



Chief Executive's Management Report

Fingal County Council Meeting
Monday, February 12, 2018

Item No. 25

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S MANAGEMENT REPORT – FEBRUARY 2018

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Tourism Development

Tourism Strategy

As part of the roll-out of the Fingal Tourism Strategy, three funding applications were successfully made for LEADER funding. These projects are:

- Develop an authentic 'Local Food' Provenance Programme with Fingal Heritage Properties, Fingal food outlets, restaurants, hotels and other Fingal tourism products with a food offering. (Resulting in a Fingal Food Directory and 5 & 10 mile menus).
- Tailor unique and marketable Bespoke Food Experiences aimed at the culturally curious tourist segment in association with the food industry such as behind the scenes factory visits, farm visits and chef's kitchen table.
- Develop Fingal Tourist Taste Trail, Farm Trail, or 'Place on a Plate' experiences.

An Accommodation Seminar is planned for March 2018 in partnership with Fáilte Ireland, LEADER and DIT. The seminar will seek to promote greater provision of accommodation across the county.

Local Tourism Groups

Work is also progressing with the local tourism groups. Howth's main focus is the Dublin Bay Prawn Festival. The Donabate group is working on marketing material and tourist itineraries. Skerries Tourism is developing the St. Patrick's Trad weekend and the Greening of the Island.

Balbriggan Tourism is developing a calendar of events for 2018 and the Rural Villages group has been set up with village animation and marketing material as their initial core initiative.

Events - Call for Proposals 2018

The Events Unit received applications for financial assistance from voluntary, community and commercial groups for events and festivals taking place in Fingal in 2018.

In total 44 Community/Voluntary applications and 22 commercial applications were received and have been evaluated under the scheme. The successful and unsuccessful applicants have been notified and a training session has been organised for all the successful applicants in late February 2018. Funding of over €200,000 has been approved for 2018.

St. Patrick's Day Parades



Davis Events Agency has been engaged to event-manage the parades in Swords, Blanchardstown and Balbriggan on behalf of the Council.

Dublin Bay Prawn Festival

The planning for the 2018 festival is advanced. Fingal County Council will act in an advisory and quality assurance capacity to the Visit



Howth Peninsula group which is organising the event in 2018.

Heritage Properties Review Update

Negotiation on the Operator Contract Tender for Malahide Castle & Gardens and Newbridge House & Farm has now concluded.

The restaurant tender for Newbridge House & Farm has also been evaluated. It is anticipated that the successful tenderer will commence operation in March.

Stakeholder engagement is continuing in respect of the feasibility study on Shackleton Mill.



In this regard, the consultants, Howley-Hayes Architects, made a presentation to the members of the Economic Development and Enterprise SPC on February 5.

Local Enterprise Development

The Local Enterprise Office continues to roll-out a substantial programme of work. Some highlights from January include:



Job Creation in LEO-supported businesses

LEO Fingal has announced that 162 net new jobs were created in LEO supported businesses in the county during 2017. Nationally, LEO supported businesses created over 3,700 jobs in 2017, bringing the total number of LEO supported jobs to over 15,000 since the network was set up in 2014. The jobs announcements were made by Ministers Heather Humphreys and Pat Breen at the Local Enterprise Office Forum in Athlone on February 5.



IBYE Success

Fingal was successful at the Dublin Regional Final of the Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur competition, winning two of the three top prizes: Best Business Idea and Best Business Start-Up categories. The awards were held on the 24th of January in the Royal College of Physicians. LEO Fingal was represented by DropChef, WeBringg and Ostoform. Kevin Kelleher from Ostoform in Malahide and Alan Hickey from WeBringg in Castleknock will now represent Dublin at the national finals in Google on the 4th of March.



Successful Fingal IBYE Dublin Region winners, with the Mayor, Fingal staff with Minister Pat Breen TD

Measure One Grant Assistance

The total value of measure one grant assistance approved for 2017 was €761,000, of which €243,000 (32%) was refundable. The breakdown of funding is as follows:

8 x Feasibility/Innovation:	€35,000
18 x Business Priming:	€435,000
10 x Business Expansion:	€261,000

It is forecast that these financial supports will lead to the creation of 243 jobs within the next three years (73 immediately). The next quarterly meeting of the Evaluation and Approvals Committee will be held on February 21.



Fingal companies receiving LEO supports in Q4 2017

Start Your Own Business Programme (SYOB)

Two Start Your Own Business Programmes commenced in January. Both courses are fully subscribed with a combined total of 24 participants.

Business Development Workshops

In January, 5 Business Development Workshops were delivered to 45 participants. The QQI Cert in Social Media and Digital Marketing also commenced in January, with 12 participants.

Plato

Plato is an advanced 18 month management development programme run by the four LEOs in the Dublin region. A new Plato programme will launch on April 11, in Croke Park. One of the two current Plato programmes underway concluded in September in IBM Mulhuddart. The second programme (which commenced in April 2017) will continue until October 2018, with 20 Fingal companies participating. Plato is an advanced 18 month management development programme run by the four LEOs in the Dublin region.

Business Clinics

Clinics are offered to individuals that wish to start up a new enterprise or expand their existing business. During January, 7 clinics were undertaken, delivering expertise to 54 businesses in Fingal.

Food Academy

LEO Fingal clients Morning Dew and Mr. Fu's Tofu are two of 11 food and drink producers from around the country to secure a space on SuperValu shelves this month, through the Food Academy Programme. This is a training programme run by the Local Enterprise Offices with the support of Bord Bia and SuperValu and it prepares and enables small food producers to become suppliers to SuperValu. Morning Dew and Mr. Fu's Tofu can now be found in key SuperValu stores from this month as part of a trial.

Mentoring

Individual mentoring assignments were approved for 9 new clients during January.

Trading Online Vouchers

This programme is funded by DCCAE, as part of the National Digital Strategy, to support local and established small businesses to enhance their online offering. A further Seventeen applications were approved in December bringing the total approvals for 2017 to 51 to the value of €106,663.

Global Innovation and Entrepreneurship Fair, Chengdu, Sichuan

LEO Fingal is currently seeking expressions of interest from technology and knowledge-based businesses that are interested in participating in the 2018 Global Innovation and Entrepreneurship Fair which takes place in Chengdu, Sichuan province from May 17 to 20, 2018. This is a major business event in China that features an Exhibition, 3 Trade Fairs, 7 Forums & Summits and 2 Road Shows & Competitions.

Local Enterprise Week 2018

Building on the success of previous years, Local Enterprise Week in Fingal has been formally launched and will take place from March 5-9 2018. Part of a National initiative, numerous events will take place across Fingal on each day, the flagship of which will be the Finals of the Fingal Enterprise Awards which take place on March 8. All Councillors are invited to participate in the week's activities. Another very successful week is anticipated.



At the launch of Local Enterprise Week 2018

Economic Development

LEADER Programme

The January LEADER meeting made 4 approvals for projects totalling €93,700 including support to develop Fingal Food experiences, Food provenance, a Food Trail and support to a Fingal based SME. A targeted call was approved under the Rural Environment Theme for projects to support water conservation, the deadline for expressions of interest is March 23, 2018. For more information on the LEADER programme please visit www.dublinruralleader.ie



Local Community Development Committee

The LCDC SICAP oversight committee will complete an End of Year Review of Social Inclusion and Community Activation services delivered by Empower in 2017.

In total 1,650 individuals across Fingal were assisted on a one-to-one basis. Of these, 77% were unemployed 42% from a jobless household reflecting the targeted nature of the programme. Amongst the highlights 204 young people not in work or in education were helped by education and job initiatives. Over 200 people set up new businesses which created 223 new jobs.

Local Economic & Community Plan

A progress report on all 115 LECP actions is due to be completed by the end Quarter 1. Flagship themes for 2018 are set to include Social Enterprise, Integration, Community Engagement and Climate Change.

