



Chief Executive's Management Report

Fingal County Council Meeting

Tuesday, January 16, 2018

Item No. 25

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S MANAGEMENT REPORT – JANUARY 2018

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ECONOMIC, ENTERPRISE AND TOURISM DEVELOPMENT (EETD)

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Tourism Development

Marketing 2018

The tourism marketing plan for 2018 will mirror our successful 2017 campaign and include the following elements:

- Cara Magazine - Aer Lingus inflight Magazine March/April 2018.
- Brochure Broker – putting Fingal information leaflets in hotels across Dublin City with access to 16,000 rooms on a nightly basis.
- Ireland at your Leisure – magazine distributed via car hire companies – circulation of 41,000.
- Spirit of Ireland – magazine distributed in the US and Canada with a circulation of 50,000.
- Failte Ireland (FI) market books – work with FI to ensure that Fingal information is included in all relevant market books.
- Tourism Ireland – working with Tourism Ireland to promote Fingal globally particularly in China.

Events

Christmas Lights

Successful Christmas tree lighting ceremonies took place in Blanchardstown, Swords and Balbriggan. These events had a large attendance, despite the cold weather, across the County.



Balbriggan at Christmas

Heritage Properties Strategy

The tender process for the operator contract for Malahide, Swords and Newbridge is at an advanced phase.

The Bremeore Business Development Strategy nears completion with an initial report due in late January.

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

Events in Swords Castle

David Gilna, local playwright, performed his play “My Bedsit Window” in Swords Castle from December 4 - 9. This had upwards of 60 people in attendance every night. This is a clear example of the potential of the chapel in Swords Castle as an event space.



Swords Castle – Christmas Food Fayre

Fingal County Council hosted a Christmas Food Fayre in Swords Castle on December 16 and 17 from midday to 8pm. The Swords Castle Christmas Food Fayre included food stalls,

Christmas choirs and face painting for children. The market was well supported with nearly 10,000 people in attendance over the 2 days. A full review will now take place to establish the viability of this market and similar markets in the future.

Local Enterprise Development

The Local Enterprise Office continues to roll-out a substantial programme of work. Some highlights from December and 2017 include:



Enterprise Towns Student Enterprise Event

LEO Fingal collaborated with Bank of Ireland to host a student enterprise learning event celebrating the vibrant entrepreneurial culture in Fingal. The Fingal Student Enterprise Programme is the largest in Ireland with over 2,500 students participating this year.



'Sticks and Stones' from Blakestown CS at the Youth Enterprise Market at County Hall in December



Measure One Grant Assistance

Applications to the value of €265,000, from eight small businesses, were approved at the December Evaluation and Approvals Committee meeting on December 6, bringing the total amount approved for 2017 to €761,000.

Start Your Own Business Programme (SYOB)

In 2017, 13 Start Your Own Business programmes were completed with 154 participants.

Business Development Workshops

In December, two further Business Development Workshops were delivered to 22 participants. In total 56 workshops were run in 2017 with over 515 participants. In addition, six SME focussed digital and social media programmes were run with 72 participants.

Plato

Plato is an advanced 18 month management development programme run by the four LEOs in the Dublin region. The programme continues with 20 Fingal based companies participating. It is anticipated that the four LEOs in the Dublin region will continue to support the initiative for a further three year period 2018-2020.

Business Clinics

Clinics are offered to individuals that wish to start up a new enterprise or expand their existing business. During December, 40 clinics were undertaken bringing the total number of clients availing of this service in 2017 to 663.

Mentoring

Individual mentoring assignments were approved for four new clients during December. A total of 107 assignments were approved in 2017.

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 17 applications were approved in December bringing the total approvals for 2017 to 51 to the value of €106,663.

Fingal Enterprising Women Network (FEWN)

The last Fingal Enterprising Women Network event of the year featured over 120 female entrepreneurs. At the networking event the guest speaker was Denise Fay an international marketing communications adviser as well as TEDx speaker.



The FEWN Networking Event on December 5

Economic Development

LEADER Programme

In the last six months of 2017 approvals by the LCDC-led Local Action Group, totalled €435,000 of support to projects. In 2018, this total is expected to increase substantially.



For more information on the LEADER programme visit www.dublinruraleader.ie

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

Blanchardstown Area Partnership (soon to be renamed Empower) signed a contract for the provision of the new Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) for the period 2018-2022.

The contract, which will be managed by the LCDC, is worth approximately €6 million and will target those most disadvantaged and socially excluded.



Signing the SICAP contract for 2018-2022

At the December LCDC meeting, nine projects were approved for RAPID funding. The total funding available was €64,500, the scheme was heavily oversubscribed. The groups approved for funding are set out in Table 1.

