participation Network
Eilish Harrington	Local Development	Fingal Leader Partnership
Laurence Ward	Farming and Agriculture	The Irish Farmers Association
Adeline O’Brien	Local Development	Empower
Tricia Nolan	Community & Voluntary Interest	P.P.N. South Dublin LCDC
Justin Byrne	Environmental Interest	P.P.N. South Dublin LCDC
Mary Corcoran	Community Interest	South Dublin LCDC
Sharon Commins	Local Development	Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown LCDC
Mark Fox	Environment Interest	Dun Laoghaire Rathdown LCDC

	Public (statutory)
	Private (non-statutory)



# Local Economic & Community Plan



# Fingal LECP

## Local Economic and Community Plan

The purpose of local economic and community plans is to set out the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic and community development of the relevant local authority area.

The LCDC has a key role arranging for the implementation of the community elements of the LECP as well as re-viewing the economic elements of the plan. The LECP provides a framework for strategic and operational plans in the county. The objectives and actions of SICAP and the LEADER programmes are closely aligned in the high level goals and objectives as set out in the Fingal LECP.

The Local Government Reform Act 2014 provides for the development of a 6 year integrated Local Economic and Community Plan to promote and support the economic and social development of the local authority area. Fingal LECP recognises that local and community development interventions need to support economic activity from the ground up, while helping to combat social exclusion and poverty, through targeted interventions to improve education, training and employment opportunities within disadvantaged or marginalised communities.



### The main conclusions arising from the most recent review of the Fingal LECP were:

- The vast majority of LECP actions were considered valid and progressing well.
- The LECP 2016–2021 did not take account of BREXIT.
- Climate change and child centred actions should be prioritised in any future version of the LECP.
- 2 or 3 big ticket county wide actions could be identified, covering the areas identified above in any future version of the LECP.







