



Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall
Fingal County Council



Annual Report **2009**

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Mayor's Introduction



As we come to the end of 2009 it is clear that this year has been the most challenging period since the 1980s for the citizens of Fingal, their local authority and for businesses in all sectors of the local economy.

Fingal County Council has, like many families and enterprises in the community, made painful adjustments to both a rapid reduction in economic activity and revenues, on the one hand, and to directives from national government on cutbacks and staff reductions, on the other.

Despite these difficulties, the people of Fingal have responded in a remarkable way to the often severe problems these circumstances have created for individuals, families and community groups. I am very proud to acknowledge the contribution of Fingal County Council staff in working with many groups and community organisations, supporting those efforts and initiating new programmes throughout Fingal.

This Council has also responded to the severe difficulties facing businesses in Fingal and will bring forward reductions in the Annual Rate on Valuation to offset the major difficulties facing businesses because of adjustments in the rates advised by the national Valuation Office.

Our county is now a national and international mix of peoples and cultures. This is a great strength going forward for it provides our county with direct links with the many countries of origin from which many of our newest citizens have come. These links provide significant business opportunities going into the next decade.

The elected members of the Council have begun work on the next Fingal County Development Plan. This major five year strategy, commencing in 2011, will affect all 250,000 citizens of Fingal and I would urge everyone to view the web casts of meetings on the Development Plan and to read these plans as they are developed and published by the Council into 2010.

Limited consultations have already been held by the Government for a directly elected Mayor and a new Regional Authority for Dublin. These proposals may have major implications for the mandate and powers of County Councilors elected by the people of Fingal.

I have had the very pleasant duty as Mayor to attend the raising of Green Flags, awarded through the Council's Environment Department and An Taisce, to the many schools that make a special effort to raise awareness about our environment. These schools undertake rigorous programmes of action on a range of themes, such as waste, energy and water.

Similarly our Arts and Community Department and our libraries continue to provide a world class service to our citizens of all ages and interests, and are of particular importance to many people who have more time on their hands than heretofore. It was my great pleasure as Mayor to open the new Library Archive in Swords this year. Our Heritage and Arts programmes, held in conjunction with the many arts, music and historical groups have also been very successful.

In sport, Fingal continues to excel in a range of activities with our amateur boxers, football teams, athletes and other sports people continue to make an impact on the regional and national scene. In particular, Sporting Fingal, which was supported from the outset by the Council, has shown its prowess on the football field, and in the community through the Sporting Fingal Community Trust.

As we enter 2010 I am confident that the elected members and staff of the County Council will continue their endeavours on behalf of all our citizens to make our Fingal a better place to live, work and play. To all those in the community whom I have met as Mayor during 2009, for your efforts in the future, I say 'Thank You'.

Message from the County Manager



It is clear that 2009 has presented many difficulties for citizens and business in Fingal, and also for the local authority. The economic downturn has affected many business, traders and residents throughout the county, and the challenge to Fingal County Council this year has been to continue to deliver efficient services with less staff, and reduced income, and also to position council service delivery for the forthcoming year.

With that in mind, Fingal has distinct advantages that will help us cope with difficult economic circumstances. We have a strong local economy, excellent infrastructure and are part of the Dublin region. We have a young educated diverse population and many natural assets along our coast and in our countryside. We will be ready to take advantage of the upturn when it happens.

In 2009, the Council's Economic Development Division launched the Fingalworks.ie initiative, an online portal for jobseekers, business start-ups, entrepreneurs, or existing businesses. This one-stop information resource brings together information from a range of agencies providing information on training, further education, employment and redundancy rights for jobseekers, and mentoring, advice and financial information for both start-up and existing businesses. Fingal County Council is committed to the creation and provision of supports and services to facilitate industry and business in the county, and to support economic growth.

Planning for the future of the county is underway, with the start of the County Development Plan 2011-2017 process in 2009. This statutory process will establish the policies and strategies for development in Fingal over the next five years, and will set down the foundation stones on which our county will progress into the future. The county of Fingal is ideally positioned as the most significant location for expansion in the Dublin metropolitan area, and this must be achieved in the most sustainable manner possible. Community building and consolidation must be core elements of our planning strategy.

The role of a local authority is not purely limited to provision of physical infrastructure, to buildings, roads, water and drainage, but is a greater remit, to provide the tangible facilities and supports to create communities. Fingal County Council provides eight branch libraries and mobile and housebound library services; owns and manages heritage properties of national importance such as Malahide Castle and Ardgillan Castle; operates 175 sports pitches, 46 tennis courts, 20 playgrounds, two skateparks and two golf courses across the county.

In 2009, a significant investment was made into the provision of over 600 allotments at locations in the east and west of the county to serve the needs of urban citizens, and our eight regional parks provide recreation and leisure facilities. Our Arts Office, and the two arts venues in the county ensure that artist creativity in the county is supported, and accessible to all.

The relationship between a local authority and the communities it serves is a bilateral one, with obligations on both sides. In times of recession, a sense of civic responsibility is more important than ever, and assists the local authority in addressing issues such as littering, keeping our beaches and parks clean and preventing graffiti and vandalism of Council property. Recent summers highlighted the need for our citizens to take responsibility for their own waste and litter, particularly at beaches, and this message will carry through into next year.

In 2009, we said farewell to some Councillors and welcome to some newly elected public representatives following the Local and European Elections in June. I would like to thank the Mayor, Councillor Ciaran Byrne and his predecessor Councillor Michael O'Donovan and each of the Members of the Council for their co-operation and support on so many issues during 2009. I look forward to a continuation of this co-operation in 2010. I would like to pay special tribute to all Council staff for their commitment and enthusiasm in the delivery of services to the people of Fingal. I look forward to us all working together for the future of Fingal in 2010.

Corporate Affairs Department



This Department comprises:

- Corporate Services Division
- Citizens Services Division
- Property Services Division
- Workplace Partnership
- Audit and Efficiency Unit
- Law Department

MAYOR



Michael O'Donovan

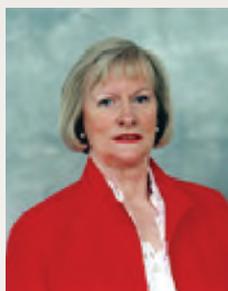
Mayor
January 2009-June 2009



Ciarán Byrne

Mayor
June 2009-December 2009

DEPUTY MAYOR



Joan Maher

Deputy Mayor
January 2009-June 2009



Tom Kelleher

Deputy Mayor
June 2009-December 2009

Fingal County Council Elected Members

BALBRIGGAN ELECTORAL AREA



Ken Farrell
(Labour)

4 The Drive,
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Co. Dublin
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David O'Connor
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Tom O'Leary
(Fine Gael)

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Ciaran Byrne
(Labour)

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May McKeon
(Non Party)

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SWORDS ELECTORAL AREA



Clare Daly
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Swords, Co. Dublin.
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(Fianna Fail)

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HOWTH / MALAHIDE ELECTORAL AREA



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Co Dublin.
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(Labour)

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Fingal County Council Elected Members

MULHUDDART ELECTORAL AREA



Ruth Coppinger

Socialist Party

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Patrick Nulty

Labour

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Dublin 15.

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David McGuinness

Fianna Fáil

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Michael O'Donovan

Labour

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Dublin 15

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CASTLEKNOCK ELECTORAL AREA



Eithne Loftus

Fine Gael

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Peggy Hamill

Labour

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Castleknock,
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Mags Murray

Fianna Fail

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Clonsilla,
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Matthew Waine*

Socialist Party

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Blanchardstown,
Dublin 15.

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gmail.com

*Co-opted following
resignation of Joe
Higgins on 25th June
2009

Standing Committees

AREA COMMITTEES

Balbriggan/Swords

Members of Balbriggan and Swords Electoral Areas and Cathaoirleach of Balbriggan Town Council

Castleknock/Mulhuddart

Members of Castleknock and Mulhuddart Electoral Areas

Howth/Malahide

Members of Howth and Malahide Electoral Areas

ORGANISATION AND PROCEDURE COMMITTEE

(All Members of Fingal County Council are Members of this Committee)

CORPORATE POLICY GROUP

Michael O'Donovan (Mayor)
January 2009– June 2009

Ciarán Byrne (Mayor)
June 2009 – December 2009

May McKeon (Chairperson)
Transportation S.P.C.

Tom Kelleher (Chairperson)
Planning & Development S.P.C.

Kieran Dennison (Chairperson)
Environment S.P.C.

David O'Connor (Chairperson)
Community and General S.P.C.

Clare Daly (Chairperson) Housing S.P.C.

MEMBERS OF COMMUNITY AND GENERAL STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Councillors

David O'Connor (Chairperson)
Darragh Butler
Peter Coyle

Anne Devitt
Peggy Hamill
Patrick Nulty
Cian O'Callaghan

Non Councillor Members

Dave Francis
Gráinne Maguire
Aidan McGrath
Pdraig McMahon
Brendan Sherlock
Kevin Quinn

MEMBERS OF ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Councillors

Kieran Dennison (Chairperson)
Peter Coyle
Clare Daly
Alan Farrell
Peggy Hamill
Eithne Loftus
Gerry McGuire
May McKeon
David O'Connor
Eoghan O'Brien

Non Councillor Members

John Barrett
Olive Byrne
Valerie Henderson
David Rogers

Standing Committees

MEMBERS OF HOUSING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Councillors

Clare Daly (Chairperson)
Ruth Coppinger
Kieran Dennison
Ken Farrell
Joan Maher
Gerry McGuire
David McGuinness
Patrick Nulty
Cian O'Callaghan
Michael O'Donovan

Non Councillor Members

Andrew McCann
Sylvester Greally
Kathleen McKillion
Kevin Quinn

MEMBERS OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Councillors

Tom Kelleher (Chairperson)
Ciarán Byrne
Anne Devitt
Alan Farrell
Joan Maher
David McGuinness
Mags Murray
Michael O'Donovan
Tom O'Leary
Matthew Waine

Non Councillor Members

Rory Bannon
Terry Kelleher

MEMBERS OF TRANSPORTATION STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Councillors

May McKeon (Chairperson)
Darragh Butler
Ciarán Byrne

Ruth Coppinger
Ken Farrell
Tom Kelleher
Eithne Loftus
Mags Murray
Eoghan O'Brien
Tom O'Leary

Non Councillor Members

Rory Bannon
Brendan Doorley
Humphrey Reen

REPRESENTATIVES ON STATUTORY BODIES

Statutory Bodies, Committees and Organisations, to which Fingal County Council elects, nominates or appoints persons.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Councillors

Peter Coyle
Alan Farrell
Joan Maher

Non-Councillors

Dr. Philip Byrne
Sean Carey
Joe Harford
Louise O'Donnell

Standing Committees

COUNTY DUBLIN VOCATIONAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Councillors

Ken Farrell
David McGuinness
Joan Maher
Gerry McGuire
Michael O'Donovan

Non-Councillors

Deirdre Doherty Ryan
Don Tipping
Pat Ward
Liz Kelly

ASSOCIATION OF CITY AND COUNTY COUNCILS

Councillors

Alan Farrell
Tom Kelleher
Michael O'Donovan

DUBLIN REGIONAL AUTHORITY

Councillors

Peggy Hamill
May McKeon
Anne Devitt
Ciarán Byrne
Peter Coyle

EU OPERATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE DUBLIN REGIONAL AUTHORITY

Councillors

Michael O'Donovan (Mayor)
January 2009 – June 2009

Ciarán Byrne (Mayor)
June 2009 – December 2009

Anne Devitt

SOUTHERN AND EASTERN REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

Councillors

Ciarán Byrne
Anne Devitt

FINGAL COUNTY ENTERPRISE BOARD

Councillors

Peter Coyle
Kieran Dennison
Gerry McGuire
Darragh Butler

IRISH PUBLIC BODIES MUTUAL INSURANCES LIMITED

Councillor

Mags Murray

LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERS ASSOCIATION

Councillor

Mags Murray

DUBLIN TOURISM

Councillor

Peter Coyle

FINGAL TOURISM LIMITED

Councillors

Michael O'Donovan (Mayor)
January 2009 – June 2009

Ciarán Byrne (Mayor)
June 2009– December 2009

Peter Coyle

Standing Committees

NORTH DUBLIN DEVELOPMENT COALITION (NORDUBCO)

Councillors

Michael O'Donovan (Mayor)
January 2009 – June 2009

Ciarán Byrne (Mayor)
June 2009 – December 2009

Anne Devitt

FINGAL LEADER PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Councillors

Ciarán Byrne
May McKeon
Vacant

DUBLIN EMPLOYMENT PACT – STRATEGIC POLICY GROUP

Councillors

Michael O'Donovan

BLANCHARDSTOWN AREA PARTNERSHIP

Councillors

Kieran Dennison
Peggy Hamill
Matthew Waine

LOCAL TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Councillors

Anne Devitt
Clare Daly
Cian O'Callaghan

BLANCHARDSTOWN DRUG TASK FORCE

Councillors

Patrick Nulty
David McGuinness

NORTHSIDE PARTNERSHIP

Councillor

Cian O'Callaghan

JOINT FINGAL AND SOUTH DUBLIN LIFFEY VALLEY MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mayor: Michael O'Donovan
(January 2009 - June 2009)

Ciarán Byrne
(June 2009 - December 2009)

CASTLEKNOCK ELECTORAL AREA:

Councillors

Peggy Hamill
Mags Murray
Matthew Waine
Eithne Loftus

MULHUDDART ELECTORAL AREA:

Councillors

Ruth Coppinger
Michael O'Donovan
Kieran Dennison
Patrick Nulty
David McGuinness

Standing Committees

NATIONAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT FORUM

Councillor

Ciarán Byrne

BALLEALLY LANDFILL LIAISON COMMITTEE

Councillor

Ken Farrell
May McKeon
Anne Devitt
Gerry McGuire

COUNTY HERITAGE FORUM

Councillor

David O'Connor
Peter Coyle
Kieran Dennison
May McKeon
Cian O'Callaghan

NORTH FRINGE AREA FORUM

Councillors

Cian O'Callaghan
Joan Maher
Peter Coyle
Eoghan O'Brien
Alan Farrell

REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM DUBLIN AND NORTH EAST

Councillors

May McKeon
Mags Murray
Eithne Loftus
David O'Connor
Tom O'Leary
Kieran Dennison

HANSFIELD SDZ STEERING GROUP

Councillors

Ruth Coppinger
Michael O'Donovan
Patrick Nulty
David McGuinness
Kieran Dennison

FINGAL INTEGRATED TRANSPORT GROUP

Councillor

May McKeon

HEALTHY FINGAL

Councillors

Gerry McGuire
Michael O'Donovan
Peter Coyle
Eithne Loftus
Tom O'Leary

JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE

Councillors

Michael O'Donovan (Mayor)
January 2009 – June 2009

Ciarán Byrne (Mayor)
June 2009 – December 2009

Mags Murray
Peggy Hamill
David O'Connor
Alan Farrell
Cian O'Callaghan
Eoghan O'Brien
Eithne Loftus
Tom O'Leary
Kieran Dennison
Matthew Waine
Darragh Butler
Clare Daly
Michael O'Donovan

