

Fingal Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2020



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GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CEDRA	Commission for the Economic Development of Rural Areas	LCDC	Local Community Development Committee
CSO	Central Statistics Office	LDS	Local Development Strategy
DDLETB	Dublin and Dún Laoghaire Education and Training Board	LECP	Local Economic and Community Plan
DECLG	Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government	LEO	Local Enterprise Office
DEIS	Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools	LES	Local Employment Service
DSP	Department of Social Protection	NRP	National Reform Programme
EAs	Electoral Areas	NUTS	Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics (EU)
EDs	Electoral Divisions	OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
EI	Enterprise Ireland	OSI	Ordnance Survey Ireland
EU	European Union	PPN	Public Participation Network
FAI	Football Association of Ireland	Q	Quarter
FCC	Fingal County Council	QBC	Quality Bus Corridor
FCN	Fingal Community Network	SCO	Sustainable Community Objectives
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment	SEDO	Sustainable Economic Development Objectives
FET	Further Education and Training	SES	Socio-Economic Statement
FJPC	Fingal Joint Policing Committee	SICAP	Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme
GDA	Greater Dublin Area	SPC	Strategic Policy Committee
HP	Haase and Pratschke		
HSE	Health Service Executive		
IABA	Irish Amateur Boxing Association		
ICT	Information and Communication Technology		
ICTU	Irish Congress of Trade Unions		
LA	Local Authority		



VISIT FINGAL

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Fingal Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2021 is the first integrated economic and community development plan for the county.

The plan is built upon the understanding that economic, local and community development are mutually supportive in building sustainable communities with strong local economies. The plan promotes a collaborative leadership approach across a broad range of publically funded agencies and civil society stakeholders to achieve improved outcomes and impacts for citizens, businesses and communities.

1.1 Building the Plan

The Fingal Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2021 has been developed over the last twelve months in line with the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government, Circular LG 1/2015; AL 1/2015 of 21st January 2015, conveying statutory Guidelines under Section 66H(3) of the Local Government Act 2001, on Local Economic and Community Plans (LECPs).

1.1.1 Guiding Principles

The process for the preparation of the Fingal LECP was underpinned by eight guiding principles. These are: -

1. Accessibility and ownership;
2. Community consultation and stakeholder engagement;
3. The application of community development principles;
4. Diversity;

5. Maximising the return from the resources employed by avoiding unnecessary overlap and duplication, and by achieving synergies through co-operation and collaboration;
6. Participative planning;
7. Promotion and mainstreaming of equality; and
8. Sustainability

For the purposes of the development of the LECP, sustainable development has been defined as 'that which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'. It follows, therefore, that sustainable development recognises the interdependence of environmental, social and economic systems and promotes equality and justice through the empowerment of people and a sense of citizenship.

Fingal County Council and Fingal Local Community and Development Committee (LCDC) recognises the following statement on Equality and Human Rights¹.

We promote an environment that is fair, diverse, inclusive, transparent and welcoming for all individuals and organisations, including employees, service-users and elected members. We undertake to have due regard to the following needs: -

The elimination of discrimination;

The promotion of inclusion, the positive valuing of difference, the advancing of equality of opportunity; and

The fostering of good relations when making decisions, developing and implementing policies.

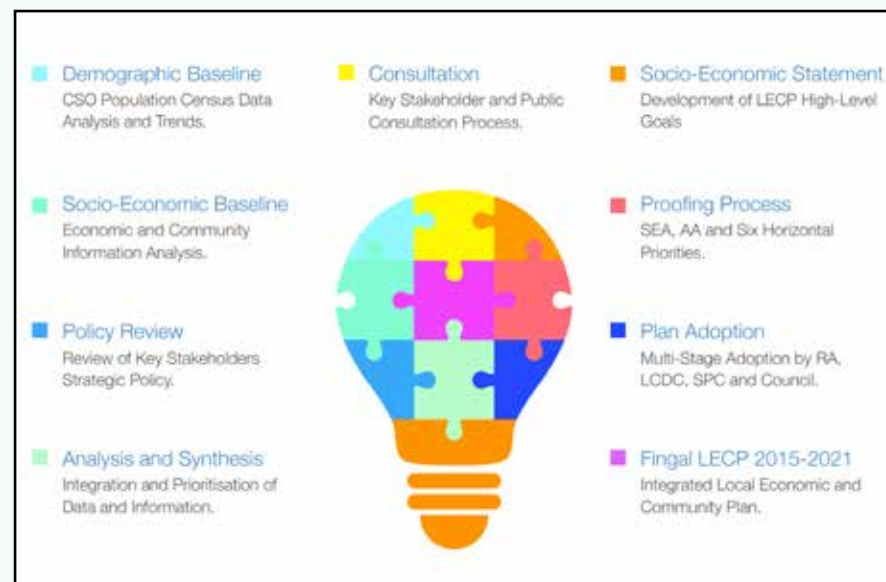
¹ Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014 (Section 42: Positive Duty).

In addition, an equality proofing process was undertaken to ensure that there were no adverse or unexpected impacts from an equality perspective.

1.1.2 Approach

The approach that was used to develop the LECP was based on the framework provided in the 'Guidelines on Local Economic and Community Plans'².

Figure 1 – Plan Elements



² Community Division of the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government: 23rd June 2015.

A demographic baseline was constructed for Fingal based on the Central Statistics Office (CSO) Census of Population 2011, and the Pobal HP Deprivation Index 2012. This was augmented by related data from other authoritative sources. Similarly, a socio-economic baseline was also constructed for Fingal.

A review of relevant international, European, national, regional and local strategic policy was undertaken to inform the operational environment within which the LECP would be delivered.

All of the above information and data was analysed to identify a key profile for Fingal from both the economic and community perspective. Simultaneously, a comprehensive consultation process was developed and implemented.

Initial written submissions were invited from the community at large and the principal Agencies operating in the county to identify their input to the key framework priorities based upon their experience and knowledge of Fingal. This was reinforced by a series of local community workshop meetings, one-to-one meetings and focus (interest) group meetings.

By way of innovation, and in addition to social media, CiviQ Consultations Software was used to identify and visualise underlying perspectives in the natural flow of opinion with stakeholders. The process was used to support a deeper understanding by consultees, and thereby improve the effectiveness of the consultation process.

<https://consult.fingal.ie/consultation/fingal-local-economic-and-community-plan>

Care was taken to encourage engagement from both communities of interest and communities of place.

Figure 2 – Consultation: Press Announcement

The views obtained through the consultation process were added to the profile developed for the county. This was then used to create the Socio-Economic Statement, which identified the high-level goals for the LECP. During its preparation, the goals were proofed using the guiding principals, and conformity with regional strategic policy was assured by reference to the Regional Assembly.

In the final stages of preparation, the LECP was screened to determine whether or not its implementation would result in significant adverse impacts on the Natura 2000 site network. It has been determined that the plan would not result in significant impacts on Natura 2000 sites and, therefore, Appropriate Assessment is not required.

The final phase involved the integration of the economic, social and community elements to provide the integrated Fingal LECP. This document was adopted by the LCDC (with a focus on the community elements) and the Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development, Strategic Policy Committee (with a focus on the economic elements). Following revision and sign-off, the document was finally considered and adopted by the full Council.

**Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gall**
Fingal County
Council



Fingal Local Economic and Community Plan Help shape your Community's future and participate in the Local Economic and Community Plan for Fingal

In the future, Fingal County Council will have an enhanced role in both economic and community development. This follows from the Local Government Reform Act of 2014. Fingal County Council is now developing a Local Economic and Community Plan to guide the integrated economic and community development of the County over the coming years.

To ensure that we target actions that both stimulate economic growth and impact positively on all communities in the county, Fingal County Council invite you to contribute suggestions as to how we might achieve this.

The consultation framework invites you to make a contribution under two distinct themes. Ultimately the plan will be formulated to incorporate the findings of the consultation. Uniquely, these findings will be presented as a fully integrated series of actions, bridging economic and community activity. A discussion document has been prepared and is available at <https://consult.fingal.ie/consultation/fingal-local-economic-and-community-plan>.

Submissions are invited until 22nd April, 2015 and can be made:

Online at:

<https://consult.fingal.ie/consultation/fingal-local-economic-and-community-plan>

By email to:

Economic.Development@fingal.ie

In writing to:

Local Economic and Community Plan Submissions, Economic Development Services, Fingal County Council, County Hall, Main Street, Swords, Co. Dublin.

Irish Independent 14x2 (83)

North County Leader 14x3 (97)

Gazettes 14x2 (71)

1.2 LECP Summary Structure

Fingal Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2021 comprises of an integrated framework of six overarching themes, ten high-level goals, thirty-eight supporting objectives, and a suite of 115 actions.

Table 1 – T1: Enterprise and Employment

Theme	High-Level Goal	Objective	Actions	
T1: Enterprise and Employment	G1: Increase economic activity and employment creation through innovation and collaboration.	O1: Facilitate infrastructure to encourage and support business location and growth.	A1: Facilitate business development in Business Parks within the county. A2: Monitor and respond to supply and demand for office space.	
		O2: Facilitate Incubation and business growth.	A3: Develop micro-enterprise incubation units (inc. artists studio space), in accordance with demand. A4: Develop a collective promotional network strategy for incubation space in the county.	
		O3: Build strategic alliances, internationally, nationally and regionally to increase employment potential.	A5: Develop an international strategy directed towards business development and employment creation. A6: Support the development and rollout of a <i>Regional Jobs Strategy for Dublin</i> .	
		O4: Develop new systems and strategies that support sectoral growth opportunities.	A7: Benchmark competitiveness within Fingal. A8: Assess specific sectoral growth opportunities and formulate sectoral policies as appropriate. A9: Facilitate the development of Industry clusters and provide opportunities for cluster funding. A10: Implement local economic policies in line with Enterprise 2025.	
			A11: Develop a systems approach to decision making and marketing designed to increase Fingal competitiveness and investments, internationally, nationally and regionally.	
			G2: To develop a communication and support structure for SME's and retail businesses	O5: Engage with local business leaders, to identify and support sectoral needs and to stimulate innovation and strategic opportunities. O6: Develop and implement an effective and consistent digital support and communication strategy engaging with industry and commerce.
				A12: Establish (sectoral / cross sectoral) business network events with the purpose of generating innovation, opportunities and investment. A13: Roll out series of annual events through <i>Enterprise Week</i> . A14: Establish effective digital platforms with local enterprise designed to promote dialogue and support growth to include: available premises, support structures, key contacts, baseline information to be used for evidence-based marketing and business planning, networking and forums, funding opportunities, international linkages, partner invitations for funding opportunities, success stories etc. A15: Collection, analysis and distribution of baseline information to enable evidence based planning for the LA, for businesses and for the community and voluntary sector, that augments and localises existing data sources such as <i>dublindashboard.ie</i> , <i>Dubllinked</i> , <i>dublinfoodchain.ie</i> , and <i>platodublin.ie</i> .

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Theme	High-Level Goal	Objective	Actions
T1: Enterprise and Employment	G3: To stimulate entrepreneurial culture, innovation and growth.	O7: Design an active business lifecycle advice, training and support structure.	A16: Provide an information, advice and training service designed to support entrepreneurs to plan, grow and sustain business.
			A17: Design a targeted outreach Business Development Supports Plan for Blanchardstown and Balbriggan.
			A18: Design a communications strategy to increase awareness of resources and supports available for start-up and developing companies, including sectoral specific targeting.
			A19: Facilitate local engagement with lending and financing organisations and initiatives, and improve knowledge about, and access to appropriate streams of national and EU resources.
		A20: Identify needs and supports to promote entrepreneurial and employment initiatives with specific interest groups i.e. ethnic minorities, young people, travellers, disability, women's groups etc.	
		O8: Work collaboratively with existing enterprise-related programmes and initiatives to develop sectoral support.	A21: Enable networking and mentoring between key business leaders, innovators, research institutions and advisors, early enterprise developers (including 3 rd Level students) and export-focused enterprise.
		O9: Provide enterprise guidance, support and information to individuals and specific targeted communities in the creation of innovative ideas and development of local enterprise opportunities.	A22: Provide information, guidance and support to long term unemployed people wishing to set up a business through appropriate short-term training and business plan development geographically targeted at SICAP high priority areas: Balbriggan, Swords and Blanchardstown.
			A23: Provide supports for those who wish to build a career in the Arts through Graduate Awards, Professional Artists Support Schemes and Professional Development skills programme.
			A24: Strengthen local employer relationships with Local Businesses and Industry for community-based mentoring opportunities.
		O10: Stimulate an entrepreneurial culture and skills in schools.	A25: Target students from second and primary level schools to participate in the <i>Student Enterprise Awards Programme</i> with specific emphasis on DEIS schools.
		O11: Support the development of a network for the promotion of social enterprise and placemaking.	A26: Support the <i>Young Entrepreneur Programme</i> at primary school level with specific emphasis on DEIS schools.
A27: Pilot an initiative to aid placemaking and local economic vitality within the County.			
A28: Develop a social enterprise strategy including a social enterprise mentoring structure to support sustainable growth.			
A29: Develop the use of community centres and facilities as creative environments for social enterprise and key assets in placemaking strategies.			
A30: Develop the use of library services to strengthen and support business, enterprise and employment services.			

Table 2 – T2: Learning, Training and Working

Theme	High-Level Goal	Objective	Actions
T2: Learning, Training and Working	G4: To maximise job creation opportunities by activating the potential within local communities.	O12: Provision of support for appropriate education and training facilities.	A31: Audit education and training provision and ensure appropriate access to excluded communities, including Arts Centres and other community facilities.
			A32: Implement the OECD People & Places Report recommendations on Learning, Training, and work related measures in the Blanchardstown RAPID area.
			A33: Maximise the potential of e-learning, up-skill communities in ICT, and facilitate access to technologies so as to enable the use of e-learning and access to information.
	G4: To maximise job creation opportunities by activating the potential within local communities.	O13: Strengthen cross-sectoral working relationships and develop a more strategic approach to the design and delivery of education and training provision. Identification of barriers to the take up of opportunities (with specific reference to communities of interest such as men over 50, ethnic minority communities, people with a disability, Traveller Community, women etc.).	A34: Develop an annual education and training strategy to include reference to targeted geographical areas and communities of interest.
			A35: Align education and training with emerging skills needs.
			A36: Develop an outreach strategy in the design and delivery of innovative literacy and numeracy initiatives.
			A37: Provide education and training opportunities for unemployed people (over 18yrs) using sporting activity as the delivery vehicle .
			A38: Identify and address the barriers to taking up employment-related opportunities (such as child-care, transport, etc.) and develop initiatives to enable increased access.
			A39: Implement the National Skills Strategy at a local level.
	G4: To maximise job creation opportunities by activating the potential within local communities.	O14: Provision of guidance and support enabling pathways to employment (with specific reference to communities of interest such as men over 50, ethnic minority communities, people with a disability, Traveller Community etc.)	A40: Support and promote Annual Adult Learning events to provide opportunities to access education supports.
			A41: Provide person-centred guidance to develop pathways to employment for targeted groups.
			A42: Provide job related training supports to unemployed clients including CV preparation, interview skills, social media skills for job seeking and transition to employment initiatives (SICAP Target Groups).
O15: Improve the use of labour market activation initiatives to support community initiatives and at the same time provide quality experience and progression for participants.			A43: Undertake an audit of labour market activation schemes with a view to developing a strategy for individual progression routes, personal and job related skills development, and community service needs.
			O16: Support the delivery of the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) aimed at tackling poverty, social exclusion and long-term unemployment.
	A45: Document and share learning with a view to removing duplication and improving service integration and delivery of education, training and activation supports and services.		

Table 3 – T3: Health, Well-Being and Social Inclusion

Theme	High-Level Goal	Objective	Actions
T3: Health, Well-Being and Social Inclusion	G5: To increase participation in social cultural and economic activities to improve, well-being and quality of life.	O17: Improve awareness of the importance of health and support the provision of services responding to the health needs of the community (with specific reference to communities of interest).	A46: Collate existing information on recreational, physical and mental health facilities and amenities. Map baseline data for a health promotion strategy and co-ordinate actions to improve. Information resources in community settings that reinforce positive health messages for improved health and well-being.
			A47: Implement Healthy Ireland strategy within Fingal.
			A48: Facilitate community engagement in the design of outreach initiatives to increase participation and take up of activities and services which promote active living and good mental health among key population groups; Disability, Traveller community, families of children with special needs, one parent families, women, older men and women.
			A49: Support early years health promotion initiatives and contribute information and learning to the Fingal Children and Young Peoples Services Committee.
			A50: Actively promote and increase the inclusion of traditionally under-represented populations in sporting activities (team and non-team based activities).
			A51: Development of Community First Responder Schemes.
		O18: Provide facilities and support services that enable a healthier lifestyle.	A52: Implement targeted actions detailed in Fingal Open Space Strategy.
			A53: Support the Dublin Bay Biosphere Initiative to ensure the sustainable development of the Bay including Howth Head and Baldoyle Estuary.
			A54: Develop linked walking and cycling trails, marked by clear directional signage and branding; investigate the potential for natural, cultural and historical information signs, community participation and employment and enterprise opportunities such as low level guiding.
		O19: Support community based initiatives to address mental health issues (with specific reference to young males and travellers) and prevention and early intervention initiatives in relation to substance misuse and gambling.	A55: Facilitate community engagement with the HSE and TUSLA to accelerate the development of early intervention and prevention programmes in line with <i>Connecting for Life</i> Ireland's National Strategy to Reduce Suicide (2015-2020).
			A56: Support community based initiatives to address mental health and social inclusion based on the needs of specific communities of interest, such as young males, ethnic minorities and the Travelling Community.
			A57: Support and collaborate with Drug and Alcohol Task Forces and associated partners to implement prevention and early intervention initiatives to reduce the harm caused by the misuse of alcohol and drugs to individuals, families and the wider community.
		O20: Collaborate with agencies and local communities to develop and implement innovative solutions to reducing anti-social behaviour and promoting Safer Communities.	A58: Work with tenants and residents' associations to develop safer neighbourhood strategies.
A59: Work in partnership with Gardai and sporting organisations to deliver late night sporting programmes for young people in key targeted areas.			
O21: Identify the social, cultural and economic needs of young people (including 18-25 year olds) and develop a Fingal Youth Strategy.	A60: Establish a collaborative 'what works' approach to promoting safer neighbourhoods and reducing anti-social behaviour.		
	A61: Collaborate with key agencies and community groups in assessing young people's (under 25 years of age) needs and develop a comprehensive Fingal Youth Strategy. A62: Maintain and develop Arts and Sporting initiatives designed to support young people in reaching their full potential.		

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Theme	High-Level Goal	Objective	Actions
3: Health, Well-Being and Social Inclusion	G5: To increase participation in social cultural and economic activities to improve well-being and quality of life.	O22: Support life-long learning (with specific reference to communities of interest such as people with a disability, Traveller community, one parent families, and older people etc.)	<p>A63: Support the establishment of community-based childcare and early intervention initiatives in targeted areas of socio-economic disadvantage, identifying and using models of <i>'what works'</i> whilst increasing access and uptake of Training and Employment Childcare (TEC) Initiatives.</p> <p>A64: Promote and deliver universal access parenting programmes from pre-school to adolescence.</p> <p>A65: Support the establishment of Transitions Initiatives from pre-school to primary school, and from primary to secondary school.</p> <p>A66: Provide supports to children and young people from target groups at risk of early school leaving and/ or not in education, employment or training.</p> <p>A67: Support participation of young people into the work of Fingal Children and Young Persons Services Committee; develop a lifespan approach to confidence building and engagement programmes.</p>
		O23: Support language and cultural initiatives, including integration measures for ethnic minority communities.	<p>A68: Support the Fáilte Isteach initiative across the county and develop strategies to meet demand for English language training supports in Dublin 15, Swords and Balbriggan.</p> <p>A69: Undertake an assessment of needs and develop a Fingal Integration strategy to integrate children, young people and families, both socially and economically, into their local community. Strategically utilise the Department of Justice's <i>Local Authority Integration Fund</i>.</p> <p>A70: Support the rollout of the <i>Yellow Flag Initiative</i>, promoting interculturalism, across Fingal Schools.</p>

Table 4 – T4: Leadership and Community Empowerment

Theme	High-Level Goal	Objective	Actions
T4: Leadership and Community Empowerment	G6: More coherent services that connect people and places, more active and empowered communities of place and interest.	O24: Develop and strengthen collaborative leadership across all co-ordinating committees and bodies.	A71: Explore and develop agreements with structures and services for engagement in the delivery of LECP.
			A72: Explore and develop data services to support evidence based policy design.
			A73: Design an annual community engagement action plan (include digital) arranging suitable protocols with key service deliverers (SICAP) where necessary.
			A74: Facilitate community awareness, community engagement and information sharing events (including an annual community conference). Acknowledge the value of the C&V sector and encourage engagement and active citizenship through new and existing awards and events.
			A75: Increase community engagement through training under the Fingal Pathway to Participation Programme, the First Steps Programme and the design and implementation of an annual programme of Master Classes.
		A76: Rolling out the Mulhuddart Priority Task Group Model of community planning and engagement in support of placemaking Initiatives.	
		A77: Support the implementation of Fingal County Council's Arts Development Plan 2013- 2017, and work collaboratively with Community and Voluntary Sector, thematic Groups and networks using Sports and Arts as tools for learning and engagement.	
		O26: Recognise and support community leaders and the role of the Fingal Community Network to build skills and capacity for community representation.	A78: Provide capacity-building training and support opportunities for groups included on the Fingal Community Network Database (1,500) to include mentoring and support for community groups.
			A79: Further develop the Fingal Community Network membership.
			A80: Develop the capacity of Fingal Community Network to become a fully inclusive, representative mechanism, taking into account communities of place and interest.
O27: Support and encourage active volunteering, with specific reference to the local impact.	A81: Develop the skills and capacity of Fingal Community Network members to participate in decision-making structures and become involved in improving the design and delivery of services into communities of place and interest.		
	A82: Provide staff support, funding and an operations space and venue to Fingal Community Network.		
		A83: Support volunteers and match opportunities in communities of place to skills and requirements, link to future employment.	

Table 5 - T5: Tourism, Environment and Heritage

Theme	High-Level Goal	Objective	Actions
T5: Tourism, Environment and Heritage	G7: To protect and enhance the environment and heritage of Fingal.	O28: To facilitate a co-ordinated approach to conservation and promotion and to the protection of local heritage and culture.	A84: Facilitate the implementation of the Fingal Heritage Plan.
			A85: Support local communities to audit and evaluate their local heritage and community cultural assets (including festivals and events) and to publish the results of this work.
			A86: Develop and implement a Community Archaeology strategy for Fingal building on the Swords Castle: Digging History.
			A87: Support and mentor thematic groups in the area of group development, strategic planning and project management.
		O29: To facilitate a coordinated approach to biodiversity conservation and nature education initiatives.	A88: Facilitate the implementation of the Fingal Biodiversity Action Plan.
			A89: Develop demonstration sites to showcase how to combine nature conservation with existing land uses such as farmland, quarries, golf courses, reservoirs, parks, housing estates, industrial sites and gardens.
	O30: Support actions to tackle climate change, and promote opportunities in the green and circular economy.	A90: Develop a sustainable energy and climate change action plan for the County. Investigate models of working and to embed biodiversity, climate change, environmental sustainability and consideration of carbon emissions into FCC strategies and policies.	
		A91: Promote the potential for green economy and related enterprise initiatives that seek to reduce and maximise recycling and recovery of waste materials.	
		A92: Encourage innovation and schemes for tackling climate change, climate change adaption measures and carbon emissions reductions.	
		A93: Facilitate the implementation of the Fingal Tourism Strategy.	
G8: To create distinct visitor attractions by sensitively optimising the natural assets of the county, and building an enterprise and community infrastructure to drive and expand the visitor potential.	O31: Implement the Fingal Tourism Strategy 2015-2018 and any subsequent relevant plans to 2020, with specific reference to area specific initiatives.	A94: Engage community involvement through promotion of a <i>Community Tourism Diaspora Fund</i> .	
		A95: Promote Fingal beaches as a destination through proactive management of water quality compliance with bathing regulations.	
		A96: Develop themed trails such as cultural, heritage, food, coastal and wildlife linked to walking and cycling routes.	

Table 6 – T6: Urban Towns and Rural Communities

Theme	High-Level Goal	Objective	Actions	
T6: Urban Towns and Rural Communities	G9: To re-generate towns and villages, and increase the resilience of the local economy.	O32: Support the regeneration of town centres, protection of local identity and generation of 'sense of place'.	A97: Implement age-friendly environmental proofing strategy in specified areas. A98: Undertake area specific assessment of vacant properties in urban centres, investigate opportunities for use including but not limited to, pop-up spaces, the development of artists' studios and exhibitions spaces. A99: Roll out <i>Purple Flag</i> in Swords and assess the merit of further roll out in other towns. A100: Implement the recommendations of the Swords Castle Cultural & Civic Quarter Masterplan. A101: Establish (where none exist) and implement Public Realm Strategies (integrated with Town Centre Development Plan) and investigate complementary Community Arts initiatives. A102: Establish (where none exist) and support Tidy Towns Committees and facilitate complementarity between Tidy Towns Initiative plans, strategic local action plans, public realm strategies and biodiversity initiatives (including the provision of trees and soft landscaping solutions).	
		O33: Increase biodiversity awareness and opportunities in the urban environment.	A103: Develop and implement a Green Infrastructure Strategy for Fingal in partnership with key stakeholders and communities.	
		O34: Target collaboration with key community, local development and training agencies to effectively reach those with employment and social support needs.	A104: Work with rural and urban communities to develop evidence-based plans through local needs analysis. Support the capacity of active citizen groups to work collaboratively with agencies in ensuring the employment and social support needs of communities are met. A105: Pilot and review 'The Ideas Programme' for Early School Leavers SL in Dublin 15, (modules on entrepreneurship, leadership and digital media). Roll out across urban town and rural areas.	
		O35: Implement the OECD recommendations from the report 'People & Places: Weaving together policies for social inclusion in Ireland'	A106: Establish a mechanism to present to the general public an integrated and readily understandable model of all local services. A107: Broker engagement between employers and disadvantaged communities. A108: Develop and promote a social enterprise strategy. A109: Establish a 'What Works' Information Centre piloted on a local basis with the potential for adaptation across Fingal.	
		G10: To support the sustainability of rural communities through the development of a resilient economy.	O36: Strategically target Rural Economic Development Zones (REDZ) to revitalise rural towns and villages.	A110: Work with rural communities to develop evidence based action plans through local needs analyses in identified targeted rural development zones (REDZ) and areas. A111: Target enterprise supports to develop rural enterprise and diversification initiatives. A112: Enable quality broadband access to all rural communities.
			O37: Address social inclusion by supporting access to a variety of services targeted at <i>hard to reach</i> communities.	A113: Proof plans and proposals in SICAP and LEADER to ensure measures target hard to reach communities (particularly youth). A114: Promote special measures to support economic development in marine and coastal communities.
			O38: Devise and implement innovative food and associated industry supports.	A115: Prepare a Fingal Food Strategy, and support the development of an agri-food network to identify employment creation potential.



2 INTRODUCTION

This is the first Fingal Local Economic and Community Plan for the Fingal local authority area. It is designed to promote and support the economic and the local and community development of Fingal over the period 2016-2021. For the first time there will be an integrated plan to help the local economy and communities to achieve balanced growth.

Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gall
Fingal County
Council



Fingal LECP
Local Economic and Community Plan

2.1 Preface

This Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) has been prepared in accordance with the Local Government Reform Act 2014, and in support of the 'Action Programme for Effective Local Government – Putting People First'. It has the overarching vision of promoting the well-being and quality-of-life of everyone in our county.

This Plan does not replace the strategic and operational plans of other agencies and bodies, but it does work between and across these to ensure a greater coherence and integration of action. It is about identifying and implementing integrated actions that will help the social and economic development of the county by: -

- Building stronger communities through strengthening economic performance; and

- Improving well-being through prosperity, job creation and financial stability.

Fingal LECP recognises that local and community development interventions need to support economic activity from the ground up, whilst helping to combat social exclusion and poverty, for example, through targeted interventions to improve education, training and employment opportunities within disadvantaged or marginalised communities.

2.2 Background

The Fingal LECP identifies the actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of the County. The LECP is not an operational plan, but seeks to achieve its objectives by working in partnership with all of the key economic and community development stakeholders that serve the county, including Fingal County Council.

The Fingal LECP identifies the actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of the County.

The LECP recognises that the expansion and strengthening of the County Council's functions in both economic and local community development is pivotal in positioning local government as the lead governing body at a local level and responding directly to Putting People First by promoting the well-being and quality of life of local communities.

The Fingal LECP is as action-focused as possible, recognising that delivery will be through the programmes of other stakeholders as well as by all of the structures of the County Council.

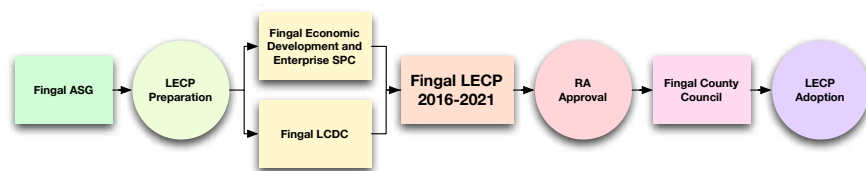
The LECP has been designed to be consistent with the Fingal Development Plan 2011-2017, and complementary to the draft

Development Plan 2017-2023, ensuring consistency with the statutory planning framework of the Council. Consequently, the LECP does not present alternate or competing proposals that would lead to inconsistency with the Development Plan. Furthermore, the LECP has been formulated to take account of the SEA Directive and Article 6 of the Habitats Directive, and to ensure compliance.

2.2.1 Decision-Making Process

The Local Government Reform Act 2014 - Part 6, provides for the establishment of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC). It prescribes roles for a number of local authority supported structures in the formulation of the LECP (Membership of these structures in appendices).

Figure 3 – LECP Structures



Advisory Steering Group

The Fingal LECP Advisory Steering Group (ASG) was established at the end of 2014 with the purpose of guiding the preparation of the LECP.

Fingal LCDC

Fingal LCDC was established as a Committee of Fingal County Council in June 2014. The LCDC has broad sectoral representation from public

and private interests, including business, local development, education, enterprise, agriculture, voluntary and County Council members.

In addition to the preparation of the LECP, the LCDC has been given responsibility for a number of statutory functions since coming into being in 2014, including (but not limited to): -

- The coordination, management and oversight of the implementation of agreed local and community development programmes, including: -
 - Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP); *and*
 - Local Development Strategy (LDS – LEADER Programme).
- Seeking to ensure effectiveness, consistency, co-ordination and avoidance of duplication between public funded local and community development programmes, in addition to public funded programmes.
- Pursuing the co-ordination of all local and community development programmes;
- Preparation of the community elements of the LECP; *and*
- Implementation of the community elements of the LECP and review of the economic elements of the plan.
- Enterprise and economic functions arising from community development activity.

Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development SPC

The economic elements of Fingal LECP have been developed by the Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) of Fingal County Council.

Regional Assembly

The Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly considers the consistency of the LECP: -

- a. With the core strategy and the objectives of the Development Plan of the local authority;
- b. With any spatial and economic strategy or, as appropriate, Regional Planning Guidelines which may apply; *and*
- c. Between the economic and community elements of the Plan.

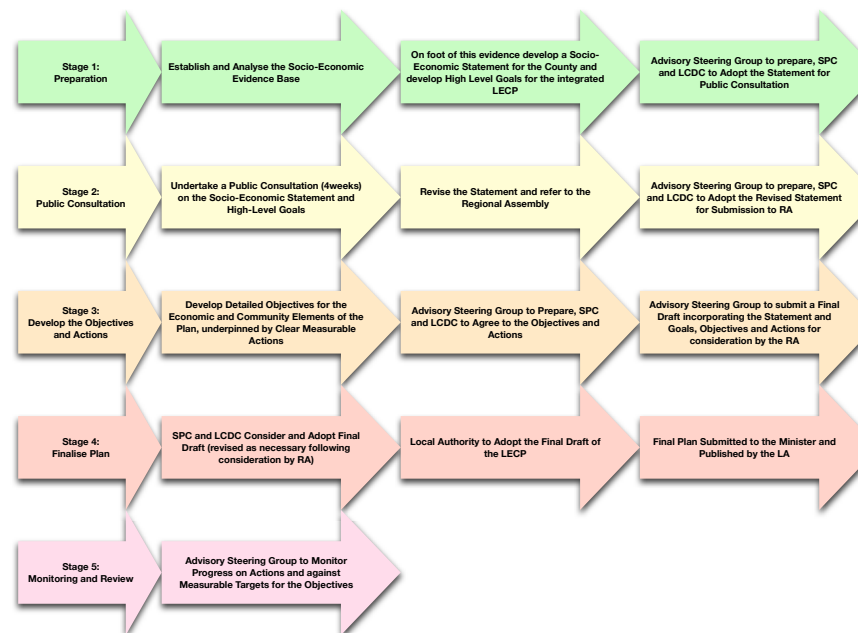
Fingal County Council

The adoption of the economic and community plan elements to form one integrated Plan by the Elected Council of Fingal County Council is a reserved function. The Plan development process involved the preparation of a Socio-Economic Statement (SES). The SES identified the initial high-level goals for the LECP based upon a round of consultation and an analysis of socio-economic and demographic profiles of the county. This was presented to the Regional Assembly for comment before being fully developed into the LECP.

The development process saw the use of a number of proofing tools to ensure that the outcome of the LECP remained focussed on its key targets, and that no unexpected outcomes might emerge from the implementation of the plan. The proofing process included Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening and Appropriate Assessment Screening to deal with potential environmental matters, together with the application of a range of tools to consider social impact.

2.2.2 LECP Formulation Process

Figure 4 – Fingal LECP Formulation Process



2.3 Scope

At the mid-stage of the LECP development process, the Socio-Economic Statement identified three strategic themes (*Stimulating Growth, Sustaining Development and Supporting Communities*). Ranging across the three strategic themes, thirteen high-level goals were developed. The thirteen goals were to be achieved through the application of seven principles, by way of cross-cutting Transformation Tools (*Leadership,*

Innovation, Equity, Life-Long Learning, Collaboration, Service Quality and Social Capital). Additionally, two complementary high-level outcomes have been identified to bridge across the three strategic themes (World-Class Responsive and Sustainable Local Economy and Environment, and Vibrant and Resilient Local Communities).

The second, and final, stage of the LECP development process saw the refining of the model into one that comprises of six themes, ten goals, thirty-eight objectives and one hundred and fifteen action elements. Each of the actions was assigned to a lead organisation and a series of key partner organisations.

Figure 5 – Fingal LECP Model



2.4 Vision

The vision for the Fingal LECP is built upon the understanding that economic development and local community development are mutually supportive in building sustainable communities with strong local economies. Thus, economic and community elements share dimensions of common interest and action.

Strong economic performance helps to build stronger communities and is fundamental to their welfare through greater prosperity, job creation and financial stability. Local community development interventions support

economic activity from the ground up, whilst also helping to combat social exclusion and poverty.

Fingal LECP 2016-2021 recognises that greater integration of the economic development and community development elements will help to ensure a coordinated and efficient delivery of actions to serve both economic and local community development.

2.4.1 Fingal LECP Vision Statement

County Vision

An inclusive, ambitious and prosperous place where people want to live, work, visit and do business in an environment which is sustainable, valued and enhanced for future generations.

Sustainable Economic Development

Fingal is known locally, regionally and internationally as a place where business can thrive, innovation can flourish and people can gainfully work and have a good quality of life.

