



**Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gall**
Fingal County
Council



FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY PLAN 2023-2028

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary	4
1.1 Background & Approach	4
1.2 Values and Principles	5
1.3 LECP 2023-2028 Structure	5
Introduction	8
2.1 Local Economic & Community Plan 2023-2028	8
Vision & High Level Goals	10
3.1 Introduction	10
3.2 Fingal LECP Vision	10
3.3 Fingal LECP High-Level Goals	10
LECP Objectives, Outcomes and Impacts	12
4.1 Theme 1: Sustainability & Climate Action	13
4.2 Theme 2: Prosperous Economy	14
4.3 Theme 3: Skills for Life & Work	16
4.4 Theme 4: Healthy, Inclusive, Connected Communities	18
4.5 Theme 5: Rich Arts, Culture & Heritage	20
4.6 Theme 6: Safe, Accessible, Vibrant Places	22
Appendix 1	24
Appendix 2	34
Appendix 3	42

01. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 BACKGROUND & APPROACH

The 2023-2028 Fingal Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP) is the second LECP which has been developed for Fingal and seeks to build on the progress made under the 2016-2021 Plan.

This LECP has been prepared in accordance with the Local Government Reform Act 2014 and the Local Economic and Community Plans Guidelines 2021. The Guidelines set out six phases for the development of LECPs, namely:

1. Preparation;
2. Public consultation;
3. Development of High-Level Goals, objectives and outcomes; and Finalisation of the LECP;
4. Implementation, which includes the development of an Implementation Plan; and
5. Monitoring, evaluation and review of the plan over the six years of its existence.

This Framework LECP has been developed in accordance with Phases 1-3 of the Guidelines. A separate Implementation Plan, covering the first two operational years of this LECP (2024 and 2025) is being developed in alignment with Phase 5, while progress will be tracked on an ongoing basis per Phase 6. The Implementation Plan is nearing completion and will form part of Fingal County Council's LECP Framework document. The Implementation Plan will examine the High Level Goals/Sustainable Objectives and Outcomes as set out in the Framework LECP, and determine the actions to be pursued to contribute to the achievement of the Goals and Objectives.

Each of the initial four Phases outlined above consisted of multiple facets. As depicted below, the process commenced with a review of the previous LECP to gauge progress and take lessons, while a review of relevant policies and strategies from the local (Fingal) to the supranational levels (European Union and United Nations) was conducted to develop a framework and guide the subsequent phases.

A draft socio-economic statement (or 'Vision') and High-Level Goals were hence devised and brought to Public Consultation (Phase 2). Based on feedback received, this Vision and the High-Level Goals were revised.

In Phase 3, underlying objectives and outcomes were developed to support the objectives.

PHASE 1: PREPARATION

- Review of LECP 2016 – 2021.
- Review of key policies at the supranational, national and local levels.
- Data assessment, inclusive of Census 2022 releases, to prepare a detailed socio-economic analysis of Fingal.
- Development of draft vision & goals.

PHASE 2: PUBLIC CONSULTATION

- Open invite, in-person and online consultation meetings.
- Engagements with Fingal County Council Sub-Committees.
- Engagements with other local stakeholder groups.
- Engagements with Elected Representatives.
- Written submissions via the Fingal County Council consultation portal.
- Vision & goals workshop.
- Consultation planning.
- Development of draft vision & goals.

PHASE 3: DEVELOPMENT OF HIGH-LEVEL GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES

- Revision of vision & high level goals.
- Co-creation of SMART objectives.
- Development of an interim report.

PHASE 4: FINALISATION OF THE LECP

- Adoption of the final draft LECP Framework by Fingal SPC and LCDC reflecting MD and RA input.
- Fingal Council County approval of final draft.
- Submission to Minister and publication by Fingal County Council.

1.2 VALUE & PRINCIPLES

A series of Values and Principles underpin the Guidelines, and were central to the LECP development process. They are as follows.

Values	Principles
Social Justice	Respect
Sustainable Development	Subsidiarity
Social Inclusion	Collaboration
Human Rights, Equality and Anti-Discrimination	Value for Money
Empowering Communities	Implementation
Active Participation	Harmonisation

These Values and Principles were used as guides through the development of this LECP.

1.3 LECP 2023-2028 STRUCTURE

The 2023-2028 Fingal LECP Framework report comprises the Vision and an integrated framework of six overarching 'themes', 15 High-Level Goals, and 31 supporting objectives. A series of actions have also been developed and are included in the 2024-2025 Implementation Plan which accompanies this LECP Framework.

- 6 Themes
- 15 High-Level Goals
- 31 Objectives

The LECP Vision for the coming six years describes the economy and community which Fingal seeks to build. By 2028 – and aided by collaboration amongst multiple stakeholder groups, headed by Fingal County Council – the ambition is to further improve economic, social and environmental conditions in the county, in line with the LECP Vision:

“Fingal will be a vibrant, sustainable, progressive and climate resilient county, underpinned by inclusive, healthy, empowered communities and a dynamic economy.”

The six 'themes' devised incorporate the overarching economic and community elements which govern this LECP. They are:

Theme	Theme Description
Sustainability & Climate Action	Pursue climate resilience and embed sustainability in all we do.
Prosperous Economy	A dynamic, outward looking and innovative economy with sustainability at its core.
Skills for Life & Work	A county that provides a supportive and diverse skills ecosystem, nurtures talent, and provides life-long learning opportunities for all.
Healthy, Inclusive, Connected Communities	A healthy, inclusive and connected county where communities are empowered and supported to thrive.
Rich Arts, Culture & Heritage	Promote and protect our arts and heritage, and embrace cultural diversity in the county.
Safe, Accessible, Vibrant Places	A county of vibrant communities and places, accessible for all, where people want to live, work and socialise.

Under each 'theme' a series of High-Level Goals have been derived, each of which is underpinned by Sustainable Economic Development Objectives (SEDOs) and Sustainable Community Objectives (SCOs).

Theme	Goal	Goal Description	Objective(s)
Sustainability & Climate Action	G1.1	To support communities and the economy in the transition to Net Zero and climate resilience.	SEDO 1: To develop and broaden the scope of the Sustainable Fingal initiative.
	G2.1	Support the development of sustainable and strategic infrastructure.	SEDO 2: To promote, support and input into the development of sustainable and strategic infrastructure. SEDO 3: To facilitate incubation and business growth.
Prosperous Economy	G2.2	Provide a supportive business environment that encourages innovation and attracts, retains and grows businesses sustainably.	SEDO 4: To develop clusters and strategies to leverage sectoral growth opportunities. SEDO 5: To enhance strategic engagement across the business ecosystem. SEDO 6: To provide greater clarity on and access to business supports. SEDO 7: To develop Fingal's brand as a business location.
	G2.3	Remove barriers to labour market participation.	SCO 1: To understand and address key barriers to work and identify and support affected population cohorts. SCO 2: To provide supports to enable under-represented groups to (re) enter the workforce.
Skills for Life & Work	G3.1	Stimulate a culture of life-long learning.	SCO 3: To update the Fingal Skills Strategy and support implementation of its recommendations. SCO 4: To provide all Fingal residents with basic English language, literacy and numeracy skills. SCO 5: To develop greater opportunities for up- and re-skilling.
	G3.2	Support skills development to meet the diverse needs of communities and businesses.	SEDO 8: To equip Fingal's labour force with the skills to meet businesses' current and future needs. SCO 6: To broaden pathways to education. SCO 7: To ensure communities have the skills to take effective voluntary and participative action.
Healthy, Inclusive, Connected Communities	G4.1	Increase participation in initiatives that promote active living, positive mental wellbeing, and physical activity to achieve improved health and wellbeing for all.	SCO 8: To provide facilities and support services which enable a healthier lifestyle. SCO 9: To increase participation in health-related activities, particularly amongst young people and senior citizens. SCO 10: To support community based initiatives to address mental health issues.
	G4.3	Encourage inclusion and connection within and between communities.	SCO 12: To support implementation of the Fingal Migrant Integration and Social Cohesion Strategy. SCO 13: To encourage inclusion and integration through support for services, outreach and events.

Theme	Goal	Goal Description	Objective(s)
	G4.4	Target improvements in areas of disadvantage.	SCO 14: To reduce absolute and relative disadvantage in specific areas of Fingal.
	G5.1	Promote, protect, and grow the heritage of Fingal and ensure quality amenities for all.	SCO 15: To enhance the promotion & brand of Fingal's heritage. SCO 16: To improve access to key heritage assets. SCO 17: To preserve and protect Fingal's heritage assets.
Rich Arts, Culture & Heritage	G5.2	Support new and existing cultures to thrive.	SCO 18: To promote inclusivity by providing supports for new and existing cultures.
	G5.3	Champion the arts and cultural life of the county.	SCO 19: To enhance the promotion & brand of Fingal's arts and cultural life.
	G6.1	Support the development of areas for a high quality of life.	SEDO 9: To revitalise the centres of key towns and villages. SEDO 10: To support enhancements to transport and infrastructure.
Safe, Accessible, Vibrant Places	G6.2	Promote safety in the community through collaboration and inclusivity.	SCO 20: To develop areas which are safe for all. SCO 21: To develop and implement measures to reduce anti-social behaviour

02. INTRODUCTION

2.1 LOCAL ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY PLAN 2023-2028

The Fingal Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) Framework sets out the Vision, High-Level Goals and Objectives needed to promote and support the economic, local and community development of the county over a six year period. This iteration, covering the period 2023-2028, is the second LECP which has been developed for Fingal and seeks to build on the progress made under the 2016-2021 Plan.

This LECP has been prepared in accordance with the Local Government Reform Act 2014 and the Local Economic and Community Plans Guidelines 2021. The Guidelines set out four initial phases for the development of LECPs, namely:

1. Preparation;
2. Public consultation;
3. Development of High-Level Goals, objectives and outcomes; and
4. Finalisation of the LECP.

Subsequent phases cover:

5. Implementation, which includes the development of an Implementation Plan; and
6. Monitoring, evaluation and review of the plan over the six years of its existence.

Each of the initial three Phases outlined above consisted of multiple facets. As depicted below, the process commenced with a review of the previous LECP to gauge progress and take lessons, while a review of relevant policies and strategies from the local (Fingal) to the supranational levels (European Union and United Nations) was conducted to develop a framework and guide the subsequent phases. The results of this analysis are contained in the Appendix to this Framework.

A draft socio-economic statement (or 'Vision') and High-Level Goals were hence devised and brought to Public Consultation (Phase 2), which consisted of:

- A. Open invite, in-person consultation meetings at three venues in Fingal (Balbriggan, Blanchardstown and Swords) in June 2023;
- B. An open invite, online consultation meeting in July 2023;
- C. Engagements with the following Fingal County Council Sub Committees:

- Community Sub-Committee
 - Economic Sub-Committee
 - Environment Sub-Committee
- D. Engagements with other local stakeholder groups which focus on specific aspects of community and economic development;
 - E. Engagements with Elected Representatives on Local Area Committees for Blanchardstown-Mulhuddart/Castleknock/Ongar, Howth/Malahide, and Balbriggan/Rush-Lusk/Swords in September 2023; and
 - F. Written submissions via the Fingal County Council consultation portal.

PHASE 1: PREPARATION

- Review of LECP 2016 – 2021.
- Review of key policies at the supranational, national and local levels.
- Data assessment, inclusive of Census 2022 releases, to prepare a detailed socio-economic analysis of Fingal.
- Development of draft vision & goals.

PHASE 2: PUBLIC CONSULTATION

- Open invite, in-person and online consultation meetings.
- Engagements with Fingal County Council Sub-Committees.
- Engagements with other local stakeholder groups.
- Engagements with Elected Representatives.
- Written submissions via the Fingal County Council consultation portal.
- Vision & goals workshop.
- Consultation planning.

PHASE 3: DEVELOPMENT OF HIGH-LEVEL GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES

- Revision of vision & high level goals.
- Co-creation of SMART objectives.
- Development of an interim report.

Based on feedback received, the Vision and the High-Level Goals were revised. In Phase 3, underlying objectives (covering both Sustainable Community Objectives and Sustainable Economic Development Objectives) were formulated. Associated outcomes and impacts were hence developed to support the objectives. In the sections which follow, the Vision, High-Level Goals, Objectives, Outcomes and Impacts for the 2023-2028 LECP are laid out.

The results of the socio-economic profiling and policy analysis sections are contained in the Appendices.

