



Fingal Development Board celebrates a decade of success

On Wednesday the 24th of March last members of Fingal Development Board, past and present, came together in the beautifully restored Chapel at Swords Castle to mark the 10th Anniversary of the existence of the Board. Hosted by the current Board, the occasion celebrated the many successful relationships and project collaborations developed over the 10 years between statutory, voluntary, and other state funded bodies and the local Government Sector.

Councillor Tom Kelleher, the current Chair of the Development Board, addressed the gathering who were also welcomed by Mayor of Fingal Councillor Ciaran Byrne, County Manager David O'Connor and PJ Howell, Director of Services for Environment and Economic Development with Fingal County Council.

"The Fingal Development Board has enjoyed many successes over its first ten years most notably the initiation of the Fingal Schools Model, the Fingal Data Hub, the Dublin Airport Stakeholders Forum, the Fingal Joint Policing Committee and Fingal Comhairle na nÓg", Cllr Kelleher explained to the gathering. "We can reflect with pride on the important role that the Fingal Development Board continues to play in bringing agencies, organisations and community representatives together to work more cohesively in Fingal," he added.

Councillor Kelleher continued, "it's will be my privilege to serve as Chair of the Fingal Development Board for the next 5 years and I firmly believe that despite the mounting challenges presented by the economic downturn nationally and here in Fingal, the Fingal Development Board must continue its work". "Furthermore", he added, "I believe the Board will have a role to play in facilitating the development of a stronger smart economy in Fingal".

Councillor Kelleher went on to expressed serious concerns about the draft proposal set out in the Dublin Mayor Bill that a Dublin Region Development Board would replace the 4 existing boards. "This poorly thought out proposal will certainly undo the excellent work and working relationships that had been built up in Fingal, Dun Laoghaire and South Dublin during the past 10 years," Councillor Kelleher said.

PJ Howell, Director of Environment and Economic Development with Fingal County Council praised the commitment of Board Members and staff who had developed the Board to the extent that it had become part of the working

landscape for Fingal agencies and voluntary bodies. “Over the lifetime of the Board many excellent people have played a role on the Board itself, as well as on its subgroups”, PJ explained, “and each person has made a unique contribution to the Boards collective successes”. He then invited the audience to look back over the 10 years of the work of the Board by viewing a DVD made to mark the occasion.

Finally, David O’Connor, County Manager for Fingal wrapped up the occasion by wishing Board members continued success for another 10 years. He pointed out that many of the successes of the Board were in fact smart economy successes, “The Fingal Development Board continues to bring together technology, knowledge, networking and the desire to collaborate with people in other agencies”, the Manager concluded.

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Note to Editors:

The Fingal County Development Board in Fingal is one of 34 development boards in the State. The Board has 35 members who represent the local authority; local development agencies; state agencies; and the social partners. The Board’s mission is to provide greater coherence across all the various state and state funded public services and infrastructure in Fingal. There are a number of more concrete objectives within this:

- To prevent duplication in public service provision.
- To identify and fill gaps in service provision.
- To develop better linkages between local authorities and the local development agencies in the county.
- To co-ordinate the long-term plans of all the Board member agencies.
- To involve the Social Partners (Community, Businesses and Trade Unions) as much as possible in the decision making process.