Standing Committees

FINGAL SPORTS PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

Councillors

Anne Devitt
Eoghan O'Brien
David O'Connor

DRINAN ENTERPRISE CENTRE

Councillors

Alan Farrell
Gerry McGuire

EDGE CITIES NETWORK

Councillor

Alan Farrell

BALBRIGGAN COMMUNITY POLICING FORUM

Councillors

Ciarán Byrne
May McKeon

DRAÍOCHT

Councillor

Peggy Hamill

DUBLIN NORTH-EAST DRUGS TASK FORCE

Councillor

Cian O'Callaghan



Members' Expenses and Representation at Conferences in 2009

Number of Council and Committee Meetings:		89
Total of Expenses paid to members in respect of attendance at meetings of the County Council and its Committee		€212,332.90
Representational Payment:		€422,496.00
Number of Conferences Attended:	Abroad	6
	Home	36
Expenses on Conferences	Abroad	€10,833.60
	Home	€47,300.26
Mayor's Annual Allowance:		€35,506.00
Deputy Mayor's Allowance:		€16,116.00

CONFERENCES ABROAD

Conference	ARC Airport Regions
Venue	Warsaw, Poland
Theme	Surface Access/Climate Change
Conference	International Federation for Housing and Planning World Conference 2009
Venue	Berlin, Germany
Theme	Urban Technology: Climate Change and Energy Efficiency
Conference	Society for Folk Life Studies
Venue	Douglas, Isle of Man
Theme	Selling the Folk-Tourism & The Marketing of Folk Culture over 200 years.
Conference	Les Rencontres de Linz
Venue	Linz, Austria
Theme	Digital Arts, New Technologies, New Cultural Practices
Conference	9th International Conference on Waste
Venue	Vienna, Austria
Theme	Value and Recovery from Waste to Resource
Conference	ARC Qlair Quality of Life in Airport Regions
Venue	Amsterdam, Holland

Members' Expenses and Representation at Conferences in 2009

HOME CONFERENCES

Conference	Esperanza Enterprises Seminar for Councillors
Venue	Hotel Westport, Westport, Co.Mayo
Theme	The Local Government Planning Service
Conference	Superior Training Seminar for Councillors
Venue	Day's Hotel, Co.Waterford
Theme	Effective Communication for Councillors
Conference	Superior Training Seminar for Councillors
Venue	Granville Hotel, Co.Waterford
Theme	The Local Government Planning Service
Conference	Antrim Tourism Conference
Venue	Dunadry Hotel, Dunadry, Co.Antrim
Theme	Activities Tourism
Conference	Kadenza Consultancies Seminar for Councillors
Venue	Clonea Strand Hotel, Dungarvan, Co.Waterford
Theme	Effective Communication for Councillors
Conference	AMAI Spring Seminar
Venue	Clanree Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal
Conference	Superior Training Seminar for Councillors
Venue	Sligo Park Hotel, Co.Sligo
Theme	Local Government and Renewable Energy
Conference	Mid West Regional Authority Annual Conference
Venue	Woodlands House Hotel, Adare, Co.Limerick
Theme	Irelands Water-What is the real cost?
Conference	Ratoo Heritage Society Annual Conference
Venue	Golf Hotel, Ballybunion, Co.Kerry
Conference	Esperanza Enterprises Seminar for Councillors
Venue	The Gleno Abbey Hotel, Bushypark, Co.Galway
Theme	Building Energy Regulations
Conference	Esperanza Enterprises Seminar for Councillors
Venue	The Gleno Abbey Hotel, Bushypark, Co.Galway
Theme	Planning and Development Control
Conference	BMF Business Services Conference
Venue	Crowne Plaza Hotel, Santry, Co.Dublin
Theme	Transport Ireland 2009 - Transporting Ireland's Economy
Conference	Celtic Conferences
Venue	Celtic Ross Hotel, Roscarberry, West Cork
Theme	Local Sustainable Management

Members' Expenses and Representation at Conferences in 2009

HOME CONFERENCES

Conference Venue	Association of County and City Councils Annual Conference Kilkenny Ormonde Hotel, Co.Kilkenny
Conference Venue	LAMA 29th Annual Conference The Portlaoise Heritage Hotel, Portlaoise, Co.Laois
Conference Venue Theme	Third Sector Forum Conference Kingsley Hotel, Victoria Cross, Cork City Ireland at the Crossroads
Conference Venue Theme	Irish Rural Dwelling Association Conference Brehon Hotel, Killarney, Co.Kerry Rural Dwellers-A Threatened Species
Conference Venue Theme	Institute of Professional Training Conference West Cork Hotel, Skibbereen, West Cork From the Canvas to the Council Chamber
Conference Venue	Willie Clancy Summer School Miltown Malbay, Co.Clare
Conference Venue Theme	Superior Training Seminar for Councillors West Cork Hotel, Skibbereen, West Cork Effective Government Policy Making
Conference Venue	Patrick McGill Summer School Glenties, Co.Donegal
Conference Venue Theme	The John Hewitt International Summer School Market Place Theatre, Co.Armagh Unfettered Thought: Belief in the Future?
Conference Venue	AMAI 96th Annual Conference Gleneagle Hotel, Killarney, Co.Kerry
Conference Venue Theme	Institute of Professional Training Conference Clifden Station House Hotel, Clifden, Co.Galway Governance Training
Conference Venue Theme	Esperanza Enterprises Seminar for Councillors The Kingsvalley Hotel, Merlin Park, Dublin Road, Co.Galway The Planning and Development (Amendment) Bill 2009
Conference Venue Theme	Third Sector Forum Conference Killarney Plaza, Kenmare Place, Co.Kerry Business in Environmental Goods and Services
Conference Venue	Mallow Enterprises Conference Mallow, Co.Cork

Members' Expenses and Representation at Conferences in 2009

HOME CONFERENCES

Conference	Douglas Hyde Conference
Venue	Abbeyfield Hotel, Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon
Theme	Culture and the Economy
Conference	Superior Training Seminar for Councillors
Venue	Carlton Atlantic Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo
Theme	Public Policy Making and the Councillor
Conference	LAMA Annual Winter Seminar
Venue	Carlton Castletroy Park Hotel, Dublin Road, Co. Limerick
Theme	Service Provision in Local Government The New Reality
Conference	Esperanza Enterprises Seminar for Councillors
Venue	Sligo Park Hotel, Pearse Road, Co. Sligo
Theme	Local Government Ethics in Public Life
Conference	Irish Planning Institute Conference
Venue	Gresham Hotel, Dublin
Conference	Institute of Professional Training Conference
Venue	Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal
Theme	Council Budgets 2010
Conference	Clare Tourist Council Annual Conference
Venue	Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, Co. Clare
Theme	Promoting Partnership in Tourism-21 Years of Progress
Conference	Superior Training Seminar for Councillors
Venue	The Carlton Millrace Hotel, Bunclody, Co. Wexford
Theme	The Local Government Budget 2010
Conference	Ace Management Conference
Venue	Creggan Court Hotel, Athlone, Co. Westmeath
Theme	Media Management and I.T. Skills

Corporate Services Division

REGISTER OF ELECTORS

The final Register of Electors for 2009/10 was published on the 01/01/09

The total number of Electors on the final register was 174,122.

A draft register of electors for 2010/2011 was published on the 01/11/2009

The total number of electors on draft register was 176,201.

EDITED REGISTER OF ELECTORS.

The edited register of electors published on the 1st February 2009 contained 16,478 names. The draft edited register of electors published on the 01/11/09 contained 16,942 names.

SCHOOL MEALS SCHEME

Approximately 2900 children in 10 primary schools in the Fingal area were catered for on a daily basis under this scheme.

HIGHER EDUCATION GRANTS

The Higher Education Grants Scheme 2009 was adopted by Fingal County Council at its meeting on 14th September 2009.

Number of new applications	565
Number of new grants awarded	304
Number of renewal applications	699
Number of renewal grants awarded	534
Total expenditure for 2009	€4,133,195.24

Balbriggan Town Council

Balbriggan Town Council (Town Commissioners as it was prior to 2002) has a long history of service as a Local Authority, which began in 1860.

The Council has nine elected members who were elected for a term of five years following the local elections held on 5th June 2009:

Monica Harford Cathaoirleach 2009 -2010, Larry Dunne Leas- Cathaoirleach 2009 – 2010, Sean Brown , Dermot Murray , Grainne Maguire , Grainne Kilmurry , Terry Kelleher , Frank Snowe and Peadar O’Kelly .

The Council provides civic leadership for the people of Balbriggan. It represents their concerns and needs with Fingal County Council, Government Departments and other Statutory Bodies and promotes the town as a good place to live, work and visit.

The town boundary was extended in February 2009 to reflect the growth of the town and provide an opportunity to the newer residents of Balbriggan to vote in the Town Council elections. The population of the new administrative areas is approximately 18, 000.

The Town Council Annual Awards are held in October each year which affords the Town Council the opportunity of paying tribute to the many people, individuals and groups, who by their actions demonstrate and promote pride and community life in the town. The selection of award winners is based on personal achievement or team effort in areas such as Sport, Art, Literature, Culture or Community Service.

The Town Council organises the St. Patrick’s Day Parade in the town and plays an active role in the decoration of the town at Christmas in conjunction with the Balbriggan & District Chamber of Commerce.

The majority of the Council’s income is provided by town charges included in the Annual Rate Bill paid by the town’s business community.

The Town Manager and Town Clerk deal with the administrative affairs of Balbriggan Town Council along with administrative staff seconded from Fingal County Council. The Town Manager is Mr. Peter Caulfield. The Town Clerk is Mr. Brian Murray.



Citizen Services Division

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUESTS

Applications received/processed in	2009	2008	2007
Applications received during 2009	72	72	69
Decisions made during 2009	76	74	64
Applications on Hands at 31/12/2009	2	4	6

Nature of Information Sought	2009	2008	2007
Personal (to applicant)	15	17	18
Non-Personal	57	55	51
Mixed	0	0	0
Granted	48	40	42
Part-granted	22	24	15
Refused	2	5	4
Transferred	0	0	0
Withdrawn/Outside FOI	2	5	3

Appeals	2009	2008	2007
Appeals to Information Commissioner	3	1	2

Source of Requests	2009	2008	2007
Journalists	11	2	0
Business	6	11	7
Oireachtas/Local Authority members	0	0	0
Other/General Public	54	55	60
Staff	1	4	2

Citizen Services Division

Ombudsman Complaints	2009	2008	2007
Complaints received	13	14	22
Complaints responded to	13	14	22

Subject of Complaints	2009	2008	2007
Planning	2	2	4
Transportation	0	4	2
Housing	6	5	7
Finance	0	0	2
Water & Drainage	0	0	0
Community, Recreation & Amenities	2	0	6
Environment	2	1	0
Property & Economic Development	1	2	0
Corporate Affairs	0	0	1

Citizen Charter Complaints	2009	2008	2007
Complaints received	11	5	17
Complaints responded to	11	5	17

Subject of Complaints	2009	2008	2007
Planning	1	3	3
Transportation	0	1	2
Housing	1	0	4
Finance	0	0	0
Water & Drainage	0	0	0
Community, Recreation & Amenities	3	0	3
Environment	6	1	3
Property & Economic Development	0	0	0
Corporate Affairs	0	0	2

Property Services Division

The Council's Property Services Division acquires and disposes of property on behalf of Fingal County Council and manages properties and land owned by the Council.

PROPERTY ACQUISITION

Lands, properties and wayleaves are acquired for the various statutory purposes of the Council in one of the following ways:

- Agreement
- Compulsory Purchase Order
- Motorway Order
- Deed of Waiver
- Deed of Dedication

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Maintains the Council's Property Register and is responsible for the security and maintenance of Council properties.

Letting of Council lands for tillage and grazing by con-acre agreements – approximately 820 acres let in 2009.

Caretaker's Agreements and Temporary Convenience Lettings for properties and lands that are not required by the Council in the short term.

Collection of rents from the Council's residential shops.

Disposal of land or properties which are no longer required by the Council.

Workplace Partnership

The Fingal Workplace Partnership Committee was engaged in the following projects and initiatives during 2009.

- Developed and circulated the Telephone Conversation Policy for staff in Fingal County Council.
- Co-ordinated and prepared a Business Continuity Plan for the organisation to effectively deal with the Swine Flu Pandemic.
- Organised a staff suggestions scheme "Ideas for Change - Let's Make it Better" which was the first competition of the new Scheme.
- Continued to organise and manage the Return to Learning Programme.
- Reviewed and updated the Child Protection Policy.
- Organised and facilitated a Summer Camp project for the children of Council Staff. This was the second year to run the project.

- Organised the Health & Safety Week which incorporated a Sponsored Walk in aid of Temple Street Children's Hospital, Corporate Wellbeing Stands and the Children's competitions and party. Workplace Partnership also facilitated the holding of office based Weight Watchers clubs.
- Supported the continuing production of the staff newsletter "Inside Out".

The Committee also facilitated & supported Working Groups and Sub-Groups in the following activities throughout 2009:

- Communications.
- Child Protection Policy.
- Further Education.
- Business Continuity Planning.
- Equality Working Group.

In addition to addressing the foregoing matters, the Workplace Partnership Committee continued to work on implementation of the objectives and goals set out in its action plan in accordance with the National Partnership Plan.

Internal Audit Unit

During 2009 the work of the Internal Audit Unit was expanded to include Efficiency. This expanded brief fell into line with the original VFM concepts espoused by the unit.

Initially three areas were identified for attention viz. Plant Hire, Energy and Security. Reports were produced on each of these areas and recommendations issued. These resulted in substantial savings for the organisation in 2009 and will also be reflected in future years.

