**FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL STRATEGIC POLICY** **COMMITTEES ANNUAL POLICY PROGRAMME 2025**

fingal.ie

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**Introduction**

Fingal County Council’s Annual Policy Programme 2025 is formulated and agreed by the Corporate Policy Group of the County Council in the context of the overarching vision of Fingal “connecting people through inclusive communities and vibrant and sustainable places”.

The Council’s Corporate Plan sets out the Delivery for All -Mission, Values, Themes, Goals and Objectives over the five-year term of office of the Council. The Annual Policy Programme is guided by those goals and objectives and sets out the policy matters to be considered by the Strategic Policy Committees during the year. Once considered, any resulting recommendations from the SPCs will be considered by the Corporate Policy Group and ultimately the full Council for consideration and adoption as Policy Statements and Objectives.

The table below sets outs of the **Hierarchy of Plans and Objectives** in the policy development structure-

Mission Statement

Corporate Plan

Strategic Priorities

Strategic Objectives

Multi / Annual Policy

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Policy Statements & Objectives

The themes and goals, as set out in the Corporate Plan, are listed below and provide the framework within which policies will be considered and developed by the Elected Members through the policy development framework of the Council –



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| **THEMES** | **GOALS** |
| Delivering Strategic Infrastructure | Deliver, promote and support housing and strategic infrastructure that will secure Fingal’s future. |
| Enabling Economic Growth | Enable a dynamic and outward- focused sustainable economy that will position Fingal to leverage growth opportunities. |
| Connecting with our Communities | Create and foster safe, well-designed places and neighbourhoods where empowered, resilient and inclusive communities can thrive. |
| Embracing Technology and Innovation | Leverage the benefits of a digitally enabled society. |
| Driving Climate Action | Lead the transition to a biodiverse and decarbonised society. |
| Providing a High-Quality Service | Provide a framework for quality service delivery that combines skill, flexibility, and motivation, while supporting staff wellbeing and resilience. |

Appendix 1 sets out the full list of Themes, Goals and Objectives contained in the Corporate Plan 2025 – 2029.

**Policy Development & Governance Structure**

County Council

Mayor & Elected Members

Corporate Policy Group

Mayor & Chairs of SPCs

Strategic Policy Committees

Council Members & External Representatives

The policy development framework, consisting of the full County Council, Corporate Policy Group and Strategic Policy Committees, provides a governance structure to develop and monitor the effectiveness of policy development within the Local Authority.

The **Corporate Policy Group**, made up of the Chairs of the SPCs, fulfils a strategic role linking and monitoring the work of the different SPCs and providing a forum where policy positions affecting the whole council can be agreed for submission to the full council. The role for the Corporate Policy Group is as follows:

* The preparation of the Annual Budget
* The preparation of the five-year Corporate Plan and associated oversight
* Preparation, co-ordination and monitoring of SPC Work Programmes
* Consideration/monitoring of matters of general strategic concern to the Council or matters relating to the support of Council Members.

**Strategic Policy Committees** enable Elected Members to fulfil their role as policy-makers by providing a focus for their input into policy formation, opportunities for partnership with local interests and strengthening their role as leaders of their authority and the local community.

The SPCs consider matters connected with the formulation, development, monitoring and review of policy which relate to the functions of the Local Authority and to advise the authority on those matters. In performing this role, the SPC is provided direction by the Work Programme agreed by the CPG and will, through the Chair, report on same to the CPG and the County Council.

These Work Programmes are prepared in the context of the Corporate Plan and the Annual Service Delivery Plan and take into account the budgetary objectives as set out in the Annual Budget.

SPCs meet at least quarterly, or as frequently as is considered necessary by the SPC Members, in order to deliver the Annual Work Programme.

