

Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall
Fingal County Council



Chief Executive's Management Report

10th of April, 2020

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S MANAGEMENT REPORT – APRIL 2020

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CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNANCE (CAG)

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Major Emergency Management – Response to Covid 19

Corporate Services

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The Corporate Services, Human Resources and Information Technology Departments have played a critical role in ensuring that the organisation has been able to respond to the crisis. These Departments have enabled and driven the adaptation of technology, work practices and working arrangements that have been necessary to follow guidance and implement measures and have been the link to the regional and national dimension of managing this crisis.

Corporate Services - Major Emergency Management - Response to Covid 19

The **Major Emergency Planning** Structures in place within the Council have provided the framework within which the Council's Departments have been able to adapt and update business continuity plans for what is an unprecedented scenario.

Business Continuity Plans have been used to prioritise critical services, to channel and re-assign resources and ensure continuity of service for the public. This process has also enabled management to ensure exposure of staff is minimised through significant levels of remote-working and facilitating social distancing within the organisation.

The **Major Emergency Eastern Region Steering Group** including representatives from the management of Dublin, Wicklow and Kildare Local Authorities, the Fire Services of those Local Authorities, An Garda Síochána and the HSE are held 3 times a week with a view to co-ordinating services, activities and to ensure that activities across the region are informed by and in line with the national measures. The group is Chaired by Fingal in the person of AnnMarie Farrelly, Chief Executive and is serviced by Fingal's Corporate Services Department.



The Chairs of the Regional Groups represent the Regions at the **National Steering Group** that ensures that the decisions of Government and best practice approaches are implemented and informed by what is taking place at local level.

Locally, Fingal County Council's **Crisis Management Team** meets daily and otherwise as required.

Senior Staff are updated daily and are briefed at weekly meetings.

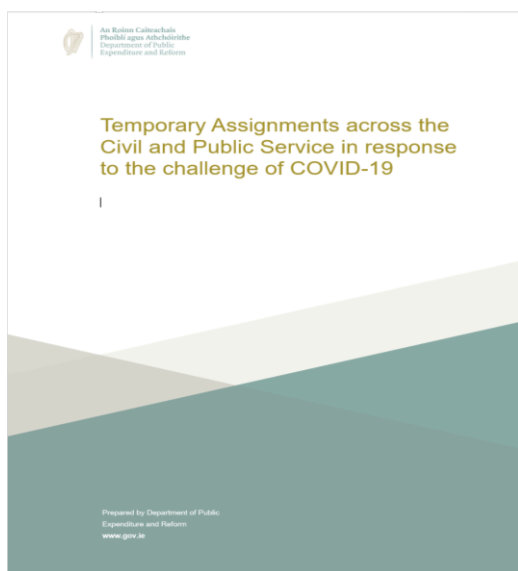
Briefings with the **Corporate Policy Group** are scheduled weekly and otherwise as required and Members are given weekly updates by the Mayor and Chief Executive and otherwise as necessary.

Mechanisms whereby decisions of the Council that may be necessary can be made is being examined and will be progressed with the Corporate Policy Group. The possibility of arranging briefings for Members is also being examined.

HUMAN RESOURCES

With a view to ensuring that social distancing, national health protection guidance and the increasingly restrictive measures being implemented can be followed by staff, a variety of **working arrangements** have been developed and put in place over the last few weeks including Working from home, shift arrangements including early morning starts, late evening shifts and weekend working and staggered rosters. Daily attendance in the workplace has been reduced to approximately 15% of staff.

Staff are kept up to date on ever changing working arrangements through text alerts and web messages.



The HR Department is co-ordinating the **Public Service Temporary Assignment Scheme** under which staff deemed as available for reassignment are directed to register for potential temporary re-assignment to other parts of the public sector.

To date, 111 staff have registered for the scheme while another 157 have been contacted and are now in the registration process. 8 Fingal employees have been re-assigned in recent days to assist in such places as the National Maternity Hospital and Community Assessment Hubs. This process will continue for the duration of the crisis.

Salary and wages related payments continue to be paid without interruption.

The close working relationships with Corporate Services and IT Departments and the strong relationships with Unions locally has meant that the transition to new working arrangements and implementation of the required measures, while challenging, have progressed rapidly.

The co-ordination of responses and management of human resource issues through relationships with our colleagues in neighbouring Local Authorities, the Local Government Management Agency, the Departments of Housing, Planning & Local Government and Public Expenditure and Reform have been critical to the response

Customer Services

The Customer Service Centre staff have taken on the re-direction of all phone lines through the call centre allowing back-office staff to move to remote-working more easily.

The image is a promotional graphic for the Community Call helpline. It features a background image of a telephone handset and a computer mouse. The text is as follows: 'Community Call Helpline / Fingal County Council' with a logo. Below that, it lists questions: 'Need a grocery order collected? Feeling vulnerable and isolated? Need a prescription picked up? Feeling life's a struggle at the moment? Or just need somebody to talk to?'. The main message is 'We're here to help'. Contact information includes: 'FREEPHONE: 1-800-459 059', 'PHONE: 01-890 5000', and 'EMAIL: covidsupport@fingal.ie'. It also states 'Call us any day - 8am to 8pm'. At the bottom, it includes the hashtags '#CommunityCall' and '#FingalCommunityResponse'.

Added to this the Community Call helpline has been introduced and is routed through this same call centre with expanded hours of operation from 8:00am to 8:00pm, 7 days a week. This government initiative was announced on Friday night, 27th March. New technology, working arrangements / rosters and approaches were devised and deployed over the weekend and were up and running at 8am on Monday 30th March.

Following commencement, additional staff have been re-assigned to this brand new and critical service to supplement the arrangements.

The call centre has now moved to a virtual call centre platform, developed and deployed over the last week, and is now a fully functioning remote call centre where call agents are working from home.

Information Technology

The Information Technology Department has dealt with significant challenges as part of the business response to Covid-19. The rapid move to remote-working has been enabled by a significant increase in the availability of digital devices, laptops and accessories and has required increasing the capacity of existing infrastructure to meet these demands.

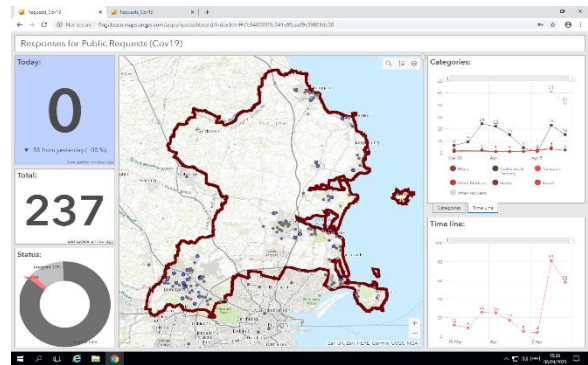
This work is made more complex by the need to ensure compliance with HSE guidelines on social distancing.

The creation of a virtual, remote Call Centre and introduction of the Community Support Response required a significant and rapid implementation of IT infrastructure and systems.

Call Centre and Community Call Helpline

The Community Support Response required the setup and configuration of a number of IT enablers including Helpline, CRM and GIS. These technologies were all configured over the weekend of 28th and 29th March and were operational for Monday 30th March. The solution included –

- Online forms to take community requests
- CRM for the management of jobs and workflows
- Mapping of requests, volunteer locations and supporting community assets to aid the dispatching process
- External facing form for the collection of status updates from volunteers
- Dashboards and reports of key operational metrics and statistics



Laptops

The IT Department has been working with Council departments to prioritise the distribution of laptops to staff to enable digital home working. There has been a 237% increase in the number of laptops in the organisation with further planned roll outs that will bring this to over 300%.

Approximately 60% of all Council computers will be laptops at that point.

Infrastructure

The impact of the rapid move to remote digital working has created an additional demand which has required that the capacity of the Council remote access mechanisms and other network infrastructure be increased significantly, as follows –

- trebling capacity on the remote access mechanism
- upgrading of gateways to facilitate the higher capacity requirements
- Additional servers deployed increasing the number of remote access servers by 350%
- External bandwidth is being increased tenfold to 1 Gb/s – migration to the new connection will be completed in the coming weeks



- Applications required by staff have been installed, configured and tested as working through the remote environment

Digital Workplace

The Digital Workplace programme has been accelerated in specific areas to allow users to access email, files, applications, audio/video conferencing and telephony services online using an internet connection and without the need for the Citrix environment. Microsoft Office 365 and Microsoft Teams has been rolled to senior management and parts of the organisation.

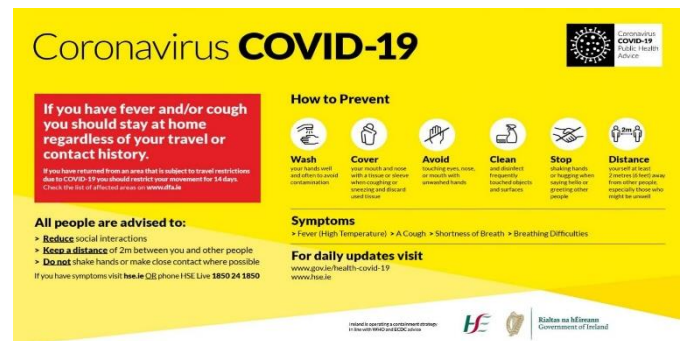


The IT Department is continuing with the rollout of this technology to the remainder of staff, prioritising essential staff and staff who have been assigned laptops.

Microsoft Teams is now being extensively used to allow social distancing and conferencing and collaboration between staff who are now working remotely.

Facilities Management

There has been extensive re-organisation and increased cleaning programmes implemented in Corporate Buildings to reflect current public health crisis demands. The changes ensure that staff and visitors are protected in as far as possible and that users of the buildings are constantly reminded of their social distancing obligations. The Facilities Management have put arrangements in place for staff access to buildings from 6am to midnight to ensure that the various flexible working arrangements that have been put in place for staff can function.



Reduced staffing levels in the buildings have allowed council staff restaurant resources to be diverted to a support initiative that sees the preparation of 140 meals per day for delivery to frontline services such as An Garda Síochána and the HSE.

Volunteers Creating Face Shields for Frontline Workers

Fingal County Council was pleased to donate raw materials that will be used to create personal protective equipment (PPE) face shields for frontline workers. A group of volunteers from across Ireland are putting their skills to use and creating 3D-printed plastic visors for frontline essential workers, these shields can be worn over normal glasses and facemasks for an added layer of defence. Local 3D printing volunteer Paul Quinn is creating face shields with A4 acetate sheets the Council has donated. The first batch of these face shields have been delivered to The National Ambulance Service in Swords and they will be distributed around the country as needed.



For more information on this volunteer project visit - <https://covidcommunityresponse.ie/>

Smart Benches used to Display Social Distancing Messages

Fingal Smart Benches are being used to display Covid 19 posters from the HSE and Fingal Community Response Forum. The benches are dotted around 9 towns and villages across Fingal, at busy main street locations. Along with displaying crucial Covid 19 notices on social distancing, the benches also provide public Wifi and phone charging facilities.



The Smart Bench, Smart Street Furniture pilot project is being led by Digital Strategy and Operations Department.

COMMUNICATIONS

March saw another example of the public turning to the Council's social media channels for information during a crisis. Our corporate Twitter account @fingalcoco recorded over 1million impressions during the month with an engagement rate of 1.3% while our Facebook page reached almost 500,000 people during March. The best performing posts and tweets were in relation to messages about social distancing.

The Unit produced a wide variety of material during the month –

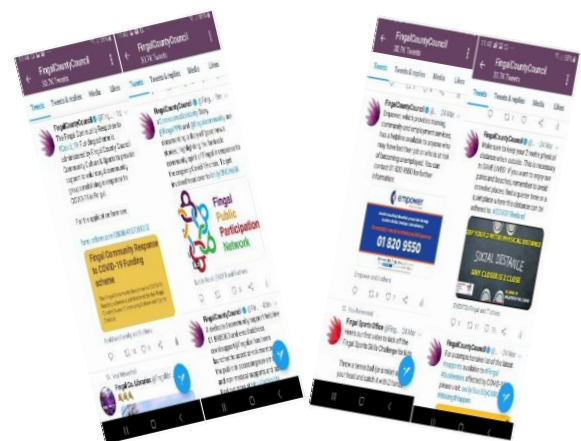
Fingal Community Response Forum

A Communications Plan was put in place for the Community Response Forum to highlight the service, hours of operations, and contact details.



Video of the Mayor speaking about the launch of the national Community Call programme.

Other Community Initiatives



Publicising Fingal Public Participation Network and Community Department regarding funding scheme for support to voluntary and community groups responding to Covid-19.

Social Media

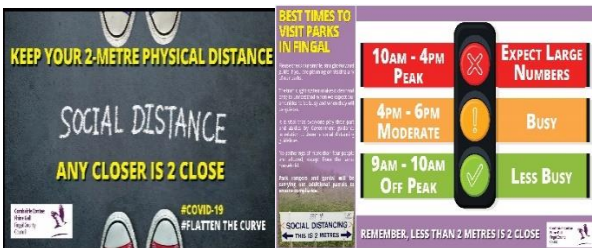
Messages out on social media during this Covid-19 campaign.

Graphics and Videos

Series of videos highlighting Housing Dept. services during the Covid-19 pandemic.



Graphics regarding the importance of social distancing and timing your visits to our parks and recycling centres.



Before making a visit, please note the following points:

- Household refuse will not be accepted
- Where possible, avoid bringing children to the centres
- Staff are not permitted to assist customers to fill items
- Public Toilet facilities are not available

OPENING HOURS:

COOLMINE RECYCLING CENTRE:

Monday - Saturday: 9am to 4pm
Closed Sundays & Bank Holidays

ESTUARY RECYCLING CENTRE:

Monday - Friday: 9am to 4pm
Saturday: 9am to 6pm
Closed Sundays & Bank Holidays



ECONOMIC, ENTERPRISE AND TOURISM DEVELOPMENT (EETD)

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Events	Local Community Development Committee
Tourism	Enterprise Centres
Heritage Properties	Local Enterprise Development
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Balbriggan Socio-Economic Strategy	

EVENTS

St. Patrick's Day

The community of Fingal refused to allow Corona Virus restrictions get in the way of their enjoyment of St.Patrick's Day.