Sustainable Community Development

Fingal is a place where people realise their full potential, enjoying a healthy, inclusive, safe and quality environment. It is a place where everyone is valued equally and where active citizenship is encouraged and supported.

2.4.2 Fingal LECP Mission Statement

The purpose of the Fingal LECP 2016-2021 is to set out the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development

and the local and community development of Fingal, both by Fingal County Council and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders.

The expansion and strengthening of Fingal County Council functions in economic development and local community development, provided for in the Local Government Reform Act 2014, is seen as a vehicle to promote the well-being and quality-of-life of the community at large.

The Fingal LECP provides a high-level strategy designed to achieve the vision for the County, and is designed to be as action-focused as possible, recognising that delivery will be through the programmes of other stakeholders as well as by Fingal County Council.

The plan is an important means to advance and strengthen local government functions in economic development and local community development, as provided for in the Local Government Reform Act 2014. This plan is an important means to advance the overall purpose of local government as set out in Putting People First, 2012 'to promote the well-being and quality-of-life of citizens and communities'.

2.4.3 Objectives

Fingal LECP has been designed to be consistent with the Fingal Development Plan 2011-2017, and complement the draft Development Plan 2017-2023 thereby helping to ensure consistency with the statutory planning framework of the Council. Consequently, the LECP accords with the objectives of the Development Plan, and does not present alternate or competing proposals that would lead to inconsistency. Furthermore, the LECP has been formulated to take account of the SEA Directive and Article 6 of the Habitats Directive, and to ensure compliance.

The LECP was developed at a time when a new Fingal Development

Plan 2017-2023 was under development. Members of the Council gave their strategic direction for the new Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023 in September 2015. This new direction is relevant to the LECP and is carried within Section 4.5.

Sustainable Economic Development Objectives

The Fingal LECP has been formulated within a framework of key Sustainable Economic Development Objectives (SEDOs) that have been prioritised to make a significant contribution to achieving required overall economic development outcomes. The SEDOs have been developed to be specific, measurable and time-bound. A mechanism is also provided for measuring the relevant outcomes and appropriate metrics in respect of each of the SEDOs.

Sustainable Community Objectives

The Socio-Economic Statement was based on the detailed Socio-Economic and Demographic Study. From this, the Sustainable Community Objectives (SCOs) were identified. The SCOs were designed to enhance the quality of life and well-being of communities.

As with the SEDOs, these were proofed to show consistency with the overall regional and local planning frameworks.



3 SOCIO-ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

This Plan is built on the knowledge that our county is one of the most dynamic and progressive in the country, yet there is still much more that can be done to support economic activity and combat social exclusion.

3.1 Introducing Fingal County

Fingal County covers 450 square kilometres and stretches from the River Liffey and the Dublin City boundary in the south to the Meath boundary north of Balbriggan, and from the coast in the east to the Meath and Kildare boundaries in the west.

The area is defined by the diversity of its landscape, with rural, urban and suburban dimensions.

There is 88km of coastline stretching from Howth to north of Balbriggan, three large protected estuaries and salt marsh habitats with 13 major beaches.

Fingal has major economic assets, including Dublin Airport, proximity to Dublin City & the Dublin Port Tunnel, road and rail infrastructure and a prime location on the Dublin-Belfast Economic corridor. Dublin Airport provides a significant economic hub for the County.

Fingal has close links with 3rd level Higher Education Institutes, the Institute of Technology Blanchardstown, which will form part of a new Technological University for Dublin and Dublin City University.

The area is defined by the diversity of its landscape, with rural, urban and suburban dimensions.

Map 1 – Fingal Electoral Divisions



3.1.1 Population

Ireland has experienced a population growth of 30.1% over the past 20 years and the Dublin Region has grown at the slightly lower rate of 24.2%. Fingal, by contrast, has rapidly expanded throughout the 20-year-period, and has grown by an exceptional 79.4%, which is by far the highest growth rate experienced by any county throughout Ireland.

In April 2011, Fingal had a population of 273,991, consisting of 134,488 males and 139,503 females.

Ireland's population grew by 8.2% between 2006 and 2011. Over the past five years, Fingal's population has grown by 14.2%, well above the national growth rate.

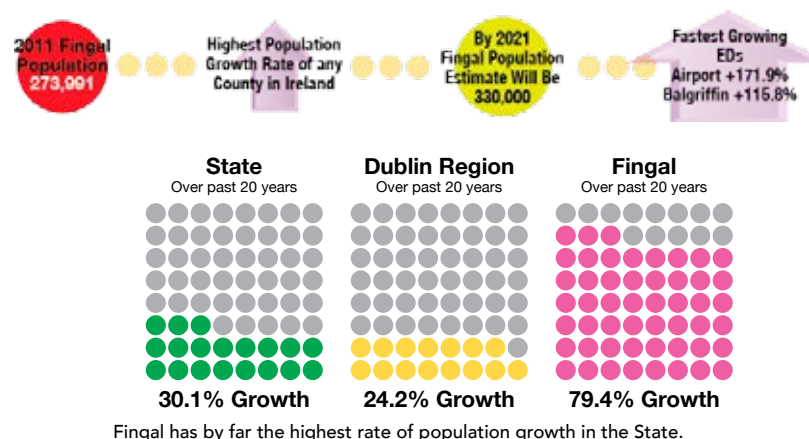
The fastest growing EDs within Fingal are Airport (172%) and Balgriffin (116%), both of which more than doubled their population to be amongst the fastest growing areas in Ireland.

In 2011, the population of pre-school age (0-4) was 26,708, of primary school going age (5-12) was 33,076 and of secondary school going age (13-18) was 19,054. There were 19,861 persons aged 65 years and over. The number of persons aged 18 years or over was 198,196.

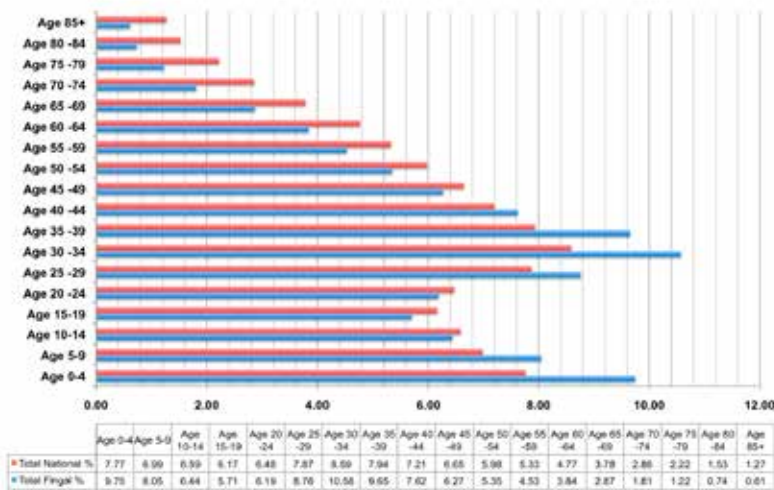
In 2011, 29% of the population was under 18 years of age, with 45% under 30 years of age. It is estimated that Fingal's population will be over 300,000 by the 2016 census, representing an increase of approximately 9.5%. By 2021, the population is expected to have risen to over 330,000³.

In 2011, Fingal returned a significantly higher percentage of the population of below 44 years of age than was the case nationally (72.75% compared to 65.60%). Consequently, the County has a relatively lower percentage of people of over 45 years of age.

³ Fingal County Council Draft Corporate Plan 2015-2019



Whilst there has been a continuous decline in the age dependency rate (the proportion of population under 15 years of age or over 64 years of age as part of the total population) throughout Ireland in the period between 1991 and 2006, from 38.1% (1991) to 31.4% (2006), the ratio has again increased to 33.0% in 2011. An even greater decline applied to Fingal in the period between 1991 and 2006 (36.9% to 28.1%). In 2011 the age dependency rate was 31.5%, i.e. marginally lower than the national average.

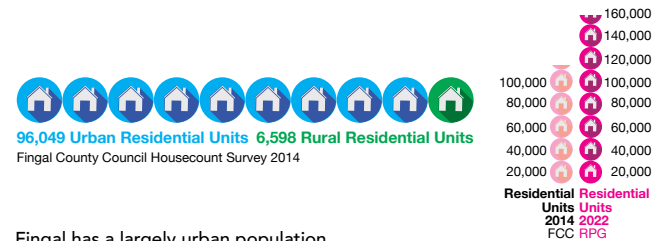


Source: CSO Census of Population 2011

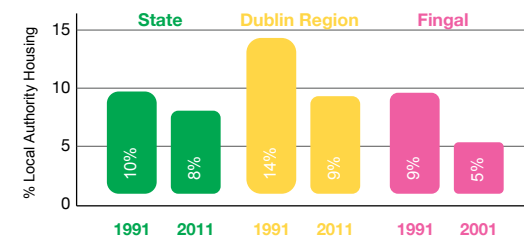
At ED level, there are some significant differences in the demographic profiles, with an age dependency rate exceeding 41% in Lucan North, followed by Howth (38.8%) and Ballyboghil (38.7%). This contrasts with age dependency rates of about half that rate in Airport (18.3%) and Castleknock-Park (24.3%).



3.1.2 Housing and Households



Fingal has a largely urban population.



Fingal has a lower percentage of LA Housing compared to the State or the Dublin Region.

According to the CSO Census of Population, there were 93,146 private households in Fingal in April 2011, of which 16,000 were single person households. Of the 73,206 families in the area, 20,435 were couples with no children. The average number of children per family was 1.4, which was equal to that found across the State. It is estimated that there were 104,730 residential units in Fingal at the beginning of 2015. In mid-2015, there were over 1,500 units at various stages of construction. In addition, there were approximately 11,000 units with planning permission throughout the county that had not started construction.

There has been a 2% decrease in the proportion of local authority housing in Ireland over the past 20 years, falling from 10% in 1991 to

8% in 2011. The proportion in the Dublin Region has declined by 5%, from 14% to 9%. Similarly, Fingal has seen a significant decline in the proportion of local authority housing from 9% to 5%.

At ED level, the highest concentrations of local authority housing are found in Blanchardstown-Tyrrelstown (54%), followed by Blanchardstown-Corduff (29%), Blanchardstown-Mulhuddart (22%) and Blanchardstown-Coolmine (21%).

The CSO Census of Population 2011 indicates that 83% of households lived in houses or bungalows while a further 17% lived in apartments, flats or bedsits. 65,261 dwellings (70%) were owner occupied while 26,368 dwellings (28%) were rented. 36% of the dwellings in Fingal were built in the ten years before the census. The average number of persons per household was 2.9 compared with 2.7 nationally.

In 2011, 44% of households had two or more cars in Fingal.

3.1.3 Affluence and Deprivation

The Dublin Region is the most affluent region of Ireland, and Fingal is the second most affluent local authority area within the region⁴.

Fingal has been impacted by the economic downturn after 2007, reflected in the drop in the absolute deprivation score from 4.8 in 2006 to -1.8 in 2011. This represents a drop of 6.6 compared to a nationwide drop of 6.5. This also implies that the relative position of Fingal has remained stable between 2006 and 2011, occupying the place as the second most affluent local authority area in Ireland.

There are considerable differences in the relative affluence and deprivation between various parts of the county. Of the total of 42 EDs in Fingal, 33 are inclined towards affluence. The most affluent areas are Lucan, Castleknock and Malahide towards the South and East of

the county. The most disadvantaged areas are more urban areas in Blanchardstown⁵ and Balbriggan.

At a local level, the most deprived EDs are Blanchardstown-Tyrrelstown (-13.6) and Blanchardstown-Corduff (-10.9), followed by Balbriggan Urban (-4.1), Blanchardstown-Coolmine (-3.9) and Blanchardstown-Mulhuddart (-3.6). While the former two EDs are the only ones in Fingal falling into the 'disadvantaged' category, seven other EDs classify as being 'marginally below average'.

The most affluent EDs in Fingal are Castleknock-Park (17.3), Airport (15.0), Lucan North (15.0), Malahide East (13.2), Balgriffin (12.7), Castleknock-Knockmaroon (12.3), Malahide West (10.9) and Portmarnock North (10.1), all of which classify as 'affluent' areas.

3.1.4 Ethnicity and Education

92% of the usually resident population aged over 1 lived at the same address one year before the census of 2011. A further 6% lived elsewhere in the county, 1% lived elsewhere in the State, whilst a further 1% lived outside the State twelve months before the census date.

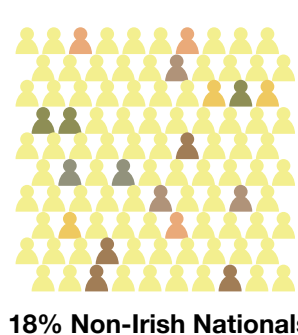
Fingal is ethnically diverse with non-Irish nationals accounting for 18% of the population, compared with a national average figure of 12%. Polish nationals (10,591 persons) were the largest group, followed by UK nationals (4,837 persons).

⁴ 2011 Pobal HP Deprivation Index - Area Profile for Fingal County: Feline Engling and Trutz Haase: February 2013

⁵ Blanchardstown (which includes a former RAPID area) includes some of the largest EDs by population. The ED level data confounds considerable differences with regard to affluence and deprivation within each of these EDs.

Languages

According to the CSO Census of Population 2011, 96,537 persons could speak the Irish language and of these, 35,211 spoke the language daily. 54,123 persons spoke a language other than Irish or English at home and of these 8,850 could not speak English well or at all. Polish was the most common foreign language spoken at home with 10,345 speakers.



18% Non-Irish Nationals

Fingal has a diverse ethnic mix with particular geographical concentrations.



Fingal has a well-educated adult population.

Education

There has been a continuous improvement in the level of education amongst the adult population over the past 20 years throughout Ireland.

In 1991, 37% of the adult population had primary education only. This dropped to half that level (19%) in 2006 and even further to 16% in 2011. Between 2006 and 2011, the adult population with primary education only decreased by 3%.

The proportion of adult population with primary education only in Fingal

has fallen from 27% in 1991, to 11% in 2006 and 10% in 2011. This is a reduction of 17% (compared to 21% nationally), resulting in Fingal having the second lowest rate (after Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown with 8%) for any county.

Despite the considerable improvement at county level, there are some differences with regard to the prevalence of low education between different EDs. There are higher parts of the adult population having primary education only in Blanchardstown-Corduff (24%) and Clonmethan (20%), compared to 16% nationally. This contrasts with Airport (3%), Lucan North (4%), Castleknock-Park (4%) and Castleknock-Knockmaroon (5%).

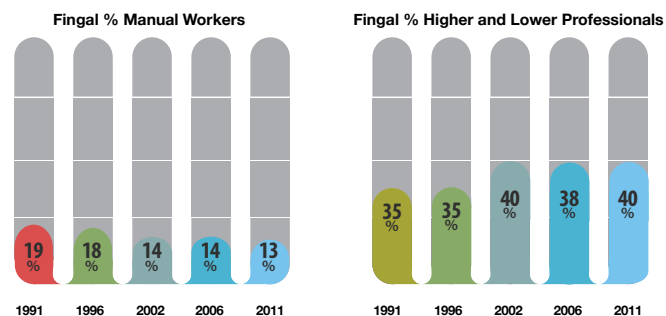
The reverse applies with regard to third-level education, which has more than doubled over the past 20 years. In 1991, 13% of the national adult population had completed third-level education. This grew to 30% in 2006, but increased to only 31% in 2011. The proportion of Fingal's population with third-level education has grown from 17% in 1991, to 40% in 2006, but decreased by 2% to reach 38% in 2011. This 20-year growth is slightly higher than that which has occurred nationally (21% compared to 18% nationally).

At ED level, and again mirroring the situation with regard to the higher incidences of low levels of education, there are particularly low shares of population with third-level education in Blanchardstown-Tyrrelstown (13%) and Blanchardstown-Corduff (14%), both having proportions of adults with third-level education less than half the national average (31%).

Across the county in 2011, of those aged 15 years and over whose full-time education had ceased, 9.5% were educated to at most primary level only; a further 53% attained second level, whilst 38% were educated to third level.

3.1.5 Socio-Economic Classes

The changes in social class composition experienced throughout Ireland over the past 20 years largely parallels those in educational achievement, with a gradual increase in the number of professionals and an even greater decline in the proportion of semi- and unskilled manual workers. At the national level, the proportion of professionals in all classes rose from 25% in 1991 to 35% in 2011, whilst the proportion of the semi- and unskilled classes declined from 28% to 17.5% over the same period.



Fingal consistently maintains a high percentage of higher and lower professional classes, with a low rate of manual workers.

In Fingal, the proportion in the professional classes (40%) and the proportion in the lower skilled professions (14%) mark a composition at the upper end of the social class composition. Fingal is the county with the second highest share (after Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown with 55% professionals) of professionals amongst all counties. Differences in the social class composition within the county reflect those of educational attainment, with Castleknock-Park having the highest composition (63% professionals, 5% semi- and unskilled manual classes) and Blanchardstown-Tyrrelstown having the lowest (11% professionals, 29% manual classes).

3.1.6 Unemployment

Unemployment rates have broadly halved over the 15-year period from 1991 to 2006 and subsequently risen by 2011 to levels surpassing the 1991 levels.

Nationally, the male unemployment rate fell from 18% in 1991 to 9% in 2006, and then rose to 22% in 2011. The female unemployment rate fell from 14% in 1991 to 8% in 2006. In 2011, it had again nearly doubled, accounting for 15%.

Female unemployment rates have tended to be slightly below male unemployment rates, but did not fall at the same pace during the time of the economic boom due to increasing female labour force participation (reflecting the trend of increased female participation in the labour force with more women registering their unemployed status). The increase in the unemployment rates since the 2006 Census has been much more pronounced with regard to male unemployment, which rose by a factor of 2.5 compared to a nearly two-fold increase for female unemployment.

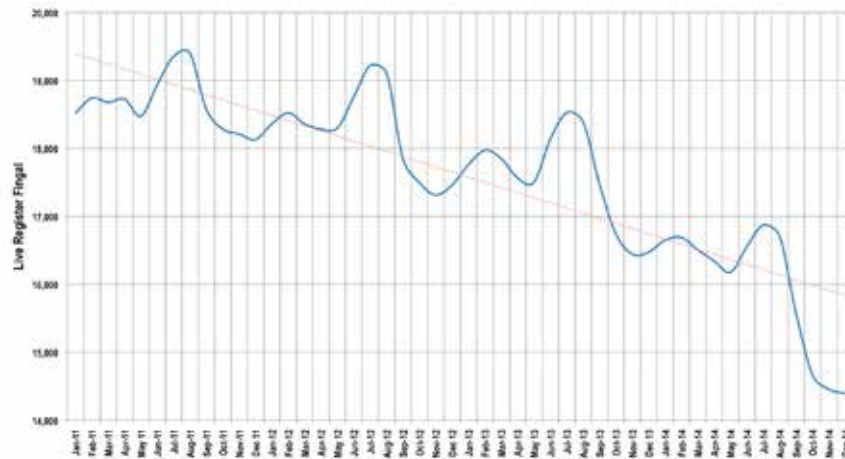
During the growth period, unemployment rates for Fingal fell at a slower pace compared to the nationally prevailing ones between 1991 and 2006, albeit from a significantly lower base. Male unemployment fell from 14% in 1991 to 7% in 2006, a drop of 7% points (compared to 10% nationally). Female unemployment declined from 12% to 8%, a drop of 4% (compared to 6% nationally).

Male unemployment in Fingal reached 18% in 2011. This development closely resembles the nationally experienced increase of male unemployment levels. Correspondingly, the female unemployment rate nearly doubled, reaching 14% in 2011. Nevertheless, Fingal still has the third lowest unemployment rates of any county.

Unemployment rates in individual EDs reached levels well above those

prevailing countywide in 2011 and were highest in Blanchardstown-Tyrrelstown (46% male, 42% female), followed by Blanchardstown-Corduff (34% male, 25% female), Blanchardstown-Mulhuddart (30% male, 25% female) and Blanchardstown-Coolmine (30% male, 22% female).

Live Register



Fingal had the highest level of economically active adults in 2006, and 22,460 unemployed by 2011 (representing the second lowest unemployment rate in the country at 16%).

In 2011 Fingal had highest labour force participation rate in the country at 68.4%.

3.1.7 Labour Force and Enterprise Base

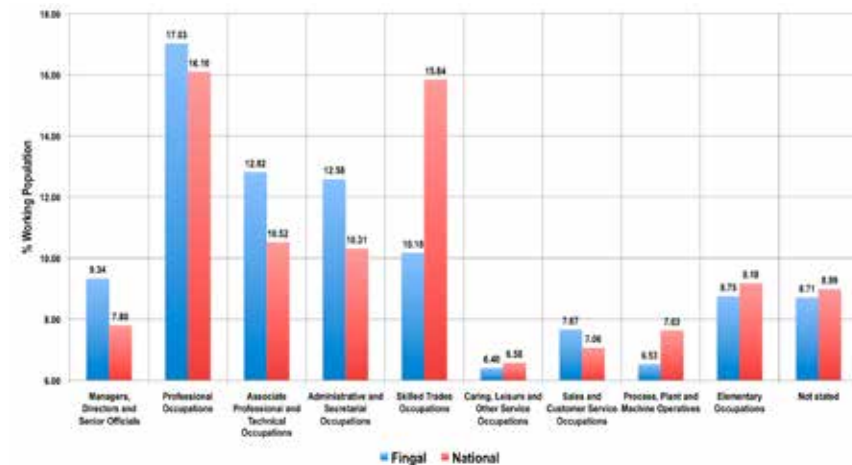
National and international economic trends influence enterprise development in Fingal through the propensity of the county to attract foreign direct investment. In 2014, the State was ahead of planned fiscal

targets for economic recovery, with an anticipated GDP growth of 3.6% set to be achieved in 2015.

Unemployment was at its lowest level since 2009 at 11%, and is expected to fall to 10% in 2015. It is anticipated that by 2016 there will be over 2 million people in employment nationally. The 2006 and 2011 census shows that unemployment rates in Fingal reflect the national position and remain a challenge.

The number of active businesses in Fingal is determined from the Council's rate base. The number of rateable businesses has increased by 4.5% from 2010 to 2014.

Fingal is a major employer across all sectors, supported by a strong supply of zoned land, both industrial and residential. Fingal has an established industrial base, with recognised clustering of various business sectors.



Occupation Profile 2011: (CSO Census of Population).

Fingal has a particularly diverse enterprise base, driven by the county's strategic location, and the proximity to both Dublin City and Dublin Airport.

The Fingal County Council Draft Corporate Plan 2015-2019 identifies the key business sectors in the county to include: -

- Information and Communication Technology sector, comprising some of the world's leading companies such as Synopsys, IBM, PayPal and Symantec;
- Aviation sector is a major employer and includes Aer Lingus, Dublin Airport Authority, Cityjet, Servisair and Ryanair;
- The Food and Beverage/Agribusiness Sector, a growing industry in Fingal, includes Keelings, Coca-Cola, Sam Dennigan and Donnelly's; and
- The Healthcare/Pharmaceutical sector includes leading companies such as Bristol Myers-Squibb, Alexion and Mylan.

Labour Force

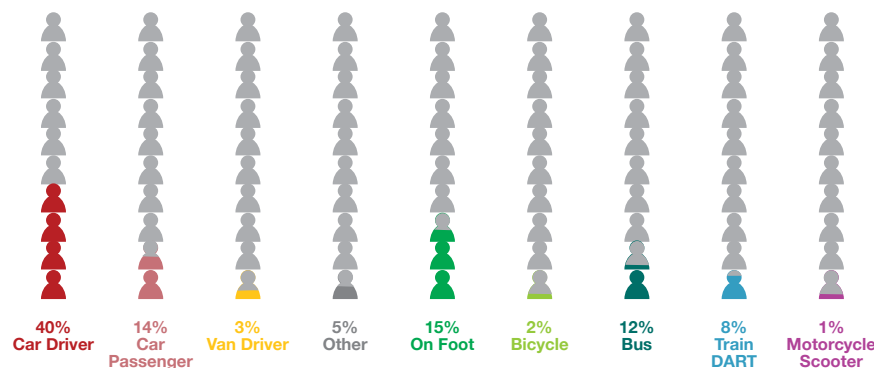
In 2011, there were 141,916 persons aged 15 years and over in the labour force. Of these, 84% (119,276 persons) were at work. The unemployment rate for Fingal was 16% compared with a national average rate of 19%.

Of the 65,668 persons aged 15 years and over who were outside the labour force, 33% were students, 28% were looking after the home/family, and 28% were retired.

Of the 119,276 workers enumerated in Fingal in 2011, 55,808 worked outside the area. The daytime working population (resident and non-resident) of Fingal was 82,738 with 'commerce and trade' being the largest industry.

3.1.8 Commuting

The most popular means of travelling to work in 2011 was by car (driver), with this mode accounting for 40% of all journeys. 22,079 persons commuted using public transport (bus or rail).



40% of commuters in Fingal are car drivers, with only 2% using bicycles and 15% walking.

The average journey time was 32 minutes and 38% of workers faced a commuting time in excess of 30 minutes.

3.1.9 Broadband Connectivity

The community consultation phase of the development of the LECP suggested that access to high-speed broadband services was not universal across the county. At a national level it has been reported that only 35% of Irish premises have broadband speeds of 10Mbps or higher. More significantly, only 69% of Irish homes have broadband that is faster

than 4Mbps. Ireland ranks only 42nd in the world in the distribution of fast broadband.

The National Broadband Plan (2015) aims to deliver reliable high speed broadband throughout Ireland through a combination of State and commercial investment.

The State intervention, Connecting Communities will extend reliable high speed broadband to all premises in the country where there is no current or planned high speed broadband network. Connecting Communities is a national infrastructure project to build a high-speed broadband network. This network will provide at least 30Mbps to homes and businesses across the country.

3.1.10 Lone Parents

The proportion of Lone Parents (as a proportion of all households with dependent children) in Ireland has exactly doubled over the past 20 years, growing from 11% in 1991 to 22% nationally in 2011. There are marked differences between urban and rural areas, and lone parent rates in the major cities are again up to twice the national average (Limerick City 38%). Fingal had a rate of 22% in 2011, which was practically identical to the nationally prevailing rate.

There are vast differences with regard to individual areas within the county and single parent families tend to be concentrated in those EDs that also have significant levels of local authority housing within them. The Lone Parent rate exceeds 51% in Blanchardstown-Tyrrelstown, with approximately every second family with dependent children being headed by a single parent. At the opposite extreme, Lucan North (6%) is the only ED where the Lone Parent rate is less than 10%.

3.1.11 Health

Disability

In Fingal, 27,928 persons had a disability in April 2011, of whom 6,921, representing 25% of the total, were aged 65 years and over.

9,214 persons (3,479 males and 5,735 females) provided regular unpaid personal help for a friend or family member with a long-term illness, health problem or disability. 19% of these provided care for more than 6 hours per day.

General Health

According to the CSO Census of Population 2011, 247,915 persons in Fingal stated they were in very good or good health, representing 90.5% of total persons. This compares to 88% of total persons nationally. 3,070 persons stated they were in bad or very bad health, representing 1% of total persons in Fingal. This compares with 1.5% of total persons nationally.



4 POLICY CONTEXT

Both the economic and community dimensions of Fingal LECP were constructed having regard to the raft of Policies and Strategic Statements that relate to the County. This process was used to ensure that the actions would be complementary to those of the flanking agencies, thereby reducing the possibility of duplication.

The development of Fingal LECP was undertaken having regard to the range of key policies and strategic statements ranging across: -

- International Level;
- European Level;
- National Level;
- Regional Level; and
- Local Level.

Of prime importance within the economic dimension amongst these were the existing Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2022, the Fingal Development Plan 2011-2017, and the draft Development Plan 2017-2023, the Medium Term Economic Strategy 2014-2020 (MTES), and the enterprise strategy as set out in *Making it Happen – Growing Enterprise for Ireland* and Enterprise 2025.

4.1 International Level

The OECD report, *Effective Local Strategies to Boost Quality Job Creation, Employment and Participation* emphasises that job creation can be stimulated through a stable macroeconomic framework and structural policies which encourage innovation, skills and business development. The importance of local level actors is stressed in

developing integrated approaches to growth, maximising employment opportunities and helping to tackle inequalities and social exclusion in their communities.

Of particular relevance to Fingal, the OECD report summarises the main innovations in growth strategies, investment tools and mechanisms, leadership and systematisation of economic development efforts acting as contributory factors, resulting in the following elements that contribute to success: -

- Competitive local business climate and stable framework conditions;
- Rationalisation of complex policies and programmes into simple-to-pursue frameworks;
- Transport infrastructure;
- Higher education facilities;
- Practical economic geographies;
- Private rented housing sector;
- Evidence-based approach to local economies;
- Greater capacity for autonomous decision making; and
- Relevant tax incentives.

4.2 Europe 2020

The European Commission's overarching political strategy, Europe 2020, is a ten-year growth and jobs strategy that will support employment, productivity and social cohesion in Europe. The Strategy for Growth offers five targets for achievement by 2020: -

1. Increasing the employment rate of the population aged 20-64 to 75%;
2. Investing 3% of gross domestic product in research and development;
3. Reducing carbon emissions by 20% (and by 30% if conditions permit), increasing the share of renewable energies by 20% and increasing energy efficiency by 20%;
4. Reducing the school drop out rate to less than 10% and increasing the proportion of tertiary degrees to 40%; *and*
5. Reducing the number of people threatened by poverty in the EU by 20 million.

4.2.1 Social Protection and Social Inclusion

The two priority Flagship Initiatives, *The Platform against Poverty and Social Inclusion* and *the Agenda for New Skills and Jobs*, supports efforts to reach the targets set to assist at least 20 million people out of poverty and social exclusion and to increase employment of the population aged between 20 – 64 to 75%.

The Social Investment Package (SIP) key policy areas include education, quality childcare, healthcare, training, job-search assistance and rehabilitation.

4.2.2 Employment

Europe 2020 notes that European employment, social affairs, and equal opportunities policies contribute to improving people's living conditions with a view to achieving sustainable growth and greater social cohesion. The key points of focus are: -

- Increasing Labour Market Participation;
- Developing a Skilled Workforce;
- Improving Education and Training Systems;
- Combating Social Exclusion;
- The Agenda for New Skills and Jobs; *and*
- Supporting Entrepreneurs and the Self-Employed.

4.2.3 Youth Guarantee

The *OECD Action Plan for Youth: Giving Youth a Better Start in the Labour Market* informed the design and delivery of a *Youth Guarantee* in Ireland, and the three key elements are captured in the *Options for an Irish Youth Guarantee*: -

- Targeting of young people;
- The Youth Guarantee package; *and*
- Relevant supporting policies.

4.2.4 Enterprise

Europe 2020 identifies the following key components within its enterprise vision: -

- Competitiveness;
- Technology;
- Small businesses; *and*
- Harnessing the potential of job rich sectors.

4.2.5 Rural Development

The Europe 2020 Strategy outlines plans to achieve smart, sustainable and inclusive economic growth through a variety of goals. In line with EU2020 and the overall CAP objectives, three long-term strategic objectives can be identified for EU rural development policy: -

- Improving the competitiveness of agriculture;
- The sustainable management of natural resources and climate action; *and*
- A balanced territorial development of rural areas.

The economic development of rural areas names three specific areas of intervention: -

1. Facilitating diversification, creation of new small enterprises and job creation;
2. Promoting local development in rural areas; and
3. Enhancing accessibility to, and use and quality of ICT in rural areas.

4.2.6 National Reform Programme, Ireland 2014

The Government's National Reform Programme (NRP) 2014 sets out the national approach to implementing the Europe 2020 objectives. It translates the targets set by Europe 2020 into a national context, and establishes national targets to be achieved by 2020. The NRP is revised annually (in April), and the European Commission assesses the plan and proposes a number of country-specific recommendations. There are four current recommendations for Ireland, including: -

- Work intensity of households; *and*
- Address the poverty risk for children.

4.3 National Policy Level

The Irish Government, in its Medium Term Economic Strategy 2014 – 2020 (MTES) outlined how it will continue to build the Irish Economy through achieving sustainable economic growth, strong public finances and enduring job creation. Related policies and strategies aim to reduce inequality and improve poverty outcomes with a particular emphasis on child poverty. The Strategy recognises that economic growth, social cohesion and environmental sustainability must be advanced in a mutually supportive way. The Strategy is based on three pillars:

- Ensuring Debt Sustainability;
- Financing Growth; *and*
- Supporting Employment and Living Standards.

4.3.1 Enterprise 2025 Strategy

Enterprise 2025 sets out targets for competitiveness and productivity, unemployment, exports, and FDI projects. It sets out measures to meet these targets in three key areas: -

- **Create a step-change in the performance of enterprises:** The strategy sets out to create more Irish-owned companies of scale, an increase in the number of start-ups with better survival rates, more enterprises exporting across to different markets and more businesses investing in research, development and innovation.
- **Build a real and distinctive competitive edge and differentiate Ireland's offering:** by developing, retaining and attracting skilled people; creating attractive places for businesses to invest and for people to live and work; and implementing a knowledge development box and supporting research, development and innovation through a number of initiatives.

- **Excel in creating a jobs-fit environment and getting the basics right:** The strategy sets out how it will achieve a jobs-fit environment by 2025, with taxation policies, investment and access to finance all playing central roles.

4.3.2 Our Cities: Drivers of National Competitiveness

The National Competitiveness Council, through its report *Our Cities: Drivers of National Competitiveness* indicates that cities are increasingly seen as the drivers of national competitiveness and of economic and social development. The following elements are proposed as a mechanism for snowballing impact and opportunities into surrounding hinterlands, attracting talent and investment and contributing to overall national competitiveness and growth.

- Enterprise diversity;
- Connectivity;
- Sustainability; *and*
- Attractiveness and inclusivity.

4.3.3 Action Plan for Jobs 2015

The Action Plan for Jobs is a whole-of-Government initiative established in 2012, under which all Government Departments and Agencies work together to deliver on five strategic ambitions: -

- To support 100,000 additional jobs by 2016;
- To get Ireland back to a top-five ranking in international competitiveness;
- To stimulate the domestic economy and generate employment in locally traded sector;

- To build an indigenous engine of growth that drives up the export market share of Irish companies;
- To build world-class clusters in key sectors of opportunity; *and*
- To achieve full employment of 2.1m people in 2018.

4.3.4 Youth Guarantee

Ireland's *Youth Guarantee* resolves to: -

- Develop the Intreo activation process for young people;
- Deliver opportunities to young people through education and training programmes;
- Earmark a quota of places/opportunities on employment schemes for young people;
- Vary the eligibility conditions for access to schemes in favour of young people;
- Expand the number of opportunities for young people; *and*
- Introduce new options for young unemployed people.

4.3.5 FET Strategy 2014 - 2019

SOLAS, the Further Education and Training Authority, produced its first strategy document which will be implemented at a local level through Dublin and Dún Laoghaire Education and Training Board (DDLETB). Five high-level goals are identified within the strategy: -

- **Skills for the Economy** addressing current and future needs of learners, jobseekers, employers and employees;
- **Active Inclusion** of people of all abilities in society with special

reference to literacy and numeracy;

- **Quality provision** of education and training programmes meeting national and international quality standards;
- **Integrated Planning and Funding** based on objective analysis of needs and evidence of social and economic impact; *and*
- **Standing of FET**, ensuring a valued learning path leading to agreed employment, career, developmental, personal and social options.

4.3.6 Children and Young People

In April 2014, a new Children and Young People's Policy Framework *Better Outcomes: Brighter Futures* was published outlining 160 commitments, ranging from: -

- Focusing on early interventions and quality services to promote best outcomes for children;
- Working better together to protect young people who are marginalised or at risk;
- Setting a target of lifting 70,000 children out of poverty by 2020;
- Improving childhood health and wellbeing in line with the goals of 'Health Ireland';
- Enhancing job opportunities for young people – building on the 'Action Plan for Jobs' and 'Youth Guarantee'; and
- Delivering better supports for families and parenting.