Group	€
Mulhuddart Community Centre CLG	€37,000
Balbriggan Meals Ltd	€2,300
The Dublin 15 Community Broadcasting (92.5 Phoenix FM)	€7,870
Fingal Travellers Primary Health Care	€4,000
Remember Us	€2,405
Web Garda Youth Diversion Project	€1,500
Diswellstown Community and Recreation Centre CLG	€2,425
Foróige Youth Service Balbriggan	€5,000
Irish Vikings Balbriggan Basketball Club	€2,000

Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP)

The recent LECP workshop was successful in that both LCDC members as well as external stakeholders had detailed discussions ahead of the review of the plan envisaged for Q4 2018. At the workshop a number of key stakeholders to the plan identified their priorities and opportunities for 2018 with engagement from all members present on potential areas for collaboration.

Enterprise Centres

Occupancy rates at the Council's three enterprise centres at the end of December were: Drinan 83%, BASE 91% and Beat 100%.

The three Enterprise Centres currently support 66 businesses and 331 jobs. In 2017, ten new start-ups were accommodated in the centres during 2017 with 25 new jobs created. An additional 25 Community Employment/Tus positions, providing valuable work experience for long term unemployed, were also supported by BASE and other organisations active in the BASE complex. The three enterprise centres currently employ 11 people directly who deliver the centres' services on an ongoing basis.

Along with the provision of enterprise space to start-ups, the three centres combined also have 10 training rooms, which facilitate the delivery of training programmes in varied disciplines. Over 1,200 people accessed training courses in the centres during 2017. Beat, in particular had a very active year in accommodating training in such diverse areas as ETB Healthcare, ECDL and ICT, Manual Handling, First Aid, Personal Development, Back to Work Information Sessions, Taxation, Start your own Business, ETB Office Skills, Interview Skills, Jobs Boot Camp, Career Development, One-to-one Business Plan Development, English Language, Payroll and Accounts.

OPERATIONS

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IBAL Anti-Litter League

Set up in 1996, Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) is an alliance of companies sharing a belief that continued economic prosperity - notably in the areas of tourism, food and direct foreign investment - is contingent on a clean, litter-free environment.



As part of the IBAL Anti-Litter League, An Taisce monitors towns independently and in accordance with international grading standards. An Taisce surveyed 25 towns and 15 city areas during 2017, on behalf of IBAL.

Both Dublin Airport Environs and Balbriggan were well placed in the competition, coming in 4th and 10th respectively. 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".

Bridge Rehabilitation

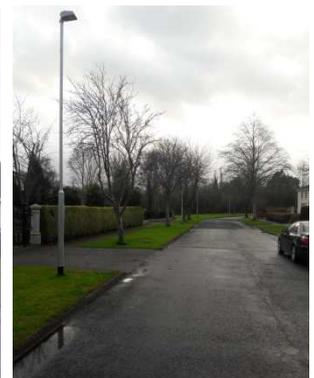
Construction works at all five bridges in the 2017 Programme are complete. Planning and selection of the bridges for the 2018 programme is underway.

Street Lighting

Column replacement works are finished in Cherry Avenue/Park Swords and Georgian Village Castleknock. Works consisted of the replacement of 39 & 65 end of life columns respectively complete with LED lanterns and supply circuit improvement.



Cherry Avenue Swords



Georgian Village Castleknock

Traffic Management Schemes

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

- The anti-skid surfacing is weather dependant and is continuing into early 2018.
- The Traffic Signals 2017 Contract work by TSL is continuing on various sites.
- New Lining Works Programme is ongoing.
- The Navan Road Pedestrian Crossing Contract by KN Networks is due to commence in early January.
- The Corduff Traffic Calming scheme, contract is about to be awarded.

- The Audit of Traffic Warden Crossings required in the Road Safety Plan, is well advanced.

Christmas Tree Shredding and Recycling

During the first three days following the Christmas holidays over 2,800 Christmas trees were deposited in Millennium Park and have been mulched for use in local parks and open spaces.



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.



Delivery of salt for winter road gritting

Storm Eleanor

Operations Department Tree Crews were kept busy clearing the effects of the first storm of 2018 as it passed through Fingal.

Depot staff responded promptly to reports of fallen trees throughout the County.



Tree Crew at Rugged Lane, Porterstown, Castleknock removing a fallen tree and debris

On-going Works at Balgriffin Cemetery Extension



Works Programme

Below is a summary of other projects from the Works Programme:



Landscaping works at Loughshinney Crossroads



Ongoing works to the Park at The Green, Swords

Footpath Improvement works, including the installation of a knee rail on the old Porterstown Road, which will facilitate greater pedestrian safety for those accessing Scoil Choilm and Luttrellstown Community School, commenced in December.



The Road Resurfacing Works at Tinkers Hill, as provided for in the 2017 Works Programme, have been completed.