Fingal County Council's Events Team organised a Virtual St. Patrick's Day Parade that invited people across the County to post pictures of how they were celebrating the day.



Hundreds of citizens participated across Fingal sharing images and videos from the day, including mini - but elaborate - St Patrick's Day parades around living rooms and gardens as well as numerous displays of window art and funny costumes.

All contributors were entered into a raffle for a €100 One4All gift.

Easter Egg-citement project



Led by the Events Unit with input from Sports, Communications and Libraries, the Easter Egg-citement project will be launched on Monday 6th April by the Mayor. This novel project comprises of a series of social media posts aimed at families and delivered by children. There will be daily posts encouraging social media sharing. The focus will be particularly targeting those that live in apartments or have limited access to open spaces.

The posts will be generated by the main corporate accounts.

Covid19

The Events Unit are assisting Fingal's response to the COVID-19 Fingal Community Response Forum.

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

During the Covid 19 shutdown local producers who offer online sales, cooking demos and recipes suitable for kids involvement etc. are being promoted.

Work continues on



- building the Fingal Food Story
- building the social and online profile
- growing the number of unique food experiences being promoted.

Tourist information offices

In light of the current situation, all tourist offices including Howth, Malahide, Swords, and Balbriggan closed on the 13th March and remain closed at this time.

HERITAGE PROPERTIES



In line with current Government restrictions as a result of Covid 19 all heritage properties, including their associated cafés are closed to the public until 19th April.

Following consultation with Shannon Heritage who operate Malahide Castle and Newbridge House on the Council's behalf, additional third-party security measures have been put in place to secure both properties.

All other heritage properties, including Ardgillan Castle, Skerries Mills, Swords Castle and the Casino in Malahide are alarmed and are being inspected regularly during this time. IPB Insurances have also confirmed that all current insurance policies for the properties remain in place.

The following works across the properties have also been postponed during this period:

- Malahide Casino- ground finish
- Newbridge House- works to the front of the visitor centre and house (lighting/railings).
- Malahide - roof works.
- Swords Castle- minor works to ramparts.
- Howth Courthouse - refurbishment works.

Economic Development

Balbriggan Socio Economic Strategy

Actions outlined in "20 things in the first 12 months" will have been completed or have made significant progress by May 2020, the one-year anniversary of the Rejuvenation Plan's launch. Updates on the progress of the implementation of the Rejuvenation Plan will be widely communicated to mark the one-year anniversary.

The refurbishment of the town-centre shopfront to accommodate the "Our Balbriggan" local office had commenced; however this has been paused due to the current restrictions.

All published research, plans and public engagement results are available at www.balbriggan.ie regular updates on the plans progress are available through @ourbalbriggan social media channels.

The Our Balbriggan team is liaising with the four pillar chairs: Local Economy, Public Realm, Education, Skills & Employment and Community Affairs & Integration to determine new and emerging needs arising as a result of current circumstances. The Our Balbriggan Team is working with the Pillar Chairs and key stakeholders to determine what adjustments are required to current plans and schemes to provide support and direction in the evolving situation to ensure that the Rejuvenation Plan's objectives can continue once we emerge from the current scenario.

The "Our Balbriggan Loves Learning Festival" scheduled to take place from 31st March to the 2nd April 2020, organised by an extensive partnership including DDLETB, the Council, DEASP, Balbriggan Chamber, local employers, local schools, DCU and Empower has been deferred. It is hoped that the Festival can be rescheduled for later in 2020, in the interim the associated Art Competition has been extended with local residents encouraged to upload photographs of their learning experiences.

Property & Industrial Development

Both the Property Services and the Industrial Development Sections are endeavouring to maintain services during the Covid-19 pandemic as resources allow. Staff in these Sections are primarily working remotely to progress property and industrial development matters. Telephones have been diverted to Council mobile phones where possible and staff remain available and contactable via email for any enquiries or matters arising.

Local Development

Fingal Local Community Development Committee

The Fingal LCDC continues to oversee and administer the key areas of LEADER and SICAP and the various Local Development and Community Development funding programmes under its remit.

SICAP: The Chief Officer is in contact with the SICAP Provider and Pobal in regard to drafting a SICAP Response Plan for Covid-19.



LEADER Programme

The Fingal LEADER Programme continues to accelerate the funding of eligible projects in the administrative areas of Fingal, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown and South Dublin.



The most recent Dublin Rural LEADER Action Group meeting was held in February 2020 where €101,760 was approved for new projects in Rural Dublin. During 2019 over €1.5 million was approved for over 18 projects.

In the programme to date, 64 projects have been approved for €3.03 million. Of these 45 are in Fingal, 4 in Dun Laoghaire Rathdown and 15 in South Dublin. The pipeline of new projects to be brought to the LAG for consideration in the first quarter of 2020 is strong. The next meeting of the LAG will be held in April by remote conferencing.

Thus far there has been no interruption to the delivery of LEADER or the Article 58 Checks as a result of Covid-19.

Enterprise Centres

Occupancy rates at the Council's three enterprise centres in March 2020 were Drinan 97%, Base 91% and Beat 88%. The three Enterprise Centres currently support 69 businesses and 345 jobs. The office buildings, offices, the common areas and receptions are closed. Many of the units in the centres across multiple blocks are own door external access and only those businesses that are exempt under the current restrictions such as food services etc. have access to the properties.



Local Enterprise Office Fingal



March 2020 was a month of two halves for the Local Enterprise Office and the small business community. It started with a hugely successful Local Enterprise Week in Fingal, from 2nd to 6th March, at which over 1,000 businesses and aspiring entrepreneurs participated in a dynamic and upbeat series of business events and activities throughout Fingal.

This was followed by an unprecedented rapid deterioration in all aspects of our environment including our commercial environment. Just two weeks later, the vast majority of SMEs in Fingal and the country were profoundly impacted by the advent of COVID-19. A small cohort of businesses are in sectors that have maintained employment and sales levels, but most Fingal businesses have seen their commercial activity decline significantly, by up to 100%.

This immediate change to our circumstances called for a root and branch, pivotal refocus of all services provided by the LEO and the way they are delivered.

LEO Fingal has responded decisively to this immediate challenge through the implementation of urgent and necessary actions, focused on addressing the crisis to our SMEs. As the days and weeks go by the LEO is at the forefront of the provision of emergency support services with a view to maximising the survival rate of Fingal businesses as they navigate this challenging period.

The summary below outlines some of the key highlights and issues that have emerged in March 2020.

LEO Fingal Immediate Response to COVID-19

When the COVID-19 crisis struck, LEO Fingal implemented a series of immediate actions summarised as follows:

Communications to business community

Immediate re-focus on prioritisation of the survival of businesses through the crisis.

A series of communications were created to help inform clients of state supports as the crisis developed.

Suspension of all loan payments

All clients currently repaying loans were approved a 3-month freeze on repayments.

Cancellations of Events and changes to Training programmes

All events and training cancelled. Where possible, scheduled training changed to online delivery. All clients reimbursed for any fees paid.

Business Advice Clinics and Mentoring

All business advice clinics and mentoring moved to remote delivery. Advisors focus now on assisting businesses in crisis.

COVID-19 Business Survival Programmes

LEO Fingal was first to develop two new five-module online programmes:

1. Leading Your Business Through COVID-19;
2. Cash Management in a Crisis.

Local Enterprise Office Response Website



For businesses currently affected or who anticipate being affected by COVID-19, the Local Enterprise Office has compiled a useful guide on the supports and advice available. The website is updated continuously with new developments, so Fingal clients are encouraged to check back regularly. (www.localenterprise.ie/Response).

COVID-19 Business Loan



LEO Fingal is now processing MFI new COVID-19 loan applications from businesses employing less than 10 people and severely impacted by COVID-19. Loans of up to €50,000 with a six-month (0% interest) moratorium on repayments. Fingal business are encouraged to apply through the LEO to avail of a 1% lower APR applicable after the moratorium, as well as help with the application process.

Business Continuity Voucher

Businesses seeking support to assist with business continuity connected to the COVID-19 outbreak, may apply for a Business Continuity Voucher. The voucher is valued at €2,500 and can be used by companies (up to 50 employees) and sole traders to develop short- and long-term strategies to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The goal is to help business owners make informed decisions about immediate measures and remedial actions to protect staff and sales.

New COVID-19 Training Update

LEO Fingal has commenced delivery of two new online programmes to support SME and Micro Enterprise clients through the current challenges

and changes to the business environment – each are 5-module interactive courses and several of each are organised to run concurrently:

1. Leading Your Business Through COVID-19
2. Cash Management in a Crisis

The demand for these courses has been substantial with all scheduled courses booking out rapidly. Additional programmes are being organised to meet the demand.

Business Clinics and Mentoring

Clinics and mentoring continue to be offered over the phone and online to help individuals respond to the disruptive impact on business due to COVID-19.

Trading Online Voucher Webinar



The first LEO Fingal Trading Online Voucher Webinar will happen on Thursday 2nd April. The TOV programme is funded by DCCAE, as part of the National Digital Strategy, to support local and established small businesses to enhance their online offering.

Local Enterprise Week (LEW) 2020

Prior to the current pandemic, LEO Fingal ran a series of exciting events and activities as part of Local Enterprise Week from the 2nd to the 6th of March with over 1,000 people attending 14 events across Fingal.

The week featured a packed series of events to help businesses and start-ups to access supports, training and networking. The week opened with an intensive, half-day "Start-up Bootcamp" taking place in NewBridge House, Donabate, and culminated in a celebration of International Women's Day on Friday 6th March with a networking lunch with over 100 female

entrepreneurs attending a networking lunchtime event to celebrate International Women's Day with Daytime Emmy nominee and celebrated food entrepreneur Catherine Fulvio.



Other high-profile events that took place during the week included:

- a Digital Masterclass with Seanie Walsh hosted by PayPal in Ballycoolin
- an Ethnic Entrepreneurs Expo in Balbriggan hosted by Empower Fingal and the Fingal Ethnic Network
- the Dublin Region Agile Showcase hosted by Enterprise Ireland
- a business networking breakfast with Fingal Dublin Chamber
- a Productivity Seminar hosted by Balbriggan Chamber
- a business strategy seminar at IBM Ireland.

Fingal Enterprise Awards (FEA) 2020



Kianda Technologies Ltd, a cloud-based platform for paperless operations from Blanchardstown is this year's FEA winner at a ceremony held in the Atrium during LEW 2020.

Student Enterprise Programme (SEP) 2019/20

Despite interruptions to the Fingal SEP due to the current pandemic, judging is still ongoing. New guidelines for the national final have recently been announced.

109 Jobs created in Fingal in 2019



In early March, LEO Fingal announced that in 2019 it had approved over €1m for 130 business projects which has led to the creation of 109 new jobs by LEO Fingal supported companies last year. 7 clients were also transferred to Enterprise Ireland.

In addition, LEO Fingal saw increases across all supports in 2019 including training, mentoring. 901 local entrepreneurs received mentoring while 871 took part in training programmes through LEO Fingal.

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Public Lighting
Traffic Operations Unit
Road Safety Section
Bridge Rehabilitation Project
Portrane Town and Village Renewal
Covid 19

Programme of Works

The Operations Department continue to work through the footpath improvement & resurfacing Works Programmes while at the same time dealing with unforeseen events such as recent flooding incidents & fallen trees during Storm Ciara.

Cycle Lane – Navan Road



Foothpath repairs - Castlecurragh



Flooding - Storm Ciara



Burial Grounds

In early March, footpath and drainage works in St Sylvester's Cemetery Malahide were carried out. Also, surfacing of vehicular and pedestrian areas in the north west section of Fingal Cemetery.

Resurfacing of footpaths

Operations Department carried out resurfacing of footpaths for the connection of communities to public amenities at the following locations:

- Portmarnock, Coast Road in vicinity of Pedestrian access to the beach
- Back Road Malahide from main entrance to the Demesne entrance to Playground carpark

There is work being carried to the railing and footpath on Carrickbrack Road opposite St Fintan's NS.



198 Trees planted in Open Spaces & all On Street planting is now complete



Pollinator Friendly Bulb Planting New Trial Mixes just showing their heads on Feltrim Road and along the Tramway in Howth.



Public Right of Way between Windgate Road and Lower Carrickbrack Road, Howth is reopened after the steps were rebuilt and the path repaired and cleared of overgrowth.



Fleet Management & Plant Hire Unit

Hires put in Place

There were **78** hires put in place from 1st March – 31st March, engaging **23** suppliers.

Hires included Tractors for the Operations Dept for 2020 Season

2 No. 6 Axle Lorries for the transport of Salt (240T) from Watery Lane to Coolmine Depot.



Fleet Management

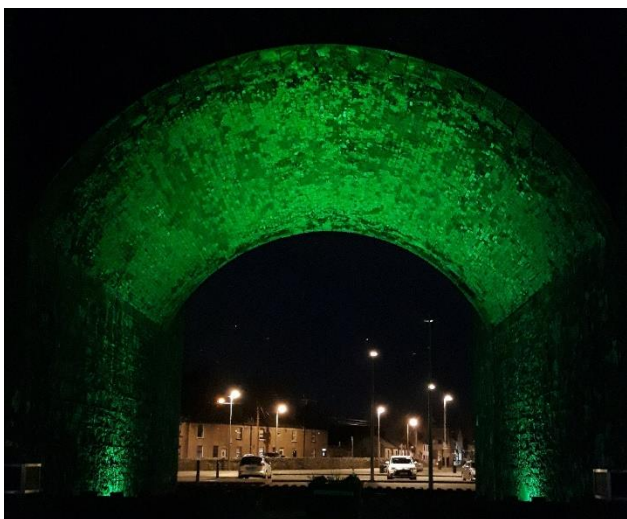
14 fully electric Nissan ENV vans were delivered in March as part of 2020 Fleet Replacement Programme.



