

FINGAL LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gall
Fingal County
Council





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ABBREVIATIONS

ABBREVIATION	EXPLANATION
CEP	Community Enhancement Programme
CSF	Community Support Fund
CYPSC	Children & Young People's Services Committees
DLRCC	Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council
DRCD	Department of Rural and Community Development
DSP	Department of Social Protection
DETE	Department of Enterprise, Trade & Employment
DEZ	Dublin Enterprise Zone
EETCD	Economic Enterprise Tourism & Cultural Development
ESF	European Social Fund
ESOL	English for Speakers of Other Languages
FCC	Fingal County Council
FLP	Fingal Leader Partnership
IP	Implementing Partner
IPA'S	International Protection Applicants
LAG	Local Action Group
LEADER	Liasion Entre Actions de Developpement de l'Economie Rurale' 'Links between the rural economy and development actions'
LCDC	Local Community Development Committee
LDC	Local Development Company
LECP	Local Economic Community Programme
LES	Local Employment Services
LDS	Local Development Strategy
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
PPN	Public Participation Network
PI	Programme Implementer
SICAP	Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme
SDCC	South Dublin County Council
TUS	Community Work Placement Initiative
UESS	Ukraine Emergency Support Services

This report has been prepared in the context of Chapter 2, Section 128B (1)(i) Local Government Act 2001, as Inserted by the Local Government Reform Act 2014, which states that one of the functions of a Local Community Development Committee is: "to prepare, adopt and submit to the local authority a report in relation to the performance of its functions during the year immediately preceding the year in which the report is submit"



Rialtas na hÉireann
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Comhairle Contae
Fine Gall
Fingal County
Council



Fingal LECP
Local Economic and Community Plan



Dublin Rural
LEADER
Growth, Sustainability & Inclusion



Chief Officer and Chairperson Joint Statement



Welcome to the 2023 Annual Report of the Fingal Local Community Development Committee (LCDC). The LCDC has the responsibility of developing and implementing a coherent and integrated approach to local and community development and co-ordinating, planning and overseeing local and community development funding.

Fingal LCDC provides governance, oversight and co-ordination of a number of programmes and funds, including the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP), the Healthy Ireland Fund and various Community/Local Enhancement funding streams and the Community Recognition Fund, all which are administered by the LCDC secretariat. Oversight and co-ordination of the programmes is supported and augmented by Fingal County Council, Pobal, the Department of Rural & Community Development (DRCD) and the Department of Health.

The Public Participation Network (PPN) continues to develop citizen participation in local decision-making structures with the PPN representatives on the LCDC linking back to the PPN, providing input into decisions taken by the LCDC and allowing the voices of PPN member groups to be heard. This link is vital to the relevance of the LCDC for our communities and the PPN continues to deliver a valuable and positive contribution to civic life in Fingal.

During 2023, the LCDC carried out consultations with stakeholders from community, economic and environmental interests, Elected Members and the public in the preparation of the new Local Economic and Community Plan 2023 – 2028. The latest Census data was used to prepare a new socio-economic profile of Fingal which informs the LECP's high-level goals and objectives. The LECP 2023 – 2028 sets out an ambitious vision for Fingal along with 15 high-level goals, 31 supporting objectives and a series of actions set out in an Implementation Plan for the first two years of the LECP. We would like to thank all the stakeholders, Elected Members and members of the public for their valuable input into the new LECP which provides a strong strategic framework for local economic and community development in Fingal over the next six years. The introduction of an Implementation Plan alongside the LECP framework with a review period of two years represents a welcome opportunity for the LCDC to evaluate progress against the LECP's actions and to reorient the LECP where necessary in response to evolving social and economic circumstances. We look forward to working with all stakeholders over the next six years to realise the LECP vision ***“Fingal will be a vibrant, sustainable, progressive and climate resilient county, underpinned by inclusive, healthy, empowered communities and a dynamic economy.”***

The SICAP Programme is administrated by Pobal, co-funded by the Irish Government through the Department of Rural and Community Development and the European Social Fund and managed at local level by the LCDC. In 2023 Fingal SICAP was allocated €1,424,714.00 to support interventions to tackle poverty and promote social inclusion and equality at a local level. Fingal SICAP was allocated additional resources to assist with the Ukrainian Refugee Crisis response in the amount of €304,369 with an additional allocation towards the end of 2023 of €65,000. The SICAP Programme Implementer, Empower, achieved its two key performance indicators (KPI's), and ensured that the programme and services were delivered within the financial parameters approved by the LCDC.

In 2023 the LCDC participated in the nationally co-ordinated procurement competition for the provision of new SICAP contracts for the period 2024 - 2028. The existing SICAP Programme Implementer, Empower, were the successful tenderer in Fingal. Fingal LCDC signed contracts with Empower in December 2023 to deliver the SICAP Programme for the period 2024 – 2028 and we look forward to continue work with Empower to provide targeted and innovative supports to disadvantaged individuals and groups in Fingal.

The Dublin Rural Leader Local Action Group (LAG) was established to deliver the LEADER element of the Rural Development Programme (RDP) in the Dublin area. In 2023 the Dublin Rural LAG was successful in its bid to prepare and implement a new LEADER Local Development Strategy (LDS) covering the rural areas of Fingal, South Dublin and Dun Laoghaire Rathdown for the period 2023 - 2027.

The allocated fund for the Dublin Rural area is €4.7 million over this period. During 2023 the Dublin Rural LAG carried out profiling and needs analysis, public consultations, a SWOT analysis and policy analysis. This work informed the development of local development priorities within the new LDS and the LDS main themes of Economic Development and Job Creation, Rural Infrastructure and Social Inclusion and Sustainable Development of the Rural Environment and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation.

