



Tuarascáil Bhliantúil 2012

Annual Report 2012



Malahide Castle image by Stefano Mortellaro

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Mayor's Introduction



2012 was another challenging year for the people of Fingal and a year when Fingal County Council continued to provide a range of services detailed in this report. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight just a few of the areas of work that the Council is involved in.

Much of the work that the Council does goes unnoticed most of the time, especially in the provision of services such as drainage, roads, social housing and maintenance of open spaces and parks. The provision of these services are vitally important in our every day lives. The timely delivery of key infrastructure especially in water, waste water and transport, places Fingal in a strong position to facilitate investment in jobs and economic development.

In June we were honoured by the arrival of the Olympic Torch in Howth. Local student Cillian Kirwan carried the flame which was welcomed by the President of Ireland Michael D. Higgins. The Council's commitment to sport was demonstrated during the year by a number of initiatives including the Harmony Cup, the Schools Boxing Programme and the late night soccer leagues which took place in Swords, Skerries, Lusk, Balbriggan and Dublin 15.

In November 2012 it was decided by the elected members of the Council to establish a Fingal Pyrite Resolution Panel to help address the specific needs and queries of home owners in Fingal affected by Pyrite. I am grateful to the staff, Councillors and representatives of residents who voluntarily contribute their time to this panel and I hope that it can play a useful role in ensuring that reactive Pyrite is removed from all homes in our County.

In late November the newly restored Malahide Castle and Gardens were officially opened. The new Interpretative Centre and the improved access to the Castle and Gardens, exemplify the Council's continued commitment to valuing our heritage. In a similar vein the Council published a book on the Martello Towers during the year, detailing the history and background to all the Fingal Towers from Sutton to Balbriggan as well as their counterparts on the southern side of Dublin Bay.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Fingal councillors and the Council staff for all their hard work in representing the people of Fingal and delivering a wide range of services. And I would also like to thank all the people who contribute to the economic, social, cultural and sporting life of our County, building communities and making Fingal a great place to live and work in.

Cian O'Callaghan,

Mayor of Fingal

Message from County Manager

2012 has again been a year of challenges for the citizens and businesses of Fingal, but the local authority has continued to respond to the needs of our citizens and deliver efficient and effective public services. There were many highlights for Fingal in 2012 but I only have space here to mention a few:



The very successful **Flavours of Fingal** event in July held in Newbridge Demesne, Donabate. The success of this event was down to the dedication of Fingal County Council staff and their refusal to do anything except to the highest standards. Credit is also due to the many businesses and organisations who displayed their goods and services. It was Fingal at its best and we are already looking forward to Flavours of Fingal 2013!

In November the Olympic Council of Ireland President Pat Hickey recognised Fingal County Council as the single body to whom it awarded the very prestigious **International Olympic Committee Trophy "Sport and Sustainable Development"** for the many initiatives undertaken by Fingal County Council for the support they provided during the Olympic Torch visit to Dublin on 6th June 2012.

Also in November our Mayor, Cllr Cian O'Callaghan, in the company of Minister Varadkar, officially unveiled the plaque to signal the reopening of **Malahide Castle and Gardens**, launching a new phase of the life of the facilities there. This was a memorable and well-attended event to mark the completion of the works which are marked by the exceptionally high standard of conservation, enhancing the legacy achieved by the far-sighted acquisition of the Demesne in the 1970s by Dublin County Council and its care by the staff of that Council and Fingal County Council in succession.

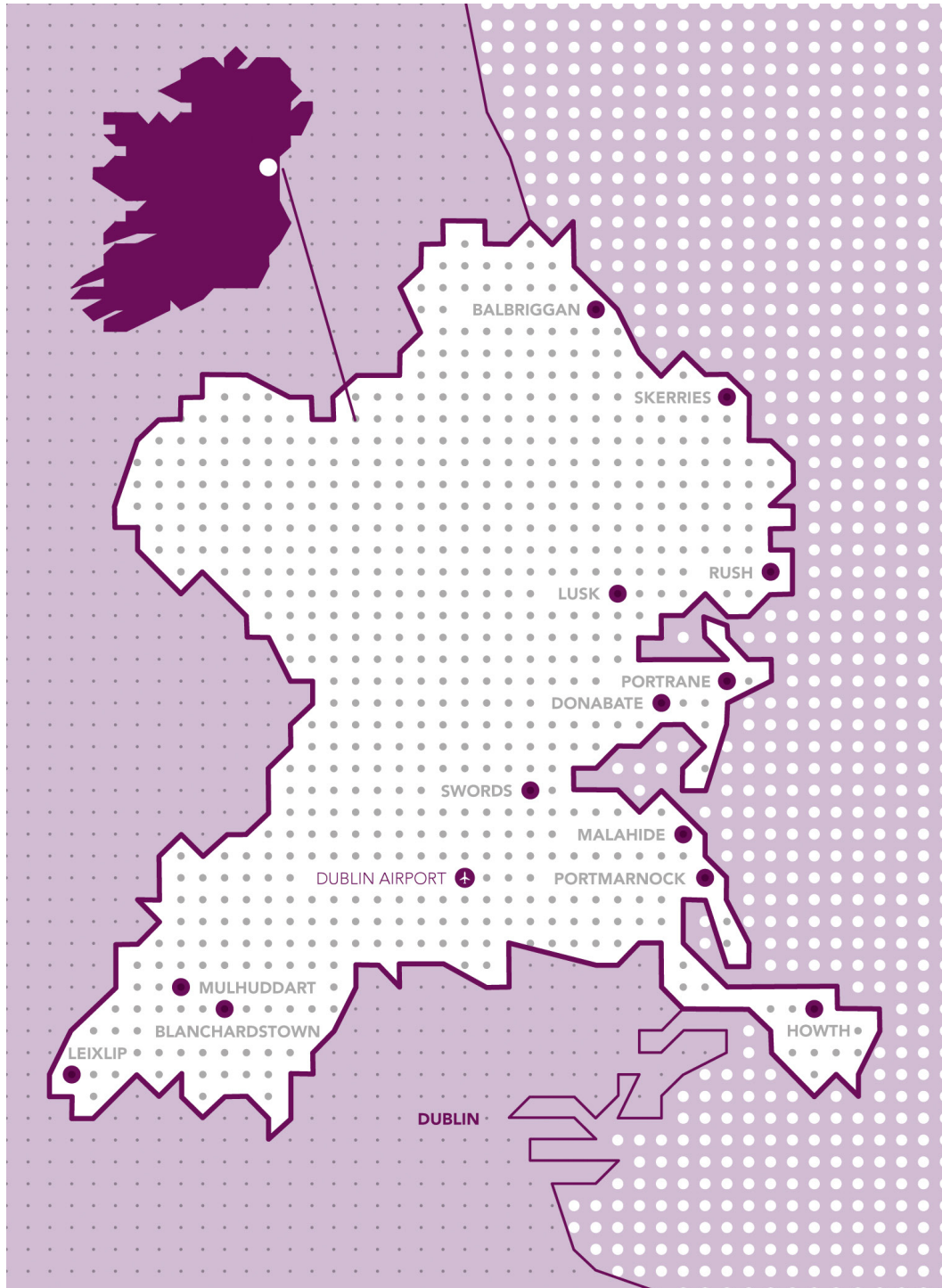
The new local government reform document, **Putting People First, An Action Plan for Effective Local Government** was published in October 2012 and has identified a number of proposals which will be implemented by the next local elections in June 2014.

I wish to sincerely thank the staff of Fingal for their continuing support and hard work over the last year. Our new organisational structure has now been firmly embedded in the organisation. This would not have been possible without the cooperation and commitment of staff who continue to embrace the challenges placed on them. The ongoing delivery of innovative ways to provide services has marked out this council since its inception in 1994 and, on the evidence here, continues to be very much an essential element of the ethos of the organisation for the future. This work was acknowledged by Chambers Ireland when Fingal County Council won the **Local Authority Economic Efficiencies Award in 2012**.

I would like to thank the Mayor, Councillor Cian O'Callaghan and his predecessor Councillor Gerry McGuire and each of the Members of the Council for their co-operation and support on so many issues during 2012.

David O'Connor
County Manager

Fingal County Council Electoral Map



Corporate Affairs Department

This Department comprises:

- Corporate Services Division
- Property Services Division
- Workplace Partnership
- Internal Audit Unit
- Events Unit
- Communications Unit

MAYOR



Gerry McGuire
Mayor
January 2012-June 2012



Cian O'Callaghan
Mayor
June 2012-December 2012

DEPUTY MAYOR



Ken Farrell
Deputy Mayor
January 2012 - June 2012



Peggy Hamill
Deputy Mayor
June 2012- December 2012

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTED MEMBERS

BALBRIGGAN ELECTORAL AREA

Ken Farrell, (Labour), 4 The Drive, Orlynn Park, Lusk, Co. Dublin
(Mobile: 087-7551927)

E-mail: ken.farrell@fingalcoco.ie

David O'Connor, (Non Party), "Meadowlands", Ballyboughal, Co. Dublin.
(Tel: 8433691 (H), Mobile: 087 6803860)

E-Mail: davidj.oconnor@fingalcoco.ie

Tom O'Leary, (Fine Gael), 4 Haven House, Thomas Hand Street,
Skerries, Co. Dublin

Tel. No. 8905022

E-mail: tom.oleary@fingalcoco.ie

Ciaran Byrne, (Labour), 41 South Strand, Skerries, Co. Dublin.
(Tel: 8491179 (H), Mobile: 087 2273060, Fax: 8495361)

E-Mail: ciaran.byrne@fingalcoco.ie

May McKeon (Non Party) "Sheemore", Market Green, Balbriggan, Co. Dublin.
(Tel: 8413660 (H), Mobile: 087 7852644)

E-Mail: may.mckeon@fingalcoco.ie

SWORDS ELECTORAL AREA

Gerry McGuire (Labour), 1 The Strand, Donabate, Co. Dublin.
(Tel: 8436014, Mobile: 087 2381980)

E-mail: gerry.mcguire@fingalcoco.ie

Tom Kelleher (Labour), Kilsallaghan, Co Dublin.
Mobile: 087 2837165)

E-Mail: tom.kelleher@fingalcoco.ie

Darragh Butler, (Fianna Fail), 17 Highfield Close, Swords, Co Dublin
(Mobile: 087 9595378)

E-Mail: darragh.butler@fingalcoco.ie

Anne Devitt, (Non Party), Lispopple, Swords, Co. Dublin.
(Tel: 8409728 (H) Mobile: 086 8123435)

E-Mail: anne.devitt@fingalcoco.ie

Eugene Coppinger (Socialist Party), 46 Forest Walk, Rivervalley,
Swords, Co. Dublin

Mobile: 087 2327412 E-Mail: eugene.coppinger@fingalcoco.ie



HOWTH/MALAHIDE ELECTORAL AREA

Peter Coyle, (Labour), 8 Burrow Court, Portmarnock,
Co Dublin.

(Tel: 8460327(H), Mobile: 087 2837160)

E-Mail: peter.coyle@fingalcoco.ie



Cian O'Callaghan (Labour), 5 Campbell Court, Main Street,
Howth, Dublin 13.

(Mobile: 086 2866631)

E-mail: cian.ocallaghan@votelabour.ie



Eoghan O'Brien, (Fianna Fail), 7 Seabury View,
Malahide, Co. Dublin

(Mobile 086 8580562)

E-mail: eoghan.obrien@fingalcoco.ie



Joan Maher, (Fine Gael), 19 Bayside Square East,
Sutton, Dublin 13.

(Tel: 8324840(H), Fax: 8324840 (H) Mobile: 087 2837169)

E-Mail: joan.maher@fingalcoco.ie



Anthony Lavin, (Fine Gael), 28 Chalfont Road,
Malahide, Co. Dublin.

Mobile: 087 9931329

E-Mail: anthony.lavin@fingalcoco.ie

**MULHUDDART ELECTORAL AREA**

Ruth Coppinger, (Socialist Party), 159 Castlecurragh Heath,
Mulhuddart, Dublin 15.

(Tel; 8116174, Mobile: 087 6730187)

E-Mail: ruth.coppinger@fingalcoco.ie



Kieran Dennison, (Fine Gael), 1 Fernleigh Grange, Castleknock, Dublin 15.
(Mobile: 087 2595949)

E-mail: kierandennison@gmail.com



David McGuinness, (Fianna Fáil), 34 Manorfields Walk, Clonee, Dublin 15.
(Mobile: 087 6415403) E-mail: dmcguinn@tcd.ie



Michael O'Donovan, (Labour), 70 Delwood Drive, Dublin 15

(Tel: 8220030 (O) Mobile: 087 2207798)

E-Mail: michael.odonovan@fingalcoco.ie



Mary McCamley, (Labour), Dec. 2011, 147 Castlecurragh Vale,
Mulhuddart, Dublin 15.

Mobile : 087 6501441

E-Mail: mary.mccamley@fingalcoco.ie



CASTLEKNOCK ELECTORAL AREA

Eithne Loftus, (Fine Gael), 6 Deerpark Avenue,
Castleknock, Dublin 15.
(Mobile: 087 6223419)
E-Mail: eithne.loftus@fingalcoco.ie



Peggy Hamill, (Labour), "Back Lodge",
Oatlands, Castleknock, Dublin 15.
(Tel; 8216100, Mobile: 087 9930009)
E-Mail: cllrpeggy.hamill@fingalcoco.ie



Mags Murray, (Fianna Fail), 13 Lohunda Close,
Parkview, Clonsilla, D. 15.
(Tel: Mobile 086 0651419)
E-Mail: mags.murray@fingalcoco.ie



Matthew Waine, (Socialist Party), 58 Woodview Grove,
Blanchardstown, Dublin 15
(Mobile: 087-6684616)
E-Mail: mattwaine@gmail.com



STANDING COMMITTEES

AREA COMMITTEES

Balbriggan/Swords Members of Balbriggan and Swords
Electoral Areas and Cathaoirleach of Balbriggan Town Council

Castleknock/Mulhuddart Members of Castleknock and Mulhuddart Electoral Areas
Howth/Malahide Members of Howth/Malahide Electoral Area

Organisation and Procedure Committee

(All Members of Fingal County Council are Members of this Committee)

Corporate Policy Group

Gerry McGuire (Mayor) - January 2012– June 2012

Cian O'Callaghan (Mayor) – June 2012 – December 2012

Mags Murray (Chairperson) Transportation S.P.C.

Tom Kelleher (Chairperson) Planning & Development S.P.C.

Kieran Dennison - January 2012 replaced by Eithne Loftus – January – December 2012
(Chairperson) Environment S.P.C.

David O'Connor (Chairperson) Community and General S.P.C.

Ruth Coppinger (Chairperson) Housing S.P.C.

