

CHAPTER 1: ABOUT THIS STUDY

1.1 Scope and Purpose of the Study

This is the Final Report of the South Fingal Planning Study. It has been prepared by an international consortium of consultants, on behalf of Fingal County Council.

The principal function of the study is to set out “*an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of South Fingal*”(paragraph 1, Study Brief). This is to be combined with detailed recommendations on relevant planning topics; and “a revised set of planning objectives (which will inform a variation of the Fingal County Development Plan 1999-2004)” is an integral part of the study output.

The consultants have been encouraged to conceive of the remit broadly, and not to be limited simply to the narrowly defined boundary of the South Fingal study area (see Figure 1 in the Executive Summary). Although the recommendations must deal essentially with that area, they sit within a conception of how the wider sub-region is developing as a whole, and of the local, regional and national policy drivers which guide that development.

1.2 Structure of the Report

This Final Report is in made up of three sections:

1. The Executive Summary provides a synopsis of the study’s findings and conclusions.
2. The Main report is divided into:
 - Part 1** – Background which describes the study and sets out the policy background which lies behind the recommendations (Chapters 1 & 2)
 - Part 2** – Vision and Recommendations, which sets out a strategic “vision” for South Fingal, as the basis for detailed proposals on policy and location of development (Chapters 3 and 4)
 - Part 3** – Analysis Chapters, which deal with each of the major planning topics in turn – reviewing the factual basis, analysing choices and constraints, and providing the reasoning behind each of the topics on which there are recommendations (Chapters 5 – 12)
3. The Appendices then group the data and background material referred to in the topic chapters.

The report is available in both paper and electronic format, although some of the material in the Appendices is only in paper format because of the nature of the source information.

1.3 Study Process

The consultant consortium, led by Llewelyn Davies, was appointed in November 2000. The firms in the consortium, with their principal responsibilities, comprise:

- Llewelyn Davies: Project management, strategy, planning
- Roger Tym & Partners: Development economists
- Campbell Reith Hill: Highways, utilities, environment, heritage

- Stanley Associates: Aviation industry
- Steer Davies Gleave: Public transport
- Manahan & Associates: Planning & consultation
- Gamma Ltd: GIS
- Biosphere Environmental Services: Nature conservation & ecology

A series of reports was presented to the client side for the study. In addition, workshops were held with Aer Rianta in order to understand the constraints and potential associated with the airport's operations.

A consultation exercise was run during the early Spring 2001, to notify interested parties of the existence of the study and to give an opportunity to make submissions to the team and the County Council. A written report of this consultation and response was submitted to the Council in May 2001.

In the absence of Government decisions on public transport, terminal proposals and public safety zones, the study was suspended at the end of 2001 and an Interim Report and associated Technical Appendices were produced in July 2002. This report has now been updated to take account of emerging findings, such as the public safety zones report and the Metro alignment, and this document now represents the Final Report.