In addition as part of its core activity the Unit carried out Audit, Control and Compliance checks in a number of Divisions. These also incorporated reports on Economy, Efficiency and Effectiveness within the organisation. All these reports included a "Risk Assessment" where appropriate. In addition the unit;-

- Completed a number of Special Investigations.
- Continued to promote the concept of Risk Management.
- Continued the process of "Contract Partnership" Audit checks.
- Liaised with the Local Government Auditor.
- Liaised with the Council's Audit Committee.
- Continued the monthly Checking Programme of Cash Locations and Risk Assessed same.
- Submitted and received approval for the 2009 Annual Audit Plan

Law Department

The Law Department provides a comprehensive in-house legal service to the County Manager and all of the Council's Departments relating to the broad and varied range of statutory functions. These services include:-

- Consultations with client departments in relation to statutory functions
- Advising departments in relation to any issues arising from case law and the regulatory framework governing local authorities
- Providing training to Council Departments.
- Representing the Council at arbitrations and oral hearings such as Metro North
- Dealing with acquisitions and disposal of Council properties including
 - o clubs and community centres agreements/licences
 - o commercial leases of the Council's industrial sites
 - o dedications of open spaces
 - o equity buy outs
 - o first registrations
 - o loans and mortgages
 - o shared ownerships / tenant purchases / voluntary housing schemes
- Initiating and defending cases in the District, Circuit, High Court including the Commercial Court and the Supreme Court including
 - o breaches of contract,
 - o disputes in relation to land,
 - o debt collection including rates collection, judgments and judgment mortgages, injunctions,
 - o employers liability claims
 - o housing repossessions for non-payment of rent/mortgage and antisocial behaviour,
 - o injunctions under section 160 Planning and Development Act
 - o judicial review proceedings
 - o District Court proceedings on a weekly basis in relation to matters such as litter offences, planning offences, control of dogs, air pollutions, intoxicating bye-laws, housing matters and rates summons
 - o personal injury litigation
 - o trespass and nuisance.

The current economic climate has seen a decrease in conveyancing transactions and an increase in litigation, and workloads are monitored to ensure the efficient provision of legal services. Review and implementation of the department's case management system continued in 2009, which has proved an effective tool in processing rates collection cases and enforcement action. In 2009, PMDS was reviewed and completed and ongoing training was provided to staff, who attended a broad range of courses in the areas of professional development, legal knowledge, I.T., customer care and aggression.





PROJECTS OFFICE

The Projects Office is responsible for the delivery of the major water and wastewater infrastructural projects to meet the long term needs of the County and the Region.

Current Projects include

- Leixlip Water Treatment Plant Extension – Expressions of interest shortlist completed and revised tender documents forwarded to the DEHLG.
- Balbriggan Skerries Network Contract – Advance works with design and build pumping station on the Dublin Road submitted to DEHLG for approval to proceed to tender.
- Portrane, Donabate, Rush & Lusk Waste Water Treatment Plant – DBO contract approved by the DEHLG with contract to be signed in early 2010.
- Blanchardstown Regional Drainage Scheme – Preliminary Report completed and delivered to the DEHLG, for approval, early in 2009.
- Greater Dublin Regional Drainage Project – Expressions of interest advertised in the OJEU for the preparation of the Alternative Sites Assessment (ASA) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Completed Projects include

- Balbriggan Skerries Waste Water Treatment Scheme – Plant now fully operational.
- Leixlip Ballycoolen Rising Mains – Cross connections between old and new mains completed.
- Swords WWTP Expansion - Design Review report for the upgrade to 90,000pe completed.

Water Services

DESIGN OFFICE

The Design Office is responsible for the design and delivery of water services infrastructure, including water supply, wastewater and surface water drainage schemes and flood relief, to meet the ongoing needs in the County. The Development Management and Water Pollution Section form part of the Design Office.

Current Projects

- Swords North Strengthening Scheme – Lissenhall to Jordanstown - Construction ongoing in 2009 with scheduled completion in April 2010.
- Malahide Reservoir Expansion and Augmentation Scheme – Draft contract documents prepared and SLI application lodged with the DOEHLG for the Project.
- Ward Water Supply Scheme – A number of preliminary sections of main were replaced in 2009 in advance of approval for full Scheme.
- Balbriggan Water Supply Scheme – Draft solution scheme presented by Consultants in 2009.
- Dublin Bay Project Contract No. 5 (Transfer Howth sewage to Sutton Pumpstation) – Works from Howth Village to Howth Road completed in 2009. Howth Road to Sutton Pump Station section of the project over half way complete and should be completed in 2010.
- Toberburr and Santry Pumpstations – Site investigations works completed on Toberburr and detailed design to be finalised early in 2010.
- Fingal East Meath Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study (FEMFRAMS) – Work ongoing in 2009 with information from the Study feeding into next County Development Plan.



Water Services

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT SECTION

The Development Management Section advises on the water and drainage requirements for all planning applications lodged, including requests for additional information. In addition the Section certifies compliance with conditions assesses and certifies offsets and certification of single on site waste water treatment systems.

Headlines 2009

- Engineering Inspectorate investigations and report into NW Balbriggan Parkway Partnership Developments, Latchford, Holywell, Porterstown/Homeleigh and Castleknock Main Street
- Implementation of “The Planning System and Flood Risk Management” Guidelines for Local Authorities November 2009
- Development Protocol established for Swords catchment in light of restriction in foul drainage capacity
- Ongoing liaison with Airport T2 Developments Reports and attendance at liaison DASF committee meetings
- Involved in the development of local Area Plans in Fosterstown North, Kenure, Rush, the Stephenstown Urban Design Plan, Village area plans in Garristown, Ballyboughal, The Naul and Balscaddan, Lusk Town Centre Urban Master Plan and Blanchardstown Extension Master Plan
- Liaison with Metro North and Metro West consultants



Water Services

POLLUTION CONTROL

The Pollution Control Section is responsible for the issuing of licences in accordance with the Water Pollution Acts. It is also responsible for the monitoring of water quality in rivers, lakes and estuarine waters in the County and ensuring remedial action is taken where necessary.

Headlines 2009

- Progress on the implementation of the Water Framework Directive was maintained. Following a six month public display period, the Eastern River Basin District (ERBD) Draft River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) and Programme of Measures (POM) were amended in response to the concerns raised. Both the RBMP and POMs were adopted by a full Council meeting of Fingal County Council on 14th Sept 2009.
- Quality Management System (QMS) for Water Pollution Section is in operation.
- Farm surveys continued in the Ward River and Bog of the Ring catchments.
- All water pollution licence applications were processed within the 8 week timeframe with the exception where additional information was sought.
- Oil Spill Contingency Plan is with the Coastguard for examination at the end of 2009.
- Two hydrometric stations were made operational in 2009. Further locations were examined and submitted to the EPA for approval.

Water Services

OPERATIONS SECTION

The Operations Section is responsible for the management and maintenance of the water and wastewater network and treatment plants in the County.

Water Supply:

Fingal County Council has two treatment facilities at Leixlip and Bog of the Ring which produce a combined total of 168 million litres of treated drinking water each day. The water network is managed via a regional telemetry system which relays information on reservoir levels, flows and pressures from remote sites and together with the Regional Geographical Information System plays a key role in the management of the water distribution network. Water is tested regularly at all stages of the treatment process and throughout the distribution system to ensure compliance with European and National drinking water standards.

Headlines 2009

- Continued production of high quality drinking water from Leixlip and Bog of the Ring. Monthly drinking water quality results published on the Council's website for the treatment plants and the distribution mains.
- Continued implementation of the new Drinking Water Regulations including a reporting mechanism to the EPA.
- High quality management, including reporting to the EPA, of drinking water contamination incidents.
- Leakage Section continued to locate and ensure repair of leaks throughout the County. However, recorded Unaccounted-for Water (UFW) levels increased in 2009.

Drainage Services:

The Council operates two large wastewater treatment facilities at Swords and Malahide with the Barnageera Plant serving the town of Balbriggan and Skerries operated on the Council's behalf by a private operator. In addition the Council operates a number of smaller treatment plants serving Portrane and the smaller villages. Wastewater from the Blanchardstown area is treated at Dublin City Council's Wastewater Treatment Facility at Ringsend. The Drainage Section is responsible for the provision and maintenance of the wastewater treatment facilities and collection systems and the provision and maintenance of public toilets.

Headlines 2009

- Preventative maintenance programme continued in 2009 targeting the Malahide network.
- Works commenced in Swords Wastewater Treatment plant on foot of report from Odour Consultants and scheduled to be completed in 2010.
- Discharge Licence for the WWTP's at Portrane and Barnageera received from the EPA.
- Emergency on call system for drainage crews and Inspectors implemented in 2009.

Water Services

DIRECT LABOUR SECTION

The Direct Labour Section is responsible for the provision of new or replacement infrastructure either directly or through contractors from the Framework Agreement.

Headlines 2009

- Approx. 8,328 metres in total of watermain replaced in the County in 2009 by combination of small water schemes carried out by FCC staff and larger schemes carried out by contractors from the Framework Agreement.
- Two hydrometric stations, as required by the EPA at Garristown and Ballyboughill, constructed by the direct labour crew.
- The pumped watermain from Jordanstown Reservoir to Palmerstown Reservoir was replaced in 2009.
- The foul sewer on the Old Airport Road was replaced and in conjunction with this work a watermain and gas pipeline was also re-laid as part of the overall works to minimise traffic disruption.

Water Services

ADMINISTRATION SECTION

The Administration Section is responsible for the management of the Water Services communications protocol and has responsibility for financial management in the Department.

Headlines 2009

- The Water Conservation pilot project was completed for two schools in Fingal– St. Mochtas National School and Colaiste Choilim, Swords with the final report being made available to all school principals and the Department of Education.
- Ongoing liaison with Earth Tech Irl. Ltd operating the Barnageera Waste Water Treatment Plant.
- The Water Services Department assisted in the Review of the 2004-2009 Development Contribution Scheme and preparation of the new development contributions scheme in 2009.
- 150 Applications for water and sewer connections processed in 2009.
- A total number of 53 questions, 24 motions and 5 headed items dealt with at Council/Committee meetings during 2009.
- The Council's Communications Protocol implemented during water shutdowns in the following locations:

Howth Area	February 2009
Skerries area	July 2009
Lanesborough area	August 2009
Castleknock Area, Dublin 15	September 2009
Ward Garristown	September 2009
Orchard Estate Oldtown	September 2009

- Press releases issued during the year on the following:
 - * Publication of EPA Drinking Water Quality Report
 - * The level of water hardness in Fingal.

Water Services

STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

The Environment Strategic Policy Committee (S.P.C.) met twice in 2009. The committee comprises Elected Members of the Council in addition to representatives from a range of Sectoral interests including I.B.E.C., I.F.A. and the Community and Voluntary Forum representative.

The principal role of the S.P.C. is the development and consideration of the impact of policy, which is then referred to a full County Council meeting for approval.

During 2009 Water Services Department presented items on the following issues to the S.P.C.

- Eastern River Basin District Project, Programme of Measures and River Basin Management Plan and Strategic Environmental Assessment.
- Update Report on the Fingal East Meath Flood Risk Assessment Management Study (FEMFRAMS).

Report of the water conservation project carried out on two schools in the County.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS / NATIONAL SERVICE INDICATORS

Complaints concerning water pollution:

	2007	2008	2009
No. of Complaints/ Incidents received/ identified.	61	80	52
No. investigated	61	80	52
No. of complaints resolved with no further action required	1	17	39
No of formal enforcement (Section12) procedures taken	8	6	7
No. of prosecutions initiated	0	0	0
Prosecutions successfully concluded	0	0	0

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

% of burst watermains repaired and water supply restored within

	2007	2008	2009
12 Hours	93.43%	95%	91.2%
24 Hours	3.47%	4%	3.15%
Greater than 24 Hours	3.10%	1%	5.65%

Water Services

% of water samples in compliance with Drinking Water Regulations

	2007	2008	2009
Leixlip	99.72%	100%	100%
Bog of the Ring	100%	100%	100%
Distribution Network	100%	100%	100%

Levels of Unaccounted for Water (UFW)

	2007	2008	2009
UFW	23.57%	21.62%	27.35%

% compliance with Urban Wastewater Treatment Regulations

	2007	2008	2009
Swords WWTP	76.80%	71.80%	77.30%
Malahide WWTP	92.00%	78.85%	81.76%
Portrane WWTP	77.33%	90.88%	58.83%
Villages WWTP	91.13%	91%	75.45%
Barnageera WWTP	N/A	N/A	100%

	2007	2008	2009
Sewage overflows from Pump Stations	75	25	58

Length of Watermain Replaced

	2007	2008	2009
Metres of watermain replaced	7,427	20,868	8,328



COMMUNITY, CULTURE & SPORTS DIVISION

The activities and operational programmes of the Community, Sports and Arts Offices outlined below, are closely interlinked as it is recognised that each of them is essentially involved in community development.

THE COMMUNITY OFFICE

The Division's Community Development Officers worked on a variety of programmes and supported a wide range of community organisations during 2009. A comprehensive support and advisory service is provided to voluntary community-based bodies throughout the County.

The 5 Units within the Community Office were instrumental in the delivery of a number of Programmes and activities in 2009 working with 104 priority groups on a monthly basis. The Community Officers engaged in a major community consultation process for the development of a 5 Year Strategic Plan.

Capital Projects Unit

This unit plays a significant role in the preparation of business and operational plans, in capacity building and in the management of community facilities. The main focus in 2009 was on community requirements in the design process of a number of integrated facilities, e.g. at Phibblestown and Ongar, which will facilitate a wide variety of community activities.

A generic Staffing and Operational Procedures Manual for the Fingal Schools Model for Integrated Facilities was also produced.

Community Development Unit

In 2009, this Unit delivered supports, training, information and mentoring services to voluntary groups, worked on 2 Needs Analysis reports, supported 2 "Planning for Real" projects and supported 17 existing and 13 new residents associations and Estate Management groups. A handbook for Residents and Tenants Associations was published in 2009.

Community Facilities Support Unit

This Unit was established to support and enable management committees of Community Centres to carry out their roles effectively and provides information, training, mentoring, advice and models of good practice in various disciplines.

The Network Development Unit

This Unit's role is to encourage, strengthen and support development of networks throughout Fingal. In 2009 the Unit supported the Ethnic Environment and the Senior Citizen Networks and the Fingal Community & Voluntary Forum.

Community, Recreation and Amenities

The Funding and Information Unit

In 2009 €135,000 was made available by the Minister for Integration to support integration initiatives through the Council's Integration Funding Scheme. The Summer Projects Programme provides funding to Community Groups and over 4,000 young people participated in 2009

Funding Provided to Community and Voluntary Organisations in 2009

Area	Activities funding	Summer projects	Total
Balbriggan/Swords	€2,034	€21,665	€23,699
Castleknock/Mulhuddart	€10,860	€25,160	€36,020
Howth/Malahide	€3,475	€4,300	€7,775
County (aggregate)	€16,369	€51,125	€67,494

SPORTS OFFICE

The Sports Office has been involved in a number of sports and physical activity programmes over the last year and works very closely and in parallel with the Community Office. The main programmes were:

Sporting Fingal F.C.