The development of the Fingal Skills Strategy is at an advanced stage. The project is being overseen by a Steering Committee with representatives from DCU, DDLETB, ITB, the Dublin Regional Skills

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Works Programme 2018

The Operations Directorate is currently bringing the draft Works Programme 2018 to the Area Committees. The anticipated level of expenditure under the Programme is over €6 million, which represents a 10% increase on the 2017 Programme. This increase is a direct result of the decisions taken by Council on the LPT and Rates adjustments in autumn 2017.

IBAL Anti-Litter League

Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL), an alliance of companies sharing a belief that continued economic prosperity is contingent on a clean, litter-free environment, recently placed both Dublin Airport Environs and Balbriggan in the top ten cleanest towns. They were placed 4th and 10th respectively in the competition.



Above, Mayor of Fingal Cllr. Mary McCamley, the Operations Department staff and the Dublin Airport Team display the IBAL Anti-Litter Certificate at Dublin Airport on February 2.

The survey noted that “Once again, the roads leading in from Dublin Airport were exceptionally clean” and that both areas were “Cleaner than European Norms”, the highest category that can be achieved.

LAMA Awards

The 2018 All Ireland Community and Council Awards presented by IPB Insurance and LAMA took place on February 3, in Croke Park Stadium.



The Mayor, with Cllr. Murray and FCC Staff

Malahide Castle and Gardens took home the coveted prize for “Best Heritage Project”. The award comes in recognition of the major repair and conservation work that took place at the Castle and Gardens.

Malahide Castle and Gardens will continue to grow, with opportunities to deliver initiatives and projects that capture the enthusiasm and engagement of the local and national community and to attract the international market to enjoy and experience.

Traffic Management Schemes

The following is an update on some of the ongoing traffic management schemes:

- The anti-skid surfacing is weather dependant and work is continuing at various locations;
- Traffic Signals 2017 Contract work by TSL is continuing on various sites;
- Pedestrian Crossing installations on Ratoath Road as part of the Signal Contract 2017;



New Traffic Signals and Pedestrian Crossings



- Pedestrian Crossing installations on Damestown Avenue as part of the Signal Contract 2017;
- Navan Road Pedestrian Crossing Contract by KN Networks is progressing well on site;
- Corduff Traffic Calming scheme contract has been awarded;
- Audit of Traffic Warden Crossings is complete;
- Dublin Airport Roundabout Upgrade works is progressing well.



Works Ongoing - Dublin Airport Roundabout

Street Lighting

Column replacement works are finished in Gaybrook Lawns Malahide and Kilbarrack Industrial Estate at the entrance to Howth Junction train station. Works consisted of the replacement of 20 and 18 end of life columns respectively complete with LED lanterns and supply circuit improvement.



Gaybrook Lawns Malahide Kilbarrack Industrial Estate

Coolmine Woods

Work has been completed on the clearance of shrubbery and undergrowth in Coolmine Woods which significantly increases visibility for pedestrians and cyclists using the walkway between Clonsilla Road and Snugborough Road.



Winter Ready

The Council has been active in salting roads across the County during the recent cold weather and will continue to salt roads, when necessary, during the winter months.



Allotment Sites

The closing date for renewals and new applications for plots at the four Allotment Sites was January 31. The Council has received the normal large number of renewals and this year we have had a large increase in new applicants for plots at all sites. Sites at Skerries, Turvey and Powerstown will be operating at near full capacity for the 2018 season.



Tree Removals Auburn Avenue

In late January, 26 mature Lime trees were removed on Auburn Avenue, Castleknock. Numerous complaints had been received in relation to the lack of visibility on the avenue as some trees were originally planted too close to lamp standards thereby limiting the effectiveness of the public lighting.



These works have improved the lighting and visibility while also maintaining the tree lined avenue characteristics of the location.

Fingal Cemetery



Improvement works at Fingal Cemetery including ashes plot and new stone wall

Beach Lifeguards

The advert for Beach Lifeguards for the 2018 Bathing Season appeared in the Fingal Independent on January 30. We are looking for 35 Lifeguards for our



beaches this coming summer. The closing date for completed applications is Friday, March 2.

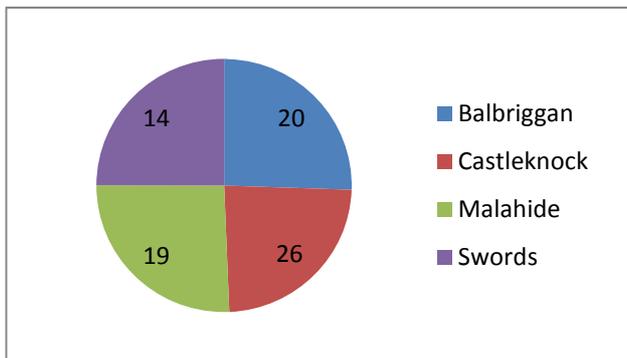
PLANNING AND STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE (PSI)

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Planning Activity

Planning Applications

There have been 79 planning applications received to the end of January 2018, 5 of these applications were invalid leaving a total of 74 valid applications. The volume of applications received by area is illustrated below:



Planning Decisions

A total of 98 planning decisions have been made to the end of January 2018. There have been 90 decisions to grant permission (92%) and 8 refusals of permission (8%).

There have been 14 grants of permissions in respect of single house construction, 38 grants of permission for domestic extensions, 26 commercial/retail grants of permission and 7 grants of permission in respect of housing developments - 1 of which related to development in excess of 100 or more housing units and 5 of which related to developments of 2-20 housing units.

Building Control

There have been 15 Disability Access Certificates lodged to the end of January 2018, of these 1 was invalidated. There have been 20 Fire Certificates lodged to the end of January 2018.

Housing Delivery in Fingal for 2017

These performance indicators within FCC are based on growth rates between Q4 2016 and Q4 2017 and include:

- 39% increase in active sites from 51 to 71 sites;
- 34% increase in the number of units completed and occupied in the 12 month period to end Q4 2017 (1,378 units) compared to the 12 months to end Q4 2016 (1,026 units);
- 24.5% increase in the number of units under construction from 1,767 to 2,200 units;
- 3% increase in the number of sites with planning permission in Tier 1 from 114 to 118;
- 1.6% increase in the number of units with planning permission from 16,755 to 17,027.

Building Control/Taking in Charge (TIC)

Disability Access Certificates (DAC)

During 2017, a total of 214 DACs (and revised DACs) was assessed and granted by the Building Control team. This compares with a figure of 173 DACs in 2016 and the peak figure of 186 DACs in 2010.

Continual Professional Development (CPD)

CPD is ongoing in the Building Control/TIC team as follows:

- Professional – during 2017/2018 three staff in the Building Control team are pursuing relevant third level qualifications (part-time);
- Knowledge sharing – Building Control/TIC team will hold an internal workshop this week to share knowledge and upskill on recently revised Building Regulations Part L (Energy) and Code of Practice for Community Dwellings;
- Engagement – Building Control/TIC team engage and make submissions on draft guidance documents/regulations/legislation in the area of building control.

Taking in Charge of Legacy Developments

Works are now complete on the preparation and costing of a resolution plan for Ongar Estate. The Building Control/TIC team along with the Council's Law Department will now progress this towards sequestering of the bond to fund the required works to bring this estate to a Taking-in-Charge standard.

On Site Activity

Ground works have commenced on a site for passive houses near St. Margaret's, which was recently inspected by FCC Building Control inspectors. The design and construction methods adopted will be of particular interest to Building Control team.

Water Services Development Management -

Forward Planning

Pre-planning consultations

During January staff from the Forward Planning (Water Services) section have engaged with more than 10 developers at pre-planning stage to discuss issues related to the provision of water services and to ensure the implementation of sustainable drainage systems on site.