MEMBERS OF COMMUNITY AND GENERAL STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Councillors

David O'Connor (Chairperson)

Darragh Butler

Peter Coyle

Anne Devitt

Peggy Hamill

Mary McCamley

Cian O'Callaghan

Matthew Waine

Non Councillor Members

Gráinne Maguire

Padraig McMahon

Brendan Sherlock

Paul Holden

Myles Caulfield

Clodagh O'Donovan

MEMBERS OF ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Councillors

Eithne Loftus (Chairperson)
Peter Coyle
Eugene Coppinger
Kieran Dennison
Anthony Lavin
Peggy Hamill
Gerry McGuire
May McKeon
David O'Connor
Eoghan O'Brien

Non Councillor Members

Olive Byrne
Valerie Henderson
David Rogers
Maire O'Brien
Stephen Malone
Ms. Terry Cummins

MEMBERS OF HOUSING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Councillors

Ruth Coppinger (Chairperson)
Eugene Coppinger
Kieran Dennison
Ken Farrell
Joan Maher
Mary McCamley
Gerry McGuire
David McGuinness
Cian O'Callaghan
Michael O'Donovan

Non Councillor Members

Andrew McCann
Sylvester Greally
Kathleen McKillion
Roderick O'Gorman
John Cumisky
Howard Mahony

MEMBERS OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Councillors

Tom Kelleher, (Chairperson)
Ciarán Byrne
Anne Devitt
Anthony Lavin
Joan Maher
David McGuinness
Mags Murray
Michael O'Donovan
Tom O'Leary
Matthew Waine

Non Councillor Members

Rory Bannon
Terry Kelleher
Kieran O'Neill
Terry Cummins
Ciaran Corcoran
Brian McKeon

MEMBERS OF TRANSPORTATION STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Councillors

Mags Murray (Chairperson),
Darragh Butler
Ciarán Byrne
Ruth Coppinger
Ken Farrell
Tom Kelleher
Eithne Loftus
Eoghan O'Brien
Tom O'Leary
May McKeon

Non Councillor Members

Rory Bannon
Brendan Doorley
Raymond Ryan
David Donnelly
Jean Fay Brady
Cathal Boland
Bernadette O'Connell

COUNCILLOR MEMBERSHIP OF OTHER BODIES

MEMBERS OF BLANCHARDSTOWN COMMUNITY FORUM

Councillors

Eithne Loftus
Mary McCamley

MEMBERS OF EASTERN RIVER BASIN DISTRICT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Councillors

Ken Farrell
David O'Connor

MEMBERS OF SWORDS COMMUNITY POLICING FORUM

Councillors

Darragh Butler
Ann Devitt
Gerry McGuire

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Councillors

Peter Coyle
Ciaran Byrne
Joan Maher

Non-Councillors

Dr. Philip Byrne
Sean Carey
Joe Harford
Ashley Connolly

COUNTY DUBLIN VOCATIONAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Councillors

Ken Farrell
David McGuinness
Joan Maher
Gerry McGuire
Michael O'Donovan

Non-Councillors

Deirdre Doherty Ryan
Don Tipping
Pat Ward
Liz Kelly

ASSOCIATION OF CITY AND COUNTY COUNCILS

Councillors

Eithne Loftus
Tom Kelleher
Michael O'Donovan

DUBLIN REGIONAL AUTHORITY

Councillors

Peggy Hamill
May McKeon
Anne Devitt
Ciarán Byrne
Peter Coyle

SOUTHERN AND EASTERN REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

Councillors

Ciarán Byrne
Anne Devitt

FINGAL COUNTY ENTERPRISE BOARD

Councillors

Peter Coyle
Kieran Dennison
Gerry McGuire
May McKeon

IRISH PUBLIC BODIES MUTUAL INSURANCES LIMITED

Councillor

Mags Murray

LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERS ASSOCIATION

Councillor

Mags Murray

DUBLIN TOURISM

Councillor

Peter Coyle

FINGAL TOURISM LIMITED

Councillors

Gerry McGuire (Mayor) - January 2012 – June 2012
Cian O'Callaghan (Mayor) - June 2012– December 2012
Peter Coyle

NORTH DUBLIN DEVELOPMENT COALITION (NORDUBCO)

Councillors

Gerry McGuire (Mayor) - January 2012 – June 2012
Cian O'Callaghan (Mayor) - June 2012 – December 2012
Anne Devitt

FINGAL LEADER PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Councillors

May McKeon
Ciaran Byrne
Anne Devitt

DUBLIN EMPLOYMENT PACT – STRATEGIC POLICY GROUP

Councillor

Michael O'Donovan

BLANCHARDSTOWN AREA PARTNERSHIP

Councillors

Kieran Dennison

Peggy Hamill

Matthew Waine

LOCAL TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Councillors

Anne Devitt

Eugene Coppinger

Cian O'Callaghan

BLANCHARDSTOWN DRUG TASK FORCE

Councillors

Mary McCamley

David McGuinness

JOINT FINGAL AND SOUTH DUBLIN LIFFEY VALLEY MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mayor: Gerry McGuire (Mayor) - January 2012 – June 2012
Cian O'Callaghan (Mayor) - June 2012 – December 2012

Castleknock Electoral Area:

Councillors

Peggy Hamill

Mags Murray

Matthew Waine

Eithne Loftus

Mulhuddart Electoral Area:

Councillors

Ruth Coppinger

Michael O'Donovan

Kieran Dennison

David McGuinness

Mary McCamley

NATIONAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT FORUM

Councillor

Ciarán Byrne

BALLEALLY LANDFILL LIAISON COMMITTEE

Councillors

Ken Farrell
May McKeon
Anne Devitt
Gerry McGuire

COUNTY HERITAGE FORUM

Councillors

David O'Connor
Peter Coyle
Kieran Dennison
May McKeon
Mags Murray

NORTH FRINGE AREA FORUM

Councillors

Cian O'Callaghan
Joan Maher
Peter Coyle
Eoghan O'Brien
Alan Farrell

REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM DUBLIN AND NORTH EAST

Councillors

May McKeon
Mags Murray
Eithne Loftus
Gerry McGuire
Anne Devitt
Kieran Dennison

HANSFIELD SDZ STEERING GROUP

Councillors

Ruth Coppinger
Michael O'Donovan
Mary McCamley
David McGuinness
Kieran Dennison

FINGAL INTEGRATED TRANSPORT GROUP

Councillor

Mags Murray

HEALTHY FINGAL

Councillors

Gerry McGuire
Michael O'Donovan
Peter Coyle
Eithne Loftus
Tom O'Leary

JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE

Councillors

Gerry McGuire (Mayor) - January 2012 – June 2012
Cian O'Callaghan (Mayor) - June 2012 – December 2012
Mags Murray
Peggy Hamill
David O'Connor
Eoghan O'Brien
Eithne Loftus
Kieran Dennison
Matthew Waine
Michael O'Donovan
Mary McCamley
Peter Coyle
Anthony Lavin
Eugene Coppinger

FINGAL SPORTS PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

Councillors

Anne Devitt
Eoghan O'Brien
David O'Connor

DRINAN ENTERPRISE CENTRE

Councillors

Gerry McGuire
Anthony Lavin

EDGE CITIES NETWORK

Councillor

Joan Maher

BALBRIGGAN COMMUNITY POLICING FORUM

Councillors

Ciarán Byrne
May McKeon

DRAIOCHT

Councillor

Peggy Hamill

DUBLIN NORTH-EAST DRUGS TASK FORCE

Councillor

Cian O'Callaghan

AIRPORT REGIONS CONFERENCE (ARC)

Councillors

Anne Devitt – January – April 2012

Ciaran Byrne – May – December 2012

NUCLEAR FREE LOCAL AUTHORITY

Councillor

Michael O'Donovan

LES RENCONTRES

Councillor

Tom Kelleher

GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF DCU

Councillor

Ciaran Byrne

Blanchardstown Community Policing Forum

Councillors

Mary McCamley

Mags Murray

Malahide Castle & Gardens Ltd

Councillor

Peter Coyle

Monitoring Board for INTERREG IVc PROJECT

Councillor

Tom Kelleher

Balbriggan Public Realm Implementation Group

Councillor

Ciaran Byrne

BALBRIGGAN TOWN COUNCIL

Balbriggan Town Council (Town Commissioners as it was prior to 2002) has a long history of service as a Local Authority, which began in 1860.

The Council has nine elected members who were elected for a term of five years following the local elections held on 5th June 2009.

Larry Dunne (Cathaoirleach 2012 - 2013), Peadar O'Kelly (Leas-Cathaoirleach 2012 - 2013), Sean Brown, Monica Harford, Dermot Murray, Grainne Kilmurry, Terry Kelleher, Grainne Maguire and Frank Snowe.

The Council provides civic leadership for the people of Balbriggan. It represents their concerns and needs with Fingal County Council, Government Departments and other Statutory Bodies and promotes the town as a good place to live, work and visit.

The town boundary was extended in February 2009 to reflect the growth of the town and provide an opportunity to the newer residents of Balbriggan to vote in the Town Council elections. The population of the administrative area is approximately 20,000.

Following the launch of the Public Realm Plan "the Heart of Balbriggan" in 2011 a consultation led design process for Railway Street commenced in 2012, coordinated by the Steering Group and involving residents and businesses located on Railway Street. A number of key actions have been identified and this work will continue in 2013.

The Town Council Annual Awards are held in October each year which affords the Town Council the opportunity of paying tribute to the many people, individuals and groups, who by their actions demonstrate and promote pride and community life in the town. The selection of award winners is based on personal achievement or team effort in areas such as Sport, Art, Literature, Culture or Community Service.

The Town Council organises the St. Patrick's Day Parade in the town and plays an active role in the decoration of the town at Christmas in conjunction with the Balbriggan Chamber of Commerce. The Town Council also promotes and supports festivals / events in the town throughout the year.

The majority of the Council's income is provided by town charges included in the Annual Rate Bill paid by the town's business community.

The Town Manager and Town Clerk deal with the administrative affairs of Balbriggan Town Council along with administrative staff assigned from Fingal County Council. The Town Manager is Ms. Ide de Bairtiséil. The Town Clerk is Mr. Brian Murray.



CORPORATE SERVICES DIVISION

Higher Education Grants

Number of Renewal Applications	929
Number of Renewal Grants Awarded	720

Total expenditure for 2012 **€4,572,125.50**

All new Applications for Higher Education Grants for Academic year 2012/2013 are being processed by Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI). All renewal Applications for Academic year 2012/2013 are being processed by Fingal County Council.

School Meals Scheme

Approximately 2,807 children in 10 Primary Schools in the Fingal area were catered for on a daily basis under this scheme.

REGISTER OF ELECTORS

The final Register of Electors for 2012/2013 was published on 01/02/2012
The total number of Electors on the final register was 176,333.

A draft register of electors for 2013/2014 was published on the 01/11/2012.
The total number of electors on draft register was 177,370.

EDITED REGISTER OF ELECTORS

The edited register of electors published on the 1st February 2012 contained 17,601 names.

PROPERTY SERVICES DIVISION

The Council's Property Services Division acquires and disposes of property on behalf of Fingal County Council and manages properties and land owned by the Council.

Property Acquisition

Lands, properties and wayleaves are acquired for the various statutory purposes of the Council in one of the following ways:

- Agreement - The Property Acquisition Section continued in 2012 to progress the acquisition and disposal of school sites in accordance with Memorandum of Agreement between the Department of Education and Skills and Fingal County Council and the subsequent Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Education of Skills and the County and City Managers Association.
- Compulsory Purchase Order - A number of Orders were prepared for submission to An Bord Pleanála.
- Motorway Order - Acquisitions in respect of the M50 Upgrade Scheme continued in 2012.
- Deed of Waiver - Lands acquired from the Minister for Finance where companies have been dissolved.
- Deed of Dedication - Open Space acquired from developers.

Property Management

Holders of the Council's Property Register. Work on Phase 1 of the new Property Interest Register continued in 2012.

Security and maintenance of Council land/properties.

Letting of Council lands for tillage and grazing by con-acre agreements - approx 780 acres let in 2012.

Caretaker's Agreements and Temporary Convenience lettings for properties and lands not required by the Council in the short term.

Collection of rents from the Council's residential shops.

Disposal of land or properties/grant of wayleaves etc.

Lease of Lands to Sporting Organisations and Utility companies.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUESTS

Applications received/processed in	2012	2011	2010
Applications received during 2012	68	67	65
Decisions made during 2012	66	63	67
Applications on hand at 31/12/2012	2	4	0
Nature of Information Sought	2012	2011	2010
Personal (to applicant)	24	33	9
Non-Personal	44	34	56
Mixed	0	0	0
Granted	35	23	40
Part-Granted	19	11	23
Refused	13	5	3
Transferred	0	0	0
Withdrawn/Outside FOI	3	24	1
Appeals	2012	2011	2010
Appeals to Information Commissioner	0	0	2
Source of Requests	2012	2011	2010
Journalists	3	3	10
Business	17	2	11
Oireachtas/Local Authority members	1	0	0
Other/General Public	46	62	44
Staff	1	0	0
Ombudsman Complaints	2012	2011	2010
Complaints received during 2012	10	4	14
Complaints responded to	10	4	14
Subject of Complaints			
Planning	0	1	2
Operations	1	0	0
Housing	3	0	4
Finance	0	1	2
Water Services	2	1	1
Community, Recreation & Amenities	0	2	
Environment, Business & Enterprise	3	0	3
Property Services	0	0	0
Corporate Affairs	0	1	0

Citizen Charter Complaints	2012	2011	2010
Complaints received	9	1	3
Complaints responded to	9	1	3
Subject of Complaints			
Planning	0	0	0
Operations	2	0	0
Housing	2	1	0
Finance	0	0	0
Water Services	1	0	0
Community, Recreation & Amenities	0	0	0
Environment, Business & Enterprise	1	0	3
Property Services	0	0	0
Corporate Affairs	3	0	0

INTERNAL AUDIT UNIT

During 2012, the Unit provided assurance to the County Manager on the existence, adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's Internal Control system. Internal Audit also assisted Departments through audits undertaken, by evaluating and reporting on the elements of the internal control systems and making recommendations for improvement where necessary. All these Reports included a "Risk Assessment" where appropriate.

As part of its core activity the Unit carried out compliance checks in a number of Divisions. These also incorporated reports on Economy, Efficiency and Effectiveness within the organisation.

In addition the Unit -

- Completed a number of Special Investigations
- Continued to promote the concept of Risk Management
- Continued the process of "Contract Partnership" Audit checks
- Liaised with the Local Government Auditor
- Liaised with the Council's Audit Committee

EVENTS UNIT

The Events Unit offers advice and assistance both for Council Departments and for non-Council organised events. Corporately Fingal had an input/role in over 400 events in 2012 and below is a sample of some of the larger events.

- Olympic Torch Run
- St. Patrick's Day Parade
- JamÓige-Ardgillian 2012
- Dublin Marathon
- Autumn Jazz - D15
- Fingal Film Festival
- Flavours of Fingal
- Fingal 10K
- Safer Blanchardstown- Halloween event
- Fingal Festival of Football
- Summer Solstice – Naul
- Theatre in the Parks
- Family Fun Events
- Skerries & Loughshinny Motor Cycle races
- Sporting Events such as Triathlons, Road Races & Formula Fun
- Civic Reception(s)

Safety Advisory Group

Established at the end of 2011 Fingal's Safety Advisory Group (SAG) carries out the following:

- Provision of advice and support on crowd safety at events
- Makes recommendations on public safety.
- Encourages event organisers to engage with the SAG.
- Resourcing through education, guidance and good practice safer & more enjoyable mass gathering events.

You can follow the events unit on twitter@EVENTSinFingal



COMMUNICATIONS

The Communications Office is responsible for dealing with local and national media queries, managing advertising and overseeing corporate communications and internal communications on behalf of Fingal County Council. It advises staff on the responsibility of Fingal County Council as a public body under the Official Languages Act. It also manages the homepage of Fingal County Councils website www.fingalcoco.ie as well as the corporate Twitter and Facebook accounts.

In 2012 the Communications Team dealt with:

- 60 press releases
- 30 news alerts, primarily to radio stations
- 500 media queries from local and national media
- 4 Staff newsletters (The Raven)
- 4 issues of Fingal News, Fingal County Councils corporate newsletter
- Queries from the Irish Language Commissioner.

Use of corporate social media accounts has been developed to enhance and improve communication by the council in particular at times of service disruption or extreme weather events i.e. water supply disruptions or flooding. This will continue in 2013 and will be incorporated into the redevelopment of Fingal County Councils website.

As part of the Councils Major Emergency Plan, Communications staff are trained to act as Media Liaison Officers in the event of a declared emergency, and in accordance with the National Framework.

Fingal Local Authorities Irish Language Scheme

Fingal County Council prepared an Irish Language Scheme in 2006 in accordance with Section 11 of the Official Languages Act 2003 and it was confirmed by the Minister on 1st October 2006.