A budget of €199,622.42 was allocated to the Healthy Ireland Programme in Fingal for 2023-2025. The Healthy Ireland Programme was tasked with a focus on supporting smoking/vaping cessation and a reduction in age standardised heavy episodic drinking over the three years. In 2023, with a budget of €55,622.42, overseen by the Healthy Fingal Coordinator and with the support of the Healthy Fingal Sub Committee, Fingal LCDC, and Fingal Childrens & Young Peoples Services Committee (CYPSC), Healthy Fingal worked with multiple stakeholders to develop and support projects to promote alcohol awareness and the We Quit Programme.

Fingal LCDC administered the Community Support Fund (CSF) of €341,875 in 2023 for current and capital funding streams for groups across the county. Fingal LCDC is also administering the Community Recognition Fund (CRF) over the 2023/2024 period with an allocation of €1,748,912 for 26 projects across Fingal, which must be drawn down by October 2024.

We would like to thank John Quinlivan, Director of Services, Economic Enterprise, Tourism & Cultural Development Department, and the staff of the directorate for their work in supporting the LCDC and partnerships with communities, government agencies, the business community and stakeholder groups for their active engagement and participation on the LCDC, and in particular for their valuable input on the new LECP and new LDS.

Finally, we would like to thank the LCDC members for their continued support during 2023, we look forward to working with all stakeholders in delivering on the objectives and actions in the LECP and LDS and the delivery of other programmes and funding streams in 2024.

Aoife Sheridan

AOIFE SHERIDAN

Chief Officer Fingal LCDC

Laurence Ward

LAURENCE WARD

Chairperson Fingal LCDC



SECTION 1

Fingal Local Community Development Committee

SECTION 1

Fingal Local Community Development Committee



Members of Fingal LCDC

(L-R) Ian Lennon, Geraldine Rooney, Raghu Nath, Dr. Pat O'Connor, Felix Gallagher, Aoife Sheridan, Cllr. Cathal Boland, Cllr. Mary McCamley, Eilish Harrington, John Quinlivan, Seamus Hughes & Laurence Ward (Seated)

The Local Government Reform Act 2014 gives legislative effect to the commitments in 'Putting People First', including the establishment of LCDC's in each local authority administrative area, for the purposes of developing, co-ordinating and implementing a coherent and integrated approach to local and community development.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

- A clear focus on Social Inclusion, marginalised communities and the marginalised within communities
- Promotion of enterprise, employment development, training and education, as key element in supporting sustainable communities
- Planning and programme implementation that makes the best use of available resources for citizens and communities

THE FUNCTIONS OF THE LCDC ARE

- Prepare and arrange for the implementation of the Community element of a six year Local Economic and Community Plan
- Co-ordinate, manage and oversee the development of local community development programmes
- Review, monitor and revise actions and strategies set out to achieve the objectives of the Local Economic and Community Plan
- Promotion of enterprise, employment development, training and education, as a key element in supporting sustainable communities.
- Improve the co-ordination of all public funded local and community development programmes in the administrative area

Note: Section 1288 of the Local Government Act 2001 sets out the functions of the LCDC's

The functions of a local authority regarding promoting the interests of communities as set out in Section 66 of the 2001 Local Government Act, delegated to LCDCs, section 128(2)

Fingal Local Community Development Committee Members 2023



CLLR. CATHAL BOLAND

Cathal has 23 years' service as a Fingal Councillor (Rush Lusk Local Election Area). He served as Cathaoirleach/Mayor of the Local Authority on two occasions and Area Chair on numerous occasions.

A member of County Dublin VEC from '84 to 2004. He Chaired the Committee and many school Boards and The County Voluntary Youth Council. He also Chaired the Establishment Committee of the Tallaght RTC. (Inst' of Technology).

Cathal served on the County Enterprise Board. He is an Institute of Directors member. His background is as a Senior Manager in the Service industry and in recent years operated a General Management Consultancy, He has experience of Directorships across Voluntary Community and Commercial enterprises.



CLLR. MARY MCCAMLEY

Mary McCamley became a councillor for Fingal County Council in 2012 and has represented the area as a member of the labour party. Mary was mayor of Fingal during the years 2017/18 and has chaired the Area Committee Meeting on two separate occasions. Living in Mulhuddart since 2002, she originally lived in Finglas and retired from Connolly Hospital in 2012 having worked in the EHB and HSE all her working life. Mary is a grandmother and mother to two sons. She is a keen gardener when she has the time to potter and loves reading as a type of relaxation.



CLLR. JOAN HOPKINS

Joan lives and works in Baldoyle as a Community Development Manager of Baldoyle Forum, a registered charity. She has 20 years' experience working in Banking and Finance. Joan holds a Masters' Degree in Organisational Behaviour. Joan is a founding member and chairperson of Baldoyle Tidy Towns. Joan is passionate about biodiversity and making our communities more sustainable and liveable. Joan grew up working in her family's local business and wants to support businesses within the community.



JOHN QUINLIVAN

John Quinlivan is the Director of Services of Economic, Enterprise, Tourism & Cultural Development in Fingal County Council. John has over 30 years of experience in local government, working in 6 Local Authorities in rural, urban, and metropolitan areas and in that time he has been involved in every function of local government. His current role is to advance the economic, community and cultural development of Fingal.



OISÍN GEOGHEGAN

A Master of Business Studies graduate of University College Dublin, Oisín Geoghegan is the Head of Enterprise in Fingal County Council, since April 2014. Prior to this appointment he served 14 years as Chief Executive at Fingal County Enterprise Board. Oisín previously held managerial positions in Export Sales and Marketing for Irish and Scandinavian manufacturers of industrial equipment in the food processing sector operating in the UK and Ireland. He previously served as Chairperson of the Network of 31 Local Enterprise Offices and has many years' experience chairing various enterprise development strategy groups and national committees.



