



An Active Travel Strategy for Fingal

Easy Read Summary

May 2023



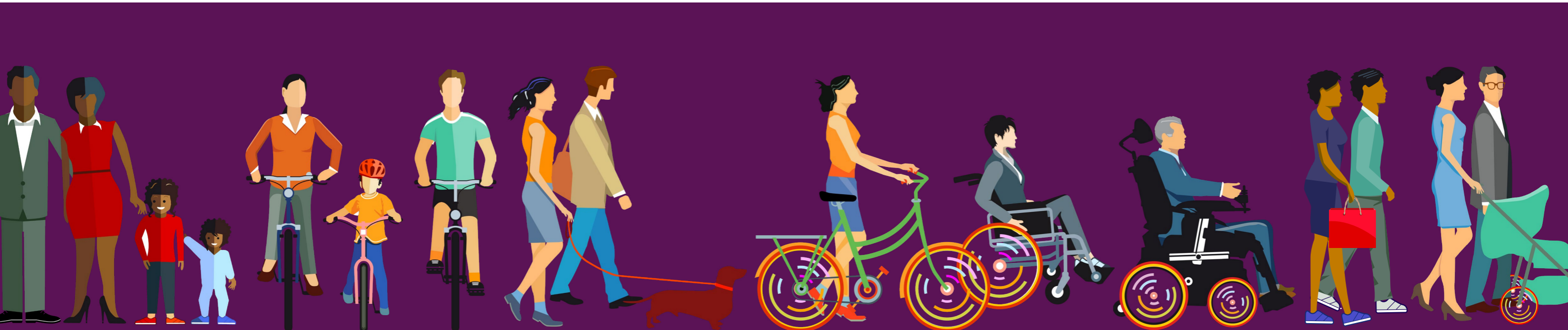
Our Vision For Active Travel | 1

This easy read summary document can help you understand the Active Travel Strategy for Fingal. If you would like to read the full Strategy please visit www.fingal.ie/activetravel/strategy

Fingal County Council wants to increase the number of people choosing Active Travel for everyday short journeys, or as part of longer journeys by public transport. To help us make this happen we have written a strategy. Our strategy considers the full range of things we can do to make Active Travel an attractive and realistic choice for more people. This includes everything from creating new cycle lanes to teaching kids in schools about Active Travel.

Active Travel means using your own energy to get where you're going. It includes walking, scooting, running, wheeling, and cycling. It includes all types of trips, with an emphasis on trips under 5km, including going to work, school, shopping, visiting friends and for leisure. Active Travel considers the needs of those who use prams, scooters, wheelchairs, and adapted cycles, as well as new ways of getting around such as electric scooters and bikes.

This strategy will be used by planners, decision makers and people in the Council who can influence how people travel in Fingal.



2 | Active Travel Has Many Benefits

Active Travel has benefits for policy areas including planning and the economy; transport; social inclusion and equality; health and wellbeing; and the climate and environment. The Government's Climate Action Plan: Securing our Future 2023 tells us that we must halve Greenhouse Gas emissions by 2030 and reach no emissions by 2050. To achieve this goal there are three main actions we must take on transport;

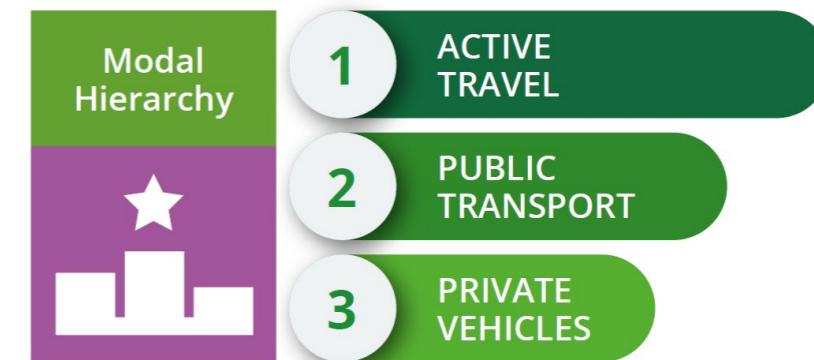
- ▶ 1. Reducing the need to travel
- ▶ 2. Increasing the number of people using public transport, walking and cycling, to reduce trips by car
- ▶ 3. Making vehicles more energy efficient

We are changing the way we think about use of private motor cars. Instead, we are promoting Active Travel as part of normal daily routines. We recognise that some people may not be able to walk or cycle. However, given the right encouragement and support, almost everyone, of whatever age or background, can make small changes in their travel behaviour that will make a big difference.



What The Strategy Suggests | 3

The actions Fingal County Council will take will ensure that walkers, cyclists and those with mobility issues are put first. We will add to previous investment and prioritise actions which combat climate change and are open to people from every part of the community. The work we do will be of high quality and will be built to last. We will consult with everyone, including those with no access to a car and those who have mobility issues.