Strategic Housing Developments

During January staff from Forward Planning (Water Services) section have engaged with regard to water services infrastructure and flood risk management in terms of SHD applications which have been submitted to An Bord Pleanála.

Flood Risk Assessments and Drainage Strategies for Local Area Plans (LAP)

Barnhill LAP - The tender for the drainage strategy for Barnhill LAP will be awarded during February. Meanwhile staff are managing the preparation of the flood risk assessment which will inform Barnhill LAP.

Framework - Phase 1 for the establishment of a framework of consultants to prepare Drainage Strategies and Flood Risk Assessments will be complete during February. This will be used to inform LAPs throughout 2018 and beyond.

Other Updates

Fingal County Council is designated the Airport Noise Regulator for Dublin Airport

Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, Shane Ross, T.D. announced that Fingal County Council is to be the new independent Airport Noise Regulator for Dublin Airport in accordance with EU Regulation 598/2014. This Regulation sets out how the impact of airport noise should be managed and monitored at all major European airports.

The Council awaits publication by Government of the draft Bill which will set out precisely how the new Regulation will operate in accordance with Regulation 598/2014. In the meantime the necessary resources will be put in place to deliver a robust and independent regulatory system.

Minister Moran meets Fingal County Council on Coastal Erosion

On January 26, Minister of State with responsibility for the Office of Public Works and Flood Relief, Kevin Boxer Moran T.D. and senior officials from the OPW visited Fingal County Council and met with the Chief Executive and senior staff from the Council's Planning Department.

During the visit, the Minister expressed his Department's support for the approach adopted by Fingal County Council to deal with the very difficult and complex problems of coastal erosion and flooding in the county. On the day, the Minister visited Portrane and met with residents including members of the Fingal Coastal Liaison Group as well as several local representatives.

Drumanagh Conservation and Management Plan

The public consultation process for the Draft Conservation and Management Plan for Drumanagh Promontory Fort, Loughshinny, was launched on January 29, 2018 by Mayor of Fingal Cllr. Mary McCamley, following consideration of the matter by the Balbriggan/Swords Area Committee earlier in the month.



Drumanagh is a nationally important archaeological site and is of international significance in terms of Ireland's relationship with the Roman world. The Draft Plan proposes policies and objectives for its protection and management. Submissions can be made online at <https://consult.fingal.ie/> until March 5th. A public

information "drop-in" session will be held on February 28, 2018 in Rush Community Centre, Upper Main Street, Rush from 4 to 8 pm.

Commemorations Programme 2018-2023

Fingal County Council is developing a Commemorations Programme for the period 2018-2023, when there will be many aspects of our past which need to be remembered and commemorated.

The Council commenced a consultation process in December 2017 which ended on Wednesday 24th January 2018. The results of the consultation are now being reviewed and will inform the Draft Commemorations Programme currently being developed.



The Commemorative Parade in 2016

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY (H&C)

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HOUSING

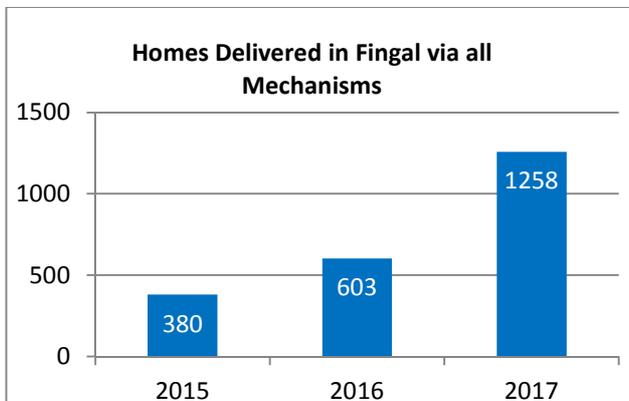
Second Housing Summit

The second Housing Summit convened by Minister Eoghan Murphy T.D. with the Chief Executives of the Local Authorities took place on January 22. Also in



attendance was Minister Damien English T.D. and senior housing officials from the local authorities.

At the Summit, Fingal County Council had an opportunity to update the Minister on its progress in dealing with Housing and Homelessness from 2015-2017 and brief him on the Council's experiences to help advance delivery in the coming years.



Fingal County Council delivered 2,241 homes since the start of the Housing Strategy 2020/ReBuilding Ireland, exceeding its targets for 2015-2017 by 63%. This total figure has increased to 2,336 units during January. These homes were delivered over the various delivery mechanisms and do not include units approved for delivery.

There were a number of key outcomes from the Summit, with the Minister launching some new initiatives, outlined here:

Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan

A new Government backed mortgage for first time buyers was recently announced. The Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan provides for loans up to a maximum of €288,000 over a maximum term of 30 years, subject to lending terms and conditions. The Loan is attractive to potential borrowers in that the interest rates are very low (2% fixed, or 2.25% fixed for 30 years, or 2.3 variable). The raised loan ceiling will facilitate more purchase options for buyers in Fingal, who may have found that property prices were just beyond their reach.

Borrowers need to meet the following eligibility criteria:

- First Time Buyers (exceptions may apply e.g. for legally separated or divorced applicants);

- Single applicant's income must be less than €50,000, and joint applicants' combined income must be less than €75,000;
- The primary earner on the application form must be in continuous employment for at least two years (this can be self-employment) and the second applicant must have at least one year's continuous employment. Certain exceptions can be considered;
- Aged between 18 and 70 years (i.e. the loan term must cease by the time the borrower reaches 70 years of age);
- Applicants must prove that they have sought a mortgage from two lenders (banks or building societies) and have received inadequate funding offers or refusals from each before making an application for a Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan to Fingal County Council;
- The maximum loan amount that may be advanced (subject to lending terms and conditions) is €288,000 over a maximum term of 30 years. The maximum loan-to-value ratio is 90%.

The maximum mortgage loan in each case will be determined by the local authority in accordance with lending terms and conditions, the €288,000 limit, loan-to-value limit and subject to the purchaser's ability to repay. All applications will be assessed based on the applicant(s) current income, their existing loans and financial commitments. For successful loan applications an additional monthly mortgage protection insurance fee is levied.

Further details and application forms available on <http://rebuildingirelandhomeloan.ie/>

Enhanced Long Term Social Housing Leasing Scheme

In January, Minister Damien English launched the Enhanced Leasing Scheme, this new scheme provides for long-term leasing of private dwellings for social housing.

The main objective of the scheme is to target property developers and investors who are in a position to deliver social housing on a reasonable scale, with a required minimum of 20 units available within a single local authority area. Leases will be for a period of up to 25 years. Tenants will be nominated by the local authority and the Local Authority will be the landlords to the tenants.

The provider is paid 95% market rate as opposed to the current 80%; this differential reflects their responsibility in relation to maintenance.

The Housing Agency will administer the scheme on behalf of the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government. It will assess proposals from prospective providers and their capacity to deliver the required number of properties. Following assessment the Local Authorities will determine the suitability of the proposed properties. Further details of the scheme are available at: <http://bit.ly/2ErohLO>

Repair and Leasing Scheme

The Repair and Leasing Scheme (RLS) targets vacant properties and secures them for social housing, by financing the cost of repairs, the scheme was introduced on February 23, 2017.

Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government, recently reviewed the operation of the Repair and Leasing Scheme. On foot of that review, a range of improvements to the existing scheme were announced on January 22, 2018

following the second Housing Summit with Local Authority Chief Executives.

Some of the key changes to the scheme, which will take effect from February 1, 2018, involve:

- a reduction in the minimum lease term required from 10 to 5 years;
- increasing the proportion of market rent / rent payments available to property owners where they take on more responsibilities under the tenancy, meaning that up to 92% of market rent will be available; and
- provision of additional funding for property owners, over and above the current €40,000 limit, where the dwelling is a bedsit type dwelling being brought into compliance with the Standards for Rented Houses Regulations and made available for social housing.