Other completed works, include a replaced section of footpath on the R127 (left) and the River Valley – Road Overlay.



Tidy Towns sculpture illumination in Skerries



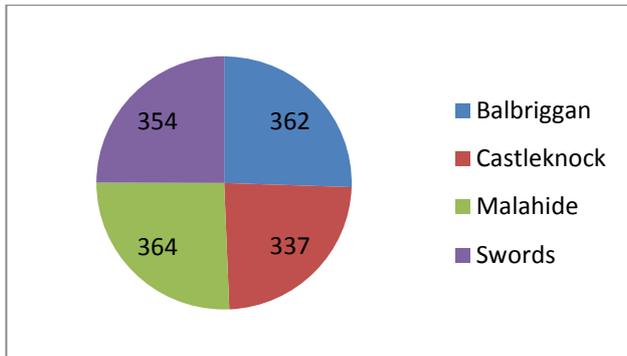
PLANNING AND STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE (PSI)

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Building Control/Taking in Charge	Other Updates

Planning Activity

Planning Applications

There have been 1,417 planning applications received to the end of December 2017, 191 of these applications were invalid leaving a total of 1,226 valid applications. The volume of applications received by area is illustrated below:



Planning Decisions

A total of 1,165 planning decisions have been made to the end of December 2017. There have been 1,057 decisions to grant permission (90.7%) and 108 refusals of permission (9.3%).

There have been 121 grants of permissions in respect of single house construction, 494 grants of permission for domestic extensions, 331 commercial/retail grants of permission and 65 grants of permission in respect of housing developments - 7 of which related to development in excess of 100 or more housing units and 41 of which related to developments of 2-20 housing units.

Building Control

There have been 214 Disability Access Certificates lodged to the end of December 2017, of these 162 Certificates have been granted, 3 refused, 1 was invalidated and 7 are currently on time extension.

There have been 270 Fire Certificates lodged to the end of December 2017, of these 174 have been granted, 3 refused, 14 were invalidated and 27 are currently on time extension.

Building Control/Taking in Charge

Building Control Management System Data

During 2017, a total of 719 commencement notices were handled by Building Control staff through the BCMS system. During the same period a total of 518 completion certificates came through the BCMS system.

Eastern Region Committee Meeting

A quarterly meeting of key staff from the Building Control Authorities in the Eastern Region took place in Dundalk in December 2017. Issues discussed included the quality assurance of data being issued to the DHPCLG, implementation of the construction products regulations, and increased construction activity.

National Inspection Regime

Fingal County Council staff are involved in the working group on the establishment of a national building control inspection regime in conjunction with the LGMA and other building control

authorities, which is planned for launch in 2018. Fingal's experience of the roll out of tablets for building control inspections is a significant aspect of this project. The national project will greatly improve the standard and consistency of the data captured at inspection stage throughout the country.

Taking in Charge of Legacy Developments

Building Control staff have completed the first phase of the establishment of two frameworks associated with the resolution of legacy estates. These frameworks are to be in place in Q2 2018 with a view to designing resolution plans, drawing down bonds where necessary and undertaking the works to bring estates to Taking in Charge standards.

Water Services Development Management - Forward Planning

Pre-planning consultations

During December, Fingal County Council staff engaged with developers at pre-planning stage to discuss issues relating to the provision of water services and to ensure the implementation of sustainable drainage systems on site.

Flood Risk Assessment for Local Area Plans

Following the floods of late November, Fingal County Council staff visited numerous development sites to validate theoretical data on hand with regard to flood risk.

Flood Risk Assessments for Local Area Plans

During January, staff are assessing the tenders for the drainage strategy for the Barnhill Local Area Plan. Meanwhile work is ongoing on the establishment of a framework of consultants to prepare Drainage Strategies and Flood Risk Assessments to inform the preparation of LAPs throughout 2018 and beyond.

Other Updates

Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midland Region

The Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly has commenced the process of making a Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the whole of the Eastern and Midland Region. The purpose of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) is to support the implementation of the emerging National Planning Framework (Ireland 2040 Our Plan) and the economic policies and objectives of the Government by providing a long-term strategic planning and economic framework for the development of the region over a period of between 12 years and 20 years.



In order to stimulate debate and encourage participation in the process an Issues Paper has been prepared by the Assembly and is available to view/download at www.emra.ie and may be viewed at Local Authorities within the region.

Stages in the RSES process



It is requested that submissions are made in writing in respect of the preparation of this Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy and that they consider strategic regional planning and economic issues for the region. Submissions to be

made up to 5pm on January 26, 2018 through one of the following media:

Online: www.emra.ie/rses

Email: rses@emra.ie

Mail: Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly, 3rd Floor North, Ballymun Civic Centre, Main Street, Ballymun, Dublin, D09 C8P5

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 on December 12, 2017 to enable the people of Fingal to have their say on what we should remember and commemorate. The public consultation process runs until Wednesday, January 24..