Public Lighting

Column Replacement: The column replacement program for St Catherine's estate in Rush is completed in March with works now moving onto Rivermeade estate.

The railway Viaduct near the harbour in Balbriggan is turned 'green' for St. Patrick's Day 2020 for the first time. It was a welcome sight with the Parades cancelled due to the Covid 19 crisis.



Railway Viaduct Quay Street Balbriggan

Electric Vehicle Charging Points

As the Fingal fleet continues to be converted from diesel to fully electric, works were carried out installing extra electric charging points at the Watery Lane depot in Swords and Fancourt depot in Balbriggan. Newbridge Demense was added as a new site with its first charging infrastructure.



Watery Lane Swords

Fancourt Depot Balbriggan

LED Programme: In March the LED Upgrade Program saw 717 LED Upgrade works carried out in the following locations:-

- Barons Hall, Chieftains Way, Craobhin Close, Martello estate, Prospect, Trimleston... Balbriggan
- The Coachyard, The Sanctuary...Balrothery
- Ballisk Court, Willowbrook...Donabate
- Bolton Green, Knockmary Crescent, Knocksedan Drive, Knocksedan Wood, Moat Lane, Molesworth Close, Old Brazeel, Old Fort Wood, Usher Park...Knocksedan
- Sea Court...Loughshinny
- An Tearmann, Palmer Court...Rush
- Allendale Close/Drive/Elms/Glade/Glen/Green/ Grove/Heath/Lawn/Place/Rise/Terrace/View/Walk, Aspen Avenue/Lawn, Kirkfield Cottages, Latchford...Clonsilla
- Beechfield Estate...Littlepace
- Bealing estate, Belgree Avenue/ Close/Court/Crescent...Tyrrelstown

Traffic Operations Unit

Cycle counters

Works on ESB connection for three new cycle counters has commenced. Picture below shows such location on the Castleknock road heading to the Phoenix park.



Signing and Lining

Urgent relining and new lining were added on Limetree Avenue for safety enhancement adjacent to St Helens school. This included new Double Yellow Lines (not shown) to increase visibility purposes.



2019 Ramps Contract – All new ramps and ramp repairs are now complete.

Additional cushions repairs took place in Hollystown. Two sets of modular cushions were replaced with insitu ones.



Speed Cushions repaired in Hollystown

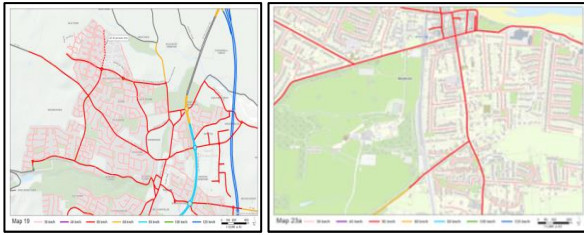
Contract Preparation

Contract preparation began in March for the following projects;

1. Mini competition for Engineering Consultant for Kettles Lane/Feltrim Road junction improvement options report.
2. Signing and road lining annual contract.
3. Contract for Street furniture (street planters and bollards), footpath upgrades and new traffic signs for the Malahide road/yellow walls junction.
4. Ramps Contract for 2020
5. Signals Contract for 2020

Junction Reconfiguration – Balrothery

Two junctions in Balrothery have been reconfigured from mini-roundabouts to T-junctions. The first junction is located close to the centre of the town at Old Coach Road and the



The first draft of the Speed Limit Bye-laws for the entire county is now complete. The draft document went out for public consultation in February and closed on the 20th March. Almost 200 maps have been generated for the review at a very high level of detail. Approximately 58 submissions were received. A report on the submissions received is currently being prepared for presentation to the Local Area committees, along with "Draft B" of the Speed Limit Bye-Law Drawings.

POW Survey Works

Surveys have been completed for this year's programme of works in Fancourt Road Balbriggan, Balbriggan Road Skerries, and in Malahide and Portmarnock.

Traffic Control Project

Fingal County Council's Traffic Signals Maintenance Contract (2020) was published on the 25th February 2020 on etenders for a period of 6 weeks with an initial closing date of 7th April 2020. Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the tender has been extended, the Closing date for submissions extended by 3 weeks – 28th April.

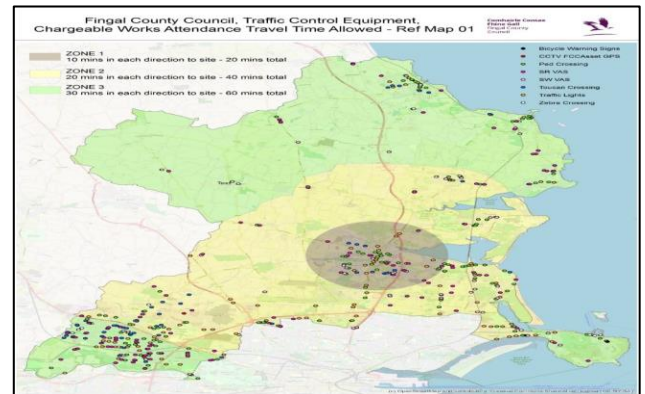
Closing date for Clarifications extended to the 10th April

Closing date for Responses to Clarifications extended to 17th April

The Contract is for the provision of Traffic Control Equipment Maintenance and Emergency General Works Contract for a minimum two-year period which can be extended to a maximum period of four years.

The requirements of the Contract includes for the maintenance, supply and installation of equipment as follows:

- 104 signalised junctions (63 MOVA and 41 VA controlled)
 - monitored remotely on RMS or UTC;
- 182 Pedestrian & Toucan Crossings (129 Pedestrian and 53 Toucan Crossings) monitored remotely on RMS or UTC;
- 24 zebra crossing locations;
- 129 Vehicle Actuated Signs (Speed Display Sign/Warning Sign/Flashing Sign);
- 59 School Warning Signage
- 50 Bus Stop Real Time Passage Information (RTPI)
- 11 Bicycle Information Signage



Fingal's Traffic Control Equipment

Traffic Infrastructure Mapping

A contract brief is currently being prepared for a tender to procure a report to identify the extent and possibilities arising from the duct infrastructure in the county. The Report will be focused on the urban areas in Fingal which have Traffic Signals/Assets. This brief is now completed and the associated contract document is currently been completed to allow for the tender to be published on e-tenders in April.

Expansion of Fingal County Councils Duct Infrastructure

Discussions are ongoing on various projects, both internally and through 3rd parties, throughout the county, to identify strategic locations where ducting can be provided to add to FCC's assets in order to provide Fibre Optic connectivity to remote locations, and interconnectivity of Fingal's assets. Mapping of this infrastructure is also ongoing on G.I.S. so that it is recorded for future use.

Works are under investigation for the development of the fibre optic link along the Hearse Road to connect from the Lissenhall junction to the Donabate Distributor Road, and to continue the linkage along this new Road to Portrane. This will allow the visibility of the Hearse Road which will be beneficial for key major event in Newbridge House via CCTV and the assessment of traffic on the new DDR.

Discussions are advanced with 3rd parties in getting traffic Ducting infrastructure into some key strategic routes into and sections around Dublin Enterprise Zone (DEZ) which will form part of a vital asset going forward in improving traffic management and ensuring DEZ continues be the sought after destination with regards to ease of commutability.

Road Safety Section

Bleper Bike Share Scheme - We are continuing to identify additional locations across Fingal in partnership with BleperBike to expand and encourage bike sharing user growth amongst commuters. Additional bike racks are currently being ordered to facilitate this expansion. We will also continue to promote awareness of BleperBike through our social media platforms.

BleperBike is now **FREE** to all Fingal County Council staff as advertised on Staff Messages. The Road Safety Section are actively encouraging staff

to use this excellent facility while practicing social distancing in these times of uncertainty.



The Road Safety Section "Bleper Biking" at lunch time

"Your Life, Your Choice Campaign"

On Friday 6th of March the Road Safety Section brought the "Your Life, Your Choice" campaign to New Cross College in Finglas.



Response from Students on the day was extremely positive with most students stating they found the experience a very effective tool for Road Safety. They stated that it highlighted that you should stay focused on the road and to not be distracted by passengers.

Mobility Hubs

Two Mobility Hubs are in the planning stages for locations on the Dublin Road, Malahide and in Balbriggan.

The aim of these Hubs is to increase accessibility for those with mobility issues and the ageing population whilst also encouraging sustainable

modes of travel and connectivity by creating hubs where different modes of travel/transport are available in areas with a high concentration of employment/housing/shopping/amenities and/or recreation that are close to existing public transport links whilst also supporting climate change mitigation.

Bridge Rehabilitation Project

Bridge Rehabilitation Project

Rehabilitation of Curragh, Curragh West & Clonshaugh Bridges

The Engineering Consultant to carry out the design of the bridge rehabilitations and preparation of tender documents has been appointed. A contractor has been appointed to carry out the topographical (TOPO) and Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) surveys, however, works have been suspended due to the COVID-19 Crisis. GPR and TOPO surveys were to be completed by first week of April 2020, however, this is suspended until restrictions are lifted. Following the receipt of the surveys, consultant to forward the programme of works, prepare the tender documents and drawings.

Rehabilitation of Church Road Bridge, Blanchardstown, Wyanstown Bridge & Wimbletown Bridge

The competition to engage a site contractor that was published in December had a closing date of 29th January 2020. Tender Assessment Report produced by the Consultant discussed and approved on 13th March 2020. The evaluation stage, successful/ unsuccessful letters, two weeks stand still period, post tender meeting, letter of acceptance will follow. Due to the current national emergency measures it is not clear when site works will commence, however, due to the requirements to work within the Regional Fisheries requirements from June – September for all instream works it is, at this moment envisaged that this will take place to ensure works are completed in the available window in 2020.



Drainage clearance works carried out of the River Pill in Newbridge Demesne.



Remedial drainage works carried out on the R132 to alleviate flooding.

Harbour Coastal Infrastructure Improvement

Project in Balbriggan Harbour, completion of concrete reinstatement following utilities installation on the North Pier.



Spring colours blooming - an array of colour can be seen in various locations.



Hampton Cove, Balbriggan



Cherry blossom (*Prunus x yedoensis*) at River Valley Park Swords.

Portrane Town and Village Renewal scheme project nearing completion, project comprised of an installation for the relocation of the anchor from the RMS Tayleur which was shipwrecked off the coast in 1854.



COVID-19

In response to the Government's Action Plan for COVID 19 emergency, Operations Department has implemented signage for Social Distancing of 2metres across the parks, cycleways and some walkways for the public to exercise and benefit their local amenities.

Carparks within the parks and amenity areas are now closed in line with National Public Health Measures implemented from 28th March and Operations Department crews erected over 50 signs and over 45 stencils on the ground to

communicate the importance of Social Distancing of 2metres.

This was supported by the implementation of Physical Distance Stewards to remind members of the public to maintain the appropriate distance whilst enjoying their stroll.



Balscadden Carpark



Estuary Walkway, Malahide



Cycle way at Baldoye



Malahide Coast

PLANNING AND STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE (PSI)

Contents	
Planning System-Open for Business	Variations 2 and 3
Planning Applications	Rush Town and Village Renewal Funding
Planning Decisions	Dunsink Study
Building Control	Vacant Site Register
Planning Enforcement	Transport Planning
Improvement Works to the Village Green Malahide	N2 Rath Roundabout to Kilmoon Cross
Soft opening of Lusk Natural Play Trail	R132 Junctions, Swords Bypass
Development Management/Forward Planning (Water Services)	Park Road
Building Control/Taking in Charge	Church Fields, Mulhuddart
March Heritage Events	Rathbeale Road Upgrade
Donabate Urban Framework Plan	Hole in the Wall Road Upgrade

Planning System – Open for Business

The Planning & Strategic Infrastructure Department is seeking to ensure that every effort is being made to make certain that the planning system continues to operate effectively as possible, in the context of the most up-to-date public health advice during this COVID-19 Emergency.

The announcements by An Taoiseach on 27 March, introducing cocooning of a sizeable sector of our population and considerable restrictions on the population at large, as part of escalating measures to respond to the COVID-19 emergency, has required consideration of the impacts of these measures on the full range of planning services.

The Minister has commenced Section 9 of the recently enacted Emergency Measures in the Public Interest (Covid 19) Act 2020. This section inserts a new provision (Section 251A) into the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended. Subsequently the Government made an order under Section 251A(4), to the effect that the period from 29th March 2020 to the 20 April 2020, inclusive, may be disregarded when calculating any appropriate period, specified period, or other timelines in the following Acts, or provisions, or in any regulations made under those acts or provisions:-

- The Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended;
- The Derelicts Sites Act, 1990;
- Part 2 of the Urban Regenerations and Housing Act, 2015 (which relates to the vacant site levy);
- Chapter 1 of Part 2 of the Planning and Development (Housing) and Residential Tenancies Act, 2016 (which relates the Strategic Housing Developments)

It is important to stress that the effect of the activation of this provision does not freeze the planning system, rather it extends the timelines within which decisions can be made. Otherwise the work of the Fingal Planning & Strategic Infrastructure Department will continue, of course subject to adherence to public health advice.