Note: The 2023-2025 LECP Implementation Plan is nearing completion and will form part of Fingal County Council's LECP Framework document. The Implementation Plan will examine the High Level Goals/Sustainable Objectives and Outcomes as set out in the Framework LECP, and determine the actions to be pursued to contribute to the achievement of the Goals and Objectives.



03. VISION & HIGH LEVEL GOALS

3.1 INTRODUCTION

While the contents of this LECP primarily centre on areas in which further economic and community development in Fingal could be spurred, it must be recognised that the county is already to the fore in terms of prosperity and quality of life in Ireland. High employment and labour market participation rates, a population which is growing and increasingly educated, and access to quality natural spaces and public amenities are prime examples of this.

Despite this, and as outlined below, there are areas for further improvement for residents, communities and the economy overall. Housing, the availability of infrastructure and services for a growing county, and strengthening the pipeline of indigenous businesses are just three examples in this sphere. As is made clear in this document, removing barriers of all types for people and businesses will be important – whether in the context of language and other skills for life, transport, or access to employment.

3.2 FINGAL LECP VISION

The LECP Vision for the coming six years describes the economy and community which Fingal seeks to build. By 2028 – and aided by collaboration amongst multiple stakeholder groups, headed by Fingal County Council – the ambition is to further improve economic, social and environmental conditions in the county. Climate change is central with the biodiversity and climate emergency influencing all aspects of future development. Creating places where vibrancy, sustainability and strong communities are fostered is seen as a critical factor in attracting and retaining residents and businesses and is a core component – along with a dynamic economy which can:

- Support the enterprise base;
- Provide jobs within Fingal;
- Tackle disadvantage; and
- Position the county to exploit growth opportunities over the years to 2028.

The existing communities and assets of Fingal are strong and can be the basis for delivering on the components of the Vision, which is that:

“Fingal will be a vibrant, sustainable, progressive and climate resilient county, underpinned by inclusive, healthy, empowered communities and a dynamic economy.”

3.3 FINGAL LECP HIGH-LEVEL GOALS

- 6 Themes
- 15 High-Level Goals
- 31 Objectives

High-Level Goals set the direction of the LECP, and were devised based on:

1. A review of the previous LECP;
2. Consideration of key policies and strategies of relevance from the supranational to local levels;
3. An assessment of the Socio-Economic Profile of Fingal; and
4. Feedback from the public consultation phase.

In order to frame the development of High-Level Goals, the following broad ‘themes’ were formed. The themes encapsulate the main areas of focus for this LECP.

THEMES

Sustainability & Climate Action	Pursue climate resilience and embed sustainability in all we do.
Prosperous Economy	A dynamic, outward looking and innovative economy with sustainability at its core.
Skills for Life & Work	A county that provides a supportive and diverse skills ecosystem, nurtures talent, and provides life-long learning opportunities for all.
Healthy, Inclusive, Connected Communities	A healthy, inclusive and connected county where communities are empowered and supported to thrive.
Rich Arts, Culture & Heritage	Promote and protect our arts and heritage, and embrace cultural diversity in the county.
Safe, Accessible, Vibrant Places	A county of vibrant communities and places, accessible for all, where people want to live, work and socialise.

The High-Level Goals, outlined below, which support these themes are ambitious, yet achievable and realistic.

Theme	Goal	Goal Description
Sustainability & Climate Action	G1.1	To support communities and the economy in the transition to Net Zero and climate resilience.
	G2.1	Support the development of sustainable and strategic infrastructure.
Prosperous Economy	G2.2	Provide a supportive business environment that encourages innovation and attracts, retains and grows businesses sustainably.
	G2.3	Remove barriers to labour market participation.
Skills for Life & Work	G3.1	Stimulate a culture of life-long learning.
	G3.2	Support skills development to meet the diverse needs of communities and businesses.
Healthy, Inclusive, Connected Communities	G4.1	Increase participation in initiatives that promote active living, positive mental wellbeing, and physical activity to achieve improved health and wellbeing for all.
	G4.2	Promote citizen participation.
	G4.3	Encourage inclusion and connection within and between communities.
	G4.4	Target improvements in areas of disadvantage.
Rich Arts, Culture & Heritage	G5.1	Promote, protect, and grow the heritage of Fingal and ensure quality amenities for all.
	G5.2	Support new and existing cultures to thrive.
	G5.3	Champion the arts and cultural life of the county.
Safe, Accessible, Vibrant Places	G6.1	Support the development of areas for a high quality of life.
	G6.2	Promote safety in the community through collaboration and inclusivity.



04. LECP OBJECTIVES, OUTCOMES AND IMPACTS GOALS

The 2023-2028 Fingal LECP Framework has been designed to be consistent with a broad range of policies, including the Fingal Development Plan 2023-2029, to ensure consistency with the statutory planning framework of the Council. Furthermore, the LECP has been formulated to take account of the Environmental Protection Agency's Strategic Environmental Assessment process, and Article 6 European Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of wild habitats and of wild fauna and flora).

Per the 2021 LECP Guidelines, underlying objectives have been developed to support the Vision and High-Level Goals. These objectives, which are accompanied by outcomes and impacts, cover the economic and community elements of the Plan – as outlined below.

Sustainable Economic Development Objectives (SEDOs)

Sustainable Economic Development Objectives (SEDOs) have been compiled which target specific means by which significant contributions can be made towards achieving economic development in the years to 2023. The SEDOs have been developed to be specific, measurable and achievable within the 6-year timeframe – and are in accordance with Fingal's Economic Development Strategy.

Sustainable Community Objectives (SCOs)

On the basis of the research and consultations undertaken, Sustainable Community Objectives (SCOs) have been developed to guide the community elements of the LECP. The SCOs were designed to enhance:

- Health and quality of life;
- Well-being and inclusivity of communities;
- Fingal's environment;
- Place-making; and
- Arts, heritage and culture.

A set of underlying actions, inputs and outputs for each SEDO and SCO have been devised, covering the first two operational years of this LECP (2024 and 2025), and are incorporated in to the Implementation Plan which accompanies this Framework.

4.1 THEME 1: SUSTAINABILITY & CLIMATE ACTION

Theme	Goal	Goal Description
Sustainability & Climate Action	G1.1	To support communities and the economy in the transition to Net Zero and climate resilience.

Sustainability & Climate Action: Priority Areas

The world is currently in a biodiversity and climate emergency and immediate action is needed at the global and local levels. While the previous Fingal LECP contained initiatives related to sustainability and climate action, the issues have since risen to significant prominence and were key features in the desk research and consultations undertaken for this LECP. The SEDO outlined below revolves around the need for the LECP to:

1. Be reflective of the emergency which the planet is now in.
2. Align with the Fingal County Council Climate Action Plan, targeting specific aspects of the Plan which relate to and can be affected by the economy and communities of Fingal, so as to ensure goal congruence and avoid duplication of efforts.
3. Focus on education and supports for residents, and to embed environmentally conscious behaviours.
4. Promote connectivity in the forms of improved sustainable mobility infrastructure (walking and cycling infrastructure, and greenways) to support active travel with an emphasis on journeys of 5 kilometres and under, and public transport linkages to reduce car dependency.
5. Engage rural communities, especially as many habitats and green initiatives will be undertaken in these areas.
6. Provide business supports to aid the transition to more sustainable practices, and develop the economy on the broad basis of 'Doughnut Economics'.
7. Support trials of new energy concepts, and the further adoption of renewable energy production.

On the basis of the above considerations, one SEDO has been developed which will centre on the development and broadening of the Sustainable Fingal initiative. Sustainable Fingal is an initiative which arose as an objective from the Fingal Climate Action Plan 2019 - 2024. The initiative aims to encourage businesses across

Fingal to embrace sustainable measures, become more resource efficient by using less raw materials, less energy and less water, help business produce less waste and effectively manage the waste they produce and promote the principles of the circular economy.

As part of the new LECP the Council aims to broaden the scope of the Sustainable Fingal Initiative and strengthen engagement, raise awareness and collaborate on initiatives with businesses on sustainable business practices and the circular economy. The Council plans to extend the Sustainable Fingal Initiative to engage with local communities to encourage the implementation of sustainable and circularity principles across Fingal and support communities to access funding for sustainable/environmental community schemes administered by organisations such as LEADER and SEAI.

Goal	Goal Des.	Objective(s)	Outcomes	Impact
G1.1	To support communities and the economy in the transition to Net Zero and climate resilience.	SEDO 1: To develop and broaden the scope of the Sustainable Fingal initiative.	Reduced carbon emissions. De-carbonised transport. Reduced landfill via circular economy. More sustainable energy production and built environment.	A better natural environment in which to live. environment in which to live.

4.2 THEME 2: PROSPEROUS ECONOMY

Theme	Goal	Goal Description
Prosperous Economy A dynamic, outward looking and innovative economy with sustainability at its core.	G2.1	Support the development of sustainable and strategic infrastructure.
	G2.2	Provide a supportive business environment that encourages innovation and attracts, retains and grows businesses sustainably.
	G2.3	Remove barriers to labour market participation.

Prosperous Economy: Priority Areas

A prosperous economy which provides opportunity for all is essential for local economic and community development. This encompasses the fostering of an economic environment which allows businesses to thrive, and the enablement of residents to enter or re-enter the workforce.

With regards to strategic infrastructure, the need for further development in Fingal over the coming six years is clear. Promoting, supporting and inputting in to the development of such infrastructure – which includes housing, roads, water, and public transport (notably MetroLink and improved bus connectivity) – is hence an objective which can ultimately benefit both businesses and communities in the county. Supporting the sustainable development of Dublin Airport in accordance with the applicable Local Area Plan, legislation and permissions also falls within this objective.

Supporting businesses, including via the provision of more incubation spaces for startups and micro enterprises, and providing clarity on exactly what supports are available, are further primary objectives which can support sustainable economic development.

In order to further strengthen the Fingal business ecosystem, additional objectives are proposed which relate to:

1. Providing fora for strategic engagement between businesses with a view to developing supply chains and overall cohesion in the business community;
2. Establishing formalised clusters for specific sectors which enhance their profile and impact; and
3. Developing Fingal’s brand as a business location, especially for investors, so that the unique assets and advantages of the county are broadly promoted.

In relation to the labour market, breaking down barriers to participation and providing supports to under-represented groups to (re-) enter employment are central. While the Fingal economy is close to ‘full employment’ and has high participation rates, there are geographic areas and population cohorts where joblessness is more common. Understanding and breaking down barriers in such areas and cohorts is hence a means to facilitate greater labour market participation – for the benefit of both communities and businesses. This may include factors such as job application preparation, and the provision of greater childcare options to enable workforce participation.

Goal	Goal Des.	Objective(s)	Outcomes	Impact
G2.1	Support the development of sustainable and strategic infrastructure.	<p>SEDO 2: To promote, support and input into the development of sustainable and strategic infrastructure.</p> <p>SEDO 3: To facilitate incubation and business growth.</p>	<p>Reduced carbon emissions.</p> <p>De-carbonised transport.</p> <p>Reduced landfill via circular economy.</p> <p>More sustainable energy production and built environment.</p>	A better built environment in which to live and work.
G2.2	Provide a supportive business environment that encourages innovation and attracts, retains and grows businesses sustainably.	<p>SEDO 4: To develop clusters and strategies to leverage sectoral growth opportunities.</p> <p>SEDO 5: To enhance strategic engagement across the business ecosystem.</p> <p>SEDO 6: To provide greater clarity on and access to business supports.</p> <p>SEDO 7: To develop Fingal's brand as a business location.</p>	<p>Growing numbers of SMEs.</p> <p>Cluster development.</p> <p>A strong Fingal brand.</p> <p>Networking fora to strengthen the Fingal business ecosystem.</p> <p>Establish an Economic Forum for the County.</p>	A stronger, connected and supported business ecosystem.
G2.3	Remove barriers to labour market participation.	<p>SCO 1: To understand and address key barriers to work and identify and support affected population cohorts.</p> <p>SCO 2: To provide supports to enable under-represented groups to (re-) enter the workforce.</p>	<p>Better understanding of barriers to work.</p> <p>Wider labour pool.</p> <p>Reduced barriers to work.</p> <p>Maintained high labour market participation rates.</p>	Increased labour market participation amongst under-represented groups



4.3 THEME 3: SKILLS FOR LIFE & WORK

Theme	Goal	Goal Description
Skills for Life & Work A county that provides a supportive and diverse skills ecosystem, nurtures talent, and provides life-long learning opportunities for all.	G3.1	Stimulate a culture of life-long learning.
	G3.2	Support skills development to meet the diverse needs of communities and businesses.