While many events and/or persons related to the struggle for independence in the period 1918-1923 will be commemorated during the period 2018-2023, the Council also wishes to consider other significant events, persons or themes of relevance to Fingal and its communities which should be commemorated. This includes an exploration of the broader social and historical context of the period 1918-1923 which witnessed significant transformation at local, national and international levels.

For example, the end of the Great War in 1918 led to independence not just for Ireland, but for many other countries across Europe. The Council encourages ideas and suggestions for commemoration from outside the Irish experience reflecting the fact that Fingal is one of the most diverse counties in Ireland with residents from many different countries.

The Bremore Castle Big Dig 2017

The Bremore Castle Big Dig 2017 has been successfully shortlisted as a finalist of the Best Heritage Project/Initiative category of the All Ireland Community & Council Awards 2018. Over a hundred members of the community, from 18 to 90 year olds, took part in the community excavation in the grounds of Bremore Castle during the summer, adding to our knowledge of this 16th Century fortified house and its environs.

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY (H&C)

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HOUSING

Social Strategy 2020/Re-building Ireland Update

The Council delivered 2,241 homes since the start of the Housing Strategy 2020/Re-Building Ireland, which exceeded the delivery output target of 1,376 by 63%. The units were delivered over the various delivery mechanisms and do not include units approved for delivery.

Pillar 1:

Address Homelessness

Fingal County Council is currently in contact with circa 413 families who are in homeless circumstances or at risk of homelessness.



418 families had their homeless circumstances alleviated in 2017 through the allocation of social housing support up to the end of December (including 191 Homeless HAP) with a further update regarding end of year tenancy arrangements awaited from Placefinders. Two Homeless Hubs are now operational in Fingal.

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 Threshold Freephone service.

Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)

405 Homeless HAP tenancies are in place since the Dublin Region HAP Pilot scheme came into effect in 2015 with further tenancy arrangements concluding. In addition, there were 469 tenancies in place under mainstream HAP with further tenancy arrangements concluding.

Pillar 2:

Accelerate Social Housing Construction Programme

The 20 rapid build homes in Wellview were delivered on time on the December 5. All houses are now occupied.



The contractor was appointed for the construction of 42 units in Avondale, Dublin 15 on December 19.

The current position with the construction programme is set out below.

	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

*1st phase of both Ballyboughal = 2. 1st and 2nd phase of Racecourse Common, Lusk delivered = 25 units. 9 housing units at Darcystown Close - North & East Approved Housing Body.

Masterplan sites are not included in the above figures. The Council is liaising with the Housing Agency to develop the Land Aggregation Scheme (LAGS) lands and a Strategic Management Plan will be prepared to advance the asset to the development stage at the earliest opportunity.

Acquisitions Programme

Report Month	Nov	Dec	Jan
Delivered to Date	286	292	295
Pending Sales Closing	31	59	68

Part V

A total of 114 Part V housing units has been delivered over the life of the strategy 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.

Coldwinters Development

A new social housing development has begun at Coldwinters, Finglas, through a partnership between Fingal County Council and the Peter McVerry Trust. Six social housing units and a community building will be built on the site at Coldwinters.



FCC and PMV Trust staff at the Coldwinters' Sod-turning

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, was rolled out on a national basis on February 23, 2017.

Three derelict properties in 2017 were secured by the Council through the RLS initiative.

The Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government has a National Communications Plan which advertises the scheme to owners of vacant properties and raises the profile of RLS nationwide. Further details of the RLS can be found here: <http://bit.ly/2miDSDu>

Buy and Renew Scheme

The Council has secured a number of derelict properties under the Buy and Renew initiative. A total of five derelict properties were secured by the Council in 2017.

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 Safety

Fire Safety works are ongoing on the Traveller Specific Sites as follows:

- 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.



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 Wellview, Mulhuddart is underway. The design team appointed to develop the Plan held a briefing session to discuss the development of the plan was held with the local Councillors on December 7. A further briefing session is planned with local stakeholders at the end of January.

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:	Nov	Dec	Jan
RAS Tenancies	195	200	191
LTL Tenancies	78	80	77

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	23
Sales Completed	10

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 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 areas. 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, FCC has 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 40 casual void social housing stock at the end of December. Of these dwellings, 11 are complete and are being offered for letting. Work is underway on 16 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 initial surveys have commenced in Dromheath Estate.



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

All 20 of the new dwellings in the Rapid Build Scheme in Wellview are now occupied.

The Allocations team is working closely with a number of Approved Housing Bodies namely Tuath, Cluid and NABCO at present to provide

nominations for new homes in the North County and Dublin 15 areas.