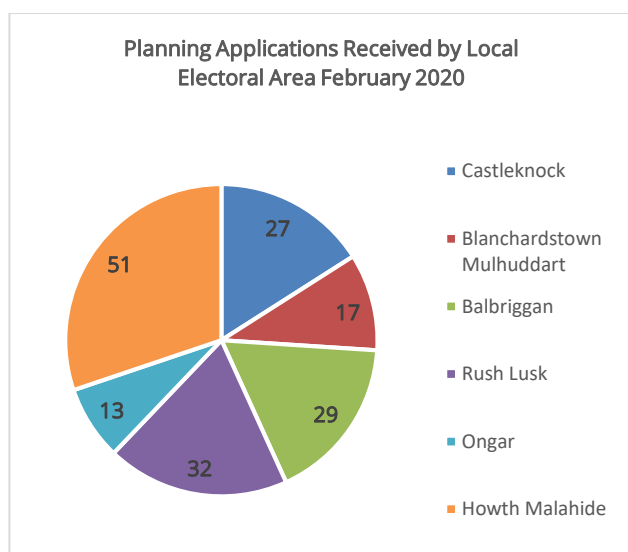
We are temporarily changing the way we operate our public counter service and accept planning applications as our offices are currently closed to the public. We will continue to accept and validate applications by post. In addition, it is possible to deliver planning applications to a dedicated “drop-box” which will be outside the rear of County Hall, off Chapel Lane, in Swords. The drop-box will be available each Thursday and Friday between the hours of 9.00am and 1.00pm

Any planning queries can be emailed to the Planning Department at planning@fingal.ie or by telephone to 01 890 5541.

Planning Applications

There have been 199 planning applications received to the end of February 2020, 54 of these applications were invalid leaving a total of 145 valid applications. The volume of applications received by Local Electoral Area (LEA) is detailed in the table below.

To date in 2020, 3 Strategic Housing Development (SHD) application (for 459 units) were made to An Bord Pleanála. The Board granted permission for 6 SHD's (1039 units); 3 in January and 3 in March. The Board refused permission for 1 SHD (359 units) in February. There are a total of 8 SHDs (1633 units) in the formal application process.



Planning Decisions

A total of 200 planning decisions have been made to the end of February 2020. There have been 160 decisions to grant permission (80%) and 40 refusals of permission (20%). There have been 12 grants of permissions in respect of single house construction, 50 grants of permission for domestic extensions, 18 commercial/retail grants of permission and 3 grants of permission in respect of housing developments - 2 of which related to

development 2 - 20 housing units and 1 of which related to developments of 20 -50 housing units.

Building Control

There were 25 Disability Access Certificates submitted to the end of February 2020, of these 11 have been granted and 2 are currently on time extension. There were 40 Fire Safety Certificates submitted to the end of February 2020, of these 2 have been granted and 19 are currently on time extension.

Planning Enforcement

The Planning Enforcement Section has issued 66 warning letters to the end of February with 7 enforcement notices issued to date. There are 8 cases at various stages in the legal process.

Since the new short-term letting regulations came into effect in July 2019, 36 warning letters have issued with respect to properties where there were concerns around possible breach of the regulations.

Improvement Works to the Village Green Malahide

The public realm improvement works were launched by the Mayor of Fingal, Cllr. Eoghan O'Brien on the 11th March at a ceremony on the Village Green attended by Chief Executive of Fingal County Council AnnMarie Farrelly and elected members, together with representatives from the local Chamber of Commerce and Tidy Towns groups. The approved plan for the Village Green resulted from an extensive public consultation process undertaken by the council in 2017 and involves a series of public realm improvements, including the installation of new paving, street furniture, re-contouring the open space as well as planting. The works to enhance the open space as an area to visit & enjoy are being undertaken by Malahide based company Peter O'Brien & Sons Landscaping Ltd. Works commenced on site on the 19th of March with the contractor fencing the

site and providing welfare facilities for its workers. The initial phase of the works was to prepare the site for the construction of grass mounds and removal of existing footpaths. Work are currently suspended in response to the Covid 19 pandemic.



Development Management/Forward Planning (Water Services)

- Flood Risk Assessments and Drainage Strategies to inform Local Area Plans (LAP) - FCC staff are currently managing the tendering and preparation of the surface water management plans to inform a number of LAP's.
- Pre-planning consultations – During March staff from Forward Planning (Water Services) have engaged in discussions with more than 4 developers at pre-planning stage to discuss issues related to the provision of water services and to ensure the implementation of sustainable drainage systems on site

Staff are finalising the policy and procedure for the promotion of SUDS in the county.

Building Control/Taking in Charge

- Taking in Charge of Legacy Developments – Frameworks of services providers are operating and have been used to develop site resolutions on 12 IBRC developments and 6 other developments. All bond claims have been submitted and verified by IBRC through 2019. IBRC have approved 5 bond claims and we are awaiting response on the remainder. FCC are preparing plans for works which will lead to the Taking in Charge Statutory process.
- Building Control Inspectors undertook more than 23 first time inspections of buildings during February, as well as multiple repeat inspections.



Soft opening of Lusk Natural Play Trail

Lusk Play trail was opened to the public at the start of March. This is the third playground delivered as part of a project to provide four destination playgrounds in the Balbriggan, Lusk and Skerries areas. The natural play installations are laid out in a linear design to encourage movement and exercise amongst users. An official opening is planned for later this year.

- During February we have 3 no. Dangerous structures notified to the Council.

During February engineers engaged in CPD session with other Building Control Authorities on the new Part L (Energy Performance) of the Building Regulations.

March Heritage Events

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the scheduled heritage events for March 2020 including the Naul Heritage Leaflet launch and the Heritage Network's tour of the National Museum's Collections Resource Centre have been postponed indefinitely.

As it has been shown that heritage is strongly linked to well-being, the Fingal Heritage Facebook page

(<https://www.facebook.com/fingalculthralheritage/?ref=bookmarks>) and Twitter account @FingalHeritage are being constantly updated with citizen projects that people can participate in from home, and photos of general heritage interest.

Donabate Urban Framework Plan

We have commenced an extensive consultation process in Donabate as part of our plans to create an Urban Framework Plan (UFP) for the town. This Urban Framework Plan seeks to provide a vision for the Donabate town centre which will improve and enhance the Main Street area and guide careful urban improvement. It is envisaged this Plan will highlight the distinctive character of Donabate, its setting on the peninsula, current issues pertinent to Donabate and, lastly, outline a programme of actions which have been agreed with the community. A leaflet drop to all houses in the area took place in early-mid March. Submissions are requested until the 15th April 2020 initially, although it is expected this will be extended to the end of April in light of recent events.

The UFP Process

Fingal County Council & The Donabate Portlaine Liaison Committee agreed to prepare the UFP. Other professionals are assembled to provide the necessary expertise.

Pre-draft consultation is undertaken to give people an opportunity to identify local issues and make suggestions.

A draft Urban Framework Plan is prepared and put on public display to give people the chance to have their say on the proposals.

The draft UFP is amended following comments from the public.

The finalised UFP is presented to the Elected Members of the Fingal County Council for agreement.

We are also seeking your input and suggestions which can be made in the following ways:

Uploading submissions on the Fingal County Council Website:
<https://consult.fingal.ie/en/browse>
 By email to Fingal.DevelopmentPlan@fingal.ie
 Or by post to:
 Senior Executive Officer,
 Planning and Strategic Infrastructure
 Department,
 Fingal County Council,
 County Hall,
 Main Street,
 Swords,
 Co Dublin.
 R67 X8Y2

Submissions should be received no later than 5pm on the 15th April 2020. Any submissions shall state your name, address and where relevant, the body or organisation represented. Your name and body or organisation represented will appear on the list of submissions.

Activity	Date
Pre-Draft Consultation & Survey Work	Q3 2019 - Q2 2020
Environmental Screening	Q3 2020
Draft UFP published & Submissions requested	Q4 2020
Consider Submissions & CE Report	Q4 2020
Agreement with Elected Members	Q1 2021

Published by Planning & Strategic Infrastructure Department
 Donabate Liaison Committee
 Work: DonabateLiaison@fingal.ie
 Follow us on: [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [LinkedIn](#) [Instagram](#)

Donabate Urban Framework Plan - First Stage
 March 2020

Variation no. 2

On 10th January 2020 we published Variation No. 2 to the Fingal Development Plan, pursuant to Section 13 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

This proposed Variation seeks to respond to the recent changes in National and Regional planning policy, namely the publication of the National Planning Framework (NPF) in 2018 and the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly (EMRA) Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) in 2019. The proposed Variation will result in amendments to the Core Strategy and associated tables in the written statement; and amendments to text and objectives/policies throughout the written statement to refer to the National Planning Framework and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy.

The Variation was on public display until 7th February. A total of 26 submissions were received during the consultation period. All submissions have been considered and the Chief Executive's Report on same was issued on 6th March. This Chief Executive's Report was to be considered at the April Council meeting, however, the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government has recommended that activity ceases on all Plans during the period of the Order

made under Section 251A on 29th March 2020, including Variations and Local Area Plan processes.

This is considered necessary because Plan processes require engagement with members of the public, and in particular public meetings, as well as Council briefings and meetings to allow for information, direction and decision-making.

Accordingly, the cessation of activity is required to facilitate social distancing, limit non-essential travel and protect vulnerable persons and to ensure full public participation.

Given the nature of plan review processes, there is a need for advance notification and organisation of public consultation events and council briefings/meetings and as a consequence, the effect of the Order on such processes, may extend beyond the period of the Order.

Accordingly, it is noted that there is already provision in the Act whereby the validity of a Development Plan cannot be challenged by failure to meet the specified timelines within the process, under Section 12(16). This can be relied upon **in addition to** the specified period of the Order, in situations where the effect of the Order has a knock-on impact on the overall Development Plan process beyond the duration of the Order. There are similar provisions for Development Plan Variation processes, Section 13(10).

The Planning Department will keep Members informed of this Variation process.

Variation no. 3

On 10th January 2020 we published Variation No. 3 to the Fingal Development Plan, pursuant to Section 13 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

This proposed Variation seeks to remove the indicative line for the Road Proposal, "N3 – N4 Barnhill to Leixlip Interchange", as shown on Sheet 13, Blanchardstown South.

The Variation was on public display until 7th February. A total of 13 submissions were received during the consultation period. All submissions have been considered and the Chief Executive's Report on same was issued on 6th March. This Chief Executive's Report was to be considered at the April Council meeting, however, the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government has recommended that activity ceases on all Plans during the period of the Order made under Section 251A on 29th March 2020, including Variations and Local Area Plan processes.

This is considered necessary because Plan processes require engagement with members of the public, and in particular public meetings, as well as Council briefings and meetings to allow for information, direction and decision-making.

Accordingly, the cessation of activity is required to facilitate social distancing, limit non-essential travel and protect vulnerable persons and to ensure full public participation.

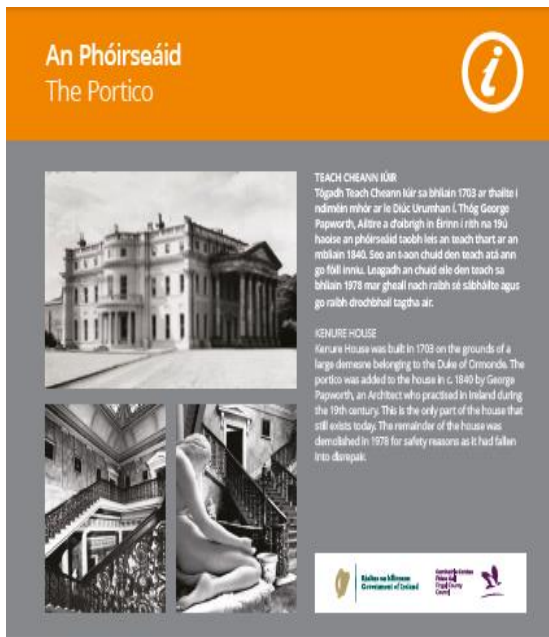
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The Planning Department will keep Members informed of this Variation process.

Rush Town and Village Renewal Funding

Rush Community Council, in conjunction with Fingal County Council, were awarded funding under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2018. Part of this funding is for the provision of historical and heritage focused signage. This has recently been procured and will be erected as soon as reasonably possible.



Sample Signage

Dunsink Study

A study to analyse the access and servicing of the landbank at Dunsink as required under the Fingal Development Plan is due to progress to tender in April. Elected members will be appraised of the contents of the study upon completion.

Vacant Site Register

The Strategic Planning Unit are progressing with the undertaking of site assessment and placement of land suitable for infill development and housing on the vacant site register. An update of the VSR is to be provided at the next available Planning SPC which will set out how FCC utilise the VSR as part of active land management in urban areas.

Transport Planning

Despite the current restrictions, much of the transportation planning team's work is business as usual with a number of ongoing meetings and discussions with statutory consultees such as TII and NTA on Local Area Plans and with applicants and their consultants on preplanning, additional information and compliance on a variety of developments across the county including SHDs, schools, commercial and residential. E-meetings have taken the place of face-to-face meetings. In addition, work will commence shortly on procuring specialist transportation consultants to develop transportation assessment and analysis studies to support forward planning in the county.

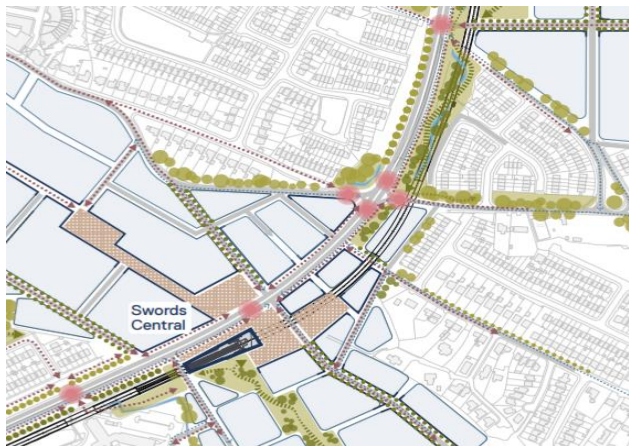
N2 Rath Roundabout to Kilmoon Cross

Fingal County Council is working with Meath County Council on this scheme and a public consultation was held on 12th March. Due to Covid-19 the deadline for return of feedback in relation to this scheme has been now been extended to the 9th April 2020. Meath County Council have placed notifications in local newspapers, (Fingal Independent & Meath Chronicle) and Fingal County Council have updated social media also.