PAT O'CONNOR

Pat O'Connor is Head of School of Social Sciences, law, and Education in the Faculty of Arts and Humanities at Technological University Dublin. Pat holds a doctoral degree from the University of Manchester and has been involved in further and higher education for over 30 years. Pat's teaching interests extend across business, accountancy and humanities and he has extensive experience in programme design and review in higher education. His research interests include higher education, research methodology and community development. Pat's community contributions include Chair of the Board of Management of St Patrick's Junior National School, Corduff and coach at Hartstown Huntstown Football Club.



UNA CAFFREY

Una is the coordinator of Fingal Children and Young Peoples Services Committee (FCYPSC). Una's role is to support FCYPSC in its work to bring together a diverse group of agencies in Fingal to engage in joint planning and co-ordination of services for children and young people.

Una is a firm believer in working together to achieve better outcomes for children and young people and supports the participation of children and young people to inform the work of FCYPSC.

Una brings to FCYPSC a wealth of experience of working in the community and voluntary sector having worked for Focus Ireland, Barnardo's, Fingal County Childcare Committee to name a few. In her previous role Una coordinated the delivery of child protection training to early years professionals in Fingal. Una holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Dublin Institute of Technology and a post grad in child protection from Trinity College Dublin.



IAN LENNON

Ian Lennon was elected to the LCDC in 2020 as a representative of the Community Voluntary Interest pillar of the Fingal PPN. Ian is the current chairperson of Naul Community Council and has actively volunteered in the community since 2017, having a passion for participatory practice, rural development, community-led initiatives, heritage-led regeneration, research and placemaking.

Holding a BSc (Hons) in Architecture, Ian is a current postgraduate Master of Architecture Student TU Dublin, previously volunteering with the Architecture Association of Ireland, Irish Architecture Foundation. Having previously participated in EU & US cultural exchange programmes.

As a resident of Naul, working at The Seamus Ennis Arts Centre, a non-profit organisation, for the past 5 years, Ian is invested in creative community initiatives in Fingal.



AMAKA CHUKS

Amaka is an Employment Officer of the Irish Refugee Council. Amaka is passionate about people's empowerment in teams of guiding the non-so privileged to gain control over their lives.

She is interested in a process that encourages individuals to be aware of the power they possess to actualise their dreams. She has demonstrated this experience in supporting people across different spectra of life especially (migrant women) through her work with the Irish refugee council. She has displayed enthusiasm also through her work with Home- Start the UK's leading support for family and children and her work and advocacy with African Voice in Moston United Kingdom.

She is aware of the barriers that might keep people from being their best and actualise their potential. She has a BA in Social and Community Development and level 8 in Adult Guidance, Theory and Practice from Maynooth University.



LAURENCE WARD

Laurence is a dry stock farmer near Oldtown, North County Dublin. His passions are GAA football and farming. He is a member & chairperson of Fingal Local Community Development Committee. Laurence is also a member and chairperson of the Dublin Rural LEADER Local Action Group. Laurence has taken a new role as a member of the Farm Business Committee of the Irish Farmers Association.



SEAMUS QUIGLEY

Shay is the area manager for the Employment Services Division of the Department of Social Protection (DSP) in North Dublin. He has 20 years' experience in all aspects of DSP services and is a graduate of Dundalk IT, Institute of Public Administration and the National College of Ireland. He sits on various committees in North Dublin and has a strong interest in GAA and soccer.



ELLEN O'DEA

Ellen O'Dea is Head of Service for Health and Wellbeing in the HSE Community Health Organisation Dublin North City and County since November 2016. From 2002 she has worked in management roles within the HSE, previous roles include General Manager for Primary Care and Disability Services, Primary Care Manager & Occupational Therapy Manager. She has a particular interest in community participation in health and in supporting Healthy Communities. Ellen has a BSc (Hons) in Occupational Therapy, Diploma in Leadership and Quality in Healthcare and an MSc in Health Service Management.



RAGHU NATH

Raghu works for Ireland Telugu association which is a non-profit, voluntary organization devoted to promote integration through Arts, Sports and Culture into mainstream of Ireland and also intends to identify and address social, cultural and educational needs of Ireland's Indian Community.

Ireland Telugu association organize several key programs such as IT Boot Camps, Health in your Hand Programs & Youth empowerment within our community for the benefit of immigrant People. I am very instrumental and pivotal for delivery off this project very regularly.

I also collaborate closely with the community policing to ensure crime and security issues are responded to in a timely and effective manner. I have participated number of workshops held at local garda in partnership with Joint policing committee for well-being of community and in building positive partnerships, through initiatives such as Neighbourhood Watch, Community Alert.



GERALDINE ROONEY

Geraldine Rooney is a Development officer with the Blanchardstown Center for Independent Living who provide services that are underpinned by the philosophy of independent living. All activities are aimed toward promoting independence, choices, options, rights and empowerment for people with disabilities. Inclusion of people with disabilities is her passion and she has been involved with local community groups for the last thirty years, working in BCIL for the last nineteen years, Geraldine graduated from Maynooth University with a certificate in Disability Studies and is involved with the Dublin 15 Disability Peer Support Group which supports people with Disabilities to take part in their community and have their voices heard. The vision for Ireland is one where people with disabilities have freedom, choice and control over their lives and full participation in an inclusive society as equals. Her interests include travel, reading and soccer.



ADELINE O'BRIEN

Adeline O'Brien has worked in the not for profit and social enterprise sector for twenty years. Roles have ranged from Development Director (Cork Opera House) to Director of the Fundraising Institute of Ireland and CEO of an Education & Training facility for at risk young people and their families in Dublin 10. Adeline was a founding Director of the Cherry Orchard Regeneration Company, and a founding member of the Dublin 10 Restorative Practice steering group.