Wellview Terrace, Mulhuddart, Dublin 15

Disability Steering Group for Housing People with a Disability

The Steering Group has prepared its Draft Strategic Plan for housing people with a disability 2017 – 2020 and a progress report in this regard was presented to the Strategic Policy Committee in September 2017.

It is intended to incorporate 6 cases studies (in respect of applicants/tenants who were granted medical priority) in to the Strategic Plan. Interviews have been conducted and we are in the process of finalising the completion of this report.

COMMUNITY, CULTURE & SPORTS

COMMUNITY

Community Awards Shortlisting



Two Fingal Community Groups that are supported by the Community Development Office have been shortlisted for the IPB Insurance and LAMA All Ireland Community and Council Awards (see full list of Fingal nominations on page 28).

Fingal Public Participation Network

The FPPN New Year resolution is to encourage more of the members than ever before to get involved in the FPPN in 2018 and that the activity reflects the member's needs.

The FPPN will arrange Linkage Groups/ Networking Meetings to find out what the Top 10 most important issues are in each of the topical areas. This will inform the strategy and advocacy going forward. The following is a list of meetings and the topics for each of the meetings.

Date	Topic
January 16 (Tuesday)	Community Safety and Policing
January 22 (Monday)	Environment and Water
January 31 (Wednesday)	Arts, Community, Heritage and Sport
February 1 (Thursday)	Planning and Strategic Infrastructure
February 6 (Tuesday)	Housing and Homelessness
February 7 (Wednesday)	Social and Rural Development (incl. Youth)
February 8 (Thursday)	Transport and Economic Development

Fingal Age Friendly Cities & Counties Initiative

The National Age Friendly Recognition and Achievement Awards will be held on April 10. 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. Organisations, individuals, agencies and communities are requested to submit applications on projects or programmes that they consider to be age friendly. 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.

The award categories are: (WHO theme)

1. Age Friendly Transport (Transportation)

Getting to where you want to go when you want to go is so important to so many older people. This category recognises the vital difference that access to good quality and reliable transport options can make to an older person.

2. Age Friendly Active and Healthy Ageing (Community Support and Health Services)

We are living for longer, but remaining healthy and active in later years can be a real challenge. This award recognises those initiatives that optimise opportunities for good health in later years, so that older people can continue to play an active role in community life.

3. Age Friendly Business Innovation (Civic Participation and Employment)

We know that creating an enjoyable and accessible environment for older consumers pays dividends for businesses and the wider community. This category acknowledges age aware businesses who recognise that older people are both producers and consumers and bring a wealth of experience and expertise to our society.

4. Age Friendly Safety and Security (Housing)

Feeling safe and secure at home and when out and about greatly enhances the lives of older people. This category acknowledges the impact of community based responses that enable older people to feel secure in their homes and in the wider community, and to know what to do when they don't.

5. Age Friendly Communication (Communication and Information)

A lack of access to information is often cited as a barrier to 'ageing well' in Ireland. The ability to access clear and concise information can impact on a range of aspects of an older person's life, from health and wellbeing to social connectedness to financial security. This award recognises efforts being made around the country to bridge the information gap.

6. Age Friendly Environment (Outdoor Spaces and Buildings)

The built environment has a unique impact on the lives of all older people. Simple things like adequate public seating, level footpaths and appropriate crossing times at pedestrian crossings all have a huge impact on the ability of older people to be active in their towns and villages. This category recognises projects that bring about change in the built physical environment with older people in mind.

7. Age Friendly Community Innovation (Social Participation, Respect and Social Inclusion)

The voice of the older person is at the heart of the Age Friendly Cities and Counties Programme, the Programme is designed and implemented with them and not for them. This award recognises those innovative projects that are driven by older people for older people. These projects not only enhance the lives of older people, but benefit the community at large.

8. Age Friendly Housing (Housing)

As people age they spend more time in their own homes. This means that older people's quality of life, and thus their health, can depend on the appropriateness of their home environment and the conditions in which they live. This award recognises innovative housing initiatives that enable older people to remain independent for as long as possible.

For an application form and return of entries please contact the Fingal Age Friendly Cities & Counties Programme Coordinator eithne.mallin@fingal.ie. The closing date for applications is 1pm on Wednesday, January 31, 2018.

Creative Ireland Fingal Programme Inaugural Creative Ireland Forum

The first-ever Creative Ireland Forum took place in Dublin Castle on December 13. Bringing together a comprehensive programme of contributors including An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht Josepha Madigan, EU Commissioner Tibor Navracsics, Cartoon Saloon co-founder and Oscar-nominee Paul Young and Cork-based designer Joseph Walsh, the aim of the conference was to illustrate the importance of an all-of-government approach to Ireland's creativity and wellbeing.

