

County Dublin VEC and the Fingal Adult Education Service 'Up-skill Your Workforce'

The County Dublin VEC, Adult Education Service based in Forster Way in Swords is now a comprehensive education and training facility.

Traditionally the County Dublin VEC has provided courses within the community setting. While the VEC continue to do so they have extended their remit to schemes such as the 'Skills for Work' Initiative, providing basic workplace education opportunities to assist employees enhance their skills.

The service has extended its range of education programmes to include the private and business sectors in an effort to meet the needs of all those in the workforce.

The VEC have the tutors, excellent training facilities in Swords and Balbriggan and the experience and knowledge to access appropriate funding for individuals and business where possible to upskill their staff. From basic to advanced educational needs. In other words, where education and training is concerned, the VEC have the 'runs on the board'.

Where funding cannot be sourced directly to upskill and train within a business, VEC courses can be provided at a fraction of the cost that a private training provider might charge.

How does that affect businesses in Fingal? It means that whatever gaps in education / training provision that a business owner or organisation identifies the VEC is likely to be able to provide a SOLUTION.

In these tough economic times when outsourcing and outplacement may have to be considered, talk to the VEC to assist with and enable a smooth transition for employees.

The VEC collaborates with many other educational stakeholders in order to source relevant funding for individuals and businesses.

An example of a local service is the Fingal Home Care. This is a private company partly subsidised by the HSE. The service employees do not qualify for HSE training and development programmes and the company was buying in private training providers to meet their training and up skilling requirements.

By chance the service approached the VEC and to quote Chris Reilly, Fingal Home Care Manager; 'I had no idea of the range of education and training service provision and solutions provided by the

VEC and to date the VEC has developed tailored courses on Communications, First Aid and Patient Handling. Currently, we are in the process of developing management development programmes with the service. I am really happy with the quality of service received from the VEC'.

If your company, be it manufacturing, retail or service require information regarding what the VEC can do for you, your employees and your business, please do not hesitate to contact Patrice Hamilton on 01-8408946.

Fingal—Did you know?

- * Companies still have some skills shortages especially for Information Technology specialists, financial managers, sales and marketing, engineers, technicians and horticultural specialists
- * In 2007, Dublin Airport facilitated 23 million air passengers. This has more than doubled in a decade as the Airport had 10 million passengers in 1997.

Fingal Business Soars at National Enterprise Awards

A Fingal enterprise was in the national spotlight at the annual County and City Enterprise Boards' 'National Enterprise Awards' at Dublin Castle in November with a Swords-based Flight Simulator Company winning the overall National Enterprise Award.

Organised by the County and City Enterprise Boards to reward and recognise outstanding micro-enterprises, Mr. John McGuinness, T.D., Minister for Trade & Commerce presented the overall award to Simtech Aviation International in Fingal, a flight simulation training company, based at Dublin Airport.



(Pictured from left to right): Eamon Ryan, County and City Enterprise Boards; John McGuinness T.D., Minister for Trade and Commerce; Sé Pardy, Simtech Aviation International; Fergal Keogh, Simtech Aviation International; Oisín Geoghegan, C.E.O. Fingal County Enterprise Board and Joe Harford, Chairperson, Fingal County Enterprise Board.

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Run by Fergal Keogh and Sé Pardy, Simtech Aviation, which was supported and nominated by the Fingal County Enterprise Board, provides flight simulation training in Dublin for international airlines, helicopter companies as well as the world-wide search and rescue industry. With a fast-growing client base that includes CityJet, Aer Arann, Celtic Helicopters, Kenya Airways and Tiger Airways in Singapore, Simtech have signed up two airlines from the United Arab Emirates since September.

In addition to the National Enterprise Award, Simtech were also recently awarded the 'Irish Exporter Services' award through the Irish Exporters Association.

Oisín Geoghegan from the Fingal County Enterprise Board said: "It comes as no surprise that yet another Fingal small business has excelled at the National Enterprise Awards."

He continued: "Simtech Aviation has shown that Fingal is an ideal location for doing business and we are very proud of the achievements of our small businesses here. This latest success has further enhanced Fingal's enviable reputation as a vibrant entrepreneurial hotbed for innovative small businesses in Ireland."

Fingal has enjoyed considerable success in the National Enterprise Awards in previous years, as Integrated Facilities Solutions in Dublin 15 also won the national title in 2005. The following year, IBAT (Institute of Business and Technology) in Swords were among the eight shortlisted finalists.

For further information please call the Fingal County Enterprise Board at (01) 890 0800 or visit www.fingalceb.ie

Fingal—Did you know?