The Strategy prioritises key cross-cutting transformational goals that require concerted and co-ordinated actions to ensure the realisation of respective outcomes: -

- Supporting parents;

- Earlier intervention and prevention;
- Listening to and involving children and young people;
- Ensuring quality services;
- Strengthening transitions; *and*
- Collaboration and co-ordination across government.

4.3.7 SICAP

The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) is designed 'to reduce poverty, promote social inclusion and equality through local, regional and national engagement and collaboration.' The Programme is being delivered through three high level goals: -

Goal 1: To support and resource disadvantaged communities and marginalised target groups to engage with relevant stakeholders to identify and address social exclusion and equality issues;

Goal 2: To support individuals and marginalised target groups experiencing educational disadvantage; and

Goal 3: To engage with marginalised target groups/individuals to move them closer to the labour market; improve work readiness; support them in accessing employment and self-employment; and creating social enterprise opportunities.

The SICAP target groups that have been identified in Fingal are: -

- Children and families from disadvantaged areas;
- Lone parents;
- New Communities (including refugees and asylum seekers);

- People living in disadvantaged communities;
- People with a disability;
- Roma;
- The underemployed (including those not on the live register);
- Traveller Community; and
- Young unemployed people from disadvantaged areas.

4.3.8 Rural Development

In recognition of the severe impact of the downturn in the economy on rural Ireland, the Commission for the Economic Development of Rural Ireland (CEDRA) was established in October 2012. CEDRA's task was to identify strategic initiatives that would ensure rural areas contribute to sustained and sustainable national economic growth and development into the future. The process confirmed that *'there is an abundance of natural, physical, human and capital resources and a wide variety of high quality, including dormant assets in many rural communities that could be leveraged to support national economic growth and the development of these communities'*.

4.3.9 Rural Development Programme 2014 – 2020

Ireland's Rural Development Programme emerged through a multi layered policy foundation framework that included Europe 2020 and Ireland's National Reform Programme, and to which rural development priorities and targets are also linked. A Community Led Local Development (CLLD) approach to rural development will underpin priority actions for the programme period 2014 to 2020.

In line with Priority 6 of the EU European Agricultural fund for Rural Development: *The promotion of social inclusion, poverty reduction and*

economic development in rural areas, key themes have been identified to progress Ireland's local development strategy as follows:

1. Rural Economic Development / Enterprise Development and Job Creation

Supporting the development of the rural economy is seen to be fundamental to progress. Key themes guiding local rural development strategies are identified as rural tourism, enterprise development, broadband, and rural towns.

2. Social Inclusion (Building Community Capacity, Training and Animation)

Whilst economic development is key to rural development, social cohesion is seen to need support, particularly in respect of social exclusion and marginalisation.

3. Rural Environment

An integrated and targeted approach to local development will be supported through the design of Local Development Strategies (LDS) focussing on innovation, climate change and environment.

4.3.10 Food Wise 2015

The national strategy for the development of the agri-food sector for the period up to 2025. The strategy outlines the key actions required to ensure that the agri-food sector maximises its contribution to economic growth and exports in an environmentally sustainable manner over the coming decade, it identifies four elements to deliver growth: -

- a. Human Capital;
- b. Competitiveness;
- c. Market Development; and
- d. Innovation

4.4 Regional Policy Level

4.4.1 RPG for the Greater Dublin Area 2010 - 2022

For the purposes of the existing RPGs, the Greater Dublin Area (GDA) encompasses the regions of both the Dublin Regional Authority and the old Mid-East Regional Authority (now in the Eastern Midlands Regional Assembly) and includes the geographic area of Dublin City, Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown, Fingal, South Dublin, Kildare, Meath and Wicklow. The RPG sets out to achieve sustainable growth through regional planning guideline policies under the following key strategic areas: -

- Climate Change;
- Economic Strategy;
- The Settlement Strategy;
- Rural Development;
- Physical Infrastructure;
- Green Infrastructure;
- Social Infrastructure; and
- Flood Risk Appraisal.

Appraisal of the critical elements involved in ensuring sustainable and good planning is key to the strategy, all within the context of protection of sensitive and environmentally important locations.

The Regional Planning Guidelines provide a Strategic Policy Framework, which is referenced for consistency in the structure of the Fingal LECP. This requirement notes the strong interdependence between the four Dublin Local Authorities.

Climate Change

Strategic Policy CLIP1: While recognising the broad extent of processes which impact on the dynamics of climate change, planning authorities, in so far as possible, should nonetheless seek to provide for the integration of climate change considerations, based on best scientific evidence, into all policy areas relevant to them, including development plans, flood risk assessments, biodiversity and heritage plans and application of relevant particulars of associated plans and projects such as the River Basin Management Plans and ICZM. The development of Local Climate Change Strategies and/or associated Energy Action Plans by the local authorities is supported by the Regional Planning Guidelines.

Economic Strategy

Strategic Policy EP1: *That the Dublin Gateway is recognised as an international driver of enterprise within the GDA and is supported by regionally designated strategic employment centres, serving the urban and rural hinterlands. These economic growth areas which take advantage of nationally important transport hubs and corridors, and shall provide the focal point for diverse regional enterprise and economic clustering activity, by: steering population growth and economic critical mass to designated RPG strategic growth centres of the identified economic areas or gateway region; capacity building in skills, innovation and education; critical infrastructural investment in ICT, public transport, water services; integrating high quality social and amenity provisions to create an attractive landscape and working environment; providing energy security supported by green and renewable technologies; rationalised planning approaches to employment based land use zoning and enterprise objectives.*

Strategic Policy EP2: *To seek sustainable economic growth across the GDA, by the promotion of identified core economic areas across*

the GDA in both the Dublin and Mid East Regions to facilitate new employment opportunities for existing populations and seek to reduce the volume of unsustainable long distance commuting.

The Settlement Strategy

Strategic Policy SP1: The delivery of new housing in the GDA shall support the NSS, Smarter Travel and the DoEHLG Guidelines on Sustainable Residential Development. The RPG Settlement Strategy encourages the focusing of new housing development on (i) consolidation within existing built footprint with particular focus on the metropolitan area; (ii) supporting the achievement of sustainable towns; (iii) supporting national investment in public transport services by focusing new development areas to key locations to achieve the integration of land use and high quality public transport provision, and (iv) build up economics of scale for services in identified growth towns.

Rural Development

Strategic Policy RP1: To protect and support rural villages and countryside through careful management of physical and environmental resources and appropriate sustainable development; recognising and responding through appropriate Development Plan policies to the strong urban driven demand for resources in rural areas of the GDA, and also the importance of protecting and encouraging the necessary social infrastructure needed to sustain rural communities.

Strategic Policy RP2: To support the continuing viability of agriculture, horticulture and other rural based enterprises within rural areas and to promote investment in facilities supporting rural innovation and enterprise with special emphasis on the green economy, within the context of sustainable development, appropriateness and the management of environmental resources.

Physical Infrastructure

Strategic Policy PIP1: Future investment in transport in the GDA shall serve the needs of the GDA by: (i) providing efficient and effective and sustainable means of moving people and goods for business, family and leisure purposes which minimises the environmental impact and the social and economic cost to users; (ii) allows for the development of a land use strategy that supports sustainable development; and (iii) supports growth and efficiencies in economic activity for both the GDA and the State.

Strategic Policy PIP2: Protect and work to improve water quality in and impacted by the GDA and seek that investment in water supply projects/ programmes is prioritised to support the delivery of the economic and settlement strategy for the GDA through the coordinated and integrated delivery of all essential services supporting national investment.

Strategic Policy PIP3: Protect and work to improve water quality in and impacted by the GDA and seek that investment in waste and surface water treatment and management projects is prioritised to support the delivery of the economic and settlement strategy for the GDA through the coordinated and integrated delivery of all essential services supporting national investment.

Strategic Policy PIP4: That the ICT and energy needs of the GDA shall be delivered through the time of the RPGs though investment in new projects and corridors to allow economic and community needs to be met, and to facilitate sustainable development and growth to achieve a strong and successful international GDA Gateway.

Strategic Policy PIP5: To ensure, from environmental, business and public health needs, that waste management remains a priority for local authorities and waste management regions in continuing to invest in promoting and facilitating reuse and recycling by residential and commercial sources and that high standard options for treatment and final disposal of waste are available within the GDA.

Green Infrastructure

Strategic Policy GIP1: *To ensure that all aspects of the built heritage including archaeological, industrial, and architectural heritage, and those buildings which are home to protected species, are suitably protected, enhanced, sensitively reused/integrated into new development works and incorporated in development plans, records of protected structures, heritage plans and site specific projects and developments.*

Strategic Policy GIP2: *To protect and conserve the natural environment, including in particular nationally important and EU designated sites such as Special Protection Areas, Candidate Special Areas of Conservation and proposed Natural Heritage Areas, protected habitats and species, and habitats and species of local biodiversity value. This policy also includes new or extended ecological sites that are notified or designated in the lifetime of the RPGs.*

Appropriate measures to protect Natura 2000 sites should be identified at the initial stages of all planning processes and included as a material consideration in order to inform future development.

Strategic Policy GIP3: *To ensure alignment between the core objectives of the Water Framework Directive, (including River Basin Management Plans and POMS affecting the Greater Dublin Area) and other related plans such as County Development Plans and related Local Area Plans; Habitat and Species Protection Plans under the Habitats Directive, Water Services Investment Programme, Nitrates Action Programme; and Flood Management Plans.*

Strategic Policy GIP4: *Promote the development of cross boundary Integrated Coastal Zone Management with all coastal local authorities in the GDA area so that future Development Plans can be guided in relation to the management of coastal areas drawing from a mutually supported plan for marine and coastal areas which has engaged with key*

stakeholders.

Strategic Policy GIP5: *Adopt policies and measures at county level to protect, manage and plan landscapes through the provision of Landscape Classification and Character Assessments in accordance with adopted European (and contemporary National) Landscape Guidance Documents such as 'Guidelines for the Implementation of the European Landscape Convention, February 2008'.*

Strategic Policy GIP6: *To ensure the protection, enhancement and maintenance of the natural environment and recognise the economic, social, environmental and physical value of green spaces through the development of and integration of Green Infrastructure (GI) planning and development in the planning process.*

Social Infrastructure

Strategic Policy SIP1: *That Local Authorities work with the relevant state agencies in ensuring that an integrated approach is taken to both planning for the communities who live within the GDA either in planning for growth, for change or regeneration in communities; that the needs of particular elements of society are identified and responded to and that the most vulnerable are valued as part of the community.*

Strategic Policy SIP2: *That quality of life forms a central part of planning policy in supporting good spaces, good places and that social activities and the arts form a core part in making good places.*

Flood Risk Appraisal

Strategic Policy FP1: *That flood risk be managed pro-actively at all stages in the planning process avoiding development in flood risk areas where possible and by reducing the risks of flooding to and from existing and future development.*

4.5 Fingal Development Plan: 2011-17 & 2017-23

The Fingal LECP has been designed to be consistent with the existing 2011 – 2017 Fingal Development Plan. The process for preparation of the Fingal Development Plan (DP) 2017-2023 has commenced and will be adopted in 2017. The emergent DP and the LECP share certain broad objectives in relation to placemaking and communities, economic development, heritage and the environment, the LECP will specifically inform decision making on public expenditure in relation to the promotion of economic, local and community development and the operational plans of the organisations named in the actions plan.

One of the stated aims of the draft DP is to facilitate the actions and implementation of the LECP, as appropriate. The Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023 seeks to: -

1. Promote sustainable development by providing for the integration of economic, environmental, social and cultural issues into Development Plan policies and objectives, utilising to that end the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA) processes.
2. Contribute to the creation of a more socially inclusive, equal and culturally diverse society by providing for appropriate community infrastructure, quality public realm and improving access to information and resources. Seek new innovative ways of enhancing social inclusion and economic development and ensure the Plan can facilitate initiatives arising from the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) Rural Development Programme (RDP -LEADER) 2014-2020 and Fingal Local Economic and Community Plan 2016 – 2021, where appropriate.
3. Add quality to the places where Fingal's people live, work and recreate by integrating high quality design into every aspect of the Plan promoting adaptable residential buildings and ensuring developments contribute to a positive sense of place and local distinctiveness of an area.
4. Promote and facilitate the long-term consolidation and growth of the County town of Swords generally as provided for in the Swords Strategic Vision 2035.
5. Consolidate the growth of the major centres of Blanchardstown and Balbriggan largely within their previously identified limits by encouraging infill development and by intensification at appropriately identified locations.
6. Consolidate the development and protect the unique identities of the settlements of Howth, Sutton, Baldoyle, Portmarnock, Malahide, Donabate, Lusk, Rush and Skerries.
7. Develop a Strategy to promote and deliver an enhanced identity and link with Fingal for the wider communities of Santry, Ballymun, Meakstown/Charlestown, Finglas, and Lanesborough and define them beyond the existing named South Fingal Fringe Settlement.
8. Promote the vibrancy of town centres by providing for a mix of uses within these areas, including cultural and community uses and upper floor residential, as appropriate.
9. Safeguard the current and future operational, safety, and technical requirements of Dublin Airport and provide for its ongoing development within a sustainable development framework. The framework shall take account of any potential impact on local communities and shall have regard to any wider environmental issues.
10. Promote enterprise and employment throughout the County,

including the Metro North Economic Corridor, Swords and Blanchardstown, and work with the other Dublin local authorities to promote the Dublin City Region as an engine for economic growth for the Region and the country.

11. Protect, maintain and enhance the natural and built heritage of the County.
12. Safeguard the 'green agricultural' identity of North Fingal, promoting the rural character of the County and supporting the agricultural / horticultural production sector.
13. Provide viable options for the rural community through the promotion of controlled growth of the rural villages and clusters balanced with careful restriction of residential development in the countryside, recognising the unique value of rural communities in Fingal.
14. Strengthen and consolidate greenbelts around key settlements.
15. Seek the development of a high quality public transport system throughout and adjoining the County, including the development of modern light rail systems integrated into the existing rail network like Metro North and Metro West, improvements to the railway infrastructure incl. the Dart Expansion Programme, the facilitation of QBCs and BRT systems, together with enhanced facilities for walking and cycling.
16. Promote, improve and develop a well-connected national, regional and local road and public transport infrastructure, geared to meet the needs of the County and Region, and providing for all road users, prioritising walking, cycling and public transport.
17. Work with Irish Water to secure the timely provision of the water supply and drainage infrastructure necessary to facilitate the sustainable development of the County and the Region.
18. Secure the timely provision of other infrastructure essential to the sustainable development of the County, in particular in areas of resource and waste management, energy supply, renewable energy generation and ICT.
19. Ensure the timely provision of community infrastructure including schools, recreational and sport facilities, roads, waste water treatment facilities and emergency services, commensurate with the number of housing units proposed for construction on lands zoned for residential development.
20. Ensure new developments have regard to the recommendations of the Flood Risk Assessment, generally avoiding development on areas liable to flooding or which would be liable to exacerbate flooding.
21. Promote, drive and facilitate the transition in the future to an entirely renewable energy supply.
22. Minimise the County's contribution to climate change, and adapt to the effects of climate change, with particular reference to the areas of land use, energy, transport, water resources, flooding, waste management and biodiversity, and maximising the provision of green infrastructure including the provision of trees and soft landscaping solutions.
23. Promote and maximise the benefits of quality of life, public health and biodiversity arising from implementation of policies promoting climate change adaption and mitigation.
24. Encourage innovation and facilitate the development of pilot schemes that support climate change mitigation and adaption.
25. In consultation with stakeholders, develop appropriate strategies and policies to facilitate a reduction in greenhouse and carbon emissions

and development of a sustainable energy and climate change action plan for the County.

Green Infrastructure and the Fingal Development Plan

The Fingal Development Plan identifies green infrastructure as a key strategic asset for the county and includes policies for the protection, creation, and management of this resource in an integrated manner by focusing on five key themes: Biodiversity; Parks, Open Space and Recreation; Landscape; Sustainable Water Management; and Archaeological and Architectural Heritage.

This approach integrates the Fingal Ecological Network, which establishes a spatial framework for biodiversity conservation and management in Fingal, into the Development Plan. This means that the spatial framework for biodiversity conservation in Fingal has been integrated fully within the land-use planning framework for the county as one element of a green infrastructure approach that forms a major and novel element in the Fingal Development Plan 2011-2017. In addition key green infrastructure assets relating to Parks, Open Space and Recreation, Sustainable Water Management, Archaeological and Architectural Heritage and Landscape have also been identified and mapped.

The Council's policy and objectives in relation to green infrastructure are also detailed in the Development Plan focusing on the need to protect, enhance and manage green infrastructure as a strategic resource for Fingal. The Plan recognises that the creation of a connected and multi-functional green infrastructure will yield economic and social benefits as well as the more obvious environmental benefits. In addition it is recognised that green infrastructure is a vital component in building resilient communities capable of adapting to the consequences of climate change.

Incorporating a green infrastructure approach in the Fingal Development Plan also minimises conflicts between environmental and economic goals in the planning system because both can be considered at the same time in plan-making and in project development. Because so many key environmental functions and benefits are tied up in the green space network, proactive planning for green infrastructure enables many of these demands to be more easily met.

4.6 Strategic Environmental Assessment

The requirements for SEA in Ireland are set out in the national regulations, S.I. No. 435 of 2004 (European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 and S.I. No. 436 of 2004 (Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 as amended by S.I. No. 200 of 2011 (European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011) and S.I. No. 201 of 2011 (Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2011) respectively.

The Regulations 2004-2011 require case-by-case screening of individual plans and programmes based on the criteria in Schedule 2A to the Planning and Development Regulations 2001. These criteria must be taken into account in determining whether or not significant effects on the environment would be likely to arise.

4.6.1 SEA Conclusions and Recommendation

Following the screening process the LECP has been assessed against the environmental significance criteria as contained in Annex II (2) of the SEA Directive. It is concluded that a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required for the Fingal LECP 2016-2021.

4.6.2 Habitats Directive: Article 6 Assessment

The aim of the European Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of wild habitats and of wild fauna and flora) is to create a network of protected wildlife sites in Europe maintained at a favourable conservation status⁶. Each member state must designate their most important natural areas as Special Areas of Conservation. The Directive specifies the scientific criteria on the basis of which SAC sites must be selected and very strictly curtails the grounds that can be used as justification for damaging a site. The network of sites is referred to as NATURA 2000 and includes SACs (Special Areas of Conservation) for protected habitats and species and SPAs (Special Protection Areas) for protected birds.

The European Habitats Directive (Council of the European Communities 1992) was transposed into Irish legislation by the European Communities

⁶ The conservation status of a species can be taken as 'favourable' when population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats, the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future and there is and will continue to be a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis. Article 1 (i) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC

The conservation status of a habitat can be taken as 'favourable' when its natural range and area it covers within that range is stable or increasing and the ecological factors that are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future.

(Natural Habitats) Regulations 1997 and amended in 1998, 2005 and 2011. The Birds and Habitats) Regulations 2011 and (Part XAB) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), set out the obligations of planning authorities under the Birds and Habitats Directives. Article 6 of the Habitats Directive provides a assessment procedure for any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a designated European site but which has the potential to have implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. The Fingal Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2021, therefore, falls under the remit of Article 6.



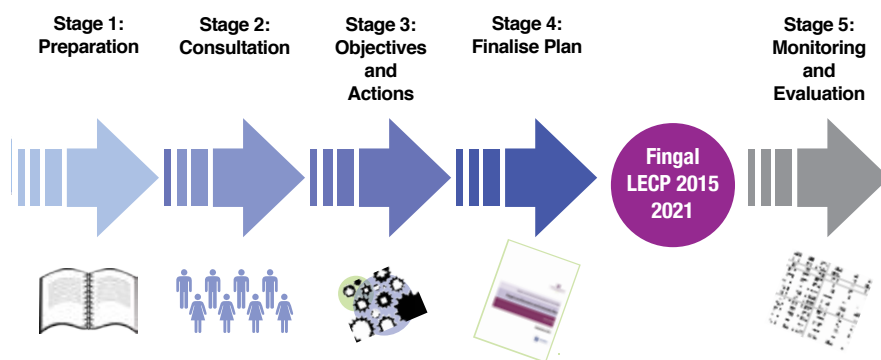


5 FINGAL LECP DEVELOPMENT

The Fingal Local Community Development Committee and the Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development SPC, in line with the Guidelines on Local Economic and Community Plans, published by the Community Division of the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, has developed the Fingal LECP.

Fingal LCDC was established in 2014 as a Committee of Fingal County Council. The LCDC is responsible for the community dimensions of the LECP, whilst the Economic Development and Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee is responsible for the economic elements.

Figure 6 – Fingal LECP Development Pathway



The LCDC and the SPC appointed an Advisory Steering Group to assist with preparation of the LECP.

All of these bodies have met regularly during the preparation process to review and steer the key aspects of the development of the Fingal LECP.

5.1 Stage 1: Preparation

Stage 1 of the LECP development process established the socio-economic evidence base, and provided an analysis of the demographic, social and economic profile of the county set in a regional and national context. The strategic analysis was designed to identify the internal strengths and weaknesses, and the external opportunities and challenges.

5.2 Stage 2: Consultation

An extensive consultation process was undertaken using the framework of the initial Socio-Economic Statement. This was implemented over the period November 2014 to June 2015. Methods of consulting included one-to-one meetings with key stakeholders, focus group meetings with interested bodies, and community-based consultation meetings. Additionally, CiviQ⁷ was commissioned to provide a web-based consultation portal for detailed submissions. Further written submissions were also facilitated.

A total of thirty-four one-on-one interviews took place, ten focus group meetings and four general community consultation meetings in four geographical locations. Forty-four submissions were made through CiviQ Software System, with eighty-four observations being received. In total there were 121 users of the system, with 11,144 page reviews being recorded.

⁷ www.civiq.eu - CiviQ Consultation Software identifies and visualises underlying perspectives in the natural flow of opinion on an issue with stakeholders. The process supports deeper understanding of an issue for effective consultations.

5.2.1 Identified Priorities

The consultation processes identified twenty-one economic and community priorities. These are recorded below. A process of 'triangulation' was used throughout the development of the LECP to identify and prioritise themes, objectives and actions. The triangulation approach seeks validation from across the socio-economic and demographic data, strategic policy reference, and the outcomes of the multi-level consultation process. Thus, the consultation outcomes are cross-referenced to the benchmark findings from the socio-economic and demographic baseline, and also to the appropriate key international, EU, National and local policies.

It is noted that the majority of the identified priorities can only effectively be addressed through collaborative working across agencies and organisations. This has the potential to create challenges in respect of delivery within the six-year time frame of the LECP. These challenges relate to the commitment of the organisations and agencies on the LCDC to work together on the objectives and actions identified in the LECP, and to ensure they are included in their own work programmes.

The challenges of prioritisation and commitment will be primarily addressed through the implementation monitoring and evaluation processes for the Fingal LECP.

SWOC Analysis

Within the scope of Stage 2 of the LECP Development Process a shared evidence-base was created from the socio-economic and demographic profile, the policy review and the outcomes of the consultation. This took the form of Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Challenges (SWOC) analysis referencing: -

- Local economic performance;

- Population demography;
- Geography (with particular focus on main centres of population and strategic economic locations by way of trend analysis);
- Socio-economic dimensions, including the local workforce, labour market, enterprise profile, and investment;
- Transport and travel patterns;
- Infrastructure quality and provision;
- Educational and research facilities and their interaction with business or other organisations;
- Environmental quality and heritage; *and*
- Consideration was also given to the economic and community profile of neighbouring local authorities in a regional context.



Table 7 – Community: Key Strengths

Population	Growing population base.	79.4% population growth rate in the past twenty years – highest rate in the State (Source: Census 2011).
	Diverse ethnic population.	Non-Irish nationals account for 18% of the population. (Source: Census 2011). Non-Irish nationals account for 29.2% of the population of Mulhuddart. (Source: Census 2011).
	Significant young population.	29% of population under 18 years of age. 45% of population under 30 years of age. (Source: Census 2011).
	Well-educated population.	38% of population has third-level education. (Source: Census 2011).
	The county does not have any population classified as 'extremely disadvantaged'.	1,099 individuals are living in SAPs classified as being 'very disadvantaged'. (Source: Census 2011). 12,688 individuals are living in SAPs classified as being 'disadvantaged'. (Source: Census 2011).
	Areas of disadvantage are geographically identified.	Small areas within the Electoral Areas of Balbriggan, Castleknock and Mulhuddart contain the SAPs classified as being either 'disadvantaged' or 'very disadvantaged'. (Source: Census 2011).
	Relative affluence in areas of the county.	Dublin is the most affluent region of Ireland. Fingal is the second most affluent local authority area within the region. (Source: Census 2011).
Spatial	Access to local third-level institutions.	Presence of the Institute of Technology Blanchardstown, and the proximity to Dublin City University. The potential for the development of the Technological University for Dublin (ITB+DIT).
	Coastal communities.	The 2010-2022 Regional Planning Guidelines provides a hierarchy that reflects the diversity of the settlements in the county. The County Development Plan notes that the rural areas of the county are considered to be under strong urban influence.
	Rural communities.	
	Urban and peri-urban communities.	
	Strong spatial planning framework.	Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023 will contribute to the creation of a more socially inclusive, equal and culturally diverse society by providing for appropriate community infrastructure, quality public realm and improving access to information and resources.
	Supply of zoned residential land.	
Significant heritage and cultural assets.	Fingal County Council/Heritage Council publication 'Exploring Fingal' identifies some 36 heritage attractions in the county.	

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Theme	Identified Economic Strengths	Evidence Reference
Structure	Established community and voluntary sector.	Fingal Community Network was established in 2014, and is Fingal's framework for public engagement. The structure facilitates the two-way flow of information between the Local Authority and Community, Voluntary and Environmental groups.
	Well-developed Local Authority support structure.	The aims of the Fingal County Council Community Development Office are to further develop community infrastructure, build stronger communities, support sustainable community facilities, and ensure effective Community Office leadership.

Table 8 - Economic: Key Strengths

Theme	Identified Economic Strengths	Evidence Reference
Enterprise Sectors	The County is a location of national strategic economic importance, particularly in respect of logistics.	Fingal has many strategic advantages including the presence of Dublin Airport, which in conjunction with its access to Dublin Port and rail, road and telecommunications infrastructure, gives Fingal ready access to national and international markets. Fingal has a strong economic base characterised by high levels of FDI (foreign direct investment), which includes IT, pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, food processing and electrical/electronics. Fingal's proximity to Dublin City gives it good access to domestic markets and allows it to tap into the competitiveness of the city. Its city edge location also endows it with an availability of development land. (Source: Fingal Development Plan 2011-2017)
	Dublin Airport provides a national, regional and local economic hub.	Dublin Airport is identified as a premier international access point to the Dublin region and to the country as a whole. (Source: GDA Regional Planning Guidelines 2004-2016).
	Fingal is an important national, regional and local centre for FDI.	Fingal has a track record of attracting FDI. It has strategic zoned lands near the airport, in close proximity to Dublin Port and the Dublin universities. It offers a supply of educated graduates available to the international companies.
	Aviation sector is an established employer.	The total economic impact of Dublin Airport by 2023 is estimated to generate €10.4 million GVA, with an FTE job creation capacity of 127,900. The estimated income generated at that time will be €5.2 million. (Source: DAA Dublin Airport Economic Impact Study).

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Theme	Identified Economic Strengths	Evidence Reference
	Significant healthcare and pharmaceutical sector presence.	Significant employment sectors: - <input type="checkbox"/> Wholesale, Retail Trade, Transportation and Storage, Accommodation and Food Service Activities: Employing 32,470; <input type="checkbox"/> Information and Communication, Financial, Real Estate, Professional, administration and support service activities: Employing 16,698; and <input type="checkbox"/> Education, Human Health and Social Work Activities: Employing 13,392. (Source: Fingal – An Economic Profile).
	Significant industrial and agri-food base.	
	Significant horticultural industry.	
	Established Information and Communication Technology sector.	
	Large rates-base generated by commercial activity.	The number of rateable businesses has increased by 4.5% from 2010 to 2014 (5,876 businesses).
Enterprise Support	Access to local third-level institutions.	Presence of the Institute of Technology Blanchardstown, and the proximity to Dublin City University. The potential for the development of the Technological University for Dublin (ITB+DIT). Both ITB and DIT are Host Research Bodies eligible for SFI funding.
	Enterprise and Business Centres.	Fingal has 73 Enterprise and Business Centres (Source: Fingal Guide to Enterprise).
	Established LEO.	The Local Enterprise Office Fingal provides support for the development of micro-enterprise in Fingal, and fosters an entrepreneurial culture, leading to the creation of sustainable employment and a vibrant business environment. Support is provided for entrepreneurs with small businesses primarily in manufacturing and internationally traded service sectors through the provision of a variety of training courses, programmes and funding options.
	Facilitating & Enabling Investment.	Fingal has a strong track record in facilitating and enabling investment in the County and supporting enterprise and business expansion.

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Theme	Identified Economic Strengths	Evidence Reference
Assets	Growing population base.	79.4% population growth rate in the past twenty years – highest rate in the State (Source: Census 2011).
	Significant working-age population.	Fingal has the largest labour force participation rate in the country at 68.4% (2011).
	Part of the Dublin Region.	Dublin accounted for 41% of the State's total output in 2011; it also had the highest output per person. Dublin and the South-West region combined accounted for 60% of the total output of the State in 2011 compared to 58% in 2010.
	Prime location on the Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor.	Fingal enjoys excellent arterial connectivity to Dublin, the region, the State and the island of Ireland.
	Proximity to Dublin City.	
	Proximity to Dublin Port Tunnel.	
	Road and rail infrastructure.	
	Dublin Airport	
	Regional retail infrastructure.	The area attracted an inflow of €529 million of comparison and €209 million of convenience goods, and leaked out €263 million of comparison and €193 million of convenience. (Source: Retail Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2008-2016)
	Strong spatial planning framework.	Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023 will promote enterprise and employment throughout the County, including the Metro North Economic Corridor, Swords and Blanchardstown, and work with the other Dublin local authorities to promote the Dublin City Region as an engine for economic growth for the Region and the country.
Supply of zoned commercial land.		

Table 9 - Community: Key Weaknesses

Theme	Identified Community Weaknesses	Key Evidence Reference
Population	Population growth rate (drives a number of social and community problems).	79.4% population growth rate in the past twenty years – highest rate in the State (<i>Source: Census 2011</i>).
	The county has 5% population classified as 'very disadvantaged' and 'disadvantaged'.	1,099 individuals are living in SAPs classified as being 'very disadvantaged'. (<i>Source: Census 2011</i>). 12,688 individuals are living in SAPs classified as being 'disadvantaged'. (<i>Source: Census 2011</i>).
	Reducing level of resources in targeted anti-poverty services and facilities.	SICAP and LDS offering reduced and more targeted supports.
	Amount and speed of change – keeping up with change.	Community and voluntary reforms have realigned many of the agencies and organisations that would have previously supported the sector.
	Needs of older population masked by younger population.	7.25% of the population of the county are over the age of 64, compared to 11.62% nationally. (<i>Source: Census 2011</i>).
	Needs of rural population masked by urban population.	Using the definition of the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020, the rural population of Fingal is 58,876 (21% total population). (<i>Source: Census 2011</i>).
Environmental	Dominance of private car as the transport mode.	59% of all journeys to work, school or college were undertaken by private car. (<i>Source: Census 2011</i>).
	Road and rail infrastructure is radial rather than orbital.	Dublin City is the node point for public transport services.
Structure	Lack of community cohesion.	79.4% population growth rate fuels the potential for the lack community cohesion.
	Confusing structures and responsibilities.	Community and voluntary reforms have realigned many of the agencies and organisations that would have previously supported the sector.
	Limited integrated approach to development.	

Table 10 - Economic: Key Weaknesses

Theme	Identified Economic Weaknesses	Evidence Reference
	Unemployment remains a challenge.	Unemployment rates in individual EDs reach levels well above those prevailing countywide and are highest in Blanchardstown-Tyrrelstown (45.9% male, 41.7% female), followed by Blanchardstown-Corduff (33.4% male, 24.9% female), Blanchardstown-Mulhuddart (30.4% male, 24.7% female) and Blanchardstown-Coolmine (30.0% male, 22.1% female). (<i>Source: Census 2011</i>).
	Limited integrated approach to development.	Economic support reforms have realigned many of the agencies and organisations that would have previously supported the sector.
	Tourism sector - no clear linkages between visitor attractions.	The new Tourism Strategy will assist in addressing this issue.
Assets	Bed-night infrastructure centred on Dublin Airport and Swords.	
	Road and rail infrastructure is radial rather than orbital.	Dublin City is the node point for public transport services.
	Vacant urban centre premises.	Encourage the re-use and regeneration of derelict buildings and land for retail purposes; Recapture retail expenditure outflow where appropriate, reducing the demand to travel outside Fingal; Encourage the enhancement and diversification of retail and leisure provision in Level 2 Centres (Swords and Blanchardstown); Encourage the enhancement of retail provision within Level 3 Centres in accordance with their role and position within the retail hierarchy; Encourage the improvement and modernisation of retail facilities within Level 4 Centres (Neighbourhood Centres, Local Centres, Small Towns and Villages). (<i>Source: Fingal Development Plan 2011-2017 Retail Strategy</i>).

Table 11 - Community: Key Opportunities

Theme	Identified Community Opportunities	Key Evidence Reference
Assets	Diverse range of existing networks, and alliances.	Fingal Community Network.
	EU and other funding mechanisms.	Opportunity to leverage community and voluntary sector support mechanisms.
	Greenway linkage potential.	Opportunity to develop infrastructure to support improved quality of life and biodiversity initiative.



Table 12 - Economic: Key Opportunities

Theme	Identified Economic Opportunities	Evidence Reference
Assets	Fingal is an important national, regional and local centre for FDI.	Fingal has many strategic advantages including the presence of Dublin Airport, which in conjunction with its access to Dublin Port and rail, road and telecommunications infrastructure, gives Fingal ready access to national and international markets. <i>(Source: Fingal Development Plan 2011-2017)</i> The Dublin Enterprise Zone consists of 1571 hectares of land primarily zoned for Office, Research & Development and High Technology Manufacturing.
	Dublin Airport provides a national, regional and local economic hub.	Dublin Airport is identified as a premier international access point to the Dublin region and to the country as a whole. <i>(Source: GDA Regional Planning Guidelines 2004-2016).</i>
	Dublin City Region.	Dublin accounted for 41% of the State's total output in 2011; it also had the highest output per person. Dublin and the South-West region combined accounted for 60% of the total output of the State in 2011 compared to 58% in 2010.
	Linked third-level institutions.	Presence of the Institute of Technology Blanchardstown, and the proximity to Dublin City University. The potential for the development of the Technological University for Dublin (ITB+DIT). Both ITB and DIT are Host Research Bodies eligible for SFI funding.
	Aviation sector is an established employer.	Significant employment sectors: - <input type="checkbox"/> Wholesale, Retail Trade, Transportation and Storage, Accommodation and Food Service Activities: Employing 32,470; <input type="checkbox"/> Information and Communication, Financial, Real Estate, Professional, administration and support service activities: Employing 16,698; and <input type="checkbox"/> Education, Human Health and Social Work Activities: Employing 13,392. <i>(Source: Fingal – An Economic Profile).</i>
	Significant healthcare and pharmaceutical sector presence.	
	Significant industrial and agri-food base.	
Significant horticultural industry.		
Established Information and Communication Technology sector.		
Employment growth opportunities from large industrial base.		
EU and other funding mechanisms.	Opportunity to leverage business sector support mechanisms.	