Skills for Life & Work: Priority Areas

Fingal's residents are increasingly educated, as demonstrated in the Socio-Economic Profile, with growing proportions of the population completing post-secondary education. This is an undoubted strength for the economy and community, yet the further development of the skills base is seen as essential for the future success of the county.

For residents and communities, stakeholders viewed education and skills development as avenues via which to:

1. Provide 'skills for life' – such as basic language, literacy and numeracy skills – particularly for migrants and minority groups who may not have benefitted from full exposure to the Irish school system.
2. Enable all age groups to develop new skills, including those which are not related to (re-) entering the workforce. This can bring many benefits for individuals and wider society, especially in terms of older-age cohorts – and the removal of upper age limits (where applicable) was put forward.
3. Tackle disadvantage by providing accessible routes to employment and/or academia. Accessibility via broad pathways and the provision of second level and grassroots interventions were referenced as specifically relevant in this sphere.

Skills development is also important in terms of providing for the future development of the Fingal economy, where there is a pressing need to attract and develop more skilled staff. A range of skillsets are needed in Fingal's economy. This not only applies to third level graduates but to people with skills developed via apprenticeships, traineeships, and upskilling initiatives which can be tapped into by a wider variety of businesses.

Skills development needs to be fully aligned with the Fingal Skills Strategy, and also incorporates equipping communities with the right skillsets to take effective voluntary and participative action.



Goal	Goal Des.	Objective(s)	Outcomes	Impact
G3.1	Stimulate a culture of life-long learning.	<p>SCO 3: To update the Fingal Skills Strategy and support implementation of its recommendations.</p> <p>SCO 4: To provide all Fingal residents with basic English language, literacy and numeracy skills.</p> <p>SCO 5: To develop greater opportunities for up- and re-skilling.</p>	<p>A refreshed Fingal Skills Strategy with updated recommendations.</p> <p>Broader literacy, numeracy and English language skills in the community.</p> <p>More workers facilitated to transition between occupations.</p> <p>Greater lifelong learning opportunities.</p>	All people are provided with the opportunity to learn and develop their skillsets.
G3.2	Support skills development to meet the diverse needs of communities and businesses.	<p>SEDO 8: To equip Fingal's labour force with the skills to meet businesses' current and future needs.</p> <p>SCO 6: To broaden pathways to education.</p> <p>SCO 7: To ensure communities have the skills to take effective voluntary and participative action.</p>	<p>Fingal Skills Strategy Sectoral fora, including educational stakeholders, to develop a strong future talent pipeline in Fingal.</p> <p>More workers with 'skills for the future'.</p> <p>Broader education pathways</p> <p>Better equipped and more empowered community groups.</p>	Communities and businesses have access to training and education to address both current and future skills needs.



4.4 THEME 4: HEALTHY, INCLUSIVE, CONNECTED COMMUNITIES

Theme	Goal	Goal Description
Healthy, Inclusive, Connected Communities A healthy, inclusive and connected county where communities are empowered and supported to thrive.	G4.1	Increase participation in initiatives that promote active living, positive mental wellbeing, and physical activity to achieve improved health and wellbeing for all.
	G4.2	Promote citizen participation.
	G4.3	Encourage inclusion and connection within and between communities.
	G4.4	Target improvements in areas of disadvantage.

Fostering healthy, inclusive and connected communities is integral to the social fabric of Fingal. This is especially the case in the current climate where net inward migration poses significant opportunities and challenges for the county. Fingal's population is diverse by Irish standards, as shown in the Socio-Economic Profile, and migration to the county – spurred by events including the onset of the war in Ukraine – mean that facilitating inclusion and connection between existing and new communities is an objective in this LECP. Such factors are vital for deepening understanding between community groups and ensuring that all residents of Fingal feel included, and are provided with the means to integrate into society in the county.

In a related context, enabling residents' participation in local decision making and democracy is a means to stimulate economic and community development. By providing means for greater access and greater involvement, 'buy-in' to community development amongst residents can be achieved. This is targeted under Goal 4.2, along with increasing rates of volunteerism which are relatively low in Fingal compared to national averages.

This theme also covers health and wellbeing for all residents. Health issues, including mental health, have risen in prominence and action is needed to ensure that communities in Fingal have the means to lead healthier lifestyles. This is specifically targeted under Goal 4.1 which aims to increase participation in active living and physical and mental activities so as to prevent adverse health outcomes, and improve overall wellbeing in the Fingal community.

As demonstrated by Pobal's Deprivation Index statistics in the Socio-Economic Profile, certain geographic areas of Fingal are classified as being disadvantaged – in both absolute and relative terms. Such classifications arise for a multitude of reasons including unemployment, education levels, and income. The reduction of absolute and relative disadvantage in specific areas is hence a goal for this LECP and will be targeted under Goal 4.4, specifically with a view to achieving greater education participation rates, reduced joblessness, and providing further supports for outreach programmes in localities.

Goal	Goal Des.	Objective(s)	Outcomes	Impact
G4.1	Increase participation in initiatives that promote active living, positive mental wellbeing, and physical activity to achieve improved health and wellbeing for all.	<p>SCO 8: To provide facilities and support services which enable a healthier lifestyle.</p> <p>SCO 9: To increase participation in health-related activities, particularly amongst young people and senior citizens.</p> <p>SCO 10: To support community based initiatives to address mental health issues.</p>	<p>Greater wellbeing for all ages</p> <p>Improved mental health support provision.</p>	Improved wellbeing, and physical and mental health for all.
G4.2	Promote citizen participation.	<p>SCO 11: To provide more opportunities and access points for citizens to participate in local decision making.</p>	<p>Greater opportunity for citizen engagement</p>	Communities and businesses have access to training and education to address both current and future skills needs.
G4.3	Encourage inclusion and connection within and between communities.	<p>SCO 12: To support implementation of the Fingal Migrant Integration and Social Cohesion Strategy.</p> <p>SCO 13: To encourage inclusion and integration through support for services, outreach and events.</p>	<p>Achievement of Fingal's MICS aims</p> <p>Greater outreach to all groups, particularly minority and disadvantaged groups</p>	Integration and inclusivity for all communities, new and existing, and a greater sense of belonging.
G4.4	Target improvements in areas of disadvantage.	<p>SCO 14: To reduce absolute and relative disadvantage in specific areas of Fingal.</p>	<p>Greater education participation rates</p> <p>Reduced unemployment, particularly among young people</p> <p>Further supports for outreach programmes.</p>	Reduced relative and absolute deprivation in disadvantaged areas.

4.5 THEME 5: RICH ARTS, CULTURE & HERITAGE

Theme	Goal	Goal Description
Rich Arts, Culture & Heritage Promote and protect our arts and heritage, and embrace cultural diversity in the county.	G5.1	Promote, protect, and grow the heritage of Fingal and ensure quality amenities for all.
	G5.2	Support new and existing cultures to thrive.
	G5.3	Champion the arts and cultural life of the county.

Rich Arts, Culture & Heritage: Priority Areas

Fingal is renowned for its rich blend of arts, culture and heritage which are differentiators for both the economy and community of the county. Assets such as the Seamus Ennis Art Centre and Draíocht have been massively successful, yet further progress can be made to promote, protect, and grow key aspects of the sectors in Fingal.

For heritage sites, this relates to firstly boosting promotion and the overall brand of Fingal. It also relates to enabling access – in a number of forms including transport connectivity – so that visitors and residents to the county are able to fully experience the heritage assets which are available. Finally, preservation and protection are key goals in order to provide future generations with heritage assets which have been properly managed and maintained.

In terms of culture and the arts, further promotion is a core goal so as to improve the reach and recognition of these important sectors – in line with the 2019 – 2025 Arts Plan. This covers branding where the profile of Fingal's assets can be further strengthened and broadened, and the events space where the county has developed strong programmes for arts and culture.

Culture also extends to supporting new and existing cultures to thrive. Net inward migration has added to the diverse social fabric in Fingal, and more social cohesion can be fostered via initiatives to promote community awareness and engagement – especially amongst minorities. This overlaps with other aspects of this LECP in ultimately targeting greater inclusivity and integration.



Goal	Goal Des.	Objective(s)	Outcomes	Impact
G5.1	Promote, protect, and grow the heritage of Fingal and ensure quality amenities for all.	SCO 15: To enhance the promotion & brand of Fingal's heritage. SCO 16: To improve access to key heritage assets. SCO 17: To preserve and protect Fingal's heritage assets.	Better branding and promotion Improved access to heritage sites	Greater profile and accessibility of Fingal's heritage assets.
G5.2	Support new and existing cultures to thrive.	SCO 18: To promote inclusivity by providing supports for new and existing cultures.	Stronger social cohesion	Integration and inclusivity for all cultures, new and existing.
G5.3	Champion the arts and cultural life of the county.	SCO 19: To enhance the promotion & brand of Fingal's arts and cultural life.	Improved reach and recognition of Fingal's arts and culture	Greater profile and accessibility of Fingal's arts and culture.



4.6 THEME 6: SAFE, ACCESSIBLE, VIBRANT PLACES

Theme	Goal	Goal Description
Safe, Accessible, Vibrant Places A county of vibrant communities and places, accessible for all, where people want to live, work and socialise.	G6.1	Support the development of areas for a high quality of life.
	G6.2	Promote safety in the community through collaboration and inclusivity.

Safe, Accessible, Vibrant Places: Priority Areas

Further developing Fingal as an attractive place to live, work, invest and visit is an important consideration in terms of economic and community development. Place and place-making are key topics in this regard, and this extends to:

- Defining what the Fingal 'proposition' is for visitors and investors, providing a swift summary of what Fingal represents;
- Strengthening the 'sense of place' and 'identity' in the county;
- Differentiating the county from other Local Authority areas (especially on the Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor); and
- Simultaneously rowing in with other Local Authorities in the region to promote Dublin.

Providing greater connectivity and infrastructure (including transport options) is important from both economic and social standpoints. This includes – but is not limited to – making broadband available for all, improving roads, investing in transport options (including active transport/greenways), and upgrading the public realm in towns, villages, coastal and rural areas of the county.

This also encompasses revitalising economic activity in Fingal – from stimulating agri-food and tourism, to targeting Town Centre First policies and improving the prospects of towns. Safety is an important theme for Fingal residents and is also reflected in the objectives, outcomes and impacts outlined below. This relates to retaining high levels of safety in all areas, mainly in collaboration with An Garda Síochána. It also extends to engagement on safety and inclusion with all cohorts of Fingal's community, especially young people and minorities.

Goal	Goal Des.	Objective(s)	Outcomes	Impact
G6.1	Support the development of areas for a high quality of life.	<p>SEDO 9: To revitalise the centres of key towns and villages.</p> <p>SEDO 10: To support enhancements to transport and infrastructure.</p>	<p>High quality urban/town/village centres</p> <p>Greater economic activity and opportunity.</p>	Better economic opportunities for businesses and higher quality of life for local residents.
G6.2	Promote safety in the community through collaboration and inclusivity.	<p>SCO 20: To develop areas which are safe for all.</p> <p>SCO 21: To develop and implement measures to reduce anti-social behaviour.</p>	<p>Safer urban and rural areas</p> <p>Broader engagement with all cohorts, especially young people and minorities</p>	Low levels of crime.





APPENDIX 1

Socio-Economic Profile

Fingal County spans over 450 square kilometres – from the Meath boundary in the north and west, stretching south to the Dublin City boundary, and to the Irish Sea in the east. The area is characterised by a diverse landscape of rural, urban and suburban dimensions – extending inland to Blanchardstown in the west, and including 88 kilometres of coastline from Howth to Balbriggan.

Fingal has a strong infrastructure network – including Dublin Airport, harbours, rail and road linkages with both Dublin Port and Dublin City in close proximity. Fingal also sits along the Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor which, alongside Dublin Airport, represents a significant economic asset and opportunity for the county.

Following the amalgamation of the Institute of Technology Blanchardstown with Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT) and Institute of Technology Tallaght, Fingal is now home to a campus of Technology University Dublin (TUD). In 2022, a planned €50 million third level institution was announced for Swords, thus positioning the county as a future educational hub for its young and growing population.

As demonstrated in this profile, the population of Fingal reached 330,506 in 2022, making it the third largest local authority area in Ireland. The county's population is characterised by its diversity and youthfulness relative to other local authority areas across the country.