- * Fingal is already home to several blue-chip companies such as IBM, Astellas, Kellogg's, Hertz, Bristol-Meyers Squibb and e-Bay. While these are spread between Swords and Blanchardstown the companies that provide higher levels of employment are in Blanchardstown
- * The largest Industrial sector in Fingal is "Transport, Logistics, Communications and Storage" which provides 36% of the jobs based in the county
- * The biggest concern that businesses have in Fingal is rising costs, with 60% indicating this issue in the Fingal business survey 2008
- * The Airport is hugely important to the labour market in the county. On the airport campus alone there are 11,317 and many more jobs in the surrounding industrial estates that are tied in to transportation and logistics

Fingal: County Profile

Since the establishment of Fingal in 1994 the area has reaped the rewards of rapid economic growth and enjoyed the many advantages of good infrastructure. This has led to job opportunities and an increased quality of life. The economic boom since the mid nineties and the demand for housing in the Dublin region precipitated a rapid expansion of population in the area. As well as growing fast the population has changed and is more diverse than ever before. This is borne out by the youthful age composition, high fertility rates, varied family types, ethnic mix and income disparities among the population. As we move forward the challenge is to continue to deliver good infrastructure and provide the optimal social, economic, cultural environment for the county and its citizens to thrive.

- * Fingal has a small land area of 453 square kilometres. The distance from the most northerly to most southerly point is 32 km
- * Fingal has 88km of coastline. Much of this preserved as Special Areas of Conservation or National Heritage Areas
- * There are approximately 530 people per sq. km in Fingal compared to the national average of 56 persons per sq. km

Map of Fingal



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'Building A Better Fingal'

As Chairperson of the Fingal Development Board since 2004, I am delighted to present the winter edition of our newsletter which highlights some of the successes achieved by the Board in 2008 and some of the challenges we are facing in 2009.

In 2008 the Board was instrumental in advancing a large number of diverse and important actions including:

- The Joint Policing Committee
- The Disability Action
- The Dublin Airport Stakeholder's Forum (DASF)
- The Fingal Data Hub
- Fingal Comhairle na nÓg/Youth Council

In accordance with Government Guidelines, the Development Board is commencing a review of its current actions and is in the process of devising a new strategy for the period 2009-2012. It is anticipated that a number of current actions will be further progressed under the new strategy along with a number of new ones.

In framing its new strategy for 2009-2012, the Board will be mindful of the new economic and social conditions in which we find ourselves today. In these challenging times the role of the Development Board is more crucial than ever before. Moreover, with financial and staffing restrictions at a premium it is essential that all agencies and community and voluntary groups work together to maximize their outputs.

On the economic front in particular there needs to be much tighter integration between National Economic Agencies and locally based business representative bodies. If we are to tackle the serious problems created by this deep financial storm, it is important that these agencies work even more closely together to optimise resources and consolidate the successes of the Board in promoting economic growth in Fingal.

I am confident that Board members will rise to these challenges in the coming year and continue to deliver significant benefits for Fingal.



Ciaran Byrne, Chairperson, FDB

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Fingal—Did you know?

In the Citizens Survey of 2005, Fingal was seen very positively as a place to live, work, do business and learn by the vast majority of respondents.

'Tomorrow's Government Today'-Fingal Comhairle na nÓg Elections 2008-2010

November 5th 2008 was polling day for the youth of Fingal. Young people nominated by Schools and Youth Services around the county gathered together in the Europa Academy, Swords to discuss issues of concern to them and to state publicly why their peers should elect them as their Local Youth Councillors.

25 delegates aged between 13 and 17 years have been chosen on an electoral basis to represent the voice of young people across the county. Youth Councillors will spend two years in office and will have an opportunity to develop their own programme of work on behalf of their constituents. They will also represent their peers at local and national level.

Former members of the Fingal Comhairle na nÓg/ Youth Council of 2006-2008 made way for newly elected members. One former member, Sam Trevasakis presented an overview of the work of the Comhairle to prospective candidates and told them of how much she enjoyed her time in office. Other former members assisted in the organisation and running of the day.

The ethos of Fingal Comhairle na nÓg's is "Tomorrows Government Today" The young people who participated in the Consultation/Election day proved that they are very serious about politics and intend to be very active during their time in office.

For further information contact:
Eithne Mallin, Comhairle na nÓg Co-ordinator
Phone (01) 890 6231/eithne.mallin@fingalcoco.ie



Delegates taking part in a Workshop during the Consultation Day

Fingal—Did you know?

- * The Comhairle na nÓg survey 2008 found that one third of young people are affected by alcohol issues, one quarter by age discrimination, one fifth by drugs issues and one fifth by bullying.