R132 Junctions, Swords Bypass

The Council's technical staff are currently working with Transport Infrastructure Ireland and the National Transport Authority in relation to the future integration of the R132 corridor into the urban fabric of the wider Swords area, post-MetroLink. This includes providing improved bus, cycle and pedestrian facilities at the four main roundabout junctions on the R132 to facilitate the significant increases in bus, pedestrian and cycling that will arise from MetroLink. This will likely involve conversion of the four roundabouts to signalised junctions and it is expected that all works will take place within the road corridor, so the provisions of the Road Traffic Act will be used

to facilitate public consultation. A presentation will also be given to the Swords/Balbriggan/Rush/Lusk ACM as soon as possible to give further details on this project.



Park Road

Fingal County Council has signed a contract with Total Highway Maintenance Ltd. for the Park Road improvement works, which are currently programmed to commence on Monday 20th April but that is likely to be delayed due to Covid-19. There is an approx. 9 month duration for the works and in the period before site works commence, traffic management and health & safety plans are being prepared for agreement with the Council.

Church Fields, Mulhuddart

The statutory Part 8 public consultation period on the Churchfields Link Road project ended on 27th March and all submissions are currently being reviewed. The project is due to be presented at next available Full Council meeting for decision.

Rathbeale Road Upgrade

The Rathbeale Road reopened to traffic on the 27th March and is substantially complete. There is a small amount of snagging and boundary treatment works outstanding which will be completed when the site becomes operational again after the current Covid 19 shutdown. The project team would like to thank local residents, school campus management and the local

community for their patience during these necessary upgrade works.



Hole in the Wall Upgrade

SIAC Construction commenced work last month and to date site compound has been established and vegetation and site clearance works have been completed. Works have also started on new flood defence embankments along the River Mayne which has been temporarily diverted to facilitate these works. Works have been suspended due to Covid-19 and will resume as soon as possible.



HOUSING & COMMUNITY, CULTURE & SPORTS (H&CC&S) & LIBRARIES

Housing	Community, Culture & Sports Sports Programmes/Projects/Information Community Development Office Arts Office Libraries
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Housing Supply Report

Fingal County Council is very proactive in the delivery of social housing units and continues to provide housing solutions in accordance with the Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan through a range of delivery mechanisms including construction, Part V, acquisitions, leasing and Housing Assistance Payment Scheme (HAP).

Construction Programme

The Council has an ambitious construction programme underway with 22 sites across the county and 210 homes already delivered.

COVID-19 impact on Council construction schemes. All council schemes that are at either pre-planning or tendering stage can be progressed as normal and the design teams can work and communicate remotely. However, where on-site investigations studies are required by members of the design teams these may be delayed due to travel restrictions.

It is proposed to have a number of schemes ready to be tendered once the crisis period ends. Pre-planning work is underway on a number of other housing projects which could be presented informally to the local Councillors subject to Covid19 guidelines.

The following table outlines the various stages that construction projects are currently at.

Project	Units	Status
St Cronan's x 2 schemes	15	Completed
Cappaghfinn I	14	Completed
Balrothery - North + East	9	Completed
Wellview, Dublin 15	20	Completed
Racecourse Common	74	Completed
Ballyboughal	8	Completed

Pinewood, Balbriggan	20	Completed
Estuary Road - V de Paul	8	Completed
Castlelands, Balbriggan	24	Completed
Ravenswood, Coldwinters, Peter McVerry Trust	8	Completed
Rivermeade	2	Completed
Pinewood CC, Balbriggan	2	Completed
Avondale, Dublin 15	42	Completed
Church Road, Dublin 15 - FCC	22	Completed
Rolestown Phase 1 (10 delivered Q2 2019) + (4 delivered in Q3, 2019)	20	Completed
Rolestown Phase 2	6	Completed
Rathbeale Road, Swords	24	On Site
Church Road, Dublin 15 - Cluid Housing (see note below)	64	On Site
College St. Baldoyle - Cluid Housing	4	On Site
Tucketts Lane, Howth	8	Tendering Stage
Wellview Cul de Sacs, Wellview, D15	20	Tendering Stage
Cappagh, Dublin 11	69	Tendering Stage
Outlands, Swords	11	Tendering Stage
Church Fields Phase 2B, Mulhuddart, D15	70	Tendering Stage
Kilhedge Lane - Tuath Housing Association	48	Planning Stage
Former Leonards Garage, Lusk	10	Planning Stage
Church Road, Lusk	5	Planning Stage
Garristown-North and East Housing Association	5	Planning Stage
Hayestown, Rush	50	Planning Stage
Infill Site adjacent to 169 Clonsilla Road, D15	1	Planning Stage
	683	

Church Fields, Dublin 15

Detailed design and the pre-planning process has commenced in relation to 500 discounted purchase, discounted rental and social properties. Progress on delivering the housing potential of the site continues;

- An initial phase of the housing development of Church Fields has been approved and is at tendering stage – 20 homes.
- The next phase of development consisting of 70 social houses has been approved and is at tendering stage.
- Funding has been approved under the Serviced Sites Fund (SSF) to enable delivery of key road and green infrastructure to facilitate the development of the site.
- Part XI public consultation has commenced for the road link between Damastown Road and Wellview Avenue including the upgrade of the existing Wellview Avenue and a cycle way adjacent to Church Road.
- The green infrastructure design is also underway as outlined in the Land Management Plan.

The Area Committee will continue to be briefed in relation to development on the overall site.

Land Development Agency

The Council is working closely with the Land Development Agency (LDA) to bring forward land banks located in Fingal to unlock their potential to deliver mixed tenure housing.

The Council has received funding under the SSF for lands at Hackettstown in Skerries which is in the Land Aggregation Scheme and currently in the ownership of the Housing Agency/LDA. The Council has been working with the LDA and the Housing Agency to bring this site forward for development.

Part V Delivery

The current Covid19 crisis will impact on the delivery of Part V units across the county. However, the Housing Department are working with developers in relation to secure delivery of social housing units.

Approved Housing Bodies

The Approved Housing Bodies continue to play an important role in the delivery of social housing and the Council continues to work closely with AHB's operating in the County.

Other Development Opportunities

The Housing Department are available to meet with developers who are building across the county with a view to exploring opportunities to bring forward proposals to increase the supply of social housing.

Affordable Dwelling Purchase Arrangements

The Affordable Dwelling Purchase Scheme is a national initiative that will see affordable homes built on state owned land in co-operation with local authorities.

The procurement process for the developed design, construction, delivery and sale of 39 affordable residential units at Dun Emer, Lusk is nearing completion and the Council anticipate that the contractor will be appointed shortly with the first phase of housing being completed Q2 2021.

It is proposed to bring further detail and updates on this scheme to the local Councillors shortly, subject to Covid19 guidelines.

Leasing Schemes

The Housing Department continues to operate the various leasing schemes to provide much needed properties for social housing. The Covid19 restrictions mean that new applications cannot be progressed at present, however, all properties that have been inspected and fully signed off are still being processed and leases are being signed with property owners.

Covid19 Employment Loss

Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan

Mortgage holders who have lost employment due to the Covid19 crisis and are experiencing difficulties making repayments should contact the Council immediately on www.loans@fingal.ie Subject to proof of job loss or reduced hours, Fingal County Council may offer a solution to make reduced or

deferred payments that are proportionate to the loss of income.

As a minimum, Mortgage Protection Insurance payments must be made so as not to break the continuity of cover. Fingal County Council will endeavour to find an individual solution with each borrower.

Failure to make mortgage repayments without an agreement with Fingal County Council may affect credit ratings and limit ability to access credit in the future.

Further details are available on the Council's website www.fingal.ie

Rent Payments – Council Tenants

Council tenants who have temporarily lost employment due to Covid19 crisis, may be temporarily re-assessed for rent based on Social Welfare payments until their employment situation becomes clearer. Tenants should contact the Council immediately at email; rentaccountD15@fingal.ie or rentaccountnorthcounty@fingal.ie. Further details are available on the Council's website www.fingal.ie

Private Rented Inspections

In February 2018, all local authorities were issued with targets for the Inspection of Private Rented Properties by the DHPLG in conjunction with its Strategy for the Private Rental Sector – a key component of Rebuilding Ireland. The aim is to increase the national average inspection rate from 6% to 25% of registered rental properties by 2021. The targets are based on the percentage of tenancies registered with the RTB, which within the Fingal County Council administrative area was 21,034 at end of 2018.

The annual targets are as follows:

2018 (10%)	2019 (15%)	2020 (20%)	2021 (25%)
2,072	3,155	4,207	5,259

For the duration of the Covid19 crisis, emergency inspections will be carried out as required.

March Photos from social housing construction schemes

Rolestown, 26 units:



Avondale, Mulhuddart, D15 – 42 units



Church Road, Dublin 15 – 22 units



Housing Tenancy Services Report

Housing Support

Fingal County Council's Housing Department is continuing to provide services across its full range of Tenancy Services during the **COVID19** outbreak. Whilst Public Offices remain closed to the members of the public in accordance with current health restrictions, the Housing Department remains **open for business**.

A simple, and easy to use guide for all those who need assistance has been made available on Fingal's website via www.fingal.ie

For those who may have queries in relation to their accommodation circumstances, the following **contact details** have been made available on Fingal's website, and messaged on Facebook and Twitter to reach as many of our citizens as possible.

Housing Unit	Contact Details
Homeless Services	01 890 5090 homeless@fingal.ie
HAP	01 870 4515 HAP@fingal.ie
Estate Management (Maintenance, ASB & Special Projects)	01 890 5588 Estatemanagement@fingal.ie
Lettings	01 890 5380 Housing.allocations@fingal.ie
Housing Support	01 890 5902 Housing.allocations@fingal.ie
Customer Care Team	01 890 5000 CustomerCareUnit@fingal.ie

Information Videos

The Housing Department have launched a suite of videos on various social media platforms to deliver information to our citizens on how they can access housing support services during the Covid 19 outbreak.

The videos are launched across three digital platforms of Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Links to these are detailed below.

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/fingalcoco/videos/>

<https://twitter.com/fingalcoco>

<https://www.instagram.com/fingalcountycouncil/>

Social Housing Support

The Housing Support team are continuing to assess applications for social housing support at this time.

Should you now wish to seek support for Social Housing, you may do so by completing and returning a Social Housing Application Form. To access an application form, please log-on to Fingal's website via www.fingal.ie and follow the link to **Housing Provision** . and you can submit housing applications by

Post to **Housing Support Team** , Fingal County Council, Grove Road, Blanchardstown, Dublin D15W638

The Lettings Team continue to provide offers of social housing support as stock becomes available notwithstanding current restrictions during **COVID-19**. The supply of housing is continuing through a number of mechanisms allowing us to continue to make offers of support across standard social housing, with Approved Housing Bodies as well as the provision of a number of transitional housing options.

Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)

The HAP team in Fingal County Council continues to operate as normal via email and phone with the public contacting us through email and phone during **COVID-19** restrictions. Additional resources have been deployed to assist with the volume of calls/emails from those who have been affected by the current crisis (in relation to a change in income).

The following guidelines have been issued by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government.

If a HAP tenant **does not** experience any change in financial circumstances as a result of the steps being taken to combat the spread of COVID-19, there should be no change to the operation of the scheme – HAP payments will continue to be made to the landlord and the tenant's differential rent will continue to be collected;

If a tenant **does** experience a change in financial circumstances on foot of COVID-19, those tenants should contact the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection and apply for the relevant supports

<https://www.gov.ie/en/organisation/department-of-employment-affairs-and-social-protection/?referrer=https://www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/home.aspx>

Changes in income can be notified to the Council

where a rent review will be required. HAP can be contacted at 01-8904515 or Email: HAP@fingal.ie

As a result of recent job losses due to the current COVID 19 crisis, there has been a substantial increase in the number of tenants requiring a rent review due to reduced income. The HAP team are will address these amendments as quickly as possible in addition to addressing the increase in HAP applications.

Homeless Services

We are working with our partners in the DRHE and many of the Service Providers in the sector to ensure that there has been and will be no disruption to these services. During the restrictions imposed by Covid-19 public health requirements.

Whilst taking into consideration advice from the HSE regarding social distancing, etc., we are continuing to sign families for HAP agreements and for offers of Housing Support.

We are continuing to provide a broad range of critical services in partnership with the HSE and all our partners. Staff at this time are working to ensure arrangements are in place for all our service users, so that everyone feels safe, secure and supported throughout this COVID 19 period.

The following points should be noted:

- All service providers are putting in place self-isolation facilities within their own premises.
- All one night only accommodation (where clients would have been expected to vacate during the day) is now 24 hour with meals being provided on site. This minimises the need for any residents to exit during the day and it eliminates the need for them to be outdoors and risking contact with others.
- The DRHE are in the process of arranging the provision of food to all facilities where

this particular service has been restricted or stopped because of Covid19.

- The Housing support officers (employed by the DHRE on behalf of all Dublin Local Authorities) and charity partners are linked in with all families staying in contracted commercial accommodation and hubs. Housing Support Officers can be contacted at: **01 222 7414** or by email housingsupport@dublincity.ie
- Dublin Simon Outreach and PMVT Intake team continue to work proactively on the streets on behalf of the DRHE, offering advice and accommodation to all rough sleepers.

Travellers Supports

Covid-19 Initiatives

A number of measures are underway within Fingal to ensure that Traveller families receive as much assistance as possible during these unprecedented times.

It is important to note that the Traveller specific stock is currently being visited on a daily basis by the Housing Inspectorate staff and Senior Officials. This is being done in a respectful manner and maintaining social distancing guidelines, and to check on vulnerable tenants and advise on the supports available to them. It is also used to collate any maintenance issues. In addition, the Council's designated Social Worker Service for Travellers is making regular contact with the most vulnerable, in order to assist with additional needs arising from current circumstances. Meals on Wheels are being delivered to the most vulnerable through an initiative of the Community Response Forum.

Significant supports available through the Housing Department, among other things, include ;

- Emergency / priority lettings for applications from Traveller specific accommodation, where possible,

- Arrangements to assist with applications for requests to self-isolate or cocoon,
- Additional Clean Ups and Emergency Maintenance requests are being prioritised.