Table 13 - Community: Key Challenges

Theme	Identified Community Challenges	Key Evidence Reference
Issues	Changes in local development infrastructure and resourcing.	Community and voluntary reforms have realigned many of the agencies and organisations that would have previously supported the sector.
	No clear community communication strategy.	Fingal Community Network offers the opportunity to develop and implement an innovative digital communication strategy for the sector.



Table 14 - Economic: Key Challenges

Theme	Identified Economic Challenges	Evidence Reference
Issues	Changing industrial and business needs.	The changes that are occurring in enterprise will impact in terms of jobs, exports and start-ups, market penetration and innovation, efficiency of public interaction with business, finance and access to talent. The key challenges presented include improved competitiveness, increased sales and exports and a stimulation of the domestic economy through local employment in construction and retail, tourism, hospitality and agriculture and food. It will be necessary to improve skills provision and increase activation of the unemployed. Additionally, it will be necessary to increase the levels of research, innovation and technology development for the benefit of enterprise.
	Changing retail patterns.	
	Focus beyond the Dublin Region.	Policy refocusing within key enterprise support agencies might add to locational competition from regions outside of Dublin.
	Participation in EU and other funding mechanisms.	Most EU and State mechanisms operate through competitive funding. These require the development of appropriate response structures.
	Reliance on unsustainable transportation modes.	59% of all journeys to work, school or college were undertaken by private car. This represents an environmentally unattractive situation.
	Traffic congestion.	
Unclear signposting.	With a significant reliance on road access, the signposting of the entire county requires particular attention.	

5.3 Stage 3: Objectives and Actions

5.3.1 Overarching Economic Priorities

The following high level overarching economic priorities informed the Objectives and Actions of the LECP.

Table 15 – Overarching Economic Priorities

Ref.	Identified Priority	Socio-Economic Baseline Validation
E1	Continuing support for industrial infrastructure conducive to attracting industry and facilitating ease of doing business.	Fingal has major economic assets, including, road and rail infrastructure, proximity to Dublin City and Dublin Port Tunnel and a prime location on the Dublin-Belfast Economic corridor. Dublin Airport provides a significant economic hub for the county. The Dublin Enterprise Zone is located in Blanchardstown; it has grown rapidly in recent years to become a significant national economic asset.
E2	Maintain provision of long-term enterprise support structures.	The Fingal Economic Development Strategy 2014-2017 concludes that there had been a modest increase in the number of businesses each year, despite the continuing challenging economic environment, culminating in a 3% increase from 5,624 in 2010 to 5,811 in 2013.
E3	Continuing sectoral support and development.	The economy of Fingal, and of the region, is very diverse, and features a heavy concentration of high-tech manufacturing industries, and a very large number of firms in the service sector. Fingal County Council has identified new opportunities in the visitor attraction and tourism sectors. Micro-enterprise and retail activity are of considerable significance, as are the logistics and horticultural sectors.
E4	Further capitalise on international connections.	The Dublin Gateway Report: Gateways Hubs Development Index 2012 – A Review of Socio-Economic Performance notes that Dublin will lead economic recovery; <i>'Its resilience and performance will be instrumental in the achievement of a sustainable economic base on which to establish future fiscal stability and subsequent growth'</i> . Dublin Airport provides a significant economic hub for the county, and offers the pathway to secure additional FDI.
E5	Redevelopment and re-invigoration of village and town centres.	The 2010-2022 Regional Planning Guidelines provides a settlement hierarchy. The hierarchy notes the need for settlements to develop in a self-sufficient manner with a range of local services commensurate with local needs. The economic downturn coupled with changes in retail patterns has placed considerable stress on many settlements, both large and small.
E6	Utilisation of vacant premises.	A <i>'Pop-up-Shop'</i> scheme to offer vacant commercial property on a temporary basis to start-up businesses, local entrepreneurs, people from the arts and crafts sector or local community groups has previously been piloted in Fingal. Fingal Development Plan 2011-2017 Retail Strategy notes the need to maintain and strengthen the retail character of existing centres and enhance the retail profile of Fingal, whilst protecting the amenity of the surrounding area.

5.3.2 Overarching Community Priorities

The following high level community-orientated priorities informed the Objectives and Actions of the LECP.

Table 16 – Overarching Community Priorities

Ref.	Identified Priority	Socio-Economic Baseline Validation
C1	Targeting of initiatives into specific areas of disadvantage.	There were no SAPs in Co. Fingal that were <i>'Extremely Disadvantaged'</i> in 2011, according to the Pobal HP classification. In 2011 a total of 1,099 individuals lived in Small Areas of Population classified as being <i>'very disadvantaged'</i> , representing 0.4% of the total county population. None of those living in very disadvantaged areas were to be found in the EAs of Howth-Malahide or Swords. In 2011 a total of 12,688 individuals lived in Small Areas of Population classified as being <i>'disadvantaged'</i> , representing 4.6% of the total county population.
C2	Strategically support the integration of ethnic minority communities.	Fingal is ethnically diverse with non-Irish nationals accounting for 18.3% of the population; compared with a national average figure of 12.0%. Polish nationals (10,591 persons) were the largest group, followed by UK nationals (4,837 persons).
C3	Socio-Economic Baseline Validation	In 2011 Fingal returned a significantly higher percentage of people over 45 years of age than was the case nationally (72.75% compared to 65.60%). Consequently, the County has a relatively lower percentage of people of over 45 years of age.
C4	Targeted initiatives meeting the needs of the Travelling Community	CSO Census of Population 2011 identified 1,325 White Irish Travellers living in private households in Fingal. Of these, 985 were living in permanent private households, and 288 were living in temporary private households (52 were unstated). Some 49% of the Traveller population was male.
C5	The potential of community based social economy initiatives	Social Enterprises include employee-owned businesses, credit unions, co-operatives, development trusts, social firms, community businesses, and trading arms of charities. The OECD notes that much is required to support the creation and development of social economy organisations and to mainstream the sector in economic and social policies in order to maximise its impact on the economy.
C6	Age equality	In 2011, 29% of the population was under 18 and 45% under 30 years of age. It is estimated that Fingal's population will be over 300,000 by the 2016 census, representing an increase of approximately 9.5 percent. By 2021, the population is expected to have risen to over 330,000. Fingal Age Friendly Strategy notes <i>'the need to meet the changing needs of the population as they grow older, and to ensure that a multi-agency approach leads to the best use of available resources.'</i>

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Ref.	Identified Priority	Socio-Economic Baseline Validation
C7	Communication and connectivity	In 2011 79.5% of households had broadband connectivity compared with 63.8% nationally. However, these figures mask the quality of the broadband services available locally, and the capacity of the community to effectively access and use the services that are provided.
C8	Community engagement and empowerment	Ireland's population grew by 8.2% between 2006 and 2011. Fingal's population grew by 14.2 percent, well above the nationally experienced population growth, over the past five years. The fastest growing EDs within Fingal are Airport (171.9%) and Balgriffin (115.8%), and are amongst the fastest growing areas in Ireland. From the consultation process it has been identified that there is a need to: - <input type="checkbox"/> Encourage better community networking; <input type="checkbox"/> Encourage local leadership; <input type="checkbox"/> Improve social cohesion; <input type="checkbox"/> Create a sense of belonging; and <input type="checkbox"/> Address marginalisation.
C9	Engaging community in protecting the environment.	Fingal Biodiversity Action Plan 2010-2015 notes that 'Fingal has a rich Biodiversity resource with its coast, countryside and urban centres. This variety is the basis of daily life and livelihoods, and makes up the resource that families, communities and future generations depend upon. The challenge for Fingal is to develop and grow in a way that maintains and enhances biodiversity for future generations'. Implementation will require commitment from state agencies and businesses to local community groups and landowners in Fingal to ensure that future generations can enjoy the diverse range of habitats and species.
C10	Focus on quality-of-life.	Enhancing the quality-of-life and well-being is viewed as one of the key objectives of all public policy interventions. However, quality-of-life is difficult to benchmark and measure. Strong economies are essential to the development of sustainable communities. It is recognised that educational attainment and skills training is critical to economic prosperity and a high quality of life.

5.3.3 Overarching Hybrid Priorities

It will be appreciated that many of the economic and community priorities display dimensions that are common to both pillars, whilst

tending to be defined by one or other. The following overarching priorities are examples of those considered to be more finely balanced and, therefore, have been identified as being hybrids – neither predominantly economic nor community.

Table 17 – Examples of Overarching Hybrid Priorities (SEDO & SCOs)

Ref.	Identified Priority	Socio-Economic Baseline Validation
H1	Business, 3 rd level and community linkages in driving innovation and job creation	The proportion of Fingal's population with third-level education grew from 16.9% in 1991, to 39.8% in 2006, but decreased by 1.9% to 37.9% in 2011. This 20-year growth is slightly higher than that which has occurred nationally (21.0% compared to 17.6% nationally).
H2	Up-skilling and job mobility	The SOLAS Further Education and Training Strategy 2014-2019 notes that 'a key priority for the education and training system, including FET, is to: - <input type="checkbox"/> Address the unemployment challenge and provide targeted skills programmes that support job seekers to re-skill and up-skill for areas where sustainable employment opportunities are emerging; <input type="checkbox"/> Modernise and expand the apprenticeship system; and <input type="checkbox"/> Implement the new structures for FET to deliver higher quality, flexible and responsive programmes.
H3	Value of non-accredited training and education	The SOLAS Further Education and Training Strategy 2014-2019 notes that 'non-accredited training is to be found in the community sector'. The Adult Learning Inspectorate (UK) notes that 'non-accredited learning benefits from the freedom it gives organisations to design programmes in response to the needs of individuals or groups of learners. This is of fundamental importance where young people and adults are re-engaging in, or are completely new to, learning. It allows them to take responsibility for what, how, and when they learn. It also allows employers to meet the timely and specific needs of their business. Accreditation brings with it the benefits of a qualification but also the restraints of a syllabus, a timescale and, more often than not, some sort of external assessment'.
H4	Maximising tourism potential whilst involving the community in locally based initiatives	Destination Fingal - Fingal Tourism Strategy 2015-2018 notes that 'it is the intention to provide the definitive pathway to tourism development in Fingal, with support and buy-in of relevant public, private and community tourism stakeholders'. 'Tourism is an important indigenous sector in Fingal, in terms of generating revenue and employment. Visitors to Fingal generate a €500 million spend, which sustains a total of 20,000 jobs (one in four jobs in Fingal) across all sectors (transport, retail, entertainment and other services)'.

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Ref.	Identified Priority	Socio-Economic Baseline Validation
H5	Access to life-long learning.	The SOLAS Further Education and Training Strategy 2014-2019 notes that <i>'FET plays an important role in promoting social inclusion and life-long learning'</i> . Dublin and Dun Laoghaire Education and Training Board provide Adult Education and supports Youth Services in Fingal.

The outcome of the consultation process was then used to refine the Socio-Economic Statement, and to identify the agreed high-level goals for the integrated LECP. The SPC and the LCDC subsequently adopted the Socio-Economic Statement.

5.4 Stage 4: Plan Finalisation

Following agreement of the Socio-Economic Statement by the Regional Assembly in June 2015 the SPC and the LCDC further refined the draft LECP. The formal statement on the Fingal Draft Local Economic and Community Plan was approved at the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly meeting on 13th November 2015. The draft LECP was endorsed as having demonstrated consistency with the core strategy and the objectives of the Development Plan, the RPGs and regionally significant plans and objectives, and finally integration and consistency between both elements (Economic and Community)

Fingal County Council adopted the final draft of the LECP prior to being forwarded to the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government.

The Fingal LECP 2016-2021 model emerged as having six key themes integrated within a continuum of economic and community development.

5.5 Stage 5: Monitoring and Evaluation

Each action within the integrated LECP was designed to incorporate the following defined measurement tools: -

1. Identified action targets;
2. An implementation timescale;
3. Key performance indicators; *and*
4. Identifiable and measurable implementation progress milestones.



6 FINGAL LECP ACTION PLAN 2016-2021

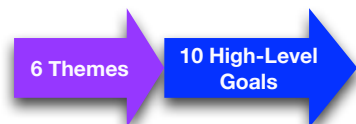
The purpose of the Fingal LECP Action Plan 2016-2021 is to identify the objectives and actions needed to promote and support economic development and local and community development in Fingal.

The Action Plan has been developed using a comprehensive process engaging with key stakeholders, including agencies and the local community.

Themes and High-Level Goals

The Action Plan identifies six themes supported by ten high-level goals.

Figure 7 – Themes and Goals



The high-level goals were developed from the outcomes of the community and key stakeholders' consultation, the strategic policy review, and an analysis of the evidence to be found in the demographic and socio-economic profile of the county. The high-level goals were designed to be consistent with the appropriate statements of the Regional Assembly as defined in the Regional Planning Guidelines.

SEDOs and SCOs and SEDOs / SCOs

The ten high-level goals are built upon a suite of thirty-eight objectives that underpin the Action Plan.

Figure 8 – Themes, Goals and Objectives



Of these, eleven relate primarily to Sustainable Economic Development Objectives (SEDOs), sixteen relate primarily to Sustainable Community Objectives (SCOs), and eleven comprise integrated objectives containing cross-linked elements of SEDOs and SCOs.

Actions

Each objective within the economic and community elements will be achieved through the implementation of specific, time-bound and measurable actions.

Figure 9 – Themes, Goals, Objectives and Actions



There are 115 actions, which in some cases contain sub-elements. In all cases responsibility for the individual action has been linked to a lead organisation and, where appropriate, partner bodies.

6.1 Action Plan Thematic Framework

The framework contains six integrated themes. These themes were identified from the outcomes of the community and key stakeholders' consultation, the strategic policy review, and the proofing processes.

Figure 10 – Themes



The framework is designed to incorporate the economic development and the local and community development components, and thereby facilitate the creation of an integrated plan that references the potential roles of all of the local actors.

Theme T1: Enterprise and Employment: O1–O11 & A1–A30

Theme T1 focusses on supporting and encouraging enterprise and employment in Fingal.

It is widely recognised that strong economies are essential to the development of sustainable communities. Successful counties have thriving settlements at their core and they, in turn, drive economic growth. It is also recognised that human capital, as expressed in educational attainment and skills training, is critical to economic prosperity and a high quality of life.

Employment is the key driver of economic activity. The proportion of the population who are in full-time employment is a defining feature of economic prosperity. The CSO Census of Population 2011 identified that Fingal had the largest labour force participation rate in the country at 68.4%. Fingal also has the second lowest unemployment rate, behind Co. Cork, in the country at some 16%.

The County has many strategic economic advantages, including the presence of Dublin Airport, access to Dublin Port, and a developed rail, road and telecommunications infrastructure. As a result of its location, the economic profile of the County can be characterised by high levels of FDI (foreign direct investment) including IT, pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, food processing and electrical/electronics. Fingal's proximity to Dublin City provides ready access to domestic markets, and allows it to tap into the competitiveness of the city. Its peripheral location to the City creates an availability of development land. The coastline and significant areas of agricultural land gives Fingal a competitive edge in attracting investment from the green sector.

The presence of Blanchardstown Institute of Technology with its formation as part of a new Technological University Dublin (TUD) and Fingal's proximity to Dublin City University confers significant advantages

to the County, and this has supported the County's advanced industrial infrastructure catering for a range of investment levels.

Dublin Airport provides significant employment opportunities, and fuels the overall attractiveness of the County as a business location. Additionally, the M50, the Port Tunnel and the M1 Corridor and the potential Metro North Economic Corridor give Fingal access to national and international markets and make Fingal an attractive location for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and indigenous industry. Examples include the Information and Communication Technology sector, comprising some of the world's leading companies such as Synopsys, IBM, PayPal and Symantec. The Aviation sector is a strategic employer, and includes Aer Lingus, Dublin Airport Authority, Cityjet, Servisair and Ryanair. Additionally, the Healthcare and Pharmaceutical sectors includes leading companies such as Bristol Myers-Squibb and Mylan, whilst the Food, Beverage and Agribusiness sectors are of growing significance, and include Keelings, County Crest and Donnellys.

Fingal's high quality natural and built environment is a key factor in attracting investment into Fingal and making it a desirable place for people to live. The presence of the coast and large areas of agricultural land give Fingal a competitive edge in attracting new investment from the green sector.

Opportunity exists to develop Fingal's tourism potential. This potential can be enhanced through collaboration with stakeholders in the Greater Dublin Area.

Fingal enjoys a vibrant economy, and offers considerable employment opportunities across a diversity of business sectors. This is driven by the strategic location of the county and its excellent international, national, and regional transport links.

The significant rate of population growth in Fingal is set to continue, and the county supports a young and educated population.

It is of national and regional strategic importance that the enterprise base of Fingal continues to grow to match the employment requirements of the existing and future populations. It is also important that all dimensions of the enterprise base are encouraged to grow, from new, indigenous micro-enterprise start-ups through to multi-national FDI companies.

Theme T2: Learning, Training and Working: O12-O16 & A31-A45

The CSO reports on the national numbers of people on Activation programmes including Community Employment, the Back to Education Allowance, TÚS and JobBridge. In November 2014 there were 86,160 people on these programmes, a 0.5% increase on November 2013. In November 57.5% of participants were on employment programmes, the biggest of which is Community Employment with 23,035 participants. There was a 7% drop in the numbers of people participating in education programmes in November 2014. The Back to Education Allowance, which supports people to undertake second or third level programmes, is the largest activation programme with 27,714 participants.

The situation in Fingal is one that went from being regarded as near complete employment (2006 Census of Population records Fingal as having the highest level of economically active adults, and only 8,000 unemployed) to one that had 22,640 unemployed by 2011.

Theme T3: Well-Being and Social Inclusion: O17-O23 & A46-A70

Whilst Ireland has the youngest population profile and the highest birth-rate in Europe, it is faced with having substantially greater numbers of older people in the population in the future.

Well-being and quality-of-life issues will impact directly on the whole community, but are of particular importance to the elderly.

The Dublin Region is the most affluent region of Ireland, and Fingal is the second most affluent local authority area within the region. Fingal has been impacted by the economic downturn after 2007, reflected in the drop in the absolute deprivation score from 4.8 in 2006 to -1.8 in 2011. This represents a drop of 6.6, compared to a nationwide drop of 6.5. There are considerable differences in the relative affluence and deprivation between various parts of the county. At a local level, the most deprived EDs are Blanchardstown-Tyrrelstown (-13.6) and Blanchardstown-Corduff (-10.9), followed by Balbriggan Urban (-4.1), Blanchardstown-Coolmine (-3.9) and Blanchardstown-Mulhuddart (-3.6).

Theme T4: Leadership & Community Empowerment: O24-27 & A71-A83

The theme of Leadership and Community Empowerment has emerged from the consultative process underpinning the LECP. The objectives attached to this seek to maximise the leadership potential of the local authority as the main vehicle of governance and public service at local level. Further the theme introduces a platform of actions designed to increase further the level of meaningful involvement, dialogue and active citizenship in the county.

Theme T5: Tourism, Environment and Heritage: O28-O31 & A84-96

Tourism

Fingal has a rich portfolio of natural and cultural assets, and can capitalise on its city-edge location leveraging its proximity to Dublin City. Rural tourism, which includes fishing, forestry, trekking, equine and farm based activities, provides opportunities for the diversification of the rural economy.

The Grow Dublin Taskforce was established by Fáilte Ireland in late 2012, and envisages that the total number of visits would reach 6.2 million by 2020, representing a 70% increase on 2012. To achieve the vision, international tourist spending in Dublin would almost double to just under €2.5bn. The Fingal Tourism Strategy 2015-2018 notes that tourism has the potential to address the surplus labour pool in the County.

Environment

Fingal has a rich biodiversity resource with its coast, countryside, and urban centres. This variety enriches our daily lives and provides essential resources that our communities and future generations depend upon.

Biodiversity provides many of the essentials of life such as oxygen, clean water, fertile soils, food and places to relax. The value of biodiversity extends from the health benefit to be gained from contact with nature, to the economic gains for local businesses associated with food production and outdoor pursuits such as angling, hiking, and boating. Fingal contains a wealth of natural heritage, but the patterns of loss of this heritage mirror the global pattern.

As the Fingal Biodiversity Action Plan 2010-2015 states local habitats are being lost or subject to degradation and species numbers have declined. The challenge is to develop the county in a way that maintains and enhances biodiversity for current and future generations promoting climate change adaption, mitigation and reductions of carbon emissions.

Heritage

The traces left in the landscape by previous generations in archaeological features and in historic buildings form part of the cultural heritage of Fingal. They contribute to the attractive or special character of our towns, villages and countryside. They are also part of our identity

and play a significant role in attracting visitors to the area that is reflected in the growing development of cultural tourism products. The Council recognises the importance of identifying and protecting the archaeological and architectural heritage resource of the county as the population grows and development proceeds.

The Fingal Heritage Plan 2011-2017 sets out a five-year action plan for all aspects of our heritage – natural and cultural. All of the actions stem from the belief that our heritage sustains and strengthens local communities and makes a unique contribution to ensuring a good quality of life for everyone.

Theme T6: Urban Towns & Rural Communities: O32-O38 & A97-A115

In recent decades schools, shopping, and commerce have tended to move to out-of-town locations, and the bulk of residential construction has been in suburban estates and one-off houses in the countryside. The publication of the National Spatial Strategy (2002) saw a need to focus planning policy on the consolidation and regeneration of cities, towns and villages; keeping them physically compact, and the focus of the social, commercial and civic life of their communities.

The National Economic and Social Council (NESC) report, *Housing in Ireland, Performance and Policy* (2004), notes that the challenge of (re) building high-quality, sustainable cities and towns is a significant problem given the level of projected population growth. In Fingal, as elsewhere in Ireland, small and medium-sized towns operate at the centre of their local economy. The decline of traditional agriculture as a source of employment, coupled with the transport and communication links of the county has increased the propensity for commuting and in-migration. It has also raised consumer expectations in terms of service range and quality. Additionally, pressures to reap economies of scale have contributed to the further decline of service availability in small and medium-sized towns.

Fingal County Council recognises that attracting people and investment into traditional town centres requires a focus on the provision of a high-quality public realm. This involves everything from lighting and street furniture to traffic calming and the townscape. Retail development is also critical to the vitality of towns and villages, not least in promoting the multi-purpose shopping, business and leisure trips that add to the vitality of local economies.

The Fingal LECP theme T6 identifies the local community as being pivotal in the regeneration of urban towns and rural communities. It provides a balance of objectives to achieve the anticipated high-level outcomes, and requires the positive involvement of local communities of place and interest.

6.2 High-Level Goals

From the analysis of the evidence-base, a Socio-Economic Statement, with high-level goals and targets for the Fingal LECP, was prepared. A number of tools were used to synthesis and analyse the outputs from the socio-economic evidence base and the various levels of consultation.

The original high-level goals were refined during the plan development process to represent the anticipated outcomes to be achieved by Fingal LECP.

Within the framework of six themes, the LECP comprises of a series of ten high-level goals⁸.

⁸ Appendix 3 provides a summary of the relationship between the strategic statements of the Regional Planning Guidelines and the high-level goals.

6.2.1 Enterprise and Employment: Goals

Goal G1: Increase economic activity and employment creation through innovation and collaboration. This goal is designed to support and encourage the development of sustainable networks and strategies that will boost competitiveness, investments and job creation.

Goal G2: Develop a communication and support structure for SME's and retail businesses. This will be designed to support SME's, and promote their contribution to local economic growth.

Goal G3: Stimulate entrepreneurial culture, innovation and growth. The outcome of this goal will be a more developed eco-system for start-ups, micro businesses and small business, thereby improving business success rates and sustainable growth opportunities.

6.2.2 Learning, Training and Working: Goals

Goal G4: Maximise job creation opportunities by activating the potential within local communities. This will provide for an enhanced equality of access to job opportunities for hard to reach communities. It will also seek to reduce levels of educational disadvantage, improve the supply of essential skills and, therefore, result in reduced levels of unemployment.

6.2.3 Well-Being and Social Inclusion: Goals

Goal G5: Increase participation in social cultural and economic activities to improve, well-being and quality of life. Increased community participation levels in health, social, cultural and economic activities will act as a vehicle for improving the quality of life for all. Specific supports for groups who are facing social and economic barriers to full participation.

6.2.4 Leadership & Community Empowerment: Goals

Goal G6: More coherent services that connect people and places, more active and empowered communities of place and interest. Achievement of the goal will lead to increased engagement and coherence between the different structures and strategies at a local level, more engaged local communities with a skilled and strengthened representative network, and the informing of plans and services in a meaningful way.

6.2.5 Tourism, Environment and Heritage: Goals

Goal G7: Protect and enhance the environment and heritage of Fingal. This goal recognises that the effective sustainable management of the environment and heritage will be enhanced by increased community awareness.

Goal G8: Create distinct visitor attractions by sensitively optimising the natural assets of the county, and building an enterprise and community infrastructure to drive and expand the visitor potential. This will support the development and enhancement of local amenities, resulting in increased visitor numbers and expanded sectoral employment potential.

6.2.6 Urban Towns and Rural Communities: Goals

Goal G9: Re-generate towns and villages, and increase the resilience of the local economy. This goal will underpin the development of vibrant towns and villages that are actively supported by an engaged business community, and are strategically marketed through an enhanced 'sense of place'.

Goal G10: Support the sustainability of rural communities through the development of a resilient economy. This goal will provide for targeted territorial development and resilient rural communities with the capacity to strategically develop their local economy.

6.3 Objectives

The suite of economic, community and integrated objectives for the Fingal LECP has been developed from the agreed high-level Goals and their attendant projected outcomes. The objectives are identified as being primarily Sustainable Economic Development Objectives (SEDOs), Sustainable Community Objectives (SCOs), or an amalgam of both.

6.3.1 Enterprise and Employment: Objectives O1-O11

Fingal enjoys a vibrant economy, and offers considerable employment opportunities across a diversity of business sectors. This is driven by the strategic location of the county and its excellent international, national, and regional transport links.

The significant rate of population growth in Fingal is set to continue, and the county supports a young and educated population.

It is of national and regional strategic importance that the enterprise base of Fingal continues to grow to match the employment requirements of the existing and future populations. It is also important that all dimensions of the enterprise base are encouraged to grow, from new, indigenous micro-enterprise start-ups through to multi-national FDI companies.

6.3.2 Learning, Training and Working: Objectives O12-O16

The skills need of business is constantly changing, as is the social environment within which communities exist. It is important, therefore, that everyone is encouraged to participate in life-long learning, training and up-skilling to improve the contribution that the individual can make to their community, and to ensure that those contributing to the work

force are able to attain the highest appropriate level of employment satisfaction. Barriers to learning, training and working specifically for hard to reach communities is recognised and specific strategies will be put in place to support these.

6.3.3 Well-Being and Social Inclusion: Objectives O17-O23

Individuals with multiple challenges often face circumstances that prevent them from engaging equitably with civil society. Addressing the core issues of social exclusion and poverty will help to build a more cohesive local society, enabling everyone to contribute to a sense of well-being within an improved quality of life. Both of these characteristics are likely to contribute to improving the health of the community, which is seen to be of particular importance, as demographic ageing becomes more a challenge in the future.

Fingal has a rich and diverse ethnic mix. This represents a considerable asset to the county, since it brings dynamic and new points of view, cultural stimulation and individuals that are skilled in languages needed by international business. In negative circumstances, however, it can result in exclusion from the social mainstream.

6.3.4 Leadership and Community Empowerment: Objectives O24-O27

Leadership, specifically collaborative leadership, which maximises the potential of the local authority to develop, promote and support economic and community development by bringing greater co-ordination and coherence to the different structures and strategies at a local and regional level, will be central to improving the connections between services and people.

Empowering communities of place and communities of interest to participate more fully in civil society is an important underpinning to the Local Government Reform Act 2014. In order to maximise the impact of the local authority's role in economic and community development; supporting effective community engagement and representation which informs decision making will be necessary and important.

6.3.5 Tourism Environment and Heritage: Objectives O28-O31

Fingal is defined by the diversity of its environment, encompassing rural, urban and suburban dimensions. It sits at the interface of the City of Dublin and the rural hinterland. It has strategically significant transport corridors, and a considerable density of population. These factors place considerable tensions on the local environment, both built and natural. These tensions have the potential to erode concepts of environmental sustainability, hence the need to align this LECP closely with the appropriate land-use strategies of the Fingal Development Plan 2011-2017 and its successor.

The diversity of the natural environment, encompassing coastal and land-based assets, represents an opportunity for sensitive development. These natural assets, which include a rich legacy of cultural and historical features, when coupled with the gateway location of the county and its accessibility, offer an opportunity for the development of a sustainable tourism and visitor attraction offerings distributed throughout the county.

6.3.6 Urban Towns and Rural Communities: Objectives O32- O38

Given the relative size and economic significance of the principal settlements in the county it is easy to discount the importance of the rural

communities. Both are interdependent, and the needs of both must be equally addressed in the economic and social development of the county into the future.

The traditional core of many of the towns in Fingal have suffered during the recent past due to the impact of changing retail patterns and the economic downturn. One of the key challenges being faced by the forthcoming Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023 is to devise and implement strategies that can revitalise some of the core spaces in the town and villages. This effort will require support from better-informed local communities whose engagement is central to any successful spatial strategy, coupled with a vibrant local business community .

Rural communities in Fingal are facing challenges, at time driven by the success of the employment centres in the county and region. These challenges reflect on the changing nature of rural communities, and the role that they and their services are to play in the future if they are to remain sustainable as places to live, work and play.

6.4 Implementation, Monitoring and Review

An implementation, monitoring, evaluation and review framework has been prepared with respect to the objectives and actions for the economic and community elements of the Fingal LECP. The framework provides timescale targets for the implementation of the LECP.

6.5 LECP Structure

Figure 11 – LECP Structure



Table 18 – T1: Enterprise & Employment Structure

High-Level Goal	High-Level Outcome	Objective	SEDO	SCO	Lead Organisation	Key Partner Organisations	Delivery Deadline	Project Milestones	Actions
G1: Increase economic activity and employment creation through innovation and collaboration.	Develop sustainable networks and strategies that boost competitiveness, investments and job creation.	O1: Facilitate infrastructure to encourage and support business location and growth.	✓		Fingal County Council.	Existing Business Park Management organisations (public and private)	2017	Produce and agree Action Plan	A1: Facilitate business development in Business Parks within the county. A2: Monitor and respond to supply and demand for office space.
		O2: Facilitate Incubation and business growth.	✓		Fingal County Council.	Incubation space provider organisations (including Drinan, BASE, BEaT), Fingal LEO.	2019	Identification of sectoral needs. Action Plan agreed. Agreed collective promotional strategy.	A3: Develop micro-enterprise incubation units (inc. artists studio space), in accordance with demand. A4: Develop a collective promotional network strategy for incubation space in the county.
		O3: Build strategic alliances, internationally, nationally and regionally to increase employment potential.	✓		Fingal County Council.	IDA; Enterprise Ireland; 3rd level institutions; Chamber of Commerce; Team Ireland; IRO; EuroCities; key recruitment agencies; Dublin Airport; <i>ConnectIreland</i> and Dublin Fingal Chamber of Commerce, <i>ConectIreland</i> .	2017	Agreed International Strategy including identification of key stakeholders, international connections and key events and activities. Provide input into the Regional Jobs Strategy Prioritisation of actions in relation to Regional Jobs Strategy for Dublin.	A5: Develop an international strategy directed towards business development and employment creation. A6: Support the development and rollout of a <i>Regional Jobs Strategy for Dublin</i> .
		O4: Develop new systems and strategies that support sectoral growth opportunities	✓		Fingal County Council.	<i>To complete</i>	2017/19	Benchmarking completed in identified High growth areas; Agri – Food, Aviation, Tourism & Green Economy. Benchmarking completed across all Identified sectoral growth areas High Level Group established and action plan completed	A7: Benchmark competitiveness within Fingal. A8: Assess specific sectoral growth opportunities and formulate sectoral policies as appropriate. A9: Facilitate the development of Industry clusters and provide opportunities for cluster funding. A10: Implement local economic policies in line with Enterprise 2025. A11: Develop a systems approach to decision making and marketing designed to increase Fingal competitiveness and investments, Internationally, nationally and regionally.

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High-Level Goal	High-Level Outcome	Objective	SEDO	SCO	Lead Organisation	Key Partner Organisations	Delivery Deadline	Project Milestones	Actions
G2: To develop a communication and support structure for SME's and retail businesses	A communication and support structure designed to support SME's, and promote their contribution to local economic growth.	O5: Engage with local business leaders, to identify and support sectoral needs and to stimulate innovation and strategic opportunities.	✓		LEO	Fingal Dublin Chamber, Arts Council, Retail Excellence Ireland	2019	Plan, implement and evaluate Business Network Event. Agreed 2017 actions to follow from event/to include identification of key sectoral support needs. New Food chain and accelerator programmes. Develop 'What Next Programme' in co-operation with Arts colleges.	A12: Establish (sectoral / cross sectoral) business network events with the purpose of generating innovation, opportunities and investment. A13: Roll out series of annual events through <i>Enterprise Week</i> .
		O6: Develop and implement an effective and consistent digital support and communication strategy engaging with industry and commerce.	✓		Fingal County Council.	Dublin Dashboard, Dublinlinked, Fingal Data Hub, LEO, Dublin Economic Monitor.	2017	Establish Economic, Digital & Communications Group. Agreed phased development plan for communication tool.	A14: Establish effective digital platforms with local enterprise designed to promote dialogue and support growth to include: available premises, support structures, key contacts, baseline information to be used for evidence-based marketing and business planning, networking and forums, funding opportunities, international linkages, partner invitations for funding opportunities, success stories etc. A15: Collection, analysis and distribution of baseline information to enable evidence based planning for the LA, for businesses and for the community and voluntary sector, that augments and localises existing data sources such as <i>dublindashboard.ie</i> , <i>Dublinlinked</i> , <i>dublinfoodchain.ie</i> , and <i>platodublin.ie</i>

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High-Level Goal	High-Level Outcome	Objective	SEDO	SCO	Lead Organisation	Key Partner Organisations	Delivery Deadline	Project Milestones	Actions
G3: To stimulate entrepreneurial culture, innovation and growth.	A more developed eco-system for start-ups, micro businesses and small business, improving success rates and sustainable growth opportunities.	O7: Design an active business lifecycle advice, training and support structure.	✓		Fingal LEO.	LEADER Implementer, SICAP Implementer, Clann Credo and other social lending organisations.	2017	<p>Mapped inter-agency lifecycle support services plan.</p> <p>Number of enterprise start-ups supported.</p> <p>Number of enterprise start-ups supported from target areas.</p> <p>Identification and promotion of national and European key funding opportunities.</p>	<p>A16: Provide an information, advice and training service designed to support entrepreneurs to plan, grow and sustain business.</p> <p>A17: Design a targeted outreach Business Development Supports Plan for Blanchardstown and Balbriggan.</p> <p>A18: Design a communications strategy to increase awareness of resources and supports available for start-up and developing companies, including sectoral specific targeting.</p> <p>A19: Facilitate local engagement with lending and financing organisations and initiatives, and improve knowledge about, and access to appropriate streams of national and EU resources.</p> <p>A20: Identify needs and supports to promote entrepreneurial and employment initiatives with specific interest groups i.e. ethnic minorities, young people, travellers, disability, women's groups etc</p>
		O8: Work collaboratively with existing enterprise-related programmes and initiatives to develop sectoral support particularly export-focused enterprise	✓		Fingal LEO.	EI, Fingal Dublin Chamber, LEADER Implementer, SICAP Implementer	2019	<p>Agreed mentoring support structure established based on local enterprise needs.</p> <p>Engagement of key business leaders.</p> <p>Increase in initiatives aimed at supporting specific interest groups.</p>	<p>A21: Enable networking and mentoring between key business leaders, innovators, research institutions and advisors, early enterprise developers (including 3rd Level students) and export-focused enterprise.</p>

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High-Level Goal	High-Level Outcome	Objective	SEDO	SCO	Lead Organisation	Key Partner Organisations	Delivery Deadline	Project Milestones	Actions
G3: To stimulate entrepreneurial culture, innovation and growth.	A more developed eco-system for start-ups, micro businesses and small business, improving success rates and sustainable growth opportunities.	O9: Provide enterprise guidance, support and information to individuals and specific targeted communities in the creation of innovative ideas and development of local enterprise opportunities. 1	✓	✓	SICAP Implementer, LEO.	DSP, Education and Career Supports Services, and Fingal County Council.	2017	Agreed strategy for implementation.	<p>A22: Provide information, guidance and support to long term unemployed people wishing to set up a business through appropriate short-term training and business plan development geographically target SICAP High priority areas: Balbriggan, Swords and Blanchardstown.</p> <p>A23: Provide supports for those who wish to build a career in the Arts through Graduate Awards, Professional Artists Support Schemes and Professional Development skills programme.</p> <p>A24: Strengthen local employer relationships with Local Businesses and Industry for community-based mentoring opportunities.</p>
		O10: Stimulate an entrepreneurial culture and skills in schools.	✓		Fingal LEO.	Fingal Dublin Chamber SICAP Implementer and DDLETB, Education Services Fingal Comhairle Na nÓg	2017	Number of DEIS schools participating.	<p>A25: Target students from second and primary level schools to participate in the <i>Student Enterprise Awards Programme</i> with specific emphasis on DEIS schools.</p> <p>A26: Support the <i>Young Entrepreneur Programme</i> at primary school level with specific emphasis on DEIS schools.</p>

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High-Level Goal	High-Level Outcome	Objective			Lead Organisation	Key Partner Organisations	Delivery Deadline	Project Milestones	Actions
G3: To stimulate entrepreneurial culture, innovation and growth.	A more developed eco-system for start-ups, micro-businesses and small business, improving success rates and sustainable growth opportunities.	O11: Support the development of a network for the promotion of social enterprise and placemaking. 2	✓	✓	Fingal County Council, Third Level Institutions, LDS Implementer, and SICAP Implementer.	Community Enterprise Centres, community centres, Fingal LEO, Clann Credo and other Social Finance Lending organisations, Fingal Comhairle Na nÓg	2019	Pilot initiative established Agree Social Enterprise Strategy Establish 'Community innovation / What Works Centre'.	A27: Pilot an initiative to aid placemaking and local economic vitality within the County. A28: Develop a social enterprise mentoring structure to support sustainable growth. A29: Develop the use of community centres and facilities as creative environments for social enterprise and key assets in placemaking strategies. A30: Develop the use of library services to strengthen and support business, enterprise and employment services.