Figure 1: Map of Fingal Electoral Divisions

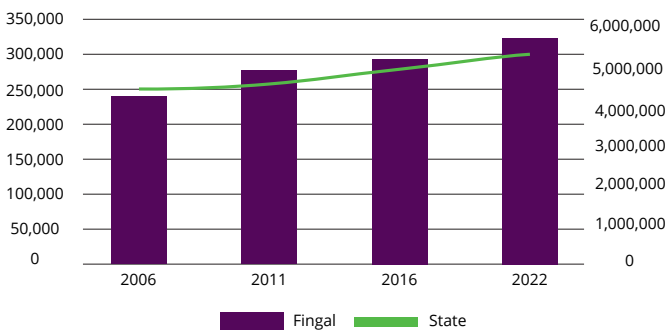


Source: Fingal County Council

Population

According to the 2022 Census, Ireland’s population reached 5,149,139 in April 2022 – representing growth of 8.1% from the previous Census in 2016. Fingal’s population stood at 330,506 at the time, an increase from 2016 of 11.6%, or just over 34,000 people. The county hence accounts for 6.4% of Ireland’s population, with only Dublin City and Cork City and County accounting for greater proportions. Fingal’s population is expected to continue to grow with the Fingal Development Plan 2023 – 2029 forecasting that the county’s population will increase by approximately 73,000 people between 2016 and 2031.

Figure 2: Population Growth, Fingal County and Ireland, 2006 - 2022



Source: CSO

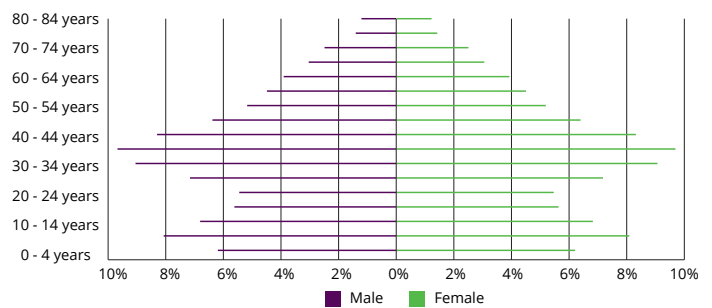
Between 2016 and 2022, Fingal was the third fastest growing county in Ireland, with only Longford (+14.4%) and Meath (+13.2%) growing at faster paces. Between 2006 and 2022, Fingal’s population grew by more than a third (+37.7%), the fastest of any county in Ireland. This compares to growth of 21.4% nationally.

Blanchardstown-Blakestown was the largest ED in 2022 with a population of 43,905. Castleknock-Knockmaroon was the second largest ED with a population of 20,967, followed by Balbriggan Rural at 19,347. The smallest EDs were Balcadden and Clonmethan with populations of 743 and 933 respectively.

Based on 2022 Census findings, the fastest growing EDs within Fingal were Hollywood where the population increased by 92.7% from 766 people in 2016 to 1,476 people in 2022, and Balgriffin, where the population grew by 78.1% over the six year period (from 3,113 to 5,144 people). The largest towns in Fingal were Blanchardstown, Swords and Balbriggan with populations of 79,769, 40,776 and 24,322 respectively.

In Ireland, the average age of the population increased from 37.4 years in 2016 to 38.8 years in 2022. Fingal had the youngest average age of any county in 2022 at 36.2 years, with some 63% of its population below the age of 44, compared to 58.3% nationally.

Figure 3: Percentage of Population by Age and Sex in Fingal, 2022



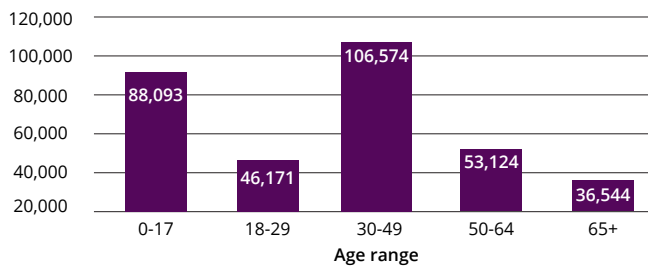
Source: CSO

Further breakdowns show that 26.7% of the Fingal population was under 18 years of age in 2022, while 134,264 people (40.6%) were under 30. This compares to 28.3% of the population under 18 years old and 42.2% under 30 years old in 2016. The proportion of under 30s in Fingal was higher than at the national level, where 38% of the population was under 30. The number of people under the age of 30 increased by 7.5% from 124,960 people in 2016.

Other notable aspects of the 2022 Census with regards to the age profile of the Fingal population included:

- The number of persons aged 18 years or over was 242,413, of which 36,544 people were aged 65 and over.
- The population of pre-school age (0-4) was 21,017, of primary school going age (5-12) was 42,248, and of secondary school going age (13-18) was 29,301.

Figure 4: Population of Fingal by Age Group, 2022



Source: CSO

At 50.3% in 2022, Fingal had a lower than average age dependency rate (the proportion of the population under 15 years of age or over 64 years of age relative to the total population). The rate had dropped slightly compared to 2016, and was favourable compared to the 2022 national average (53.2%).

Table 1: Fingal and State Age Dependency Rates, 2016-2022

		Age 15-64	Age Under 15 and 65+	Age Dependency Rate
Fingal	2016	196,372	99,648	50.7%
	2022	327,584	165,454	50.5%
State	2016	3,117,746	1,644,119	52.7%
	2022	3,360,537	1,788,602	53.2%

Source: CSO

Population changes by county show that Fingal had the largest natural increase in the inter-censal period (+19,183), followed by Cork (county and city combined, +17,218). At 11 people per 1,000 of the population, Fingal recorded the highest annual average natural increase (the difference between births and deaths) in Ireland between 2016 and 2022.

At ED level, Portmarnock North had the highest age dependency rate at 101% with 2,033 people falling into a dependant age category (those aged between 0-14 and 65+) and 2,015 people falling into the non-dependant category (those aged 15-64), equating to near-parity of dependants and non-dependants in the ED. Blanchardstown-Roselawn (94.5%), Sutton (76.1%) and Howth (74.2%) also had high dependency rates. At the other end of the scale, Turnapin and Airport both had exceptionally low age dependency rates of 35.8% and 35.9% respectively.

Of the 42 EDs in Fingal, 17 had an age dependency rate lower than 50%. At ED level, based on the 2022 Census, Balgriffin had the lowest average age in the county at 29.9, followed by The Ward, with an average age of 30.2. At the other end of the scale, Blanchardstown-Roselawn had the highest average age at 47.8.

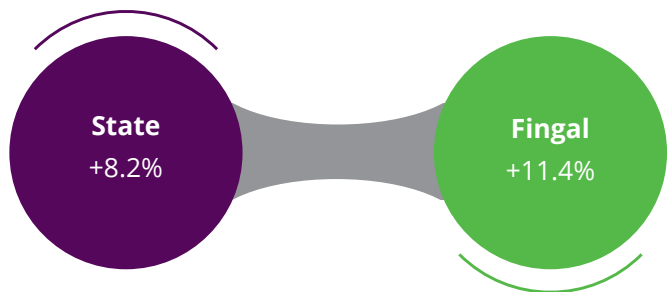
The EDs of Portmarnock and Howth also had relatively high age profiles with over a quarter of the populations in both areas aged over 65. Average ages in the EDs stood at 45.7 and 45.3 years respectively. Notably, of the towns with a population of 10,000 or more nationally, Balbriggan was the youngest, with an average age of 33.6 years.

Of the 42 EDs in Fingal, only seven had populations in which more than 20% were aged 65 and over. In 15 of Fingal's EDs, less than 10% of the population fell into the category – thus underlying the youthful profile of the county.

Housing and Households

According to the 2022 Census, the number of private households in Fingal stood at 107,846, an increase of 11.4% from 2016. Growth was higher than the national average rate over the period (+8.2%).

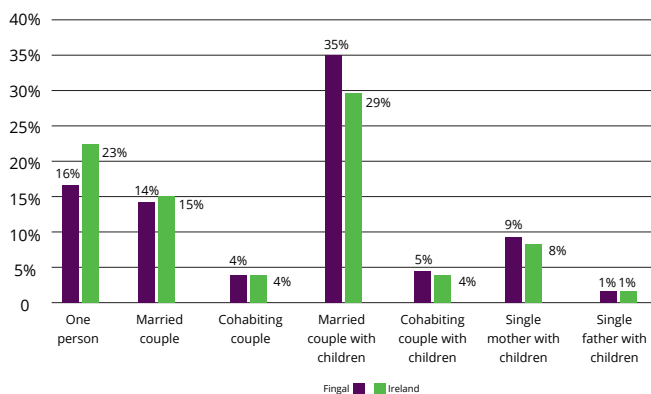
Figure 5: Increase in Number of Private Households in Fingal and the State, 2016-2022



Source: CSO

Of the private households in Fingal, 17,099 (15.9%) were single person households, compared to 15,257 in 2016. Such households account for a larger proportion of all households nationally, at 23.1%. Married couples with children accounted for the largest proportion of households (35%) in Fingal – considerably higher than the national average of 29.4%. A further 13.7% consisted of married couples with no children, marginally below the national equivalent (14.9%).

Figure 6: Breakdown of Private Households in Fingal and Ireland, 2022



Source: CSO

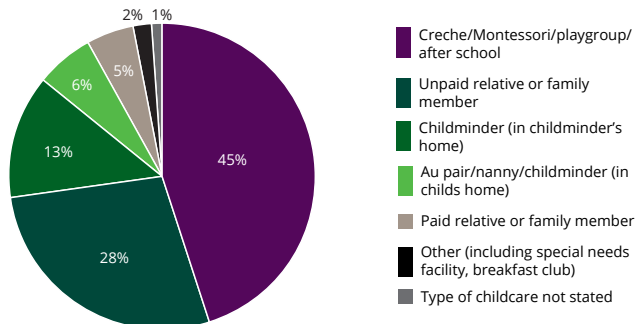
Average household size in Fingal in 2022 was 3.02 persons. This was stable in the period from 2016, having increased from 2.9 in 2011. By comparison, Dublin City had an average household size of 2.48 in 2022, while the national average was 2.74. In general, higher average sizes were recorded in the east of the country with lower sizes in the west.

Fingal had the lowest percentage of people aged 65 and over living alone in Ireland in 2022, at only 5.3%, compared to the national average of 8.4%.

The average number of children per family in Fingal in 2022 was 1.4, which was slightly higher than the state average of 1.3. In 2022, the proportion of the population aged 18 years and over living with their parents in Fingal was 14.1%, an increase of 1 percentage point from 2016. At the national level, 13.3% of the population aged 18 years and over lived with their parents.

There was a total of 21,911 children under the age of 15 in childcare in Fingal in 2022. Almost half (45.2%) were minded in a creche/Montessori/playgroup/after school setting. At the national level, such settings were also the most common, accounting for 42.2% of children under the age of 15 in childcare. A further 27.6% of children in Fingal were cared for by an unpaid relative or family member and 12.9% were minded by a childminder (in the childminder's home). The equivalent rates nationally were 27.8% and 15.9% respectively.

Figure 7: Breakdown of Childcare Provision in Fingal, 2022



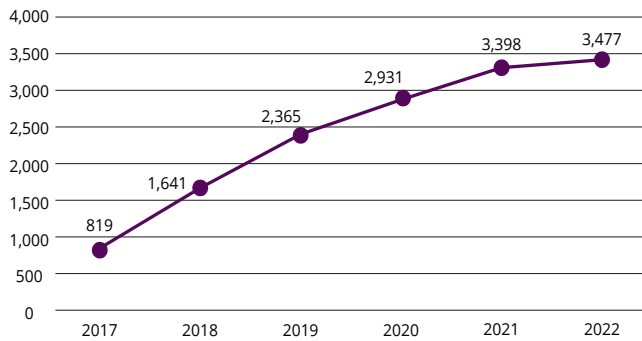
Source: CSO

With regards to housing, there were 116,135 residential units in Fingal in 2022. This represented 5.5% of the total Irish housing stock, with only Dublin City having a higher proportion (11.8%). Of Fingal's housing stock, 4,974 dwellings (4.3%) were vacant – considerably lower than the national average (7.7%). A further 434 dwellings (0.3%) were classed as unoccupied. It should be noted that other sources of vacancy data are available. For instance, GeoDirectory produces residential vacancy rates by county, and has indicated that as of Q2 2023 the overall Dublin residential vacancy rate was considerably lower at 1%. This further underlines the challenges facing the Capital's housing stock.

Census 2022 data for EDs highlighted Blanchardstown-Tyrrelstown (9%) and Swords Village (8.2%) as having the highest proportions of vacant dwellings.

In 2022, the number of housing association properties in Fingal had grown by 325% since 2017, rising from 819 to 3,477.