The Scheme sets out a summary of the services provided by the Council and objectives to enhance and improve the delivery of services through Irish.

The Council has submitted a 2nd Draft Irish Language Scheme to the Department of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht and is awaiting approval of same.

WORKPLACE PARTNERSHIP

The Fingal Workplace Partnership Committee was engaged in the following projects and initiatives during 2012.

- Held the 2nd Remembrance Ceremony for Fingal Staff who died in service.
- Revised the “Dignity at Work” document which is to be launched in 2013.
- Organised and managed events to help boost morale amongst staff which included Fingal County Council being represented in the Swords St. Patrick’s Day Parade, designing and printing a staff calendar showcasing our staff at work helping to create a more positive image of Fingal County Council by advertising the good work that is done by our Staff.
- Celebrated the completion of the 1st FETAC Level 4 Continued Learning Programme for Outdoor and Indoor Staff.
- Organised the Health & Safety Week which incorporated 2 Sponsored Walks in aid of the Blanchardstown Hospice, arranged for Corporate Wellbeing Stands to be set up and organised Corporate Health Checks for staff.
- Organised and developed courses to provide training for staff to further their careers and help them progress to better paid jobs in the council.
- Organised and celebrated the Service and Loyalty of staff who have completed 25 years service in Fingal County Council.
- Supported the continuing production of the staff newsletter “The Raven”.

The Committee also facilitated & supported Working Groups and Sub-Groups in the following Activities throughout 2012:

- Bereavement Working Group
- Health and Safety
- Staff Morale
- Equality
- Further Education.

Architects' Department

The Architects' Department provided architectural design, conservation, urban design and building procurement and quantity surveying services to all departments of the Council during 2012.

Projects

CIVIC BUILDINGS

Schools Sites – Pilot projects – Enhanced facilities for Community usage –

The Architects' Department continues to be involved in discussions and assessments with the Community, Culture and Sports Division to advance the development of schools projects in the Fingal area in a more coherent way.



Malahide Castle

The project for the new courtyard building (including a new visitors' centre, education facility, restaurant and shops), works to the castle itself including a museum fit out, service upgrades, a new stair and lift, and fire safety works; together with a new greenhouse was completed on 15th October and formally opened on 30th November 2012.

Donabate/ Portrane Library

Work commenced on feasibility and sketch design work for a new library in Donabate-Portrane Community Centre.

Balbriggan Town Hall

The Department oversaw repairs to the façade of the Town Hall.

Pinewood Community Centre

The Department prepared a new design for the re-use of this fire-damaged building.

Martins Shop Rush

The conversion of this shop into a multi-purpose youth facility was completed in 2012.

Consultancy Services

The Architects Department provided architectural consultancy services for access works and repairs to Ardee Castle for Louth County Council; and for the area regeneration of Aisling Park to Dundalk Town Council during 2012.

Fancourt and Watery Lane Depots-

The Department project-managed construction works to consolidate and re-organise the Council's services depots at Fancourt, Balbriggan and Watery Lane, Swords. A tender was prepared and a contractor procured for a new salt barn at Watery Lane.

Drinan Sports Centre

Design development on this project continued through 2012. Part XI Planning consent was obtained in February and the Phase 1 car park was commenced on site in November.

Flemington Grave Yard

This project – which comprises a memorial garden, a small services building, car park, repository niches and landscape works for a 200-plot cemetery was completed in May 2012.



HOUSING

The Architect's Department continued to offer professional services to the Housing Department in 2012.

Housing Completions

The Department oversaw work on a further phase of the refurbishment of Mourne View Estate in Skerries and the completion of two infill houses in Mulhuddart. The mixed tenure scheme, developed with NABCO at Avondale was completed in February 2012.

Part V Inspections-

Advice was given, inspections and repairs carried out as requested by the Housing Department.

House adaptations, extensions and small works-

22 adaptations and 2 extensions of dwellings for people with special needs were completed.

Housing Maintenance

The Department continued to manage the maintenance of the Council's stock of 4,478 dwellings; attending to just under 9,000 requests for repair (including requests from the Traveller Accommodation Unit), as well as scheduled external maintenance and repair to 585 dwellings; and heating maintenance to over 3,000 dwellings.

168 vacant houses were repaired prior to re-letting in 2012. Many of these houses were significantly upgraded to improve energy efficiency.

Energy Efficiency Works

The Architect's Department, together with the Housing Department were able to respond to a call for proposals by SEAI to improve the thermal performance of Council dwellings in Rapid areas. The Council obtained in excess of € 482,000 to provide double-glazed replacement windows (72 houses, chiefly in the Council's Older Persons Dwelling (OPD) stock and cavity and roof insulation in 523 houses. Funding was also secured for additional window replacement and insulation works.

The Council's work in improving energy efficiency in 2012 led to an estimated energy saving of 3.92 Gigawatt/Hours for the year 2012-2013.

Other Services

The Department also offered the following services, advice on radon testing; dealing with pyrite queries; purchase mapping services (51 with BER's); way leave applications; building energy rating; and permissions to carry out alterations by tenants, out-of-hours dangerous building inspections and reports.

Quantity Surveying, Cost Planning and Cost Control

The Department offered quantity surveying, cost planning and cost control services associated with projects for a range of Council Departments. A framework for contractors, was established which will bring efficiencies in procurement for the numerous small works and repair projects which the Council undertakes.

Conservation

The Conservation Officer provided advice and reports on the following:

- Major Review of Record of Protected Structures
- Architectural Conservation Areas Statements of Character
- Newbridge Conservation Plan
- Unauthorised development, endangerment and neglect of Protected Structures
- Conservation Advice to owners on works to historic buildings
- Greater Dublin Drainage Scheme
- Royal Canal Greenway
- Fingal Branding & Signage
- Bremore Castle
- Policy for Historic Graveyards
- Record of Protected Structures Database Project
- Establishment of Historic Building Committee
- Malahide Public Realm
- LEADER funding for Ardgillan Glasshouse & St. Catherine's Park
- Structures at Risk Fund
- Investigating and developing sources of funding for architectural conservation (research on EU structural funds, proposal for FCC funding scheme and potential LEADER project)
- Fingal Tourism Committee
- Heritage Forum
- Heritage Advisory Group
- Green Infrastructure Group

Balbriggan Library

The Department oversaw repairs to the roof, parapet and weathervane of Balbriggan Carnegie Library.

Newbridge Demesne

The Department has prepared designs for new visitors' toilets, new tea rooms and a new reception area and visitors' shop at Newbridge House. The Department also procured consultants for the preparation of a conservation plan for the house and farm.

PLANNING AND URBAN DESIGN

National Children's Hospital

The Architect's Department provided architectural and quantity surveying services in supporting, with the Planning Department, the Connolly Hospital's submission to the National Children's Hospital Expert Group on site selection.

Stapolin LAP

The Architect's Department assisted the Planning Department in the preparation of the Stapolin/Baldoyle Local Area Plan.

Public Realm Studies

The Department has undertaken public consultation (with the Planning Department) on Public Realm studies in Balbriggan and Malahide.

Community, Culture & Sports Division

The activities and operational programmes of the Community, Sports and Arts Offices outlined below, are closely interlinked as it is recognised that each of them is essentially involved in community development.

The Community Office

The Division's Community Development Officers worked on a variety of programmes and initiatives, and supported a wide range of community organisations during 2012. A comprehensive support and advisory service was provided to voluntary community-based bodies throughout the County. A highly skilled team of field staff work in close liaison with communities, voluntary groups and statutory agencies in addressing issues and challenges that affect our communities and neighbourhoods.

The 5 Units within the Community Office were instrumental in the design and delivery of a number of programmes and activities in 2012.

Capital Projects Unit (CCPU)

The Capital Projects Unit plays a key role in supporting the development of local management and operational structures that oversee the day to day management and operation of Shared Community Facilities constructed under the Fingal Schools Model. There are a total of six shared facilities operating in Fingal at the following locations: Ongar, Phibblestown, Castaheany, Diswellstown, Tyrellstown and Applewood.



Tyrellstown and Applewood Community Centre's opened their doors to the local community during 2012 under the management of a local board of directors who operate the community facility on behalf of Fingal County Council. The existing shared facilities continue to flourish and grow within their new communities and are providing local communities with state of the art facilities that encourage and promote community engagement through the provision of a wide range of social and recreational activities.

Community Development Unit (CDU)

The main focus of the Community Development Unit's (CDU) work is in supporting and enabling community and voluntary groups in Fingal to effect change and combat social exclusion within their own communities. In 2012, the CDU supported 40 Residents Association and a further 60 local Community Groups. Supports included training, information, funding, policy development, workplan development and reviews, project development, sourcing of volunteers and mentoring on local issues. The CDU delivered 6 community Education programmes to 40 participants in the area of committee skills.

Community Facilities Support Unit (CFSU)

This Unit was established to support and enable management committees of Community Centres to carry out their roles effectively. The CFSU provided support information and mentoring in the areas of Facility Management, Finance, Human Resources and Corporate Governance.

Network Development Unit (NDU)

In 2012, the four networks, namely, Ethnic, Heritage, Seniors and Disability as well as the Fingal Community and Voluntary Forum, have continued to enhance their development while delivering on their extensive actions plans for the year. These Networks have enabled the voice of their members to influence issues affecting them by having representation on a wide range of countywide initiatives, forums, committees and working groups, such as the Strategic Policy Committees, Fingal Development Board, Policing Committees, etc. The Networks have delivered on a series of actions such as the showcase events, training workshops and seminars while playing a key role in the delivery of relevant targeted information by the use of social media and traditional methods.

Funding and Information Unit (FIU)

The FIU reports on all funding applications received under the Activities & Summer Projects Programme, the Fingal Integration Funding Scheme and the Unit explores external funding opportunities and provides information and application supports to community groups.

Fingal Age Friendly programme is actively engaged in bringing information and education out into the community and to the seniors groups. A number of these initiatives are computer training through "Digitize the Nation", Health, Fitness & Wellbeing programmes in conjunction with the Institute of Technology Blanchardstown and the provision of a pilot Health Route Transportation Project.

Funding Provided to Community and Voluntary Organisations in 2012

Area	Summer projects	Arts funding	Total
Balbriggan/Swords	€24,093.86	€22,150.00	€46,243.86
Castleknock/Mulhuddart	€26,000.16	€8,750.00	€34,750.16
Howth/Malahide	€3,874.50	€12,150.00	€16,024.50
County (aggregate)	€53,968.52	€43,050.00	€97,018.52

In 2012, it is estimated that over 4,200 young people participated in funded Summer Projects. During the year, the FIU successfully applied to the Office of the Minister for Integration, with €75,000 being made available to support integration initiatives through the Council's Integration Funding Scheme, of which 5 groups availed of this funding.

SPORTS OFFICE



The Sports Office was involved in a number of sports and physical activity programmes over the year and worked closely, and in parallel, with the Community Office.

The Sports Office, which is part of the Irish Sports Council's network of Local Sports Partnerships, delivered 690 programmes to in excess of 80,800 participants. Some of the highlights were:

Sports Conditioning Programme (Sportscon)

The Office continued its Sportscon programme in Primary Schools. Sportscon is a specialised training module developed for children of all ages and abilities, to improve children's basic movement skills through exercises and fun game. This helps to build confidence and self esteem in the children.

During 2012, the programme was delivered in 30 schools, training 87 teachers with 2,175 pupils benefiting from the programme. In addition a specialized teacher training workshop was delivered to 8 schools with an additional 160 teachers attending the two hour workshop. 30 special need carers and volunteers received training in the delivery of Sports Con.

Sporting Facts

Sporting Facts is a sports and educational programme using Sports Con as the basis of all activity sessions alongside classroom modules consisting fun quizzes and competitions aimed at teaching primary school children the many benefits of sport, physical activity and healthy lifestyles. The programme was delivered in 18 schools, to 72 classes with 2,260 children participating in the programme.

School & Youth Sport

During 2012, the Office organised and delivered a variety of activities. Being an Olympic Year, the Office organised its first ever "Fingal Future Olympians" competitions, 1,952 students participated in the school competitions culminating in a finals day in which 300 students attended.

Other Initiatives;

- Soccer & Tag Rugby blitzes, indoor cricket league, Primary School Athletics events and school badminton blitzes. A “kidgloves” project, aimed at 9 – 13 year old boys and girls, was run to introduce them to the sport of boxing.
- Late Night Soccer, which is run in partnership with the FAI and the Local Community Garda catered for 485 young people per week people, in five venues. The programme is run between 9 – 11 pm on a Friday night gives young people (boys & girls) an opportunity to participate in positive pastimes.
- Exercise Energise programme encourages first year girls in secondary school to participate in physical activity of their choice, 240 girls in eight schools participated in the programme culminating in a sports day where the girls sampled some new sports including ultimate Frisbee, Lacrosse and Zumba dance.

A programme using sport as a means of introducing and assisting the transition for primary school pupils into secondary school was run in two schools with 90 primary pupils and 20 secondary schools students acting as mentors and coaches to the younger children



Coach Education programme

The Office ran a number of courses including Code of Ethics (child protection), Children's Officer, Emergency Skills (first aid) and supported a range of National Governing Bodies Coach/Referee Education courses and training for and up skilling volunteers.

Activity programmes

Activities run by the Office during 2012 included a number of older adult swim programmes, Nordik walking, Tai Chi programmes, and a Traveller Participation programme.

Joint-funded Sports Specific Development

The Office co-funded 5 Football Development Officers with the F.A.I., 1 Rugby Development Officer with Leinster R.F.U., 1 part-time Tennis Development Officer in conjunction with Tennis Ireland, and a Cricket Development Officer with Leinster Cricket.

Women in Sport

Irish Sports Council jointly funded programmes in 2012 included a Camogie blitz, Gaelic for Girls, Exercise Energise, Girls Festival of football and girls only blitzes and competitions.

Disability Sports

The Office delivered Blind Golf, a "Be Active Be Inclusive" training programme, which provided sports and physical activity training to carers and volunteers working with people with disabilities and continues to support the powerchair sports.

Partnerships

The Office continues to rely on partnerships with a myriad of agencies and organisations to deliver its programmes to the widest range of the community.

ARTS OFFICE

The role of the Council's Arts Office is to encourage, foster and support cultural activity within Fingal through a policy based approach and forms an integral element of the Division's community development role.

Arts Grants awarded under section 6 of the 2003 Arts Act

In 2012, a total of €18,000 was awarded to Community Arts Festivals and Traditional Music Festivals, with €45,000 awarded under the general arts grant scheme. A further €578,700 was awarded directly to the Council's two Arts Centres, Draíocht and the Séamus Ennis cultural Centre.

Cultural Centres

Fingal County Council continued to enhance the cultural life in Fingal and provide public access to the Arts through the ongoing development of its two Arts Centres: Draíocht and the Séamus Ennis Cultural Centre.

Draíocht - hosted 97 ticketed shows with 29,125 people in attendance.

The Séamus Ennis Cultural Centre - 35 ticketed events were held during 2012 with a total of 3825 people attending the Centre.

YOUTH AND EDUCATION

Fingal's First Early Years Arts Initiative

Farmleigh Estate hosted this new initiative, titled, *Now We Are Ready to Start!* in October and November of 2012 at which there were 240 participants. It is the result of the collaboration between Fingal Arts Office and three artists, Orla Kelly, Laura de Burca and Helen Barry, who specialise in working creatively with young children. The workshops were devised specifically for those in their early years (0-5 years) and their guardians.

Place Shapers – Architecture and Urban Design Education Initiative

Fingal Arts Office and the Irish Architecture Foundation teamed up during 2012 with four professional architects, one film maker and two schools to develop a project that engages young people with architecture. 150 students were directly involved with the project, which will include two public events to be held during 2013 as well as the completion of a film documenting the process the students undertook. www.placeshapers.wordpress.com

Artist in Residence Programme (ARP) 2012

A total of 250 students and 10 teachers participated in this years ARP.