The Sports Office has worked with Sporting Fingal, in which the Council holds a 26% shareholding, to promote greater participation in sports and to further develop links with all sectors of our community. Particular collaboration took place in the creation of Sporting Fingal Special Olympics and Powerchair teams. The Office has also collaborated with the Club to use football as a means of developing closer links with young people and schools.



Sporting Fingal Community Trust

Sporting Fingal Community Trust was created by Sporting Fingal FC in 2009 as a charitable arm for its operations. The Office has supported the Trust, which uses the power of sport and, in particular, football to inspire and motivate children, young people and adults to achieve their potential. The Trust works in partnership with a range of Agencies to deliver its programmes and its main aims are to increase educational attainment, support education & training, encourage greater participation in sports, discourage anti-social behaviour, support Life Long Learning, raise awareness of the importance of health & well being and support social integration. As with the Community Office, the Sports Office works closely with the Trust to achieve common goals.

Community, Recreation and Amenities

Sports Conditioning Programme (Sportscon)

The Office continued its Sportscon programme in Primary Schools. Sportscon mainly targets children aged 6– 9 years and teaches basic sports skills in a way that allows them to excel at their own level. This has resulted in these children gaining confidence, increasing self esteem and concentrating better during class, as well as improving their sporting abilities. The Sportscon Coach, co-funded by County Dublin VEC, has the joint role of delivering the programme to children while also training the teachers, so as to enable them to incorporate Sportscon in their P.E. sessions. Sportscon training was also provided to Summer Project volunteer leaders.

School & Youth Sport

The Office has supported and resourced the Buntús, Soccer, Badminton, Basketball and Golf programmes in Primary Schools and has rolled out a number of Buntús Start programmes in pre-school settings. During 2009, the Office organised Soccer & Tag Rugby blitzes, an indoor cricket league, Primary School cross-country events and school badminton blitzes. Youth sport programmes for the year in Designated Areas included Futsal, Girls' soccer, and a Primary School swim programme. A Late Night Soccer initiative was run in four locations, aimed to encourage young adults to engage in positive pastimes. A "kidgloves" project, aimed 9 – 13 year old boys and girls, was run to introduce them to the sport of boxing. The Office was also responsible for the allocation of Youth Sports Grants from the Irish Sports Council.

Coach Education programme

The Office supported a range of National Governing Bodies Coach/Referee Education courses and Emergency Skills (first aid) training for volunteers. The Irish Sports Council's Code of Ethics & Good Practice for children's sport, and Children's Officer courses, were also run by the Office during the year.

Activity programmes

Activities run by the Office during 2009 included a number of older adult swim programmes, a pilot pitch and putt programme, a Ladies Morning Badminton club, a Traveller Participation programme and the Fingal Sprint Triathlon.

Joint-funded Sports Specific Development

The Office co-funds 5 Football in the Community Development Officers with the F.A.I., 1 Rugby Development Officer with the Leinster R.F.U., 1 part-time Tennis Development Officer, in conjunction with Tennis Ireland, and a Cricket Development Officer with the Irish Cricket Union.

Women in Sport

The Irish Sports Council jointly-funded programmes including a camogie blitz, Gaelic for Girls, Hip Hop dance and Exercise Energise - a Secondary Schools programme aimed at girls 12 -14 years who don't otherwise participate in sport and physical activities.

Community, Recreation and Amenities



Disability Sports

The Office delivered a “Be Active Be Inclusive” training programme, which provided sports and physical activity training to carers and volunteers working with people with disabilities.

Harmony Cup

This invitational soccer tournament, which was again run by the Council in 2009, had 4 categories - boys, girls, Special Olympics and Powerchair teams.

Networking and Strategy Development

The Office attended the Irish Sports Council Local Sports Partnership Network - Quarterly meetings and initiated a strategy review and the initial preparation of sports strategy for the County.

ARTS OFFICE

The role of the Council’s Arts Office is to encourage and supports cultural activity within Fingal.

Arts Grants

In 2009, the Arts Office awarded over €17,200 for Music, Drama, Visual Arts and Traditional Arts activities in the County. A total of €16,500 was awarded to Community Arts Festivals and Traditional Music Festivals.

A further €807,000 was awarded direct to the Council’s two Arts Centres, Draíocht in Blanchardstown, and the Séamus Ennis Cultural Centre, Naul. The total amount of funding allocated by the Office during the year was €1,791,900.

Cultural Centres

Fingal County Council continues to preserve cultural life and provide public access to the Arts in Fingal through the ongoing development of its two Arts Centres. Both Centres are owned and funded by the Council.

- Draíocht is a multi-purpose Arts venue, comprising two theatres, two galleries and meeting facilities. The Centre offers a full range of theatre, dance, Visual Arts events and community education and outreach programmes.
- The Séamus Ennis Cultural Centre, in Naul, is primarily a traditional arts venue, which aims to develop and maintain the unique traditions of Fingal and build on the legacy of Séamus Ennis. Both of these venues offered a range of opportunities to experience a broad variety of Arts activities in their local communities during 2009.

Community, Recreation and Amenities

Outreach and Education

A key objective of the Office is to provide equal access to Arts activity and encourage participation in all aspects of the Arts by communities in Fingal. In order to encourage wide participation in the Arts, the Office collaborates with schools, community groups and relevant statutory bodies to provide quality workshops and Artist-in-Residence programmes.

In 2009, research commenced into a Youth & Education Policy, involving widespread consultation.

Artist-in-Residencies: 4 twelve week projects and 4 academic year long projects in Dance, Drama and the Visual Arts took place during 2009.

Team Educational Theatre Company visited 5 post primary schools.

Photography Workshops took place in 4 Post-Primary schools, which culminated in an exhibition in Swords Castle in December 2009.

'Song School' delivered an interactive music course in 2 Post-Primary schools.

A Teacher Mentoring Programme in the Visual Arts took place in 2 primary schools.

Public Art

During 2009, a draft Public Art Policy was written, to outline best practice in commissioning and practical guidelines for its adaptation within the local authority. A core consultation seminar included input from a range of national and international practitioners.

Completed Public Art projects during 2009 were:

Tattered Outlaws of History (July/Aug) – artists Dan Dubowitz & Fearghus O'Conchúir. This film installation which took place in Skerries Martello Tower attracted much public and media attention.

Sending Letters to the Sea (Nov) – in which artist Mark Garry collaborated with a number of musicians to launch and release an album. The project culminated in a performance in St. Columba's Church, Swords.

Tree of Life (Dec) – artist Vincent Browne's work was installed in June in Grove Road, Blanchardstown and launched in December.



Community, Recreation and Amenities

Other Arts Office Initiatives during 2009 included:

Drawing Day: (April/May) programmed in partnership with the Youth and Education Officer at Farmleigh House.

During 2009, the 6th International Children's Arts Festival, Spréacha, took place at Draíocht. The Arts Office and Draíocht combined expertise and resources to plan this hugely successful event. International theatre companies from Europe headlined the event which took place in June to sell-out audiences.

In 2009, the 6th annual Amharc Fingal (The Fingal View) took place in Draíocht, featuring the work of two young Arts graduates from Fingal. The exhibition entitled 'Bright Beginnings' was curated and organised by the staff of the Arts Office, and went on display in Draíocht. The Graduate Show will now be an annual event, affording newly qualified artists the opportunity of having their works exhibited in Draíocht.

Integrated Community Facilities and Capital Projects Unit

During 2009, this Unit continued to play a driving role in promoting an awareness amongst developers of the importance and commercial benefits of ensuring that the sustainability of new communities, through facilities provision, are given sufficient thought in the preparation of plans.

To maximize the benefits from Development Levies for communities, the Unit exists to work closely with Planners, Developers, Government Departments, State Agencies and the general community.

The Division was also proactive in encouraging greater community access to and use of school facilities. In addition, the Division continues to play a very significant role in assisting the Dept. of Education & Science in the delivery of new school buildings by directly negotiating and acquiring a number of new sites in the county.

Community, Recreation and Amenities

LIBRARIES DIVISION

Fingal County Libraries are operated through eight full time branch libraries at Balbriggan, Baldoyle, Blanchardstown, Garristown, Howth, Malahide, Swords, and Skerries. The Mobile Library service visits 53 locations throughout the county on a weekly basis. Fingal County Libraries also provides a service to the Housebound. The Local Studies/Archives section was recently relocated to Clonmel House, Swords.

Usage of Libraries

	2008	2009	% change
Items borrowed	1,150,063	1201,342	+4.46%
Registered borrowers	86,200	88,616	+2.80%
Internet Usage hours	102,863	96,984	-5.72%
Website visits	31,196	33,571	+7.61%

Rush Library

The reconstruction and fitting out of St Maur's Church (pic right) to a public library is now finished.

It is hoped that the library will open in 2010.



Fingal Local Studies and Archives

On 19th August the Mayor of Fingal Mr. Ciaran Byrne opened the new facility for the Fingal Local Studies and Archives in Clonmel House, Swords. The move from Parnell Square to Swords has been anxiously anticipated by those in Fingal interested in researching the history of North County Dublin or their own family history and the new premises is proving very popular.



Colm McQuinn, Fingal County Archivist –
Councillor Ciaran Byrne Mayor of Fingal and
Dr David Craig, Director of National Archives

In November the service received a major boost with the donation of a significant collection of family papers from Ms Caroline Harlow and Ms Fiona Selway, the remaining members of the Hely-Hutchinson family, formally of Swords, Lissenhall, Donabate, Newport, Seafield and the Broadmeadow Estuary.

Community, Recreation and Amenities

The Hely-Hutchinson Collection will provide a fantastic resource for anyone interested in the history and heritage of Fingal.



Left to right: Colm McQuinn, Fingal County Archivist – Paul Harris, Fingal County Librarian – Ms Fiona Selway – Councillor Ciaran Byrne, Mayor of Fingal – Ms Caroline Harlow – Mr. Peadar Bates and Mr. David O'Connor, Fingal County Manager

Foreign Language Books

International residents living and working in Fingal continue to use our libraries and, to meet their needs, books are provided in a range of languages. This year 5760 adult and 1547 junior foreign language books were borrowed – the most popular language was Polish. This is a slight increase on 2008.

Europe Direct Centre

The Europe Direct Centre at Blanchardstown Library is a local link to Europe for the citizens of Fingal. It offers access to information, free of charge, on a broad range of topics using a dedicated PC, a free telephone service, leaflets, booklets and magazines.

Events 2009

3143 free events and activities were held in Fingal County Libraries in 2009. These included Book Clubs, Creative Writing Groups, Parent and Toddler Groups, Business Seminars, Photographic Groups, Competitions and Exhibitions.

Classes were held in Computers, Art, Languages, Genealogy, Music and Digital Photography.

Fingal Libraries participated in all the national library orientated events celebrated in 2009. These included Library Ireland Week, Seachtain Na Gaeilge, Bealtaine, Heritage Week, Children's Book Week and Science Week Ireland.

Readers and Writers Fest - Events included writing workshops, screenwriting workshops, a poetry reading and a readers' and writers' day covering different aspects of writing. It was very popular.

Community, Recreation and Amenities

Malahide Library celebrated its centenary in 2009 with a range of exhibitions, talks and seminars culminating with George Hook presenting his radio programme "Talk Time on Newstalk 106FM" from the library.

Bealtaine – This is an annual event celebrating creativity in the older age and continues to grow every year. In 2009 Fingal Libraries organized a Poetry Evening, Art Workshops and sessions on Flower Arranging.

Art classes in Blanchardstown

Children's Book Festival - This is a nationwide festival of reading and books and one of the most popular events of the year.

Creating a book in Garristown Library

Science Week Ireland – This promotes science subjects and helps create a greater awareness of the environment.



Snowy the owl awaiting a class visit at Malahide Library

		2009	2008	2007
L.1	Average number of public opening hours per week for full time libraries	48.93	48.93	46.1
	Average number of public opening hours per week for part time libraries (where applicable)	29	29	3
L.2	Number of registered library members as a % of the local population (2006 Census)	36%	36%	36%
	Number of items issued per head of population (county/city wide) for:			
	(a) Books	3.98	3.84	3.51
	(b) Other Items	1.03	0.97	0.87
L.4	% of Libraries that offer internet access to the public	100%	100%	88%
L.5	Number of internet sessions provided per 1,000 population	404.10	428.61	461.48
Local Indicators	Book fund expenditure per capita	7.18	5.83	6.63
	Visits by the public to Fingal Libraries	1,003,683	986,988	826,472
		+1.69%		

Community, Recreation and Amenities



PARKS DIVISION

The Parks Division is principally responsible for the planning, provision and maintenance of some 5,000 acres (2,000 Ha.) of public open space in Fingal. The Division manages regional and neighbourhood parks, historic houses and sporting facilities across the County.

The Division provides extensive recreational and leisure opportunities for Fingal's residents and visitors alike. It also maintains the median and boundary areas of much of the motorway network in the County. The Division also carries out an advisory/design services for other Council Departments as well as carrying out works when requested.

Achievements in 2009

Playgrounds - During 2009 a new playground and associated facilities were opened at Beech Park, Clonsilla

Councils Intoxicating Liquor Bye Laws - A total of 81 Fixed Payment Notices were issued under the Council's Intoxicating Liquor Byes

Bio-diversity information - Extensive works were carried out in the Forest of Fingal/Turvey Woods and preparation of a Biodiversity Plan for Fingal continued.

Tree Works - Full street tree planting programme has been completed during the winter works programme, as well as emergency and complaint based remedial works to existing trees. A new tree management system Ezy-Tree was expanded during 2009.

Santry Demesne - Works continued on the restoration of the Demesne including planting work and the walled garden.

Liffey Valley Regional Park - St. Catherine's Improvement Works. - Works were completed on the provision of new sports pitches in this park.

Malahide Demesne - A major grant aided improvement scheme was commenced at Malahide Demesne during 2009 which when completed will see significant improvements to the Castle, Botanic Gardens and Visitor Facilities.