Adeline worked as consultant in the not-for-profit sector particularly in the areas of Governance, Strategy and Management, Work & Organisational Psychology / Behaviour. Adeline also provided support in terms of crisis management, operational quality audits and evaluations. Adeline was appointed CEO of Blanchardstown Area Partnership in January 2017 and is leading a change management process including renaming the service to Empower CLG.



EILISH HARRINGTON

Eilish Harrington is the CEO with Fingal LEADER Partnership since September 2018. In this role Eilish works with her team to deliver the LEADER programme across rural Dublin, Rural Social Scheme for Co. Dublin, Care & Repair Service in the North County, Ability and Tús Programmes in the Fingal area. She has a background in Community Development and brings experience and knowledge in this field to her role in FLP. Eilish graduated with a BA Honours Degree in Public and Social Policy from NUI Galway. After her studies she worked with Special Olympics Munster as a Development Officer and as Co Ordinator of Employ Ability Services West Cork.



ANTHONY COONEY

Anthony Cooney is CEO of Fingal Chamber of Commerce. Fingal Chamber is affiliated to Chambers Ireland and is representative of the business community covering the greater Fingal Region.

Anthony has more than 25 years' experience at director level working with Private Equity Operators of businesses in the B2B sectors of major companies operating in both the UK and Ireland specialising in the acquisition and management of "Recurring Income" organisations.



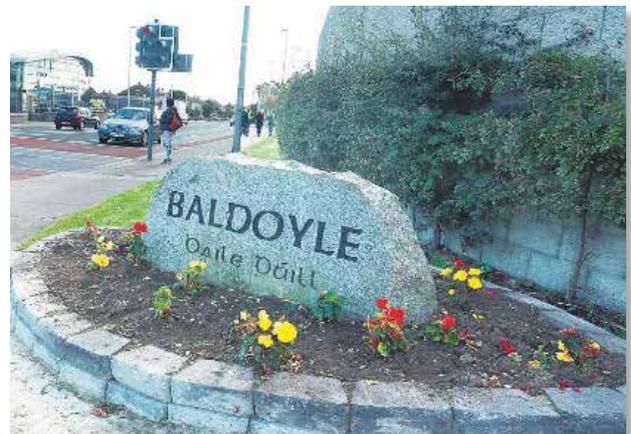
Resigned Members
of Fingal Local Community
Development Committee 2023



BRÍD WALSH
North Dublin Drugs & Alcohol
Task Force 2020-2023



FELIX GALLAGHER
Empower CLG 2022-2023



Fingal Public Participation Network



Fingal Public Participation Network

Fingal Public Participation Network (PPN) was established in 2014 and is an independent network of community, voluntary, social inclusion and environmental organisations, working to build a better county for the community of Fingal. The PPN is managed by voluntary Secretariat which reports to PPN members through the Plenary. The PPN works to empower the community to be represented in decision making processes that impact citizens through representation on Council committees, consultation processes, policy submissions and more. Most of this work is done through their Linkage Groups.

The PPN acts as an information hub, keeping the community informed of relevant local issues, news, events, resources and supports. We do this through a monthly e-newsletter, bi-annual activity report and the maintenance of our website and social media pages. Fingal PPN has more than 750 members and includes community-based groups, organisations, associations, clubs, societies and charities. Our members are based across Fingal in places such as Blanchardstown, Swords, Balbriggan, Lusk, Rush, Malahide, Howth and more. Membership is renewed every 2 years.

As a PPN, we provide space for community groups to grow and develop through our training supports. We work with local agencies such as Fingal County Council and Empower to deliver training and workshops on topics such as Governance, Grant Writing, Communications, and more. The PPN is funded and supported by Fingal County Council and the Department of Rural and Community Development. You can find out more about our funding and budgets below. The PPN Secretariat proposes the allocation of the PPN budget to the Plenary.



PPN Secretariat 2023, (L-R) Alice Davis, Yetunde Joyce, Ray Smyth, Hanumantha Rao Marepalli, Sakinah Debolah Abdul-Ibeye, Angela Rogers

CATEGORY MEMBERSHIP OF FINGAL LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC) 2022

NAME	CATEGORY	ORGANISATION
Cathal Boland	Local Authority Member Balbriggan/Swords/Rush/Lusk	Fingal County Council
Mary McCamley	Local Authority Member Blanchardstown/Mulhuddart	Fingal County Council
Joan Hopkins	Local Authority Member Howth/Malahide	Fingal County Council
John Quinlivan	Local Authority Official Chief Executive's Nominee	Fingal County Council
Oisín Geoghegan	Local Authority Official Local Enterprise Office	Fingal County Council
Pat O'Connor	State Agency Higher Education Institute	Technological University of Dublin
Seamus Quigley	State Agency Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection	Department of Social Protection
Una Caffrey	State Agency TUSLA	TUSLA Child and Family Agency
Ellen O'Dea	State Agency HSE	HSE Head of Service Health & Wellbeing
Amaku Chucks	Community Voluntary Interest The Bold Women Association	Fingal Public Participation Network
Ian Lennon	Community Voluntary Interest Naul Community Council	Fingal Public Participation Network
Raghu Nath	Social Inclusion Interest Ireland Telugu Association	Fingal Public Participation Network
Geraldine Rooney	Social Inclusion Interest Blanchardstown Centre for Independent Living	Fingal Public Participation Network
VACANT	Environmental Interest	Fingal Public Participation Network
VACANT	Community Interest	
Felix Gallagher	Local Development	Empower
Eilish Harrington	Local Development	Fingal LEADER Partnership
Laurence Ward	Farming and Agriculture	The Irish Farmers Association
Anthony Cooney	Business and Employers	Chambers Ireland

PUBLIC (STATUTORY)

PRIVATE (NON-STATUTORY)

LCDC FUNDING 2023

The Community Supports Fund under the Community Enhancement Programme 2023

The Community Support Fund under the Community Enhancement Programme 2022 was launched on 23rd November 2022 by the Minister for Rural & Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, and Minister of State, Joe O'Brien, to support Community & Voluntary groups. The Community Support Fund provides small grants to support groups particularly in disadvantaged areas.