Visual Artist Alan Mongey worked in Donabate Community School to deliver this year's ARP. Second year students met with Alan once a week for the academic year to learn creative skills which will assist them in their endeavours to complete the junior cert cycle, while also learning about the life and work of the artist.

Visual Artist Joe Coveney worked with Corduff National School in Lusk to deliver the primary school ARP. As student numbers were small in this rural school, Joe Coveney was in a position to work with every student and teacher during the academic year.

Public Art

- Christine Mackey – A Year in the Field A year long study and residency with 30 children from St Patrick Boys National School, Donabate which investigated the unique ecology and botany of a local field through workshops and site visits which resulted in a student designed workbook which can be used by all children in their natural environment. The workbook is currently being distributed to all primary schools in Fingal. www.ayearinthefield.com
- Dennis McNulty – Interzone a non narrative film which tracks four distinct landscapes in Fingal, the film was screened in the Seamus Ennis Centre in November to an audience of 90 and included the artist in conversation with artist and curator Daniel Jewesbury

Travelogue: Collaboration with four Dublin local authorities and the National Transport Authority who commissioned artist Theresa Nanningan with her project Travelogue which presented the stories of the drivers and users of the Dublin transport system. The website has received over 15,000 hits and with the project distributed on billboards, buses, trains, luas and all major stations and daily in the Metro Herald in the greater Dublin area the project was seen by in excess of 20,000 people. The commission was awarded Business to Arts Best Commissioning Practice Award.
<http://www.travelogue.ie>

Commissions + A two day symposium featuring artists and curators from Ireland, Europe and Australia attended by 160 people. The symposium aimed to highlight and showcase works commissioned in Fingal and included a programme of site visits to the Donabate Martello Tower, The Balleally Landfill and The Field in Donabate.

Other Arts Office initiatives' in 2012 included:

- Drawing Day - a series of events to celebrate the National Drawing Day Initiative, in Fingal.
- Writing 3.0 - our annual countywide literature festival featured free workshops and talks with key Irish writers.
- Graphic Studio Graduate Print Residency Award - Offered an intensive programme of master classes with master printer Robert Russell at Graphic Studio Dublin. Local artist Sally Ann Kelly, photographer and film maker received the Award.
- Amharc Fhine Gall VIII - a platform to support recent art college graduates from Fingal opened on the 17th of November 2011 and continued until the end of February 2012 in Draíocht.
- What Next? - Offers an unique insight into the challenges and opportunities relevant to artists working in the current climate with practical advice and insights to living and working as an artist today. What Next? took place in Draíocht.
- Fingal County Councils' Arts Plan 2013-2017 public Consultation began with surveys conducted at arts and library venues and events throughout the county.

For further details on all arts events go to: www.fingalarts.ie



Environment, Business & Enterprise

WASTE MANAGEMENT DIVISION

The Council is responsible for the environmental regulation of waste collection through waste collection permits and waste presentation byelaws.

Recycling Centres and Bottle Banks

- The Council operates two recycling centres (Estuary & Coolmine) and a network of 73 bottle banks throughout the county. The following table gives tonnages of weights collected.

Tonnage of Recyclables Collected	2012	2011	2010
Estuary Recycling Centre	4308	3884	3969
Coolmine Recycling Centre	3297	3781	3676
Total	7605	7665	7645

Waste Electronic and Electrical Equipment

- Implementation of the Waste Electronic & Electrical Equipment (WEEE) Regulations 2005 requires inspection of premises to ensure retailers are complying with the regulations and the acceptance of WEEE at Recycling centres free of charge (Household WEEE and WEEE from registered retailers).

	2012	2011	2010
WEEE accepted at Recycling Centres	Estimate 1256 tonnes**	1244 tonnes	1303 tonnes
Above on Per Capita basis*	4.60kg/per- son	4.56kg/ per- son	4.77kg/person
WEEE collected from retailers by ERP**	Estimate 1050 tonnes**	933 tonnes	687 tonnes

*ERP is the European Recycling Platform the approved compliance scheme for Fingal

**The December 2012 figures are not yet available.

- There are 436 retail premises registered with ERP (European Recycling Platform) and WEEE Ireland for 2012.
- There are also 27 retail premises registered with Fingal County Council.

Waste Management Plan

The regional waste management plan was evaluated in accordance with amendments to the Waste Management Acts and the New Waste Framework Directive in November. Following the evaluation a decision was made to replace the 2005 Waste Management Plan. The drafting of a new plan will commence in 2013 following the establishment of the new waste planning regions.

WASTE INFRASTRUCTURE



12200817 Photo © Peter Barrow Photography 4th June 2012, NI 0812 519638

Balleally Landfill

Balleally Landfill closed to waste in May 2012 after 40 years of operation. Soil is however still being accepted at the landfill for remediation and capping. Approximately 30,000 m² of the old landfill remains to be capped with engineered capping which comprises soil, drainage layers, artificial bentonite layer and a gas collection layer.

Dunsink Landfill

Dunsink landfill continues in its aftercare phase i.e. environmental monitoring, leachate and landfill gas management. The generation of landfill gas continues to drop however it is still sufficient to generate electricity economically. This position may change in the next few years.

Environmental Awareness

- The Cleaner Community Awards in 2012 saw over 100 entrants across all categories, which range from Best Front Garden to the Green Business Award. A total of 35 prizes were awarded, which is an increase of 6 prizes on 2011 due to the extremely high standard of entries.
- An Taisce Green Schools Programme - 86 Green Schools in Fingal in 2012, 12 first flags awarded. A total of 224 flags, have been awarded to Fingal schools.
- An Taisce National Spring Clean.
- Adopt a Patch Initiative.
- LA Environmental Partnership Fund (Part of Local Agenda 21) - awarded a total of €27,500 in 2012 to 10 local environmental projects.
- Education Programme continued in the Estuary and Coolmine Recycling Centre with 9 schools visiting in 2012.
- Cinema and radio advertising promoting awareness of dog fouling and illegal waste collectors.
- Anti Litter and Graffiti poster competition for Fingal primary and secondary school students.
- 12 Sustainable Energy Ireland workshops facilitated for local schools.
- ERP in association with the Environmental Awareness team organised Santa's grotto in Blanchardstown to promote battery recycling.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	2012	2011	2010
Waste Management Resources (LA)			
No. Civic Amenity	2	2	2
No. Bring Banks	73	71	73
Schools Participating in Environmental Programmes			
% of Primary Schools	90	86	85
% of Secondary Schools	92	92	92

INSPECTORATE DIVISION

The Inspectorate Division brings together many of the enforcement functions of the Council in order to maximise efficiencies and explore the potential for sharing expertise and resources in carrying out our statutory enforcement functions.

Integrated inspections are carried out by the division to ensure that all development from commencement to completion and / or taking in charge stage is completed to best practice standard and built environment legislation. This legislation permits the section to take enforcement action and seek remediation for any breaches in compliance with regard to the built environment.

An integral function of the Inspectorate division is the managing and resolving of unfinished housing developments i.e. estates that require works to be completed to bring them to the required legislative standard.

Waste Management Act and Regulations

- 6 prosecutions were taken for breaches of the Waste Management Act, 1996 in 2012.
- 47 businesses were inspected for compliance with the Waste Management (Packaging) Regulations, 2007.
- 18 Companies registered as self-compliers in 2012.
- 6 Waste Permits were granted in 2012 for waste recovery facilities under the Waste Management (Facility Permit and Registration) Regulations, 2007-2008.
- Food Waste Regulations – 104 inspections.
- Waste Tyre Regulations – 28 inspections.

Waste Electronic and Electrical Equipment (WEEE)

Waste Electronic & Electrical Equipment (WEEE) Regulations 2005 requires inspection of premises to ensure retailers are complying with the regulations and the acceptance of WEEE at Recycling centres free of charge.

ERP is the European Recycling Platform the approved compliance scheme for Fingal

- There are 544 retail premises registered with ERP and WEEE Ireland for 2012
- There are also 114 retail premises registered with Fingal County Council
- There were 59 inspections of retail premises in Fingal in 2012.

Litter Control

- 1158 fines issued in 2012
- 202 files were prepared for prosecution.

Air Quality Control

This is provided on an agency basis by the Health Service Executive (HSE).

- 1 Primary air monitoring station in Fingal measuring air quality. This station gives real time data on PM10 and NOx and forms part of the Regional Air Quality Monitoring Network
- An Air Quality Management Plan has been adopted in conjunction with Dublin City Council, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council and South Dublin County Council
- 83 complaints relating to Air Pollution were investigated in 2012
- The Air Pollution Act (Marketing, Sale, Distribution and Burning of Specified Fuels) Regulations 2012 is now in force and the entire administrative area of Fingal is now designated a smokeless area. Regular inspections of coal sellers and distributors will be carried out in 2013 to ensure compliance with these regulations.

Noise Control

Complaints are investigated by Environmental Health Officers.

- 128 complaints relating to noise were investigated in 2012
- Noise Mapping of the entire Fingal County was completed in 2012. A Noise Action Plan based on the data produced by the Noise Mapping Exercise will be produced by June 2013
- Residential complaints must be brought to the District Court directly by householders under Section 108 of the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992.

Control of Dogs & Horses

- 481 dogs seized and 51 surrendered to the Dog Pound in 2012
- 5945 dogs licensed in Fingal in 2012 of which 2021 licences were issued online
- 145 horses impounded at the Council's pound in 2012.

Water Pollution Control

Fingal County Council continues to liaise with the Eastern River Basin District (ERBD) Project Office and EPA in relation to achieving statutory obligations relating to surface waters as set out in the River Basin Management Plan under Water Framework Directive.

- Implementation of the Shellfish Waters Directive by implementing the Pollution Reduction Programmes (PRP) for Malahide and Balbriggan-Skerries
- Continued monitoring of Bathing water quality at designated beaches under the Bathing Water Directive
- 73 Fat, oil and grease (FOG) Trade Effluent Licences issued
- 17 samples taken quarterly for Operational Monitoring of Rivers (68 in total).



Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI)

- Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI) annual plan was implemented through the combined resources of the Inspectorate Division to ensure the efficient monitoring and implementation of Environmental legislation.

Planning Enforcement

Proper planning and sustainable development implies that all development must have the benefit of a planning permission or be exempted development under the Planning and Development Acts, 2000 to 2010. The Inspectorate continuously monitors developments for compliance with planning permission. Representations made to the section regarding unauthorised developments are also investigated and enforcement taken where required.

Building Control

The primary purpose of Building Regulations is to provide for the health, safety and welfare of people in and around buildings. In addition, the building regulations make provision for the special needs of disabled persons in relation to buildings and for the conservation of fuel and energy.

The primary statutory responsibility for observing the requirements of the Building Control Acts, 1990-2007 falls on the persons who actually design and construct buildings and on the owners of buildings, who normally start this process.

Under the Building Control Acts, Fingal County Council may carry out random inspections in respect of buildings, documents or plans for the purpose of ascertaining compliance with the Building Regulations.

Safety of Structures and Places

The Inspectorate is empowered under the provisions of the Derelict Sites Act, 1990 to direct, by way of a notice, the owner or occupier of land which is or may become derelict to take such measures considered necessary to prevent it from becoming or continuing to be a derelict site. The Local Government (Sanitary Services) Act, 1964 may be used in addressing any safety concerns that may arise in relation to structures or places which may include unfinished developments/estates.

The Inspectorate Division also has responsibility for taking in charge of estates. Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 makes provision for taking estates in charge at the request of the developer or by plebiscite of the majority of 'qualified' residents' of the estate. Estates are only taken in charge when completed in compliance with planning and building control legislation.



Taking in Charge: Bremore Pastures (Before and After)

**Unfinished housing estate - Palmer Avenue.
Before & after**



INSPECTORATE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	2012	2011	2010
No. Litter Wardens	6	6	6
No. Litter Fines issued	1158	1220	1,111
No. Litter Fines Paid	424	504	591
Total Value Litter Fines Paid	66,545	82,851	91,570

Environmental Complaints			
Total Number of Complaints	2883	1786 (133 WMA) & (1653 LPA)	3,587
No. of complaints investigated	2883	1763	3,314
No. of Enforcement Procedures Taken	101 (RMCEI Enf 2012 stats)	33	45

Waste Packaging Regulations (e.g. packaging or permit regs)			
No. Businesses members of Repak	400	300	350
No. Self Compliant Businesses (to Fingal County Council)	18	20	19

Complaints concerning water pollution:	2012	2011	2010
No. of Complaints/ Incidents received/ identified	46	54	37
No. investigated	55	60 (Incl. 2010 Carry Over)	37
No. of complaints resolved with no further action required	32	45	31
No of formal enforcement (Section 12) procedures taken	27	4	1
No. of prosecutions initiated	0	0	0
Prosecutions successfully concluded	0	0	0

Planning Enforcement	2012	2011	2010
Total number of planning cases subject to complaints that are investigated	237	324	322
Total number of planning cases subject to complaints that are dismissed	116	150	144
Number of planning enforcement procedures taken through warning letters	186	122	124
Number of planning enforcement procedures taken through enforcement notices	69	49	76
Number of planning prosecutions (District – S.157)	0	9	28
(High Court/Circuit Court – S.160)	0	(8)	(15)
	1	(1)	(13)

Building Control	2012	2011	2010
Total number of new buildings notified to the local authority	389	373	535
Number of new buildings notified to the local authority that were inspected	42	37	65
No. of buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority	11	11	12
The number of all dwellings for which a BER Certificate was sought by the Building Control Authority	131	169	340
The number of BER Certificates submitted in response	132	125	109
Number of Disability Access Certificates Assessed	136	225	245
Number of Estates on list of housing developments/estates to be completed (Based on 2011 DoE survey)	50	152	n/a
Number of site Resolution Plans	3	15	n/a

Taking in Charge	2012	2011	2010
Number of estates that were taken in charge in the year in question	16	21	32
Number of Dwellings in respect of estates taken in charge	1052	3499	3574
Km of road in respect of estates taken in charge	6893	17238	22364
Number of derelict/dangerous sites complaints investigated	41	52	64
Number of derelict sites on derelict sites register	1	1	1

PARKS & HERITAGE PROPERTIES DIVISION



The Parks & Heritage Properties Division is responsible for the management and maintenance of the Council's major regional parks and historic properties. There are approximately 1,373 acres (556 hectares) of designed landscapes in Fingal managed by the Council. In addition the Council manages a number of important historic buildings and gardens that are open to the public attracting a large number of visitors from the county area and beyond. The Division is also responsible for the Council's allotments and the implementation of Fingal's Biodiversity Plan.

Malahide Demesne

Major redevelopment works at Malahide Castle and Gardens were completed in October 2012 with the official opening taking place on the 30th of November. Interesting and informative tours of the castle and gardens are available all year round. Initial reaction to the new offering is very positive with 100,000 visitors expected in 2013.



Newbridge Demesne

During 2012 there was a strong emphasis on events in the house and farm, particularly around Halloween and Christmas, along with the Flavours of Fingal Show which took place over a weekend in July. Despite the poor weather during the Summer Newbridge House and Farm increased its annual income by 11% in 2012.



Ardgillan Demesne

During the year Ardgillan opened the first holistic centre in the country located in a public park. Children's parties, art exhibitions, evening and daytime classes, civil weddings, outdoor plays and tours of the castle all formed part of a very busy programme at Ardgillan Castle in 2012.

Santry Demesne

This park has proven very popular with the surrounding community with large numbers visiting, particularly at the weekend. The walled garden is being developed in partnership with a local community group.

Liffey Valley Regional (St. Catherines) Park

Improvement works to the park continued in 2012 with the installation of a cricket playing surface. Following extensive consultation with park users a draft master plan for the park has been developed.

Playgrounds

The playgrounds in the four historic demesnes are amongst the most popular in the country providing thousands of children with a safe but challenging play environment.