News Update

FDB recent appointments

- Mr. Austin Wynne, Adult Education Officer is the new Co. Dublin VEC nominee to the Board
- Mr. Colm Ó Maolmhuire replaces Ms. Terry McCabe as the Blanchardstown Chamber of Commerce representative.
- Councillor Michael O'Donovan was elected Mayor of Fingal County Council and as Mayor of the Council, Cllr. O'Donovan replaced Cllr. Alan Farrell on the Board
- Mr. Martin Conry joins the Board following an invitation to Dublin City University to become a member of the Board.

Fingal JPC recent appointments

- New Oireachtas members were appointed to the JPC; Deputy Joan Burton and Deputy Tommy Broughan.
- Gráinne McGuire joins as a representative from the Fingal Community & Voluntary Forum.
- Chief Superintendent Declan Coburn replaces Chief Superintendent John Twomey, DMRW

Fingal—Did you know?

- * The present population of Blanchardstown now exceeds that of Tallaght and also exceeds the population of established cities like Galway and Limerick
- * The present population of Swords alone is comparable to Waterford City

Towards an Integrated Community

"Towards an Integrated Community" - A Survey of Minority Ethnic Communities in Fingal was recently launched. A quantitative survey minority ethnic group's resident in the county was commissioned by the Fingal Development Board and Fingal County Council. Over 1,200 individuals took part in the survey.

The comprehensive research looks at the composition of Fingal's ethnic population under the headings of basic demographics, motivations for living in the county, participation in community networks and sporting activities, levels of integration and uptake of local and national services.

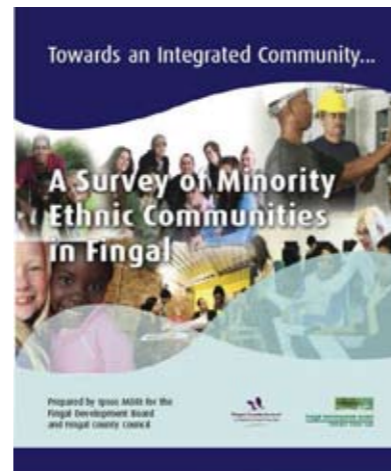
The report contains various recommendations to improve the level and quality of service provision to Fingal's minority ethnic population.

One of the main findings of the research is that "the experiences, attitudes and needs of minority ethnic

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respondents do not necessarily differ from those of the native population and that many experiences and attitudes of minority ethnic communities mirror those of the settled Irish population in Fingal."



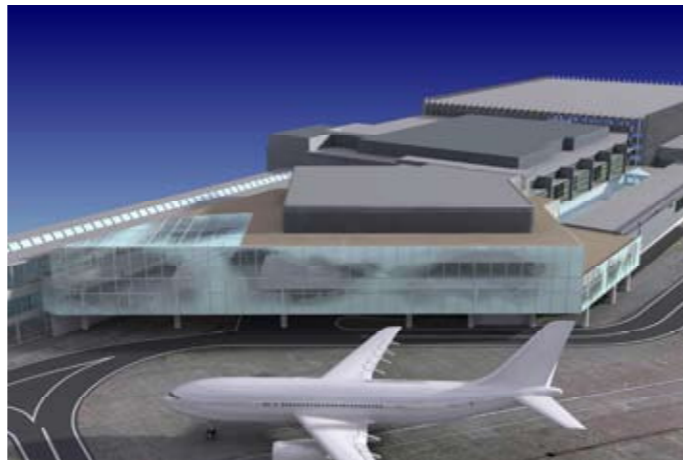
The report also shows that the majority of minority ethnic residents of Fingal have no plans to leave the county, with less than one fifth planning to leave within the next two years. The Report is available on www.fdb.ie

For further information contact:
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Dublin Airport Stakeholders Forum (DASF) —Working Groups

DASF has established three working groups, 'Environmental Monitoring', 'Surface Access' and 'Economic & Customer Service'.

Both the 'Environmental Monitoring' and 'Surface Access' Working Groups have held meetings and it is envisaged that the 'Economic & Customer Service' Working Group will hold its first meeting in January 2009.



The 'Environmental Monitoring' working group is examining the issues of (a) noise, (b) water quality, and (c) air quality, in and around Dublin Airport. New best practice guidelines in relation to "Take-off and Landing" procedures have been drawn up and are

due to be presented at the next DASF meeting. Work on improved information provision is currently on-going. A presentation on surface water attenuation was recently made to the working group and this will be its next area of focus.

The 'Surface Access' working group has identified a number of actions for the group's work-plan. Data in respect of staff travel patterns to Dublin Airport will be presented to the next meeting. It is hoped that this will assist in determining the best means to reduce car traffic to and from the airport. Other perceived issues in respect of the internal and external road network of the airport will also be examined by the working group.

The "Economic Development & Customer Service" working group will focus on the development of commercial interests in the airport environs and on means of improving services to airport users.

