Press Release

September 22, 2017

Work commences on Fingal Skills Strategy

Fingal County Council is commencing work on a medium term Skills Strategy for the County. To inform the strategy, an advisory group has been set up comprising a variety of sectoral interests from education and training providers, local business leaders and the Department of Social Protection. Siobhan Kinsella, Chair of the Fingal Skills Strategy Group stated “I am delighted to Chair this important group and am looking forward to the development of the Skills Strategy”. Siobhan highlighted how the final strategy will provide clear evidence on the future skills needs to ensure that Fingal and the Irish economy has the necessary talent pool, properly skilled to meet industry demands. She encouraged the business community and the education sector to actively participate in this important research project.

Fingal County Council is now inviting companies in the County to get involved and assist in developing the strategy for the Fingal area by sharing their perspectives on challenges and opportunities they face in relation to skills supply and demand. There are opportunities to contribute through an online survey and a series of workshops.

The online survey is available at http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/Fingal-SkillsStrategy/ . This will also be available through all Fingal County Council media platforms next week. To encourage involvement from the business sector the Council is providing an away day in Malahide Castle for up to 20 people including free access to a training room for a day, tour of the castle, tea/coffee, pastries on arrival and lunch. A draw will be open to all companies who return a completed survey.

The Council is arranging four breakfast workshops in venues around the County as follows:
• Tuesday 3rd October, Balbriggan Town Hall
• Thursday 5th October, Blanchardstown Civic Centre
• Tuesday 10th October, Malahide Castle (Project Room)
• Thursday 12th October, County Hall Swords

The workshops will commence at 8 AM with registration from 7.45 with tea/coffee/pastries provided. If you would like to attend a workshop, please register your interest by emailing fingalskillsstrategy@rsmireland.ie or calling Niall O’Doherty on 01 526 7440

Ed Hearne Director of Services for Economic Enterprise and Tourism Development in the Fingal County Council speaking about the Skills Strategy “This is the first time a local authority in Ireland has undertaken a piece of research of this nature which again highlights the changing role of the local authority sector. The strategy will provide an invaluable resource for industry and for the education sector and therefore I would like to stress the importance of buy in and engagement with this analysis”.

ENDS

Note to Editors:

Phase 1 of the Skills Strategy will be a baseline study of the existing employment landscape and skills levels in the County. This phase will draw on desk based research, company interviews, stakeholder consultation and in depth analysis. Phase 2 will involve model development and projecting growth utilising data trends to develop a pathway of expected sectoral growth to the year 2023 in the County.

This strategy will present a detailed analysis of the skills requirements across the county over the medium-term. This analysis will include both the demand (expansion and replacement) and supply side of the county's labour market. The study will provide a baseline analysis of the current employment landscape in the county, disaggregated by sector, and the skills characteristics of those in employment. From the demand side, the study will include an analysis of the forecast skills needs by sector and competency. The study will provide a detailed analysis of the supply side, examining the anticipated pipeline given current course provision and output at university, institute of technology, further education and vocational/technical level.