The Council is also providing the following additional measures on sites as part of its strategy to raise awareness of **Covid 19** and additional requirements around hygiene and social distancing;

- notice boards have been erected on sites with relevant hygiene and Health & Safety guidance, and other useful information for additional supports available to the community.
- Additional callouts for treatment of waste water systems are in place and if any additional Portable Toilet facilities are required, this can be arranged,
- Tenants have been provided with resources to maintain on site hygiene with the supply of litter pickers and supply of recyclable waste collection bags.

Returning Dwellings to Productive Use

The number of casual voids within Social Housing Stock which are currently in the re-let process is as set out in the table below;

Voids	At 31 st March 2020
In letting process	31
Undergoing re-let repairs	26
With County Architect for procurement of pre-let repairs	41
TOTAL	98

Planned Maintenance Programmes

Boiler Servicing

The council provides an annual boiler servicing facility, including all maintenance and upgrade works, for a nominal fee of €3 per week to participating tenant. The 2020 servicing programme is underway and several batches have issued to our contractor. Access to dwellings may be refused by householders during the current **Covid-19** public health restrictions but there will be return visits later in the year, to ensure that servicing standards are met.

Cyclical Maintenance

This programme provides for external painting and joinery repairs to council housing stock. Currently the programme operates on a 6/7 year cycle. Public Health guidelines permitting, painting works in the remaining dwellings in Sheepmoor Estate, Dublin 15 should be completed as soon as restrictions are lifted. The next batch of estates to be procured, for commencement of works in the summer months, is as set out below;

Estate	
St Patricks Park,	Donabate
Castlecurragh Heath/Vale	Dublin 15
Dromheath	Dublin 15
Shamrock Park	Oldtown
Windmill Estate	Skerries
Toberburr Avenue	St Margarets
The Bawn Grove/ The Hill	Malahide
Kirkfield Cottages	Clonsilla
Lambeecheer Estate	Balbriggan

Heating Upgrades

Boiler upgrades are continuing based on the Council's commitments under its Climate Change

Action Plan. These include boiler and systems upgrades as part of re-let repairs to void properties

Estate Maintenance and Grass Cutting

The Housing Maintenance Division provides a grass cutting service for circa 350 elderly or vulnerable tenants, within its housing estates. In addition, grass cutting is provided in small areas of open space, not covered by Operations Department, with the overall objective of improving the visual aspect of the estates. The ongoing provision of grass cutting services is being reviewed currently in the context of Covid 19.

Laneways provided to the rear of dwellings in the older estates can be a source of dumping and anti-social behaviour and the Housing Maintenance Division works with local residents to find solutions where issues exist. In some cases, laneways are gated and keys provided to adjoining residents for local access. In other situations, where all householders are in agreement, laneways can be incorporated into the adjoining rear gardens.

Housing Welfare Service

The Social Workers attached to the Housing Department are available to support vulnerable tenancies and to work with housing applicants who have medical/welfare needs.

In response to **Covid-19**, the Housing Social Workers are actively engaged with their most vulnerable cases at this time providing support, information and inter-agency linkages when and where required. Tenants have been identified by the Social Workers and Housing Inspectors who may be considered particularly vulnerable during **COVID-19** and follow on action has been initiated through a number of mechanisms including the Fingal Community Response Forum.

In addition there are currently 24 cases being provided with supports by the Tenancy Sustainment Service, on an ongoing basis.

Anti-Social Behaviour/Inspectorate/Stock Management

The ongoing management and sustainment with regard to social tenancies and good estate management falls within the remit of the ASB/Inspectorate Unit. Alleged breaches pertaining to tenancy agreements are investigated and pursued in accordance with Housing legislative guidelines.

There are occasions when the vulnerabilities, complexities and health related issues associated with a tenancy require tenancy sustainment intervention and supports. Ongoing case management and review with a variety of external agencies, including Approved Housing Bodies, An Garda Síochána, Tusla and the HSE is a necessity to ensure all agencies work collaboratively with a view to achieving best outcomes.

Stock Management

48 cases under review – 7 regularisations, 13 breaches (allegations of sub-lets, abandonments, illegal occupiers), 15 Miscellaneous

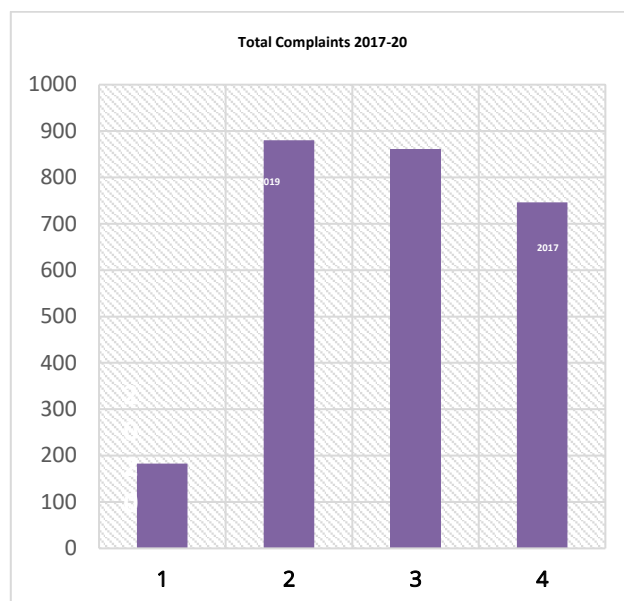
13 downsizing

Surrenders on EM Grounds – 1 (Jan), 3 (Feb), 3 (March)

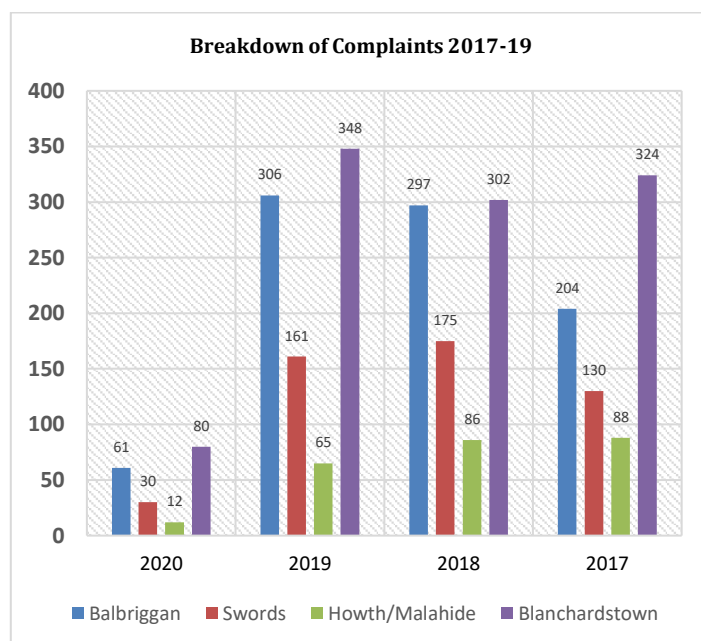
Anti-Social Behaviour

	Active Investigation	Active Monitoring	Closed (Cumulative for Year)
Dublin 15	33	19	17
North County	32	38	20
TOTALS	65	57	37

Total Complaints Received



Area Breakdown of Complaints



Anti-Social Interventions

Interviews Held 2019	123
Interviews Held 2020	29
Tenancy Alerts 2019	30
Tenancy Alerts 2020	12
Tenancy Warnings 2019	4
Tenancy Warnings 2020	0
Tenant Induction Training 2019	12
Tenant Induction Training 2020	3

Housing Inspections	
Traveller Specific Inspections 2019	1818
Traveller Specific Inspections 2020	434
Estate Inspections 2019	944
Estate Inspections 2020	48
EM/ASB Inspections 2019	3858
EM/ASB Inspections 2020	805

Examples of Estate Management Response to Covid-19 in Traveller specific sites



Temporary notice boards erected at all Traveller Specific sites to facilitate the dissemination of Covid-19 information.



Covid-19 information literature distributed to Traveller sites on behalf of various Traveller Agencies including Exchange House and Pavee Point



Distribution of supplies to assist with clean-ups at Traveller Specific Sites

Community Culture & Sports Division

Fingal County Council response to Covid19

At the instigation of Minister for Housing Planning and Local Government, a Fingal Covid-19 Community Response Forum has been put in place and co-ordinated by Fingal County Council.

A dedicated community support freephone helpline 1800 459 059 (with the lines open from 8am to 8pm seven days a week) and a dedicated email address covidsupport@fingal.ie has been established to assist at risk members of the public in accessing non-emergency and non-medical supports and advice during the current public health emergency. The helpline is focused primarily on ensuring that vulnerable members of the community or those living alone can access deliveries of groceries, medicine and fuels. The Community Culture & Sports Division with assistance from other Council staff are coordinating the helpline and support efforts across the County.

The new COVID-19 Fingal Community Response Forum includes over a dozen agencies and organisations.

The role of the Forum is to ensure that there is a co-ordinated community response and to enable all voluntary statutory agencies to collaborate in support of our communities and particularly our more vulnerable citizens.

Included in the COVID-19 Fingal Community Response Forum are:

- Mayor of Fingal
- FCC
- HSE
- Fingal LCDC
- An Post
- Community Welfare Service
- Tusla
- Garda Siochana
- Fingal Volunteer Centre
- Muintir na Tire
- Order of Malta
- Civil Defence

- GAA
- Local Link
- Citizens Information
- ALONE
- TU Dublin
- Fingal Chamber of Commerce
- Empower
- Fingal Leader Partnership

The helpline is just one aspect of the Forum's work. Its core aim is contributing to the community-wide effort to limit the spread of COVID-19. Fingal County Council, through this group, will ensure that the wide variety of groups working across the county to assist those in need will do so in an organised, collaborative and targeted way.

The Council's COVID-19 Community Response Forum will ensure the very best use of the many resources assisting vulnerable persons with their daily needs at this unprecedented time, whether that is collecting medication, food shopping, social support and contact.

The contact details of this new service will be promoted on www.fingal.ie and on Fingal County Council's social media channels. An information leaflet including the number, email address and other information will be distributed around the county, particularly to vulnerable households, over the coming days.

Sports Programmes/Projects/Information

The Sports Office have developed the Fingal Digifit programme in response to current Covid 19 situation. With sports clubs, gyms and community centres temporarily closed the Sports Office team put together a series of home workout videos to help the people of Fingal stay active. Through these videos our citizens are provided with ideas and guidelines so that families can still be active in their homes. The video series will continue every Monday, Wednesday and Friday for the coming weeks.

Alongside this we are providing a series of Fingal Sports Challenges, to keep our young people active, whereby the team are producing Skills Challenge videos, normally with their own children participating in the challenge in their own back gardens.

All our videos and challenges can be found on our social media platforms, you-tube, facebook, and twitter.

The Healthy Fingal Learning Platform is being offered to primary school teachers to help them deliver activities, and the Sporting Facts programme is being revised and offered to teachers.

In addition, our Co-funded development officers are producing videos and exercise / games ideas and plans. In addition, our officers are in contact with sports clubs encouraging and supporting them to review their structures and governance. As well as providing practical support.

The videos have been shared widely, by our wider sport team, other Local Authorities, clubs and in schools we are working with. Links have also been shared through the Older People's network.

We are posting useful tips and guidance on our facebook pages.



Community Development Office

Community Response Survey

The Community Development Office has developed a survey of local community and voluntary groups responding to COVID-19. These groups are providing essential services that are contributing to containing the reach of the virus. Services include delivering food and prescriptions, providing telephone support and a friendly listening ear, sign posting concerned people to local services and generally providing those in isolation with remote social contact.

Coronavirus Solidarity diary

Fingal PPN and Fingal County Council's Community Department will be documenting a diary of "good news stories".

These are stories that highlight the fantastic community spirit of Fingal in response to the ongoing Covid-19 crisis.

<https://fingalppn.ie/community-response-to-covid-19/>

Community Action Fund

The community department has developed an emergency Covid-19 action fund. The key objective of the scheme is to provide support to voluntary and community groups mobilising a local community response to COVID-19 in Fingal. Priority will be given to initiatives that strive to contain and limit the reach of the virus, safeguard volunteers and support vulnerable members in your community.

Groups will be funded under 2 categories

(i) Community Response Team Initial Set Up Contribution: (up to a max €200). A once-off award of €200 to cover initial costs incurred by establishing a local community response team

(ii) COVID-19 Community Action Fund: (up to a max of €1000) a grant for local groups that demonstrates a strong partnership/ collaboration of local community groups and key services to safely respond to COVID-19 under the following themes of:

- Supporting Community Safety initiatives
- Community wellbeing programme
- Virtual Community Gatherings
- Support target for older and vulnerable people

Due to the current Covid crisis it is urgent that this funding initiative progresses. The Councils audit and governance practices will be complied with and a full list of all grants will be brought to the next available Council meeting

The following applications have been approved for funding to date:

Name of applicant	Purpose of application	Recommended Grant Funding
Whitestown Estate Management	Insurance, phones & Microsoft Package	€800.00
Ballyboughal Community Council	Safety Wear, Sanitizer and wipes, Printing ink & paper	€780.00
Swords Youth Service	40 x Positivity Packs	€400.00
Irish Red Cross D15	PPE Equipment	€450.00
Fingal Counselling Service	Phone Credit for 24 Volunteers x 2 months	€480.00

Comhairle na nÓg:

COVID19 provided a challenge to the continued work and connection of young people involved in Comhairle na nÓg across the Fingal County. In order that our young people could continue to work on their important topics on Climate Action, Peer Pressure and continue their valuable input in

a number of consultations the young people along with FCC and Foróige came together to see how this could continue and through commitment to Comhairle na nÓg and determination they held their first VIRTUAL meeting via Zoom on Thursday 26th of March 2020, 17 young people attended and although it took some getting used to we got going. From this meeting they undertook to:

Set up a Google Classroom: So, they can all work jointly on documents, to research ideas and formulate plans on our topic for the year.