Table 19 – T2: Learning, Training and Working Structure

High-Level Goal	High-Level Outcome	Objective	SEDO	SCO	Lead Organisation	Key Partner Organisations	Delivery Deadline	Project Milestones	Actions
G4: To maximise job creation opportunities by activating the potential within local communities.	Goal G4 Enhanced equality of access to job opportunities for hard to reach communities. It will lower levels of educational disadvantage, supply of essential skills, and result in reduced levels of unemployment.	O12: Provision of support for appropriate education and training facilities. 3	✓	✓	DDLETB and SICAP Implementer	Fingal County Council, LDS Implementer, LEO, Fingal Community Network (FCN).	2019	Education and training audit completed and Action Plan for 2017. Investigation of e-learning potential completed and ICT skills development strategy agreed.	A31: Audit education and training provision and ensure appropriate access to excluded communities. Including Arts Centres and other community facilities A32: Implement the OECD People & Places Report recommendations on Learning, Training, and work related measures in the Blanchardstown RAPID area. A33: Maximise the potential of e-learning, up-skill communities in ICT, and facilitate access to technologies so as to enable the use of e-learning and access to information.

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High-Level Goal	High-Level Outcome	Objective	SEDO	SCO	Lead Organisation	Key Partner Organisations	Delivery Deadline	Project Milestones	Actions
G4: To maximise job creation opportunities by activating the potential within local communities.	Goal G4 Enhanced equality of access to job opportunities for hard to reach communities. It will lower levels of educational disadvantage, supply of essential skills, and result in reduced levels of unemployment.	O13: Strengthen cross-sectoral working relationships and develop a more strategic approach to the design and delivery of education and training provision. Identification of barriers to the take up of opportunities (with specific reference to communities of interest such as men over 50, ethnic minority communities, people with a disability, Traveller Community, women etc.). 4	✓	✓	DDLETB and SICAP Implementer.	Fingal County Council, LEO, Fingal Community Network (FCN), ITB, DCU, Department of Social Protection, Youth Services.	2017	Agreed education and training strategy including remaining actions.	A34: Develop an annual education and training strategy to include reference to targeted geographical areas and communities of interest.
									A35: Align education and training with emerging skills needs.
									A36: Develop an outreach strategy in the design and delivery of innovative literacy and numeracy initiatives.
									A37: Provide education and training opportunities for unemployed people (over 18yrs) using sporting activity as the delivery vehicle
									A38: Identify and address the barriers to taking up employment-related opportunities (such as child-care, transport, etc.) and develop initiatives to enable increase access.
									A39: Implement the National Skills Strategy at a local level
A40: Support and promote Annual Adult Learning events to provide opportunities to access education supports.									

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High-Level Goal	High-Level Outcome	Objective	SEDO	SCO	Lead Organisation	Key Partner Organisations	Delivery Deadline	Project Milestones	Actions
G4: To maximise job creation opportunities by activating the potential within local communities.	Enhanced equality of access to job opportunities for hard to reach communities. It will lower levels of educational disadvantage, supply of essential skills, and result in reduced levels of unemployment.	O14: Provision of guidance and support enabling pathways to employment (with specific reference to communities of interest such as men over 50, ethnic minority communities, people with a disability, Traveller Community etc. 1		✓	SICAP Implementer, DSP.	DDLETB, Fingal Community Network, Fingal Libraries Youth Services.	2017	Outreach guidance strategy agreed working with specified targeted communities. Number of training related supports delivered in targeted areas.	A41: Provide person-centred guidance to develop pathways to employment for targeted groups. A42: Provide job related training supports to unemployed clients, including CV preparation, interview skills, social media skills for job seeking, and transition to employment initiatives (SICAP Target Groups).
		O15: Improve the use of labour market activation initiatives to support community initiatives and at the same time provide quality experience and progression for participants. 2		✓	SICAP Implementer, DSP.	DDLETB, Fingal Community Network, Fingal Libraries, Youth Services.	2017	Audit of labour market activation schemes completed and where appropriate linked to LECPC actions.	A43: Undertake an audit of labour market activation schemes with a view to developing a strategy for individual progression routes, personal and job related skills development, and community service needs.
		O16: Support the delivery of the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) aimed at tackling poverty, social exclusion and long-term unemployment 3		✓	LCDC, SICAP Implementer.	Fingal County Council.	2017	Completion of agreed SICAP KPIs and Headline targets. Number of Service integration / improvement initiatives.	A44: Implement SICAP County wide, ensuring appropriate levels of beneficiaries from within socially excluded groups and designated disadvantaged areas. A45: Document and share learning with a view to removing duplication and improving service integration and delivery of education, training and activation supports and services.

Table 20 – T3: Well-Being and Social Inclusion

High-Level Goal	High-Level Outcome	Objective	SEDO	SCO	Lead Organisation	Key Partner Organisations	Delivery Deadline	Project Milestones	Actions
G5: To increase participation in social cultural and economic activities to improve, well-being and quality of life.	Goal G5 will provide for increased participation levels in health, social, cultural and economic activities as a vehicle for improving the quality of life for all.	O17: Improve awareness of the importance of health and support the provision of services responding to the health needs of the community (with specific reference to communities of interest). 4		✓	HSE and TUSLA	FCC, Fingal Community Network (FCN), Local Drugs and Alcohol Services, Youth Services, Family Resource Centres, Jigsaw, SICAP Implementer, Fingal Children and Young People's Services Committee, Traveller Inter-agency Group.	2021	Mapping exercise completed. Agreed strategy to promote active living and mental health initiatives amongst named population groups. Number of early health promotion initiatives supported in identified areas. Number of Community First Responder Schemes in Fingal	<p>A46: Collate existing information on recreational, physical and mental health facilities and amenities. Map baseline data for a health promotion strategy and co-ordinate actions to improve. Information resources in community settings that reinforce positive health messages for improved health and well-being.</p> <p>A47: Implement Healthy Ireland strategy within Fingal.</p> <p>A48: Facilitate community engagement in the design of outreach initiatives to increase participation and take up of activities and services which promote active living and good mental health among key population groups; Disability, Traveller community, families of children with special needs, one parent families, women, older men and women.</p> <p>A49: Support early years health promotion initiatives and contribute information and learning to the Fingal Children and Young Peoples Services Committee.</p> <p>A50: Actively promote and increase the inclusion of traditionally under represented populations in sporting activities (team and non-team based activities).</p> <p>A51: Development of Community First Responder Schemes.</p>

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High-Level Goal	High-Level Outcome	Objective	SEDO	SCO	Lead Organisation	Key Partner Organisations	Delivery Deadline	Project Milestones	Actions
<p>G5: To increase participation in social cultural and economic activities to improve well-being and quality of life.</p>	<p>Goal G5 will provide for increased participation levels in health, social, cultural and economic activities as a vehicle for improving the quality of life for all.</p>	<p>O18: Provide facilities and support services that enable a healthier lifestyle. 5</p>		✓	Fingal County Council.	HSE, SICAP Implementer, FCN, and LCDC.	2021	<p>Number of actions identified in Fingal Open Space Strategy.</p> <p>Agreed action plan for implementation of Dublin Bay Biosphere Initiative.</p> <p>Identified and agreed walking and cycling trail development plan.</p>	<p>A52: Implement targeted actions detailed in Fingal Open Space Strategy.</p> <p>A53: Support the Dublin Bay Biosphere Initiative to ensure the sustainable development of the Bay including Howth Head and Baldoyle Estuary.</p> <p>A54: Develop linked walking and cycling trails, marked by clear directional signage and branding; investigate the potential for natural, cultural and historical information signs, community participation and employment and enterprise opportunities such as low level guiding.</p>
		<p>O19: Support community based initiatives to address mental health issues (with specific reference to young males and travellers) prevention and early intervention initiatives in relation to substance misuse and gambling. 6</p>		✓	HSE and TUSLA and North Dublin Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force. Local Drug and Alcohol Task Forces, Headstrong – Jigsaw.	FCC, Youth Services, Traveller Groups, Family Resource Centres, SICAP Implementer, Fingal Children and Young People's Services Committee, Fingal Comhairle Na nOg.	2019	<p>Agreed local strategy for implementation of National Strategy to Reduce Suicide.</p> <p>Agreed targeted initiatives to address mental health needs of specific communities of interest.</p> <p>Integrated action plan between Regional and Local Drug and Alcohol Task Forces and identified targeted communities.</p>	<p>A55: Facilitate community engagement with the HSE and TUSLA to accelerate the development of early intervention and prevention programmes in line with <i>Connecting for Life</i> Ireland's National Strategy to Reduce Suicide (2015-2020).</p> <p>A56: Support community based initiatives to address mental health and social inclusion based on the needs of specific communities of interest, such as young males, ethnic minorities and the Travelling Community.</p> <p>A57: Support and collaborate with Drug and Alcohol Task Forces and associated partners to implement prevention and early intervention initiatives to reduce the harm caused by the misuse of alcohol and drugs to individuals, families and the wider community.</p>

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High-Level Goal	High-Level Outcome	Objective	SEDO	SCO	Lead Organisation	Key Partner Organisations	Delivery Deadline	Project Milestones	Actions
G5: To increase participation in social cultural and economic activities to improve well-being and quality of life.	Goal G5 will provide for increased participation levels in health, social, cultural and economic activities as a vehicle for improving the quality of life for all.	O20: Collaborate with agencies and local communities to develop and implement innovative solutions to reducing anti-social behaviour and promoting Safer Communities. 7		✓	Fingal County Council and An Garda Síochána	Probation Service, Joint Policing Committee, Local Community Policing Forums, Fingal Community Network, Fingal Children and Young Peoples Services Committee.	2019	Renewal of Anti Social Behaviour policies & tenant induction courses. Safer neighbourhood strategies agreed in conjunction with resident groups. Joint initiatives aimed at reducing incidences of anti social behaviour, crime and disorder.	A58: Work with tenants and residents' associations to develop safer neighbourhood strategies. A59: Work in partnership with Gardai and sporting organisations to deliver late night sporting programmes for young people in key targeted areas. A60: Establish a collaborative 'what works' approach to promoting safer neighbourhoods and reducing anti social behaviour.
		O21: Identify the social, cultural and economic needs of young people (including 18-25 year olds) and develop a Fingal Youth Strategy. 8		✓	Fingal County Council, Fingal Comhairle Na nÓg, Youth Services.	FCN, Fingal Jigsaw, Fingal Children and Young People's Services Committee.	2017	Agreed strategy including action plan for 2017. Number of youth programmes delivered through FCC Arts and Sports Units.	A61: Collaborate with key agencies and community groups in assessing young people's (under 25 years of age) needs and develop a comprehensive Fingal Youth Strategy. A62: Maintain and develop Arts and Sporting initiatives designed to support young people in reaching their full potential.
G5: To increase participation in social cultural and economic activities to improve well-being and quality of life.	Goal G5 Increase participation levels in health, social, cultural and economic activities as a vehicle for improving the quality of life for all.	O22: Support life-long learning (with specific reference to communities of interest such as people with a disability, Traveller community, one parent families, and older people etc.) 9		✓	SICAP Implementer	Fingal County Childcare Committee, Fingal Comhairle Na nÓg, Jigsaw, Children & Young People's Services Committee, Traveller Interagency Group	2019	Agreed actions for implementation of Fingal County Council's Arts Development Plan linked to LECP actions. Identification of models of 'what works' in early intervention and agree number of targeted areas for project implementation. Agree number of outreach initiatives aimed at confidence building and engagement in number of targeted areas.	A63: Support the establishment of community-based childcare and early intervention initiatives in targeted areas of socio-economic disadvantage, identifying and using models of 'what works' whilst increasing access and uptake of Training and Employment Childcare (TEC) Initiatives.
									A64: Promote and deliver universal access parenting programmes from pre-school to adolescence.
									A65: Support the establishment of Transitions Initiatives from pre-school to primary school, and from primary to secondary school.
									A66: Provide supports to children and young people from target groups at risk of early school leaving and/ or not in education, employment or training.
								A67: Support participation of young people into the work of Fingal Children and Young Persons Services Committee; develop a lifespan approach to confidence building and engagement programmes.	

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High-Level Goal	High-Level Outcome	Objective	SEDO	SCO	Lead Organisation	Key Partner Organisations	Delivery Deadline	Project Milestones	Actions
<p>G5: To increase participation in social cultural and economic activities to improve well-being and quality of life.</p>	<p>Goal G5 will provide for increased participation levels in health, social, cultural and economic activities as a vehicle for improving the quality of life for all.</p>	<p>O23: Support language and cultural initiatives, including integration measures for ethnic minority communities. 10</p>		<p>✓</p>	<p>Fingal County Council</p>	<p>Fingal Community Network, SICAP Implementer, Traveller Interagency Group, Education services, and DDLETB.</p>	<p>2017</p>	<p>Completion of assessment of needs and agreed Fingal Integration Strategy</p>	<p>A68: Support the Fáilte Isteach initiative across the county and develop strategies to meet demand for English language training supports in Dublin 15, Swords and Balbriggan.</p>
									<p>A69: Undertake an assessment of needs and develop a Fingal Integration strategy to integrate children, young people and families both socially and economically, into their local community. Strategically utilise the Department of Justice's <i>Local Authority Integration Fund</i>.</p>
									<p>A70: Support the rollout of the Yellow Flag Initiative, promoting interculturalism, across Fingal Schools.</p>

Table 21 – T4: Leadership and Community Empowerment Structure

High-Level Goal	High-Level Outcome	Objective	SEDO	SCO	Lead Organisation	Key Partner Organisations	Delivery Deadline	Project Milestones	Actions
G6: More coherent services that connect people and places, more active and empowered communities of place and interest.	Goal G6 Increased engagement and coherence between the different structures and strategies at a local level, more engaged local communities with a skilled and strengthened representative network, informing plans and services in a meaningful way.	O24: Develop and strengthen collaborative leadership across all co-ordinating committees and bodies.	✓	✓	Fingal County Council.	All strategic coordinating committees, supported by FCC. All Community and economic stakeholders providing services in Fingal.	2021	Agree protocol for implementation.	A71: Explore and develop agreements with structures and services for engagement in the delivery of LECF A72: Explore and develop data services to support evidence based policy design.
		O25: Design and implement innovative community engagement strategies (paying particular attention to communities of place (area based) and interest. 11		✓	Fingal County Council.	SICAP Implementer, LEADER Implementer, FCN, DDLETB, Traveller Inter-Agency Group, Fingal Libraries, ITB, Age Friendly Alliance.	2019	Agreed community engagement action plan. Number of community events implemented. Community Engagement programmes delivered. Number of Master Classes held for community groups/ Citizens. Priority Task Group Model rolled out to support placemaking initiatives.	A73: Design an annual community engagement action plan (include digital) arranging suitable protocols with key service deliverers (SICAP) where necessary. A74: Facilitate community awareness, community engagement and information sharing events (including an annual community conference). Acknowledge the value of the C&V sector and encourage engagement and active citizenship through new and existing awards and events. A75: Increase community engagement through training under the Fingal Pathway to Participation Programme, the First Steps Programme and the design and implementation of an annual programme of Master Classes. A76: Rolling out the Mulhuddart Priority Task Group Model of community planning and engagement in support of placemaking Initiatives. A77: Support the implementation of Fingal County Council's Arts Development Plan 2013-2017, and work collaboratively with Community and Voluntary Sector, thematic Groups and networks using Sports and Arts as tools for learning and engagement.

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High-Level Goal	High-Level Outcome	Objective	SEDO	SCO	Lead Organisation	Key Partner Organisations	Delivery Deadline	Project Milestones	Actions
G6: More coherent services that connect people and places, more active and empowered communities of place and interest.	Goal G6 Increased engagement and coherence between the different structures and strategies at a local level, more engaged local communities with a skilled and strengthened representative network, informing plans and services in a meaningful way.	O26: Recognise and support community leaders and the role of the Fingal Community Network to build skills and capacity for community representation. 12		✓	Fingal County Council.	SICAP Implementer, LDS Implementer, FCN, DDLETB, Fingal Ethnic Network, Disability Network, Traveller Inter-Agency Group, Fingal Libraries, and Community and Voluntary Sector.	2019	Increased membership of FCN. Training and capacity building strategy agreed. Number of training initiatives delivered. Representation of FCN on number of SPC's / LCDC/ JPC and other co-ordinating structures. Number of entries into community group / person awards.	A78: Provide capacity-building training and support opportunities for groups included on the Fingal Community Network Database (1,500) to include mentoring and support for community groups. A79: Further develop the Fingal Community Network membership. A80: Develop the capacity of Fingal Community Network to become a fully inclusive, representative mechanism, taking into account communities of place and interest. A81: Develop the skills and capacity of Fingal Community Network members to participate in decision-making structures and become involved in improving the design and delivery of services into communities of place and interest. A82: Provide staff support, funding and an operations space and venue to Fingal Community Network.
		O27: Support and encourage active volunteering, with specific reference to the local impact. 13		✓	Fingal County Council.	SICAP Implementer, FCN, DDLETB, Fingal Ethnic Network, Disability Network, Traveller Inter-Agency Group, Fingal Libraries, Age Friendly Alliance, and Community and Voluntary Sector.	2019	Volunteering Strategy agreed and action plan for 2017.	A83: Support volunteers and match opportunities in communities of place to skills and requirements, link to future employment

Table 22 – T5: Tourism, Environment and Heritage Structure

High-Level Goal	High-Level Outcome	Objective	SEDO	SCO	Lead Organisation	Key Partner Organisations	Delivery Deadline	Project Milestones	Actions
G7: To protect and enhance the environment and heritage of Fingal.	Goal G7 Effective sustainable management of our environment and heritage enhanced by community awareness.	O28: To facilitate a co-ordinated approach to conservation and promotion and to the protection of local heritage and culture. 14		✓	Fingal County Council.	LDS Implementer, FCN, Fingal Heritage Network, and Community and Voluntary Sector.	2019	Implementation of Heritage Actions. Number of new published materials (guides, maps etc). Number of successful Community Archaeology projects. Number of groups identified for capacity building training initiatives.	A84: Facilitate the implementation of the Fingal Heritage Plan A85: Support local communities to audit and evaluate their local heritage and community cultural assets (including festivals and events) to publish the results of this work. A86: Develop and implement a Community Archaeology strategy for Fingal building on the Swords Castle: Digging History. A87: Support and mentor thematic groups in the area of group development, strategic planning and project management.
		O29: To facilitate a coordinated approach to biodiversity conservation and nature education initiatives. 15		✓	Fingal County Council.	LDS Implementer, Fingal Heritage Network, SICAP Implementer, FCN, and Community and Voluntary Sector.	2019	Implementation of Biodiversity Actions Number of projects supported.	A88: Facilitate the implementation of the Fingal Biodiversity Action Plan A89: Develop demonstration sites to showcase how to combine nature conservation with existing land uses such as farmland, quarries, golf courses, reservoirs, parks, housing estates, industrial sites and gardens

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High-Level Goal	High-Level Outcome	Objective	SEDO	SCO	Lead Organisation	Key Partner Organisations	Delivery Deadline	Project Milestones	Actions
<p>G7: To protect and enhance the environment and heritage of Fingal.</p>	<p>Goal G7: Effective sustainable management of our environment and heritage enhanced by community awareness.</p>	<p>O30: Support actions to tackle climate change, and promote opportunities in the green and circular economy. 6</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>Fingal County Council.</p>	<p>LEADER Implementer, SICAP Implementer, Business Community.</p>	<p>2021</p>	<p>Action plan agreed. Number of projects supported.</p>	<p>A90: Develop a sustainable energy and climate change action plan for the County. Investigate models of working and to embed biodiversity, climate change, environmental sustainability and consideration of carbon emissions into FCC strategies and policies.</p>
									<p>A91: Promote the potential for green economy and related enterprise initiatives that seek to reduce and maximise recycling and recovery of waste materials.</p>
									<p>A92: Encourage innovation and schemes for tackling climate change, climate change adaption measures and carbon emissions reductions.</p>
<p>G8: To create distinct visitor attractions by sensitively optimising the natural assets of the county, and building an enterprise and community infrastructure to drive and expand the visitor potential.</p>	<p>Goal G8 will support the development and enhancement of local amenities, increased visitor numbers and expanded employment potential.</p>	<p>O31: Implement the Fingal Tourism Strategy 2015-2018 and any subsequent relevant plans to 2020, with specific reference to area specific initiatives. 7</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>Fingal County Council.</p>	<p>LEADER Implementer, SICAP Implementer, FCN, Fingal Tourism, and Community and Voluntary Sector.</p>	<p>2017</p>	<p>Agreed Tourism Strategy prioritised actions strategically linked to LECP actions. Number of blue flag beaches. Number of themed trails.</p>	<p>A93: Facilitate the implementation of the Fingal Tourism Strategy</p>
									<p>A94: Engage community involvement through promotion of a <i>Community Tourism Diaspora Fund</i>.</p>
									<p>A95: Promote Fingal beaches as a destination through proactive management of water quality compliance with bathing regulations.</p>
									<p>A96: Develop themed trails such as cultural, heritage, food, coastal and wildlife linked to walking and cycling routes.</p>

Table 23 – T6: Urban Towns & Rural Communities Structure

High-Level Goal	High-Level Outcome	Objective	SEDO	SCO	Lead Organisation	Key Partner Organisations	Delivery Deadline	Project Milestones	Actions
G9: To re-generate towns and villages, and increase the resilience of the local economy.	Goal G9 will underpin vibrant towns and villages that are actively supported by an engaged business community, and are strategically marketed through an enhanced 'sense of place'.	O32: Support the regeneration of town centres, protection of local identity and generation of 'sense of place'. 8	✓	✓	Fingal County Council.	Fingal Dublin Chamber, Town Centre Management Groups, Tidy Towns Committees, Age Friendly Alliance, and FCN.	2021	Number of Town Centre Management Committees established.	A97: Implement age-friendly proofing initiatives in targeted areas.
								Agreed action plans for 2017.	A98: Undertake area specific assessment of vacant properties in urban centres, investigate opportunities for use including but not limited to, pop-up spaces, the development of artists' studios and exhibitions spaces.
								Number of Tidy Towns Committees supported.	A99: Roll out <i>Purple Flag</i> in Swords and assess the merit of further roll out in other towns.
								Number of integrated plans identified.	A100: Implement the recommendations of the Swords Castle Cultural & Civic Quarter Masterplan.
								Retention and expansion of Purple Flag.	A101: Establish (where none exist) and implement Public Realm Strategies (integrated with Town Centre Development Plan) and investigate complementary Community Arts initiatives.
Number of beaches returned to <i>Blue Flag</i> statue	A102: Establish (where none exist) and support Tidy Towns Committees and facilitate complementarity between Tidy Towns Initiative plans, strategic local action plans, public realm strategies and biodiversity initiatives (including the provision of trees and soft landscaping solutions).								
Number of trees planted and soft landscaping projects implemented.									
Number of Pathways to Participation Education Programmes delivered.									
Number of agreed targeted areas for age proofing.									
Number of entries into FCC <i>Cleaner Community Awards</i> .									

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High-Level Goal	High-Level Outcome	Objective	SEDO	SCO	Lead Organisation	Key Partner Organisations	Delivery Deadline	Project Milestones	Actions
G9: To re-generate towns and villages, and increase the resilience of the local economy.	Goal G9 will underpin vibrant towns and villages that are actively supported by an engaged business community, and are strategically marketed through an enhanced 'sense of place'.	O33: Increase biodiversity awareness and opportunities in the urban environment. 9	✓	✓	Fingal County Council.	Fingal Dublin Chamber, LEO, LDS Implementer, Tidy Towns Committees, and FCN.	2017	Number of biodiversity, Climate change and community participation activities commenced / completed.	A103: Develop and implement a Green Infrastructure Strategy for Fingal in partnership with key stakeholders and communities.
		O34: Target collaboration with key community, local development and training agencies to effectively reach those with employment and social support needs. 16		✓	SICAP Implementer.	Fingal Dublin Chamber Town Centre Management Groups, Tidy Towns Committees, and FCN, Foróige	2017	Number of rural and urban communities identified for support and needs analysis commenced. Ideas Programme implemented in Dublin 15.	A104: Work with rural and urban communities to develop evidence-based plans through local needs analysis. Support the capacity of active citizen groups to work collaboratively with agencies in ensuring the employment and social support needs of communities are met. A105: Pilot and review 'The Ideas Programme' for Early School Leavers SL in Dublin 15, (modules on entrepreneurship, leadership and digital media). Roll out across urban town and rural areas.
G9: To re-generate towns and villages, and increase the resilience of the local economy.	Goal G9 will underpin vibrant towns and villages that are actively supported by an engaged business community, and are strategically marketed through an enhanced 'sense of place'.	O35: Implement the OECD recommendations from the report 'People & Places: Weaving together policies for social inclusion in Ireland' 10	✓	✓	Fingal County Council and SICAP Implementer	All local economic and community stakeholders.	2021	Dedicated broker and action plan agreed. Social Enterprise Strategy development commenced. Action plan for 'What Works Centre' agreed	A106: Establish a mechanism to present to the general public an integrated and readily understandable model of all local services.
									A107: Broker engagement between employers and disadvantaged communities.
									A108: Develop and promote a social enterprise strategy.
									A109: Establish a 'What Works' Information Centre piloted on a local basis with the potential for adaptation across Fingal.

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High-Level Goal	High-Level Outcome	Objective	SEDO	SCO	Lead Organisation	Key Partner Organisations	Delivery Deadline	Project Milestones	Actions
G10: To support the sustainability of rural communities through the development of a resilient economy.	Goal G10 will provide for targeted territorial development and resilient rural communities with the capacity to strategically develop their local economy.	O36: Strategically target Rural Economic Development Zones (REDZ) to revitalise rural towns and villages.	✓		Fingal County Council.	LEADER Implementer, Fingal LEO, FCN, and Community and Voluntary Sector.	2021	Targeted zones identified and needs analysis commenced. Number of rural enterprise projects supported. Access to Broadband Strategy agreed.	A110: Work with rural communities to develop evidence based action plans through local needs analyses in identified targeted rural development zones/areas. A111: Target enterprise supports to develop rural enterprise and diversification initiatives. A112: Enable quality broadband access to all rural communities.
		O37: Address social inclusion by supporting access to a variety of services targeted at <i>hard to reach</i> communities. 11	✓	✓	Fingal County Council.	SICAP Implementer and LEADER Implementer.	2019	Number of capacity building initiatives. Coastal communities' strategy agreed.	A113: Proof plans and proposals in SICAP and LEADER to ensure measures target heard to reach communities (particularly youth) A114: Promote special measures to support economic development in marine and coastal communities.
		O38: Devise and implement innovative food and associated industry supports.	✓		Fingal County Council.	IFA, Bord Bia, BIM FLAG, Fingal LEO, Dublin Food Chain, Artisans, Producers and LEADER Implementer.	2017	Agreed strategy for implementation.	A115: Prepare a Fingal Food Strategy, and support the development of an agri-food network to identify employment creation potential.

C O R P O R A T E
P A R K



7 PROOFING

In addition to ensuring consistency with the RPG for the Greater Dublin Area 2010-2022 and the core strategy of the Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023, six horizontal priorities were used to proof the LECP. The purpose of this process was to reduce the potential for any negative impacts to emerge from the implementation of the plan.

7.1 Community Development Principles

Fingal LECP applies the definition of community work and community development, as developed by the Community Workers Co-operative (CWC). Community work is composed of the achievement of social change linked to equality and social justice through the application of the principles of participation, empowerment and collective decision making in a structured and coordinated way.

This approach notes the core concerns of community works being: -

- **Redistribution:** to sustain the drive to eliminate poverty and social exclusion; and
- **Recognition:** a recognition and a value for diversity, and the full participation of minorities to ensure an equal and accessible society.

7.1.1 Key Community Work Definitions

- **Collective Action:** Community work is based on working with and supporting groups of people. It enables them to develop knowledge, skills and confidence so that they can develop an analysis, identify priority needs and issues and address these through collective action.

- **Empowerment:** Community work is about the empowerment of individuals and communities, and addressing the unequal distribution of power. It is about working with people to enable them to become critical, creative, liberated and active participant in taking more control of the direction of their lives.
- **Social Justice:** The active pursuit of social justice is an essential element of community work and makes an important contribution towards a socially cohesive society. Community work is based on a belief that every person and every community can play an active role in creating conditions for a just and equal society where human rights are promoted and all forms of oppression and discrimination are challenged.
- **Equality and Anti-Discrimination:** In working for equality, community workers must work from the starting point that while people are not the same, they are all of equal worth and importance and are, therefore, equally worthy of respect and acknowledgement. Community workers have a responsibility to challenge the oppression and exclusion of individuals and groups by institutions and society that leads to discrimination against people based on ability, age, culture, gender, marital status, socio-economic status, nationality, skin colour, racial or ethnic group, sexual orientation, political or religious beliefs.
- **Participation:** Participation is about the involvement of groups who experience social exclusion, marginalisation and discrimination in decision-making, planning and action at all levels, from the local to the global. Participation can be viewed as a continuum of activity that can start from information sharing through capacity building and empowerment to active engagement and meaningful participation in democratic processes.

7.1.2 Key Features

Fingal LECP recognises that the key features of the community work process: -

- Involves and enables people to work together to influence, change and exert control over the social, political and economic issues that affect their lives;
- Is about a collective focus rather than a response to individual crisis;
- Challenges inequitable power relationships within society and promotes the redistribution of wealth and resources in a more just and equitable fashion;
- Is based on participative processes and structures that include and empower marginalised and excluded groups within society;
- Is based on solidarity with the interests of those experiencing social exclusion;
- Is understood as including both geographic communities and communities of interest;
- Presents alternative ways of working, seeks to be dynamic, innovative and creative in approach;
- Challenges the nature of the relationship between the users and providers of services;
- Is open and responsive to innovation from other countries and seeks to build alliances with other organisations challenging marginalisation in their own countries and globally; and
- Involves strategies that confront prejudice and discrimination on the basis of gender, ethnicity, class, religion, socioeconomic status, age, sexuality, skin colour or disability.

7.2 Proofing Process

The Strategic Environmental Assessment, Screening and Appropriate Assessment process⁹ is designed to determine whether or not significant effects on the environment would be likely to arise from the implementation of the LECP. This process particularly focuses on the environmental component of the actions and is, therefore, highly appropriate to the economic dimensions of the actions where these have a physical impact on the locality.

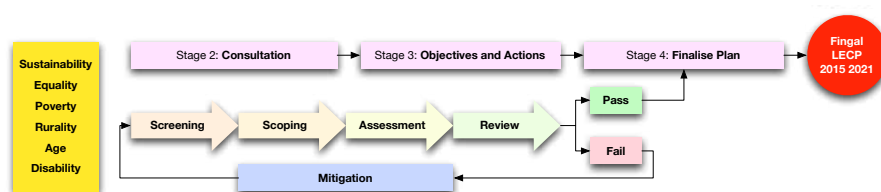
The community dimension of the LECP has been proofed against six horizontal priorities, thus: -

1. Sustainability;
2. Equality;
3. Poverty;
4. Rurality;
5. Age; and
6. Disability and Accessibility.

To take account of the above, the following proofing process was adopted for the development of the Fingal LECP. This multistage process was in general alignment with that suggested in the Guidelines on Local Economic and Community Plans¹⁰.

⁹ The full Strategic Environmental Assessment, Screening and Appropriate Assessment process is detailed in a separate supporting document.

¹⁰ Community Division of the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government: 23rd June 2015.

Figure 12 – Adopted Proofing Process

The proofing process was embedded within Stages 2, 3, and 4 of the LECP development pathway. In the first instance it was used to inform the consultation process to ensure that the range of issues being identified were ultimately appropriate for inclusion in the plan. Similarly, the process was used in the policy review dimension to ensure that the community elements of the LECP were in conformity with the proofing obligations set out in national policy.

7.2.1 Screening Process

This part of the proofing process was used to identify those elements of the LECP that would have a significant impact on the various priority areas. The screening process was implemented at three stages during the plan preparation, including an initial screening at Stage 2: Consultation, again at the stage of preparing the Socio-Economic Statement, and finally a more comprehensive screening process was implemented at Stage 3: Objectives and Actions, as the actions, outcomes and impacts were being developed.

7.2.2 Scoping Process

Using the likely action profile emerging from the Screening Process, the LECP framework was interrogated to identify the relevant issues arising. This process used a number of key indicators associated with each

objective as they were developed, and was designed to confirm the likely bearing on each of the six horizontal priorities.

7.2.3 Assessment Process

Having estimated the extent to which the action profile related to the six horizontal priorities, the Assessment Process considered the likely impact in more detail. Given the multitude of variables that are involved, the assessment was undertaken to an indicative level, and was used to identify the likely direction and scale of any impacts. These were defined as being positive, neutral or negative in nature, and minor, medium or major in terms of scale.