Further details of the RLS: <http://bit.ly/2miDSDu>

**Pillar 1:
Address Homelessness**

Fingal County Council is currently in contact with circa 437 families who are in homeless circumstances or at risk of homelessness.



A total of 31 families had their homeless circumstances alleviated to the end of January 2018 (including 21 Homeless HAP) with further homeless HAP tenancy arrangements being finalised. Tenancy Support is provided through supports such as SLI (Support to Live Independently) and varying other supports to ensure new tenancies are sustained. Homeless Prevention advice continues to be offered through the Council’s Homeless Team in partnership with Threshold Clinics and the Threshold Freephone service.

Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)

A total of 432 Homeless HAP tenancies are in place since the Dublin Region HAP Pilot scheme came into effect in 2015 with further tenancy arrangements currently being finalised. In addition, 58 mainstream HAP tenancies were put in place during January 2018. A total of 527 tenancies are now in place under mainstream HAP with further tenancy arrangements in the process of being finalised.

**Pillar 2:
Accelerate Social Housing Construction Programme**

The current position with the construction programme is set out below. Masterplan/Land Management Plan sites are not included in these figures.



	No. Schemes	No. Units
Delivered to Date	6*	85
Contractor on Site/Appointed	6	154
Tender Stage	7	169
Pre-Planning Approval	8	222
Total Construction Programme	26	630

Construction Programme – the picture below shows progress on the Ballyboughal site. Delivery of the remaining 6 units is expected in May 2018.



Church Fields Land Management Plan

A stakeholders consultation process took place with local residents and key stakeholders on Monday January 29, in Mulhuddart Community Centre in relation to the development of these lands in Dublin 15.

The meeting was facilitated by staff from the Community Development Department, with staff representatives from Housing, Architects and Planning and Strategic Infrastructure Departments present to assist with the workshops.



Church Fields - stakeholders consultation

Acquisitions Programme

Report Month	Dec	Jan	Feb
Delivered to Date	292	295	295
Pending Sales Closing	59	68	70

Buy and Renew Scheme

As an alternative and to complement the Repair and Leasing Scheme is the Buy and Renew scheme. This scheme aims to support Local Authorities (LAs) and Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs) to purchase and renew housing units that require remediation, and make them available for social housing use in areas of housing need. A total of five derelict properties were secured by the Council in 2017.

Part V

A total of 118 Part V housing units have been delivered to date. Activity in this area has increased with the upturn in construction and early on-site delivery of units is the approach in Part V negotiations with developers.

Recent amendments to the planning application validation process, in accordance with Circular Housing 34/2017, require developers when lodging planning applications to submit a more detailed Part V proposal in order to commence the process of interaction and engagement with the intention of concluding the making of Part V agreements at the earliest point.

Reporting on Part V agreements is provided quarterly to the Area Committees.

Approved Housing Bodies

The Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs) play an important role in the delivery of social housing and the Council continues to work closely with AHB's operating in the County.

The Council facilitates AHBs in the management of funding applications under the Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) and Capital Advance Leasing Facility Scheme (CALF) funding schemes.

Traveller Accommodation

Collinstown Park

The Council is in dialogue with residents of Collinstown Park Halting Site, Swords and the DAA in relation to proposals to move families to a new site in accordance with the provisions of the Traveller Accommodation Programme.

Fire Audit

- Fire extinguishers have been installed on all sites and all sites to be inspected in 2018

- Fire safety training took place in Matt Lane Resource Centre on September 25, 2017.



New fire safety installations at St Macullins Park

Census 2017

The Annual Traveller Census 2017, took place on November 24, 2017, and 509 Traveller families have been returned as living in the County. This has been forwarded to the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government.

Pillar 3: Build More Homes

A masterplan for the strategic land bank at Ballymastone, Donabate is currently being prepared.



The development of a Land Management Plan for the land-bank at Church Fields, Mulhuddart is underway. The design team appointed to develop the Plan recently held briefing sessions to discuss the development of the plan was held with the local Councillors and stakeholders.

The Housing Director is participating in a project board to bring forward proposals for Major Urban Housing Delivery Sites.

The Housing Department is available to meet with developers who are building across the county with a view to exploring opportunities to bring forward proposals to increase the supply of social housing.

Pillar 4: Improve the Rental Sector

The table below sets out the current number of RAS and LTL tenancies:



Report Month:	Dec	Jan	Feb
RAS Tenancies	200	191	193
LTL Tenancies	80	77	79

Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme

The Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme has been operational since May 2016, with a growing number having completed the sales process by November 30, 2017:

Scheme Information issued	2406
Application Forms requested	367
Applications Received	147
Letters of Offer Issued to Tenants	119
Contract of Sale Proposed	28
Sales Completed	17

Vacant Homes Strategy

Fingal County Council has submitted the vacant homes action plan to the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government. The vacant homes publicity plan continues to operate and continues to be a reliable source of information for follow up by the vacant homes team.

Information gathering and verification is ongoing in relation to properties located in the Dublin 15, Balbriggan and Swords. Initial verification work has also started on properties located in Rush and Lusk. Engagement and negotiation is ongoing with a number of identified property owners, however progress in some cases is slow.

To date we have signed contracts on one 20 year long term lease agreement for a long term vacant property. Repairs to the property are underway prior to allocation. We are processing two further long term lease applications where agreement has been reached with the property owner and expect to sign contracts on these properties in Q1 2018.

Contracts are in draft form for one property where agreement has been reached under the repair and lease scheme. A further two properties are under assessment for eligibility under RLS. Once signed repairs will commence prior to allocation.

**Pillar 5:
Utilise Existing Housing
Void Management**

There were 41 casual voids within social housing stock at the end of January 2018. Of these dwellings, 10 are complete and are being offered for letting. Work is underway to 14 dwellings and the balance is with the County Architect for the procurement of pre-let repairs.



Windows and Doors / Cyclical Maintenance

The Windows/Doors Replacement Programme for 2017 is substantially complete in Whitestown and Fortlawn Estate, Dublin 15. Installation has commenced in Sheepmore Estate, Dublin 15 and a procurement process is ongoing in respect of the remaining estates in Dublin 15.



Example of Window & Door Replacement in Dublin 15

The Cyclical Maintenance Programme is continuing in Corduff Estate, Dublin 15 and Pinewood Estate, Balbriggan, Co Dublin.

**Housing Support
Housing Needs Assessment 2018**

The Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government has informed all Local Authorities that a full Housing Needs Assessment will take place in 2018.

The deadline for return of data in summary form has been set for June 29, 2018. This is a Statutory Assessment and all housing applicants will be contacted in due course, and will be required to return the relevant Housing Needs Assessment Form, in this regard.

COMMUNITY, CULTURE & SPORTS

COMMUNITY

Digital Marketing Master Class:

The Community Development Office in conjunction with ITB Blanchardstown are running a Digital Marketing Master Class Program in March that will target Managers and Volunteers involved in the management and operation of community facilities from across the County. The Master Class will be delivered by John Cowper ITB lecturer from the Digital Media faculty. The course will familiarise participants with all aspects of digital media which will support them in the development of a marketing strategy that will aim to support the sustainability of their facility and promote community engagement.

Fingal Comhairle na nÓg

Fingal Comhairle na nÓg participated in a full day team event on Saturday 13th January which was facilitated by the DCYA's HUB na nÓg - The Young People's Participation Network. This involved a morning session discussing and working through their project topics of Mental Health & Male Body Image and Financial Stress on young people and finished with an afternoon of mental and physical challenges in GoQuest. Twenty five young people attended and their participation led to very healthy discussions and planning of their proposed project work around the topics during 2018



Muhuddart Community Centre:

Mulhuddart Community Centre were successful in securing funding under the 2017 RAPID funding program to install a child and youth hub (CHOUTH) that will provide additional space to the children and young people from the local community to engage in specialised and more targeted projects. The project is supported by the CDO and FCC Architects Dept.