The conference focussed on three broad policy areas: the critical importance of a cultural and creative education; the role of culture in health and wellbeing; and the connections between the arts, culture and the creative industries.

The conference was officially opened by Minister Madigan and featured a keynote address by An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar T.D., who outlined the importance of an integrated approach to the

Creative Ireland Programme in ensuring lifelong creativity for all Irish citizens.

New Creative Youth Plan Launched

The new 'Creative Youth Plan' was launched on December 7, by An Taoiseach. The Plan sets out measures to deliver on one of the key goals of the extensive Creative Ireland Programme, to ensure that every child in Ireland has practical access to tuition, experience and participation in music, drama, art and coding by 2022. At this plan's core is that creativity and culture should be at the heart of education for all our young people. While there is a very broad range of cultural activities currently available to children and young people, the plan aims to build on what already exists as well as simultaneously develop new projects and initiatives.

The plan also aims to introduce increased opportunities for students to learn coding and computational thinking; to expand opportunities to participate in drama/theatre outside of school and to introduce a strategy that develops and extends choral singing.

Last year's hugely popular Cruinniú na Cásca will be redesigned and developed as Cruinniú - a national creativity day for children and young people in consultation with the Local Authorities.

ARTS OFFICE

Youth Engagement - Swords Cultural Quarter

Officials from the Arts, Libraries and Architects Departments are collaborating with an external facilitator to create a dynamic and creative workshop exploring arts, culture and creativity for young people in Swords. The aim of the workshop is for Fingal County Council to meet with a diverse group of young people from across Swords to ask them what kind of cultural space and opportunities they would like in their neighbourhood in the coming years.



An invitation will issue to post-primary school students to engage in this dialogue with a view to delivering the workshops towards the end of February. The sessions will be facilitated by Anna Galligan, an arts practitioner with thirty years' experience working with young people. Students' participation, thoughts and ideas will be captured using post-its, vox pops, and other written, aural and visual media. A report of all the data gathered will be produced for the Swords Cultural Quarter working team.

SPORTS OFFICE

Operation Transformation 2018

The Operation Transformation Walks took place on Saturday, January 13, in the Ward River Valley Park, Swords and Porterstown Park, Dublin 15. Both walks were well attended and now with RTE's Operation Transformation series back on

our screens there is a renewed incentive for us all to exercise and improve our health and well-being in 2018.



Some of the participants from Operation Transformation 2017



LIBRARIES

Funding for Libraries

Towards the end of 2017 the Department of Rural and Community Development announced an investment package of €3.75m for libraries nationally. Fingal Libraries received €106,000 of this funding which will go towards extending self-service facilities to three more branches – Baldoye, Garristown and Howth. It will also go towards buying book stock for the new mobile library vans and purchasing resources for Work Matters services at branch libraries throughout the County.

Also in December 2017, Fingal Libraries was awarded a €50,000 grant from Science Foundation Ireland under the Discover Programme. This funding, along with the Council's

own resources will allow us to roll out an extensive STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) programme across Fingal including:

- Career building workshops;
- An extension of 3D printing services to Blanchardstown library; and
- An extensive public engagement and education programme including coding workshops, introduction to 3D printing, engineering and biodiversity

Library Blog

Library staff members write a regular Blog which is available on the Council's website at <http://www.fingalcoco.ie/blog/> and on our social media channels - Facebook and Twitter. The topics covered in the Blog include events held in libraries, homework help for kids and recent films and books. In the latest Blog at <http://bit.ly/2Atq3Yb> which proved to be really popular, staff shared their favourite reads for 2017, in both fiction and non-fiction.

New Mobile Library Vans

Three new mobile library vans will be launched on January 23. A fourth van is on order with delivery expected at the end of March.



New Mobile Libraries - hitting the roads soon



These new vans will replace four older mobile libraries, which have clocked up on average 17 years and many thousands of miles on the road.

Some facts about the new vans:

- Length: 9380mm Height: 3370mm
- Width: 2380mm
- Wheelchair access via a side door lift;
- Electric powered side awning for outdoor activities;
- Shelving book capacity, for up to 6000 books.

Healthy Ireland at your Library

The Department of Health has seen the potential to work with Public Libraries across Ireland, to deliver the Healthy Ireland at Your Library Programme, which aims to establish libraries as a valuable source within the community for health information. The Programme will address 6 key areas: Healthy Childhood, Healthy Eating and Active Living, Wellbeing and Mental Health, Positive Ageing, Alcohol and Tobacco.



Healthy Ireland at Your Library will enhance current health information in Fingal Libraries, by providing new book stock, e-books, e-audiobooks, e-magazines & online courses on health and wellbeing. The book stock and online resources will be complimented by a range of talks, discussions and workshops at branch libraries which will focus on physical and mental health and health literacy:

- On January 15, at Blanchardstown Library, author and psychotherapist Stella O'Malley will give a talk on 'Raising Kids in an Anxious World'. Stella is author of Irish bestsellers

'Cotton Wool Kids' and 'Bully-Proof Kids' and appears regularly on RTE.