Biodiversity

New "Open Space Grazing Initiatives" were launched at St. Catherine's Park in Lucan and on Howth Head. The Grey Partridge Reintroduction programme recorded the first successful breeding attempt in the wild in Fingal for the first time in 50 years. The Division advanced a number of other biodiversity projects including 3 key demonstration projects; farming for wildlife, floodplain management along the river Liffey and heath land management on Howth.

Allotments

Public allotments were maintained at Powerstown in Dublin 15, Turvey in Donabate and Skerries. New allotments were developed at Balbriggan together with the Balbriggan Allotment Association, bringing the total number of allotments to 900.

Initiatives and Events

- The re-opening of Malahide Castle and Gardens as a major national and international visitor attraction
- The Flavours of Fingal Agriculture and Food Show at Newbridge House
- The adoption of a “Smoke-free Playgrounds Policy” for Fingal
- The Scouts Jamoige at Ardgillan involving 3,500 young scouts
- The adoption of an “Allotments Strategy for Fingal”
- Restoration work on the water turbine at Shackletons Mills which will make the mill self-sufficient for electricity
- As part of National Recreation week, pupils from Hartstown Community School designed and constructed sculptures from natural materials in St. Catherine’s Park.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

The Economic Development Division supports the structured economic development of Fingal by planning for, initiating and managing projects that contribute positively to the county’s ongoing economic development. It promotes job creation by working in partnership with local businesses, Chambers of Commerce, IDA and Enterprise Ireland. It promotes and assists co-ordination between the **Fingal Development Board, FÁS**, the **Fingal County Enterprise Board** and third level institutions including the Institute of Technology Blanchardstown and Dublin City University.

Local Enterprise Office – (LEO)

The Government Action Programme for Effective Local Government - Putting People First - was published in October, 2012. This document sets out a clearer and enhanced role for local government in promoting and facilitating enterprise and economic development. In particular, the operation of a local enterprise support service, widening and deepening the business support functions of Fingal County Council, will be a core element of our economic development role. The Economic Development Unit will be amalgamated with the County Enterprise Board (CEB) to establish a Local Enterprise Office in 2013.

Economic Planning, Marketing & Promotion of Fingal

Work commenced in 2012 on the production of a new Economic Strategy 2013 – 2017 which will seek to develop key strategic development areas and address issues such as employment creation, skills development and enterprise supports and services.

The www.fingalworks.ie is an online resource providing information for jobseekers, business start-ups, existing businesses, investors and those with an interest in doing business or living in Fingal and provides Fingal specific information on social welfare, redundancy, business finance, training, mentoring, feasibility studies and research and development in an easy to access format.

In May 2012 the Mayor of Fingal, Cllr. Gerry McGuire hosted an economic conference entitled **‘Fingal – Preparing for Economic Recovery’**. This conference looked at the economic climate in which we find ourselves and what changes are taking place. The conference looked at the needs of the area and what has to be done to make Fingal ready to take full advantage of the emerging economic recovery.



Fingal County Council is a founding partner of **'The Green Way - Dublin's Cleantech Cluster'**, which aims to develop an internationally recognised Green Economic Zone complimenting planning and existing infrastructural investment, where all participants – public and private, Irish and International – are working in unison to deliver vibrant and highly adaptable jobs, creating enterprises, and building on proven joint capabilities to innovate, regenerate and transform. In 2012 The Green Way set an objective to "Prepare, communicate and implement a common green procurement/pre-procurement approach across the Principal partner organisations in line with emerging national policy".

To achieve this objective, a Procurement Group, comprising Procurement Officers from the principal partners, was set up and held a "Meet The Buyer" Procurement Showcase event, to stimulate innovation in Green Procurement by introducing potential suppliers of environmentally superior goods, services and works to their procurement teams with a goal to facilitate early engagement leading to pre-commercial involvement and long term supply relationships.

International Relations

Fingal County Council continues to participate and add value to the **Edge Cities Network** which has brought together towns and cities on the edge of major European capitals since 1996. The ongoing aim of the network is to share economic and social solutions to challenges within member locations.



Tourism Promotion

The **Fingal Tourism Forum** met several times in 2012 and work continued on the development of a Coastal Strategy to develop a strong identity for the Fingal coastline, assemble relevant information about the facilities along the coast and prepare and implement a plan for the extension of coastal walkways and cycleways.

The **Flavours of Fingal Show** was held on the 21st and 22nd July, 2012 in Newbridge House, Donabate. An estimated 18,000 people attended over the two days. The walled garden was home to 50 exhibitors and a place where visitors could enjoy live music and dancing, cooking and flower arranging demonstrations and wonderful garden exhibits. In the farm area there were sheep and cattle competitions, an equestrian show and a dog agility show. For the many families who came to the show there was face painting, balloons, a GAA mini camp and bouncy castles. There was also a weaving and spinning demonstration, a blacksmith demonstration and tours of Newbridge House on both days not to mention an extensive biodiversity exhibition including some golden eagles. Over 50 volunteers made sure that the event ran smoothly and the exit survey confirmed that people were hugely impressed with the diversity of the show and the superb venue and would come to the show again if it took place in 2013.



Financial support by the Council to the administration and operation of **Fingal Tourism** continued through its membership on the board and participation in joint programmes of trade and consumer fairs, in store-promotions, targeted advertising, public relations and direct marketing campaigns and tourism guides www.fingaldublin.ie

The Economic Development Unit continued to project manage and provide support to the **Malahide Castle & Gardens Redevelopment Project** which was opened by the Mayor and Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport on 30th November, 2012. Visitors can now avail of a more dynamic visitor experience with a new Castle Tour, the opening of the Walled Botanical Garden and the west lawn to the public for the first time, a restaurant and high quality retail experience which is operated by Avoca Handweavers together with the extensive parkland and playground. Up to 100 jobs are being supported at the attraction including an additional 80 jobs in the AVOCA restaurant.

Developing and Managing Industrial Parks

The Council has and continues to develop Industrial Parks at Damastown, Coolmine, Cappogue, Stephenstown, Bay Business Park, College Business and Technology Park, Blanchardstown and Turvey.

Developing and Managing Enterprise Centres for Start-Up Businesses

Fingal County Council has developed and continues to support three Enterprise Centres in the County. **Drinan Enterprise Centre** in Swords together with **BASE** in Mulhuddart and **BEaT** in Balbriggan provide start-up space and training facilities for businesses in these areas. Over 65 businesses and in excess of 250 jobs are currently supported in the three enterprise centres.



FINGAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD

In 2012 the Fingal Development Board (FDB) operated under the aegis of the Local Authority as a multi-agency Board. During 2012 the FDB continued to deliver on the final year of its 2009-2012 Strategy – “Building a Better Fingal”. The Board consisted of representatives of all of the significant Government Departments, State Agencies, Social Partners and the Local Development Sector. The Board acted as an overall governing structure with the practical delivery of the strategy achieved through 12 working groups, supported by a team of staff from Fingal County Council.



Members of Fingal Age Friendly County Initiative attending the Health Fitness & Wellbeing Programme in FDB

- Social Inclusion Measures Committee
- Invest Fingal – The Economic Development Committee
- Fingal Disability/Accessibility Working Group
- Fingal Inter-Agency Traveller Group
- Fingal Joint Policing Committee
- Fingal Data Hub
- Fingal Comhairle na nÓg
- Fingal Children’s Services Committee
- Fingal Integrated Transport Forum
- Dublin Airport Stakeholder’s Forum
- Fingal Age Friendly Initiative
- Flavours of Fingal Show

The Government signalled the abolition of County Development Boards (CDBs) with the "Putting People First" policy document. However, while this indicated the end of the Board as a structure, a new Local Authority led committee called the "Socio-Economic Committee" was announced which will take up former CDB co-ordination functions in the future. However, Fingal County Development Board will remain in place in 2013 pending the establishment of the Socio-Economic Committee.

RAPID (Revitalising Areas through Planning Investment & Development)

In 2012 Fingal had one designated RAPID area, covering the nine local authority housing estate areas of Dublin 15. The RAPID Area Implementation Team (AIT), is made up of local residents, significant State Agencies, and the Local Development Sector, and acts as the governing structure. Inter-agency work is carried out in the fields of education, training and mental health in addition to improvements in levels of collaboration, service provision and community involvement. The RAPID area has one full time coordinator with administrative support from the Fingal Development Board

Finance Department

The Finance Department deals with the short and long term financing of the Council's operations both of a Revenue and Capital nature.

This involves:

- monitoring and controlling income and expenditure in all areas
- arranging borrowing and leasing requirements and
- treasury and cash flow management
- ensuring that statutory and financial accounting principles are complied with.

The Council's revenue or day-to-day expenditure is defrayed from sources such as:

- Commercial Rates
- Government Grants
- Housing Rents
- Commercial Water charges
- Planning application fees
- Non principal private residence charges.

The amount of money available for capital or infrastructural developments is dependent on State Grants, borrowing and/or development levies.

The main functions of the Finance Department include:

- Preparation of the Annual Budget
- Preparation of Annual Financial Statement
- Financial Management and Control
- Revenue Collection – commercial rates, commercial water charges, entry year property levies, non-principal residence charge
- Payment of accounts
- Payroll administration
- Insurance and claims administration
- Cash Office operations.

Prompt Payment of Accounts Act 1997

The Prompt Payment of Accounts Act 1997 and the European Communities (Late Payment in Commercial Transactions) Regulations 2002 aims to ensure that all Public Bodies and Contractors on public sector contracts pay amounts due to suppliers promptly. In the event of a payment not being made within a 30 day period from the date of receipt of their valid invoice, there is an obligation to pay an interest penalty.

In accordance with Government decision S29296 coupled with the National Recovery Plan and the EMU/IMF Programme of Support for Ireland, Fingal County Council operates the 15 day prompt payment rule.

Constant monitoring of the level and nature of outstanding invoices was conducted throughout the year and action was taken where appropriate to ensure that the Council met all prompt payment deadlines.

In the course of the year 2012 no interest penalties were incurred by the Council and 93% of invoices were paid within 15 days.

Performance Indicators:

	2012	2011	2010
Commercial Rates (Amount collected as % of amount due)	83.13%	84.99%	83.85%
Commercial Water/Wastewater Charges (Amount collected as % of amount due)	69.52%	70.9%	71.7%

Revenue Account Statement

for year ended 31st December 2012

	DRAFT 2012	2011
Expenditure	€	€
Housing & Building	36,993,164	36,335,126
Roads Transportation & Safety	22,253,315	24,480,106
Water & Sewerage	43,233,278	41,405,132
Development Incentives & Controls	13,964,482	14,040,214
Environmental Protection	35,352,876	46,015,459
Recreation & Amenity	30,045,311	30,125,270
Agriculture, Education, Health & Safety	6,272,116	14,429,892
Miscellaneous	20,612,395	18,003,426
Total Gross Expenditure	208,726,937	224,834,625
Income		
Housing & Building	35,345,411	36,751,385
Roads Transportation & Safety	8,329,501	10,200,697
Water & Sewerage	13,593,465	12,599,386
Development Incentives & Controls	2,188,120	2,173,851
Environmental Protection	5,704,402	15,391,177
Recreation & Amenity	2,984,820	3,445,498
Agriculture, Education, Health & Safety	4,896,672	13,164,898
Miscellaneous	8,393,321	6,776,676
Total Income	81,435,712	100,503,568
Net Expenditure	127,291,225	124,331,057
<i>Which is funded by:</i>		
County Rates	121,495,756	116,394,656
Local Government Fund	19,909,684	22,660,895
Pension Related Deduction	3,453,932	3,606,123
TOTAL	144,859,372	142,661,674
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year before Transfers	17,568,147	18,330,617
Transfers from/(to) Reserves	(17,765,759)	(18,307,805)
	(197,612)	22,812
Incoming Balance @ 1st January	17,673,622	17,650,810
Closing Balance @ 31st December	17,476,010	17,673,622

Capital Account Statement

for year ended 31st December 2012

	DRAFT 2012	2011
	€	€
Expenditure (Net of Internal Transfers)*		
Housing and Building	20,416,040	47,462,438
Road Transportation & Safety	26,862,124	35,972,148
Water Supply & Sewerage	44,612,534	35,156,238
Development Incentives & Controls	24,688,325	36,642,046
Environmental Protection	5,619,834	5,671,965
Recreation & Amenity	17,520,155	6,667,328
Miscellaneous Services	280,320	1,747,202
	139,999,332	169,319,365
Income (Net of Internal Transfers)*		
Housing and Building	16,868,888	120,699,487
Road Transportation & Safety	24,935,309	32,412,616
Water Supply & Sewerage	38,601,676	40,712,263
Development Incentives & Controls	12,486,486	30,435,366
Environmental Protection	5,493,611	5,740,000
Recreation & Amenity	15,034,556	5,653,014
Miscellaneous Services	5,061,470	4,689,298
	118,481,996	240,342,044
Surplus/(Deficit) for year	(21,517,336)	71,022,679
Balance (Debit)/Credit @ 1st January	89,901,157	18,878,478
Balance (Debit)/Credit @ 31 December	68,383,821	89,901,157

*Excludes internal transfers, includes transfers to and from Revenue account

Housing Department

Housing Procurement

Social housing procurement now centres on the Long Term Leasing Scheme and the Rental Accommodation Scheme.

757 RAS properties have been secured to date, 148 in 2012.
59 Long Term Leasing properties, 22 of these in 2012.

Housing construction completed on 2 infill dwellings at Fortlawne Avenue, Blanchardstown in 2012

Affordable Housing

14 properties were sold under the Affordable Housing Scheme in 2012, and the Council continued to lease unsold affordable units to voluntary housing bodies, in accordance with DOECLG requirements, 228 of which are now occupied by families from the Council's housing list.

Housing adaptation grants scheme for older people and people with disability

There were 248 private grants approved totalling €2,072,365.

HOUSING STOCK

Rental

At 31st December 2012 the Council had 4,478 social properties and 58 long-term lease properties in its housing stock. The Rental income collected from these properties was €12,400,688.

At 31st December 2012, 1,828 live mortgage accounts yielded payment of €11,585,793.

ESTATE MANAGEMENT

A total of €4.97m revenue expenditure was incurred on response maintenance and general upkeep of the Council's Housing Stock and estates. 9,121 response maintenance requests were received during 2012.

In addition 4,039 boilers are part of the Council's Boiler Servicing Programme.

6 Tenant Induction Courses were held to assist housing applicants to settle into their new homes and communities.

The Estate Management Section attended 26 Residents Association meetings to encourage resident participation in estate management and 18 meetings with the Gardaí concerning Community and Estate policing.

672 complaints regarding Anti-Social Behaviour and breach of tenancy were received during 2012.

There are 8 excluding orders in place regarding anti-social individuals from Council tenancies and 7 anti-social tenancies were repossessed.

Estate Improvement Works in the form of railings, courtyard upgrades, laneway closures and tree planting were completed in Whitestown, Sheepmoor, Sheephill, Castlecurragh, Windmill and Pinewood Estates to alleviate Anti-Social Behaviour blackspots.

Capital expenditure of €5.35m was incurred on planned maintenance programmes and other improvements such as:

- Pre-Let Repairs completed in 134 dwellings and a grant of €770,000 was received in respect of energy efficiency measures completed in these dwellings, which generated 967,422.90 KW savings.
- Central Heating installation and upgrading works in 48 dwellings, which generated 466,112.41 KW savings.

The Estate Management Section facilitated Glen Dimplex in their Green Way Initiative to roll out a new form of electric storage heating in 73 units in Castlecurragh.

Painting and joinery works took place in 593 dwellings under the cyclical maintenance programme.

Refurbishment works were carried out on 12 dwellings in Mourne View estate under the Remedial Works Scheme and a grant of €512,000 was received in respect of this Scheme.