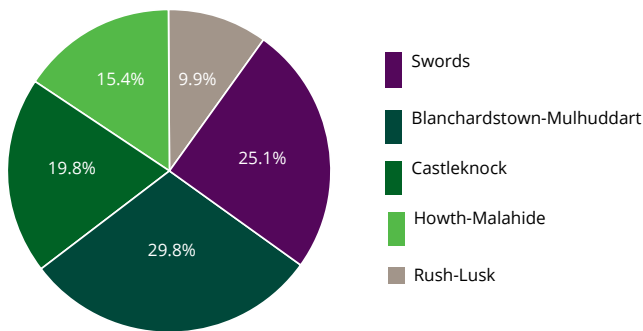
Figure 8: Number of Housing Association Properties in Fingal, 2017 – 2022



Source: CSO

At Electoral Area level, Blanchardstown-Mulhuddart had the largest proportion of housing association properties (29.8%) in 2022, with 1,035 properties located in the area. Swords accounted for 25.1% (874 properties).

Figure 9: Percentage of Housing Association Properties in Fingal by Local Electoral Area, 2022



Source: CSO

In 2022, 67% of households in Fingal lived in owner-occupied accommodation, with a further 28.1% in rental properties. These broadly matched the respective national rates of 65.9% and 28%. The number of households which owned their own home in Fingal had declined, however, falling from 67.6% in 2016 and 70.2% in 2011. In contrast, the proportion of households in rental properties remained broadly stable relative to 27.6% in 2011 and 28% in 2016. Despite this, rental rates for properties had increased by almost a quarter (24.8%) compared to 2016.

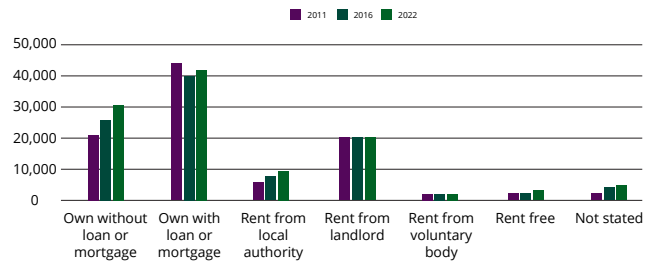
The number of households living in properties owned with a mortgage/loan increased from 39,986 in 2016 to 41,377 in 2022, reflecting a 3.5% increase. However, households owned with a mortgage/loan as a proportion of total households fell from 41% in 2016 to 38% in 2022.

The number of houses rented from the local authority increased by 25.2% between 2016 and 2022, while nationally the number increased by 7%.

Those owning their own home outright and households which were rent free in Fingal increased by 20.9% and 21.7% respectively.

The 2022 Census further indicated that 82.7% of private households in permanent housing units in Fingal lived in houses, with the balance of 17.3% living in apartments, flats or bedsits.

Figure 10: Breakdown of Housing Tenure in Fingal, 2011-2022

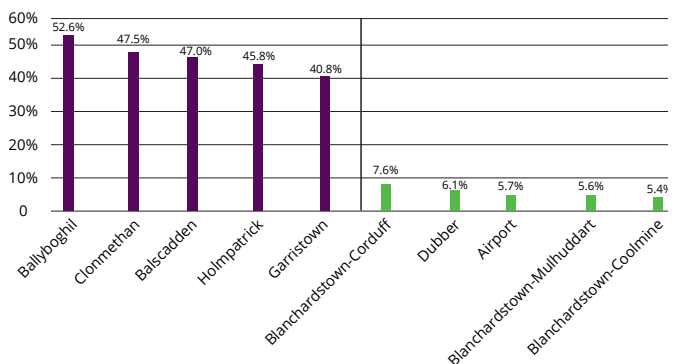


Source: CSO

The number of people living in apartments has been increasing at a faster rate than the number living in houses. In the 11 years between 2011 and 2022, the number of people living in apartments in Fingal increased by 20.3%, compared to a 17.5% increase in the number of people living in houses in the same period.

Regarding energy, 17.3% of houses in the county had at least one renewable energy source of any type in 2022, compared to 22.9% at the national level. At ED level, houses in Ballyboghil had the largest proportion of renewable energy sources, with 52.6% of houses having at least one renewable energy source. At the lower end of the scale, less than 6% of houses in Blanchardstown-Coolmine (5.4%), Blanchardstown-Mulhuddart (5.6%) and Airport (5.7%) had at least one such source.

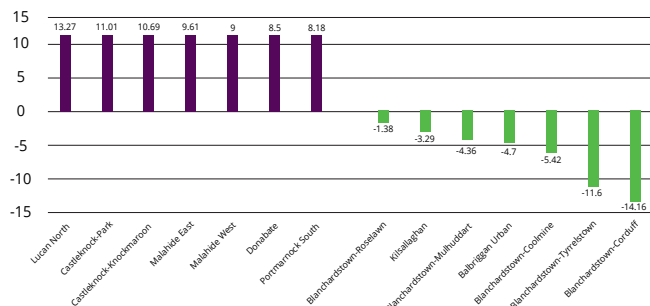
Figure 11: Houses with at least one renewable energy source in Fingal, 2022



Source: CSO.

Affluence and Deprivation

Figure 11: Relative HP Index Scores of Fingal EDs, 2022



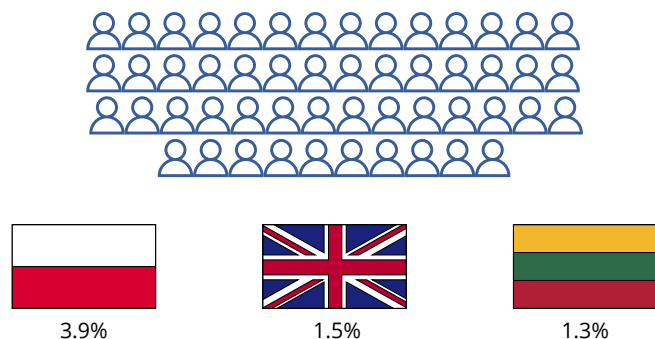
Source: Pobal HP Deprivation Index

Fingal is one of the most affluent local authority areas in Ireland per the Pobal HP Deprivation Index, though there were considerable differences in the relative affluence and deprivation between various parts of the county in 2022. Of the total of 42 EDs in Fingal, 32 were classed as ‘above average’ or ‘affluent’ in 2022. Lucan North, Castleknock-Park and Castleknock-Knockmaroon were classed as ‘affluent’ with scores above 10. A further 29 EDs were classed as ‘marginally above average’ with scores of between 0 and 10. A total of eight Fingal EDs were classed as marginally below average with scores of between -0.01 and -6. The most disadvantaged areas were more urban areas of Blanchardstown-Corduff and Blanchardstown-Tyrrelstown with scores below of -10.

Ethnicity and Education

Fingal is ethnically diverse with non-Irish nationals accounting for 18% of the population in 2016 (latest available data). Polish nationals were the largest grouping, accounting for 3.9% of the population (11,405 people). UK nationals made up 1.5% (4,469) with Lithuanian nationals accounting for a marginally smaller proportion (3,815).

Figure 12: Ethnicity in Fingal, 2016

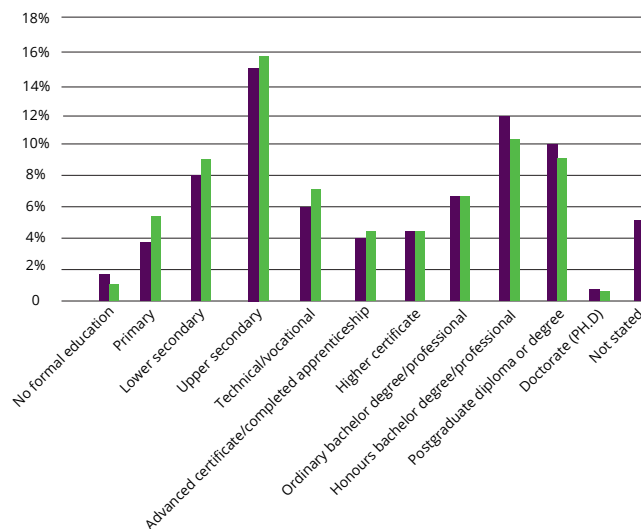


Source: CSO.

According to the 2016 Census, 100,989 persons could speak the Irish language – and of those, 40,975 spoke the language daily. 66,625 persons spoke a language other than Irish or English at home, and of those 9,081 could not speak English well or at all. Polish was the most common foreign language with 12,730 speakers in the county.

This diversity is further reflected in the birthplaces of Fingal residents. Over 27% of residents in the county in 2022 were born outside of Ireland. This was considerably higher than the national average of 20.7%. At ED level, the areas around the Airport were the most ethnically diverse according to the Census, with over half (51.2%) of the population born outside the state. Some 45.3% of the population in Balgriffin was born outside of Ireland, with 43.7% of residents in the Ward in this category. The least diverse ED was Balscadden with 8.3% of the population born outside the country, followed by Hollywood (9.6%).

Figure 13: Level of Education as a Percentage of Total Persons Educated in Fingal, 2016-2022



Source: CSO.

The levels of educational attainment in Fingal and across Ireland have been improving over recent years. According to the 2022 Census, 256,458 persons in Fingal had completed their education. Of this total, 3.7% were educated to primary level only, compared to 5.4% in 2016 and 6.5% in 2011.

The Pobal HP Deprivation Index is a series of indicators measuring the relative affluence or disadvantage of a particular geographical area in Ireland, using data compiled from various censuses. Relative scores are based on an average of 0. Scores above 0 indicate levels of affluence and scores below 0 indicate levels of deprivation. While the index provides a guide, there are some areas of weakness to this indicator. The index doesn't highlight that there may be areas of deprivation within affluent areas, or vice versa, and therefore the overall outcomes may be misleading for some ED's.

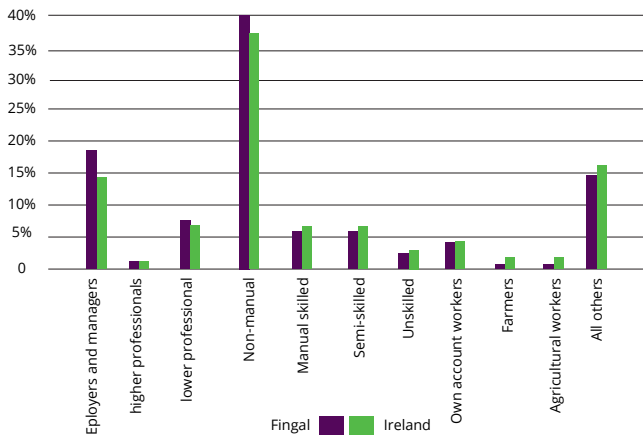
Some 26.7% of Fingal's population were educated to primary/secondary level, with this standing below the state average (31.7%), thus highlighting Fingal's relatively high educational attainment levels. Of those educated to degree level and further in Fingal, 31% had a degree – compared to 28% nationally.

When compared to 2016, the number of people educated further than degree level had increased by over a third in Fingal. Those with an honours bachelor degree, postgraduate degree or doctorate increased by 36.1%, 34.8% and 36.3% respectively from 2016. The number of people educated to ordinary degree level increased by 14.3% in the same period.

Socio-Economic Classes

In Fingal, 27% of the population were within the socio-economic group of 'professional workers' in 2022 (employers, higher professional and lower professional). This was amongst the highest in the country with only Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown and Kildare featuring higher proportions of such workers. Nationally, 22.6% of the population were professional workers.

Figure 14: Fingal & Irish Socio-Economic Groups by Percentage of Total, 2022



Source: CSO

Non-manual workers made up 40% of Fingal's workforce. This is the largest proportion of non-manual workers in Ireland. Nationally, non-manual workers accounted for 36.6%.

Employers and managers accounted for 18.1% of Fingal's socio-economic breakdown, highlighting the county's entrepreneurial status. Only Cork County and Dublin City had more persons in this category.

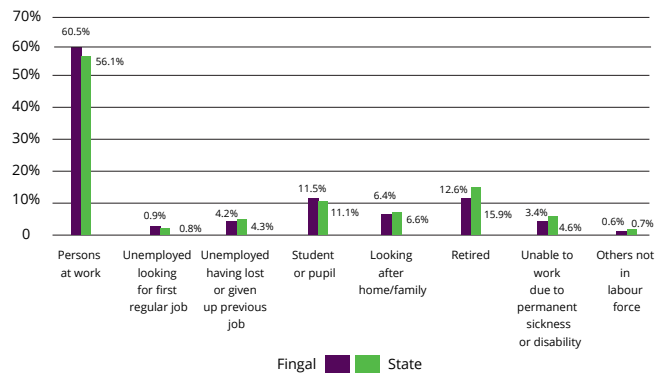
Latest data available for EDs (2016) shows that Castleknock-Knockmaroon, Blanchardstown-Blakestown and Howth combined accounted for 27% of professional workers in Fingal. Areas in north and west Fingal had lower proportions of professional workers, with Blanchardstown-Tyrrelstown, Blanchardstown-Corduff and Balscadden combined accounting for only 0.7% of professional workers.