Regional Parks Managed and Maintained:-

- Ardgillan Demesne, Balbriggan
- Malahide Demesne, Malahide
- Newbridge House and Demesne, Donabate
- Ward River Valley
- Tolka Valley
- Santry Demesne
- Liffey Valley Regional Park - St Catherine's

Community, Recreation and Amenities

Visitor Attractions Provided

A wide variety of visitor attractions are provided and managed by the Parks Department throughout the County. Malahide and Ardgillan Demesnes boast extensive botanical gardens. Guided tours of Fingals historical buildings are run regularly, along with traditional farms at Newbridge, and Frys Model Railway (managed with Dublin Tourism) at Malahide, and Skerries Mills Industrial Heritage Centre. A number of tearooms and coffee shops dotted throughout the County also provide a popular amenity for the local community and visitors alike.

Playgrounds

Major parkland playgrounds were provided and maintained in seven locations throughout Fingal, including Ardgillan Demesne, Santry Demesne, and Robswall Park, Portmarnock.

Sports Facilities

- A total of 175 pitches were maintained for a range of team sports including Hurling, Camogie, hockey, Gaelic, Soccer, Rugby and American football.
- 4 all-weather pitch facilities were available in Balbriggan, Skerries, Corduff, Blanchardstown and Broomfield, Malahide.
- Cricket grounds were provided at Malahide Demesne and at the Town Park, Balbriggan.
- A Bowling Green administered by the Skerries Bowling Club was in operation in the Town Park, Skerries.
- 46 tennis courts, 30 of which are floodlit, were maintained at many locations throughout the county

Golfing facilities

Golfing facilities are available at:-

- The Elmgreen Golf Centre, Castleknock (18 hole Golf Course, 18 hole Pitch & Putt Course and 24 Bay Driving Range)
- Corballis Golf Links, Donabate (public links golf course). Three new golf holes and a realigned 4th hole were opened to the public in May 2009.
- Malahide Demesne. (9 hole par 3 Golf Course and Pitch and Putt Course)



Community, Recreation and Amenities



Restoration Projects

Projects at:-

- Bremore Castle and Church yard, Balbriggan, in association with FÁS, the Skerries Development and Community Association and the Balbriggan Cultural and Heritage Society continued during 2009.
- Swords Castle, in association with FÁS and Swords Castle Restoration Committee, and the restored chapel was officially opened to the public.
- Anna Liffey Mills, Industrial Heritage Project

Tree Planting and Civic Decoration

- National Tree Week and National Tree Day events were organised in March with the continued co-operation of local schools and the Tree Council of Ireland.
- The annual programme of tree and shrub planting, seasonal bedding and street tree planting and maintenance was also carried out.
- Christmas Trees were provided at 15 locations and Christmas Tree Recycling facilities were provided countywide.

Development of Open Spaces

- The taking-in-charge and the basic and refined development of new open spaces continued throughout the year.

Events in Parks

A Shakespearean play was performed on the West Lawn of Malahide Demesne during the summer of 2009

Allotments

The Parks Division took over responsibility for the provision of public allotments during 2009 and 2 new sites were developed at Powerstown in Dublin 15 and at Turvey Avenue, Donabate. A total of 468 new allotments were provided at these locations.



1. CONSTRUCTION

There were a total of 160 new social housing units provided under our 2009 Construction Programme. This Programme also provided a further 29 affordable housing units giving a total of 189 units provided in the following schemes-

- Flemington, Balbriggan
- Garristown, Co Dublin
- Santry Demense, Dublin 9
- Oldtown, Co Dublin
- Moyclare, Baldoyle

Housing construction was ongoing at the following locations:-

- Oldtown, Co Dublin
- Main Street, Rush

73 Affordable/Shared Ownership housing units and 25 social units were provided under part V of the Planning & Development Acts 2002.

2. HOUSING STOCK

Rental

At 31st December 2009 the Council had 4,464 properties in its housing stock.

The rental income from these properties was €12,657,421.85, which was an increase of €295,795.15 on the previous year.

The net rental arrears were €883,220.90.

At 31st December 2009, 2,050 live mortgage accounts yielded payment of €13,919,789.



DOMVILLE WOODS,
SANTRY

Housing Department

3. ESTATE MANAGEMENT

A total of €5m revenue expenditure was incurred on response maintenance and general upkeep of the Councils Housing Stock and estates. 8852 maintenance requests were dealt with during 2009.

In addition 3,142 boilers are part of the Council's boiler servicing programme.

11 Tenant Induction Courses were held to assist housing applicants to settle into their new homes and communities.

Estate Management attended 61 Residents Association meetings during 2009.

Capital expenditure of €4.3m was incurred on planned maintenance programmes and other improvements such as:-

- Pre-Let Repairs completed in 119 dwellings.
- Central Heating installation and upgrading in 129 dwellings
- Insulation and Ventilation upgrading in 230 dwellings
- Painting and joinery works took place in 347 dwellings under the cyclical maintenance programme.

472 complaints of Anti-Social Behaviour were dealt with during 2009

4. ALLOCATIONS

A total of 465 dwellings were allocated (266 Social, 106 RAS and 91 Voluntary) to applicants from the housing list. There were 7,450 applicants on the housing list at 31/12/2009.

A total number of refusals of housing accommodation was 126 (Social Housing & RAS accommodation).

5. AFFORDABLE HOUSING

A total of 614 applicants were on the Affordable Housing List in December 2009.

302 affordable homes were sold in 2009, despite market conditions and the current economic climate.



6. RAS

106 Clients were accommodated through the scheme in 2009, this brings the total number of RAS tenants to 380.

Housing Department

7. HOUSING ADAPTATION GRANTS SCHEME FOR OLDER PEOPLE AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY

There were 205 private grants approved totalling €2,458,750.

8. TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION

The Council provided the following accommodation to Travellers:-

- Standard Housing 1
- Existing Group Houses 3
- Existing Halting Sites 5
- RAS 4
- New Group Scheme 10

Under Construction:- 10 Bay Halting Site at Barnlodge
10 Group House Scheme at Ardla, Skerries

Indicator	2009	2008	2007
H: Housing			
H.1 Housing Vacancies:			
Total number of dwellings in local authority stock	4,464	4,273	4,098
Overall % of dwellings that are let	98.53%	98.65%	97.83%
Overall % of dwellings that are empty	1.47%	1.35%	2.17%
% of empty dwellings subject to major refurbishment schemes	12.12%	0%	0%
% of empty dwellings unavailable for letting	84.85%	95%	98.2%
% of empty dwellings available for letting	15.15%	5%	1.8%
H.2 Average time taken to re-let dwellings available for letting			
	37 Days	34 Days	53 Days
H.3. Number of repairs completed as a percentage of the number of valid repair requests received			
	94%	98.15%	98.89%
H.4. Average time taken to inform applicants of local authority's decision on applications for:			
The shared ownership housing scheme	5.1 Days	26 Days	26 days
Housing loan schemes	15 Days	10.3 Days	No Applications Received

Housing Department

Local authority housing	70 Days	25 Days	25 Days
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H.5 Traveller Accommodation

Total number of traveller families accommodated as a percentage of the targets set in the local traveller accommodation programme	57%	78.3%	58%
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Rev: Revenue Collection

Rev.1 House Rent

(a) Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due	93.26%	94.07%	93.43%
(b) Percentage of arrears:			
4-6 weeks old	9.3%	9.24%	9.04%
6-12 weeks old	18.02%	13.57%	16.47%
More than 12 weeks old	59.69%	61.31%	60.2%

Rev. 2 Housing Loans

(a) Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due	96.59%	97%	96.69%
(b) Percentage of arrears:			
1 month old	10%	13%	12%
2-3 months old	4%	3%	2.5%
More than 3 months	86%	84%	85.5%





The Architects' Department provided architectural design, quantity surveyor, conservation, planning and building procurement services to all departments of the Council during 2009.



PROJECTS

Civic Buildings

Mountview Community/Recreation Centre –

The project commenced on site in 2008 and was completed 2009. A fit out contract was executed and the centre is now open.

Brackenstown Community/Recreation Centre

Part XI planning process was completed.

Fingal Sports Academy

Site feasibility studies were carried out for the project in 2008. A site in Lusk was selected and the Part XI planning process was completed.

Rush Library

Project started on site November 2007. Fit out contract was completed during 2009 and the library will open in 2010.

Schools Sites – Pilot projects – Enhanced facilities for Community usage

The department continued to liaise with the Community Recreation and Amenities Department to progress the development of schools projects in Fingal.

Malahide Castle

A consultant team was appointed to prepare tender documentation and design work for upgrading existing tourist facilities and gardens. The project is a joint one with Parks, Community and Architects.

Oldtown Community Hall

The upgrading and restoration of the building was completed.

Architects' Department

Fingal County Archive

The Fingal Archive service in Clonmel House, Forsters Way Swords was opened to the public in the autumn of 2009, after a fit out contract was designed, tendered and executed.

Shackleton's Mill

A contract for roof repairs was designed and procured during 2009.



Social & Affordable Housing completed

Address	No. Units	Unit Type	Completed / Handover
Clonmethan Green, Oldtown (BER A3) (Inc 1 specially adapted unit- BER A2)	35	Social & Affordable	2009
Dun Saithne (Flemington) Phase 2, Balbriggan	128	Mixed tenure	2009
Domville Woods, Santry Demesne	75	Mixed tenure	2009
Baskin Court and Baskin Park, Stockhole Lane, Cloghran	10	Traveller Acc	Nov 2009
Housing at School Lane (Pobalscoil Neassain) Baldoyle	44	Infill Scheme	2009
Moyclare Park, Baldoyle	7	Infill Scheme	2009
Improvements at Mourneview, Skerries (Ph. 1).	5	Pilot remedial works	2009
Purchases	9		2009
Part V Inspections	As requested		

Architects' Department

Housing projects currently under construction

Address	No. Units	Unit Type	Start Date	Completion date
Main Street, Rush	4	infill scheme	2008	2010
Ardla, Skerries	10	Traveller Accommodation	Dec 2009	Ongoing
New Road, Barn Lodge	10-bays	Traveller Accommodation	2009	Ongoing
NABCO Tyrellstown, D15	231	Mixed Tenure	2008	Ongoing
SONAS Main Street, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15	8	Voluntary Housing	2008	2010
Mourneview Skerries Remedial Works Scheme, (Ph. 1a)	1 bed units	Housing Stock	2009	Ongoing

Schemes in Preparation

Rowlestown

Tender documents in preparation.

Remedial Works Scheme at Mourneview Estate Skerries (Ph. 2).

Tender documents in preparation.

House at St, Cronan's Court, Swords

A single infill dwelling. Received Part XI approval in 2009.

Two houses at Fortlawn Avenue, Blanchardstown

Two houses on a corner site. Commenced Part XI procedure in 2009.

Cappagh Phase 1

Feasibility and project assessment sent to DoEHLG in 2009

Housing at The Naul, Co. Dublin

Feasibility and project assessment sent to DoEHLG in 2009

Infill at Tucketts Lane, Howth

Feasibility and project assessment sent to DoEHLG in 2009

House adaptations, extensions and small works

Thirty-eight Adaptations for persons with special needs were completed.
Four extensions were completed in different parts of the county.

Architects' Department

Housing Maintenance

The number of dwellings in the Council's stock as of December 2009 was 4464.

8822 maintenance requests were responded to during 2009, with a further 212 maintenance requests for the Traveller Accommodation Unit.

119 vacant houses were repaired prior to re-letting in 2009.

External painting and repairs were carried out to 607 dwellings.

The Council's Central Heating Installation, and Insulation and Ventilation Programmes continued through 2009.

Central heating boiler maintenance was carried out in 2098 houses.

Tenant induction courses were held, for housing applicants moving into their new homes during 2009.

Building Energy Rating (BER)

The Architect's Department is a registered assessor for Building Energy Ratings. In 2009 it provided BER certificates for 185 dwellings directly and 879 dwellings through external assessors.

As well as the above, the department offers services or advice on the following:

- Mapping services -The Architects Department provided a mapping service for affordable and tenant purchase houses on request.
- Way leaves -210 way leave reports were carried out.

Dangerous Buildings

18 new dangerous building inspection files were opened in 2009. 300/350 inspections / re-inspections also carried out in 2009

Conservation

Advice provided on an ongoing basis to the Planning Department in relation to protected structures and planning applications.

Number of grant applications processed	13
Number of Declaration Requests	3
Number of protected structures listed	798
Number of Compliance files	14

Architects' Department

Record of Protected Structures - Ongoing review of record of protected structures.

The Conservation Office has worked with other Council Departments throughout the year, advising on the management of Historic and Protected Structures in the Councils ownership, and participating in the Heritage Forum. The Office also project managed ongoing restoration works at the Metal Bridge at Strawberry Beds, D15.

PLANNING

Architectural Reports -

The Department has written reports on architectural content in respect of significant private developments being proposed in the County and taken part in pre planning meetings on request from the Planning Department.

Draft Development Plan 2011-2017

The department has participated in the preparation of the Draft Development Plan for the County.



The Transportation Department is responsible for the efficient management or movement of people, vehicles, animals and goods in a safe, efficient, economical manner from place to place within Fingal via the public road network system.

The management of Fingal County Council's Transportation Department is in line with policy documents including the National Development Plan 2007-2013, DTO Strategy 2000-2016, Transport 21, and current Fingal County Council Development Plans and Strategies.