The Community Support Fund was administered by the Fingal Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) under the remit of the Local Authority on behalf of the Department of Rural & Community Development. Fingal LCDC received funding of €341,875.00 this amount comprised of current funding (operating and running costs), capital funding, ring fenced women's shed (current) funding & administration fee allocation. See following breakdown.

- Current Funding (Non-Pay) €160,681.00 covering the period 1st April 2022 – 31st March 2023 for use towards running/operating costs such as utility bills (electricity costs, refuse charges, heating charges) or other non-pay operating costs for e.g., rental/lease costs, insurance bills.
- Capital Funding €160,681.00 for use towards carrying out necessary repairs and improvements to facilities, energy efficiency type projects, purchase of equipment
- Women's Shed ring-fenced funding €3,419.00

Community & Voluntary Groups in the Fingal area were invited to apply for Community Support Funding.

270 groups/organisations submitted applications totalling €888,166.57. All applications were evaluated (viewed & discussed) by the LCDC Evaluation Committee and 174 groups were recommended for Community Support Funding.

Minister of State with responsibility for Community Development and Charities, Joe O'Brien TD, held an event for representatives of successful organisations to announce the 2022 grants allocations in Fingal under the Community Recognition Fund on Friday, May 19, in Donabate Community Centre.



HEALTHY FINGAL



Healthy Ireland is a national government-led strategy aimed at improving the health and wellbeing of everyone living in Ireland. The Healthy Ireland Fund (HIF), funded under the Healthy Ireland national strategy, supports Local Authorities to deliver activities which will improve health and wellbeing locally. Pobal provides funding for HIF Round 4 to each Local Authority and under HIF Round 4, the Local Authority is the contract holder and is accountable for the implementation, oversight and management of the funds awarded, with the Healthy County Coordinator (HCC) and

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) leading out on the planning and implementation. Previous rounds of HIF were primarily activity-led.

In contrast, an outcome-led approach has been introduced to Round 4 to:

- enable the implementation of more targeted and evidence-based activities
- provide a more structured approach to the collection and reporting of relevant data and information which can be used for greater oversight and improved programme evaluation
- provide a clearer understanding of how the work of the funded organisations contributes to HIF programme objectives.

Niall McGuirk was appointed as the new Healthy Fingal Coordinator in December 2022 and was tasked with the development of a workplan for 2023 and a focus on reducing age-standardized heavy episodic drinking and promoting smoking/vaping cessation for Fingal. The Healthy Fingal budget for 2023 was €55,622.42 with a spend of €34,537.90 which seen deferred funding of €21,084.52 to 2024.



The Healthy Fingal sub-committee is made up of 18 reps from Fingal County Council departments, HSE, Drugs Task Force, Fingal Leader Partnership, Empower, Dublin and Dun Laoghaire Education and Training Board (DDLETB), and Children and Young People’s Services Committee (CYPSC). There were 6 meetings held in 2023 with an average attendance of 9 people, which provided an opportunity to network, collaborate and to contribute to a healthier Fingal.

Throughout 2023 Healthy Fingal through Empower attended 7 mass participation community/sports events to promote the We Can Quit programme. This approach has seen information given to 265 individuals on the available quit smoking services. Consequently, only 2 individuals signed up for the programme, and although both individuals who

signed up completed and quit smoking, which shows the value and ability of the programme to encourage people to quit, on review it was felt the approach should be more targeted through group contact going forward. Healthy Fingal linked with the HSE Mental health Services to set up a Woodlands for Health programme servicing Balbriggan & Swords, which seen walks developed to assist people in their recovery and signposted to Quit Smoking and alcohol services. Healthy Fingal has worked closely with the Drugs Task Force in North Dublin and Dublin 15 to develop a relationship and devise opportunities to collaborate, and plans are in place to look at developing links with sports clubs as a means of providing information to the community on available services and support and to provide a point of contact in the community for the Drug Task Forces. We are also working on developing a resource to support sports volunteers, teachers and parents to support reduced drug and alcohol use among young people.

Healthy Fingal acquired the services of MediaSocial in June 2023 to assist in the communications of the Healthy Fingal message, develop engagement and improve brand awareness across multiple social media platforms. This has seen the Healthy Fingal Facebook account grow in terms of consistent organic reach and impressions. Engagement levels here are increasing, which is a solid indicator that the content is reaching the right people and is something of interest to them with follower growth slow, but steady. Instagram and Twitter accounts have seen an increase in both tags, mentions, engagement and overall reach and we should have better data in 2024 and access to more key specifics on these accounts. Overall, the accounts are steadily increasing, and we have seen an overall reach of 71,127 across the 321 social media posts made in 2023.



COMMUNITY RECOGNITION FUND



The Community Recognition Fund is administered by the Department of Rural and Community Development. It aims to support the development of community infrastructure and facilities for the entire community in recognition of the contribution being made by communities across the country in welcoming and hosting significant numbers of arrivals from Ukraine and other countries. The funding is specifically targeted at projects that are located in cities, towns and villages that are hosting

the Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection and/or International Protection Applicants including towns identified for the rapid build homes programme. Fingal County Council received €1,748,912 divided across 26 projects being delivered by 6 FCC Departments. There was an initial drawdown of €178,230.64 in December 2023 with all projects to be completed, remaining funds to be spent and drawdown applications submitted to the Department by November 1st 2024.



An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail
Department of Rural and
Community Development

Ár dTodhchaí
Tuaithe
Our Rural
Future





SECTION 2

Fingal Local Economic & Community Plan 2023-2028

SECTION 2

Fingal Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2023-2028



The purpose of the Fingal Local Economic and Community Plan (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 development stakeholders.