7.2.4 Review and Mitigation

Where the Assessment Process identified a potential negative impact with respect to any of six horizontal priorities, the ASG introduced a feedback loop to reconsider the approach underpinning the objective and attendant action(s). Where possible, mitigation measures were considered to ameliorate particular negative impacts.

7.3 Horizontal Priorities

The six horizontal priorities against which the Fingal LECP has been proofed are considered to be particularly appropriate for the profile of Fingal.

The detailed *Demographic and Socio-Economic Profile: Statistical Baseline* prepared by Fingal LCDC identifies the county as being defined by the diversity of its landscape, with rural, urban and suburban dimensions. The county has a considerable length of coastline stretching, three large protected estuarine habitats, and thirteen beaches.

Fingal has major economic assets, including the Dublin Port Tunnel, road and rail infrastructure, proximity to Dublin City and a prime location on the Dublin-Belfast Economic corridor. Dublin Airport provides a significant economic hub for the county, and the Institute of Technology in Blanchardstown has close links with Dublin City University.

The population base of the county is large and is continuing to grow significantly. The population is generally well educated and employment rates are comparatively high, although certain pockets of disadvantage exist, generally within urban concentrations.

7.3.1 Horizontal Priority 1: Sustainability

*Our Sustainable Future: A Framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland*¹¹ defines sustainable development as that which ...'takes place where there is economic stability based on a model of national progress and development that respects the three core pillars of sustainability: the environment, the economic and the social.'

It is accepted that the scope of sustainability is particularly broad, and tie together the dimensions of the environment, the local economy and the community. In the context of sustainability, eight proofing tools were employed in the preparation of the Fingal LECP. These were identified as encompassing the capacity to focus on the likely key challenges presented by the implementation of Fingal LECP.

Table 24 – Sustainability Proofing Tools

<i>Our Sustainable Future</i>		Fingal LECP 2015-2021
Themes	Principles	Proofing Summary
Economy.	Promote an innovative, competitive and low-carbon economy with the aim of achieving smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.	The LECP will work with all of the key agencies in the targeted development of the economy. In so far as is practicable, the actions supported by the LECP and its implementation partners will promote the prudent use of resources and technologies to support an innovative, low-carbon economy.

/continued

¹¹ *Our Sustainable Future: A Framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland – Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government 2012.*

/continued

Our Sustainable Future		Fingal LECP 2015-2021
Themes	Principles	Proofing Summary
Satisfaction of human needs by the efficient use of resources.	Prices should reflect the real costs to society of production and consumption activities and polluters should pay for the damage they cause to human health and the environment.	Many of the economically biased actions of the LECP will be delivered through Fingal County Council or other agencies that are fully conversant with the principles of avoiding or ameliorating any potential for damage to the natural environment or human health.
Equity between generations.	The needs of current generations should be addressed without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.	The LECP will be subject to a formal SEA and AA process that will be used to identify and address any matters that might adversely impact on the natural environment.
	Resources should be used within the capacity for regeneration.	In so far as is practicable, the actions supported by the LECP and its implementation partners will promote the use of sustainable resources.
Gender equity.	Women have a vital role in environmental management and development and their full participation is therefore essential to advance sustainable development.	The community dimensions of the LECP note that women are one of the key target groups who will be positively supported by the platform of actions.
Respect for ecological integrity and biodiversity.	The abundance of wildlife and extent of habitats should be maintained, improved and restored where necessary, through sustainable management.	The LECP will be subject to a formal SEA and AA process that will be used to identify and address any matters that might adversely impact on the natural environment.
Social equity.	Social inclusion should be promoted to ensure an improved quality of life for all.	The community dimensions of the LECP are built upon a full understanding of social inclusion principles.
Respect for cultural heritage and diversity.	The quality of landscapes, the heritage of the man-made environment and historic and cultural resources should be maintained and improved.	The actions of the LECP are designed to recognise the quality of the natural and built environment of the county. Where development of the natural, historical and cultural aspects of the county is supported, the actions will be fully compliant with all of the requisite permissions that protect their integrity.

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Our Sustainable Future		Fingal LECP 2015-2021
Themes	Principles	Proofing Summary
Equity between countries and regions.	Promote fundamental rights, by combating all forms of discrimination and contributing to the reduction of poverty.	The community dimensions of the LECP are built upon a full understanding of social inclusion principles.
	Promote coherence between local, regional, national, EU and global actions in order to increase their contribution to sustainable development.	The LECP is fundamentally concerned with the better use of resources and the need to create coherence between all levels of actions.
Good decision-making.	Guarantee citizens' rights of access to information and public participation procedures. Ensure access to review mechanisms. Develop adequate consultation with stakeholders, including citizens', businesses and social partners, and participatory channels for all interested parties.	The community dimensions of the LECP are built upon a full understanding of social inclusion principles.

7.3.2 Horizontal Priority 2: Equality

In 2008 the Equality Authority produced '*An Equality Proofing Template for the City and County Development Boards*'. The activity of the LCDC, and the purpose of the LECP are built upon the experience of the County Development Board, and in this context the Equality Proofing Template formed the basis of the adopted proofing process.

The *Equality Proofing Template* introduced *An Equality Impact Assessment* as an instrument for assessing the impact of policy on agreed equality objectives and on specific groups experiencing inequality. It is based on an assessment of the impact on the relevant groups from within the nine grounds of equality.

Table 25 – Equality Proofing Tools

Nine Grounds of Equality	Commentary
Gender.	Both the economic and community dimensions of the LECP are built upon a full understanding of social inclusion principles and the need to uphold the equality of all within society.
Marital Status.	
Family Status.	
Sexual Orientation.	
Religious Belief.	
Age.	
Disability.	
Race.	
Membership of the Traveller Community.	

7.3.3 Horizontal Priority 3: Poverty

The National Action Plan for Social Inclusion¹² (NAPInclusion) 2007-2016 sets out a comprehensive programme of action to address poverty and social exclusion. It defines the situation of people living in poverty as instances where: *‘...their income and resources (material, cultural and social) are so inadequate as to preclude them from having a standard of living which is regarded as acceptable by Irish society generally. As a result of inadequate income and other resources people may be excluded and marginalised from participating in activities which are considered the norm for other people in society.’*

The detailed *Fingal Demographic and Socio-Economic Profile: Statistical Baseline* identified that in 2011 some 1,099 individuals in Fingal were classified as ‘very disadvantaged’, and a further 12,668 were classified as ‘disadvantaged’¹³. In total, these individuals represented some 5% of the population of Fingal.

¹² Department of Social Protection.

¹³ Pobal HP Classification of Disadvantage 2012

Poverty Impact Assessment (formerly Poverty Proofing) was introduced in 1998 as a result of a commitment in the original National Anti-Poverty Strategy. The Department of Social Protection Poverty Impact Assessment Template was used as the basis for the poverty proofing process applied to the Fingal LECP. In particular, the high-level goals and objectives were used to assess the relevance to those groups who have been identified as being most vulnerable to poverty or social exclusion. Where possible, an assessment was made with respect to the potential impacts on inequalities that might lead to poverty.

Table 26 – Social Exclusion Proofing Tools

Groups Most Vulnerable to Poverty or Social Exclusion	Commentary
Women	Both the economic and community dimensions of the LECP are built upon a full understanding of social inclusion principles and the need to uphold the equality of all within society.
Lone Parent Families	
Families with Large Numbers of Children	
People with Disabilities	The LECP contains a number of key actions that are specifically designed to support a positive engagement with those who are socially excluded.
Unemployed	
Members of the Travelling Community	
People Experiencing Rural Disadvantage	
People Experiencing Urban Poverty	
Homeless	
Migrants and Ethnic Minorities	

7.3.4 Horizontal Priority 4: Rurality

There is no single agreed definition of 'rural'. The CSO Census of Population designates all those living in settlements of less than 1,500 inhabitants as the 'rural population'. The category of 'aggregate rural areas' includes villages of fewer than 1,500 residents, together with those living in the 'open countryside'.

The Operating Rules for the Rural Development Programme¹⁴ (September 2015) note that for the purposes of implementing the Programme, rural areas are defined as all parts of Ireland outside the city boundaries of Dublin, Waterford, Cork, Limerick and Galway.

Map 2 – Dublin Rural RDP Eligible rural area



MAP KEY

- LEADER funding:
 - Rural areas eligible
 - Urban Dublin
 - Surrounding counties
- Rural villages/towns eligible
- Motorway
- National Primary Road



¹⁴ Draft Operating Rules for the LEADER Element of the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020: Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

The Research Report of the Commission on the Economic Development of Rural Areas (CEDRA) notes that the collapse in domestic demand has disproportionately affected rural towns. The associated CEDRA report entitled 'Energising Ireland's Rural Economy' provides the following vision for rural Ireland: 'Rural Ireland will become a dynamic, adaptable and outward looking multi-sectoral economy supporting vibrant, resilient and diverse communities experiencing a high quality of life with an energised relationship between rural and urban Ireland which will contribute to its sustainability for the benefit of society as a whole.' The report continues: 'If we are to pull Ireland out of recession faster, and also reduce the brain drain leaving the country to seek out work, then we now need to home in on the regions..... We need to provide 'on the ground' supports for people in rural communities. This is so they can create ideas and spot opportunities to develop enterprises. The positive spin-offs could be new job creation at the local level, taking people off the dole, and generating local wealth that feeds back into rural economies.'

'Thinking Rural: The Essential Guide to Rural Proofing'¹⁵ notes the importance of considering the impact of proposed policies and actions on rural areas. It further notes that policies and actions should treat rural areas in a fair or reasonable way: not that rural areas should have an equal level of resources as urban, but rather that proportionality should apply to rural areas, taking into account their unique characteristics.

*Rural Poverty and Social Exclusion on the Island of Ireland – Context, Policies and Challenges*¹⁶ identifies key groups at risk of poverty in rural areas, and many of these definitions were used to proof the goals and objectives of Fingal LECP.

¹⁵ The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (UK)

¹⁶ Scoping Paper prepared for the Pobal All-Island Conference "New Ideas, New Directions" - October 2010.

Table 27 – Rural Proofing Tools

Group/Issue	Summary of Issues	Commentary
Older People	Aging population, many of whom may have a disability.	Both the economic and community dimensions of the LECP are built upon a
	Will be impacted by pensioner poverty. Specific concerns in relation to isolation and access to and quality of services.	full understanding of social inclusion principles and the need to uphold the equality of all within society.
Children and Young People	Isolation, limited access to plan and social activities (facilities then to be focused in relatively population dense areas) lack of childcare, lack of employment and education opportunities for parents.	The LECP contains a number of key actions that are specifically designed to support a positive engagement with those who are socially excluded.

/continued



Group/Issue	Summary of Issues	Commentary
Women	Poverty has a gender dimension and in rural areas there are specific issues linked to access. Those most at risk of poverty include lone parents (the majority of whom are female), those with a disability, minority ethnic women and older women.	Both the economic and community dimensions of the LECP are built upon a full understanding of social inclusion principles and the need to uphold the equality of all within society. The LECP contains a number of key actions that are specifically designed to support a positive engagement with those who are socially excluded.
Disability	A person who is socially excluded is at greater risk of becoming disabled and someone who becomes disabled is at greater risk of becoming social excluded. The experience of poverty for people with a disability in rural areas is shaped by access within the home and access to and information on quality services	
Farmers and Farm Families ¹⁷	Farming is the backbone of economic activity in rural Ireland. The farming and agri-food sector is Ireland's largest indigenous productive sector. Rural Ireland is unique by European standards with over 440,000 families choosing to live in the countryside and contribute to sustainable communities. However, there are many challenges. Communications infrastructure such as broadband is totally inadequate; rural roads are often left unmaintained for long periods and rural security continues to be a real concern.	
Carers	Low pay coupled with high transport costs, high costs of goods and services and cultural pressures in rural areas mean that many rural carers live in poverty. Careers in rural areas find it difficult to combine paid work or training and care due to the lack of transport and difficulties obtaining support services.	

17 *The Irish Countryside - Supporting Families and Business in Rural Ireland - A Policy Charter for Rural Ireland' IFA - August 2015.*

7.3.5 Horizontal Priority 5: Age

Fingal's population of young people of 0-17 years of age in 2011 was 75,795 or 28%. This percentage was the 4th highest proportion of any county in the State. Set in this context there is considerable pressure on the LECP to cater for the needs of young people, and to only proof its actions in that direction. To counter this, the LECP has also been proofed against the needs of the older population.

Age Dependency Ratio

The age dependency ratio is the ratio of dependents within the population. That is people younger than 15 years of age, or older than 64 years of age to the working-age population. The working age population is defined as those aged 15-64. Data are shown as the proportion of dependents per 100 of working-age population.

Table 28 – Comparative Age Dependency Ratio 2006 and 2011

NUTS Level	Name	2006 Age Dependency Ratio	2011 Age Dependency Ratio	2006-2011 Change in Age Dependency Ratio
4	Dublin City	27.7	27.8	.3
4	South County Dublin	28.9	31.8	9.9
4	Dublin Fingal	28.1	31.5	12.1
4	Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown	31.6	32.7	3.6
3	Dublin Region	28.7	30.2	5.4
2	Southern and Eastern Region	30.7	32.4	5.5
1	Ireland	31.4	33.0	5.1

Source: Pobal HP Deprivation Index (Haase and Pratschke, 2012)

Young People

The National Strategy on Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-Making 2015-2020¹⁸ is designed to ensure that children and young people have a voice in their individual and collective everyday lives across the five national outcome areas set out in *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures: The National Policy Framework for Children and Young People, 2014-2020*. The national outcomes areas are: -

1. To be active and healthy;
2. To be achieving in all areas of learning and development;
3. To be safe and protected from harm;
4. To enjoy economic security and opportunity; *and*
5. To be connected, respected and contributing.

The strategy focuses on the everyday lives of children and young people and the places and spaces in which they are entitled to have a voice in decisions that affect their lives, including in community, education, health and well-being, and legal settings. It is primarily aimed at children and young people under the age of 18, but also embraces the voice of young people in the transition to adulthood. It is guided and influenced by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.

Compliance with the five national outcome areas of the National Strategy was used to proof the objectives and actions of the Fingal LECP in respect of young people's participation.

¹⁸ Department of Children and Youth Affairs (2015).

Older People

Demographic aging is a characteristic of the State that will, over time, impact upon Co. Fingal. Fingal Age Friendly County Strategy 2012-2017¹⁹ noted the importance of the following issues for older people in the county: -

- Access to Community Support and Health Services;
- Respect, Social Inclusion and Social Participation;
- Communication and Information;
- Transportation;
- Crime Prevention and Safety Issues;
- Housing;
- Outdoor Spaces and Public Buildings; *and*
- Opportunities for Civic Participation and Employment.

An assessment of the extent to which the individual objectives and actions of the LECP would help to address the issues above was used as a primary tool for proofing.

¹⁹ Fingal County Council

7.3.6 Horizontal Priority 6: Disability

Disability

Fingal LECP was proofed for disability using the process provided in the Guidelines for Government Departments: *'How to Conduct a Disability Impact Assessment'*²⁰.

A Disability Impact Assessment was undertaken on the Objectives of the Fingal LECP. The Disability Impact Assessment was used to identify any difficulties or barriers that might exist or arise within the framework of the objective, and that might inadvertently impact negatively on a person with a disability.

The five-step Disability Impact Assessment, as identified in the Guidelines, was applied to the Objectives and Actions of the LECP.

Step 1: Initial assessment of the likelihood of an impact on people with disabilities;

Step 2: Evidence base for the initial assessment of potential impact;

Step 3: Definition of the likely impact for people with disabilities;

Step 4: Amelioration factors to be applied where the potential impact for people with disabilities is negative; and

Step 5: The extent to which monitoring of the impact for people with disabilities is being implemented.

²⁰ Department of Justice and Equality (2012)





8 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Monitoring is the systematic collection and analysis of information as the implementation of the LECP progresses. It is aimed at improving the efficiency and effectiveness of delivery, and is a key tool for good management by providing a basis for evaluation.

Evaluation is the comparison of actual implementation impacts against the agreed strategic plan. It can be formative (taking place during the life of the initiative), and it can also be summative (drawing learning from a completed initiative).

Monitoring and evaluation are both geared towards learning from what and how implementation is proceeding, by focusing on: -

- Efficiency;
- Effectiveness; *and*
- Impact

In conformity with the 'Guidelines on Local Economic and Community Plans', Fingal LCDC proposed to vest responsibility for the monitoring and evaluation of the LECP with the Advisory Steering Group. The membership of the group might be augmented to reinforce the level of monitoring and evaluation skills,

8.1 Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

In the first instance the objectives and actions in the economic and community elements of the LECP, incorporating the relevant targets, timescale, performance indicators and progress milestones will form the basis for the monitoring, evaluation and review framework.

It is understood that DECLG will issue further guidance in relation to implementation, monitoring, evaluation and review aspects in due course.

8.1.1 Framework Model

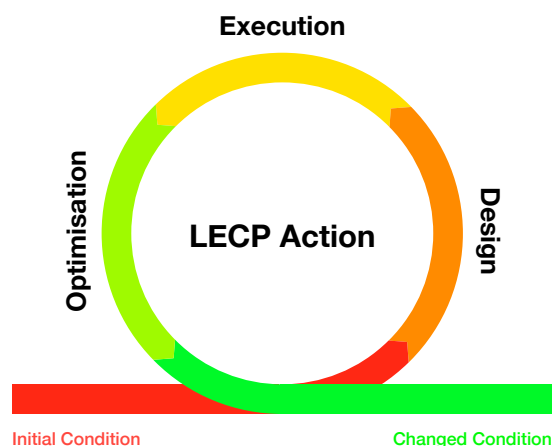
Subject to further development by the LCDC and the ASG, it is proposed that the following model will form the basis for the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework.

Implementation Monitoring

Each of the actions within the LECP will require the development and agreement of a set of metrics by which the pathway of implementation can be measured. It is anticipated that the agreed metrics will be built into the protocol agreements²¹.

²¹ The relationship/agreement with relevant agencies/bodies will be managed through a memorandum of understanding between the LCDC and LCDC member agencies/delivery bodies, or through a joint protocol between the LCDC and non-member agencies/delivery bodies.

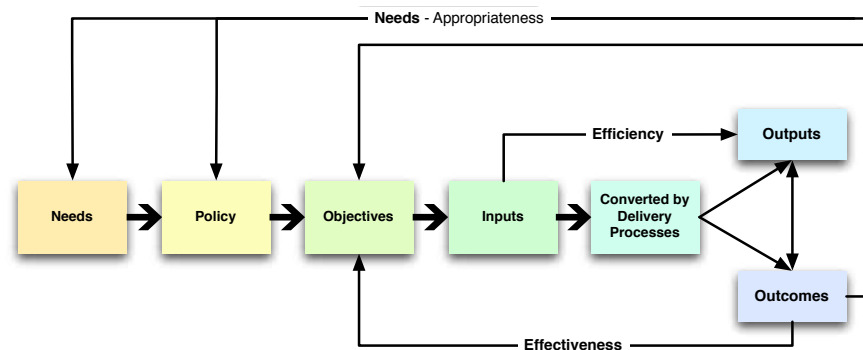
Figure 13 – Monitoring Model



Periodic Evaluation

Given that the LECP will cover the period 2016-2021, it is proposed that an annual evaluation process will be undertaken to reflect on the lessons being learnt through the monitoring process, and to allow for adjustments in the future direction of the LECP. Subject to ratification, it is proposed that the following overarching evaluation framework will be used.

Figure 14 – Evaluation Framework Model



Using the above approach, it is proposed that the evaluation framework will:

- Assess the **performance** of delivery – based on the delivery of the prioritised objectives relative to the high-level goals measured at implementation level;
- Assess the **effectiveness** of delivery – the extent to which implementation matches the identified needs;
- Determine the **efficiency** of delivery – measured at implementation level in terms of the practical elements of resource management, engagement, communication and liaison with all relevant stakeholders;
- Determine the **relevance** of delivery – as measured by the extent to which implementation led to achieving the high level goals;
- Identify **barriers** experienced in delivery – particularly in relation to specific issues which have prevented effective engagement;
- Identify any **secondary effects** – capturing experience of unplanned positive or negative effects of implementation, and the attendant contributing factors; *and*
- Assess **impact** – whether the implementation can be expected to last after implementation has been completed.

APPENDICES

A1 Fingal LCDC, SPC and ASG Membership

Table 29 – Fingal Local Community Development Committee Membership

Name	Representing	Organisation
Duncan Smith	Local Authority Member, Councillor	Fingal County Council
Ed Hearne	Local Authority Official, Chief Executive's nominee	Fingal County Council
Natalie Treacy	Local Authority Member, Councillor	Fingal County Council
Oisín Geoghegan	Local Authority Official, Local Enterprise Office	Fingal County Council
Pat O'Connor	State Agency, Higher Education Institute	Institute of Technology, Blanchardstown
Peter Foran	State Agency, Child and Family Agency, TUSLA	Child and Family Agency, TUSLA
Siobhán Lawlor	State Agency, Department of Social Protection	Department of Social Protection
Tony Murphy	Local Authority Member, Councillor	Fingal County Council
Anthony Brennan	Community Voluntary Interest	Fingal Community Network
Pending	Social Inclusion Interest	Fingal Community Network
Desmond O'Sullivan (Chair)	Young People (Under 30)	Headstrong, Jigsaw Fingal.
Jeff Murphy	Community Voluntary Interest	Fingal Community Network
Alice Davis	Social Inclusion Interest	Fingal Community Network
Terry McCabe	Local Development	Blanchardstown Area Partnership
Máire O'Brien	Environmental Interest	Fingal Community Network
Padraic McMahon	Farming and Agriculture	The Irish Farmers Association
Tony Lambert	Business Community	Fingal Dublin Chamber
Brid Walsh	Social and Community Interest (Drugs and Alcohol)	North Dublin Regional Drugs and Alcohol Task Force
Mary McKenna	Local Development	Fingal LEADER Partnership

Table 30 – Economic Development & Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee Members

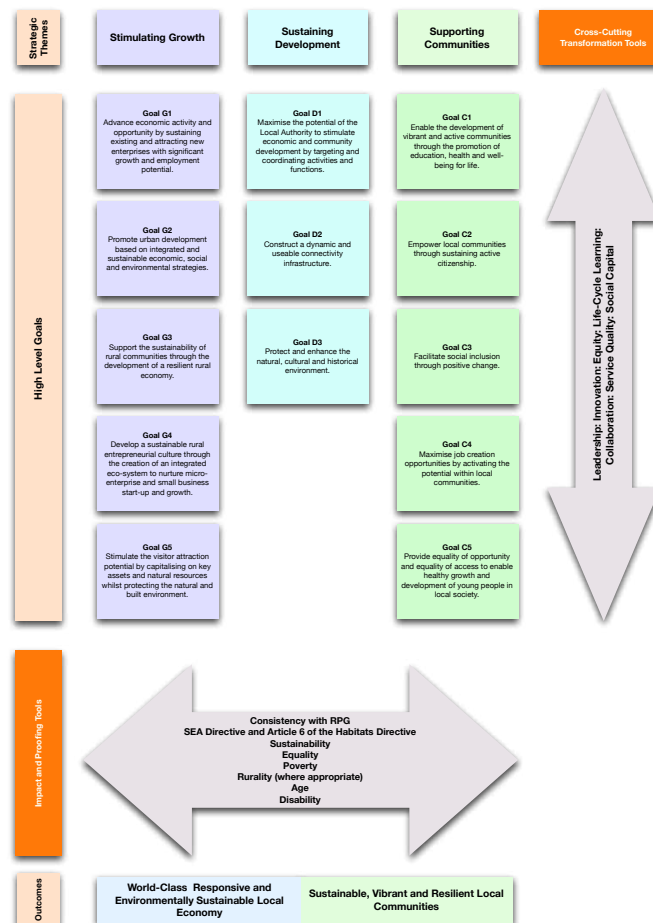
Name	Representing	Position
Keiran Dennison	Local Authority Member, Councillor	Chairperson
Jack Chambers	Local Authority Member, Councillor	
Jimmy Guerin	Local Authority Member, Councillor	
Anthony Lavin	Local Authority Member, Councillor	
Edmund Lukusa	Local Authority Member, Councillor	
Tony Murphy	Local Authority Member, Councillor	
Mags Murray	Local Authority Member, Councillor	
David McGuinness	Local Authority Member, Councillor	
Lorna Nolan	Local Authority Member, Councillor	
Keith Redmond	Local Authority Member, Councillor	
Eric Fleming	ICTU	
Siobhán Kinsella	CPL Learning and Development	
Emmanuel Okezie Emuaga	Community	
James Scully	Community	

Table 31 – Advisory Steering Group Membership

Name	Organisation
Cllr. Kieran Dennison (<i>SPC Chair</i>)	Fingal County Council, (Local Representative)
Desmond O'Sullivan (<i>LCDC Chair</i>)	Headstrong, Jigsaw Programme Manager – <i>LCDC Nominee</i>
Hazel Craigie	Fingal County Council (Senior Executive Planner)
Linda Curran: Replaced by Terry McCabe: September 2015	Blanchardstown Area Partnership (Chief Executive Officer) – <i>LCDC Nominee</i>
Mary Walshe	Health Services Executive (Area Manager, Dublin North)
Noeleen McHugh (until September 2015)	Fingal County Council (Senior Executive Officer)
Oisín Geoghegan	Fingal County Council (Head of Enterprise)
Pat O'Connor	Institute of Technology Blanchardstown, (Head of School of Business and Humanities) <i>LCDC nominee</i>
Pat Queenan	Fingal County Council, (Principal Community Officer), Housing and Community Department
Ethna Felten: Replaced by Paul Smyth September 2015	Fingal County Council (Director of Services) Economic Development Services
Rachel Lindsay Until March 2015	Fingal County Council, (Administrative Officer), Economic Development Services
Tony Lambert (Advisory Group Chair)	Fingal Dublin Chamber of Commerce (Chief Executive Officer) – <i>LCDC nominee</i>
Tony Murphy - SPC Nominee: June 2015	Local Authority Member, Councillor
Lorna Nolan – SPC Nominee: June 2015	Local Authority Member, Councillor
Breffni O'Rourke	Fingal County Council, (Chief Officer, LCDC) Economic Development Services,

A2 Socio-Economic Statement

Figure 15 – Fingal Socio-Economic Statement (June 2015)



A3 LECP Actions

The LECP provides for a suite of 115 actions that will lead to the achievement of the objectives over the time period 2016-2021.

A3.1 Enterprise and Employment: A1-A30

Theme T1 aims to advance economic activity and employment creation through the encouragement of innovation and collaboration. It harnesses Fingal's economic and locational attributes, and references the availability of skilled labour pool, and the proven ability of the County to attract a workforce with new and emerging skills.

The common outcome that is anticipated from the actions emerging from T1 is creation of an attractive and dynamic business environment that caters for the needs of both employers and employees. It will enable Fingal to capitalise on international networks and connections through positive engagement with key players, including Enterprise Ireland, IDA Ireland, ConnectIreland, key recruitment agencies, and Third Level Institutions. Additionally, closer alliances between local employers and the enabling State Agencies will increase the opportunity to foster sustainable employment options.

Business Park Management

*Fingal Guide to Enterprise*²² has identified some 74 Enterprise and Business Centres across the County. These public and private sector Enterprise and Business Centres represent a very considerable asset to the County, whilst providing the infrastructure to enable micro- and small enterprises to develop.

22 Fingal LEO

Working with the existing Business Parks will build upon existing networks, and encourage a dialogue between the LCDC, the Local Authority, Fingal LEO, the LDS Implementer, and the key enterprise development agencies, with representatives of business space providers. The creation of such a group will inform the analysis of existing and potential industrial infrastructure needs across Fingal. This will underpin an annual action plan based on the synthesis of the identified needs and challenges. The analysis would consider the use of vacant sites and buildings, access signposting, and access routes.

Incubation Space

Based on identified sectoral demand, this action will see the development of micro-enterprise business incubation units in the county.

The action will see the development of innovative models of space provision, and will be informed by the experience of NACEC²³, and the existing community-based enterprise centres in Damastown Road, Mulhuddart (BASE Centre), Balbriggan (BEaT Centre), and Swords (Drinan Enterprise Centre). An initial feasibility study will be undertaken to ensure that the provision of additional space is economically sustainable, and will not introduce an undermining displacement effect on the existing provision.

In parallel with the above, the action will see the development of a collective promotional strategy for incubation space in the county. This will inform the activities of all of the enterprise enabling agencies, including Fingal LEO, and the LDS Implementer.

The LECP will establish and reinforce the strategic networking arrangements with the wide range of aviation and other associated

23 National Association of Community Enterprise Centres

businesses located in and around Dublin Airport. This will be implemented as a focussed network action, and the purpose will be to use the network to identify emerging opportunities for employment and enterprise creation. It will also enable a dialogue to determine any skillsets that may be absent from the local labour-force, which can then be used to inform the provision of appropriate education, training and skilling offerings.

International Reach

Fingal is an attractive location for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and indigenous industry. This characteristic is driven by its connectivity, both to the island of Ireland through the road and rail infrastructure, and internationally through proximity to Dublin Airport.

Improving international reach will involve the creation of a strategic collaboration with key stakeholders to identify local, national and international connections and to capitalise on events and activities with international, regional and national growth potential. In the first instance the action will see the development of a strategic vision for the County in the context of the most appropriate sectoral and locational collaborative approach, and will particularly build upon the current and projected activities of the LCDC, the Economic Enterprise and Tourism Development SPC, and the Economic Enterprise and Tourism Development Department of FCC.

Where appropriate, actions within the theme are designed to encourage greater collaboration between FDI businesses and the SME level businesses to leverage opportunities from the diversity of sectors within the local economy. The approach will also support the rollout of ConnectIreland's *Community Partnership Programme*. ConnectIreland supports the creation of new employment by harnessing the Irish diaspora, and is focussed on attracting foreign companies that are

expanding internationally.

Sustainable Employment

National and international economic trends influence enterprise development in Fingal through the County's ability to attract foreign direct investment. In 2014, the State was ahead of planned fiscal targets for economic recovery, with an anticipated GDP growth of 3.6% projected for 2015.

Unemployment was at its lowest level since 2009 at 11%, and is expected to fall to 10% in 2015. It is anticipated that by 2016 there will be over 2 million people in employment nationally. The 2006 and 2011 census shows that unemployment rates in Fingal reflect the national position and remain a challenge.

The number of active businesses in Fingal is determined from the Council's commercial rate base. Encouragingly, the number of rateable businesses increased by 4.5% from 2010 to 2014 despite the full impact of the economic recession.

Fingal is characterised by a young, skilled labour force; however, it is also open to the impact of a rapidly changing global labour-market requirement. To offset this challenge, there is a requirement to optimise the match between the local skills base and the employment opportunities. This will be achieved by informing, and where possible, predicting, the design and provision of appropriate education, training and skilling offerings.

The action proposes to implement an annual survey of local employer skills needs. This will include the existing and emerging key sectors of Information and Communication Technology, Aviation, Healthcare, Pharmaceuticals, Food, Beverage and Agribusiness. It will also extend to sectors that are likely to be of local significance in the future, including

Green Technologies, Crafts, Hospitality and Tourism, and the Social Economy.

Through this mechanism it will be possible to augment and locally focus the high-level sectoral needs analysis currently undertaken by the Expert Group on Future Skills Needs, and SOLAS.

Additionally, the action will establish and support an *Innovation Network* to investigate collaborative opportunities between Third Level institutions, employers and local communities. The focus will be to consider and develop particular opportunities in sectors such as the Arts, Crafts, and the Social Economy, where these have the capacity to create sustainable and meaningful enterprise and employment potentials.

Networking

Improved networking will compliment the existing business interest groups, and the networking activities of Fingal LEO. It will establish County-based business network events with the purpose of generating innovation, opportunities and investment. Exploration of greater co-operation and collaboration between business leaders, innovators, the Universities and Research Centres and Technology Institutes will be encouraged, particularly where this results in the development of new products, processes and services to support SME innovation and growth.

The networking model will be developed from the existing network models, and will be used to identify the skills pool amongst the network membership and encourage the transfer of skills from mature sectors to growth industries in the local economy.

Communication and Digital Support

The development and implementation of a database of useful information to support local industry has been identified as providing

an opportunity to improve the business environment in Fingal. This will combine within one portal the existing support services offered by all Departments within FCC, and will provide information to underpin evidence-based marketing and business planning.

The portal will also point to networking events, and business funding opportunities, and will have the capacity to provide an interactive communication pathway between FCC and the business community. Over time, the portal will build up a repository of information on the enterprise environment in the County, which will inform better decision-making relating to local entrepreneurial activity. This will have the capacity to deliver a living 'test-bed' for research into innovations that support the development of 'new urban economies' through the 'triple and quadruple helix' concept by connecting companies, schools, third-level institutions and the community.

Pathways to Market

Parts of both Blanchardstown and Balbriggan require initiatives to aid improvements to the local economies. As part of the response to this the action will provide for the design of a targeted outreach business development support initiative. An element of this initiative will be the development and implementation of a strategy to increase awareness of resources and supports available for start-up and developing micro-enterprises and SMEs.

Given the socio-economic characteristics of both areas, a programme will be devised and implemented to work with local interest groups to identify needs and supports to promote local employment initiatives. This will include support for the *Young Entrepreneur Programme* at primary school level with specific emphasis on DEIS schools.

Social Enterprise

The European Commission has placed the social economy and social innovation at the heart of its concerns under Europe 2020, and the Programme for Government 2011-2016 recognises the important role of social enterprise in the country and contains a commitment to promoting the development of a vibrant and effective social enterprise sector.

The Action Plan for Jobs 2014 identified social enterprise as a growing enterprise sector that can bring further job gains and deliver economic potential. At national level it was estimated that the social enterprise sector employed between 25,000 and 33,000 people in over 1,400 social enterprises, with a total income of around €1.4 billion.

Social enterprises tend to be set in the heart of rural and urban communities, and often employ those that are most marginalised, and who find it most difficult to get jobs. Typically they provide local services, and so jobs are created in local communities. As well as the multiplier effects from the direct jobs in the sector, further indirect jobs are created either by enabling the development of other enterprises, for example by social enterprises that assist economic and community development, or by providing services that bring people to a community such as local festivals or community-run hostels.

The consultation process for the LECP identified a number of significant social enterprises in the County falling into four categories: -

- Economic and community development organisations;
- Those creating employment opportunities for marginalised groups;
- Those that deliver services that bring people to a community such as local festivals or events; and
- Those with commercial opportunities that are established to create a social return.

This action will investigate further opportunities by developing a social enterprise strategy taking into account specific needs of local communities. To achieve this, the action will build upon the experience of successful local social enterprises, and will identify models of successful social enterprise that are relevant to communities in Fingal.

A3.2 Learning, Training and Working: A31-A45

Supporting Economic Recovery and Jobs – Locally²⁴ states that FCC is best placed to promote the county as places to work, and to offer direct support to labour activation schemes. The report also notes that the Local Authority is positioned to leverage local expertise to tailor national initiatives to meet business needs. Such efforts include supporting business networking events, establishing sporting and tourist heritage facilities, developing and driving a host of local festivals and events that support employment.

Quality Employment Opportunities

The approach will be to address the needs of the LTU wishing to establish a business in Fingal. It will particularly consider the needs of Traveller Community, and members of Ethnic Minority Communities. The action will be initially focussed on Balbriggan, Swords and Blanchardstown. The nature of the supports will include short-term training and business plan development, and will develop relationships with the local business community to provide community-based training opportunities.