**Policy Programme Operational Framework**

Interaction between the full Council, the CPG and the SPC will operate as follows:

1. The Corporate Policy Group, supported by the Chief Executive, will agree Annual Policy Programmes for all relevant SPCs. Submissions will be sought from Council Members, SPC Members and the Council Executive. The CPG will consider submissions, agree matters for inclusion and determine the order of priority in which SPCs are to explore issues.
2. SPC Agenda formulation will be a matter for the SPC Chair and the relevant Director of Service and may include any matter relevant to the business of the SPC. Policy recommendations may only be made on matters included on the agreed Annual Policy Programme.
3. Any matters that arise that are considered to warrant inclusion on the Annual Policy Programme may be submitted for agreement to the CPG. Re-ordering of priority or addition to the Annual Policy Programmes will be a matter for the CPG.
4. Once agreed at SPC level, the Chair of the SPC, supported by the relevant Director of Service, will present policy recommendations to the CPG for initial determination. The CPG may allow a recommendation to go forward to the County Council with or without amendment or may refer it back to the SPC for further investigation.
5. Following approval by the CPG, the Chair of the SPC, supported by the relevant Director of Service, will present SPC Policy recommendations to the County Council which may be adopted, with or without modification or rejected.
6. Where an SPC Policy recommendation, once approved, gives rise to financial implications it can only become operational once an appropriate supporting budget is in place.
7. The Chair of the SPCs, supported by the Director of Service, will provide progress reports to both the CPG and the County Council on Annual Policy Programme.

**Strategic Policy Committee Membership**

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|  | **COMMUNITY, CULTURE & SPORTS SPC** | **Electoral Area** | **Party** |
| **Chairperson** | **Eoghan Dockrell** | **Balb/Swords/Rush-Lusk** | **Fine Gael** |
| Councillor | Mary McCamley | Blanch-Mul/C'knock/Ongar | Labour |
| Councillor | John Walsh | Blanch-Mul/C'knock/Ongar | Labour |
| Councillor | Angela Donnelly | Blanch-Mul/C'knock/Ongar | Sinn Féin |
| Councillor | Tom Kitt | Blanch-Mul/C'knock/Ongar | Fianna Fáil |
| Councillor | James Humphreys | Balb/Swords/Rush-Lusk | Labour |
| Social Inclusion | Brenda Vanderzee |  |  |
| PPN | Abi Wise |  |  |
| Env | VACANT |  |  |

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|  | **CLIMATE ACTION, BIODIVERSITY, ENVIRONMENT SPC** | **Electoral Area** | **Party** |
| **Chairperson** | **Joe Newman** | **Balb/Swords/Rush-Lusk** | **Non Party** |
| Councillor | JK Onwumereh | Blanch-Mul/C'knock/Ongar | Fianna Fáil |
| Councillor | Siobhan Shovlin | Blanch-Mul/C'knock/Ongar | Fine Gael |
| Councillor | Helen Redwood | Blanch-Mul/C'knock/Ongar | Solidarity |
| Councillor | Brian McDonagh | Howth/Malahide | Labour |
| Councillor | David Healy | Howth/Malahide | Green Party |
| Env | Tara Byrne |  |  |
| IFA | Paul Flynn |  |  |
| PPN | Sarah Zimmerman |  |  |

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|  | **ECONOMIC ENTERPRISE & TOURISM DEVELOPMENT SPC** | **Electoral Area** | **Party** |
| **Chairperson** | **Kieran Dennison** | **Blanch-Mul/C'knock/Ongar** | **Fine Gael** |
| Councillor | Tony Murphy | Balb/Swords/Rush-Lusk | Non Party |
| Councillor | Tom O'Leary | Balb/Swords/Rush-Lusk | Fine Gael |
| Councillor | James Humphreys | Balb/Swords/Rush-Lusk | Labour |
| Councillor | Siobhan Shovlin | Blanch-Mul/C'knock/Ongar | Fine Gael |
| Councillor | Ellen Troy | Blanch-Mul/C'knock/Ongar | Aontú |
| Councillor | Jimmy Guerin | Howth/Malahide | Non Party |
| Chambers | Anthony Cooney |  |  |
| ICTU | Eric Fleming |  |  |
| PPN | Peader O'Kelly |  |  |

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|  | **HOUSING SPC** | **Electoral Area** | **Party** |
| **Chairperson** | **Brendan Ryan** | **Balb/Swords/Rush-Lusk** | **Labour** |
| Councillor | Mark Boland | Balb/Swords/Rush-Lusk | Labour |
| Councillor | Gerard Sheehan | Blanch-Mul/C'knock/Ongar | Aontú |
| Councillor | Breda Hanaphy | Blanch-Mul/C'knock/Ongar | Sinn Féin |
| Councillor | Ted Leddy | Blanch-Mul/C'knock/Ongar | Fine Gael |
| Councillor | John Burtchaell | Blanch-Mul/C'knock/Ongar | Solidarity |
| Councillor | Aoibhinn Tormey | Howth/Malahide | Fine Gael |
| Councillor | Cathal Haughey | Howth/Malahide | Fianna Fáil |
| Chambers | David Branagan |  |  |
| ICTU | Jimmy Doran |  |  |
| Social Inclusion | Vacant |  |  |
| PPN | Jo Fulham |  |  |