- Coach, trainer, author and speaker Eoin Ryan, will Get Fingal Moving at a session at Swords Library on January 17.
- Trained and experienced therapists from "The Willow Rooms" will give a talk on nutrition, mindfulness and reflexology at Balbriggan Library on January 23.
- At Howth Library, on January 17, Lorna Lee from Barnardos will give a talk on Internet Safety for Children.

There are lots more Healthy Ireland at Your Library talks and events taking place in Fingal Libraries at various branches throughout January and for the rest of the year. Check www.fingal.ie/library for further details.

Battle of the Book final

The Battle of the Book final will take place in the Riasc Centre, Swords on January 25. Supported by the DAA, and involving 6 primary schools in Fingal, the Battle of the Book is designed to encourage children to read and discuss a particular book, bringing it to life and relating it to their own experiences. 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 Irish Civil War 1922 – 23: Ava's Diary" by Patricia Murphy was the selected title for 2017/18 and the participating schools are St Colmcilles GNS Swords, Mary Queen of Ireland NS Rivermead, St Margarets NS, St Marnocks Portmarnock, St Patricks NS Skerries and Kinsealy NS.

House to Home Project

Donabate Library hosted a magic show and photocall on December 21 to mark the opening of an exhibition, which showcases the work

produced through the House and Home Project. This collaborative project between Sophia Housing Donabate, the Institute of Technology Blanchardstown (ITB) and Fingal Libraries aims to introduce children and their parents to the benefits of books and reading, using a particular theme and a variety of activities. As part of the project, children visited the Early Childhood Care Centre at the ITB, where they engaged in stories, art work and conversation about what house and home means to them.



Participants at the exhibition launch at Donabate Library

They also continue to enjoy weekly visits to Donabate Library for storytelling and related activities. The exhibition was formally opened by Acting Mayor David O' Connor with Martin the Magician providing the entertainment.

Dogs' Trust Talk for Adults

Fingal Libraries will host Dogs' Trust talks aimed at dog owners, parents and grandparents of primary school children. The speakers will give advice on why dogs bite, the signs exhibited by dogs to show they are stressed and other useful tips and hints on how to keep children safe around dogs. It is not just for families who have dogs of their own, as every child will come into contact with dogs at some stage, whether in another house, or out and about in the community. The schedule of talks is as follows:

Rush Library: January 30 - 10.30am
Swords Library: February 20 - 10.30am
Malahide Library: February 21 - 10.30am
Blanchardstown Library: February 23 - 10.30am
Donabate Library: February 27 - 10.30am
Balbriggan Library, February 28 - 10.30am
Baldoyle Library, March 7 - 10.30am.

Chess club at Garristown Library

Research shows that playing chess improves reading skills, attention span and creativity.



Garristown Library runs a very active chess club for children on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3.15pm – 4.30pm.

ENVIRONMENT & WATER SERVICES (EWS)

Contents	
Environment	
Schools Competition	Air Quality
Green Schools	Litter Management
Household Recycling Waste	Dog Licences
Packaging Regulations	Water Services
Environmental Performance Assessment Report	Service Level Agreement to conclude
Balleally Landfill Surface Water Project	Capital Projects
Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems	

ENVIRONMENT

Schools Competition

The Environment Awareness section invited all schools in Fingal to enter a 'Green' Christmas competition. The competition asked pupils to create an environmental message about reducing waste and preventing litter at Christmas. The competition was received positively. A total of eighteen prizes were distributed to schools throughout the County.

Environmental Assessments – Green Schools

Schools seeking to obtain or retain a Green Flag in 2018 will apply to the Environment Department for an assessment visit in the coming months. The assessment involves a review of environmental progress in the school and provides an opportunity to offer guidance on best practice in schools.

Household Recycling Waste

The DCCAE has published an industry-agreed list of materials which can be placed in the household green bin. This list which can be viewed on www.recyclinglistireland.ie was developed in response to the need to improve the quality of the recycle and reduce the incidences of rejections at destination facilities.

China and India are major buyers of recyclable material from Europe and USA and have traditionally reused these recycled materials to reduce the extraction of raw materials, but have in recent times insisted on higher standards and are no longer purchasing mixed materials such as plastics, paper or cardboard baled together. In Ireland, this has emphasised the need for better segregation of materials and for uncontaminated streams, particularly paper.



Packaging Regulations

EMWERLA (Eastern – Midlands Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority) requested Fingal County Council to pilot the new Packaging Portal from January 2018. This Portal will be used as an information interface between the Department, the Council and Repak.