The existing LECP 2016-2022 has come to an end and Guidelines for preparing new LECPs was published by the Department of Rural and Community Development. The new Fingal LECP is a 'Whole-of-Council Plan' and involved extensive consultation and engagement with internal and external stakeholders.

A presentation on the guidelines with detailed discussion on next steps was held at the December 2022 meeting of the Economic and Enterprise Development Strategic Policy Committee, following a similar presentation to the LCDC in October 2022.

A Contract Notice was published on e-Tenders on 24th February 2023 using the Open Procedure (non-OJEU) in respect of the Provision of Project Management Consultancy Services for the Fingal Local Economic & Community Plan.

The contract was awarded to Grant Thornton Corporate Finance Ltd, in respect of requirement to purchase/ for provision of Project Management Consultancy Services for the Fingal Local Economic & Community Plan facilitating the consultation process and drafting the LECP and initial 2-year Implementation Plan and a kick-off meeting with Grant Thornton was held in May 2023.



Consultants Grant Thornton commenced work on the preparation of the socio-economic profile of the county for the new LECP, reviewing the last LECP, drafting high-level objectives, facilitating the consultation process and initial 2- year Implementation Plan. Initial consultation on the new Fingal LECP and engagement with internal and external stakeholders took place in June 2023 and the following Sub-Committees were established to collate input to the LECP:

- Economic Sub-Committee
- Community Sub-Committee
- Sustainability/Environment Sub-Committee

**PUBLIC CONSULTATION
EVENTS TOOK PLACE:**

- 27th June
Bracken Court Hotel,
Balbriggan 7pm - 9pm
- 28th June
Crowne Plaza Hotel,
Blanchardstown 7pm - 9pm
- 29th June
Carlton Hotel, Dublin Airport
7pm – 9pm



Information on the new LECP was also published on the Council’s consultation portal in July and was open for submissions. The Council also held a webinar on the new LECP on 22nd July 2023.



A series of stakeholder sessions on the (LECP) 2023-2028 were held during September 2023 for the Council’s Elected Members and a presentation on the LECP delivered to the Economic, Enterprise, Tourism & Cultural Development Strategic Policy Committee.

A series of stakeholder consultation sessions on the LECP 2023-2028 were held during November on the draft LECP which was also submitted to the Eastern Midlands Regional Assembly (EMRA) for their input.

The Draft LECP was brought to the January 2024 Council meeting to be adopted by the Council on foot of the recommendations and approval from the Eastern Midlands Regional Assembly (EMRA).



SECTION 3

Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme 2018-2023



Social Inclusion &
Community Activation
Programme

SECTION 3

Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme 2018-2023

The Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme (SICAP) is a key intervention for harder to reach groups and individuals.

SICAP aims to address poverty, long-term unemployment and social exclusion through local engagement and partnership between disadvantaged individuals, community organisations and public agencies. Delivery of SICAP is overseen and managed by Fingal LCDC. Empower CLG, is the Programme Implementer for SICAP 2018-2023.

The budget for 2023 was €1,383,217 for which a contribution comes from the European Social Fund (ESF) Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning (PEIL). The programme implementer achieved its two Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) for 2023 (see table 1 below) and ensured that the programme and services were delivered within the financial parameters approved by the LCDC.

The Horizontal Themes of SICAP are Equality, Community Development and Collaboration. These themes are fundamental to Fingal LCDC and Empowers' values and are evident through the strategies, reviews, programme planning and daily delivery.

2023 – 2 Key Performance Indicators (KPI's)				
Goal		Target	Actual	%
Goal 1	LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUPS	45	45	100%
Goal 2	INDIVIDUALS	685	693	102%

Table 1

GOAL 1: Local Community Groups

Community Groups are supported under Goal 1 of SICAP. Empower work closely with both issue-based community groups and target-group representative community groups and have built significant social capital through intense work over time. This includes developing social capital, directly supporting SICAP target groups to address barriers they have identified and respond to their needs. Through this engagement they have identified the following needs: Access to affordable early-years services; access to affordable and accessible meeting spaces; supports for children and families; poverty and the impact of cost-of-living crisis; racism and discrimination; access to primary health services; lack of youth services; support for people living in Direct Provision.



Fingal LCDC Statement of Priorities, under the Mid-Programme Review, identified the following priority areas: New Communities particularly Asylum Seekers living in Direct Provision, Travellers/Roma, and Early-Years Provision. Table 2 below, displays the breakdown of these target groups who were supported by Fingal SICAP, versus the national average.



Children and families from SICAP target groups were supported through collaboration with representative groups and agencies such as the HSE, TUSLA and Fingal CYPSC to ensure coordinated response to identified need. The Roma Women’s Group, Traveller Women’s Groups, Mulhuddart Parent & Child Group and Tyrrelstown Stay and Play Group have all been provided with a broad range of supports including rights-based information and advocacy clinics, Healthy Food Made Easy, Walk & Talk and personal development supports.



GOAL 2: Individuals

Individuals are supported primarily under Goal 2 of SICAP. Empower use a Social Role Valorisation approach to support individuals most in need on a one-to-one basis. This person-centred approach allows individuals to explore their options and choose the most appropriate course of action for them and their families.

The cost-of-living crisis is being experienced by many but exponentially so with SICAP target groups. Individuals have been supported to address food and fuel poverty. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) showed that prices for consumer goods and services was over 7% higher in April 2023 than the previous year. The Balbriggan Food Bank was established by Empower in December 2022. The food bank improves the health outcomes for those living in poverty. 420 adults and 491 children have been supported in 2023. The foodbank is also used to signpost and introduce people to other services within the hub.