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|  | **PLANNING STRATEGIC TRANSPORT & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT SPC** | **Electoral Area** | **Party** |
| **Chairperson** | **Eoghan O'Brien** | **Howth/Malaide** | **Fianna Fáil** |
| Councillor | Cathal Boland | Balb/Swords/Rush-Lusk | Non-Party |
| Councillor | John Smyth | Balb/Swords/Rush-Lusk | Sinn Féin |
| Councillor | Luke Corkery | Balb/Swords/Rush-Lusk | Fine Gael |
| Councillor | Tania Doyle | Blanch-Mul/C'knock/Ongar | Non-Party |
| Councillor | Eimear Carbone-Mangan | Blanch-Mul/C'knock/Ongar | Fianna Fáil |
| Env | Kevin Tolan |  |  |
| Chambers | Anthony Cooney |  |  |
| PPN | Paul Arnold |  |  |

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|  | **PUBLIC REALM, TRANSPORTATION/MOBILITY MANAGEMENT SPC** | **Electoral Area** | **Party** |
| **Chairperson** | **Darragh Butler** | **Balb/Swords/Rush-Lusk** | **Fianna Fáil** |
| Councillor | Darren Jack Kelly | Balb/Swords/Rush-Lusk | Non-Party |
| Councillor | Malachy Quinn | Balb/Swords/Rush-Lusk | Sinn Féin |
| Councillor | Corina Johnston | Balb/Swords/Rush-Lusk | Labour |
| Councillor | Joan Hopkins | Howth/Mala | Social Democrats |
| Councillor | Patrick Quinlan | Blanch-Mul/C'knock/Ongar | National Party |
| Env | Michael Lenehan |  |  |
| Chambers | Siobhan O'Donnell |  |  |
| PPN | John Fox |  |  |

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|  | **MARINE & COASTAL MANAGEMENT SPC** | **Electoral Area** | **Party** |
| **Chairperson** | **Angela Donnelly** | **Blanch-Mul/C'knock/Ongar** | **Sinn Féin** |
| Councillor | Paul Mulville | Balb/Swords/Rush-Lusk | Social Democrats |
| Councillor | Corina Johnston | Balb/Swords/Rush-Lusk | Labour |
| Councillor | Cathal Boland | Balb/Swords/Rush-Lusk | Non-Party |
| Councillor | Grainne Maguire | Balb/Swords/Rush-Lusk | Non-Party |
| Councillor | Dean Mulligan | Balb/Swords/Rush-Lusk | Ind 4 Change |
| ICTU | Alison Regan |  |  |
| ENV | Charles Sargent |  |  |
| PPN | Máire O’Brien |  |  |

**Fingal County Council Policy Programme 2025**

The following sets out the Policy Programmes to be considered by the Strategic Policy Committees during 2025.

**Climate Action, Biodiversity, Environment**

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| **Theme/Policy Issue** |
| RMCEI plan (Environmental Inspection Plan) Focus on Local Authority Environmental Enforcement |
| Climate Action Plan Implementation Plan |
| Water Framework Directive River Basin Management Plan implementation in Fingal |
| Biodiversity Implementation Plan |
| Litter Management Plan |
| National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy |
| District Heating |
| Bathing Water Updates |

**Community, Sports & Culture**

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| **Theme/Policy Issue** |
| Community Development and Inclusion |
| Strengthen communities through participation, connectivity, inclusion and  building capacity of community leaders |
| Social Inclusion = Active Inclusion |
| Gender Equality |
| Oversight of Community elements of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) |
| Update on progress of the community aspects of the LECP |
| Fingal Libraries Development Plan 2024 – 2029 |
| Creative Ireland Programme |
| Arts Plan 2019 – 2025 |
| Enhance and Protect the Heritage of the County |
| Promotion of Irish Language |
| Sports Activities |
| Public Participation and Resident Engagement |
| Focus on capabilities rather than disabilities |
| Active Citizenship |
| Local artist fair |
| Strategy to increase women’s participation in sport |
| Community not for Profit Childcare |