Non-manual workers are spread across the county with 14% located in Blanchardstown-Blakestown and a further 6.3% located in Swords-Forrest. Blanchardstown-Blakestown also makes up the largest proportion of skilled manual workers, accounting for 16.1%, followed by Balbriggan Rural and Swords-Forrest, which each accounted for 6.1%.

Labour Force

In 2022, Fingal had a working-age population (those aged 15 and over) of 256,458. Of these, 60.5% or 155,063 were in employment, which compares favourably to the national average of 56.1%. Fingal had the highest proportion of residents in employment in Ireland, with Dublin City ranking second at 59.6%. This is a reflection of the strengthening labour market across the Capital and nationally, where unemployment has fallen to historic lows.

Figure 15: Fingal Labour Force Breakdown, 2022

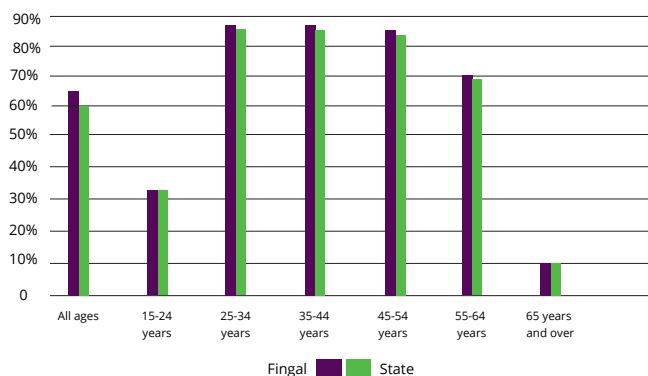


Source: CSO

The number of people in employment in Fingal has changed dramatically over the years from the 2011 Census, with the number at work having grown by 30%. This was marginally stronger than the national average (28.4%).

Fingal had the strongest labour force participation rate in Ireland at 65.6% in 2022, considerably higher than the national average of 61.2%. When examining labour market participation across age groups, it is evident that those aged 25 to 34 years had the highest level of engagement, with 88.3% of this cohort being in the labour force. Such high levels of participation potentially reflect the greater opportunities and access to employment in the Dublin region, as well as the current labour market interventions being employed – including the Pathways to Work 2021-2025 strategy.

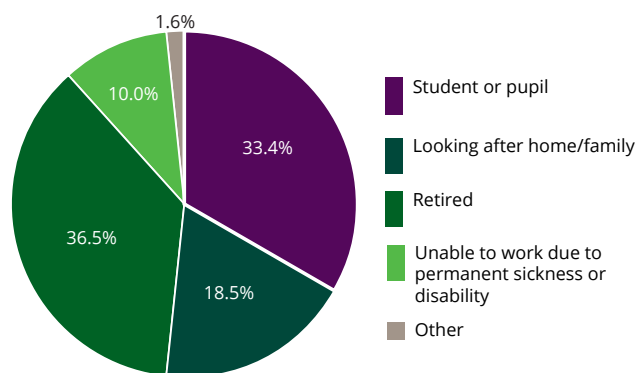
Figure 16: Labour Force Participation, 2022



Source: CSO

Of the 88,345 persons aged 15 years and over who were outside the labour force in 2022, 36.5% were retired, 33.4% were students and almost 18.5% were looking after the home/ family.

Figure 17: Breakdown of Persons Outside the Labour Force, 2022



Source: CSO.

Unemployment

The unemployment rate in Fingal equalled the national average of 5.1% in 2022, having declined from 7.9% in 2016.

The female unemployment was slightly below the male rate, with 4.8% of females classed as unemployed, compared to 5.4% of males.

Recent data from the CSO’s Labour Force Survey showed that across Dublin – which includes the Fingal, Dublin City, Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown and South Dublin local authority areas – 41,800 people (SA) were unemployed in Q2 2023. This equated to an unemployment rate of 5% (SA).

Figure 18: Dublin and State Unemployment Rates, Q1 2012 – Q1 2023



Source: CSO.

Volunteering

According to the 2022 Census, Fingal had one of the lowest rates of volunteerism in Ireland with 12.6% of the county’s population involved in one or more voluntary activity. As shown in Table 2, this compared favourably to Dublin City (10.8%) and South Dublin (11%), but was below the national average of 13.8% – and Leitrim, which had the highest rate in the country (17.5%). Fingal ranked fourth lowest in Ireland in this particular category.

Location	Percentage of Population Involved in Volunteering
Dublin City	10.8%
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	14.6%
Fingal	12.6%
South Dublin	11.0%
National	13.8%

Source: CSO.

Enterprise Base

Fingal, supported by a strong supply of zoned land, is home to a number of key economic clusters. This incorporates the agri-food and beverage sector, where Fingal produces 14.5% of national potato output, 47% of field vegetable output and 37% of protected fruits, vegetables and nursery plants – making it one of the most important Irish counties for food production. Further key sectors include Information and Communication Technology (ICT), aviation, healthcare, pharmaceuticals, financial services, tourism, retail and hospitality – each of which makes significant contributions towards economic activity and employment in the Dublin region each year.

Figure 19: Key Sectors in Fingal



Source: Fingal County Council.

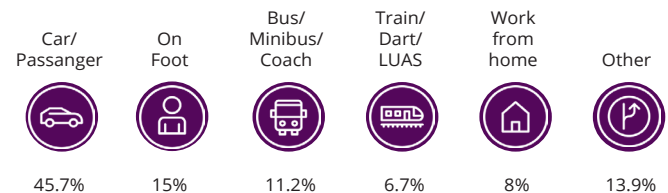
Clustering has been a key concept in Fingal with many successful informal clusters already in place including the ICT sector in Blanchardstown, the Pharmaceutical sector in both the Swords area and in Blanchardstown/ Mulhuddart, the Aviation sector in proximity to Dublin Airport, and the Agri-Food sector in rural locations principally in the north of the county.

Further clustering is evident in the Dublin Enterprise Zone which consists of 1,571 hectares of industrial land in the Dublin 15 area. The zone supports 34,600 jobs and contributes €14.4 billion to national economic output each year (Ireland Gateway to Europe). It is home to many large IT companies including IBM, PayPal, eBay and Symantec. World-leading pharmaceutical companies are also located in the Zone including Helsinn-Birex, Mallinckrodt, Bristol-Myers Squibb, the Tech Group and Alexion Pharma. There is, according to Ireland Gateway to Europe, potential to create an additional 20,000 jobs on 716 hectares of undeveloped, zoned and serviced land which is available in the Zone.

The Fingal Development Plan 2023 – 2029 outlines policies and objectives to encourage existing economic clusters and develop new clustering opportunities. It also contains policies and objectives which seek to attract new foreign direct investment (FDI) to the county along with other indigenous investment. FDI is a key component of Ireland's economy, with 20% of all private sector employment directly or indirectly attributable to it. (Pinset Mason).

Commuting & Remote Working

Figure 20: Methods of Transport for Commuting in Fingal, 2022



Source: CSO

In 2022, the most common method of transport for commuting (to work and school) in Fingal was by car, accounting for 45.7%. Public transport accounted for 17.4%, with a further 15% of commuters walking.

In 2016 (latest available), of the 182,612 commuters who resided in Fingal, 50% (91,167) worked within the county. A further 31.2% (56,998) commuted to Dublin City. Conversely, some 52,332 people who resided elsewhere in Ireland commuted into Fingal, with 43.3% coming from Dublin City.

Some 37.6% of persons at work stated that they worked from home in 2022, compared to 32.3% nationally. Only Dublin City and Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown had higher proportions of people working from home.

Connectivity

Ireland's internet connectivity in 2022 stood at 94% coverage, an increase of one percentage point from 2021. Dublin (97%) and the Mid-East region (95%) held the highest levels of internet access in the year.

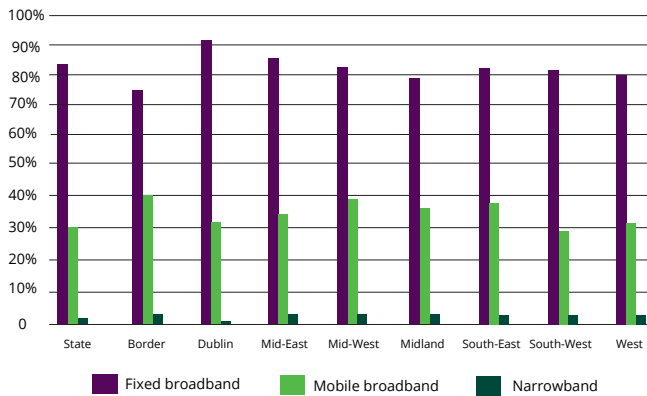
Fixed broadband connection was the most common, accounting for 85% of household internet in Ireland. Households in Dublin and the Mid-East continue to outpace the rest of the country for access to fixed broadband (with 92% and 86% connectivity respectively).

<https://www.farmersjournal.ie/news/news/seven-food-firms-feature-in-dcu-report-on-fingal-family-businesses-209188>

[https://www.gatewaytoeurope.org/dublin-enterprise-zone#:~:text=The%20Dublin%20Enterprise%20Zone%20\(DEZ,billion%20to%20national%20economic%20output.](https://www.gatewaytoeurope.org/dublin-enterprise-zone#:~:text=The%20Dublin%20Enterprise%20Zone%20(DEZ,billion%20to%20national%20economic%20output.)

[https://www.pinsentmasons.com/out-law/guides/irelands-foreign-investment-regime#:~:text=Foreign%20direct%20investment%20\(FDI\)%20is,or%20indirectly%20attributable%20to%20it.](https://www.pinsentmasons.com/out-law/guides/irelands-foreign-investment-regime#:~:text=Foreign%20direct%20investment%20(FDI)%20is,or%20indirectly%20attributable%20to%20it.)

Figure 21: Internet Connectivity by Type and Region, 2022



Source: CSO

With an average download speed of just over 76Mbps in 2023, up from 72 Mbps in 2022, Ireland ranks 43rd out of 220 countries and territories globally in the Worldwide Broadband Speed League 2023.

The National Broadband Plan aims to deliver reliable high speed broadband throughout Ireland via a combination of State and commercial investment. By the end of 2022 (latest data available), it had connected 27,600 premises to high speed broadband in Ireland and had already achieved its target of 100,000 premises by the end of January 2023.

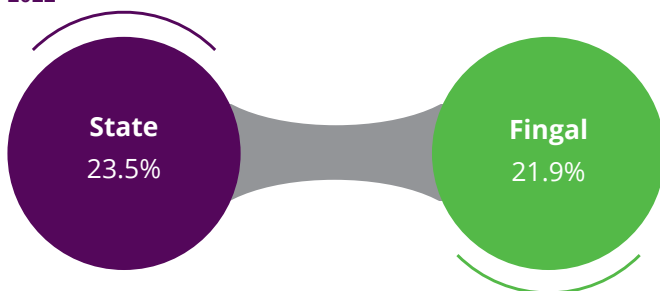
The country ranked 5th in the EU Digital Economy and Society Index (DESI) in 2022. The Index monitors Europe's overall digital performance and tracks the progress of EU countries in their digital competitiveness. Between 2017 and 2022, Ireland's average yearly growth of its DESI score was approximately 8.5%, one of the highest in the EU.

e of 13.8% – and Leitrim, which had the highest rate in the country (17.5%). Fingal ranked fourth lowest in Ireland in this particular category.

Lone Parents

The proportion of Lone Parents (as a proportion of all households with dependent children) in Ireland has remained steady at between 23% and 24% in each of the last three Censuses (2011, 2016 and 2022). Fingal's proportion of Lone Parents is slightly lower than the national rate at 21.9% in 2022.

Figure 22: Proportion of Lone Parents in Ireland and Fingal, 2022



Source: CSO

Health

In Fingal, 61,412 people were classified as having 'any disability' in the 2022 Census. Of this cohort, 28% (17,407) were aged 45 to 64 years old, representing the largest proportion of those in Fingal with a disability.