The main pieces of enabling legislation are:

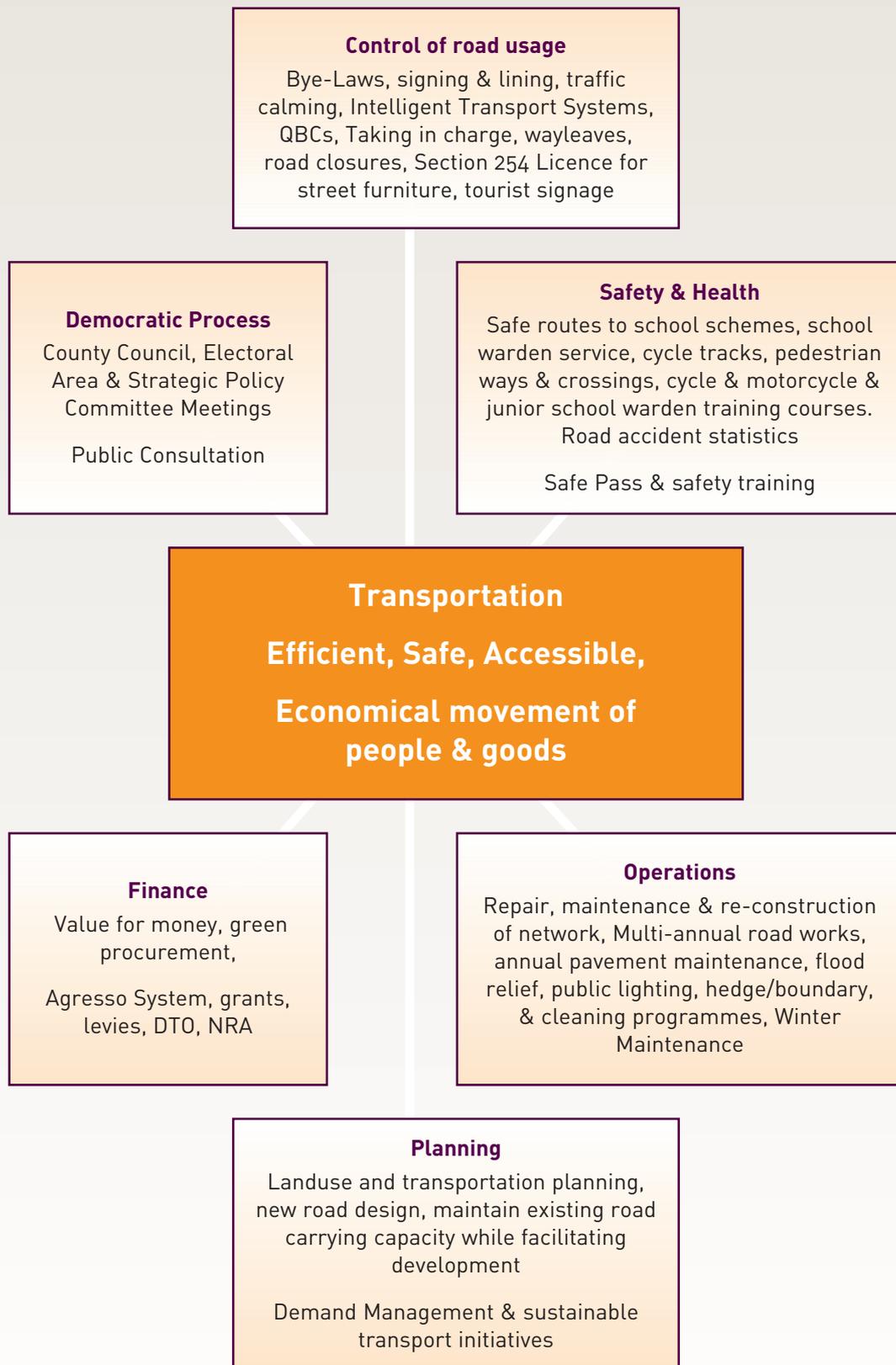
- Roads Act 1993 - 2007
- Road Traffic Acts 1961 to 2008
- Local Government(Planning & Development) Act 2000 - 2007



TRANSPORTATION PROCESS/RANGE OF SERVICES

The Transportation Department provides a wide range of services for the County of Fingal, including the design and construction of new roads, the improvement, maintenance and lighting of existing roads, the implementation of traffic management measures and the operation of a road safety section and school warden service. The Transportation Department acts as an agent for the National Roads Authority (NRA) for the management of the National Road Network which includes the M1, M2 and M3 motorways, in Fingal. The Department is also responsible for the taking in charge of roads, temporary and permanent closures of roads, the making of Bye-laws relating to roads and related areas (e.g. speed limits, parking places etc.).

Transportation Department



Transportation Department

Road Design and Construction.

This Section is responsible for the preparation of the detailed designs and contract documentation for major road schemes throughout the County.

Construction works continue on the Ballycoolin – Cappagh Road Improvement Scheme. This scheme is due to be completed in mid 2010.

Schemes for which Environmental Impact Statements are being compiled for submission to An Bord Pleanála include;

- R132 Upgrade works at Airport
- Donabate Distributor Road
- Mayne Road Realignment Scheme



Traffic and Planning Control

The Traffic Section deals with a wide range of traffic control, traffic planning and traffic management issues,

- Forward planning of Transportation and Roads Issues, which includes the maintenance of the carrying capacity of the Roads Network.
- Assessing Transportation issues and providing recommendations for the County Development Plan and associated Local Area Plans
- Assessment of transport implications of planning applications
- Travel Demand Management, the basic principle of which is to promote sustainable alternatives to the use of the car, i.e. park and ride facilities, walking, cycling and mobility management plans etc.
- Provision and maintenance of traffic signals
- Signing and paint marking/lining of road network.

Transportation Department

- Traffic calming and management schemes, where the objective is to improve pedestrian safety, ease traffic congestion, improve accessibility for mobility impaired road users, and effectively manage parking.
- Facilitating the provision of the Quality Bus Network (QBC) for the Dublin Transportation Office (DTO)

Traffic Elements in 2009

	Details
Traffic Signals	96 (86 on Remote Monitoring System)
Pedestrian Signals	81 (75 on Remote Monitoring System)
Toucan Crossings	17 (11 on Remote Monitoring System)
School Warning Signals	18
Zebra Crossings	3
Traffic Counters	14 (all on Remote Monitoring System)
Bus Gates	2

Quality Bus Network

- N3 Inbound QBC – completed in March 2009
- Ballycoolin Bus Gate – completed in June 2009
- Blakestown Way QBC – became operational in November 2009
- Castleknock QBC Schemes – at tender stage
- Huntstown Way QBC – at detailed design stage
- R132 North of Swords QBC – at public consultation stage
- Fingal Cycle Parking Scheme - 4 schools completed during 2009.

Pay and Display

The Pay and Display Schemes for the towns of Malahide, Balbriggan, Skerries and Swords and Rush continued to operate effectively.

Planning Control Section

The Planning Control Section is concerned with the Forward Planning and Planning Control of Transportation, Roads Matters and the Roads Network. The section contributes to the Fingal County Council Development Plan, Local Area Plans as well as Planning Control. The section dealt with 1197 files in 2009.

Transportation Department

TRANSPORTATION OPERATIONS

The Roads Maintenance Section operating from Depots at Balbriggan, Swords and Coolmine undertook an extensive Programme of Works throughout 2009 comprising resurfacing, surface dressing, strengthening, drainage and flood relief works, remedying defects arising from wear and tear and pot-hole repairs on the county roads most in need of repair. Winter maintenance is an integral part of the operations programme, spanning from the beginning of November to the end of April. A system of Thermal Mapping has been undertaken on the Main road network and based on readings from strategically located weather stations along the routes, which is fed into the computer system, the local authority carries out precautionary salting/gritting accordingly.

Building Control Section

The primary purpose of Building Regulations is to provide for the health, safety and welfare of people in and around buildings. In addition, the building regulations make provision for the special needs of disabled persons in relation to buildings and for the conservation of fuel and energy.

Under the Building Control Act, 1990 - 2007 the Council is obliged to monitor and carry out inspections in respect of all new developments. The inspection and enforcement powers conferred on Fingal Building Control Authorities are essentially supplementary to the primary statutory obligations of the persons in ownership of, designing and constructing these buildings.

Fingal Building Control Section carries out random inspections of buildings and if necessary, the related design plans, to promote compliance with the Building Regulations.

In 2009 the core issues were;

- Commencement Notices, 37% of individual buildings were inspected as a percentage of commencement notices received
- Enforcement.
- Inspections – Building Regulations Part A to Part M of Public and Private Buildings.
- Building Energy Regulations monitoring
- Sound Compliance
- Taking in charge or taking into maintenance of roads, buildings and services
- Promotion of good practice in building.
- Implementing the strategy and protocol for taking in charge
- Disabled persons grants, assessment and recommendations of applications.

In 2009, 25 estates comprising of approximately 2046 dwellings, and 16km of roads, were taken into the charge of Fingal County Council.

Transportation Department

Fingal County Council and the National Disability Strategy

The Disability Act, 2005 strengthened Fingal County Council's commitment to serving its customer. The Council adopted the Barcelona Declaration in 2002. The promoting of social inclusion, universal accessibility, encouraging the creation by means of good design of a safe and barrier-free environment, which is easily negotiable by all our customers is embedded throughout Fingal County Council's Development Plan 2005-2011.

Another core objective of the Council's Development Plan is to enforce the Building Regulations, 1991, (as amended) and ensure that developments meet the requirements of the guidelines "Buildings for Everyone", published by the National Disability Authority, August 2002.

Accessibility Works for 2009

During 2009 "Fingal Access for All" group met 5 times to promote the objectives set in the "Fingal County Council Implementation Disability Plan 2008 – 2010".

Projects completed in 2009:

- Ardgillan Demesne – footpath works and cycle route including accessible ramp into Rose Garden
- Corduff Playground – complete upgrading of accessible play equipment
- Portmarnock Beach – access to beach for disabled users

38 Minor Accessible Works were completed to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities. These disabilities included physical, cognitive, sensory, aging etc,

Mechanical and Electrical Division

The Mechanical Section managed a fleet of 253 vehicles and plant associated with Road Maintenance, Water Services and Environmental services in 2009 and carried out its own vehicle repair service from depots at Swords and Coolmine. The section was also responsible for the maintenance of water and drainage pumping stations and treatment plants.

During 2009, the Electrical Section managed the maintenance of 31,823 public lights throughout Fingal.

Transportation Department

Road Safety Section

Managing and maintaining the School Warden Programme is an important aspect of the Road Safety Programme. 90 fulltime and 26 reserve wardens were employed in 2009.

- Recruitment, training, supervision and administration of Adult School Wardens
- Training and supervision of pupils involved in junior school warden service
- Maintenance and upkeep of school crossing paint markings
- Inspection and maintenance of school crossing street furniture and signage
- Ensuring all crossings comply with the legislative requirements and best practice
- Annual school warden training seminar



Road Safety in the County in 2009 continued through:

- Schools competition, art competition on road safety, judging and prize giving
- Production of information/campaign materials, leaflets, armbands, rulers and pencils with the safety message
- Motorcyclist Training Courses / Pedal Cyclist training course
- Construction of cycle shelters in schools with grant aid from DTO
- Educational talks in schools
- Junior school warden training course
- Road Safety Week, Walk to School Day
- Road Safe Road Show in Helix Theatre for transition year students
- Promotion of the safe routes to schools and walking bus multi-agency approach
- Gardaí
- DTO
- School teachers
- Road Safe Road Show in Helix Theatre for transition year students
- Bike for your Breakfast mornings in schools
- Cycle and motorcycle events during Community Safety Week
- COW and WOW days during Green Week

Transportation Department

Key Statistics

Road length by category	2009	2008	2007
National Roads including Motorways	60km	60km	60km
Regional Roads	225km	225km	225km
Local Roads	976km	960km	927km

Transportation Administration

During 2009, the Administration Section also dealt with:

	2009	2008	2007
Wayleave/ Communications, Applications Road Opening Licence Applications	392	219	636
Temporary Road Closure Applications	21	28	31
Taking in Charge Certificate Applications	303	406	466
Abnormal Load Permit Applications	565	771	774
Pay and Display Applications: Residents permits, Visitor's discs, Special permits (Malahide, Skerries, Balbriggan, Swords)	754	847	778

Service Indicators

	2009	2008	2007
Cost per sq. m for surface dressing roads	€5.2	€5.2	€6
Percentage of Local and Regional Roads surface dressed (Per square metre of road)	1.1%	2.0%	3.4%



Waste Recycling & Disposal

The Council operates a three bin kerbside collection service (Dry Recyclables, Organic Waste & Residual Waste), 2 recycling centres and a network of 73 bottle banks.

Kerbside Dry Recyclable Collection (Green Bin).

- During 2009 a fortnightly green bin collection was provided to all Fingal County Council customers.
- Acceptance of paper, cardboard, tetra packs, aluminium cans, steel cans and plastics.
- Cost of providing service in 2009 €2.64 million.

	2009 (Tonnes)	2008 (Tonnes)
Total Shipped in Green Bin	15,064	14,315
Newspapers & Magazines	5,952	5,497
Cardboard & Paper	4,768	6,866
Aluminium Cans	190	73
Steel Cans	360	179
Tetra Pak	76	14
Plastic	610	73

117 Schools serviced with a fortnightly dry recyclable collection.

4,784 apartments serviced with a weekly dry recyclable collection.

Organic Waste kerbside collection (Brown Bin)

Composters sold at a subsidised rate to householders in Fingal County Council.

- €32 for standard compost bin.
- €64 for a rotating compost bin.

4,301 composters sold up to end of year 2009.

- The countywide rollout of the brown bin collection service was completed during 2009. Tonnage collected through the brown bins throughout 2009 totalled 16,785 tonnes.

Residual Waste Kerbside Collection

- Collection of household waste for disposal in landfill by way of the black bin collection system from customers availing of the Fingal bin collection service

Environment, Economic and Social Development

Annual Household Waste charging System

- Encouragement of householders to minimise the volume of waste produced – “Pay by Volume”.
- Adherence to the “Polluter Pays Principle”.
- €8 each time 240L bin is presented for collection.
- €4 each time 140L bin is presented for collection.
- Continuation of the annual charge of €110 per annum.
- Waiver scheme in operation (10,216 Waivers Issued in 2009).



Recycling Centres and Bottle Banks

The Council operate two recycling centres (Estuary & Coolmine) and a network of 73 bottle banks throughout the county. The following table give tonnages of weights collected in 2009. Balbriggan Recycling Centre which was managed by FMW Recycling Ltd on behalf of the Council was closed in June 2009. The Council withdrew funding of this operation due to the low volume of material collected at the site compared to the cost and due to the expansion of the material accepted in the Green Bin dry recyclable collection.

	2009 (Tonnes)	2008 (Tonnes)
Glass	5327	5169
Plastic packaging	127	279
Cardboard	335	450
Alu cans	26	33
Food Tins	6	10
Mixed Paper	224	344
Tetra Pak	10	26
WEEE (include fridges)	1486	1813
Clothes	393	483
Bric a brac Enable Ireland for resale / reuse	23	25
Wood	1196	1290
Metal	390	503
Bulky Waste	1746	2017
Green Waste	1185	1754
C&D	1126	1053

Environment, Economic and Social Development

Gypsum / plasterboard	6	36
Lead Acid batteries	44	52
Primary Batteries	7	6.6
Engine Oil	18	27
Gas Cylinder	4	4.1
Household Hazardous Waste: paint & related	166	160
Household Hazardous Waste: medicines	1	1
Household Hazardous Waste: cleaners / detergents	1	1.5
Household Hazardous Waste: pesticides / herbicides	1	1.2
Cooking Oil	6	
Aerosols (estimated, 1drum = 30kg)	3	3.5
Landfilled*	N/A	3967
TOTALS	13,857	19,512.4

* Balleally civic amenity which closed in 2008

Household Waste Collection Service. (Bulky Waste Collection)

953 households availed of the service in 2009. This service was discontinued from the 1st July 2009.