Local Authority Environmental Performance Assessment Report 2014-2016

The EPA in December 2017 published its annual assessment and three - year cycle report for environmental performance in the above period. Fingal achieved an 'Above Target' overall grade for 2016 in accordance with the Agency's Performance Framework baselines – based on 26 environmental performance indicators and Enforcement Area Weightings, indicating “generally very good performance, with particular areas of strength”.

For more details please refer to the following link: <http://www.epa.ie/enforcement/pa/performanceframework/>

Balleally Landfill Surface Water Project

Tender documents for construction were published on e-tenders issued in December 2017. This project will involve road realignment and drainage works designed to eliminate severe flooding at the entrance, replace surface water and leachate mains and will also involve relocation of facility buildings within the landfill site.



Flooding at Balleally Landfill entrance – November

A brief is being prepared for the engagement of consultants to prepare a detailed master plan for the newly named Rogerstown Park which will be the subject of further public consultation during 2018.

New National Inspection Plan for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems

The Environmental Protection Agency has published the third National Inspection Plan for the period 2018 to 2021: Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems Draft for Consultation <http://www.epa.ie/pubs/consultation/> The closing date for comments is 5pm on Friday 26th January 2018.

The Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012 requires the EPA to prepare a national inspection plan for domestic waste water treatment systems (commonly known as septic tanks).

The aim of the plan is to protect human health and water quality from the risks posed by domestic waste water treatment systems. There are two primary roles within the plan:

- (1) Inspection System – Fingal County Council inspectors are required to undertake the inspection of domestic waste water treatment systems each year. The inspector can issue an advisory notice to the home owner if their domestic waste water system fails the inspection. The home owner must then undertake the required remedial work within the time specified on the advisory notice.
- (2) Engagement Activities – The Water Pollution Control team in FCC provides information and advice to home owners on how they can protect their health and that of their family, neighbours and environment from the risks posed by domestic waste water treatment systems.

Air Quality

A total of 125 solid fuel inspections were carried out in 2017 in accordance with the Air Pollution Act (Marketing, Sale, Distribution and Burning of Specified Fuels) Regulations 2012.

Litter Management

A total of 110 Litter Fines and 14 Warning Notices were issued in December.

Dog Warden Service

A total of 1181 Dog Licences were issued in November and December.

WATER SERVICES

Operations

Service Level Agreement with Irish Water to conclude

Irish Water has confirmed its intention not to renew the Service Level Agreements (SLA) with local authorities in 2025. They have also indicated that they wish to negotiate an earlier conclusion to the SLA which would achieve the single utility model by 2021.

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.

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. are completing the contract documents and specimen design drawings.

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.

It is hoped that the main contract works will go to construction in Q3/4, 2018. The CPO Confirmation Order has been published.

Negotiations are on-going with St Nessian'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.

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 FCC in Q4, 2017 and Portmarnock Pumping station is now due to be submitted to FCC 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 (that will accommodate the rising main) 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 has 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)

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Business Award for Council
Community & Council Awards 2018

Relaunch of Fingal News

CORPORATE AFFAIRS

Fingal County Council wins home-grown business and FDI InBusiness Award

Fingal County Council was given an award for its work with home-grown businesses and generating Foreign Direct Investment at the InBusiness Awards in December. The award was accepted by the Chief Executive and Cllr. Jimmy Guerin, from the Economic and Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee.



The InBUSINESS Recognition Awards 2017 recognise outstanding accomplishments in the Irish business community. Winners were chosen across 20 categories based on the broad criteria of growth, profile of business, range of services and customer care.

Community & Council Awards 2018

A total of eight Fingal projects have been shortlisted in six of the 21 categories of the All Ireland Community and Council Awards 2018 presented by the Local Authority Members Association (LAMA) and IPB Insurance. The nominated projects include:



Best Arts/Culture Initiative

- Space Invaders
- The Bleeding Pig Cultural Festival

Best Business Working in the Community

- Beat Enterprise Centre Balbriggan

Best Community-Based Initiative

- Active Age for All

Best Community Sports Team/Club

- Donabate Portrane Community & Leisure Centre

Best Heritage Project/Initiative

- Breme Castle Big Dig 201&
- Malahide Castle & Gardens

Best Local Authority Innovation for Attracting FDI

- Dublin Enterprise Zone

The winners will be announced at a gala awards ceremony at Croke Park Stadium on Saturday, February 3.

Fingal News

The Communications Unit will relaunch the Council newsletter, Fingal News, in Q1, 2018 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.

FINANCE

Contents
Making of the Rate

Making of the Rate

Following determination of the rate by Members at the Annual Budget meeting, the rate will be made by the Chief Executive on January 23, following the statutory publication process. Rate bills for 2018 will issue immediately after the rate has been made.