Failte Isteach Tyrrelstown

Failte Isteach Tyrrelstown and the Mountview Men's Group took part in a successful trip to the Seamus Ennis Centre, Naul in January, organised by the FCC Community Office. Over 20 Failte participants, tutors and several members of Mountview Men's Group enjoyed presentations on the history and activities of the Centre, with inputs from Rory O'Byrne, FCC Arts Officer, Sean Paul O'Hare, outgoing director of the Seamus Ennis Centre and Cllr David O'Connor who regaled the visitors with anecdotes and a few songs!



Funding for this trip came from the OMI integration funds awarded to Failte Isteach Tyrrelstown.

Pride of Place 2018

Work is underway already to identify strong candidates for the 2018 IPB Pride of Place competition. Groups in Corduff and Baldoyle are meeting to identify suitable



categories for possible nominations in the 2018 competition. New specialist categories in the 2018 Competition include “community tourism initiative” and “community wellbeing initiative”; the hunt is on for good matches in both of these categories for 2018.

Fingal Public Participation Network PPN Strategic Plan Consultations Underway

Fingal Public Participation Network (PPN) has begun work on their 2018 - 2020 Strategic Plan. A steering committee comprised of PPN Member Groups are overseeing this process. Consultation workshops took place in January and will continue in February. The Strategic Plan will also identify a Community Wellbeing Statement which will guide the mission of the PPN over the coming years.



Fingal Age Friendly Cities & Counties Initiative – Extended Closing Date

The National Age Friendly Recognition and Achievement Awards will be held on Tuesday, April 10th. This is the third annual Awards event for the Age Friendly Ireland Programme. The primary aim of these awards is to recognise and reward achievement in age friendly initiatives around Ireland. This year, eight categories of awards, aligning to the World Health Organisation (WHO) themes, have been chosen as they have a meaningful impact on the lives of older people, planning and creating a sustainable Ireland for all.

Creative Ireland Fingal Programme

The Creative Ireland Fingal Draft Strategy 2018 – 2022 has been completed, a copy of the draft will be circulated shortly to all Councillors for comment. A public call for comments/submissions on the draft will be put out through the Council’s online portal from February 12 to March 12. In addition all creative practitioners and local community groups will be contacted and invited to submit comments on the document. The final draft strategy will be presented to the March meeting of the Arts, Culture, Heritage & Community Development Strategic Policy Committee and will then be presented for endorsement to a meeting of the full Council.

ARTS OFFICE

Arts Centres

The Séamus Ennis Centre Events Programme covering the period January to April is now available online:

<https://t.co/VTNFvbTiPr>



Youth & Education – Space Invaders

Fingal’s arts offices children’s art programme ‘Space Invaders’ was shortlisted for the All Ireland Community Council Awards, which recognise work from local authorities, communities and partnerships.



The talented students from Fingal Community College TY art class showcased their exhibition of Pop Art “Selfie” Portraits from January 22 – 26. The exhibition was launched by the Mayor of Fingal Cllr. Mary McCamley. The TY art class and their Teacher Siobhan Lynch were delighted to be given the opportunity to host their exhibition in the Atrium. Local artist Dave West said “the work was a credit to the students and all are winners”, and he awarded the prize to Adriana Guijarro Sanchez.



2018. This is the eighth annual walk to be held in Fingal, the fourth year in Ward River Valley Park, Swords and the third year in Porterstown Park, Dublin 15.



The annual walk is supported by Sport Ireland in association with the RTE hit show Operation Transformation and provides an opportunity for the people of Fingal to kickstart their fitness regime for 2018.



SPORTS OFFICE

Operation Transformation 2018

In excess of 500 enthusiastic walkers and runners took part in two 3k walks and 5k runs organised by Fingal County Council Sport Office in partnership with Parkrun on Saturday January 13,

Sports Office - Overview

The Sports Office exceeded its targets in 2017. It delivered a total of 754 programmes to over 80,000 Fingal participants. Of these, 35 women in sports programmes were delivered to 1,854 females. 496 School and Youth Programmes were delivered to 77,253 young people. In addition 14 Older Adult and 28 Disability programmes were delivered. Under the training objective, the Sports Office carried out 135 courses for 5,543 coaches, volunteers and teachers.

LIBRARIES

'A Century of Challenge and Change' Conference

The Mayor, Cllr Mary McCamley will launch and give the opening address at 'A Century of Challenge and Change', a conference to celebrate Irish women gaining the right to vote in 1918.



The conference which will be held on March 13, in the Castleknock Hotel, will look at the impact of the franchise for women on Irish society and discuss the way forward in terms of gender and political power. It is a follow up to the very successful conference 'Women in Politics' held last April. Confirmed speakers include Mary McAuliffe and Diarmaid Ferriter (UCD), Theresa Reidy (UCC), Senator Ivana Bacik, Ciarín de Buis from Women for Election and Louise Bunyan of DCM Learning. Orla O'Connor, Director of the National Women's Council of Ireland will moderate. This is a Blanchardstown Library Europe Direct event and also forms part of the Council's Creative Ireland programme.

Launch of new mobile library vans

The Mayor, Cllr. Mary McCamley launched three new mobile library vans outside Blanchardstown Library on January 23.



The Launch of the New Mobile Libraries

A fourth van is on order and will join the fleet later in the year. A day-long programme of events to mark the launch included children's entertainers, magicians and story-tellers. As well as calling to schools and serving residential areas, the vans will take part in festivals and outdoor events around the County.

On January 18, one of the new mobile library vans visited Oldtown NS. The visit was covered by RTE's News2Day programme and is available on the RTE Player. Reaction to the visit from the pupils and staff at Oldtown NS was extremely positive. The event was covered on social media, with a mix of photos and videos, including interviews with pupils and the school principal. Reaction to the Twitter posts was excellent with several posts receiving between 3,500 – 5,700 impressions.

Battle of the Book

The final of the Battle of the Book took place on January 25, in the Riasc Centre, Swords. Supported by the Dublin Airport Authority, and involving primary schools in Fingal, the Battle of the Book is designed to encourage children to read and to discuss a particular book, bringing it to life and relating it to their own experiences.



The Mayor and Maura Cassidy (daa) with two participants in the Battle of the Book final

The children participate in different activities organised by Fingal Libraries including author visits, live museum road-shows, code breaking

workshops and a final quiz to test their knowledge of the chosen book. The final quiz at the Riasc Centre was very exciting with the children answering questions on the book 'The Irish Civil War 1922 – 23: Ava's Diary' by Patricia Murphy. The 6 participating schools were St Colmcilles GNS Swords, Mary Queen of Ireland NS Rivermead, St Margarets NS, St Marnocks Portmarnock, St Patricks NS Skerries and Kinsealy NS. There were 4 children per team and they were supported by fellow classmates, the Mayor, Cllr Mary McCamley and CE Paul Reid. The winning team on the day was St. Marnocks, Portmarnock .

Healthy Ireland at your Library

The 'Healthy Ireland at Your Library' programme continues at branch libraries throughout Fingal. Libraries are a



**Healthy Ireland
at your Library**

valuable source of health information providing free access to books, e-books, e-audiobooks, e-magazines and online courses on health and wellbeing.

The 'Healthy Ireland' book stock and online resources are complimented by a range of talks, discussions and workshops with a focus on physical and mental health and health literacy. The 'Healthy Ireland at your Library' programme is currently being promoted through radio ads sponsored by the LGMA and the HSE.