We will organise our work into six themes (or 'pillars'). Details of these themes are below.



Protected Cycleways

Along fast or busy roads, new cycling lanes will be separated from traffic. This can be achieved by taking some road space for cycling and walking and separating it from traffic with kerbs, verges and bollards or by adding that separation to existing cycle lanes, and by making changes to junctions that improve safety. Fingal County Council will work with the National Transport Authority (NTA) to deliver the Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network. We will use the National Cycle Manual so that we meet high quality design standards.

Safer Towns and Villages

To make towns and villages safer places for walking and cycling, we will review infrastructure and provide projects which promote Active Travel and improve the area. We will do this while taking account the greater reliance on motorised transport in rural settings. We will invite people who live in Fingal's towns and villages to take part in projects. Our work will aim to help you reach local destinations within a safe fifteen-minute walk or cycle journey. Measures will be different for each town or village but could include widening footpaths, creating Low Traffic Neighbourhoods, Safe Routes to School measures, one-way systems for vehicles and pedestrianisation schemes identified in Local Transport Plans.



Better Connections

At neighbourhood level, small changes to the local environment can make it easier for those walking and cycling to move through an area. For example, traffic filters can limit street access to different types of vehicles, a new gate in a fence or gap in a wall, or a footbridge over a stream. These changes can make trips by Active Travel easier, safer and quicker. When we are looking at new development applications we will check that they support Active Travel. We will also review existing developments and recommend improvements that can be made.

Improved Safety

Concern about safety is the reason most people give for not walking or cycling. Better street design, high quality and well-lit footpaths, safe road crossings and cycle lanes can all reduce safety fears and help change travel behaviour. We will reduce the number of accidents involving pedestrians and cyclists through a range of safety improvements in our Road Safety Plan. Safety campaigns will be carefully tailored to different groups of people, such as children, and will carry positive messages which promote walking and cycling.

More Mobility Choices

We will make best use of new ideas, data, and financial incentives to promote travel behaviour change. We will work with the National Transport Authority and local organisations to develop a network of bike share schemes, including electric bikes. We will work with public transport operators to improve information, safety and cycle parking at bus stops, DART and train stations and at Luas and future Metrolink stops. We will monitor new mobility trends and consider new opportunities such as eScooters.



Improved Strategic Planning

This Strategy allows us to make plans for the future. We will respond to new plans and policy announcements at local, regional, and national level. The Active Travel Strategy will be included in the Fingal County Development Plan 2023-2029 and Active Travel will continue to be a requirement of future planning permissions. We will review Council policies to ensure they support Active Travel including land use and transport, cycle parking standards, Safe Routes to Schools, interchange with Public Transport and our own procedures.



4 | Changing How You Travel



We will ensure that Council staff and the general public understand the importance of Active Travel by following these five steps:

Engagement

The Fingal County Council Active Travel Unit has prepared a communications strategy which will ensure we work with local residents, all Council teams, elected Councillors, and representative groups when we are promoting Active Travel or communicating about new projects.

Enablement

We will provide appropriate facilities and activities which promote Active Travel. These changes should be convenient to use so that people can make simple journey choices. Our planning and design processes will follow the transport users' hierarchy which is an internationally accepted model that puts walking and cycling as the top priority.

Communication

We will promote Active Travel by making changes which are visible to the wider population. We will explain why these changes are happening, and will share stories that demonstrate the impact on local people. Examples include building attractive cycle lanes which are within sight of drivers travelling on busy roads, and adding cycle and pedestrian counters which display daily use figures and estimated journey times.

Training & Advice

We will help people make use of Active Travel schemes by offering the right equipment, safety skills, and advice for using journey planners and mobility apps. Much of this training will be carried out by our Cycling and Walking Officers.

Inspiration

We want to inspire and celebrate Active Travel journeys. Our plans may include organising events for scheme openings, Active Travel challenges with exciting prizes, or interactive experiences along our routes such as traffic signals timed to match cycling or scooting speeds... we want your ideas!



What Happens Next? | 5

We have now published the Active Travel Strategy for Fingal. This Active Travel Strategy will be managed by Fingal County Council in partnership with the National Transport Authority, key stakeholders, and local organisations.

We will appoint an Active Travel Champion to lead the strategy at all levels, build support and secure investment in Active Travel.

We will review all Council policies and design standards relevant to Active Travel, particularly those which can influence the design and location of new housing, employment sites, schools, and hospitals.

We will ensure that strong local partnerships are in place through consultation, regular communication, and where practical, joint decision making and project delivery with the community.

We aim to increase spending on Active Travel measures. To achieve this, we will seek funding and support from government and a wide range of funding sources.

We will produce an Active Travel Delivery Plan which will be updated annually. A Monitoring and Evaluation framework will be developed to measure changes in how we travel so that we can improve our plans.



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Fhine Gall**
Fingal County
Council



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