On COVID-19: Comhairle are putting together some clips based on HSE advice, but also our own positive experiences of how we occupy our spare time, keeping in mind social/physical distancing. Showing our peers that there are ways to spend your time, pro-socially.



Fingal Age Friendly

Fingal Older Peoples Council took part in an Age Friendly Ireland Housing Survey in March. The finding of this survey will be presented to the Housing Sub-committee and to our members



Fingal Older Peoples Council Think-Ahead Conference date 4th June 2020

This conference is due to be held on the 4th of June in the Emmaus Centre in Swords and key note speaker is Angela Edghill from the Irish Hospice Foundation, she will bring along a fully qualified Solicitor to address questions that may arise from this event. If Councillors wish to attend, they should register with Rosanne.Martin@fingal.ie

We are in daily email contact with all our groups during the Covid 19 crisis.

Arts Office

Youth & Education Programme

Musician-in-Residence Programme.

Fingal County Council's Musician-in-Residence Programme supports the work of 25 musicians in schools throughout Fingal. Working across music genres and age groups from 5 years – 18 years, the musicians have created bespoke projects to meet the needs of participating children. Over 2,000 children were thoroughly enjoying weekly music lessons through the Musician-in-Residence Programme. The closure of schools due to the Covid-19 crisis this month was a shock to everyone involved. The musicians are now working on creative solutions to provide children and families with access to music learning and enjoyment through online platforms to inspire creativity and hope in people's homes. We look forward to sharing positive news on this shortly.



Children enjoying music at St. Michaels' House Special School, Baldoye, and Rush & Lusk Educate Together National School.

The Art Life Callan.

The Art Life is an arts-in-education initiative that brought young people from Swords and Balbriggan together with artists and cultural producers through a series of creative workshops and field trips to enrich their understanding of the power of art, and its capacity for supporting growth, health and social connection. The group visited Workhouse Union in Kilkenny this month to meet the curators, artists and designers there who engage with the local community and civic issues in innovative ways. They visited KCAT - a socially inclusive arts centre that nurtures professional development in the arts for all ages and abilities and welcomed members of Proeftuin Pioneers (Tiny House Collective) to present on their 'tiny house movement' in the Netherlands, which developed out of a very basic need for affordable housing and sustainable living conditions for people in the area. We look forward to sharing video documentation on this project shortly.

Music Generation Public Consultation.

Fingal County Council Arts Office is working in partnership with the Dublin Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown Education and Training Board to complete a countywide music mapping project that will provide data for a submission to Music Generation, the national performance music education programme, this May. Surveys are being developed for young people, music education providers, musicians and the general public that will ask people their views regarding existing music services and operations within the county, alongside musical interests and needs going forward. This public consultation will begin the first week of April and run online for two weeks. We encourage everyone to get involved and have your say! Surveys will be accessible from www.fingal.ie and www.fingalarts.ie and from the Arts Office Youth & Education Officer julie.clarke@fingal.ie We look forward to hearing your views.

Public Art Programme

Public Art in Balbriggan

Plans continue a special public art commission for Balbriggan as part of the Our Balbriggan programme. Fingal Artist Sean Molloy is developing a new landscape painting of Balbriggan which will be scaled up as a large-scale printed panel and located along the railway wall. The original painting will reside in the town and become part of Fingal County Council's Art Collection.



Sean Molloy: Mock Up 2020

John Byrne- Do you want to be immortalised - Swords

The artist who initiated a major open call to the Fingal Public to become Immortalised commenced his community casting just prior to the development of the Covid-19 crisis, having received over 300 applications, John met with interested members of the public in the atrium space of County Hall. The work for John will continue as he selects aspects of the Fingal Landscape, the production of the work was to begin live in July 2020 but we will be planning for possible re-scheduling.



John Byrne, production of the Last Supper, Italian Quarter

Professional Art Programme



The Arts Office announce the 2020 Fingal County Council and Graphic Studio Dublin Fine Art Print Residency Award

Fingal County Council Arts Office in partnership with Graphic Studio Dublin are offering a fine art print residency for a professional artist at any stage of their career, working in any discipline, who is interested in exploring print processes. The two-week long residency will provide an ideal environment for the development of a creative project in printmaking working with a master printer. To be eligible to apply, applicants must have been born, studied or currently reside in Fingal.

The residency includes a short induction/training course in the use of equipment and models of good practice in a collective fine art print studio. Assistance and guidance of an experienced printmaker in making a multicolour print using a pre-prepared drawing/painting as a starting point. The successful recipient will also receive professional studio support with technical processes and artistic development. **Closing date for receipt of applications: Thursday 30th April 2020 at 4pm.**

Arts Office Covid 19 Response

The Arts Office of Fingal County Council issued a message of support and solidarity to all the artists, arts groups, arts organisations and partners with whom we work. Given the situation nationally, the Covid-19 pandemic, and its consequences for us all. The Arts Office want to assure people of our continued commitment through maintaining our contact and communication during this time.

As the work of the Arts Office is developmental, the team are continuing to work hard on the goals outlined in the 2019-25 Arts Plan. We are looking at ways to adapt to our current situation and are actively making plans to find new and innovative ways to help artists to maintain their practice and presence on the range of available online platforms while promoting the work to date and most importantly to come. We continue to offer opportunities to artists and groups as we have always done.

LIBRARIES

Libraries are still here for you

Although the doors may be closed, library staff in Fingal are as busy as ever, coming up with creative ways to keep as many people as possible informed and entertained during these unprecedented times. Staff are staying very active on Fingal Libraries Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts, publicising our e-services, writing blogs, posting storytelling and activities videos, delving back into the past and highlighting lots of ways to keep us all occupied as we spend more time at home. As a result, there has been a significant increase in visits to all our social media during the month of March, in particular to our Facebook page, with views up by 38%.

Upcoming online events

Fingal Libraries will celebrate Easter and the launch of our Spring into Storytime programme, with virtual story-times hosted by Irish authors Rod Smith and Alan Early. We are also working with the Council's Events Dept on an Easter themed quiz and an online drawing tutorial with children's author and illustrator, Alan Nolan.

Library staff are creating content for the Fingal Libraries YouTube channel and are in discussions with Envirokids, Anyone For Science and the Code Academy to create workshops. To view go to <https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=3oM22D-m3X4>

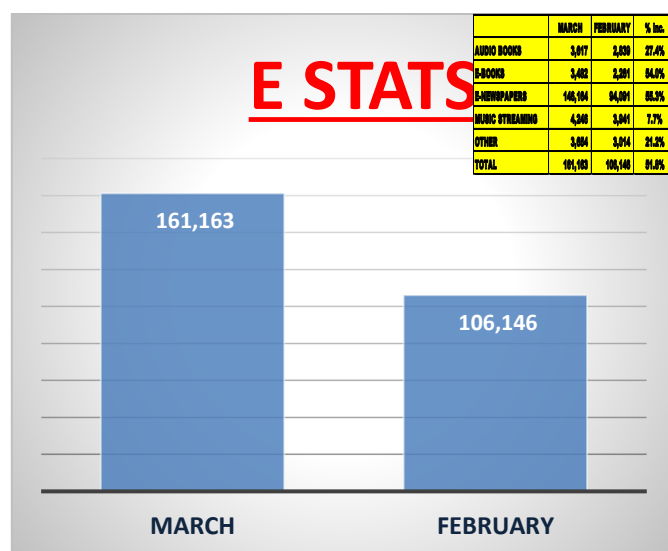
Poetry Competition

To celebrate Poetry Ireland Day on the 30th April, Fingal Libraries is organising a poetry competition. Entrants are invited to address the question of time and poems can be submitted in text, sound file or film format. There are 4 categories: Children aged 7-12, teenagers aged 12-17, Adult 18+ and group entry. Poems should be submitted by email to library.events@fingal.ie Further details are

available on our Facebook and Twitter sites. We are expecting lots on entries, with everyone at home having more time than usual to relax and reflect.

E-Services and social media

As anticipated, our e-services, including audiobooks, e-books, newspapers, magazines and music streaming service have become incredibly popular since libraries closed, with an increase of almost 52% between the February and March 2020 figures. Use of our e-newspapers, which are provided by PressReader rose by 55%, and loans of e-audio books and e-books increased by 27% and 54% respectively in March.



In response to increased demand nationally, Mr. Michael Ring TD, Minister for Rural and Community Development, approved a sum of €200,000 on 26th March to provide an additional 5,000 e-Books and e-Audiobooks to the national online collection.

It's now easier than ever to join Fingal Libraries and to access a wonderful array of e-services all free of charge which will help you get through these challenging times. Go to <https://www.fingal.ie/fingallibraries> to find out more.

ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE ACTION (ECA)

Contents	
Environment Covid 19 Environmental Awareness Climate Action Balleally Landfill/Rogerstown Park Waste Enforcement	Water Services Operations

Environment

Covid19:

Despite current restrictions relating to Covid19, we have continued with the delivery of Environmental and Climate Action services.

- Environmental Awareness: we are engaging through social media, to continue our programme of Environmental Awareness. We will again step up our interactions with schools & community groups as the social distancing restrictions are lifted.
- Climate Action: Reporting is ongoing and activities will be fully brought up to speed as the current restrictions allow.
- Litter Management: litter enforcement activities have been altered to ensure social distancing of staff and the public. In response to a change in the patterns of use of our bring banks, we have heightened our supervision and monitoring of these throughout the County to ensure that they are well managed and emptied regularly.
- Landfill Aftercare - Staff are following guidelines on social distancing and are maintaining a presence to carry out

essential management of licensed facilities, including gas and leachate infrastructure management and the undertaking of routine monitoring of landfills including historic landfills where required.

- Household Waste Collection Services -The National Waste Collection Permit Office have requested contingency plans from all permitted household waste collectors. The main waste collectors are coordinating their services weekly. They have agreed to share resources if required if one collector is disproportionately affected.

Guidance on Putting Your Bins Out:

To reduce the potential for cross contamination please follow this advice when putting out your household bins.

- Bins to be presented on the evening before scheduled collection.
- handles of bins to be cleaned with disinfectant where possible before and after presentation.
- Wipes, cloths, gloves etc used for cleaning can be placed in your general waste. For further information please go to www.mywaste.ie

Management of Household Waste if Tested

Positive for Covid 19:

Waste must be managed in accordance with HSE Guidelines as follows:

- Put all your personal waste (gloves, tissues, wipes, mSks) into a bin bag and tie when almost full.
- Put this bin bag into a second bin bag and tie a knot.
- Store the bag safely for 3 days, then put the bag into your wheelie bin for collection.

For further information please go to www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus.

Environmental Awareness

A short 75 second animated film clip has been created using existing animation from the National Data Centre for Biodiversity. This will be used in cinemas for a period of 6 months, following re-opening of the cinemas.

All Catholic Faith Centres were contacted through the Dublin Diocesan Office. Information regarding biodiversity, pollination and lawn mowing management was conveyed to each of the churches and centres.

Green flag school assessments had commenced in March. School closures have impacted these assessments and they have yet not finished. An Taisce are considering the applications and are working with schools to progress them as far as possible.



The deadline for Fingal Sports Sustainability competition for soccer and rugby clubs has been extended due to the low number of applicants – just three clubs applied for the competition. The prize is €2,000 per club. Details on the website <https://www.fingal.ie/sports-club-sustainability-competition-2020>. The closing date is Friday April 17th 2020.

Climate Action

Fingal Climate Change Action Plan was launched in Sept 2019. The Plan can be viewed at <https://www.fingal.ie/climate-change-action-plan-2019-2024> Here follows in summary a sample of progress to date under each CCAP Action Area.

Energy & Buildings:

Codema in collaboration with FCC's Energy Management Team have produced the FCC Energy Review 2018 and report that FCC had improved its energy performance by 27.8%, compared to 2006 - 2008. This amounts to an absolute saving of 8 GWh of primary energy or 2,416 tonnes of CO₂. This is roughly enough energy to power and heat 730, B2 rated homes for 1 year.

FCC's 2019 Energy Review is currently being drafted. FCC is on course to meet its 33% improvement in energy efficiency target by Dec

2020, and its 40% greenhouse gas emissions reduction by 2030. The 2019 & 2020 Energy Reviews will inform energy planning programmes and enable Codema develop a specific list of energy-saving recommendations, which will guide FCC on how best to reduce its Significant Energy Users and meet its 2030 public sector targets.

FCC's Energy management team, in collaboration with Codema and the SEAI have developed an ISO 50001 compliant, energy management system, which was certified in February 2020.

The roll out of LED public lighting is 60% complete and on track for completion for 2021 - 19396 streetlights have been converted to LED's to date, out of a total stock of 32000.

Housing & Community Department replaced 352 Boilers in 2019 and provided these properties with upgraded heating controls. All social housing stock as of 31/12/15 are now insulated, and all buy-ins and long-term leases since that date have been provided with attic insulation. A programme for cavity wall insulation, as necessary, is under development. Single glazed window replacement is 100% complete for council owned social housing stock and acquisitions.

FCC computers shut down automatically afterhours, and lighting in Fingal County Hall is under the control of localised motion detection.

An invitation for Competitive Dialogue has been issued to Energy Service Companies to enter Energy Performance Contracts for energy upgrades for Fingal County Hall; and Civic Offices, Draíocht Arts Centre and the public library in Blanchardstown.

Home Energy Saving Kits have been developed by Codema and are available in all FCC libraries for use by the public to check the energy efficiency in homes and to inform home energy efficiency improvements. Due to high demand, 4 additional

kits are currently being developed for Fingal libraries.

There has been a focus on promoting energy awareness amongst FCC staff and the public, and there was an energy awareness focus across five public events in 2019 including four Public Consultation events on the draft CCAP, in Swords, Blanchardstown, Sutton and Balbriggan - SEAI attended and gave advice on home energy efficiency grants & technical advice, Codema attended and gave advice on home energy efficiencies; FCC staff attended and gave details of energy efficiency improvements in social housing. Electric vehicles were available for test drives. SEAI and FCC staff also attended our energy tent at Flavours of Fingal. Codema facilitated two home energy awareness lunchtime lectures for FCC staff in 2019 and staff across departments have undertaken various CPD training modules in relation to energy awareness. FCC Local Enterprise Office in collaboration with SEAI & Enterprise Ireland are developing a pilot scheme for SME's to promote sustainable business.