Yoyo yoga – a recent 'Healthy Ireland at Your Library' event at Balbriggan Library

Upcoming 'Healthy Ireland at Your Library' events in libraries include:

Baldoyle Library - February 10 at 2pm: Aromatherapy and skincare

Balbriggan Library - February 13 at 6.30pm: Living with Arthritis

Rush Library - February 14 at 2.30pm: Mindfulness: The Art of Loving and Living

Malahide Library - February 15 at 2.30pm: Chair yoga

Donabate Library - February 19 at 6.30pm: Bully-Proof Kids

Blanchardstown Library - March 8 at 6.30pm: Autism, ADHD, Dyspraxia – coping with your child's diagnosis

Garristown Library Short Story Competition

As part of the Council's Creative Ireland programme, Garristown Library is holding a short story competition. The competition is open to over 18s and the closing date is February 28, 2018. Entries can be posted or handed in at the Library or can be emailed to garristownlibrary@fingal.ie

Engineers' Week 2018

Fingal Libraries has an exciting programme of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Maths) events for school children in branch libraries during Engineers' Week, which runs from February 24 to March 2.



Classes from local schools have been invited to libraries for workshops that introduce children to engineering concepts in everyday life. Lego workshops will also take place in libraries outside of school hours to illustrate engineering concepts using the fun, hands-on activity of lego.

Work Matters

The Work Matters service at Blanchardstown and Balbriggan Libraries provides business, job seeking and career advancement information through online resources, networking events and workshops.



There are also workspaces and IT facilities available to prepare CVs and business plans and to study the jobs and business markets. Upcoming Work Matters events at Blanchardstown Library include:

- February 17 (11.30am to 3pm): CV clinic: One to one sessions on optimising your CV.
- February 20 (6.45pm): Finding work opportunities/Using LinkedIn.
- February 27 (6.45pm): Returning to education – What are my options?

ENVIRONMENT & WATER SERVICES (EWS)

Contents

Environment

Environment Education in Schools
Environmental Awareness
Water Pollution Control
Noise Action Plan
Litter Management
Dog Warden Service

RMCEI Plan 2018
Waste Enforcement
Agricultural Burning
Climate Change Strategy

Water Services

Capital Projects

ENVIRONMENT

Environment Education in Schools

Environmental assessments of Fingal's schools are ongoing. Each school seeking to obtain or retain a Green-Schools Flag in 2018 will be visited by the Environmental Education Officer. The visit involves an evaluation of environmental education and practices in the school. It also provides an opportunity to offer guidance on best practice.



Green Flag, Scoil Mhuire, Dublin 15

Environmental Awareness

Environmental Awareness in partnership with Network Fingal, will conduct an educational tour of the Estuary Recycling Centre in early February. The participants will be Transition Year students from various schools and this will be their first engagement of their week-long work experience with Fingal County Council.

In addition, Environmental Awareness, in partnership with the Housing Department, will give a talk in early February in the Council Chamber, to housing tenants, as part of the monthly Tenant Induction training course. This talk will detail tenant responsibilities in respect of waste management and waste disposal. Discussion will also take regarding the various environmental programmes that are rolled out across the year.

Water Pollution Control Update

The River Basin Management Plan 2018 -2021 is now due to be published in March 2018.

The first sampling round of the operational monitoring programme commences in February. A total of 17 locations will be monitored on five occasions over the year. The monitoring programme is a statutory obligation under the Water Framework Directive and the data assists in determining the water and ecological status for Fingal waterbodies.

Noise Action Plan

Fingal is currently producing a new Environmental Noise Action Plan under the Environment Noise Regulations 2006. This is due for completion later this year.

Litter Management

A total of 60 Litter Fines, 17 Warning Notices and 14 prosecutions were issued in January.

Dog Warden Service

A total of 7738 dog licences were issued in 2017, in comparison to 6279 in 2016.

RMCEI Plan 2018

The Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections Plan 2018 (RMCEI Plan 2018) for the Fingal is currently being prepared in line with the requirements of the Recommendation of the European Parliament and the Council providing for Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections in Member States (2001/331/EEC). The overall objective of the Plan is to identify and prioritise enforcement activities for 2018 and to set out inspections in the areas of air, noise, water pollution and pollution resulting from waste activities to ensure that Fingal County Council can effectively and efficiently comply with its obligations under all environmental legislation. The legislation underpinning the RMCEI Plan is designed to protect the environment and minimise the risk of air and noise pollution, water pollution and pollution resulting from waste activities.

Cessation of permissible disposal of agricultural waste by burning

The Waste Management (Prohibition of Waste Disposal by Burning) (Amendment) Regulations 2017 (S.I. No. 599 of 2017) has extended for a further two years (ceases 1st January, 2020) the exemption which allows farmers, as a last resort, to dispose of wastes generated by agricultural practices. Statutory Notices are required to be completed and approved prior to any burning of this waste.

Waste Enforcement (Waste Tyres)

On October 1, 2017, the Waste Management (Tyres and Waste Tyres) Regulations, 2017 (S.I. No 400 of 2017) came into effect to promote the environmentally sound management of tyres and stop the illegal dumping of waste tyres. Repak ELT is the compliance scheme established under these Regulations to track tyres through the distribution chain and ensure waste tyres are managed in an environmentally sound manner.



A radio advert and awareness campaign is currently being run by RepakELT to inform car owners of their obligations with regards to the new Visible Environmental Management Cost (vEMC) which is placed on tyres for the funding of this management of waste tyres and all tyres placed on the Irish Market will be subject to this charge. A leaflet has also been produced for information and is available at all compliant retailer outlets.

An approved membership certificate is issued from Repak ELT which registered members must display. Membership posters and stickers are also being delivered to all registered members. Inspections will be carried out by waste enforcement staff in 2018 in line with the RMCEI plan 2018 and the regulation of waste tyres is one of the national waste enforcement priorities for Ireland.

WATER SERVICES

Capital Projects

The Council and Irish Water (IW) have reviewed the structures for the delivery of IW Capital Projects. IW now take direct responsibility for the day-to-day management of a number of the projects. All Capital Projects will be managed directly by IW from April 1, next.

The following Capital Projects are being managed directly by IW:

- Rush Waste Water Collection Network Upgrade
- Rush Rd. Pumping Station Skerries
- 9C Duplication
- Liffey Siphons
- Malahide & Swords Drainage Area Plans
- Swords 30" Watermain Rehabilitation

The following Capital Projects are being managed by Fingal Water Services Project Office on behalf of IW:

Balbriggan Water Supply Scheme – Jordanstown to Kilsough Trunk Main

Consultants Nicholas O'Dwyer Ltd. have completed the contract documents and specimen design drawings. IW will issue these to market on February 14, 2018. It is hoped that the main contract works will go to construction in Q3/4, 2018.

Howth Water Supply Scheme

Consultants Nicholas O'Dwyer Ltd. are completing the contract documents and specimen design drawings. IW will issue these to market on 14th February 2018. It is hoped that the main contract works will go to construction in Q3/4, 2018.

Negotiations are on-going with St Nesson's Community School in Baldoyle in order to procure a wayleave by agreement to facilitate a revision to the pipeline route.

Ballycoolen Trunk Main Scheme

Consultants Nicholas O'Dwyer Ltd. have revised the route of the proposed main to take account of development constraints including the Local Area Plan (LAP) for Dublin Airport and to minimise crossover impact on the existing main. Negotiations are on-going with DAA to agree the pipeline wayleave.

The Site Investigation Contract commenced on September 25, 2017. However, all the land entry consents have not yet been confirmed and the works are approximately 70% complete to date.

The CPO process to procure pipeline wayleaves will commence in Q2 2018. The main contract works are planned to go to construction Q1/Q2 2019.

Malahide Water Supply Scheme

IW has been granted planning permission for the proposed reservoir and associated access road. FCC has agreed to grant IW a pipeline wayleave in public space at The Bawn, to facilitate the pipeline route.