Social Enterprise Opportunities

The promotion of a social enterprise culture will engage with the community and voluntary sector to use community facilities as creative

²⁴ DECLG: Local Government Sectoral Strategy to Promote Employment and Support Local Enterprise.

environments for the development of social enterprise. It will assist communities to identify opportunities for innovative social enterprises, and establish a local social enterprise mentoring structure.

Building Capacity through Education and Training

Building Capacity through Education and Training will provide for an audit of local education and training facilities and course provision to increase access from currently excluded communities. This approach will also see the implementation of the OECD recommendations and work related measures in the Blanchardstown RAPID.

Community and voluntary sector facilities, Arts Centres and Libraries will be engaged to drive new ideas in the area of training and education - specifically for those who wish to build a career in arts and culture. The potential of e-learning to provide access to information for otherwise hard to engage communities will be exploited.

The delivery of SICAP in Fingal aimed at tackling poverty, social exclusion and long-term unemployment through local engagement and partnership between disadvantaged individuals, community organisations and public sector agencies will be supported. In this regard it will focus on the identified needs of target communities in Swords, Balbriggan, Baldoyle, Blanchardstown, Tyrrelstown, and Mulhuddart.

A3.3 Well-Being and Social Inclusion: A46-A71

The approach to improving health, well-being and social inclusion aims to use increasing participation levels in social, cultural and economic activities as a vehicle for improving the quality of life for all. This will require ensuring equitability of access to appropriate measures for all of the community of Fingal.

The objective will be to create an improvement for the County in the measurement of the Eurostat Quality-of-Life indicators: material living conditions, productive activity, health, education, leisure and social interaction, economic and physical safety, governance and basic rights, natural and living environment, and overall experience of life.

Building Local Awareness

Building improved local awareness will commence with a mapping exercise of recreational, physical and mental health facilities and amenities as baseline data for a health promotion strategy. This will be used to co-ordinate the development and implementation of models of excellence in identified areas, including *'Healthy Blanchardstown'*, *'Healthy Villages Network'* etc., and will introduce similar initiatives in Balbriggan and other targeted areas. The process will engage and collaborate with key agencies to promote active living and mental health among target population groups such as people with disabilities, Traveller Community members, and families of children with special needs, one parent families, women, older men and women. In so doing the action will support early year's health promotion initiatives tailored to meet the needs of specific communities of interest.

The approach will support the *Healthy Ireland* implementation plans, and the co-ordination of voluntary sector youth projects, thus increasing the level of activity and participation amongst young people.

Facilities Provision

The provision of facilities will see the implementation of actions detailed in the *Fingal Open Space Strategy* including the further development of Recreational Hubs in identified areas. It will encourage the adoption and implementation of updated Open Space By-laws, encouraging greater use of open space and parks. The approach will also provide for

community-based planting projects on appropriate open spaces (tree and bulb planting days).

The provision of facilities will increase the number of Green Flag Parks from two to four. It will support the *Dublin Bay Biosphere Initiative* to ensure the sustainable development of the Bay, including Howth Head and Baldoyle Estuary. The approach will also encourage the development of further linked walking and cycling trails.

Addressing Anti-Social Behaviour

The facilitation of tenant induction courses will enable work to be undertaken with tenants and residents' associations to develop anti-social behaviour strategies and initiatives. This will work in partnership with the Fingal Joint Policing Committee and sporting organisations to deliver late night sporting programmes for young people in key targeted areas, and will facilitate the establishment of a multi-agency housing and services forum to design and pilot a housing and services development initiative in key targeted housing estates.

Supporting Life

Community engagement with the HSE will accelerate the development of early intervention and prevention programmes in line with *Connecting for Life*, Ireland's National Strategy to Reduce Suicide (2015-2020). The approach will support community-based initiatives to address mental health and social inclusion issues based on the needs of specific communities, including young males, ethnic minorities and the Travelling Community. It will also support and collaborate with the Regional Drugs Task Force and other organisations to reduce the misuse of alcohol and drugs, and to address youth gambling.

Integration

BAP will be supported in facilitating Fáilte Isteach groups across the county, and to provide English language training in Dublin 15, Swords and Balbriggan. The approach will also enable an assessment of needs to underpin a *Fingal Integration Strategy* to integrate children, young people and families into their local community more effectively through the strategic use of the Department of Justice and Equality *Local Authority Integration Fund*.

Arts Development

The actions will flank the implementation of Fingal County Councils Arts Development Plan 2013- 2017, and will work collaboratively with the Community and Voluntary Sector, thematic Groups and networks using Sports and Arts as tools for learning and engagement. This will result in an increased access and uptake of childcare - particularly the Universal Free-Pre-school Year. It will support the establishment of community-based childcare and early intervention initiatives in targeted areas of socio-economic disadvantage, using models of 'what works' whilst increasing access and uptake of the Training and Employment Childcare (TEC).

The actions will promote and deliver universal access parenting programmes from Pre-school to Adolescence. It will also support the establishment of Transitions Initiatives in Early Education (Pre-School to Primary School). They will encourage and support educational and supports services for young people who have a difficulty in coping with a school environment such as Yellow Flag, after school clubs etc. They will also encourage and support the participation of young people into the work of Fingal CYPS, and will develop lifespan outreach, confidence-building and engagement programmes, and will support the use of learning facilities.

A3.4 Leadership and Community Empowerment: A72-A83

Leadership

The LCDC and SPC will arrange for the implementation of actions in the LECP. The implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the LECPs Actions will require strong leadership and collaboration. Protocols where appropriate will be developed with partner stakeholders to deliver on these actions, The local authority as the lead governance public service at local level will promote evidence based decision making internally and with partner stakeholders seeking to maximise outcomes and impacts on sustainable local economic and community development.

The Working Group Report on Citizen Engagement with Local Government (2014) recommends that more extensive and diverse input by citizens into the decision-making process at local government level is encouraged. To achieve this it is recognised that it will be necessary to facilitate input by citizens into decision-making at local government level. In turn, this will be achieved through the FCN as an integral element in building community capacity.

Community Engagement

Community engagement will be supported through the work of Arts, Sports and Community Centres grants and awards schemes. It will specifically work with ethnic minorities (African Women's Groups and others), on cultural and integration initiatives, through direct programming and arts grants schemes. Through this mechanism it will deliver a series of events to encourage community engagement, including: -

- Community Person and Group of the Year;

- Memory Makers;
- Pride of Place;
- Spring Break;
- Local Fingal Volunteer Fairs; and
- Fingal Volunteers Awards.

The actions will also provide training under the *Fingal Pathway to Participation Programme*, and the *First Steps Programme*.

A series of *Community Master Classes* will be programmed in *Leadership, Governance* and subjects that promote active citizenship. The further development of the Fingal Community County Register will be undertaken, and the capacity of the Fingal Community Network as a mechanism for developing an inclusive community communication platform will be increased.

Community Capacity Building

The action will introduce capacity building training and support opportunities for groups included on the Fingal Database to develop the capacity of Fingal Community Network (FCN) to become a fully inclusive, representative mechanism, taking into account geographic representation and communities of interest. It will work with FCN to develop the skills and capacity to participate in decision-making structures and inform service design, supporting the on-going sustainability and relevance of the network and its agenda. It will provide staff support, funding and an operations space and venue to the FCN.

Volunteering

The action will work with key stakeholders to develop a volunteering strategy as a resource to support volunteers. The strategy will help to

match local Community and Voluntary Sector opportunities to volunteer skills and requirements.

Collaboration

The community and voluntary sector in Fingal can demonstrate considerable skill in designing and implementing actions that can only be achieved through a collaborative approach. Such collaboration might include work with other groups, with agencies, or with the Local Authority. Given the considerable structural change that has occurred within the supporting landscape, the FCN community capacity building measure will be used to provide information on the new roles of agencies and organisations in supporting the sector.

A3.5 Tourism, Environment and Heritage: A84-A96

Fingal Development Plan 2011-2017 notes that Fingal has a rich variety of environmental and heritage resources. The countryside, as well as being important for agriculture and horticulture, is important for its varied and high-quality landscape and wildlife resources, which are an increasingly important amenity for the County's growing population. Malahide Castle, Ardgillan Castle and Newbridge House are particular attributes that support the sector.

In developing the tourism and leisure potential of the county consideration must be given to the amelioration of any negative impacts on the natural and built environment whilst sensitively optimising the natural assets of the County to create distinct visitor offerings and an enterprise and community infrastructure conducive to driving and expanding the visitor potential.

From an environmental perspective, the objectives of these actions are to facilitate a co-ordinated approach to biodiversity conservation and

promotion and to the protection of local heritage and culture.

Community Cultural Assets

The framework contained in the Fingal Heritage Plan, specifically Actions 26-34 will support community awareness and preserve and promote natural assets.

Biodiversity Matters

The framework contained in the Fingal Biodiversity Action Plan, specifically Actions 49, 50, 51 and 53 will address community and farm based initiatives.

Climate Change

This plan recognises that climate change is an over-riding challenge on both a local and global scale. Actions will be undertaken to mitigate potentially negative climate change impacts including actions to reduce emissions and unsustainable energy consumption. Specifically the development of a sustainable energy and climate change action plan for the County will seek to promote and maximise the benefits of quality of life, public health and biodiversity arising from implementation of policies promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation. Climate change actions will cut across both community and economic actions of the LECP.

Fingal Tourism Strategy

The action will see an implementation plan for Fingal Tourism Strategy and the development of a new Departmental Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Action Plan 2016-2018. This will involve exploring and advancing employment potential whilst supporting community involvement in identifying tourism associated employment potential including the use of

local knowledge and language skills of ethnic minority communities.

The action will engage community involvement through promotion of a *Community Tourism Diaspora Fund*, which will develop the capacity for both cluster and digital marketing, and themed trails such as cultural, heritage, food, coastal and wildlife linked to walking and cycling routes.

A3.6 Urban Towns and Rural Communities: A97-A115

Given the relative size and economic significance of the principal settlements in the county it is easy to discount the importance of the rural communities. Both are interdependent, and the needs of both must be equally addressed in the economic and social development of the county into the future.

The traditional core of many of the towns in Fingal have suffered during the recent past due to the impact of changing retail patterns and the economic downturn. One of the key challenges being faced by the forthcoming Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023 is to devise and implement strategies that can revitalise some of the core spaces in the town and villages. This effort will require support from better-informed local communities whose engagement is central to any successful spatial strategy, coupled with a vibrant local business community perhaps involving new micro-enterprises and *pop-up* businesses.

Rural communities in Fingal are facing challenges, at time driven by the success of the employment centres in the county and region. These challenges reflect on the changing nature of rural communities, and the role that they and their services are to play in the future if they are to remain sustainable as places to live, work and play.

Fingal LECP aims to facilitate the regeneration of urban towns and villages, and to increase the resilience of the rural economy.

The impact of the economic recession has triggered many changes in both urban and rural settings. In urban centres it has resulted in the creation of empty retail spaces, eroding the attractiveness of shopping areas. This impact has been enhanced by the changes that have occurred in the nature of retail activity. In rural settings there has been an increase in the perception of remoteness, and the impact of dormitory lifestyles.

With respect to the less advantaged areas of the county, the LECP will target the most deprived EDs: Blanchardstown-Tyrrelstown, Blanchardstown-Corduff, Balbriggan Urban, Blanchardstown-Coolmine, and Blanchardstown-Mulhuddart, with the objective of creating opportunities for people living in these areas. It will build upon previous area-based actions implemented through the RAPID Programme.

In respect of rural areas, the development of resilient local economies will be the point of focus. This approach references the Commission for the Economic Development of Rural Ireland (CEDRA) Report '*Energising Ireland's Rural Economy*' noting that rural communities have experienced the negative impacts of the current economic crisis due to their heavy reliance on declining employment sectors.

Whilst Fingal generally benefits from its strategic location and easy access to centres of population, its rural settlements are placed under stress by the conflicting desirability of living in a rural location, and the reducing local employment opportunity. To address this challenge, most households in rural Fingal have a heavy reliance on the private car to access work, school and services, as is evidenced by the rate of car ownership. This rural reality creates an environmentally unsustainable situation, dimensions of which are addressed through the development of more resilient and self-sufficient local communities.

Urban Centre Revitalisation

The action will support the revitalisation of urban centres, building upon their unique resources and marketing through sense of place. It will establish and support Town Centre Management Committees by developing their capacity to produce an urban framework plan to revitalise the urban centres. This will include the implementation of an assessment of vacant buildings in urban centres, and investigate opportunities for use such as pop up spaces, and the development of artists' studios and exhibitions spaces.

The action will support the roll out of the *Purple Flag* status in Swords, and assesses the merit of the application to other towns. The action will also implement public realm strategies, and where appropriate it will investigate complementary community arts initiatives.

Tidy Towns Committees will be encouraged to establish (where none exist). The potential for complementarity between Tidy Towns Initiative plans, urban framework plans, public realm strategies and biodiversity initiatives will be exploited.

Improvement to WWTP and network capacity will improve water quality and improve the opportunity for beaches to achieve *Blue Flag* status.

Urban Biodiversity

The approach will identify green space and biodiversity opportunities, and will assist in the development of the capacity of communities to become involved in biodiversity initiatives

Rural Resilience

The sustainability of rural communities will be improved through the development of a more resilient local economy. Support for the

development of capacity within Community Councils and Community Development Groups in rural areas, and the establishment of outreach services to address exclusion of hard to reach communities of place or interest will be provided. The approach will apply examples from communities across rural Ireland, and will introduce principles including those from the *Transition Initiative*.

Fingal Food Strategy

The action will support the preparation of a Fingal Food Strategy through the development of an agri-food network, and building on the work of '*Healthy Blanchardstown*'.

There is a growing awareness of food and nutrition as determinants of short and long-term public health, and a recognition of the interlinking of many factors that contribute to an individual's quality of life. These factors include health, diet, and activity. The Fingal Food Strategy will draw all of these components together, and will create opportunities to address diverse issues ranging from awareness-building to offset food poverty, to developing artisan local food offerings. Thus, the strategy will bridge both social and economic issues.

A4 Alignment with RPGs

The following appendix describes the specific relationship between the high-level goals, their attendant projected outcomes and the strategic policies of the Regional Planning Guidelines

Goal G1: To advance economic activity and employment creation through innovation and collaboration

- **High-Level Outcome:** facilitate a sustainable infrastructure that creates an attractive and dynamic business environment, and effective local strategies to boost job creation, employment mobility and participation.
- **RPG Policy Alignment:** Strategic Policy EP1 *That the Dublin Gateway is recognised as an international driver of enterprise within the GDA and is supported by regionally designated strategic employment centres, serving the urban and rural hinterlands. These economic growth areas which take advantage of nationally important transport hubs and corridors, and shall provide the focal point for diverse regional enterprise and economic clustering activity, by: steering population growth and economic critical mass to designated RPG strategic growth centres of the identified economic areas or gateway region; capacity building in skills, innovation and education; critical infrastructural investment in ICT, public transport, water services; integrating high quality social and amenity provisions to create an attractive landscape and working environment; providing energy security supported by green and renewable technologies; rationalised planning approaches to employment based land use zoning and enterprise objectives.*

Strategic Policy EP2 *To seek sustainable economic growth across the GDA, by the promotion of identified core economic areas*

across the GDA in both the Dublin and Mid East Regions to facilitate new employment opportunities for existing populations and seek to reduce the volume of unsustainable long distance commuting.

Goal G2: To develop a communication and support structure for SME's and retail businesses

- **High-Level Outcome:** provide a communication and support structure designed to actively support the sustainability of SME's and retail excellence, and promote their contribution to local economic growth.
- **RPG Policy Alignment:** Strategic Policy EP1 *That the Dublin Gateway is recognised as an international driver of enterprise within the GDA and is supported by regionally designated strategic employment centres, serving the urban and rural hinterlands. These economic growth areas which take advantage of nationally important transport hubs and corridors, and shall provide the focal point for diverse regional enterprise and economic clustering activity, by: steering population growth and economic critical mass to designated RPG strategic growth centres of the identified economic areas or gateway region; capacity building in skills, innovation and education; critical infrastructural investment in ICT, public transport, water services; integrating high quality social and amenity provisions to create an attractive landscape and working environment; providing energy security supported by green and renewable technologies; rationalised planning approaches to employment based land use zoning and enterprise objectives.*

Goal G3: To stimulate entrepreneurial culture, innovation and growth

- **High-Level Outcome:** a local entrepreneurial culture, stimulated by innovation with the inherent ability to capitalise on opportunities for

growth.

- **RPG Policy Alignment:** *Strategic Policy EP2 To seek sustainable economic growth across the GDA, by the promotion of identified core economic areas across the GDA in both the Dublin and Mid East Regions to facilitate new employment opportunities for existing populations and seek to reduce the volume of unsustainable long distance commuting.*

Goal G4: To maximise job creation opportunities by activating the potential within local communities

- **High-Level Outcome:** improve the quality and diversity of employment in the county particularly for hard-to-reach communities, by lowering levels of educational disadvantage, increasing skills, and reducing levels of unemployment.
- **RPG Policy Alignment:** *Strategic Policy EP1 That the Dublin Gateway is recognised as an international driver of enterprise within the GDA and is supported by regionally designated strategic employment centres, serving the urban and rural hinterlands. These economic growth areas which take advantage of nationally important transport hubs and corridors, and shall provide the focal point for diverse regional enterprise and economic clustering activity, by: steering population growth and economic critical mass to designated RPG strategic growth centres of the identified economic areas or gateway region; capacity building in skills, innovation and education; critical infrastructural investment in ICT, public transport, water services; integrating high quality social and amenity provisions to create an attractive landscape and working environment; providing energy security supported by green and renewable technologies; rationalised planning approaches to employment based land use zoning and enterprise objectives.*

Strategic Policy EP2 To seek sustainable economic growth across the GDA, by the promotion of identified core economic areas across the GDA in both the Dublin and Mid East Regions to facilitate new employment opportunities for existing populations and seek to reduce the volume of unsustainable long distance commuting.

Goal G5: To increase accessibility and participation in quality social cultural and economic activities to improve well-being and quality of life

- **High-Level Outcome:** increased participation levels in health, social, cultural and economic activities as a vehicle for improving the quality-of-life for all.
- **RPG Policy Alignment:** *Strategic Policy SIP2 That quality of life forms a central part of planning policy in supporting good spaces, good places and that social activities and the arts form a core part in making good places.*

Goal G6: Strengthen leadership and collaboration leading to improved connections between services and people and more empowered citizens and communities

- **High-Level Outcome:** greater coherence between plans, service providers and communities, informed by more engaged citizens and communities.
- **RPG Policy Alignment:** *Strategic Policy SIP1 That Local Authorities work with the relevant state agencies in ensuring that an integrated approach is taken to both planning for the communities who live within the GDA either in planning for growth, for change or regeneration in communities; that the needs of particular elements of society are identified and responded to and that the most*

vulnerable are valued as part of the community.

Strategic Policy SIP2 *That quality of life forms a central part of planning policy in supporting good spaces, good places and that social activities and the arts form a core part in making good places.*

Goal G7: To protect and enhance the environment and heritage of Fingal

- **High-Level Outcome:** effective sustainable management of our environment, including climate change, and heritage enhanced by community awareness.
- **RPG Policy Alignment:** Strategic Policy CLIP1 *While recognising the broad extent of processes which impact on the dynamics of climate change, planning authorities, in so far as possible, should nonetheless seek to provide for the integration of climate change considerations, based on best scientific evidence, into all policy areas relevant to them, including development plans, flood risk assessments, biodiversity and heritage plans and application of relevant particulars of associated plans and projects such as the River Basin Management Plans and ICZM. The development of Local Climate Change Strategies and/or associated Energy Action Plans by the local authorities is supported by the Regional Planning Guidelines.*

Goal G8: Create distinct visitor attractions by sensitively optimising the natural assets of the county, and building an enterprise and community infrastructure to drive and expand the visitor potential

- **High-Level Outcome:** support the development and enhancement of local amenities, increased visitor numbers and expanded employment potential.

- **RPG Policy Alignment:** Strategic Policy EP2 *To seek sustainable economic growth across the GDA, by the promotion of identified core economic areas across the GDA in both the Dublin and Mid East Regions to facilitate new employment opportunities for existing populations and seek to reduce the volume of unsustainable long distance commuting.*

Goal G9: To re-generate towns and villages, and increase the resilience of the local economy

- **High-Level Outcome:** vibrant towns and villages that are actively supported by an engaged business community, and are strategically marketed through an enhanced 'sense of place'.
- **RPG Policy Alignment:** Strategic Policy SIP2 *That quality of life forms a central part of planning policy in supporting good spaces, good places and that social activities and the arts form a core part in making good places.*

Goal G10: To support the sustainability of rural communities through the development of a resilient economy

- **High-Level Outcome:** provide for targeted territorial development and resilient rural communities with the capacity to strategically develop their local economy.
- **RPG Policy Alignment:** Strategic Policy RP1: *To protect and support rural villages and countryside through careful management of physical and environmental resources and appropriate sustainable development; recognising and responding through appropriate Development Plan policies to the strong urban driven demand for resources in rural areas of the GDA, and also the importance of protecting and encouraging the necessary social infrastructure needed to sustain rural communities.*



Strategic Policy RP2: *To support the continuing viability of agriculture, horticulture and other rural based enterprises within rural areas and to promote investment in facilities supporting rural innovation and enterprise with special emphasis on the green economy, within the context of sustainable development, appropriateness and the management of environmental resources.*

A5 SEA Screening Statement

Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Statement

A5.1 Introduction

Table 32 - Key Facts

Name of Responsible Authority	Fingal County Council
Title of Plan	Fingal Local Economic and Community Plan 2015-2020
Purpose of Plan	The purpose of the LECPP, as provided for in the Local Government Reform Act 2014, is to set out, for a six-year period, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of the relevant local authority area, both by itself directly and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders.
Subject of the Plan	Local Economic and Community Activity within the administrative area of Co. Fingal.
Period covered	2015-2020
Frequency of updates	Every 6 years
Geographic Area of the Plan	Co. Fingal
Summary of nature and content of the Plan	As the framework for the economic development and local/community development of Co. Fingal.
Date Plan came into effect	January 2016

A5.2 Screening Statement

The requirements for SEA in Ireland are set out in the national regulations, S.I. No. 435 of 2004 (European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 and S.I. No. 436 of 2004 (Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 as amended by S.I. No. 200 of 2011 (European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans

and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011) and S.I. No. 201 of 2011 (Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2011) respectively.

The Regulations 2004-2011 require case-by-case screening of individual plans and programmes based on the criteria in Schedule 2A to the Planning and Development Regulations 2001. These criteria must be taken into account in determining whether or not significant effects on the environment would be likely to arise.



Stage One: Pre-Screening

The first step in determining whether the proposed Local Economic and Community Plan would require an SEA involved a pre-screening check. Pre-screening allows rapid screening-out of actions and policies that are clearly not going to have any environmental impact and screening-in of those that definitely do require SEA.

Following the pre-screening exercise it is apparent that it is necessary to conduct further screening to determine if a Strategic Environmental Assessment of the LECP is required. The LECP will provide a framework for economic and community development, therefore it was necessary to determine whether an SEA would be required by testing it against environmental significance screening criteria.

Stage Two: Environmental Significance Screening

The application of environmental significance criteria is important in determining whether an SEA is required for small Plans/Policies or modifications to Plans/Policies. Annex II (2) of Directive 2001/42/EC sets out the 'statutory' criteria that should be addressed when undertaking this stage.

Criteria for Determining Environmental Effects

The following outlines the criteria to be used for determining the likely significance of environmental effects.

Key Characteristics of the LECP

1. The degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources:

It is the purpose of the Fingal LECP to set out, for a six-year period, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of Co. Fingal. It is intended that the LECP will facilitate both the expanding economic development role and the emerging local development role of the local authority and bring about better alignment of the work of the Local Development Companies with that of the Local Authority and other providers of social, community and economic development, thereby achieving better returns for the communities they serve.

2. The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy:

The LECP is contained within the context of the policy document *Putting People First* and the Local Government Reform Act 2014. The LECP is part of a series of plans and strategies that have, and are being developed at national, regional and local level. These include (but are not limited to): -

- Action Plan for Jobs 2015;
- County Development Plan 2011-2017;
- Emerging Draft County Development Plan 2017- 2023
- EU 2020;
- Local Education and Training Strategy (to be prepared by Dublin and Dún Laoghaire Education and Training Board);
- Local Government Sectoral Strategy to Promote Employment and Support Local Enterprise;
- *Making it Happen* - Growing Enterprise in Ireland;
- Medium-Term Economic Strategy 2014-2020 (MTES);

- National Anti-Poverty Strategy;
- National Development Plan;
- National Reform Programme;
- National Spatial Strategy (to be replaced by the National Planning Framework);
- Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2022;
- Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (to be published by the Regional Assembly by early 2016);
- Rural Development Strategy and Plan; and
- The Report of the Commission for the Economic Development of Rural Areas.

At local level, the LECP provides a framework for all organisations and agencies to link their own strategies and plans, and to combine investment and resource to achieve common agreed goals. It follows that those preparing and implementing these operational plans will need to be conscious of the agreed priorities for the area as set out in the Plan, and their roles in addressing these.

The purpose of the LECP, as provided for in the Local Government Reform Act 2014, is to set out, for a six-year period, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of the relevant local authority area, both by itself directly and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders²⁵.

²⁵ *Guidelines on Local Economic and Community Plans Issued by the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government Under Sections 66H and 128E of the Local Government Act 2001, in conjunction with Circular LG 1/2015 / AL 1/2015 – 15th January 2015*

To achieve its stated purpose, the LECP will be about realising opportunities, solving problems, and collectively refocusing service provision. Thus, the LECP can only be effectively achieved by all local agencies and organisations working in partnership.

Whilst the LECP is a strongly action focused plan, it is neither an operational plan nor a spatial land use plan. The priorities that will be implemented through operational plans have been identified based on an analysis of existing national, regional and local strategies, socio-economic data and public consultations.

3. The relevance of the plan for the integration of environmental considerations, in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development:

The LECP is being prepared under the Local Government Reform Act 2014 and represents an opportunity to implement the objectives of the County Development Plan 2011-2017 and the emerging Draft County Development Plan 2017-2023 in relation to sustainable development, particularly in respect of sustainable transport, public health, community, cultural heritage and tourism and the green economy. The LECP will be an important element of the County Development Plan 2011-2017 and the emerging Draft County Development Plan 2017-2023 for ensuring the delivery of these objectives.

4. Environmental challenges relevant to the plan:

There are ten key goals of the Fingal LECP, as follows: -

- **Goal G1:** To advance economic activity and employment creation through innovation and collaboration;
- **Goal G2:** To develop a communication and support structure for SME's and retail businesses;

- **Goal G3:** To stimulate entrepreneurial culture, innovation and growth;
- **Goal G4:** To maximise job creation opportunities by activating the potential within local communities;
- **Goal G5:** To increase accessibility and participation in quality social cultural and economic activities to improve well-being and quality of life;
- **Goal G6:** Strengthen leadership and collaboration leading to improved connections between services and people and more empowered citizens and communities;
- **Goal G7:** To protect and enhance the natural cultural and historical environment;
- **Goal G8:** Create distinct visitor attractions by sensitively optimising the natural assets of the county, and building an enterprise and community infrastructure to drive and expand the visitor potential;
- **Goal G9:** To re-generate towns and villages, and increase the resilience of the local economy; and
- **Goal G10:** To support the sustainability of rural communities through the development of a resilient economy.
- The two key aspects of the Fingal LECP are to: -
- Promote economic development; *and*
- Promote local and community development.

In the interest of consistency Fingal LECP will promote both of these within the framework and the policies and objectives set out by the Fingal Development Plan 2011-2017 and the emerging Draft County Development Plan 2017-2023. The Fingal Development Plan 2011-2017 has undergone a full SEA and AA and the emerging Draft County

Development Plan 2017-2023 will undergo a full SEA and AA which have and will set out environmental protection measures to ensure that its implementation protects our environment and heritage. Ultimately, the cumulative effects of the LECP will be positive in terms of generating economic activity and required community development in Fingal.

5. The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example, plans and programmes linked to waste-management or water protection):

The LECP is not a spatial land-use plan. It provides a framework for all organisations and agencies to reference and crosslink their own strategies and plans, and to combine investment and resource to achieve common agreed goals for the economy and community in Fingal. Where such plans provide a framework for development consent for projects, then these projects will be subject to EIA and AA screening at project inception stage.

Characteristics of the Effects

The following describes the characteristics of the effects, and of the area that is likely to be affected.

1. The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects:

It is anticipated that the key objectives and principles to be adopted as part of the LECP will ensure that the effects of the resulting changes to the existing operating environment will not be significant.

The probability that these effects will be environmentally significant in negative terms is low.

2. The cumulative nature of the effects:

Cumulative negative environmental effects are not anticipated. A key

objective of the LECP will be to attain a balance between community engagement, economic growth and the need to provide sustainable development. The effects will be of a positive nature, in particular regarding improvements in employment and community development, social and urban regeneration, public realm, sustainable transport and the green economy.

3. The cross-boundary nature of the effects:

The plan is designed to have positive regional and inter-county cross-boundary effects.

4. The risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents):

No risks are anticipated. The effects will be of a positive nature, in particular regarding improvements in employment and community development, social and urban regeneration, public realm, sustainable transport and the green economy.

5. The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected):

The area that will be affected is the entire area of Co. Fingal (448.1km²). The population of the county was 273,991 in 2011 (CSO Census of Population).

6. The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to: -

Special natural characteristics or cultural heritage: -

Fingal Development Plan 2011-2017 and the emerging Draft County Development Plan 2017-2023 identifies the protected areas and elements of the natural and cultural heritage as follows: -

- Natura 2000 (Habitats Directive), comprising of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs);
- Protected Structures; *and*
- Sites of Archaeological Significance;
 - Fingal Development Plan 2011-2017, the emerging Draft County Development Plan 2017-2023 and the Local Area Plans provide the planning and development framework for the implementation of the LECP. A key objective is to protect and enhance Fingal's heritage and key characteristics, both natural and man-made. It follows, therefore, that actions resulting from the implementation of the LECP must be in compliance with these polices.
 - An Appropriate Assessment screening process has been carried on the LECP and has concluded that there will be no significant effects on the Natura 2000 network from the proposed plan.

Exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values: -

- It is not anticipated that any environmental quality standards will be exceeded or that the value of vulnerable areas limited as a result of the LECP.

Intensive land-use: -

- The Fingal LECP is not a spatial land-use plan. Any projects arising from the LECP that require development consent under planning legislation will be required to comply with land use and environmental policy of the Fingal Development Plan.

7. The effects on areas or landscapes that have a recognised national, community or international protection status:

It is not anticipated that the actions within the LECP will have a significant environmental impact on sites, in conformity with polices protecting such sites in relevant Local Area Plans and the County Development Plan that have been subject to SEA and AA screening and full SEA and AA where appropriate.

Stage Three: **Conclusions and Recommendation**

Following the screening process the LECP has been assessed against the environmental significance criteria as contained in Annex II (2) of the SEA Directive. It is concluded that a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required for the Fingal LECP 2015-2020.

A6 Screening for Appropriate Assessment

A6.1 Introduction: Habitats Directive: Article 6 Assessment

Table 33 – Key Facts

Name of Responsible Authority	Fingal County Council
Title of Plan	Fingal Local Economic and Community Plan 2015-2020
Purpose of Plan	The purpose of the LECP, as provided for in the Local Government Reform Act 2014, is to set out, for a six-year period, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of the relevant local authority area, both by itself directly and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders.
Subject of the Plan	Local Economic and Community Activity within the administrative area of Co. Fingal.
Period covered	2015-2020
Frequency of updates	Every 6 years
Geographic Area of the Plan	Co. Fingal
Summary of nature and content of the Plan	As the framework for the economic development and local/community development of Co. Fingal.
Date Plan came into effect	January 2016

Preamble

The Local Government Reform Act 2014 provides a stronger and clearer role for local government in economic development and community development. This is key element in achieving the vision set out in the *Action Programme for Effective Local Government, Putting People First* (DECLG, 2012) which states that ‘*local government will be the main vehicle of governance and public service at local level, leading economic, and social and community development*’.

This Plan does not replace the strategic and operational plans of other agencies and bodies, but it does work between and across these to ensure a greater coherence and integration of action. It is about identifying and implementing integrated *actions* that will help the social and economic development of the county by: -

- Building stronger communities through strengthening economic performance; *and*
- Improving well-being through prosperity, job creation and financial stability.

The Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) is prepared in accordance Section 44 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 and consists of two elements: A local economic element (prepared and adopted by the local authority), and a community development element (prepared and adopted by the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)).

The purpose of the LECP is to identify objectives and implement actions to strengthen and develop the economic and community dimensions of Fingal over a six-year period. In this regard, the delivery of objectives and/or actions may be undertaken by Fingal County Council, or by public bodies working in partnership with economic and community stakeholders.

Purpose of the Report

This is a Habitats Directive Assessment (or Appropriate Assessment) Screening Report of the Fingal Draft Integrated Local Economic and Community Plan. The purpose of this report is to evaluate whether or not LECP is likely to have significant affects on the integrity of Natura 2000 sites (i.e. Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA)).

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) are designated under the EU's Habitats Directive by statutory instrument under the Habitats Regulations 1997 and Special Protection Areas (SPA) are designated by statutory instrument under the EU's Birds Directive 1979.

Legislative Context

The Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Flora and Fauna²⁶ provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. The Directive was transposed into Irish law by the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, SI 94/1997.

Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive sets out the decision-making tests for Plans or Projects affecting Natura 2000 sites.

Article 6(3) establishes the requirement for Appropriate Assessment thus:-

'Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.'

In formulating the LECP, Fingal County Council (the Competent Authority) must comply with the EU Habitats and Birds Directives and the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010, European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477 of 2011) and the

²⁶ The 'Habitats Directive'

Environment (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2011.

A6.2 Fingal LECP

The purpose of the Fingal LECP is to set out, for a six-year period, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of Fingal, both by itself directly and in partnership with other economic and community stakeholders.

The process for the preparation and development of the LECP was underpinned by a number of guiding principles including: -

- Accessibility and ownership;
- Community consultation and engagement;
- Community development principles;
- Contribution to ameliorating climate change;
- Maximising returns from resources by avoiding unnecessary overlap and duplication and by achieving synergies through co-operation and collaboration;
- Participative planning;
- Promotion and mainstreaming of equality; and
- Sustainability.

Following an extensive public and key stakeholder consultation process, a framework of high-level economic and community goals was established. Each high-level goal within the economic and community elements will be achieved through the implementation of specific, time-bound and measurable actions.

A6.3 Fingal LECP and County Development Plan

Fingal LECP does not sit directly within the hierarchy of spatial planning policy, but takes consideration of the spatial framework provided by Fingal Development Plan 2011-2017 and the emerging Draft Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023. In this context the Fingal LECP has been designed to complement the Fingal Development Plan 2011-2017 and the emerging Draft Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023, and is consistent with the core strategy and the objectives of the Development Plan.

The Fingal Development Plan 2011-2017 was subject to a full Appropriate Assessment, which determined that the Plan would not have significant effects on integrity of the Natura 2000 network. The emerging Draft Plan 2017-2023 will also be subject to a full Appropriate Assessment. In this respect, it should be noted that all plans, projects and programme arising from the LECP are consistent with objectives of the Fingal Development Plan 2011-2027 and the emerging Draft County Development Plan 2017-2023. Furthermore, individual plans and projects that may arise from the implementation of the LECP will be screened to determine if Appropriate Assessment is required and to ensure that such plans or projects would not have an adverse impact on the integrity of the Natura 2000 Network. The Natura 2000 network comprises Special Protection Areas under the Birds Directive, Special Areas of Conservation under the Habitats Directive and Ramsar sites designated under the Ramsar Convention.