Codema have lodged an expression of interest to the Government Climate Action Fund on behalf of the 4 Dublin Local Authorities for grant funding for an Urban Solar Farm across suitable LA rooftops potentially piloting Photovoltaics with Green Roofs. If successful, this will include certain FCC libraries and community centres.

Transport:

Transitioning towards more sustainable transport systems is one of the major challenges facing Irish society as approximately 20 per cent of Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions come from transport and it accounts for the largest share of energy-related CO2 emissions (40% in 2018). Transport in Ireland remains almost entirely dependent on fossil fuels; and private cars are responsible for the

largest share of transport emissions at 40%, followed by aviation at 22%.

FCC is transitioning to an electric vehicle (EV) fleet and currently has 28 fully electric road vehicles, out of a fleet of 190. EV charge points have been provided in staff carparks and in depots for operational vehicles. FCC is leading a regional steering group on the provision of public EV charge points and has engaged with consultants to advise on policy, and in market soundings to gauge the markets capacity to deliver at scale.

FCC is actively working to improve pedestrian and cycling infrastructure to encourage the uptake of cycling and walking throughout the county. The number of bicycle stands provided at key locations across the county is increasing, and “Bleeperbike” bike sharing scheme was piloted in Blanchardstown and has been expanded to Swords, Malahide & Howth, with 50no bikes county wide.

A number of projects incorporating cycling infrastructure are at various stages of design, planning and construction. For example: the Broadmeadow Way has been submitted to An Bord Pleanála (ABP), and the Harry Reynolds Road Cycle Route & the Fingal Coastal Way went out for public consultation in Nov 2019, the Royal Canal Urban Greenway is at preliminary design stage, and the Sutton to Malahide cycleway is underway with the Baldoyle to Portmarnock section almost constructed. The Donabate Distributor Road which includes high quality cycle facilities is now in service.

Fingal is the fastest growing region in Ireland and FCC is planning for the future by promoting the integration of transport and land use planning, through the Development Plan strategy and policies; with a focus on compact growth and infill development served by high quality public transport with significant employment provision.

FCC is working with the National Transport Authority (NTA) & Transport Infrastructure Ireland to deliver BusConnects and MetroLink. MetroLink will be an electrified urban rail system with high carrying capacity and should be delivered by 2027. These transport modes typically require less than one tenth of the energy required to transport individuals by car.

FCC has laid the foundations for MetroLink by facilitating opportunities for high-density, mixed-use, employment generating activity, with a significant level of residential development along the route. Swords Masterplans were developed and agreed in 2019. These plans set the vision for parcels of land located along the MetroLink route.

FCC Operations staff are working towards providing park and ride facilities at strategic locations across the county and have engaged with the NTA to work on policy formation and to identify potential sites.

The sum of these actions will encourage a modal shift away from private cars to more sustainable alternatives, and will avoid thousands of car journeys, taking cars off the roads of Fingal, reducing congestion and emissions.

Flood Resilience:

FCC is active across all aspects of flood risk management, from prevention to emergency response, through to infrastructural investment following extreme weather events. This includes actions that consider flood risks arising from climate change through development policies, collaboration with the OPW on flood defence projects, own delivery of minor flood defence projects, use of nature-based solutions to manage flood risks, activation of flood emergency response plans; and rebuilding infrastructure in the aftermath of extreme weather events.

FCC's Emergency Response Plans have been updated to include flood event response and will be kept under review and continually improved.

Interim flood defences in the form of "seebees" have been provided at Portrane beach and the coastal protection team is working with RPS Consulting Engineers on a plan for coastal protection of Portrane. An Options Report has been completed and a preferred option is being assessed for inclusion in a planning application to ABP at present.

The OPW in consultation with FCC is piloting The Rogerstown Outer Estuary coastal monitoring programme as one of 5 National locations.

Strategic flood risk assessments are undertaken by consultants managed by FCC Forward Planning (Water Services) division on an ongoing basis. 20 surface water management plans have been progressed for various LAP's, Masterplans and other study areas within the County since 2018.

Nature-based solutions such as integrated wetlands, green infrastructure and Sustainable urban Drainage Systems (SuDS), are being considered in response to flood risk. Measures that include nature can have multiple benefits beyond flood defence, such as providing new spaces for recreation and habitats for wildlife. FCC has drafted a policy in relation to the use of SuDS and it is currently subject to internal stakeholder review. FCC is also working with DCC & OPW in undertaking a catchment study of the Santry River to return the river to a more natural state, and to alleviate the flood risk downstream, through the use of green infrastructure and SuDS.

FCC is working with the OPW to progress the OPW flood protection scheme at Mill Stream Skerries. Data collection is being undertaken to enable calibration of the hydraulic model. 5 river gauges

have been installed on the Mill Stream and the OPW are undertaking the preliminary design.

Funding has been assigned to carry out a Climate Change Risk Assessment of Fingal's Cultural Heritage, to identify and survey the architectural and archaeological heritage sites and designed landscapes.

Nature Based Solutions:

FCC is currently drafting a new tree strategy focusing on best practice in terms of designing open spaces to maximise the benefits of trees including for climate action and SuDS. The Tree Strategy review process will be launched Spring 2020 with a plan to have it completed within 12 months.

Consultation for a new FCC Biodiversity Action Plan has started. The Plan is to be prepared in 2020 and will identify & map habitats and species at risk from climate change.

A multi-functional master plans for Baldoyle Estuary and its surroundings is underway and the masterplan for Racecourse Park (which takes up most of the buffer zone of the Baldoyle Estuary) is scheduled to go for planning approval in April 2020.

Green roofs in council buildings and community buildings are being considered where viable and appropriate and have been proposed for two newbuild Community centres which are at preliminary planning stage.

FCC is responsible for 2,000 hectares of open space that are managed in a sustainable manner to ensure that future generations can enjoy the benefits of these amenities in terms of recreation, health and wellbeing.

In 2019 FCC added 20hectare of wildflower meadow including 1.6hectare planted at Bremore

Castle with seed sourced from an Irish grower. Malahide Castle grounds support a 15hectare meadow as a wildlife habitat.

The National Biodiversity Data Centre All-Ireland Pollinator Plan has been supported by numerous initiatives, including: Bee Positive Garden at Bloom 2019, Bulb planting initiatives, wildflower meadows in Regional Parks & Larger open spaces.

Alternative weed control methods to herbicides are used in public parks.

FCC provides and supports the use of allotments as a way communities can grow their own food, and lower food miles and food waste with 800no allotments provided across 4 sites in Fingal. Approximately 80% are in use.

Climate action and environmental awareness initiatives are ongoing, with an increasing focus on Biodiversity awareness, including the "Bee positive" biodiversity cinema and bus shelter advertising campaigns in 2019-2020.

Community support through the Tidy Towns programme, and through grant programmes is also ongoing, with an increasing focus on Biodiversity awareness. Numerous community initiatives supporting biodiversity and tree planting have been supported.

Resource Management:

FCC continues to engage with the Eastern Midlands Waste Regional Office (EMWRO) who are responsible for the implementation of the region's Waste Management Plan.

FCC is increasingly implementing green procurement, where feasible, and has started with office consumables. FCC stores buying off the Office of Government Procurement green office consumables contract list. FCC's events team are increasingly incorporating green procurement in

Council supported events. Vendors asked to minimise single use plastics and use bio degradable serving products. FCC's Central Procurement Unit is investigating incorporation of green principles in major procurement processes and evaluation criteria.

All single use items have been removed from Council canteens and managed print using recycled paper is in place.

FCC operates approximately 60 bring centres (bottle banks), and 2 recycling centres for public use. The range of materials accepted has been expanded in Estuary & Coolmine recycling centres to include Instruments, and in Estuary centre to include Bicycles and household items for charity including furniture & toys.

Numerous Pubic Climate Change Awareness initiatives were undertaken in 2019 which incorporated advice in relation to sustainable living, waste reduction and recycling, including 4no high profile Public Consultation events across the county, presentations to schools & community group (including GAP engagement with transition year students, and environmental awareness officer presentations at libraries throughout February 19), awareness tents at Flavours & Zeminar, greening of competitions, cinema campaigns; along with a sustained social media campaign. The Climate Action team are engaging with regional colleagues in relation to developing and ongoing programme.

FCC's social housing tenant induction programme has been expanded to include information and advice regarding environmental awareness, waste management and energy conservation. 265 households attended tenant inductions in 2019.

Climate Action Initiatives have been promoted in Greener Communities, funded in the Community

Environment Action Fund, and supported & promoted in Green Schools.

FCC actively supports marine litter clean ups. A new Marine Environment category was included in the Greener Communities Competition 2019, along with ongoing support to schools through the An Taisce Green Schools Project and the Picker Pals Project; and ongoing support of the An Taisce Dublin Community Clean Up day annually.

A network of public drinking water fountains is being established to help reduce plastic waste, 3 points have been installed to date in Malahide Park, Howth & Porterstown Pk.

Balleally Landfill/Rogerstown Park

Consultants Fehily Timoney and Company have been awarded the contract for Engineering Services for Engineering Works at Balleally Former Landfill under a Framework agreement. The duration of this framework agreement is approximately 20 months and envisages the design and implementation of 10 separate work packages with the goal of completing the former landfill's restoration by mid to late 2021.

Waste Enforcement

Anti-dumping Initiative 2020

The Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment is making funding of €3M available, through the Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authorities (WERLAS) to support the 2020.

Anti-Dumping Initiative (ADI). Since the launch of this initiative in 2017, over 700 projects have been successfully delivered across all 31 local authority areas. This has ensured that illegal dumping remains high on the agenda for communities across the country and that the appropriate supports and interventions are available to combat the problem.

The 2020 ADI aims to reduce incidents of illegal dumping nationally by providing funding for projects to tackle the problem using a collaborative approach involving local authorities, communities and other State Agencies. In 2020, the focus of the ADI is on four key areas and projects will be assessed and funding provided based on their potential impact in these areas.

- (i) prevention
- (ii) abatement
- (iii) education
- (iv) enforcement

Water Services

Operations

During the COVID19 restrictions, our Water Services staff have continued to focus on the provision of water and waste water services, while strictly adhering to the social distance requirements.

Water and Drainage Services continue to be provided as agreed in the Service Level Agreement with Irish Water, although with temporary changes agreed with Irish Water in line with restrictions related to containment of COVID19.

FINANCE

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Finance

Rates

Fingal County Council continues to engage with businesses impacted by the current COVID-19 crisis. Rate payers who are having difficulties with their rate payments should contact their rates collector to discuss the matter and agree an appropriate arrangement. Ratepayers that can continue to pay their outstanding rates should continue to do so in the normal way.

Financial Reports

Refer to Appendix 1 for the following reports:-

- Revenue Account Income & expenditure to 31st March, 2020
- Capital Account Income & Expenditure to 31st March, 2020
- Summary of Corporate Debtors to 31st March, 2020

APPENDIX 1

REVENUE ACCOUNT INCOME & EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 29TH FEBRUARY 2020

		EXPENDITURE			INCOME			NET
		Expenditure	Adopted Full	%	Income	Adopted Full	% Budget	
		€	Year Budget	Budget	€	year Budget	Raised	€
			€	Spent to		€		
				date				
A	Housing & Building	15,014,555	64,668,499	23%	15,791,633	67,692,700	23%	-777,078
B	Road Transport & Safety	5,080,077	23,627,200	22%	1,597,700	6,609,400	24%	3,482,377
C	Water Services	4,309,802	13,535,000	32%	4,340,097	17,109,500	25%	-30,295
D	Development Management	3,350,976	15,538,700	22%	858,732	4,285,700	20%	2,492,245
E	Environmental Services	10,420,731	42,952,600	24%	1,580,949	6,679,000	24%	8,839,782
F	Recreation & Amenity	8,428,501	34,225,501	25%	306,195	1,691,300	18%	8,122,306
G	Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	176,913	900,300	20%	54,009	210,100	26%	122,904
H	Miscellaneous Services	7,316,757	29,041,500	25%	1,642,684	6,282,400	26%	5,674,073
J	Central Management Charge	11,071,283	45,480,800	24%	621,136	3,031,800	20%	10,450,147
LG	Local Property Tax / GPG				1,882,125	7,528,500	25%	-1,882,125
RA	Rates				37,212,425	148,849,700	25%	-37,212,425
		65,169,595	269,970,099	24%	65,887,684	269,970,099	24%	-718,088

CAPITAL ACCOUNT

		Balance at 01/01/2019 €	Expenditure YTD €	Income YTD €	Balance at 31/03/2020 €
A	Housing & Building	3,174,064	26,291,887	-23,908,764	5,557,187
B	Road Transport & Safety	26,376,613	10,340,369	-356,651	36,360,331
C	Water Services	-13,295,384	732,055	-289,327	-12,852,656
D	Development Management	-108,904,216	2,713,741	-7,030,031	-113,220,506
E	Environmental Services	-12,699,108	1,114,652	-4,095,831	-15,680,287
F	Recreation & Amenity	-819,613	4,634,065	-224,046	3,590,406
H	Miscellaneous Services	-37,732,515	1,729,932	-6,096,619	-42,099,202
	Total	-143,900,159	47,556,700	-42,001,269	-138,344,728
	NB***				
	The Opening Balance for 2020 is subject to change as the AFS 2019 is not finalised				

SUMMARY OF CORPORATE DEBTORS TO 04/04/2020				
	Balance at 01/01/2020	Balance at 04/04//2020	Current debt	> 1 Year
	€	€	€	€
RATES	4,906,810	114,281,965	109,443,788	4,838,177
LOANS	1,363,067	1,426,398	353,370	1,073,028
RENTS	5,100,489	5,442,444	3,035,477	2,406,967

Figures for rents and loans are unadjusted by credits/prepayments