Insulation works were carried out on 630 dwellings across the County, 430 of which were completed in a programme part funded by a grant of €200,000 from the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland. The balance of this Capital Funding coming from the Council's own resources. The programme generated approximately 1,725,553.30 KW savings.

A Window and Door Replacement Programme was carried out on 102 1 bed dwellings across the County, 60 of which were part funded by a grant of €282,500 from the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland. The balance of funding coming from the Council's own resources. The programme generated approximately 552,370.45 KW savings.

The Council's various energy efficiency measures completed on dwellings during 2012 generated 3.71 Gigawatt/hr energy savings.

ALLOCATIONS

A total of 557 dwellings were allocated in 2012 to applicants who had applied to Fingal County Council for Social Housing Support, as follows:

• Social Casual	95
• Social New Build	24
• RAS	46
• RAS in-situ	60
• RAS Renewals	18
• Voluntary Casual	9
• Voluntary New Builds	165
• Voluntary Unsold Affordables	119
• Long Term Leasing	21

There were 9,731 approved applicants who had applied to Fingal County Council for Social Housing Support as of 31st December 2012

TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION

Fingal County Council continues to implement the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2009 – 2013. The next Traveller Accommodation Programme is due to commence in January 2014.

In line with the Fingal Traveller Interagency Group accommodation objectives, Ardlá Cottages, Skerries, became the first traveller specific accommodation estate management pilot scheme in 2012.

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	2012	2011	2010
H: Housing			
H.1 Housing Vacancies:			
Total number of dwellings in local authority stock	4,478	4,508	4,459
Overall % of dwellings that are let	96.74%	97.25%	98.09%
Overall % of dwelling that are empty	3.26%	2.75%	1.91%
% of empty dwellings subject to major refurbishment schemes	n/a	8.9%	n/a
% of empty dwellings unavailable for letting	82.2%	88.7%	95.29%
% of empty dwelling available for letting	17.8%	11.3%	4.71%
H.2 Average time taken to re-let dwellings available for letting	35 days	2.9 wks	1 week
H.3 Number of repairs completed as a percentage of the number of valid repair requests received	96%	97%	95%

H.4 Average time taken to inform applicants of Local authority's decision on applications for:

	2012	2011	2010
The shared ownership housing scheme	n/a	n/a	n/a
Housing loan schemes	81 days	56 days	n/a
Local authority housing	30 days	60 days	n/a

H.5 Traveller Accommodation

Total number of traveller families accommodated as a percentage of the targets set in the local traveller accommodation programme	40%	15%	66.67%
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Rev: Revenue Collection

Rev.1 House Rent

(a) Amount collected at year as a percentage of amount due	87.28%	86.09%	90.98%
(b) Percentage of arrears			
4 – 6 weeks old	5.12%	4.52%	6.7%
6 – 12 weeks old	13.91%	12.51%	16.42%
More than 12 weeks old	75.34%	77.35%	67.86%

Rev.2 Housing Loans

(a) Amount collected at year as a percentage of amount due:	90.65%	93.60%	95.25%
(b) Percentage of arrears:			
1 month old	6.46%	10.82%	12.59%
2 – 3 months old	4.94%	6.48%	10.15%
More than 3 months	88.60%	82.70%	77.26%

Human Resources

Due to the scale of staff retirements in 2012, it was necessary to proactively engage in succession planning in order to ensure continued maintenance of existing services.

The Health and Safety Unit were awarded, for the second consecutive year, the Local Authority Sector Award in the National Irish Safety Organisation's Annual Occupational Safety Awards. This achievement demonstrates our continuing commitment to excellence and improvement in our service provision.

Recruitment

Fingal County Council employed 1330 staff (FTE) at the 31/12/2012 as follows:

	<u>Permanent</u>	<u>Temporary</u>	<u>Total</u>
Administration	510	1	511
Professional	132	7	139
Technical	162	-	162
Craft	76	-	76
General Workers	442	-	442
Total	1322	8	1330

Retirees

68 Staff retired in 2012.

Staff Training

In 2012 the CPD Committee secured the Engineers Ireland CPD Company *of the year Award - Public Sector Category*, in recognition of strong and structured CPD Practices whereby Fingal County Council successfully reduced energy consumption and improved efficiency in Water Services, whilst achieving significant savings in the process.

62 Training Courses were run in 2012 which provided a total of 1568 training places for staff.

50 employees availed of the Staff Education Scheme in 2012.

Performance Indicator

Corporate Health - Percentage of days lost to sickness absence: 5.60%

Industrial Relations

Council maintained its good industrial relations record.

Health & Safety

The following activities were carried out during 2012;

- 300 safety inspections were carried out
- 16 safety audits were conducted

Information Technology Department

The Information Technology (IT) Department is responsible for the strategic use of information technologies in Fingal County Council to support business areas in delivering their objectives through improved efficiencies and effectiveness.

The IT Department enables the provision of services to citizens, staff and elected public representatives through multiple channels such as front desks, mobile devices, Internet and using technologies such as GIS and Web 2.0

Apps4Fingal

The IT Department worked in tandem with the Economic and Social Development Division to organise a competition to stimulate the use of Fingal Data to build mobile and online apps. The competition was launched before Christmas 2011 and was followed up with an ideas development day in January 2012 and the awards ceremony in March 2012. The competition was a huge success with 70 entries in all categories. The overall winner was Cianán Clancy for the Discover Fingal app.

Taoiseach's Public Service Excellence Award

Fingal Open Data (<http://data.fingal.ie>) was nominated for and won a Taoiseach's Public Service Excellence Award. The award was accepted by Cllr. Gerry Maguire, then Mayor of Fingal on behalf of the Council from Taoiseach Enda Kenny T.D. at a ceremony held in Dublin Castle on 21st June 2012.



Projects

The IT Department carried out a number of major projects in cooperation with various Council Departments during 2012, including –

FixYourStreet

- Reporting of issues to Council by the public.

Online Planning Submissions

- Members of the public can make submissions online in respect of Planning Applications.

Council Meetings System Phase 1 (Council Meetings)

- System to manage Council Meetings Agendas, Questions, Reports and Minutes.

SMS for Libraries

- SMS alerts for borrowers re book due back, book ready for collection etc.

JustMaps – interactive map viewer

- New mapping system for staff.

Household Charge Waiver Search Facility

- Tool to enable citizens to determine if they are eligible for a waiver.

Road Gully Project

- Data on Road Gullies recorded in GIS System.

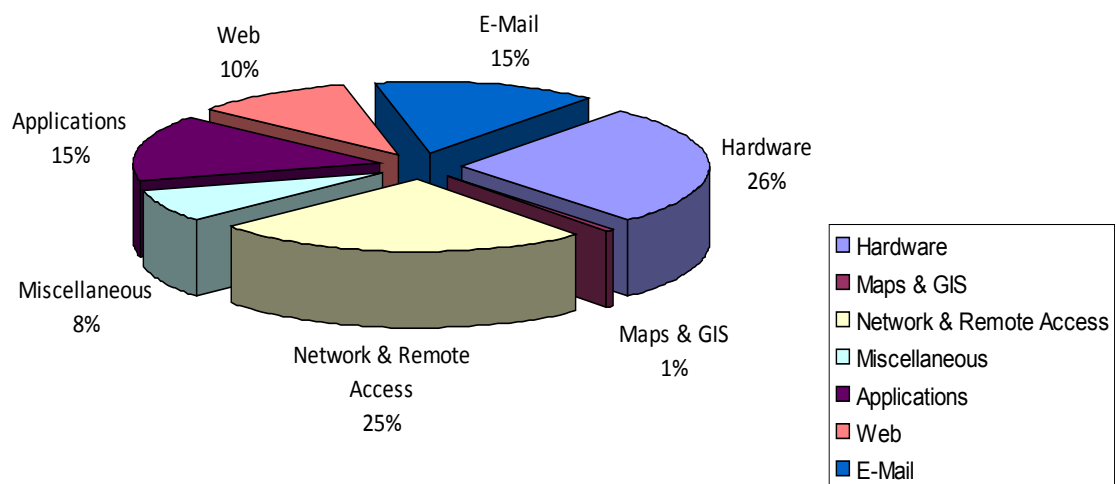
Social Business

- Enterprise collaboration software for staff.

Service Desk

Call Statistics	2012	2011	2010
Service Desk Calls Logged	4,276	5,324	5,952
Average calls per month	356	444	496
Average calls per day	11	22	23
Resolved with 24 hours	47%	45%	57%

Breakdown of Service Desk Calls 2012



Law Department

The Law Department provides a comprehensive in-house legal service to the County Manager and all of the Council's Departments relating to the broad and varied range of statutory functions. These services include:-

- ◆ Consultations with client departments in relation to statutory functions
- ◆ Advising departments in relation to any issues arising from case law and the regulatory framework governing local authorities
- ◆ Providing training to Council Departments
- ◆ Representing the Council at arbitrations and oral hearings such as Metro North
- ◆ Dealing with acquisitions and disposal of Council properties including:
 - clubs and community centres agreements/licences
 - commercial leases of the Council's industrial sites
 - dedications of open spaces
 - equity buy outs
 - first registrations
 - loans and mortgages
 - shared ownerships
 - tenant purchases under the sales schemes
 - voluntary housing schemes
- ◆ Initiating and defending cases in the District, Circuit, High Court including the Commercial Court and the Supreme Court including:
 - breaches of contract
 - disputes in relation to land
 - debt collection including rates collection, judgments and judgment mortgages, injunctions,
 - employers liability claims
 - housing repossessions for non-payment of rent/mortgage and antisocial behaviour,
 - injunctions under section 160 Planning and Development Act
 - judicial review proceedings
 - District Court proceedings on a weekly basis in relation to matters such as litter offences, planning offences, control of dogs, air pollutions, intoxicating bye-laws, housing matters and rates summons
 - personal injury litigation
 - trespass and nuisance.

Review and implementation of the department's case management system continued in 2012, which has proved an effective tool in processing rates collection cases and enforcement action.

Libraries Division

Fingal Library Service is operated through 9 branch libraries, a Local Studies and Archives section and a Mobile/Housebound service. Registered membership of Fingal Libraries is up by 24.3% since 2010, which is a clear indication of how important the service is to our citizens.

With an average daily footfall of 1,409, which often peaks at 2,000 during exam time, Blanchardstown is the busiest and largest public library in the country. The Mobile/Housebound service visits 196 locations throughout the county on a regular basis. 78% of transactions which take place in 5 of our branch libraries are now carried out using RFID / self service technology. In Blanchardstown Library this figure can be up to almost 90% on certain days. The use of this technology has enhanced the service and empowered citizens to manage their library transactions.

Literacy Strategy

The Library Service is ideally placed to address issues relating to family literacy. Starting in 2012, our renewed strategy involves Barnardos, community crèches, home school liaison officers, Lifestart, the VEC and the Institute of Technology in Blanchardstown. Key action areas explored in 2012 include the delivery of a family literacy module in Blanchardstown Library in collaboration with the VEC, the establishment of baby book clubs in branch libraries and a joint project in early childhood studies with the ITB.

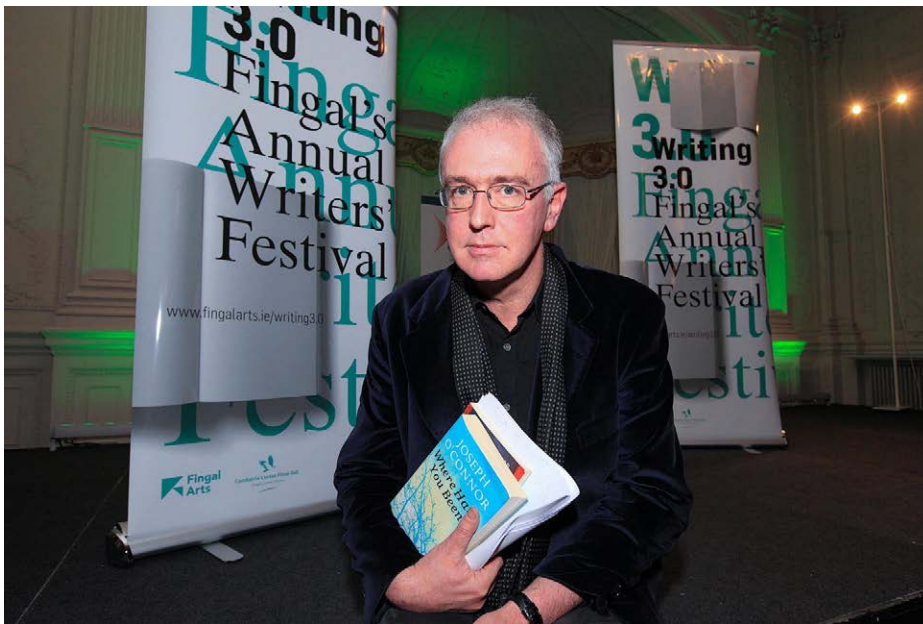
New Services

An exciting range of free online services was launched in 2012: e books including a large range of bestsellers to download to iPods, Sony Readers and other devices; Universal Class offering online learning in arts and music, computers and technology and in many other subject areas; and an online magazine service enabling readers to download their favourite lifestyle and personal interest magazines.

A SMS text messaging service was introduced in 2012 which alerts borrowers to overdue and reserved items. Free WIFI access was made available in Balbriggan, Baldoyle, Blanchardstown, Malahide, Rush, Skerries and Swords.

Events

Over 4,000 events took place in Fingal Libraries throughout 2012 catering, for all ages and many diverse interests. Highlights included the one man show "Dickens in Dublin" to mark the bicentenary of the birth of Charles Dickens and a series of lectures and author visits to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Titanic's maiden voyage. Successful new outreach collaborations included a series of workshops for children with the National Gallery of Ireland and workshops with the Print Museum of Ireland on bookmaking, printing and hat making. Seminars on job seeking skills were held in several branches and were very well attended.



Writing 3.0

Fingal Libraries and the Fingal Arts Office collaborated once again in 2012 to host Writing 3.0, Fingal's annual writers' festival. Events were held in libraries, Draíocht, the Seamus Ennis Arts Centre, Farmleigh, Swords Council Chamber and Malahide Castle. Events included a reading by Joseph O'Connor; song writing with Mick Hanly; "From script to screen" with Sarah Dillon, Irish Film Board and Terry McMahon, filmmaker and director; an Open Mic night for poets with Dave Lordan and Colm Keegan; and the launch night courtesy of the Stinging Fly Press.

Europe Direct

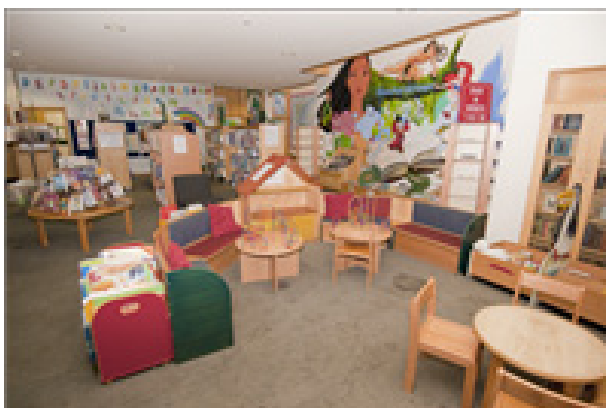
The Europe Direct Centre at Blanchardstown Library is a local link to Europe for the citizens of Fingal. The Centre hosts European themed events and provides information and advice to the public on all aspects of the EU, as well as providing a forum for engagement and interaction. The highlight of the year was a "Soapbox" debating event which was held in Blanchardstown Library and chaired by MEP Mr. Paul Murphy. Europe Direct also hosted the "Birch Bark Letters of Siberia" exhibition in conjunction with the Embassy of the Republic of Latvia to Ireland in June 2012.