**Economic Enterprise and Tourism Development**

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| **Theme/Policy Issue** |
| Tourism Strategy |
| Food Policy |
| Local Economic & Community Plan |
| Economic Development Strategy |
| Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor |
| Local Development Strategy |
| Development of Economic Zones |
| Industrial Estate Improvement Programme |
| Enterprise Development & Support |
| Fingal Skills Strategy |
| Events Strategy |
| Sustainable Fingal/Circular Cities Strategy |
| Review of Heritage Property/Visitor Attraction Strategy |
| Fingal Economic & Tourism Development Marketing Strategy |
| Local Enterprise Plan |
| Review / Development of Town Centre First |
| Regeneration Plans for Towns & Villages |

**Housing**

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| **Theme/Policy Issue** |
| Social & Affordable Housing delivery and supports |
| Traveller Accommodation Programme |
| Allocations Scheme for Social Housing Support |
| Housing Architecture & Design |
| Refurbishment & Retrofit Programme |
| Estate Management/Anti-social Behaviour Strategy |
| Homeless Strategy/Action Plan |

**Planning Strategic Transport & Infrastructure Development**

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| **Theme/Policy issue** |
| Major Studies/LAPs |
| Residential Land Zoned Tax |
| Major Capital Project Delivery |
| Development Contribution Waiver Scheme Update |
| Taking in charge |
| Sustainable urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) Including Dom SuDS |
| Fingal Greenways/Cycleways |
| Guildlines for Biodiversity in Development |
| Building Control |
| Update on Biodiversity Action Plan |
| Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy (NTA) |
| Building Control - Part B Fire Safety |
| Enforcement Update |

**Public Realm, Transportation/Mobility Management**

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| **Theme/Policy issue** |
| Review of Pay Parking Bye-Laws |
| Review of Beach and Foreshore Bye-Laws |
| Review of Special Speed Limits |
| Road Safety Policy |
| Active Travel Strategy |
| Review of Casual Trading Bye-Laws |

**Marine and Coastal Management**

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| **Theme/Policy issue** |
| Biodiversity Plan (Coastal Aspect) |
| Coastal Erosion |
| Climate Action Plan |
| Coastal Water Sports Facilities Audit |
| Balleally Landfill Quarterly Update |

**Appendix I – Corporate Plan 2025-2029: Themes, Goals and Objectives**

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| **THEME 1** | **DELIVERING STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE** |
| **Goal 1**  **Deliver, promote and support housing and strategic infrastructure that will secure Fingal’s future.** | 1. Align land use planning with environmental, social and economic goals for balanced growth. |
| 2. Integrate climate risk assessments into planning, zoning and infrastructure projects to ensure long-term resilience across the region. |
| 3. Ensure that utilities, transportation and infrastructure are in place to benefit businesses and communities in the county. |
| 4. Fulfil National Planning Framework objectives to deliver on the housing potential of brownfield and infill sites. |
| 5. Facilitate the supply of public and private housing to provide sustainable, adaptable, and high-quality mixed tenure homes. |
| 6. Prioritise environmentally sustainable building practices, supporting our climate and biodiversity goals. |
| 7. Ensure an effective and efficient Building Control service, including effective market surveillance of construction products and enforcement of Construction Products Regulation. |
| 8. Monitor and respond to changes in demographic trends, market dynamics, and economic conditions to adapt Fingal’s housing strategy as needed. |

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| **THEME 2** | **Enabling Economic Growth** |
| **Goal 2**  **Enable an outward-focused dynamic and sustainable business economy that will position Fingal to leverage growth opportunities.** | 1. Position Fingal as a leading destination for trade, tourism, and long-term business partnerships by promoting the county’s unique economic assets, and attracting foreign direct investment tailored to its regional strengths. |
| 2. Support local enterprise growth, social enterprises and sectoral clusters by positioning Fingal as a premier destination for startups and established businesses. |
| 3. Advance the Sustainable Fingal Initiative to drive the county’s shift toward a Net Zero Economy. |
| 4. Promote economic activity within communities by maximising the potential of local economic hubs. |
| 5. Support the development of a digitally enabled business ecosystem to facilitate inward investment and local business growth. |
| 6. Work with partners in education to prioritise upskilling and reskilling programmes that align with high-demand sectors and emergent industries. |