For further information contact:
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Fingal—Did you know?

Dublin Airport contributes €300 million annually to the local economy and €900 million to the Greater Dublin Region- source York Aviation Study

Healthy Fingal – Working for Health Gain in Fingal

The establishment of a Health Forum for Fingal arose from Action 11 of the Fingal Development Board Strategic Plan 2006-2008. The partners - Fingal County Council, Fingal Community Forum and Health Service Executive - each have three members on the group and there is an independent Chair, Professor Niall Moyna of Dublin City University.

Following an extensive literature review, discussion and consultation during the first half of 2008, a detailed work-plan was developed for the group. As part of this process it was decided to change the title of the group to *Healthy Fingal* in order to strengthen the identity and purpose of the group.

- The key role of *Healthy Fingal* will be around:
- * Influencing key strategic agendas;
 - * Facilitating networking and joint working at operational level;
 - * Playing a role in activating developments in key areas;
 - * Informing and educating the public;

Copies of the *Healthy Fingal* Workplan are available from Fingal Development Board and can be downloaded from www.fdb.ie/final_healthy_fingal_workplan_2008.pdf

FDB Meet with Minister Michael Kitt



A delegation from FDB met Minister of State, Michael Kitt (pictured on the left) recently to appraise him and his officials of some of the innovative work being done by the Board. The Cathaoirleach Councillor Ciarán Byrne informed the Minister that FDB had already adopted all of the recommendations in the In-Action Review of County Development Boards and our own internal review had resulted in setting up an Executive Committee to guide the work of the Board.

Ann Brophy and Ciarán Staunton gave a presentation on the innovative way that the FDB is addressing the deficit of the County specific data through the Fingal Data Hub. Ciarán also briefed the Minister on the survey of minority ethnic communities in Fingal carried out by the SIM (Social Inclusion Measures) Group and the recent establishment of the Fingal Ethnic Network supported by Fingal County Council. This initiative has since being short-listed as finalists for the MAMA Multicultural Awards, the winners of which will be announced at an award ceremony in the Abbey Theatre on 27th November.

PJ Howell, Director, FDB also advised the Minister and his officials on the work of Invest Fingal in promoting economic development in the County and in particular their undertaking of a skills strategy and international conference for the Metro North Economic Corridor. The work of the Dublin Airport Stakeholders Forum in bringing together key stakeholders with an interest in development at the airport and the work of the Healthy Fingal Action Team in promoting healthy lifestyles in the County were also highlighted.

Minister Kitt congratulated the Board on being proactive and noted that FDB hadn't waited around for the guiding hand of Central Government to determine our work programme. Following the meeting the Minister has invited PJ Howell and Ciarán Staunton to make a further presentation to the National CDB Co-ordination Group at its next meeting on 25th November.

Fingal—Did you know?

- * In 2007, Dublin Airport facilitated 23 million air passengers. This has more than doubled in a decade as the Airport had 10 million passengers in 1997.
- * The Airport is hugely important to the labour market in the county. On the airport campus alone there are 11,317 and many more jobs in the surrounding industrial estates that are tied in to transportation and logistics

Fingal—Did you know?

- * Over 27% of the population are under 18 years of age
- * Almost 9% of the population of the county is under 5 years of age
- * In 2008 Fingal County Council were aware of over 1,300 separate community, sports and other voluntary groups active in the county. This is one for every 184 people in the county

Social Inclusion Unit Established

July 2008 saw the establishment of the Social Inclusion Unit (SIU) in Fingal County Council. The Unit has two staff, Angela King (Social Inclusion Officer) and Emma Murphy (Social Inclusion Analyst). The Council had to apply to the Department of the Environment to have the SIU set up in 2007 and the application was deemed successful in a competitive process which saw 10 counties awarded funding to support staff for this relatively new function.

Social Inclusion is a key strand of national policy. It is recognised that while a great deal of progress has been made in the last decade, we still have groups of people who are marginalised. This manifests itself economically, socially and culturally. Some people face challenges that exclude them from full participation in society and ultimately from an adequate quality of life.

Fingal County Council and the Fingal Development Board have already made a lot of headway into social inclusion issues, with work being done for Minority Ethnic groups, Travellers and people with Disabilities as well as other target groups who are at risk of being disadvantaged.

The primary function of the Social Inclusion Unit is to make sure that social inclusion is central to the working of Fingal County Council. A top priority is to improve access to services for people from disadvantaged communities in all the functions of the Council. The Unit is guided by a Social Inclusion Working Group and this has representatives from a number of departments within the Council.

In order to make the most of limited resources to promote social inclusion, we will be working with other Departments and external stakeholders from time to time. If you have an idea that you think could promote social inclusion, feel free to contact us.

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