SICAP supported 605 individuals experiencing health inequalities through Social Prescribing, Healthy Food Made Easy, We Can Quit and Wellness Recovery Action Planning (WRAP).

Empower has collaborated with the HSE to establish a Roma specific GP and public-health nurse service in Balbriggan.

English language classes were provided to IPA’s, Refugees and New Communities who make up 60% of caseload in 2023. Industry specific training and job-seeking skills were provided to 211 people.

INDIVIDUAL CASELOAD BY TARGET GROUP 2023

TARGET GROUP	FINGAL LCDC LOT CASELOAD KP1 2		NATIONAL CASELOAD
	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE	PERCENTAGE
Disadvantaged Young People – aged 15-24	138	20%	0%
Lone Parent	83	12%	14%
Low Income Workers/Households	14	2%	16%
New Communities	412	59%	25%
People Living in Disadvantaged	121	17%	26%
People Living with Disabilities	33	5%	9%
Roma	113	16%	1%
The Disengaged from the Labour Market (Economically Inactive)	172	25%	22%
The Unemployment	488	70%	62%
Travellers	21	3%	3%

Table 2: List of all SICAP target groups: Disadvantaged Young People, Disadvantaged Women, Emerging Needs Group, Lone Parents, Low Income Workers/Households, New Communities, People living in Disadvantaged Communities, People with Disabilities, Roma, Travellers, The Disengaged from the Labour Market, The Unemployed.



SICAP Supports Provided to the Ukrainian Arrivals & International Protection Applicants



Fingal SICAP was allocated additional resources to assist with the Ukrainian Refugee Crisis response in the amount of €304,369 and additional funds of €65,000 towards the end of 2023.

The needs and supports of Ukrainian refugees and International Protection Applicants (IPA's) are complex and varied. Both Ukrainian refugees and IPA's on average experience more barriers than other target groups as evidenced in Table 3. Additional barriers facing them include racism, difficulties in recognising qualifications, accessing suitable accommodation, legal advice, mental health, and language barriers. The SICAP Personal Action Plan helps to identify their needs and put in place appropriate supports. For many, employment and financial independence is the primary need.

% OF INDIVIDUALS WITH SOCIAL INCLUSION BARRIERS	TOTAL CASELOAD	UKRAINIAN REFUGEE'S	IPA'S
1-2 barriers	60%	55%	20%
3-4 barriers	36%	43%	70%
5-6 barriers	3%	2%	10%

Table 3

Mental illness and wellbeing issues are also more prevalent for these groups. Empower organise social activities such as trips to cultural and recreational sites. This promotes integration and positive wellbeing.

The SICAP team collaborate with Fingal County Council, HSE Social Inclusion section and multiple agencies and community groups to ensure a coordinated response and maximise resources in response to identified needs. Frontline SICAP team members have completed the Immigrant Council of Ireland Anti-Trafficking Training and INAR's Anti-Racism and iReport training.



SICAP 2023

Key Achievements



45

LCGs assisted by SICAP (KPI 1)



8 Social Enterprises received supports

15 LDC Collaborations received supports

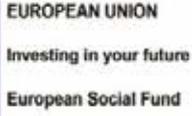
694

Individuals assisted by SICAP (KPI 2)



159 people completed a lifelong learning course

39 people got jobs & **65** received in-work supports
62 people set up their own business





SECTION 4

Dublin Rural LEADER

2023-2027



The European Agricultural Fund
for Rural Development:
Europe investing in rural areas



Dublin Rural
LEADER
Growth, Sustainability & Inclusion

SECTION 4

The Dublin Rural Leader Local Action Group

The Dublin Rural Local Action Group (LAG) was established to deliver the LEADER element of the Rural Development Programme (RDP) for the period 2014–2022 in the Dublin Rural Region. The LEADER Programme aims to improve the quality of life in rural areas and to encourage diversification of economic activity in rural areas.

2023 was a positive, productive, and busy year for Dublin Rural LEADER. The funding continued to support community groups and enterprises across Rural Dublin, with 80% of the projects successfully completed by end of 2023. The LAG commenced the application for the new 2023-2027 LEADER Programme. This resulted in numerous workshops and stakeholder events to ensure the Local Development Strategy for Rural Dublin reflects the growing needs and issues facing the communities and citizens. The year ended on a high with news that Dublin Rural LEADER had been successful in the application process and would be delivering the new programme commencing in early 2024!

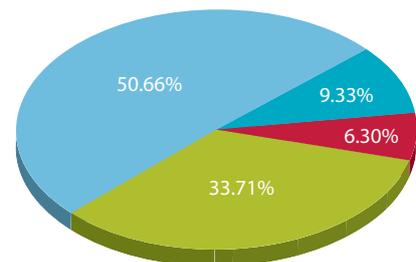
A high-level breakdown of the LEADER 2014-2022 Programme:

- Total number of projects approved under the Programme was 127 and the value of **€6.87million**.
- **Theme 1:** Economic, Enterprise & Job Creation - 55 Projects, value: **€2.31million**
- **Theme 2:** Social Inclusion - 51 Projects, value: **€3.5million**
- **Theme 3:** Rural Environment - 10 Projects, Value: **€641K**
- **Euri:** - 11 Projects, Value: **€432,860**
- **Subthemes:**

- Enterprise Development - **€1,085,374** - 17 Projects
- Rural Towns - **€535,085** - 25 projects
- Rural Tourism - **€695,641** - 13 Projects
- Hard to Reach Communities - **€2,993,662** - 44 projects
- Rural Youth - **€487,263** - 7 Projects
- Biodiversity - **€38,305** - 3 Projects
- Renewable Energy - **€362,518** - 3 Projects
- Water Resources - **€240,482** - 4 Projects

- Claims paid out to date - **€5,440,000** - 80%

Actual spent



- Economic, Enterprise & Job Creation
- Social Inclusion
- Rural Environment
- EURI Budget