Figure 23: Age Ranges of People in Fingal with a Disability, 2022



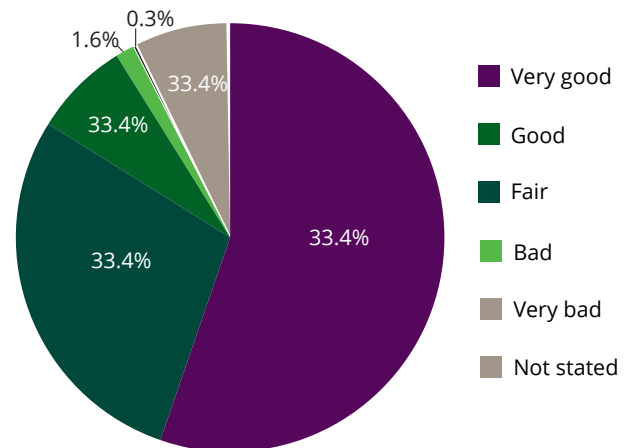
Source: CSO

Based on 2022 Census data, Fingal's population with a disability to any extent was the lowest in Ireland, at 18.6%. The national average was 21.6%. Despite this, Fingal accounted for 6% of Ireland's population with a disability to 'any extent', ranking the fourth highest across the Local Authority areas.

In 2022, 17,112 persons in Fingal stated they were carers, of which 43.6% stated that they provide more than 14 hours of unpaid care per week.

Over 278,000 people in Fingal stated they were in 'very good' or 'good' health in 2022, representing 84.2% of total persons. This compares to 82.9% nationally. Some 4,957 persons stated they were in 'bad' or 'very bad' health, representing 1.5% of total persons in Fingal. This compares with 1.7% nationally. The majority of Fingal residents (80.3% or 265,299 people) did not smoke at the time of the Census and had either 'given up' smoking completely or had never smoked.

Figure 24: General Health in Fingal, 2022



Source: CSO

<https://www.cable.co.uk/broadband/speed/worldwide-speed-league/>
<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/desi>



APPENDIX 2

Policy Context

Both the economic and community dimensions of the Fingal LECP were constructed having regard to the policies and strategies that relate to the county. This process was followed so as to ensure that the actions proposed in this Plan would be congruent and complementary to those of other, largely governmental bodies – at the following levels:

- Supranational;
- European;
- National;
- Regional and local.

Over the following sub-sections, a selection of policies and strategies are outlined.

Supranational Policies & Strategies

UN - The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations (UN) Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries – developed and developing – in a global partnership. They recognise that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.

The SDGs, outlined below, build on decades of work by individual countries and the UN – and are a broad guide for the development of this LECP.

Sustainable Development Goals and targets:

- **Goal 1:** End poverty in all its forms everywhere.
- **Goal 2:** End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.
- **Goal 3:** Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
- **Goal 4:** Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
- **Goal 5:** Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.
- **Goal 6:** Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.
- **Goal 7:** Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.
- **Goal 8:** Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.
- **Goal 9:** Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation.
- **Goal 10:** Reduce inequality within and among countries.
- **Goal 11:** Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
- **Goal 12:** Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.
- **Goal 13:** Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.
- **Goal 14:** Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.
- **Goal 15:** Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, stop and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss.
- **Goal 16:** Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.
- **Goal 17:** Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

European Policies & Strategies

Horizon Europe

Horizon Europe (2021-2027) is the European Union's (EU) key funding programme for research and innovation, with a budget of more than €95 billion. Ireland enjoys a strong track record in European Framework Programmes, winning €1.2 billion in funding through the previous programme, Horizon 2020 (2014-2020). Horizon Europe is built around three main pillars:

1. Excellent science;
2. Global challenges and European industrial competitiveness; and
3. Innovative Europe.

There are varying aspects to each of these pillars, as highlighted below:

Pillar 1: Excellent Science

Activities under this pillar promote scientific excellence and maintain a bottom-up approach, funding a broad range of areas. Funding supports excellent basic and frontier research, reinforcing the link between research, innovation, and where appropriate, education and other policies.

- **European Research Council:** The ERC aims to encourage the highest quality research in Europe through competitive funding and to support investigator-driven frontier research across all fields.
- **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA):** The MSCA is a European Commission Funding programme which supports researchers across all research disciplines and employment sectors.
- **Research Infrastructures:** Research infrastructures are facilities, resources and services that are used by research communities to conduct research and foster innovation in their fields.

Pillar 2: Global Challenges & European Industrial Competitiveness

This pillar promotes interdisciplinary, cross-sectoral, cross-policy, cross-border and international cooperation. Actions are clustered as follows, and are structured to contribute towards SDGs:

- Cluster 1: Health
- Cluster 2: Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society
- Cluster 3: Civil Security for Society
- Cluster 4: Digital, Industry and Space
- Cluster 5: Climate, Energy and Mobility
- Cluster 6: Food, Bio-economy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment

Pillar 3: Innovative Europe

Pillar 3 addresses innovation performance, transfer and scale-up in Europe. It aims to stimulate and support the creation and diffusion of breakthrough innovations, developing Europe to be a world leader in transferring science into innovative companies.

Five missions form an integral part of the Horizon Europe research programme. These research and innovation missions, outlined below, are designed to drive systemic change and transformation to 2030, and will increase the effectiveness of funding by establishing clearly defined targets.

Horizon Europe's Five Missions

Conquering Cancer: Mission Possible

The Cancer mission aims to save more than 3 million lives by 2030, with people living longer and better.

A Climate Resilient Europe

This mission is focussed on preparing Europe to deal with climate disruptions, accelerate the transition to a healthy and prosperous future within safe planetary boundaries, and scale up solutions for resilience that will trigger transformations in society.

Mission Starfish 2030: Restore our Ocean and Waters

This mission centres on healthy oceans, seas, coastal and inland waters. It will involve cleaning marine and fresh waters, restoring degraded ecosystems and habitats, and decarbonising the blue economy in order to sustainably harness the essential goods and services they provide.

100 Climate-Neutral Cities by 2030 – by and for the citizens

This mission will focus on achieving climate neutrality and the development of smart cities. The mission will support, promote and showcase 100 European cities in their systemic transformation towards climate neutrality by 2030 and turn these cities into innovation hubs.

Caring for Soil is Caring for Life

This mission targets soil health and food, with an aim to have at least 75% of all soils in the EU healthy for food, people, nature and climate. It combines research and innovation, education and training, investments and the demonstration of good practices using “Living labs” (experiments and innovation in a laboratory on the ground) and “Lighthouses” (places to showcase good practices).

European Green Deal

Climate change and environmental degradation are an existential threat to Europe and the world. To overcome these challenges, the European Green Deal is focussed on transforming the EU into a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy, ensuring:

- No net emissions of greenhouse gases by 2050,
- Economic growth decoupled from resource use,
- No person and no place are left behind.

The European Commission has adopted a set of proposals to make the EU's climate, energy, transport and taxation policies fit for reducing net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030 (compared to 1990 levels). Delivery of the Green Deal will be underpinned by a target of becoming the first climate neutral continent by 2050. It will improve the well-being and health of citizens and future generations by providing:

1. Fresh air, clean water, healthy soil and biodiversity
2. Renovated, energy efficient buildings
3. Healthy and affordable food
4. More public transport
5. Cleaner energy and cutting-edge clean technological innovation
6. Longer lasting products that can be repaired, recycled and re-used
7. Future-proofed jobs, and skills training for the transition
8. Globally competitive and resilient industry.

National Policies & Strategies

Project Ireland 2040

Project Ireland 2040 is the Irish Government's overarching framework for an improved Ireland – covering social, economic and cultural development. The framework was devised on the basis that an estimated one million additional people will live in Ireland by 2040, and aims to support the associated growth of businesses and communities, alongside improved physical infrastructure. Project Ireland 2040 is a combination of two documents; the National Planning Framework (NPF) and the National Development Plan (NDP) 2021-2030.

The NPF is a public and private investment guide, creating and promoting opportunities for local people, and protecting and enhancing Ireland's urban and rural environments. Its objectives include:

- The creation of 660,000 additional jobs (to achieve full employment) by 2040;
- Construction of 550,000 more homes;
- The growth of Dublin, Cork, Limerick, Galway and Waterford to become cities of greater scale, increasing population and jobs by 50-60%, alongside growth of key regional centres, towns, villages and rural areas – and the regeneration of rural Ireland.
- New and updated infrastructure and services to coincide with growth, helping address congestion and quality of life issues. This will include a new €1bn+ Metro line between Swords and Charlemont, connecting key destinations of Dublin Airport and the city centre.

The NDP is a 10 year strategy for public capital investment of €165 billion, supporting economic, social, environmental and cultural development across Ireland. It aims to ensure that investment strategy and spatial planning work cohesively, and covers issues including housing, health, climate action and population growth. The plan will guide initiatives and reforms to help public sector bodies effectively deliver public investment, including the development of 6,000 affordable homes each year, alongside urban regeneration and development, and the spending of €360 million annually on enhanced regional accessibility and connectivity. Further focus will be placed on strengthening the economy, including via innovation and skills.

Infrastructure development is key to the NDP. For instance, to ensure adequate waste water infrastructure is in place to support new homes and businesses for the region, including southern parts of Fingal, a new regional waste water treatment facility will be developed.

Housing for All

Housing for All is the Government's multi-billion euro housing plan for 2021 to 2030. It aims to address current and future housing shortages and challenges via the delivery of an average of 33,000 new homes each year.

The policy has four pathways to achieving housing for all:

- Supporting home ownership and increasing affordability
- Eradicating homelessness, increasing social housing delivery and supporting social inclusion
- Increasing new housing supply
- Addressing vacancy and efficient use of existing stock

Local Authorities will play a central role in the planning and provision of affordable homes, with an average of 6,000 affordable homes to be made available every year for purchase or for rent by Local Authorities, Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs), the Land Development Agency (LDA) and via a strategic partnership between the State and retail banks. Further, a Local Authority-led Affordable Purchase Scheme will see new homes delivered, including those in areas facing the most acute affordability constraints. As part of Housing for All, Fingal County Council's Housing Action Plan 2022 – 2026 has also been developed. It lays out current and projected social housing projects based on the distribution among the four primary housing areas of Blanchardstown, Balbriggan, Malahide/Howth and Swords.

In addition, Housing for All sets out plans to upgrade the existing housing stock, including the continuation of the Pyrite Remediation Scheme which residents in Fingal are eligible to apply for.

Climate Action Plan

The *Climate Action Plan 2023* (CAP23) is the second annual update to Ireland's *Climate Action Plan*. It lays out Ireland's goals to halve its emissions by 2030 and reach net zero no later than 2050. Objectives to meet the 2030 target include:

- Deployment of large-scale renewable projects, including wind and solar, leading to the achievement of a 75% reduction in emissions
- Increasing the energy efficiency of buildings leading to a 40-45% reduction in emissions
- Adoption of an Avoid-Shift-Improve approach – reducing or avoiding the need for travel, shifting to public transport, walking and cycling and improving the energy efficiency of vehicles leading to a 50% reduction in emissions
- Sustainable farming leading to a 25% reduction in emissions
- Greener businesses leading to a 35% reduction in emissions
- Adaptation of land use to produce better, greener food and energy, and in turn reducing emissions

Regional and Local Policies & Strategies

Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy

The Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly (EMRA) has prepared a Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy (RSES), setting out spatial and economic growth plans for 2019 to 2031.

Its vision is to “create a sustainable and competitive region that supports the health and wellbeing of our people and places, from urban to rural, with access to quality housing, travel and employment opportunities for all”.

The strategy outlines a series of strategic goals that cover the development of infrastructure, education, housing, access, and balanced and sustainable growth, all of which align with 16 regional strategic outcomes:

1. Sustainable Settlement Patterns
2. Compact Growth and Urban Regeneration
3. Rural Communities
4. Healthy Communities
5. Creative Places
6. Integrated Transport and Land Use
7. Sustainable Management of Water, Waste and other Environmental Resources
8. Build Climate Resilience
9. Support the Transition to Low Carbon and Clean Energy
10. Enhanced Green Infrastructure
11. Biodiversity and Natural Heritage
12. A Strong Economy Supported by Enterprise and Innovation
13. Improve Education, Skills and Social Inclusion
14. Global City Region
15. Enhance Regional Connectivity
16. Collaboration Platform

The RSES also includes the following elements:

- A. Spatial Strategy – to manage future growth and ensure the creation of healthy and attractive places to live, work, study, visit and invest in.
- B. Economic Strategy – to build on existing strengths to sustain a strong economy and support the creation of quality jobs that ensure a good living standard for all.
- C. Metropolitan Plan – to ensure a supply of strategic development areas for the sustainable growth and continued success and competitiveness of the Dublin Metropolitan Area. Strategic development areas within Fingal include Dunsink, Baldoyle-Stapolin, Donabate, Dublin 15 lands, Swords, and Swords-Lissenhall.
- D. Investment Framework – to prioritise the delivery of key enabling infrastructure and services by government and state agencies.
- E. Climate Action Strategy – to accelerate climate action, ensure a clean and healthy environment and to promote sustainable transport and strategic green infrastructure.