Site Investigation works are due to commence on site Q1 2018.

Swords Outfall

IW appointed KN Network Services as the contractor for the project and work commenced on site on August 24, 2017. This project is now complete (with the exception of some landscaping) and the new section of upgraded outfall pipework is operational.

Local Networks Reinforcement Project (LNRP)

Consultant Mott McDonald was appointed to commence the scheme in March 2016. The LNRP in Fingal involves the construction of two new pumping stations, one in Kinsealy and one in

Portmarnock, with associated rising mains and gravity sewers for both projects.

A proposed route has been chosen for these pipelines and site investigation has been completed along the two routes. The planning application for Kinsealy Pumping Station was submitted to Fingal in Q4 2017 and the Portmarnock Pumping Station planning application is due to be submitted to Fingal in Q1 2018.

The detailed design for both projects is progressing and IW is currently reviewing the procurement options for the two schemes.

It is anticipated both projects will be completed by Q3 2019.

Leixlip Transfer Pipeline

This project consists of a new section of rising main and gravity sewer from West Leixlip to a new pumping station in Leixlip Wastewater Treatment Plant. Twin rising mains will be constructed from this new pumping station to connect to the 9C sewer in Parslickstown. The pipeline will run through Fingal County Council owned lands in Littlepace.

Both intrusive site investigation and non-invasive survey work are complete and the final pipeline route has been identified. The process of acquisition of the wayleaves required to construct the pipelines from landowners in Kildare, Meath and Fingal is underway.

The Consulting Engineers (Jacob Tobin) are currently finalising Tender Documents for this scheme. The planning applications for both the pumping station (at Leixlip WWTP) and a new Pedestrian Bridge over the River Rye in Leixlip are

due to be submitted to Kildare County Council in Q1 2018.

It is envisaged that construction will commence in Q1, 2019.

Balbriggan Skerries Network Improvement Scheme – Loughshinny Contract

This project involves the decommissioning of the septic tank in Loughshinny which is both hydraulically and biologically overloaded. The septic tank will be replaced with a pumping station rising main arrangement to connect to the Skerries network. The sea outfall will be retained to act as an emergency overflow.

There is Part 8 planning in place for a proposed pumping station in Loughshinny. This project will stop the discharge of untreated sewage to sea and facilitate development in Loughshinny. A specimen design and the final tender documents for the project are now complete.

IW have formally applied for a CPO for a section of Loughshinny Car Park after engaging with Council Traffic and Roads Maintenance Depts. in relation to the maximum number of car parking spaces that can be retained during the construction period. CPO documentation is currently on public display in Irish Water's office in Colvill House, Talbot Street, Dublin and a copy of same is also in Skerries Library, Strand Street, Skerries.

It is envisaged that construction will commence in Q3, 2018.

CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNANCE (CAG)

Contents

Commemorative Plaque - Blanchardstown

Relaunch of Fingal News
Seachtain na Gaeilge Events

CORPORATE AFFAIRS

Commemorative Plaque unveiled to local hero in Blanchardstown

On February 3, the Mayor unveiled a plaque in Blanchardstown to remember local hero Sergeant Hugh Gaynor, who died while serving with UN Peacekeeping Forces in the Congo in 1960. Sergeant Gaynor served with the 33rd Infantry Battalion which was deployed to the Congo in late 1960. On November 8, 1960, while on patrol at Niemba eleven members of the Platoon led by Lieutenant Kevin Gleeson were ambushed. Nine of the eleven men died including Sergeant Gaynor and Lieutenant Gleeson.



The Mayor also warmly congratulated and commended Commandant Frank Russell for taking the initiative to commemorate Sergeant Gaynor and the other men who died at Niemba.

The Mayor also paid tribute to the 87 Irish soldiers who have lost their lives while serving in different UN missions. This year marks the 60th year of such international service by the Irish Defence Forces which have the longest unbroken record of peacekeeping duties of any country.

Fingal News

The Communications Unit will relaunch the Council newsletter, Fingal News in the coming weeks and publish it monthly after that. The newsletter will be available electronically for download by citizens from the Council website and will be promoted through the Council's social media channels. A subscriber base will also be created so subscribers can have the newsletter automatically emailed to them each month.

There will be a small print run to facilitate those without access to the internet and these will be available from the Council's offices and libraries.

The purpose of the newsletter is to give citizens an insight into the work being done by the Council on their behalf as well being a guide to available services and events. Contact details for key areas, including Councillors, will also be provided.



Imeachtaí do Sheachtain na Gaeilge

Is féile idirnáisiúnta Ghaeilge í Seachtain na Gaeilge a bhíonn ar siúl ó 1 -17 Márta in Éirinn agus i go leor tíortha eile gach bliain.

Le linn na tréimhse seo eagróidh Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall roinnt imeachtaí, lena n-áirítear Oíche Cheol Traidisiúnta agus Amhráin san Atrium Áras an Chontae Sord 13 Márta 7-9pm agus an scannán i nGaeilge Song of Granite in Ionad Shéamuis Mhic Aonghusa ar an 15ú, mar aon le go leor imeachtaí i Leabharlanna.



Seachtain na Gaeilge Events

Seachtain na Gaeilge (Irish Language Week) is an international Irish language festival that takes place each year from March 1-17 in Ireland and in many other countries.

During this period a number of events will be organised by Fingal County Council including a night of Traditional Music and Song in the Atrium County Hall Swords, March 13, 7-9pm and the screening of Irish Language Film Song of Granite in the Seamus Ennis Centre on March 15, as well as many events in Libraries.



Seachtain na Gaeilge 2017

FINANCE

Contents

LPT Allocation
Preparation and submission of AFS
Financial Reports

Making of the Rate
Revaluation Update

Local Property Tax Allocation

The first tranche of the Local Property Tax allocation for 2018 in the sum of €4,459,093 of the LPT allocation of €26,754,600 was received from DHPLG on January 25, 2018.

Preparation and submission of Annual Financial Statement

Circular Fin 01/2018 dated January 10, 2018 (see Appendix 2) sets out the requirements for the preparation and submission of the Annual Financial Statement (AFS) for the 2017 Accounts. The statutory deadline for the completion of the accounts is March 31, 2018 and work is currently underway in all departments to ensure that the deadline is met. Following completion of the Draft AFS it will be presented to the Members for their consideration.

Financial Reports

Monthly financial reporting of the Revenue/Capital accounts and on Debtors will commence, as normal, from the period ending February 28, 2018 for the March Council meeting.

Rates

Making of the Rate

Following determination of the rate by Members at the Annual Budget Meeting, the rate was made by the Chief Executive on January 23, 2018. The total amount of current rates assessed for 2018 is €120.3m. All rate bills have now issued.

Revaluation Update

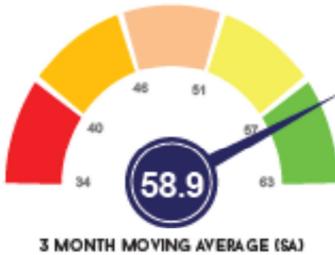
The Commissioner of Valuation made the Valuation Order for Fingal County Council on October 6, 2017. The Valuation Office issued material to ratepayers on October 6, 2017. The Valuation Office has now appointed a project team to Fingal for revaluation purposes. Officials will engage with this team throughout the process and Members will be updated as appropriate.