Waste Electronic and Electrical Equipment

Implementation of the Waste Electronic & Electrical Equipment (WEEE) Regulations 2005, This requires inspection of premises to ensure retailers are complying with the regulations and the acceptance of WEEE at Recycling centres free of charge (Household WEEE and WEEE from registered retailers).

	2009	2008
WEEE accepted at Recycling Centres	1486 tonnes	1813 tonnes
Above on Per Capita basis	6.19 kg/person	7.55 kg/person
WEEE collected from retailers by ERP*	615 tonnes	692 tonnes

*ERP is the European Recycling Platform the approved compliance scheme for Fingal

The number of retail premises registered under WEEE regulations have dropped from 276 in 2008 to 233 in 2009.

Environment, Economic and Social Development

WASTE INFRASTRUCTURE

Landfill

- Ballyally Landfill in compliance with waste licence issued by the Environmental Protection Agency.
- The volume of waste disposed of at the landfill is down due to the roll out of the brown bin and the reduction in the volume of commercial waste
- An Bord Pleanála gave consent to the development of a new landfill at The Nevitt, Lusk and approved the compulsory purchase order in October 2009. A second oral hearing on the waste licence application was held in March 2009 however the Environmental Protection Agency have not made a decision on the waste licence by the year end.



Kilshane Cross Recycling Park.

- The tender process for the development of a biological waste treatment plant at both Kilshane and Ballyogan was terminated in June 2009 due to value for money concerns. The 4 Dublin Authorities are examining whether one larger plant at Kilshane using alternative procurement methods would provide value for money.

Enforcement of Waste Management Act and Regulations

- 8 separate prosecutions for breach of the Waste Management Acts 1996 were successful in 2009 with fines and costs of approx €15,000 being imposed by the Courts.
- 80 businesses were inspected for compliance with the Waste Management (Packaging) Regulations, 2003.
- 20 Companies registered as self-compliers in 2009.
- 2 Waste Permits and 1 Certificate of Registration was granted in 2009 for waste recovery facilities under the Waste Management (Facility Permit and Registration) Regulations, 2007-2008.
- 3145 movements of hazardous waste consignments monitored and tracked in accordance with the Waste Management (Movement of Hazardous waste) Regulations, 1998.

Repak Awards

Fingal County Council was a finalist in the 'Local Authority of the Year 2009' award at the Repak Awards during National Recycling Week. Fingal County Council was awarded for significant achievements in the areas of recycling, environmental awareness, enforcement and innovation. Fingal County Council is the only local authority in the country to have been a finalist for this award every year since the awards scheme was introduced in 2002 and is the first local authority to have won the 'Local Authority of the Year' award twice, having previously been given this award in 2008 and 2003.

Environment, Economic and Social Development

Environmental Awareness

Activities in 2009 include

- Ongoing Public Awareness Campaign to promote and encourage household, business and youth waste reduction and recycling.
- Household Composting & Recycling Seminars and Information.
- An Taisce Green Schools Programme - 63 Green Schools in Fingal in 2009, 10 first flags awarded. A total of 122 flags, have been awarded to Fingal schools.
- An Taisce National Spring Clean.
- Repak National Recycling Week.
- Environmental articles published in each edition of Fingal News.
- LA Environmental Partnership Fund - awarded a total of €29,233 in 2009 to 11 local environmental projects.
- Education Programme continued in the Estuary Recycling Centre with 3 schools visiting in 2009.
- Anti Litter and Graffiti calendars compiled from winning entries submitted by Fingal County Council primary and secondary school students.
- Earth Day Presentations held in local business
- Launch and promotion of the Gum Litter Taskforce initiative aiming to reduce the amount of chewing gum litter.
- 15 Sustainable Energy Ireland workshops facilitated for local schools
- Attendance at the Citi Group Expo to promote environmental awareness among their staff members living within Fingal County Council.
- 3 radio interviews with local stations on waste minimisation and reduction.



Litter Control

The Litter Management Section is responsible for road sweeping, litter picking, fly tipping removal, and emptying and replacement of litter bins. 1,397 fines were issued in 2009. 10 abandoned vehicles and 27 burned out vehicles were removed in 2009. Additionally 84 residents availed of our service to have their end-of-life vehicle removed.

Air Quality Control

This service is provided on an agency basis by the Health Service Executive (HSE).

5 air monitoring stations in Fingal measure air quality. Sulphur Dioxide, Smoke, PM10, Nitrogen Dioxide, Carbon Monoxide, Benzene & Lead are measured. These are located at Cloghran, Swords, Malahide Balbriggan and Blanchardstown.

Environment, Economic and Social Development

A new Regional Air Quality Management Plan has been adopted in conjunction with Dublin City Council, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council and South Dublin County Council. Measurements to date indicate all targets in the Plan are generally met

88 complaints were received in 2009.



Noise Control

- Complaints investigated by Environmental Health Officers.
- Notices served where necessary.
- Non-compliance with Notice results in legal proceedings.
- 189 complaints received in 2009.
- Residential complaints dealt with directly by householder in District Court under Section 108 of the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992.

Burial Grounds

- 34 Burial Grounds operated and maintained by the Environment Department.
- The statutory process for the development of the new burial ground at Flemington, Balbriggan commenced in late 2009.

Beaches & Bathing Water

- 48 kilometres (30 miles) of coastline in Fingal.
- 9 designated beaches considered to be valuable recreational facilities.
 - o Balbriggan, Skerries South, Loughshinny, Rush South, Portrane, Donabate, Malahide, Portmarnock, Sutton (Burrow Road).
 - o Beach cleaning.
 - o Access facilities.
 - o Regular monitoring of seawater samples carried out to ensure compliance with EU Regulations.
- 50 lifeguards employed at 11 stations from June to early September 2009.

Dogs & Horses

- 177 horses impounded at the Council's pound in 2009.
- 387 dogs seized and 174 surrendered to the Dog Pound in 2009.
- 3,813 dogs licensed in Fingal in 2009.

Harbours

Re-pointing of the harbour walls at Balbriggan was carried out during the year.

Environment, Economic and Social Development

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL RECYCLING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT ENVIRONMENT PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 2009

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	2009	2008	2007
Waste Arisings (WA) and Recycling			
Tonnage Household Waste to Landfill	37,789	54,458	61,216
Tonnage Household Recycled	29,325	27,839	25,637
Tonnage Composted (Brown Bin)	16,785	9,481	3,589
Domestic WA from household (landfill & recycling)	83,899	91,778	90,442
% Domestic Waste Recycled	55	41	32
Waste Management Resources (LA)			
No. Civic Amenity	2	3	4
No. Bring Banks	73	77	79
Households with Green Bins	65,301	86,600	86,093
Litter Enforcement			
No. Litter Wardens	6	6	6
No. Litter Fines issued	1,397	1,180	1,141
No. Litter Fines Paid	708	712	687
Total Value Litter Fines Paid	€109,260	€107,220	€99,225
Litter Pollution			
% Litter Free	N/A	3.55	N/A
% Slightly Littered	N/A	63.45	N/A
% Moderately Littered	N/A	30.97	N/A
% Significantly Littered	N/A	2.03	N/A
% Grossly Littered	N/A	0	N/A
Environmental Complaints			
Total Number of Complaints	4511	4240	4708
No. of complaints investigated	4189	3943	4350
No. of Enforcement Procedures Taken	72	80	85

Environment, Economic and Social Development

Waste Packaging Regulations (e.g. packaging or permit regs)

No. Businesses member of Repak	342	355	321
No. Self Compliant Businesses (to Fingal County Council)	20	21	18

Schools Participating in Environmental Programmes

% of Primary Schools with Green Flags	82	78	79
% of Secondary Schools with Green Flags	92	83	91
No. Blue Flag Beaches	0	1	2

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

Fingal County Council Industrial Parks

Damastown Industrial Park	38 firms operating within the Park. An additional 18 hectares available for disposal.
Coolmine Industrial Estate	55 small firms operating within 12.14 hectares.
Cappogue Industrial Lands	13 hectares of land available for disposal.
Stephenstown Industrial Park, Balbriggan	7 Companies operating within the Park. Urban Design Plan is currently being prepared in accordance with the Stephenstown, Cloghader, Clonard Local Area Plan. 10 acres of General Industry Lands available for disposal.
Bay Business Park, Balbriggan	Passport Office, Bridgestone Ireland, and 22 other own door units within the Park.
College Business & Technology Park	Joint venture with I.D.A.Ireland. The Institute of Technology, Digiweb and a crèche operate within the 93.07 hectare park.
Lanistown, Turvey	40 hectares of Industrial land on the R132 within 1 kilometre of the M1 at Lissenhall. TESCO operating major logistics centre.

Enterprise Centres

Two Enterprise Centres currently operate in Parslickstown and Balbriggan providing start up business and training facilities. New Enterprise Centre is currently under construction in Drinan, Swords which is due for completion in April 2010.



Environment, Economic and Social Development

Promotion of Tourism

Financial support by the Council to the administration and operation of Fingal

Tourism and Dublin Tourism was continued through its membership on the board of Fingal Tourism and participation in a programme of trade and consumer fairs, in-store promotions, targeted advertising, public relations and direct mailing campaigns and tourism guides. www.fingaldublin.ie

Economic Planning /Marketing and Promotion

Metro North Economic Corridor

- The Economic Development Division continued the implementation of the recommendations of the Economic Development Strategy for the Metro North Economic Corridor. The Strategy identifies the long term economic development opportunities that will arise from the construction of Metro North. The Corridor comprises the one kilometre of lands on either side of the proposed Metro North Line, and includes the areas of Lissenhall, Swords, Dublin Airport and the City Fringe. The strategy is informing future policy decisions for the area.
- The Economic Development Division carried out numerous marketing campaigns that promoted Fingal as a business friendly location. The division also continued its support of the Fingal Day of Enterprise which proves very popular with existing small businesses and those considering setting up new businesses in Fingal.
- The first Fingal Business Forum event was held in May 2009, where the Managing Directors of Fingal's 100 largest employers met with the Fingal County Manager and senior representatives from the larger State Agencies including IDA Ireland, Enterprise Ireland, FÁS, Institute of Technology Blanchardstown and Dublin City University. The proceeds of this event will inform future economic policy decisions. Fingal County Council continues to work with the skills and education sector in devising a suitable and appropriate Skills Strategy for the county.
- **Commercial Property Listing:**
The web-based Fingal Commercial Property Listing continued to prove popular with Fingal businesses. The listing is a free service to Fingal businesses, and lists Commercial and Enterprise space, Industrial Units and Lands available to rent, lease or buy in Fingal. This database is available through the Fingal County Council and www.fingalworks.ie websites to help businesses find space suitable to their requirements.

Environment, Economic and Social Development

- **Fingalworks Website:**

A new website called www.fingalworks.ie was launched during September. www.fingalworks.ie is an online resource providing information for jobseekers, business start-ups, existing businesses, investors and those with an interest in doing business or living in Fingal. The site was launched with the cooperation of the Department of Social & Family Affairs, IDA Ireland, Enterprise Ireland, Fingal County Enterprise Board and many of the education and business support agencies in Fingal. Initial feedback has been extremely positive. www.fingalworks.ie provides Fingal specific information on social welfare, redundancy, business finance, training, mentoring, feasibility studies and research and development in an easy to access format.



European Section

The Edge Cities Network

Fingal County Council continues to participate and add value to the Edge Cities Network which has brought together towns and cities on the edge of major European capitals since 1996. The ongoing aim of the network is to share economic and social solutions to challenges within member locations.

AIREA Project:

An Airport Regions Conference AIREA project - Airport Regions E-Learning Academy was successfully completed in 2009. The project funded under the EU Funding Programme developed a new and improved pan-European range of vocational training options for the aviation logistics and airport related industries. Its partners were drawn from Sweden, Latvia, Ireland and Spain.

Dangerous Structures/Places/Derelict Sites

66 properties rendered safe/non-derelict in 2008

No properties were entered in the Derelict sites register at the 31st December 2009



PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The number of planning applications received was 1340, (of which 191 were declared invalid). This represents a decrease of 40% on the 2008 figure.

DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2011-2017

Preparation of the Fingal Development Plan is one of the most important functions of a County Council. The Development Plan provides the strategic framework for all new development in the County over the period of the plan, for the protection and enhancement of the County's amenities, and for the co-ordination of infrastructural provision with existing and future land use.

The review process provides that members of the public, service providers and other organisations and bodies can now make submissions prior to the preparation of draft development plans. This earlier involvement provides the potential for all of the stakeholders with an interest in the development of the County – residents, service providers, visitors, investors etc. – to have a greater sense of ownership of the finished product, the new Fingal County Development Plan.

The Pre-Draft consultation stage ran from 1st May 2009 to 26th June 2009. A plain language document entitled "Your Fingal – The Future Is In Your Hands" was published. A new web enabled system was created on our website to enable submissions to be submitted through our website. A total of 553 submissions were received during the pre-draft consultation period, including 118 web submissions (20% approx).

The Manager's Report was given to the elected members on the 21 August 2009; this also included the Manager's opinion on the main issues raised and his policy recommendations. The Members then considered the Manager's Report at Special Meetings of the Council on 20th October, 2009 and 21st October, 2009. At the Special Meetings, the Manager's Report was agreed and the Elected Members issued Directions to the Manager in the preparation of the Draft Plan.

The preparation of the Draft Development Plan 2011-2017 is now in progress and will be put on public display from 2nd April 2010 to 11th June 2010, when members of the public will have another opportunity to make submissions regarding the Draft Plan.



Planning Development

Variations of the County Development Plan in 2009

Lusk	Consolidate the planned growth and protect and enhance the area	09/03/09
Cloghran	To facilitate the development of a stepdown/nursing care facility	14/12/09

Local Area Plans adopted in 2009

Local area plans for Lusk, Kenure (Rush), Streamstown (Malahide), and Hacketstown were adopted in 2009.

The following Non-Statutory reports were produced in 2009

Swords MasterPlan
Blanchardstown Town Centre
Wind Energy Strategy
Howth Urban Centre Strategy

Building Control

A total of 212 applications for Fire Safety Certificates were received and dealt with during the year.

Commencements Notices were received in respect of 520 developments.

Road naming and numbering schemes were received and approved in respect of 10 schemes.

Bonds and Contributions

Planning and Development Act 2000 – Section 48 Development Contribution Scheme

- A sum of €12.17 million was collected under the Scheme and phasing arrangements are either agreed or under negotiation in respect of all live applications as provided for by legislation.
- A total of 110 warning letters were issued in 2009 for the non-payment of development levies.