Throughout the strategy there are three cross-cutting key principles:

- **Healthy Placemaking** - To promote people’s quality of life through the creation of healthy and attractive places to live, work, visit, invest and study in.
- **Climate Action** – To address the need to enhance climate resilience and to accelerate a transition to a low carbon society, recognising the role of natural capital and ecosystem services in achieving this.
- **Economic Opportunity** - To create the right conditions and opportunities for the region to realise sustainable economic growth and quality jobs which ensure a good living standard for all.

The RSES highlights Swords as a key town within the Dublin Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP), given its strategic location in proximity to Dublin City, the airport, the national road network and planned MetroLink. The RSES recognises Swords’s young and growing population as providing a strong economic and service function. Key priorities arising from the RSES are to promote compact growth and enhanced public realm in the town centre along with the planned sequential development of Swords. The identity of the town centre will be enhanced through the development of Swords Civic Centre and Cultural Centre, and the delivery of an enhanced public realm in the town centre, in accordance with the Sustainable Swords Strategy. Further focus will also be placed on generating local employment, with airport related activities continuing to be of major importance, creating future employment districts in Swords and the Dublin Airport/ South Fingal areas.

The RSES also includes a retail hierarchy for the region which is of relevance to Fingal. Swords and Blanchardstown are specifically referenced at Level 2 of the hierarchy – ‘Major Town Centres & County (Principal) Town Centres’. Malahide, Balbriggan, Skerries and Charlestown are categorised under Level 3 – ‘Town And/ Or District Centres & Sub-County Town Centres (Key Service Centres)’.

Additional RSES plans include large scale urban expansions creating new communities at:

- A. Baldoyle-Stapolin;
- B. Donabate; and
- C. Dunsink.

The further rollout of greenways and cycle networks in Fingal is also included.

With regards to strategic employment development areas in Dublin, the following specific areas of Fingal are highlighted:

- Dublin Enterprise Zone for large scale office, research and development, and high tech manufacturing; and
- Swords and Dublin Airport/South Fingal which are considered to be future employment locations, with scope for airport related and commercial facilities.

Dublin Regional Enterprise Plan

The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment’s Regional Enterprise Plans are developed by regional stakeholders and aim to stimulate collaborative initiatives which can help deliver enterprise growth in each of the nine regions across Ireland. The Plans recognise that enterprise policy coherence and collaboration at the national level needs to be mirrored from the ‘bottom up’, to enable:

- A place-based perspective on needs, capabilities and opportunities to inform national enterprise and other policies
- Economies of scale through joined up actions and investment
- Effective targeting of national initiatives to areas of opportunity and greatest need
- Development and delivery of a programme of collaborative actions that can drive better outcomes in terms of regional job creation

Although the Plans are focused and timebound, a Steering Committee mechanism maintains a 'live agenda' at regional levels, responsive to emerging opportunities and challenges such as Brexit, the Covid-19 pandemic, remote working opportunities, climate action/just transition, and regional shocks which require joined-up responses.

The following high-level areas of focus were identified as part of the Dublin Regional Enterprise Plan to 2024:

1. Resilience and recovery
2. Transition to Low Carbon economy/digitalisation
3. Place making/ecosystem strengthening
4. Enterprise/innovation/smart specialisation

From these areas of focus, and following stakeholder consultation during 2021, the following six key objectives were identified:

- Strengthening resilience and the potential for scaling among Dublin's SMEs and Start-ups
- Placemaking
- Inclusion
- Low carbon transition
- Availability of skills
- Collaboration to meet regional enterprise needs

Fingal County Development Plan 2023 – 2029

The Fingal County Development Plan 2023 – 2029 builds on Project Ireland 2040, the RSES, the UN SDGs, and the Fingal Corporate Plan 2019–2024 and is underpinned by a strategic vision intended to guide the sustainable future growth of Fingal, ensuring that the county embraces healthy placemaking and economic prosperity through building cohesive and sustainable communities, where the cultural, natural and built environment is protected.

The Plan is underpinned by four key cross cutting themes:

- Climate action
- Healthy place-making and sustainable development
- Social inclusion
- High-quality design.

The Development Plan recognises that Fingal has major economic assets, including Dublin Airport, proximity to Dublin City and the Dublin Port Tunnel, road and rail infrastructure and a prime location on the Dublin–Belfast Economic Corridor which provide opportunities to attract investment, develop partnerships and create jobs. The provision of infrastructure, connectivity and utilities play key roles alongside the provision of housing, with approximately 16,000 residential units required in the county between 2023 and 2029 and other social and community infrastructures. The Development Plan ensures sufficient zoned

land is available to satisfy housing, population and employment requirements for the county. The further development of Fingal's sectoral strengths – including its vibrant retail and growing tourism sectors – are also embedded in the Development Plan, together with sustaining and promoting heritage, culture and arts.

A 'Core Strategy' is a pivotal element of the Development Plan and specifically focusses on ensuring that future growth within Fingal is directed to appropriate locations and that a balance between social, economic and environmental factors is achieved – all in alignment with national and regional policy.

The Strategy targets growth which is:

1. Cognisant of climate change impacts;
2. Underpinned by sustainable land management practices;
3. In adherence with a clearly focused settlement hierarchy, in line with a wider regional strategy; and
4. Aligned with key placemaking principles.

As depicted in Figure 25, the Core Strategy combines planned infrastructure and urban development via a Settlement Strategy. In the context of Fingal, the latter relates to:

- Key Towns (Swords)
- Self Sustaining Towns (Balbriggan, Lusk, Malahide, Rush, and Skerries); and
- Self Sustaining Growth Town (Donabate, including Portrane).



Figure 25: Fingal Core Strategy Map



Source: Fingal County Development Plan 2023 – 2029.

The Development Plan also references aspects of the Fingal County Council Climate Action Plan 2019-2024 in relation to energy and buildings, transport, flood resilience, nature-based solutions and resource management. Four main targets are specifically referenced in this regard:

- A 33% improvement in the Council's energy efficiency by 2030
- A 40% reduction in the Council's greenhouse gas emissions by 2030
- To make Dublin a climate resilient region, by reducing the impacts of future climate change-related events
- To actively engage and inform citizens on climate change.

Other Policies & Strategies

In addition to the above documents, a series of other national and local policies and strategies were reviewed, including:

- Roadmap for Social Inclusion 2020 – 2025;
- Sustainable, Inclusive and Empowered Communities: A Five Year Strategy to Support the Community & Voluntary Sector in Ireland 2019 – 2024;
- Fingal County Council Community Development Office Vision Statement 2019 – 2022;
- Healthy Ireland Framework 2019 – 2025;
- National Strategy for Women & Girls 2017 – 2020;
- Youth Justice Strategy 2021 – 2027;
- National Traveller & Roma Inclusion Strategy 2017 – 2021
- National Recovery & Resilience Plan;
- National Economic Plan;
- Our Rural Future – Rural Development Policy 2021 – 2025; and
- Pathways to Work Strategy 2021 – 2025.

APPENDIX 3

Public Consultation Overview

- A. Open invite, in-person consultation meetings at three venues in Fingal (Balbriggan, Blanchardstown and Swords) in June 2023;
- B. An open invite, online consultation meeting in July 2023;
- C. Engagements with the Fingal County Council Economic, Enterprise & Tourism Development SPC, whose members are:
 - i. Chairperson – Darragh Butler
 - ii. Councillor – Tony Murphy
 - iii. Councillor – Ian Carey
 - iv. Councillor – Ted Leddy
 - v. Councillor – Siobhán Shovlin
 - vi. Councillor – Breda Hanaphy
 - vii. Councillor – Howard Mahony
 - viii. Councillor – Anthony Lavin
 - ix. CEO Fingal Chamber – Anthony Cooney
 - x. ICTU – Eric Fleming
 - xi. PPN – Yetunde Joyce
 - xii. PPN – Helen Keng Mobit
- D. Engagements with Fingal County Council LCDC members:
 - i. John Quinlivan – Director of Economic, Enterprise, Tourism & Cultural Development (Chief Executive Nominee)
 - ii. Cllr Mary McCamley
 - iii. Cllr Cathal Boland
 - iv. Cllr Joan Hopkins
 - v. Oisín Geoghegan – Fingal Local Enterprise Office
 - vi. Pat O'Connor – Higher Education Institute
 - vii. Seamus Quigley – Department of Social Protection
 - viii. Ellen O'Dea – Head of Health & Wellbeing HSE
 - ix. Una Caffrey – Fingal Children & Young People Services Committee
 - x. Amaka Joyce Chuks – Public Participation Network (PPN)
 - xi. Ian Lennon PPN
 - xii. Raghu Nat PPN
 - xiii. Geraldine Rooney – PPN
 - xiv. Adeline O'Brien – Empower
 - xv. Eilish Harrington – Fingal LEADER Partnership
 - xvi. Laurence Ward – Irish Farmers Association
 - xvii. Anthony Cooney – CEO Fingal Chamber

E. Engagements with the following Fingal County Council LECP Sub-Groups:

- **Community Sub-Group, consisting of:**
 - i. Paul Carroll – Director of Service FCC
 - ii. Naomi Weir – FCC
 - iii. Linda Ennis – FCC
 - iv. Valerie McAllorum Byrne – FCC Integration Officer
 - v. Adeline O'Brien – Empower
 - vi. Felix Gallagher - Empower
 - vii. Eilish Harrington – Leader Partnership
 - viii. Niall McGuirk – FCC Healthy Ireland
 - ix. Una Caffrey – Tusla
 - x. Aoife Genocchi – Foroige
 - xi. Jean O’Gorman - Foroige
 - xii. Garda Superintendent Paul Franey
 - xiii. Geraldine Rooney – BCIL
 - xiv. Pat O’Connor – TU Dublin
 - xv. Cllr Cathal Boland
 - xvi. Cllr Joan Hopkins
 - xvii. Brid Smyth – North Dublin Drugs & Alcohol Task force
 - xviii. Philip Jennings – Safer Blanchardstown
- **Economic Sub-Group, consisting of:**
 - i. John Quinlivan – Director of Service EETCD FCC
 - ii. Aoife Sheridan – FCC Economic Development
 - iii. Declan Ryan – FCC Town Regeneration Officer
 - iv. Declan Power – FCC Tourism
 - v. Roisin Burke – FCC Planning
 - vi. Oisín Geoghegan – Head of Local Enterprise Office
 - vii. Anthony Cooney – Fingal Chamber
 - viii. Eilish Harrington – Fingal LEADER Partnership
 - ix. Deiric O’Broin – DCU
 - x. Liz Halpin – Fáilte Ireland
 - xi. Conor Simpson – IDA
- **Environment Sub-Group, consisting of:**
 - i. David Storey – Director of Service FCC
 - ii. Aoife Sheridan – FCC Economic Development
 - iii. Catherine O’Donovan – Environment
 - iv. Sinead Fox – FCC Community Climate Action Officer
 - v. Emma Court – FCC Active Travel
 - vi. Edward Stevenson – Fingal PPN
 - vii. Cllr David Healy – Climate Action SPC Chairperson
 - viii. Cllr Eoghan O’Brien
 - ix. Eilish Harrington – Fingal LEADER Partnership
 - x. Evelyn Pender – Castleknock Tidy Towns
 - xi. Grace Dunne – Swords Tidy Towns

F. Engagements with Elected Representatives on Local Area Committees for:

- i. Blanchardstown-Mulhuddart/ Castleknock/Ongar
- ii. Howth/Malahide
- iii. Balbriggan/Rush-Lusk/Swords

G. Engagements with other stakeholder groups which focus on specific aspects of community and economic development, including:

- i. Safer Blanchardstown
- ii. Foróige
- iii. Balbriggan Traveller Project
- iv. North Dublin Regional Drugs Task Force

Written submissions were received from:

- Balbriggan Community Council
- Councillor Karen Power
- Dublin Airport Authority
- EggHeadz CLG Youth (Mental Health and Wellbeing) Hub - Donabate & Portrane
- Fingal Chamber
- Green Party Councillors (collective)
- Heidi Bedell
- Mairead Fitzsimons
- Naul Community Council



**Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gall**
Fingal County
Council



**Economic, Enterprise, Tourism & Cultural Development Department,
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