APPENDIX 1

Key Metrics from the Dublin Economic Monitor (Issue 12)

ECONOMY

IHS MARKIT BUSINESS PMI Q4 2017



UNEMPLOYMENT RATE Q3 2017

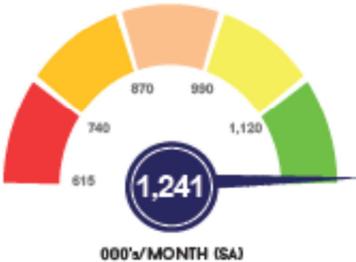


KBC/ESRI CONSUMER SENTIMENT Q4 2017



TRANSPORT

AIRPORT ARRIVALS SEPT 2017



SEAPORT CARGO Q4 2017

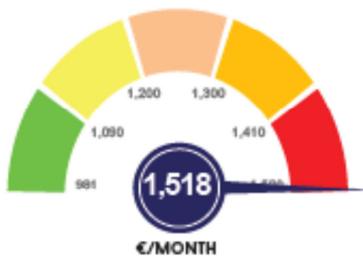


PUBLIC TRANSPORT TRIPS Q3 2017



RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY

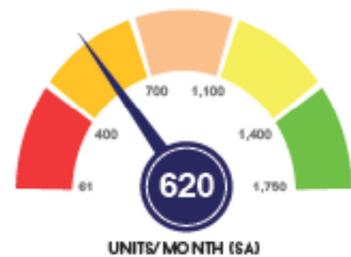
AVERAGE RESIDENTIAL RENTS Q3 2017



RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY PRICE INDEX OCT 2017



HOUSING COMPLETIONS NOV 2017



COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

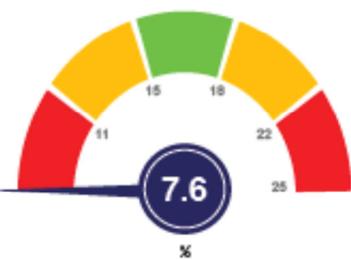
DUBLIN CITY CENTRE OFFICE RENT Q4 2017



DUBLIN 2/4 OFFICE VACANCY RATE Q4 2017



DUBLIN SUBURBS OFFICE VACANCY RATE Q4 2017



SOURCES: CSO, EXCEPT CONSUMER SENTIMENT KBC/ESRI; IHS MARKIT; SEAPORT CARGO: DUBLIN PORT; PUBLIC TRANSPORT: RTA; RESIDENTIAL RENTS: RTB; COMMERCIAL PROPERTY: CBRE RESEARCH

APPENDIX 2



An Roinn Tithíochta, Pleanála
agus Rialtais Áitiúil
Department of Housing, Planning
and Local Government



Circular Fin 01/2018

Head of Finance
10th January 2018

Preparation and Submission of Annual Financial Statement (AFS) 2017 and Other Accounting Matters

A Chara,

I am directed by the Minister for Housing, Planning, and Local Government to refer to the preparation and submission of the AFS 2017 and other accounting matters.

1. AFS 2017 and EU / IMF Quarterly Reports

The final quarterly reporting of the main revenue and expenditure items of Local Government are due for submission to Local Government Finance of this Department on Friday 23 February 2018 along with the quarterly GGB returns. The data provided in these reports must be aligned to the AFS 2017 data and all local authorities should be cognisant of this in preparing their AFS and quarterly reports. There is no scope for late submission of the Q4 2017 Quarterly Reports, which must be completed on a full accrual accounting basis.

The Accounting Code of Practice requires that the AFS is prepared and submitted to the Department of Housing, Planning, and Local Government by 31 March of the year following the end of the accounting year. It is essential that these deadlines are met and that the AFS files are supplied to the Department in a timely manner (i.e. by Friday 30 March 2018). Whilst these are the statutory deadlines, local authorities must strive to have their AFS data complete in time for the EU / IMF reporting deadline of 23 February to ensure the data in these reports is accurate and aligned to the AFS.

2. AFS 2017 Related Decisions agreed by the General Accounts Working Group

The General Accounts Working Group (GAWG), at its regular meetings during 2017 and in consultation with the wider Heads of Finance group where required, have discussed and agreed the following AFS 2017 related items:

A. I&E:

PRD is to remain in AFS 2017 in order to show prior year comparatives. PRD will also still appear in Note 15 Analysis of Revenue Income. However it will no longer appear from AFS 2018 forward.

B. Note 3: Long Term Debtors

Development Contributions Long Term Debtor will no longer be shown here.

C. Note 5: Trade Debtors and Prepayments

Agent Works Recoupable to be removed and included instead in note 10(b) Capital Account Balances including asset formation & enhancements. (Comparatives will be changed also)

D. Note 7: Loans Payable

Remove Inter Local Authority – Close Account Element 47300

E. Note 7: Loans Payable

In part (b) the line Voluntary Housing and Irish Water loans recoupable will be removed and replaced with the new line Recoupable Loans (Note 3 and note 7 should match for loans recoupable)

F. Note 14: Transfers from/(to) Reserves and Note 10: Other Balances

In order to allow for GGB to B9 reconciliation and in particular the additional detail required on Transfers (to/from reserves and revenue/capital accounts), amendments to note 14 are proposed for AFS 2017 which should assist with the B9 reporting requirements. See appendix 1 to this circular for the revised format of Note 14.

G. New Service and Subservice – Climate Change

The GAWG approved COA changes in relation to the new attribute structure (E15) and agreed the need for a subservice E1501 for Climate Change and Flooding. It was agreed that pending further clarification from the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (DCCA) E15 should be used for planning, strategic actions preventative works and dedicated climate change officers.

H. Accounting Policies 5 Pensions:

The following will be removed from the Accounting policies: *The liability for the payment of pension benefits rests with the relevant Local Authority as set out in Section 31 of the Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and Other Provisions) Act 2012.*

I. App 7 : Summary of Major Revenue Collections

Domestic and Commercial Refuse are to be removed for periods from AFS 2017 onwards.

The following footnote will be added in respect of PRD:

From 2017 onwards, local authorities will no longer retain PRD locally. Accordingly, an upward adjustment was made to the LPT baseline of each local authority, to include an additional amount equivalent to the PRD income retained by local authorities in 2014.

3. Updates to the Accounting Code of Practice

The proposed commencement dates of the Accounting Code of Practice (ACOP) Policies in respect of Contingencies, Capital & Non-Capital Reserves, and Commitments & Capital Contracts scheduled for AFS 2017 have been postponed until AFS 2018 as additional work is still ongoing in these areas.

Also the proposed changes to the ACOP changes in respect of Statement of Movement in Reserves and Statement of Commitments have likewise been deferred to AFS 2018.

Queries in respect of this circular should be forwarded to vincent.potter@housing.gov.ie.

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Local Government Finance

Appendix 1: Note 14 Transfers from/(to) Reserves

14. Transfers from/(to) Reserves

A summary of transfers to/from Reserves is as follows:

	2017 Transfers from Reserves €	2017 Transfers to Reserves €	2017 Net €	2016 €
Principal Repaid - Non-Mortgage Loans (Own Asset)				
Principal Repaid - Non-Mortgage Loans (Recoupable Non Asset)				
Principal Repaid - Finance Leases				
Transfers - Other Balance Sheet Reserves				
Transfers - Capital Account				
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year				

Where:

Principal Repaid - Non-Mortgage Loans (Own Asset)

Relates to loan principal repaid from revenue jobs regarding assets of the LA, these repayments also hit the loan repayment reserve account 48400

Principal Repaid - Non-Mortgage Loans (Recoupable Non Asset)

Relates to loan principal repaid from revenue jobs regarding recoupable loans not relating to assets to the LA, for example Irish water loan repayments, voluntary housing loan repayments etc.

Principal Repaid - Finance Leases

Relates to principal repaid on finance leases, these repayments also hit the lease repayment reserve account 48500

Transfers - Other Balance Sheet Reserves

Relates postings to revenue jobs regarding movements on balance sheet reserves such as specific revenue reserve, historical mortgage funding gap etc.

Transfers - Capital Account

Relates to transfers to the capital account and the total amounts should agree to their equivalent columns in Appendix 6, transfers from/to revenue.