Local Studies and Archives

Local Studies and Archives launched 2 publications in 2012: '*Fingal Studies, Early Fingal Entrepreneurs*' about early entrepreneurial activity in 18th century Fingal, and '*Fingal Sporting Heroes*' by former County Librarian, Paul Harris. As part of its educational programme, it hosted a lecture on the *Royal Dublin Fusiliers and World War 1* which was accompanied by the *Hely-Hutchinson's in World War 1* exhibition. Another popular event was the launch of the *Olympics Exhibition* with guest of honour Harry Boland who competed in the 1948 London Olympics. A programme of digitisation was initiated in 2012, resulting in the Oral History and Postcard collections being made available online.

Further on-going work in 2012 included the re-binding of Dublin County Council Labourers Cottages Ledgers, the launch of the minutes of Balbriggan Town Commissioners online and the creation of a Data and Records Management Policy for Fingal County Council.

	2012	2011	2010
Items borrowed	1,192,968	1,272,135	1,229,879
Registered Members	160,308	145,325	129,020
Internet Usage hours	134,734	127,697	112,753
Website visits	70,709	50,831	42,942
Average number of public opening hours per week for full time libraries	47.94	49	49
Average number of public opening hours per week for part time libraries (where applicable)	23	17	23
Number of registered library members as a % of the local population (2011 Census)	58.51%	53.22%	53.80%
Number of items issued per head of population (county wide) for:			
(a) Books	3.150	3.58	3.97
(b) Other Items	1.204	1.08	1.16
(c) Total: Books plus Other Items	4.354	4.66	5.13
% of Libraries that offer internet access to the public	100%	100%	100%
Number of Internet sessions provided per 1000 pop	493.53	467.75	470.71
Book fund expenditure per capita	2.37	3.12	4.15
Visits by the public to Fingal Libraries	1,232,394	1,234,807	1,043,983



Operations Department

The Operations Department comprises most functions of the former Transportation Department together with public open spaces and parks, landscaping, tree maintenance and litter collection in all public areas. It also includes responsibility for beaches, harbours and public conveniences.

The amalgamation of functions, previously separated, provides opportunities to develop works programmes that match regular calendar-based scheduled activities and that allows allocations of manpower resources in a more flexible manner than was previously possible.

TRANSPORTATION

Fingal County Council has responsibility for the management and movement of people, vehicles, animals and goods in a safe, efficient, economical manner from place to place within Fingal via the public road network system.

The main pieces of enabling legislation are:

- Roads Act 1993 - 2007
- Road Traffic Acts 1961 to 2008
- Local Government(Planning & Development) Acts 2000 – 2011.

Transportation Process/Range of Services

A wide range of services are provided, the improvement, maintenance and lighting of existing roads, the implementation of traffic management measures and the operation of a road safety section and school warden service. The Operations Department acts as an agent for the National Roads Authority (NRA) for the management of the National Road Network which includes the M1, M2 and N3 routes, in Fingal. The Department is also responsible for taking in charge new roads, temporary and permanent closures of roads, the making of bye-laws relating to roads and related areas (e.g. speed limits, parking places etc.)

Traffic

A wide range of traffic control, traffic planning and traffic management issues are dealt with;

- Travel Demand Management, the basic principle of which is to promote sustainable alternatives to the use of the car, i.e. improved facilities for public transport, planning of walking and cycling networks, cycling and mobility management plans etc
- Provision and maintenance of traffic signals
- Signing and road marking of road network
- Improvements to walking and cycling networks, where the objective is to improve pedestrian and cyclist safety, ease traffic congestion, improve accessibility for mobility impaired road users, and effectively manage parking
- Facilitating the improvements to the bus network in conjunction with the National Transport Authority (NTA)
- Smarter Travel is the Government policy for transport in Ireland. “Smarter Travel, “A Sustainable Transport Future, A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009 – 2020”, Complemented by “Ireland’s First National Cycle Policy Framework” The purpose of this project is to develop routes to promote sustainable modes of transport particularly cycling
- Promote road safety.



Traffic Elements in 2012	Details
Traffic Signals	100 (94 on Remote Monitoring System)
Pedestrian Signals	86 (82 on Remote Monitoring System)
Toucan Crossings	27 (24 on Remote Monitoring System)
School Warning Signals	23
Zebra Crossings	3
Bus Gates	1
Speed Readers/ vehicle activated signs	13

Sustainable Transport Project

In 2012 the following projects were advanced:

- Lusk Traffic Management scheme work is to be completed by mid-2013
- The detailed design of a cycle scheme for the Ongar Castaheaney area of Blanchardstown was completed with construction planned for mid-2013
- 2 New pedestrian crossings were provided in Castlecurragh, Mulhuddart, and Applewood, Swords and new traffic signals were provided at Dublin Street, Old Market Green Balbriggan.
- Improvements to the footpath networks around the county at Luttrellstown Road, D15, Ladyswell Road D15, Rathmore Road Lusk, Skerries, Kinsealy Church and Burrow Road, Sutton.
- A Feasibility Study was completed for a Greenway along the Royal Canal within the Fingal Administrative area



Pay and Display

The Pay and Display Schemes for the towns of Malahide, Balbriggan, Skerries, Swords, and Rush continued to operate effectively. A new scheme at Clonsilla/Portersgate was introduced during the year.

Road Maintenance

The Operations Department operating from Depots at Balbriggan, Swords and Coolmine undertook an extensive Programme of Works throughout 2012 comprising resurfacing, surface dressing, strengthening, drainage and flood relief works, remedying defects arising from wear and tear and pot-hole repairs on the county roads most in need of repair. Winter maintenance is a sophisticated and integral part of the operations programme, spanning from the beginning of November to the end of April. A system of Thermal Mapping has been undertaken on the main road network and based on readings from strategically located weather stations along the routes, which is fed into the computer system, the local authority carries out precautionary salting/gritting accordingly.

Fleet Management and Plant Hire

The Fleet Management and Plant Hire Section (FMPH) now manage the fleet and also the vehicle and plant hire requirements for Fingal County Council. In 2012, FMPH managed a council owned fleet in excess of 380 vehicles and plant and processed 590 plant hire requests.

Public Lighting Section

During 2012, the Public Lighting Section managed the maintenance of 32,386 lights throughout Fingal.

Road Safety

The Operations Department manages the School Warden Service. The total number of Wardens employed in 2012 was 95 fulltime wardens and 43 reserve wardens. Managing and maintaining the School Warden Service is an important aspect of the Road Safety Programme and this was delivered in 2012 by:

- Training, supervision and administration of Adult School Wardens
- Training and supervision of pupils involved in junior school warden service
- Maintenance and upkeep of school crossing paint markings
- Inspection and maintenance of school crossing street furniture and signage
- Ensuring all crossings comply with the legislative requirements and best practice



Road Safety in the County in 2012 continued through:

- Production of information/campaign materials, leaflets, armbands, rulers and pencils with the safety message
- Pedal Cyclist training course
- Educational talks in schools
- Junior school warden training course
- Road Safety Week, Walk to School Day
- Road Safe Road Show in Helix Theatre for transition year students
- Promotion of the safe routes to schools and walking bus multi-agency approach
- Bike for your Breakfast mornings in schools
- Cycle events during Community Safety Week
- C.O.W (Cycle on Wednesday) and W.O.W (Walk on Wednesday) days during Green Week

Key Statistics

	2012	2011	2010
Road length by category			
National Roads including Motorways	60km	60km	60km
Regional Roads	225km	225km	225km
Local Roads	1026km	1019km	1002km

Service Indicators

No. of kilometres of local and regional Roads improved and maintained under the restoration Programme per annum

29km

No. of kilometres of local and regional Roads constructed under the specific Improvement grants scheme per annum

0km

Administration

The Administration Division services Area Committee Meetings for the Howth/Malahide, Castleknock/Mulhuddart and Balbriggan/Swords Areas on a monthly basis.

The Administration Division also dealt with:	2012	2011	2010
Wayleave/ Communications Applications, Road Opening Licence Applications	385	328	393
Temporary Road Closure Applications	36	39	31
Taking in Charge Certificate Applications	413	329	357
Abnormal Load Permit Applications	313	331	417

ENVIRONMENT

Beaches & Bathing Water

There are 48 kilometres of coastline in Fingal. There are 10 designated beaches providing a valuable recreational amenity in the County located at.

- Balbriggan, Skerries South, Loughshinny, Rush South, Portrane, Donabate, Malahide, Portmarnock, Sutton (Burrow Road) and Claremont, Howth.

36 lifeguards were employed at 10 beaches from June to end August 2012. In addition to carrying out beach cleaning and providing access facilities we provide regular monitoring of seawater samples carried out to ensure compliance with Bathing Water Quality requirements.



Highlights in 2012 were:

- Blue Flag awarded to Portmarnock, Donabate, Portrane and Skerries South
- Green Coast Awards to 5 beaches - Portmarnock, Malahide, Donabate, Portrane, and Skerries South.

Harbours



The Operations Department manage and maintain a number of harbours and piers in the County at Balbriggan, Skerries, Rush, Loughshinny and Malahide Slipway. As part of the Fishery, Harbour and Coastal Infrastructure Development Programme 2012 the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine part funded improvement works with the Council providing the balancing funding which included:

- Raising landing platform above highest astronomical tide (H.A.T.) installation of stainless steel railing and ladder at Rush Harbour
- Repair to metal piling and pouring concrete beneath deck to fill voids and new fendering at pier extension at Skerries Harbour
- Re-pointing of 375m of harbour wall at Balbriggan Harbour
- Demolition of shed, removal of stones hazards from water, installation of navigation buoy, at Loughshinny

Burial Grounds

There are 35 Burial Grounds operated and maintained by the Fingal County Council. A new burial ground at Flemington, Balbriggan was officially opened on 3rd May 2012.

Public Conveniences

Maintenance of 15 public conveniences – 7 open year round and 8 open during the summer season.

PARKS

The Operations Department is principally responsible for the planning, management and maintenance of some 2500 acres (1012 Ha.) of public open space in Fingal. The Department manages neighbourhood parks and sporting facilities across the County.



The Department provides extensive recreational and leisure opportunities for Fingal's residents and visitors alike. It also maintains approximately 140 acres (57 Ha) of urban grassed roadside margins the median and boundary areas of much of the motorway network in the County.

- The Operations Department maintains 33 playgrounds in various locations throughout Fingal.
- A total of 168 pitches are maintained for a range of team sports including Hurling, Camogie, Hockey, Gaelic, Soccer, Rugby and American football.
- 8 all-weather pitch facilities are available in Balbriggan, Skerries, Rivervalley, Balheary, Hartstown, Mulhuddart, Corduff, and Malahide.
- There are cricket grounds in Malahide Demesne, and Town Park, Balbriggan, and a cricket crease in Porterstown and Lanesborough
- There are 12 Multi Use Games Areas available across the County.
- 2 skateparks are maintained by the Operations Department, in Balheary, Swords and in Millenium Park, Blanchardstown.
- There are tennis courts in Malahide, Holywell, Swords, Balrothery, Skerries, Lusk, Riverwood, and Castleknock.
- A Bowling Green administered by the Skerries Bowling Club is in operation in the Town Park, Skerries.

In addition the Operations Department was actively involved in:

- National Tree Week and National Tree Day events which were organised in March with the continued co-operation of local schools and the Tree Council of Ireland.
- The annual programme of tree and shrub planting, seasonal bedding and street tree planting and maintenance was also carried out.
- The provision of Christmas Trees at 16 locations and Christmas Tree Recycling facilities countywide.

Planning & Strategic Infrastructure

STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE

Greater Dublin Drainage

The Greater Dublin Drainage (GDD) project commenced officially on 14th March 2011.

The primary objective of the GDD project is to safely bring through the planning stage a long-term drainage solution that shall cater for existing and future development in the Greater Dublin Area. The Project is managed by Fingal on behalf of Meath, Kildare, Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown and South Dublin County Councils and Dublin City Council. The GDD is guided by a project Steering Committee, whose members are drawn from the 6 local authorities and the Department of the Environment Community and Local Government. The GDD will include:

- The provision of a regional wastewater treatment Plant (WWTP) and associated marine outfall and
- The provision of an Orbital Drainage System (ODS) linking the Regional WWTP to the existing regional sewer network and provision for future connections for identified development areas within the catchment.

The project Consultants are:

- Jacobs/Tobin – Technical Consultants and
- RPS Communications - Communications Consultants.

The key outcomes in 2012 included:

- Publication of the **Alternative Sites Assessment and Route Selection (Phase 2): Emerging Preferred Sites and Routes** Report identifying three emerging preferred site options
- Publication of the **ASA Methodology Report**, outlining the approach used to identify the site options
- Carrying out of baseline ecological surveys on the emerging preferred sites including freshwaters, terrestrial ecology, marine and breeding birds
- Other surveys/studies include architectural heritage, agronomy, cultural heritage, soils and geology, traffic, landscape, noise and vibration, odours, engineering, etc
- Publication of the **Public Consultation Report on the 'Alternative Sites Assessment and Route Selection (Phase 2): Emerging Preferred Sites and Routes Report'** which attracted over 6,000 submissions
- Ongoing updating of Fingal County Council, Regional Authorities, Dublin City Council, Meath & Kildare County Councils and meetings with various stakeholders – particularly landowners and community groups
- Engagement of specialist sub-consultants and sub-contractors for carrying out detailed site investigations on the emerging preferred sites
- Data collection including ongoing meeting with statutory and stakeholder bodies

(Note: see the project website at: www.greaterdublindrainage.ie).

ROAD DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION AND PLANNING CONTROL

Work was completed on the following schemes during 2012.

- Ward Cross Improvement Scheme
- Porterstown Link Road
- Mulhuddart Bridge construction.

The following contracts for Road construction were awarded

- Road Improvement scheme at Millfield, Naul Road, Balbriggan
- Mulhuddart Interchange Upgrade.

Funding was granted by the National Roads Authority and the National Transport Authority towards the cost of the above schemes.

Part 8 approval was obtained for the provision of the Holywell Link Road and the Holywell Pedestrian Link. Part 8 approval has also been obtained for the Castle Mills Link Road, Balbriggan

Ongoing work included assessing transportation issues and providing recommendations for the County Development Plan and associated Local Area Plans. Also the assessment of transport implications of planning applications was carried out.



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WATER SERVICES - DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT SECTION

The development management section advises on the water and foul and surface water drainage requirements for all planning applications lodged, including requests for additional information. In addition, the section approves compliances on planning conditions, assesses and certifies offsets and inspects new on site waste water treatment for single houses.

Activities during 2012 included:

- Processed 515 Planning Applications (including additional information submissions and extensions of duration)
- Preplanning meetings with prospective applicants
- Provided Water Services input to Local Area Plans in Airside, Dardistown, Baldoyle/Stapolin, Portmarnock South, Rolestown, Kilmartin, Rathingle.
- Responded to An Bord Pleanala on appeals, as required
- Liaison on Strategic Infrastructure projects
- Implementation of 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management' Guidelines for Local Authorities November 2009
- Waste water treatment inspections and response to bond release for 101 sites.
- Implementation of the EPA "Code of Practice for Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems Serving Single Dwellings" (October 2009)
- Implementation of the "Regional Code of Practice for Drainage Works Version 6.0" FCC April 2006
- Implementation of the "Guidelines for Drinking Water Supply". FCC February 2009 Revision 1.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The number of planning applications received was 897 (of which 74 were declared invalid). This represents a decrease of 6% on the 2011 figure of 958

STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE APPLICATIONS

During the course of the year one Strategic Infrastructure Planning Application was lodged with An Bord Pleanála for Dublin North Fringe 220 kV Reinforcement Project in the townland of Belcamp and Clonshaugh for Eirgrid. No decision had been made by year end.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Performance Indicators	2012	2011	2010
New Applications Registered	897 (74 invalid)	958 (102 invalid)	1192 (162 invalid)
Number of Applications Determined	849	905	1103
% of Grants	89%	88%	83%
% of Refusals	11%	12%	17%
% Determined within 2 months	73%	67%	70%
Number of A application received	567 (56 invalid)	605 (72 invalid)	747 (118 invalid)
Number of B applications received	330 (18 invalid)	353 (30 invalid)	445 (44 invalid)

Bonds & Contributions

Section 48 Development Contribution Schemes – Planning & Development Acts, 2000 – 2011.