Outside Bodies

In the course of the year the Council was represented by Planning Department staff on the following outside bodies:

- Regional Planning Guidelines Technical Working Group
- Airport Regions Conference (ARC), comprising local authorities of the European Union and the Accession States having major airports located in their area. The President of the ARC is currently held by Fingal County Council.

Planning Development

- Dublin Regional Group – 2030 Strategy Integration.
- School Liaison Committee - Department of Education and Science.
- North Fringe Development Forum – Dublin City Council and Fingal County Council

Fingal Heritage Plan

The Heritage Plan is a five year action plan which deals with all aspects of our heritage including our wildlife, coast and countryside, our architectural heritage, our archaeology, our local history and culture. The plan is prepared in conjunction with the Fingal Heritage Forum, and in consultation with the public. The work was adopted by the Council in July 2005.

A total of €114,000 was spent by the Council on Heritage Plan projects in 2009. The Council also successfully competed for and received funding of over €35,000 from The Heritage Council. The implementation of the Plan is led by the Council's Heritage Officer.

During 2009 work was undertaken on a wide range of projects including the following:

Heritage Plan Projects 2009

1. **Assessing Fingal's Archaeological Resource.** This project seeks to provide a comprehensive archaeological information database for Fingal. This will complement the statutory Record of Monuments and Places (RMP). Work is ongoing at present and due for completion by end March 2010.
2. **Coastal Architectural Heritage Project.** This project aims to identify and describe previously un-recorded buildings and structures of heritage value at the land-sea interface along the entire coastline of the County. The project will be completed in early 2010.
3. **Management Plan for the Bog of the Ring.** Located approximately 5 km south-west of Balbriggan in north Fingal, It is one of only two remaining large freshwater wetland sites in Fingal, and is a proposed Natural Heritage Area (pNHA). This project seeks to put in place a Management Plan for this important wetland site in a 2 year process. In year 1 (2009) an ecological assessment of the site has been undertaken to establish a current baseline and historical data has been analysed to better understand how the site has changed in the past.
4. **Heritage Appraisal of the emerging Fingal Development Plan 2011-2017** Fingal County Council, in partnership with The Heritage Council, has engaged consultants to undertake a Heritage Appraisal of the Draft Fingal Development Plan 2011-2017. A review of the current Development Plan has been completed and this analysis will inform the preparation of the Draft County Development Plan. The Draft Development Plan will also be subject to the same process in 2010.
5. **Heritage Week:** The Council also supported Heritage Week in the county by providing limited support to a number of groups to run events and by advertising events taking place in the county in the local press.



Planning Development

6. **Axes, Warriors & Windmills:** Recent Archaeological Discoveries in North Fingal was published in 2009. This grew from a Seminar of the same name held in Balbriggan in 2007, and describes the results of recent exciting discoveries in Fingal. The book was edited by Fingal's Field Monuments Advisor, Christine Baker.



PLANNING DEPARTMENT PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Performance Indicators 2007	2009	2008	
New Applications Registered	1340 (191 invalid)	2235 (471 invalid)	2584 (480 invalid)
Number of Applications Determined	1320	2116	2241
% of Grants	80%	75%	82%
% of Refusals	20%	25%	18%
% Determined within 2 months	72%	75%	73%
Number of A applications received	1028 (139 invalid)	1474 (326 invalid)	1726 (336 invalid)
Number of B applications received	312 (52 invalid)	761 (145 invalid)	858 (144 invalid)

Enforcement Statistics

Enforcement	2009	2008	2007
Total number of cases subject to complaints that are investigated	466	456	597
Total number of cases subject to complaints that are dismissed	236	323	128
Number of enforcement procedures taken through warning letters	223	280	333
Number of enforcement procedures taken through enforcement notices	85	104	137
Number of prosecutions (District – 157) (High Court/Circuit 160)	27 (23) (4)	28 (19) (9)	39 (29) (10)



RECRUITMENT

Fingal County Council employed 1476 staff (FTE) at the 31/12/2009 as detailed in the following table:-

	Permanent	Temporary	Total
Administration	543	3	546
Professional	137	6	143
Technical	187	7	194
Craft	81	-	81
General Workers	506	6	512
Total	1,454	22	1,476

Total of 6 Recruitment competitions held in 2009.

RETIREES

101 staff retired in 2009. Of these, 23 retired under the Incentivised Scheme of Early Retirement.

TRAINING (EXCLUDING HEALTH AND SAFETY)

31 different courses run

101 in-house training days provided

571 training places availed of for in-house training courses

Average attendance for in-house training courses was 80%

100 employees availed of the Staff Education Scheme

Health and Safety Training

6 different courses provided

130.5 training days provided

Average attendance was 89%

Performance Indicators

Corporate Health - Percentage of days lost to sickness absence - 4.35%

Industrial Relations

The Council maintained its good industrial relations record.

Human Resources

HEALTH & SAFETY

The role of the Health and Safety Unit is to advise management and staff on all matters relating to safety, health and welfare at work.

The following activities were carried out during 2009:

- The Safety Consultative Committee had 1 meeting
- Section Safety Committees are active in all departments.
- 118 Safety inspections were conducted.
- 23 Safety Audits were Carried Out
- 6 Ancillary Safety Statements were revised and issued to all members of staff.
- 4 Policy documents were prepared.
- 5 Safe Operating Procedures were prepared or revised.
- 23 Hazard Identifications and Risk Control sheets were prepared or revised.
- The 3rd Safety Representatives Annual Conference was held.
- All Fire Wardens were trained and briefed on their role.
- A Representative from Fingal County Council is part of the team preparing the FETAC training standards.
- A fire risk evacuation DVD was produced and issued to all staff members.
- Accident investigation procedures were developed and approved for use.
- Two NISO safety awards were achieved.
- 4 Fire Drills were monitored.



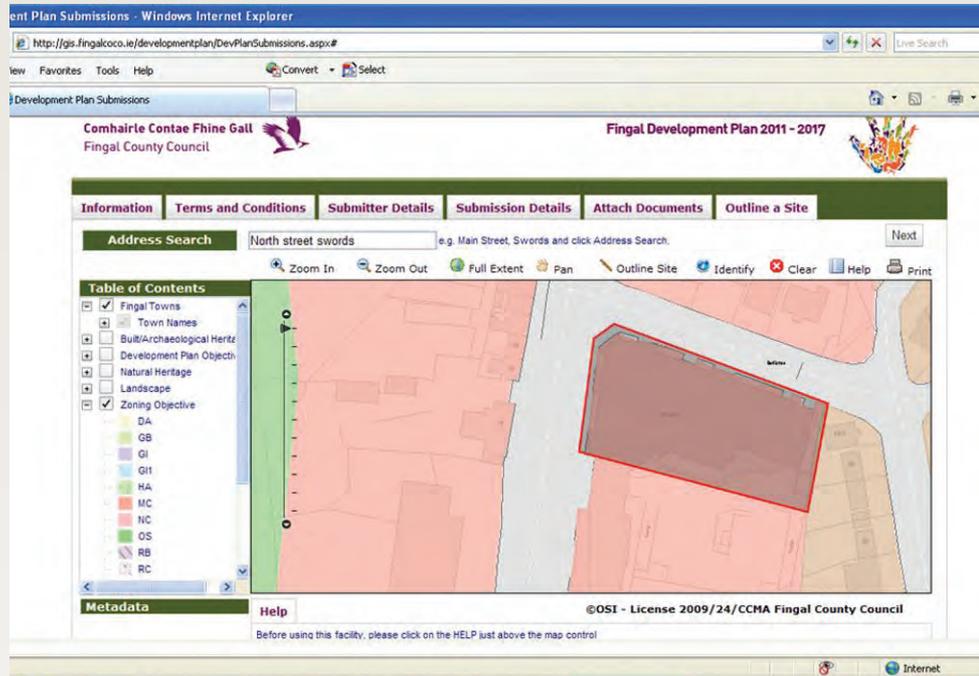
The Information Technology (I.T.) Department has experienced a staff reduction of 13% on the 2008 figures. Project outputs were met through the greater use of Smarter Technologies to enable the business of Fingal County Council.

Main Projects carried out in 2009

- Rationalisation of the Network Infrastructure Platform through the removal of Novell Netware.
- Tender for the renewal of the Network Infrastructure Switches in County Hall, Swords.
- Preparedness for Business Continuity in the event of a Swine Flu Pandemic.
- Expansion of Remote Working Capability.
- Upgrade of the website www.fingalcoco.ie
- Introduction of a new Extranet for Councillors and T.D.s
- Increase in Public Value through –
 - o Increase in Online Payments services
 - o Provision of Online Submission capability for the County Development Plan
 - o Improvement in Accessibility to Information
 - o Introduction of Electronic Funds Transfer for Higher Education Grants
- Increase in Corporate Value through –
 - o Wider use of integrated Data Reporting
 - o Greater availability of data sets in the Spatial Information area
 - o Provision of a new Integrated Housing application
 - o Provision of IT Infrastructure and support for Local Elections
 - o Introduction of new I.T. Service Desk

Information Technology

FINGAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2011 – 2017 ONLINE SUBMISSION SERVICE



Service Desk

Total number of Service Desk calls logged for January – December 2009 = 8,736

The I.T. Department launched a new Service Desk in September 2009 to better serve the requirements of I.T. users across the Council. The statistics for the new Service Desk for the period September – December 2009 are –

- Total Service Desk Calls = 3,471
- Average number of Calls per month = 868
- Average number of calls per day = 41

Satisfaction rating by users –

- Satisfied – 90%
- Dissatisfied – 3%
- Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied – 7%



The Finance Department deals with the short and long term financing of the Council's operations both of a Revenue and Capital nature

This involves:-

- monitoring and controlling income and expenditure in all areas
- arranging borrowing and leasing requirements and
- investment of funds

The Finance Department also ensures that statutory and financial accounting principles, which apply to all money, paid by, or to, the Council are complied with. The Annual Financial Statement (end of year accounts) is prepared on the basis of full accruals accounting i.e. expenditure and income and the balance sheet.

The Council's revenue or day-to-day expenditure is defrayed from sources such as:-

- Commercial Rates
- Government Grants
- various other forms of income such as :-
- housing rents
- household waste charge
- commercial water charges
- planning application fees
- non principal private residence charges

The amount of capital money available is dependent on Government allocations in the areas of Housing, Transportation, Water Services and Environmental Services.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS 2009

Non Principal Private Residence Charges:

A charge of €200 was introduced during 2009 on all non principal private residences in the country. Over 14,000 households paid charges totalling €2.9m to Fingal in 2009.

Revaluation:

The Revaluation Process was completed by the Valuation Office and a final valuation list published on the 31st December 2009. All commercial and industrial properties in the Fingal area will be assessed for rates on these revised valuations with effect from 1st January 2010.

Finance Department

Prompt Payment of Accounts Act 1997

The Prompt Payment of Accounts Act 1997 and the European Communities (Late Payment in Commercial Transactions) Regulations 2002 aims to ensure that all Public Bodies and Contractors on public sector contracts pay amounts due to suppliers promptly. In the event of a payment not being made within a 30 day period from the date of receipt of their invoice, there is an obligation to pay an interest penalty.

Constant monitoring of the level and nature of outstanding invoices was conducted throughout the year and action was taken where appropriate to ensure compliance with the Act.

In the course of 2009 no interest penalties were incurred by the Council.

Finance Department

REVENUE ACCOUNT STATEMENT

for year ended 31st December 2009

	DRAFT 2009	2008
Expenditure	€	€
Housing & Building	36,846,448	37,244,520
Roads Transportation & Safety	29,553,356	38,300,050
Water & Sewerage	46,156,846	48,085,735
Development Incentives & Controls	17,522,848	18,688,355
Environmental Protection	54,905,605	59,654,737
Recreation & Amenity	35,184,022	37,110,924
Agriculture, Education, Health & Safety	17,531,108	13,007,713
Miscellaneous	15,548,524	13,965,643
Total Gross Expenditure	253,248,757	266,057,677
Income		
Housing & Building	33,012,531	32,529,706
Roads Transportation & Safety	10,560,821	13,243,256
Water & Sewerage	17,790,624	18,180,333
Development Incentives & Controls	2,594,490	3,831,481
Environmental Protection	19,168,296	22,777,935
Recreation & Amenity	4,089,418	4,271,802
Agriculture, Education, Health & Safety	16,292,840	11,404,888
Miscellaneous	6,223,370	6,329,136
Total Income	109,732,390	112,568,537
Net Expenditure	143,516,367	153,489,140
Which is funded by:		
County Rates	128,955,984	124,154,299
Local Government Fund	27,159,837	33,756,001
Pension Related Deduction	3,244,861	
TOTAL	159,360,682	157,910,300
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year before Transfers	15,844,315	4,421,160
Transfers from/(to) Reserves	(13,762,390)	(5,638,925)
	2,081,925	(1,217,765)
Incoming Balance @ 1st January	15,366,860	16,584,625
Closing Balance @ 31st December	17,448,785	15,366,860

Finance Department

CAPITAL ACCOUNT STATEMENT

for year ended 31st December 2009

	DRAFT 2009	2008
Expenditure (Net of Internal Transfers)*	€	€
Housing and Building	62,384,744	145,005,241
Road Transportation & Safety	33,500,164	82,448,110
Water Supply & Sewerage	30,141,423	64,867,501
Development Incentives & Controls	9,891,846	48,019,430
Environmental Protection	969,873	15,588,183
Recreation & Amenity	16,328,758	56,359,095
Miscellaneous Services	353,540	839,596
	153,570,348	413,127,156
Income (Net of Internal Transfers)*		
Housing and Building	104,887,177	96,297,588
Road Transportation & Safety	15,323,382	33,177,241
Water Supply & Sewerage	30,743,225	42,641,695
Development Incentives & Controls	9,176,622	73,551,946
Environmental Protection	13,497,369	8,809,676
Recreation & Amenity	29,730,231	54,764,715
Miscellaneous Services	6,187,827	3,715,879
	209,545,833	312,958,740
Surplus/(Deficit) for year	55,975,485	(100,168,416)
Balance (Debit)/Credit @ 1st January	(25,822,801)	74,345,615
Balance (Debit)/Credit @ 31 December	30,152,684	(25,822,801)

*Excludes internal transfers, includes transfers to and from Revenue account

Finance Department

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

	2009	2008	2007
Commercial Rates (Amount collected as % of amount due)	88.52%	94.97%	96.00%
Commercial Water/Wastewater Charges (Amount collected as % of amount due)	67.7%(E)	78.71%	84.15%