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| **THEME 3** | **CONNECTING WITH OUT COMMUNITIES** |
| **Goal 3**  **Create safe places and neighbourhoods where empowered, resilient and inclusive communities can thrive.** | 1. Ensure that safe and cohesive communities experience a strong sense of place in connected and resilient neighbourhoods. |
| 2. Enhance engagement, integration and communication, ensuring that all residents have equitable access to housing, services, and opportunities. |
| 3. Promote programmes that support mental and physical wellbeing, encourage active lifestyles and involvement in sport, recreation and leisure, strengthening social bonds within Fingal’s communities. |
| 4. Create initiatives that encourage engagement in civic activities and volunteerism, facilitating opportunities for people of all backgrounds and genders to participate. |
| 5. Provide safe, sustainable and accessible places and public spaces to meet the diverse needs of our communities. |
| 6. Develop and promote Fingal’s distinct arts and cultural identity and its libraries, while encouraging participation throughout people’s lives. |
| 7. Safeguard and celebrate Fingal’s unique heritage assets. |
| 8. Collaborate with local educational institutions, and other providers to facilitate programmes for all age groups, including the marginalised and more vulnerable in our communities. |

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| **THEME 4** | **EMBRACING TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION** |
| **Goal 4**  **Encourage and support communities and businesses to leverage the benefits of a digitally enabled society.** | 1. Drive the accessibility, efficiency and user experience of Council services by integrating digital solutions across key services and functions. |
| 2. Promote and maintain a world-class digital infrastructure across Fingal. |
| 3. Support the provision of digital skills training programmes, ensuring that people of all ages and backgrounds have the opportunity to develop essential digital skills. |
| 4. Offer digital infrastructure supports and resources tailored to the needs of local businesses, empowering them to grow and compete effectively in a digital economy. |

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| **THEME 5** | **DRIVING CLIMATE ACTION** |
| **Goal 5**  **Play a leadership role in transitioning to a biodiversity rich and decarbonised society, underpinned by community engagement and environmentally committed businesses.** | 1. Prioritise sustainable urban planning, improved public transportation options and active travel to lower emissions and create sustainable communities. |
| 2. Strengthen climate resilience by developing and implementing climate adaptation projects aimed at reducing the impacts of future climate-related events. |
| 3. Enhance energy efficiency across Council operations through the implementation of energy-saving technologies, sustainable procurement practices, and operational efficiencies. |
| 4. Strengthen engagement, raise awareness and collaborate on initiatives with businesses on sustainable business practices and the circular economy. |
| 5. Develop Fingal as a model of community-driven sustainability by fostering a culture of environmental responsibility among residents and stakeholders to increase community understanding and action on climate change. |

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| **THEME 6** | **PROVIDE A HIGH-QUALITY SERVICE** |
| **Goal 6**  **Create a framework for quality service delivery that combines collaboration, skill,**  **flexibility, and motivation, while ensuring staff wellbeing and resilience.** | 1. Deliver on Fingal’s vision through excellent service delivery, collaborative engagement and a supportive, inclusive workplace culture. |
| 2. Nurture organisational wellbeing by enabling staff to reach their full potential through relevant training and development. |
| 3. Ensure that our democratic functions and service delivery processes are underpinned by good governance, oversight, transparency and accountability. |
| 4. Explore additional funding sources to deliver growth and enhance quality of life in the county. |
| 5. Create a welcoming environment that respects diversity, embraces equality, integration and inclusion, and promotes meaningful participation in Council activities. |
| 6. Promote a culture of digital transformation within Fingal County Council to foster innovation and support continuous improvements in service delivery. |
| 7. Aim to ensure that our decision-making is guided by evidence-based data analytics in the delivery of our programmes, projects and services. |
| 8. Maintain effective and responsive internal and external communications structures to address organisational and community needs |
| 9. Deliver on our Public Sector Duty by ensuring that every individual has an equal opportunity to access, avail of and / or benefit from any service or function provided through the Corporate Plan. |

**Appendix 2 - Submissions for consideration/inclusion in the SPC Programmes for 2025**

No submissions were received.