A sum of €4.44 million was collected under the Schemes in 2012. Payments and phased payment arrangements are monitored, agreed and reviewed. A total of 50 Warning Letters were issued in 2012 for non-payment of development contributions which resulted in legal proceedings being instituted in 17 cases involving €0.5 million approximately.

Building Control

A total of 133 applications for Fire Safety Certificates were received and dealt with during 2012. 42 Seven Day Notices, 4 Revised Fire Certificates and 7 Regularisation Certificates were also received. 140 Disabled Access Certificate applications were also received.

A total of 327 Commencement Notices were submitted. Road Naming & Numbering Schemes were approved in respect of 2 Schemes/projects.

STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE

DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2011-2017

Preparation of the Fingal Development Plan is one of the most important functions of a County Council. The Plan, provides the strategic framework for all new development in the County over the period of the plan, for the protection and enhancement of the County's amenities, and for the co-ordination of infrastructural provision with existing and future land use.

The Plan has been in effect for circa two years and as such the planning authority are currently working on a day to day basis to take such steps within its powers to secure the objectives of the development plan. A report on progress to date will be produced by April 2013.

Key planning objectives of the Development Plan that the planning authority has delivered on to date include the preparation of a series of Local Area Plans (LAPs) as outlined below, advancing policies and implementation of our Green Infrastructure network (including the preparation of an Open Space Strategy, advancing Fingal pedestrian and cycle network, etc.), and significant progress in the review of the County's Record of Protected Structures (which will be placed on public display during 2013).

Local Area Plans

The following are the Local Area Plans that were Adopted by the Council in 2012:

Ballyboughil	Adopted 11 th June, 2012
Oldtown	Adopted 11 th June, 2012
Cherryhound	Adopted 10 th December, 2012
Dardistown	Adopted 10 th December, 2012

A number of Local Area Plans were commenced during 2012 and preparation and public display of draft LAPs was commenced during 2012 and continues into early 2013, including:

Baldoyle-Staploin LAP
 Portmarnock South LAP
 Kilmartin LAP
 Donabate LAP
 Rolestown LAP
 Rivermeade LAP

The challenge facing the planning authority in the preparation of the new LAPs will be to appropriately reflect the uncertain economic climate associated with the housing market, whether in relation to realising the completion of some residential LAP areas, ensuring the delivery of enabling physical and social infrastructure, marrying the residential density requirements of the NTA and the Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas and the attractiveness within the market for apartment schemes, as well as compliance with the RPGs and Development Plan Core Strategy which promotes and seeks the development of the Metropolitan areas within the County. To this end, the planning authority have worked with the NTA, DOECLG, Regional Authority and Dublin planning authorities to respond to the short-term housing market requirements, while protecting the long-term planning objectives and sustainability of Dublin City and Region.

Following the decision of An Bord Pleanála to refuse planning permission for a national children's hospital at the Mater site, in Dublin City, Fingal County Council planning and architect's department assisted the Department of Health, and specifically the Dolphin Review Group established by the Minister for Health to analyse and identify alternative sites which might accommodate the new hospital.

OUTSIDE BODIES

In the course of the year the Council was represented by Planning Department staff on the following outside bodies:

- Airport Regions Conference (ARC), comprising local authorities of the European Union and the Accession States having major airports located in their area
- QLAIR – Quality of Life in Airport Regions
- School Liaison Committee - Department of Education and Science
- North Fringe Development Forum – Dublin City Council and Fingal County Council
- Archaeological Policy and Practice working group established by Department of Environment, Community and Local Government
- Heritage Council Working Group
- National Biodiversity Data Centre
- Regional Authority Technical Working Group
- Project Board for Department of environment “My Plan”
- National Transport Authority GDA Stakeholder Group

During 2012, Fingal County Council also engaged with our counterparts in twelve regions across Europe to participate in a new Interreg IVC project, the Green Infrastructure Network or GreenInfraNet, which brings together local and regional bodies from across Europe and is working to strengthen the development and implementation of green infrastructure across Europe by exchanging experience and by transferring good practice between regions.

Fingal Heritage Plan

The Heritage Plan is a five year action plan which deals with all aspects of our heritage including our wildlife, coast and countryside, architectural heritage, archaeology, local history and culture.

The second Fingal Heritage Plan was adopted by the Council in April 2012. The Plan contains 49 actions to be undertaken over a 6 year period led by the Council's Heritage Officer. A total of approximately €84,000 was spent by the Council on Heritage Plan projects in 2012. The Council also successfully competed for funding of over € 41,000 from The Heritage Council in 2012.

During 2012 work was undertaken on a wide range of heritage projects including:

1. Field Monuments Advisor

Work included an archaeological exhibition in Dublin 15 and piloting an “Adopt-a-Monument” Scheme in the county.

2. Fingal Oral History Collection

The Fingal Oral History Collection was initiated in 2008 by the Fingal Local Studies Department of Fingal County Libraries.

3. Heritage Week: The Council supported a number of heritage week events.

4. Islands, Coast and Quarries; the Geological Heritage of Fingal

In October 2012 the Council published a new book on Fingal’s geological heritage.



5. Railway Street – A New Beginning

A community-led design process for Railway Street, Balbriggan was undertaken as an action of the Balbriggan Public Realm Strategy - “the Heart of Balbriggan”.

6. The Martello Towers of Dublin

Tells the story of the Martello Towers and gun batteries built between Bray and Balbriggan in the early 19th century and was published in July 2012 by Fingal County Council and Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council with the support of The Heritage Council.

7. Woodland Management at Luttrellstown Demesne

An invasive plant species, Cherry Laurel, has taken over parts of these woodlands, and is threatening the survival of rare plants such as the legally protected Hairy St.John’s Wort. In 2012 Fingal County Council, in partnership with Conservation Volunteers Dublin removed most of the Cherry Laurel from these woodlands.

Water Services

Projects Office

The Projects Office is responsible for the delivery of the major water and wastewater infrastructural projects to meet the medium and long term needs of the County and the Region.

- Leixlip Water Treatment Plant Extension – Construction of treatment building and associated structures substantially completed. Mechanical /Electrical installation commenced in 2012. Overall scheme 55% complete
- Balbriggan / Skerries Network Upgrades – Two contracts under this scheme have been approved to go to construction. Dublin Road Pumping Station Balbriggan and Rush Road Pumping Station in Skerries. Shortlisting of contractors was completed in 2012
- Portrane, Donabate, Rush & Lusk Waste Water Treatment Scheme – Contract 1– The Treatment plant and main infrastructure was completed during 2012
- Portrane, Donabate, Rush & Lusk Waste Water Treatment Scheme – Network Contracts – The first contract to be awarded (Channel Road Sewer Upgrade) was completed during 2012.
- Blanchardstown Regional Drainage Scheme – Procurement of Liffey Siphon refurbishment and permanent flow monitors delayed due to liquidation of Consultant Engineer. New Consultant appointed. Tender process commenced
- Swords WWTP Expansion – The Tender Process was completed. Funding approval received to proceed to construction. Contract will be awarded early in 2013
- Swords North Strengthening Scheme – Lissenhall to Jordanstown. Works on site complete. Remediation of manholes to be carried out in 2013
- Malahide Reservoir Scheme SLI – There have been ongoing delays with land transfer for the site into the Council's ownership
- Balbriggan Water Supply Scheme Phase 1 SLI – Works commenced on site on 28th November 2011. Construction is 90% complete. The estimated completion date is April 2013.
- Water Conservation PRV Project – Figure of €500,000 on the 2010-2012 WSIP. Funding of €215,000 for Stage 1 of the PRV Project approved by the DOE/CLG. 4 no. PRVs have been installed in 2012 by FCC Direct Labour. Fingal County Council Leakage section is assisting Dublin City Council with the submission for Stage 2 of the PRV programme
- Water Conservation Hotspot programme – Figure of €4,667 million in 2010-2012 WSIP. Phase 1 to be carried out by a DCC framework contractor. Phase 1 scope of works has been reviewed to re-prioritise works in urban areas. Phase 2 (Rural Areas) being carried currently by Fingal County Council Operations staff as it is based on their current works programme. Works are 90% refundable
- Swords Watermain Rehabilitation Scheme – 5.3km of existing 30" pre-stressed concrete trunk main to be rehabilitated by slip lining or replacement. Site investigation undertaken in 2012

- Ballycoolen - Kingstown Watermain Duplication – 7km of 900mm main – Design Brief and Budget to Stage 3 was submitted to DECLG in June 2012. Additional information has been requested to supplement budget application
- Howth Water Supply Scheme (planning stages WSIP) – Revised Budget and Design Brief was submitted to DECLG in July 2012 for approval
- Ward Water Supply Scheme - Kilshane to Glebe Watermain – This scheme, part of the Ward WSS Scheme, was delivered under different contracts with the Irish Prison Service. Two contracts were completed in 2011 and the third was completed in 2012.

Design Office

The Design Office is responsible for the design and delivery of water services infrastructure, including water supply, wastewater, surface water drainage schemes and flood relief schemes, to meet the ongoing needs in the County.

Current Projects

- Santry Pumpstation – Part VIII planning of the scheme was advanced in December 2012. It is expected that construction will commence in 2013.
- Cloghran Sewerage Scheme – Detailed design was completed in 2011. Revisions to the design were made in 2012. Construction is due to commence in 2013.

OPERATIONS SECTION

The Operations Section is responsible for the management and maintenance of the Water and Wastewater networks and treatment plants in the County.



Water Supply:

Fingal County Council has two treatment facilities at Leixlip and Bog of the Ring which produce a combined total of 170 million litres of treated drinking water each day. The water network is managed via a Regional Telemetry System which relays information on reservoir levels, flows and pressures from remote sites. Together the Regional Geographical Information System (GIS) and the Telemetry System play a key role in the management of the water distribution network in Fingal and the Dublin Region as a whole. Water is tested regularly at all stages of the treatment process and throughout the distribution system to ensure compliance with European and National drinking water standards.

Burst and Leaks for the year 2012

Burst numbers	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3	Total in 2012
	Balbriggan/ Swords	Mulhuddart/ Castleknock	Malahide/ Swords	
Total no. of bursts this year	92	8	14	114
Total no. of leaks repaired this year	313	172	167	652

- Developed a system for the tracking of leaks within Estates not taken in charge as well as private side leaks.
- During 2012, 46 warning letters and 69 Notices under Section 54 of the Water Services Act were served on developers or management companies, of estates not taken in charge by Fingal County Council, with reported leaks on the public side.
- There were also 50 warning letters and 30 Notices under Section 56(1) of the Water Services Act issued relating to private side leaks where the leak was the responsibility of the householder. There has been a significant response to this initiative.
- In addition there were also 5 letters issued in late 2012 giving warning of possible restriction to water supply if leak(s) remained unrepaired. Of these, 3 were repaired and the other 2 deferred until the New Year.

Watermains and Sewers Constructed in 2012

Section	Length (m)
Watermains	
FCC Direct Labour	7,700
Network Build Frameworks	8,617
Contractor	9,397
TOTAL	25,714

- New Framework Agreement for the construction of watermains developed and put in place in March 2012.



Headlines 2012

- New water pumping station at Kilshane completed.
- Upgrading works at Garristown Reservoir completed.
- Upgrading of dosing pumps at OSEC plant completed.

Water Quality

- Lead identification project was finished and a high/low risk map is being prepared for discussion with the EPA.
- Water Quality Monitoring in the network feeding on-line information back through the Telemetry System.

Health & Safety

- On-going work to develop guidelines and risk assessments appropriate to the tasks within Water and Drainage Operations.

Drainage Services:

The Council operates two large wastewater treatment facilities at Swords and Malahide. The council also has two wastewater treatment facilities at Barnageeragh and Portrane serving the Balbriggan/Skerries area, and the Portrane/Donabate/Rush/Lusk areas respectively, operated on the Council's behalf by a private operator. In addition the Council operates a number of smaller treatment plants serving the rural villages. Wastewater from the Blanchardstown area is treated at Dublin City Council's Wastewater Treatment Facility at Ringsend. The Drainage Section is responsible for the provision and maintenance of the wastewater treatment facilities and collection systems.

Headlines 2012

- Preventative maintenance programme continued in 2012 targeting the Malahide network.
- New Measuring Flume constructed on sewage transfer from Meath at Clonee.
- Construction of new Foul Sewer Pumping Station at Dubber completed.
- New headwall inlet structure constructed on stream at Moylaragh, Balbriggan.

DIRECT LABOUR SECTION:

The Direct Labour Section is responsible for the provision of new or replacement infrastructure either directly or through the use of contractors from a Framework Agreement.

Headlines 2012

- Approx. 25.7km of watermain replaced in the County in 2012 by combination of small water schemes carried out by FCC staff and larger schemes carried out by contractors from the Framework Agreement.
- Two new Pressure Reducing Valve installations were constructed by the direct labour crew in Dublin 15, and brought on to Automatic Telemetry Control.
- Two existing Pressure Reducing Valves installations were upgraded and brought on to Automatic Telemetry Control.

STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE (S.P.C.)

The Environment Strategic Policy Committee (S.P.C.) met four times in 2012. The committee comprises Elected Members of the Council in addition to representatives from a range of Sectoral interests including I.B.E.C., I.F.A. and the Community and Voluntary Forum representative.

The principal role of the S.P.C. is the development and consideration of the impact of policy, which is then referred to a full County Council meeting for approval.

During 2012 Water Services Department presented the following to the S.P.C.:

- Presentation on Energy Saving Project in Leixlip Water Treatment Plant

Key Performance Indicators

% of burst watermains repaired and water supply restored within

	2010	2011	2012
12 Hours	89%	98.5%	95.7%
24 Hours	2.5%	0%	0%
Greater than 24 Hours	8.5%	1.5%	4.3%

% of water samples in compliance with Drinking Water Regulations

	2010	2011	2012
Leixlip	100%	100%	99.2%
Bog of the Ring	100%	100%	100%
Distribution Network	100%	100%	99.8%

Levels of Unaccounted for Water (UFW)

	2010	2011	2012
UFW	31.98%	33.76%	32.65%

Length of Watermain Replaced

	2010	2011	2012
Metres of watermain replaced	12,750	36,820	25,714

% compliance with Urban Wastewater Treatment Regulations

	2010	2011	2012
Swords WWTP	79.48%	95.4%	99.2%
Malahide WWTP	94.5%	96.4%	98.0%
Portrane WWTP (Old)	53.92%	50.1%	32.5%
Portrane WWTP (New)	-	-	100%
Villages WWTP	65.58%	83.4%	98.0%
Barnageeragh WWTP	97.5%	98.6%	98.6%

% of water samples in compliance with Drinking Water Regulations

	2010	2011	2012
Sewage overflows from Pump Stations	39	25	69

Administration Section

The Administration Section is responsible for the management of the Water Services communications protocol, for financial management in the department and administrative support to Operations and Projects of Water Services.

Headlines 2012

- 136 applications for water and sewer connections were processed in 2012.
- During 2012 an increased emphasis was placed on the e-mail and twitter services provided. E-mails are now issued in instances where the water outage is greater than 1 hour (previously 4 hours). As a result of advertising, staff canvassing and other sources the combined e-mail lists for the Fingal area now total 621. Quite a number of these are Residents Associations that have a follow on function thus ensuring that the message gets to a larger audience.
- 10 email alerts were sent to press/radio giving advance notice of major water outages. The Communications Office issued many other formal and informal press releases in relation to water outages during the course of the year.
- 4 water messages relating to water conservation, signing up for emails, reporting faults etc; were advertised locally.