A6.4 HDA Screening

Introduction

This Habitats Directive Assessment (HDA) Screening Report has been prepared taking cognisance of the following guideline documents: -

- Appropriate Assessment Guidance for Planning Authorities (DEHLG, 2010); *and*
- Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (EU, 2001).

The Screening Process is designed to identify the likely impacts upon the Natura 2000 sites, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects and considers whether these impacts are likely to be significant. This Screening Assessment will: -

- Determine whether the LECP is directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site;
- Describe the LECP and other plans and projects that, 'in combination' has the potential to have significant effects on a European site;
- Identify the potential effects on the European site; *and*
- Assess the significance of any effects on the European site.

Management of the Natura 2000 Sites

For a Plan to be '*directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site*', the 'management' component must refer to management measures that are for conservation purposes, and the 'directly' element refers to measures that are solely conceived for the conservation management of a site.

Fingal LECP is a framework plan for the promotion and facilitation of economic, community and local development for the county, and is not directly connected to the management of any Natura 2000 sites. However, as was identified any project delivered as part of meeting the requirement of the action and where that project impacts on the Natura 2000 network a detailed Appropriate Assessment will be required.

Natura 2000 Sites and the LECP Area

The map below illustrates the SACs and SPAs in Fingal and those within proximity to the county boundary that have been identified for consideration. Actions A53, A92, A94 and A95 have the potential to deliver projects which could impact on some of these sites and where this occurs a detailed Appropriate Assessment will be required.

Map 3 – Fingal: SPAs, SPCs and pNHAs



The SACs and SPAs are listed below and a site description and outline of qualifying interests is provided. The information was sourced from www.npws.ie. and the Natura Impact Reports prepared for the Fingal Development Plan 2011-2017 and the emerging Draft County Development Plan 2017-2023.

Assessment Criteria

Having regard to the European and national level guidance documents, as referenced above, a screening matrix has been developed to facilitate assessment. The LECP is assessed against the criteria as set out below.

Table 34 - LECP: Elements

Criteria	Assessment
Individual elements of the plan (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) likely to give rise to impacts on the Natura 2000 site.	<p>The Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023 and the emerging Draft County Development Plan 2017-2023 provides the overarching spatial framework for the county. The LECP will be consistent with the applicable County Development Plan.</p> <p>Where plans or projects arise (directly or indirectly) from the LECP (consistent with the development plan objectives) that may impact upon sensitive or designated sites, because of their proximity or scale, screening for Appropriate Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment (e.g. EIA,) will be undertaken, where deemed necessary.</p> <p>Therefore, no projects, which would give rise to significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary impacts on the integrity of the Natura 2000 sites, arising from the size or scale of the project, shall be permitted on the basis of this LECP (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects).</p>

Table 35 – LECP: Impacts

Criteria	Assessment
Likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) on the Natura 2000 site by virtue of the following criteria.	
Size and Scale	The LECP does not set a framework for projects or activities with regard, to specific size, scale and location. The Fingal Development Plan 2011-2017 and the emerging Draft County Development Plan 2017-2023 sets the spatial framework for location of development and land uses (with the appropriate consideration and respect given to ecologically important sites). Where plans or projects arise (directly or indirectly) from the LECP (consistent with the development plan objectives) that may impact upon sensitive or designated sites, because of their proximity or scale, screening for Appropriate Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment (e.g. EIA,) will be undertaken, where deemed necessary.
Land-Take	Fingal LECP does not involve any land take within Natura 2000 sites.
Distance from the Natura 2000 site or key features of the site	The LECP will cover Fingal County as an entire plan area, and will not relate to specific locations. There will be no further encroachment upon Natura 2000 sites.
Resource Requirements (Water abstraction etc.)	The policies and objectives of the Fingal Development Plan 2011-2017 and the emerging Draft Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023 ensure that resource requirements are identified to meet anticipated development over the plan period. No projects giving rise to significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary impacts upon the integrity of any Natura 2000 sites, arising from their resource requirements will be proposed, facilitated or permitted on the basis of the LECP.
Emissions (disposal to land, water or air)	The policies and objectives of the Fingal Development Plan 2011-2017 and the emerging Draft Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023 and the Regional Waste Management Plan will ensure that emissions and waste issues will be appropriately mitigated with regard to any impacts on Natura 2000 sites.
Excavation Requirements	There will be no excavation requirements arising from actions proposed in the Fingal LECP.
Transportation Requirements	Fingal Development Plan 2011-2017 and the emerging Draft Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023 provides a sustainable framework for transportation and accessibility. Any individual transportation plans or projects that may arise from actions contained in the LECP will be screened for Appropriate Assessment as required.
Duration of construction, operation, decommissioning, etc.	Not applicable.
Other	Not applicable.

Table 36 – LECP: Likely Changes

Criteria	Assessment
Likely changes to the site arising as a result of the following criteria.	
Reduction of habitat area	Fingal LECP does not relate to a project specific location. The LECP does not provide, or include for any additional land for development and, therefore, does not involve any additional land take. Any project resulting from the LECP shall be required to be consistent with the Fingal Development Plan 2011-2017 and the emerging Draft Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023 objectives, and shall be subject to Screening for Appropriate Assessment.
Disturbance to key species	Fingal LECP does not relate to a project specific location. The LECP does not provide, or include for any additional land for development and, therefore, does not involve any additional land take. Any project resulting from the LECP shall be required to be consistent with the Fingal Development Plan 2011-2017 and the emerging Draft Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023 objectives, and shall be subject to Screening for Appropriate Assessment.
Habitat or species fragmentation	Fingal LECP does not relate to a project specific location. The LECP does not provide, or include for any additional land for development and, therefore, does not involve any additional land take. Any project resulting from the LECP shall be required to be consistent with the Fingal Development Plan 2011-2017 and the emerging Draft Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023 objectives, and shall be subject to Screening for Appropriate Assessment.
Reduction in species density	Fingal LECP does not relate to a project specific location. The LECP does not provide, or include for any additional land for development and, therefore, does not involve any additional land take. Any project resulting from the LECP shall be required to be consistent with the Fingal Development Plan 2011-2017 and the emerging Draft Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023 objectives, and shall be subject to Screening for Appropriate Assessment.
Changes in key indicators of conservation value (water quality etc.)	Fingal LECP does not relate to a project specific location. The LECP does not provide, or include for any additional land for development and, therefore, does not involve any additional land take. Any project resulting from the LECP shall be required to be consistent with the Fingal Development Plan 2011-2017 and the emerging Draft Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023 objectives, and shall be subject to Screening for Appropriate Assessment.
Climate Change	No projects giving rise to significant adverse changes in climatologically conditions affecting the Natura 2000 sites shall be permitted on the basis of the provisions of Fingal LECP (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects).

Table 37 – LECP: Natura 2000 Impacts

Criteria	Assessment
Likely impacts on the Natura 2000 site as a whole in terms of the following criteria.	
Interference with the key relationships that define the structure of the site	The objectives of the LECP will not impact on the relationships that define the structure of Natura 2000 sites.
Interference with key relationships that define the function of the site	The objectives of the LECP will not impact on the relationships that define the structure of Natura 2000 sites.

Table 38 – LECP: Indicators of Significance

Criteria	Assessment
Indicators of significance as a result of the identification of effects set out above in terms of the following criteria.	
Loss	Not applicable.
Fragmentation	Not applicable.
Disruption	Not applicable.
Disturbance	Not applicable.
Change to key elements of the site	Not applicable

A6.5 Conclusions

Finding of No Significant Effects Matrix

Criteria	Assessment
Natura 2000 sites identified for Screening	Natura 2000 sites as illustrated on the attached Map and Appendix.
Description of Plan	Set out in the Draft Fingal LECP.
Is the plan necessary for the management of Natura 2000 sites?	Fingal LECP is not directly connected with, or necessary for, the management of the Natura 2000 sites in Fingal.
Describe how the plan (alone or in combination) is likely to affect a Natura 2000 site.	In general, any development that may result from the implementation of the objectives of the Fingal LECP could lead to a number of impacts depending on where the development is sited, the scale of development and types and quantities of emissions. However, all objectives must be devised so as not to conflict with the policies and objectives of the Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023, for which both an AA Screening and full SEA were completed. The LECP will not be in conflict with the policies or objectives of the Fingal Development Plan 2011-2017 and the emerging Draft Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023 and will, therefore, avoid the need for development that would be likely to significantly and adversely affect the integrity of any Natura 2000 site within and outside the county boundary. In achieving consistency with the objectives of the Fingal Development Plan 2011-2017 and the emerging Draft Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023, any action/objectives developed as part of the LECP shall be required to conform to National and European regulations and legislation for the prevention of environmental effects which would adversely impact on the integrity and conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites. This, along with the acknowledgement of the county's Natural heritage policies contained within the county development plans, will ensure that no development objective will be created that will significantly adversely impact on Natura 2000 sites.
Screening Conclusion	It is concluded that the LECP will not give rise to significant impact on the Natura 2000 network. Therefore, it is determined that Appropriate Assessment is not required.
List of Agencies Consulted	External consultation was not deemed necessary.

A6.6 Fingal Natura 2000 Sites

Table 39 – Fingal Natura 2000 Sites: Profile

Site Code	Site Name	Quality	Characteristic
IE0000199	Baldoyle Bay SAC	<p>A typical eastern estuarine system with fairly extensive intertidal sand and mud flats.</p> <p>Good diversity in sediment types. Has <i>Zostera</i> spp.</p> <p>Quality variable but generally good.</p> <p>Salt marshes are well represented and are at least of moderate quality.</p> <p>Has two Red Data Book plant species.</p> <p>Of importance for wintering waterfowl, with an internationally important population of <i>Branta bernicla horta</i> and nationally important populations of a further six species, including <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> and <i>Limosa lapponica</i>. <i>Sterna albifrons</i> formerly bred.</p>	<p>Site comprises a relatively small estuarine and bay system in north County Dublin.</p> <p>Receives the flows of the Mayne and Sluice rivers, both of which drain an agricultural / suburban catchment.</p> <p>The inner part of the site is sheltered from the sea by a large sand dune peninsula, though most of the dunes are now used as a golf course.</p> <p>Sediments in the inner sheltered areas are mostly muds or muddy sands, often with a high organic content.</p> <p>Part of the tidal section of the Mayne River and adjoining brackish marshes are included in the site.</p> <p>The outer part of the site is exposed to the open sea and the sediments here are predominantly well-aerated sands. In addition to the intertidal and salt marsh habitats, small areas of sand dunes and sandy beaches are included.</p>

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Site Code	Site Name	Quality	Characteristic
IE0004016	Baldoyle Bay SPA	<p>Baldoyle Bay is a typical eastern estuarine system with fairly extensive intertidal sand and mud flats that have <i>Zostera</i> spp. It also has good salt marsh fringes where birds roost.</p> <p>The quality of habitats present is variable but generally good.</p> <p>The site supports a good diversity of wintering waterfowl and notably an internationally important population of <i>Branta bernicla horta</i>.</p> <p>It has nationally important populations of <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>, <i>Anas acuta</i>, <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>, <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>, <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> and <i>Limosa lapponica</i>.</p> <p>At high tide the shallow waters regularly attract species such as <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> and <i>Mergus serrator</i>.</p> <p><i>Sterna albifrons</i> formerly bred at the site, but not since the early 1990s.</p>	<p>The site comprises a relatively small estuarine system in north County Dublin. It receives the flows of the Mayne and Sluice rivers, both of which drain an agricultural / suburban catchment.</p> <p>Much of the estuary is sheltered from the sea by a large sand dune peninsula (now mostly a golf course).</p> <p>Sediments in the inner sheltered areas are mostly muds or muddy sands, often with a high organic content.</p> <p>Towards Portmarnock Point, the sediments are predominantly well-aerated sands.</p> <p>In addition to the intertidal flats and salt marsh habitats, a small area of sand hills and sandy beach at Portmarnock Point is included in the site.</p>

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Site Code	Site Name	Quality	Characteristic
IE0004025	Malahide Estuary SPA	<p>The site is of high importance for wintering waterfowl and supports a particularly good diversity of species.</p> <p>It has an internationally important population of <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> (4.8% of national total), and nationally important populations of a further 12 species. Of particular note are the populations of <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> (3.0% of national total), <i>Anas acuta</i> (2.9% of national total), <i>Mergus serrator</i> (2.8% of national total), <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> (2.7% of national total) and <i>Calidris canutus</i> (3.7% of national total).</p> <p>The site is one of the few in eastern Ireland where substantial numbers of <i>Bucephala clangula</i> occur.</p> <p>It has a regionally important population of <i>Limosa lapponica</i>.</p> <p>The site is an important and regular site for a range of autumn passage migrants, especially <i>Calidris ferruginea</i> and <i>Philomachus pugnax</i>.</p> <p>It supports a regular flock of non-breeding <i>Cygnus olor</i>.</p>	<p>The site is situated in north Co. Dublin, between the towns of Malahide and Swords. It comprises the estuary of the River Broadmeadow.</p> <p>A railway viaduct, built in the 1800s, crosses the site and has led to the inner estuary becoming lagoonal in character and only partly tidal.</p> <p>Much of the outer part of the estuary is well-sheltered from the sea by a large sand spit, known as "the island". This spit is now mostly converted to a golf-course.</p> <p>The outer part empties almost completely at low tide and there are extensive intertidal flats.</p> <p>Salt marshes occur in parts of the outer estuary and in the extreme inner part of the inner estuary.</p>

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Site Code	Site Name	Quality	Characteristic
IE0000202	Howth Head SAC	<p>The climate and landforms of Howth combined with proximity to Dublin have resulted in a site of great scientific and education interest.</p> <p>The flora is very diverse with several Red data book species and species of very restricted Irish distribution.</p> <p>The dry heath and sea cliff vegetation is extensive and well developed.</p> <p>A wide variety of seabirds nest on the marine cliffs.</p> <p>Many important scientific studies of the area have been published.</p>	<p>Howth is a peninsula of cambrian quartzite and slate linked to the mainland by a raised beach.</p> <p>Most of the coast is sheer with many 30m or higher cliffs.</p> <p>It's climate is dry and warm by Irish standards and this is reflected in it's flora and fauna.</p> <p>The SAC occupies the eastern portion and summit of Howth.</p> <p>Much of the remaining area is urbanised or used for amenity.</p> <p>The greater part of the site consists of heathland and cliff.</p>
IE0004113	Howth Head Coast SPA	<p>Howth Head has important colonies of breeding seabirds, with nationally important populations of <i>Rissa tridactyla</i>, <i>Alca torda</i> and <i>Cepphus grylle</i>, and a regionally important population of <i>Uria aalge</i></p> <p>The colony has been monitored at intervals since the Operation Seafarer project in 1969/70 and most populations have increased since then.</p> <p>The cliffs also support a breeding pair of <i>Falco peregrinus</i>, a species listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive.</p> <p>The site is easily accessible and has important amenity and educational value due to its proximity to Dublin City.</p>	<p>Howth Head is a rocky headland situated on the northern side of Dublin Bay.</p> <p>The peninsula is composed of Cambrian rock of the Bray Group, the most conspicuous component being quartzite.</p> <p>The site comprises approximately 3 km of sea cliff, which vary between about 60 m and 90 m in height.</p> <p>A typical maritime cliff flora occurs.</p> <p>Where the gradient allows, shallow glacial drift supports a typical maritime flora and there is a fringe of coastal heath on the cliff tops.</p> <p>The marine area to a distance of 500 m from the cliff base, where seabirds bathe, socialise and feed, is included within the site.</p>

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Site Code	Site Name	Quality	Characteristic
IE000204	Lambay Island SAC	Designated for two Annex I habitats namely: reefs (1170) and vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts (1230) and two Annex II species: Grey Seal (<i>Halichoreus Grypus</i>) (1364) and the common seal (<i>Phoca Vitulina</i>) (1365). The SAC overlaps with an SPA of the same name owing to the avian diversity for which the island is known.	Lambay Island is a privately owned island of approximately 250ha. That is situated about 4km off the North Dublin Coast at Portrane. Underlying ground conditions vary owing to the geology. Relatively low lying along its western perimeter, it slopes gently upwards, to its highest point of 127m. A considerable part of Lambay Island occurs above the 50m contour line, with the results that the cliffs are an inherent feature of the site. Lambay Island is characterised variously by the presence of habitats including agricultural land, woodland – broadleaved and coniferous, parkland, scrub, walled gardens and building and unmanaged pasture and maritime grasslands and cliff vegetation.

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Site Code	Site Name	Quality	Characteristic
IE004069	Lambay Island SPA	Lambay Island is known as an important sea bird colony and it supports internationally important populations for a number of breeding sea birds. The diversity of the site is recognised in the lengthy features of interest list for which the site is designated: Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) (A009); Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) (A017); Shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>) (A018); Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) (A043); Lesser black backed gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) (A183); Herring gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) (A184); Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) (A188); Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) (A199); Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>) (A200) and Puffin (<i>Fratercula arctica</i>) (A204). The site is also of conservation for the population of Grey Seal, a species that is listed on Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive and for which an overlapping SAC designation exists.	A privately owned island of moderate size; with a range of habitats from rocky shore to agricultural to scrub and woodland. The island is also designated an SAC although the SPA boundary extends beyond the SAC boundary.

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Site Code	Site Name	Quality	Characteristic
IE0002193	Ireland's Eye SAC	<p>The island has a small, though significant, example of vegetated stony or shingle habitat of the type which fringes sandy beaches. It also contains an example of vegetated sea cliffs and has two Red Data Book species, <i>Crambe maritima</i> and <i>Hyoscyamus niger</i>.</p> <p>Excellent diversity of breeding seabirds (up to 12 species), with four species in numbers of national importance and also a recently established gannet (<i>Sula bassana</i>) colony, the only one on the east coast.</p> <p>Traditional site for <i>Falco peregrinus</i>.</p>	<p>Situated c. 1.5 km north of Howth, Ireland's Eye is a small, uninhabited island.</p> <p>The underlying geology is Cambrian greywackes and quartzites. These rocks form impressive cliffs along the northern and eastern sides of the island, reaching up to 69 m. Elsewhere the island is covered by glacial drift.</p> <p>A sandy beach, backed by shingle and low sand hills, occurs at Carrigeen Bay on the western shore.</p> <p>An extensive area of bedrock shore is exposed at low tide to the south of the island.</p> <p>The main habitat on the island is a mix of dry grassland and bracken.</p> <p>Owing to its proximity to the mainland, the island is popular with day-trippers and also has educational value.</p>

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Site Code	Site Name	Quality	Characteristic
IE0004117	Ireland's Eye SPA	<p>Ireland's Eye is an important seabird colony, with 11 species breeding regularly. It has nationally important populations of <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>, <i>Larus argentatus</i>, <i>Larus marinus</i>, <i>Rissa tridactyla</i>, <i>Uria aalge</i> and <i>Alca torda</i>. In addition, the island has a recently established colony of <i>Sula bassana</i>, which is one of only five in the country and the only one on the East coast. It also has regionally important populations of <i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>, <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>, <i>Cepphus grylle</i> and a small colony of <i>Fratercula arctica</i>.</p> <p>It is a traditional site for <i>Falco peregrinus</i>, though this species only breeds in some years.</p> <p>It supports two Red Data Book plant species, <i>Crambe maritima</i> and <i>Hyoscyamus niger</i>.</p> <p>The seabird colony is monitored annually.</p>	<p>Situated c. 1.5 km north of Howth, Ireland's Eye is a small, uninhabited island.</p> <p>The underlying geology is Cambrian greywackes and quartzites. These rocks form impressive cliffs along the northern and eastern sides of the island, reaching up to 69 m.</p> <p>A tall stack, which is completely cut off from the main island at mid and high tide, occurs at the eastern side of the cliffs. Elsewhere the island is covered by glacial drift.</p> <p>A sandy beach, backed by shingle and low sand hills, occurs at Carrigeen Bay on the western shore.</p> <p>A low-lying, sparsely vegetated islet, known as Thulla, occurs a little south of the main island, and an extensive area of bedrock shore is exposed at low tide to the south of the island.</p> <p>The main habitat on the island is a mix of dry grassland and bracken.</p> <p>The seas to the north and east of the island (to a distance of 500 m), where seabirds feed, bathe and socialise, are included in the site.</p> <p>Owing to its proximity to the mainland, the island is popular with day-trippers and also has educational value.</p>

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Site Code	Site Name	Quality	Characteristic
IE0000205	Malahide Estuary SAC	<p>The site has an important example of intertidal sand and mud flats, with <i>Zostera</i> spp. Their quality is variable but generally good.</p> <p>Salt marshes are well-represented, particularly Atlantic salt meadows and <i>Salicornia</i> flats.</p> <p>Most of the sand dune system is managed for a golf course but significant areas of fixed dunes and shifting white dunes remain.</p> <p>The site has <i>Viola hirta</i>, a Red Data Book plant species. It is of high importance for wintering waterfowl, with an internationally important population of <i>Branta bernicla horta</i> and nationally important populations of a further 14 species, including <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>. It also supports a regionally important population of <i>Limosa lapponica</i>. This site has educational value and has been the subject of a number of research projects.</p>	<p>The site is situated in north Co. Dublin, between the towns of Malahide and Swords.</p> <p>It comprises the estuary of the River Broadmeadow.</p> <p>A railway viaduct, built in the 1800s, crosses the site and has led to the inner estuary becoming lagoonal in character and only partly tidal.</p> <p>Much of the outer part of the estuary is well sheltered from the sea by a large sand spit, known as 'the island'. This spit is now mostly converted to a golf course though some sand dunes and salt marshes remain.</p> <p>A section of bedrock shore extending towards Portmarnock is included as it represents the only continuous section through the fossiliferous Lower Carboniferous rocks in the Dublin Basin, and is the type locality for several species of fossil coral.</p>

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Site Code	Site Name	Quality	Characteristic
IE004016	North Bull Island SPA	<p>The site is among the top ten sites for wintering waterfowl in the country. It supports internationally important populations of <i>Branta bernicla horta</i> and <i>Limosa lapponica</i> and is the top site in the country for both of these species. A further 14 species have populations of national importance, with particular notable numbers of <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> (8.5% of national total), <i>Anas acuta</i> (11.6% of national total), <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> (6.9% of national total), <i>Calidris canutus</i> (10.5% of national total).</p> <p>North Bull Island SPA is a regular site for passage waders such as <i>Philomachus pugnax</i>, <i>Calidris ferruginea</i> and <i>Tringa erythropus</i>. The site supports <i>Asio flammeus</i> in winter.</p> <p>Formerly the site had an important colony of <i>Sterna albifrons</i>, but breeding has not occurred in recent years.</p> <p>The site provides both feeding and roosting areas for the waterfowl species. Habitat quality for most of the estuarine habitats is very good.</p> <p>The site has a population of the rare <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i>, which is the only known station away from the western seaboard as well as five Red Data Book vascular plant species and four bryophyte species.</p> <p>It is nationally important for three insect species.</p> <p>Wintering bird populations have been monitored more or less continuously since the late 1960s, and the other scientific interests of the site have also been well documented.</p> <p>Future prospects are good owing to various designations assigned to site.</p>	<p>The North Bull Island sand spit is a relatively recent depositional feature, formed as a result of improvements to Dublin Port during the 18th and 19th centuries.</p> <p>It is almost 5km long and 1km wide and runs parallel to the coast between Clontarf and Sutton.</p> <p>The sediment that forms the island is predominantly glacial in origin and siliceous in nature.</p> <p>A well-developed dune system runs the length of the island, with good examples of embryonic, shifting marram and fixed dunes, as well as excellent examples of humid dune slacks. Extensive salt marshes also occur.</p> <p>Between the island and the mainland occur two sheltered intertidal areas that are separated by a solid causeway constructed in 1964.</p> <p>The seaward side of the island has a fine sandy beach.</p> <p>A substantial area of shallow marine water is included in the site.</p> <p>Part of the interior of the island has been converted to golf courses.</p> <p>The proximity of the North Bull Island to Dublin City results in it being a very popular recreational area. It is also very important for educational and research purposes.</p> <p>Nature conservation is a main landuse within the site.</p>

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Site Code	Site Name	Quality	Characteristic
IE0000206	North Dublin Bay SAC	<p>Site possesses an excellent diversity of coastal habitats.</p> <p>The North Bull Island dune system is one of the most important systems on the east coast and is one of the few in Ireland that is actively accreting. It possesses extensive and mostly good quality examples of embryonic, shifting marram and fixed dunes, as well as excellent examples of humid dune slacks.</p> <p>Both Atlantic and Mediterranean salt marshes are well represented and a particularly good marsh zonation is shown.</p> <p>The salt marshes grade into mudflats and sandflats, some of which are dominated by annual <i>Salicornia</i> species. <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> occurs at its only known station away from the western seaboard.</p> <p>The site has five Red Data Book vascular plant species and four Red Data Book bryophyte species.</p> <p>This is one of the most important sites for wintering waterfowl in Ireland, with internationally important populations of <i>Branta bernicla horta</i>, <i>Calidris canutus</i> and <i>Limosa lapponica</i>, plus nationally important numbers of a further 14 species. 20% of the national total of <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> occurs here.</p> <p>Formerly it had important colony of <i>Sterna albifrons</i>.</p> <p>North Dublin Bay is nationally important for three insect species.</p> <p>The scientific interests of the site have been well documented and future prospects are good owing to the various designations assigned to site.</p>	<p>The North Bull Island sand spit is a relatively recent depositional feature, formed as a result of improvements to Dublin Port during the 18th and 19th centuries.</p> <p>It is almost 5km long and 1km wide and runs parallel to the coast between Clontarf and Sutton.</p> <p>The sediment, which forms the island, is predominantly glacial in origin and siliceous in nature.</p> <p>Between the island and the mainland there occurs two sheltered intertidal areas that are separated by a solid causeway constructed in 1964.</p> <p>The seaward side of the island has a fine sandy beach.</p> <p>A substantial area of shallow marine water is included in the site.</p> <p>The interior of the island is excluded from the site as it has been converted to golf courses.</p> <p>The proximity of the North Bull Island to Dublin City results in it being a very popular recreational area. It is also very important for educational and research purposes.</p> <p>Nature conservation is a main landuse within the site.</p>

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Site Code	Site Name	Quality	Characteristic
IE0004014	Rockabill SPA	<p>Rockabill is an internationally important tern colony and the most important in Ireland.</p> <p>It supports the largest colony of <i>Sterna dougallii</i> in Ireland (c.88% of national total) and in north-west Europe, plus the largest colony of <i>Sterna hirundo</i> in the country (c.35% of national total) and a significant colony of <i>Sterna paradisaea</i>. Since 1989, the site has been wardened each breeding season.</p> <p>With management for the benefit of the terns, numbers of all three species have steadily increased.</p> <p>Detailed research is carried out, including studies on breeding behaviour, productivity and feeding. A ringing programme has been in operation since the 1980s and this has produced important information on the movement of the birds in an international context.</p> <p>Rockabill also supports a nationally important population of <i>Cephus grylle</i> and a small colony of <i>Rissa tridactyla</i>.</p> <p>The site is a known location for the observation of bird migration.</p> <p>Owing to its importance, Rockabill is a designated Refuge for Fauna.</p>	<p>The Site consists of two small, low-lying, granitic islets situated c.7 km off the Dublin coast.</p> <p>The islands are separated by a narrow channel though are connected at low spring tides.</p> <p>A lighthouse, manned until 1989, is situated on the main island.</p> <p>The main island, known as the Lighthouse Island, is vegetated by a scrubby sward of <i>Lavatera arborea</i>, with a range of other maritime species such as <i>Matricaria maritima</i>, <i>Silene maritima</i>, <i>Rumex</i> spp., <i>Cochlearia officinalis</i>, <i>Atriplex</i> spp. and <i>Spergularia rupicola</i>.</p> <p>Some exotic plants are present, notably <i>Hebe speciosa</i> and <i>Carpobrotus edulis</i>.</p> <p>The smaller island, known as the Bill, is very exposed and is sparsely vegetated. The site includes all of the rocky shores to the low tide mark.</p>

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Site Code	Site Name	Quality	Characteristic
IE0003000	Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC	<p>The area selected for designation represents a key habitat for the Annex II species - harbour porpoise, within the Irish Sea. Population survey data show that porpoise occurrence within the site boundary meets suitable reference values for other designated sites in Ireland.</p> <p>The species occurs year-round within the site and comparatively high group sizes have been recorded.</p> <p>Porpoises with young (i.e. calves) are observed at favourable, typical reference values for the species.</p> <p>Casual and effort-related sighting rates from coastal observation stations are significant for the east coast of Ireland and the latter appear to be relatively stable across all seasons.</p> <p>The selected site contains a wide array of habitats believed to be important for harbour porpoise including inshore shallow sand and mud-banks and rocky reefs scoured by strong current flow.</p> <p>The site also contains two Annex II seal species, Harbour seal (<i>Phoca vitulina vitulina</i>), Grey seal (<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>) for which terrestrial haul-out sites occur in immediate proximity to the site. Bottlenose dolphin (<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>) has also occasionally been recorded in the area.</p> <p>Along the eastern seaboard the habitat type Reef is uncommon due to prevailing geology and hydrographical conditions.</p>	<p>The selected site forms a strip of dynamic inshore and coastal waters in the western Irish Sea, extending approximately 40 km in length and encompassing a range of comparatively shallow marine habitats, including diverse seabed structures, reefs, islets and islands.</p> <p>It borders existing designated sites for Annexed species and habitats and is adjacent to a wide array of coastal features, e.g., mudflats, lagoons, estuaries, coastal cliffs, sea caves, several of which are also designated.</p> <p>Extending east from Dublin Bay towards the offshore Kish Bank, the site contains the entire Burford Bank, a sedimentary seabed structure (i.e. fine sand) at the mouth of Dublin Bay, that on its north side is flanked by gravel and coarse sand deposits.</p> <p>The site also contains the northern segment of the Frazer Bank (i.e. fine sand) off Dalkey Island and Killiney Bay.</p> <p>Reef habitats within the site occur at Dalkey Island, Maiden Rock and Muglins in the southern portion, off Howth Head, Ireland's Eye and Lambay Island in the central portion, and Rockabill in North Dublin.</p>

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Site Code	Site Name	Quality	Characteristic
			<p>Expansive surveys of the Irish coast have indicated that the greatest resource of this habitat within the Irish Sea is found fringing offshore islands which are concentrated along the Dublin coast.</p> <p>A detailed survey of selected suitable islands has shown areas with typical biodiversity for this habitat both intertidally and subtidally. These Reefs are subject to strong tidal currents with an abundant supply of suspended matter resulting in good representation of filter feeding fauna such as sponges, anemones and echinoderms.</p>

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Site Code	Site Name	Quality	Characteristic
IE0000208	Rogerstown Estuary SAC	<p>A typical eastern estuary with fairly extensive intertidal sand and mud flats.</p> <p>Quality is variable owing to pollution from a number of sources, especially a large landfill site that was built on the mudflats.</p> <p>The salt marshes that fringe the estuary are of moderate importance and quality and include both Atlantic and Mediterranean salt meadows, as well as Salicornia flats.</p> <p>The sand dune element at site is limited in its distribution and quality.</p> <p>Has three Red Data Book plant species.</p> <p>Of high importance for wintering waterfowl, with an internationally important population of Branta bernicla horta and nationally important populations of a further 16 species including Pluvialis apricaria.</p> <p>Sterna albifrons has bred.</p>	<p>Site comprises a relatively small estuarine system in north County Dublin.</p> <p>Receives the Ballyboghil and Ballough rivers, both of which flow through an agricultural catchment.</p> <p>It is a funnel shaped estuary, extending for about 6 km from east to west and up to 2 km at it's widest.</p> <p>Has a wide salinity range, from near full seawater to near full fresh water.</p> <p>Estuary is bisected by a causeway and bridge that carries the Dublin-Belfast railway line.</p> <p>A sandy peninsula stretches across the outer part of the estuary, restricting water flow to a channel of c.200 m.</p> <p>In addition to salt marsh and sand dune habitats, some agricultural fields that adjoin the estuary are included in site - some of these have botanical or ornithological interests.</p>

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Site Code	Site Name	Quality	Characteristic
IE0004015	Rogerstown Estuary SPA	<p>Rogerstown Estuary is a typical eastern estuary with fairly extensive intertidal sand and mud flats.</p> <p>Of high importance for wintering waterfowl, with an internationally important population of Branta bernicla horta that accounts for 5.9% of the national total. It supports nationally important populations of a further 15 species and notably Calidris canutus (8.6% of national total), Tadoma tadoma (5.3% of national total) and Pluvialis squatarola (4.5% of national total).</p> <p>It is an important and regular site for a range of autumn passage migrants, especially Calidris minuta, Calidris ferruginea, Philomachus pugnax and Tringa ochropus.</p> <p>Sterna albifrons has bred in the past but not recently.</p> <p>It includes populations of three Red Data Book plant species. Wintering birds are well monitored.</p>	<p>The site comprises a relatively small estuarine system in north County Dublin.</p> <p>It receives freshwater from the Ballyboghil and Ballough rivers, both of which flow through an intensive agricultural catchment.</p> <p>It is a funnel shaped estuary, extending for about 6 km from east to west and up to 2 km at it's widest.</p> <p>It has a wide salinity range, from full seawater to near full fresh water.</p> <p>The estuary is bisected by a causeway and bridge that carries the Dublin-Belfast railway line.</p> <p>A sandy peninsula stretches across the outer part of the estuary, restricting water flow to a channel of c.200 m.</p> <p>In addition to salt marsh and sand dune habitats, some agricultural fields that adjoin the estuary are included in the site, as these have ornithological or botanical interests.</p> <p>A section of shallow marine water is included in the site.</p>

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Site Code	Site Name	Quality	Characteristic
IE00041 22	Skerries Islands SPA	<p>The site has a nationally important breeding colony of <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> which became established in the early 1990s. When taken together with the breeding populations on nearby Lambay and Ireland's Eye, (also SPAs) this concentration is of international importance.</p> <p>The site also has nationally important breeding populations of <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>, <i>Larus argentatus</i> and <i>Larus marinus</i>.</p> <p>In winter the site is visited by a good diversity of waterfowl.</p> <p>It has an internationally important population of <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> and nationally important populations of <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>, <i>Calidris maritima</i> and <i>Arenaria interpres</i>.</p> <p><i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> occurs regularly but in relatively small numbers.</p> <p><i>Asio flammeus</i> occurs regularly in winter.</p> <p>Bird populations have been well monitored in recent years.</p>	<p>The Skerries Islands is a group of three small, uninhabited islands situated between 0.5 km and 1.5 km off the north Dublin coastline.</p> <p>Shenick's Island and St. Patrick's Island are of similar size, with Colt Island being somewhat smaller.</p> <p>Shenick's Island is of most interest geologically, being composed of Ordovician volcanics, siltstones and shales on the boundary between the Carboniferous and the Silurian.</p> <p>All are low-lying islands, with maximum heights from 8 m to 13 m above sea level.</p> <p>St. Patrick's Island and Colt Island have low cliffs, while Shenick's Island has more extensive expanses of intertidal rocky shore and sand flats.</p> <p>Shenick's also has a shingle bar and is connected to the mainland at low tides.</p> <p>The vegetation of the islands is dominated by rank grasses and Brambles (<i>Rubus</i> spp.).</p> <p>The seas surrounding the islands, to a distance of 200 m, are included in the site.</p> <p>Shenick's Island is a Bird Reserve managed by BirdWatch Ireland.</p>

Source: European Environment Agency



