Over 150 young people from schools across Dublin attended the Fingal Comhairle na nÓg Annual General Meeting and Elections 2017/2018 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Blanchardstown on Tuesday November 7.

The event saw 22 new young councillors elected to represent the voice of young people in Fingal and was overseen by Fingal Council Council Staff and Youth Development Workers from Foróige-Blanchardstown and Crosscare-Swords/Baldoyle. This brings the total number of young councillors to forty.

Current Fingal Youth Councillors and prospective representatives were joined by the Mayor of Fingal, Cllr Mary McCamley at the event.
Commenting on the level of interest and enthusiasm shown by those attending, Mayor McCamley said: “It’s great to meet society’s future leaders at today’s Comhairle na nÓg event and to not only hear their views on current issues but also how they have gone about addressing some of these issues.”

Mayor McCamley outlined the work of Fingal County Council including the work of the Council’s Public Libraries, Arts Office, Sports Development Office and Housing Department to emphasise the positive impact that this engagement can have on the lives of young people in Fingal.

Mayor McCamley also spoke about the work the Council does with other agencies across Fingal such as Jigsaw, Foróige, Crosscare and the Institute of Technology Blanchardstown. Speaking of her own experience as a councillor, she encouraged young people to consider working in public life as a career path for the future.

Closing her speech, Cllr McCamley said: “I was delighted to be part of the 2017/2018 elections of Fingal Youth Councillors. It is so heartening to see so many young people actively engaged in matters of concern to them. I know our future is in good hands.”

Chair of the current Fingal Comhairle na nÓg Vlad Andriesii told delegates about the work of the Youth Council over the period 2016 to 2017. Thanking Youth Councillors for all their work and commitment to the Fingal Youth Council, Vlad said: “I had the privilege of being nominated by my peers as Chair of Fingal Comhairle Na nÓg for the past year. I wish all of the new Comhairle the very best going forward.”

Fingal Comhairle na nÓg member, Kate Lehane addressed those in attendance about her work with the National Youth Council and the launch of their report ‘So how was school today?’ in which the views of 3242 young people were collated on their experiences in Secondary school.

The new Youth Council discussed topics around Mental Health Issues such as Male Body Image and Financial Stress on young people along with Promoting Positive Relationships and Cycle Safety during the course of the day’s event. Over the next two years they will work to develop a programme of actions which they will deliver on behalf of, and in the name of young people of Fingal.

-Ends-

For further enquiries, please email press@fingal.ie

Photo Caption: Mayor of Fingal, Cllr Mary McCamley with members of Comhairle na nÓg at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Blanchardstown