PROJECT EXAMPLES

Promoter Name:	Rush Dramatic Society CLG
Project Name:	Theatre Surround Sound and Film Projector for Rush Dramatic Society
Theme:	Economic Development, Enterprise Development & Job Creation
Area:	Fingal
LEADER Funding:	€12,910.80

Project Description

Rush Dramatic Society has been in existence for 95 years. The venue was built in 1988 with a €1.2m upgrade in 2004. In 2027 Millbank Theatre will celebrate 100 years in the community. Millbank Theatre runs a varied schedule of programming at the theatre with limited staffing and funding resources that include: Theatre Productions (Amateur and Professional), Musical Productions and GIGS, Art House Cinema, Drama Classes from 8 to 18, Seminar and Conference facilities (Currently used by An GARDA College facilities Templemore), A new Filming Project and Acting for Camera Classes as well as theatre hire for Charities, (Prosper Fingal), local groups and clubs fundraising nights (e.g. FOROIGE).

Their sound and projection equipment were old, obsolete, and cumbersome. It was acquired from a philanthropic donation 7 years ago. While satisfactory it couldn't keep up with changing technologies. The project involved the purchase of new cinema equipment, including cinema surround-sound speakers and a projector.

With this Cinema Project, the Promoter grew the Art House cinema aspect to the existing services and screened movies on a more regular basis. The new equipment greatly enhanced the audience experience, allowing to screen 4kHD and higher resolution formats, and to stream movies other than DVD showings.



The Promoter extended their offering amongst a wide range of diverse ethnic audiences reaching out to many language groups, Irish film creators, teenagers, and Children. The Organisation learned since the lockdown of the Pandemic that people enjoyed coming back to a safe controlled environment in which to watch quality independent films.



PROJECT EXAMPLES

Promoter Name:	Lusk Action Group
Project Name:	Lusk Summer Festival
Theme:	Economic Development, Enterprise Development, and Job Creation
Area:	Lusk, Fingal
LEADER Funding:	€11,031.39

Project Description

Lusk has rapidly expanded in the last 15 years and all of infrastructure, amenities and facilities are struggling to catch up. This has resulted in a fractured community, especially so in the aftermath of Covid. In the 2021 "Lusk Vision 2030" survey, funded by LEADER, it was found that 50% of people in Lusk felt that they had no connection to it.

The main goal of this event was to provide the people of Lusk with an opportunity to return to something normal and fun following the last two years of Covid.

It gave people the opportunity to meet socially in an outdoor environment where the focus was on the presentation of local business, food, entertainment & groups.



Activities included:

- children's section with a hay bale maze, giant games, teddy bears picnic, face painting
- carnival games
- food area with food vans that will include picnic benches & waste bins
- local food produce vans
- local small business stalls
- multicultural area (including Lusk non-Irish-born population presenting aspects of their culture, dance, and music, etc)
- music and entertainment segment with local musicians, bands, groups, choirs, dance schools etc.
- Tango dancing and instruction
- Different sporting groups and community groups in competition in Tug-of-war.
- Showcase of vintage cars and tractors



Promoter Name:	Fingal LEADER Partnership CLG
Project Name:	EURI - Community Based Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Training for Rural Dublin
Theme:	Rural Environment
Area:	Fingal/ South Dublin /Dun Laoghaire
LEADER Funding:	€39,848.54

Project Description

Climate change is challenging our society both nationally and locally in County Dublin. It is necessary to mitigate against and adapt to the impacts of climate change, as well as to capitalise on any opportunities which may emerge. The challenges of climate change should not be underestimated and will require communities to be supported to transition our society to a low-carbon, climate resilient one. A ground-up, community-led approach will be needed to achieve this transition. Taking proactive action to adjust and prepare for anticipated changes will reduce losses, improve our environment, and provide a host of community benefits. Global momentum is building for national and local governments to take ambitious action that builds resilience to climate change within their organisations and functional areas via adaptation and mitigation measures. Developing a robust approach to adaptation is the first step on this journey.



The role of individuals and local communities is vitally important to identifying risks, challenges and opportunities that need to be considered in communities and to take coherent coordinated action. Many local community groups are becoming more active in Climate Action projects and are becoming increasingly aware that they need to act. Some individuals and Community Groups are already working on projects but may need support to drive them forward or to connect them to other local or regional projects.

Dublin Rural LEADER LOCAL ACTION GROUP (LAG) Members 2023

SECTOR	AGENCY	NAME
Statutory	Local Authority Member, Fingal LCDC	Cllr. Cathal Boland
	Local Authority Official, Fingal LCDC	John Quinlivan
	Local Authority Official, Fingal LCDC	Oisin Geoghegan
	Higher Education Authority Fingal LCDC	Dr. Pat O'Connor
	Local Authority Official, South Dublin LCDC	Colm Ward
	Local Authority Member, South Dublin LCDC	Cllr. David McManus
Non stat	Local Authority Member, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown LCDC	Cllr. Lettie McCarthy
	Farming and Agriculture, Fingal LCDC	Laurence Ward (<i>Chairperson</i>)
	Community & Voluntary Interest, South Dublin LCDC	Tricia Nolan
	Environmental Interest, South Dublin LCDC	Justin Byrne
	Community & Voluntary Interest, South Dublin LCDC	Prof. Mary Corcoran
	Local Development, Fingal LCDC	Felix Gallagher
	Local Development (Implement Partner), Fingal Leader Partnership	Eilish Harrington
	Dun Laoghaire Rathdown – LCDC	Sharon Commins
	Social Inclusion Interest, Fingal LCDC	Geraldine Rooney

PUBLIC (STATUTORY)

PRIVATE (NON-STATUTORY)



**Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gall**
Fingal County
Council



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