



FINGAL HAS LOW LEVELS OF RELATIVE POVERTY

A **Combat Poverty Agency** report launched in August finds an uneven geographic experience of poverty in Ireland. The report: *Mapping Poverty: National Regional and County Patterns*, also involved the ESRI, looks at the distribution of poverty at a county level and draws upon statistics like the Census of Population (2002): the Living in Ireland Survey (2000) and, for the first time, the National Survey of Housing Quality (2001/2002).

The main findings relevant to Fingal were:

- The risk of poverty is greatest in Donegal, Leitrim and Mayo. Unlike Fingal these counties have high percentages of elderly residents and lowest levels of educational attainment, a high incidence of small farming activity and high levels of economic dependency.
- The study found that the countryside and villages have slightly higher poverty levels than other areas, especially in comparison with Dublin (including Fingal) and the larger cities and urban areas.
- Fingal scores well on measures of Housing Amenities, Housing Degradation and Poor Environment. It is below the national average on all of these measures while the other Dublin Authorities have specific problems in this regard.
- The risk of poverty was more than five times greater for Local Authority tenants (at a national level) than for people living in other types of housing and these neighbourhoods are often further disadvantaged by the quality and availability of local services, for example, health, transport, sport and recreation and retail and financial services.

- Overall the risk of income poverty in Fingal is calculated at 0.4 which is much lower than Dublin City 1.0, somewhat lower than South Dublin 0.5 and the same as Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown

The authors recommend that Local Authorities and area-based programmes have a key role to play in tackling poverty at a local level, supported by comprehensive national policies. Locally based initiatives should include good estate management, enhanced service delivery and mobilisation of community resources. This is supportive of the Board's remit, as well as that of many of its member agencies.

While launching the document the Director of Combat Poverty, Helen Johnson, was adamant that caution should be exercised in interpreting poverty risks. This exercise was really about what causes Poverty, not about some counties being priority targets over others. Authorities with larger populations, like Fingal, have significantly higher absolute numbers of people and households in Poverty than rural counties and to become complacent because we appear to be relatively well off would be to effectively abandon these communities.

[See Map on Page 4.](#)

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Key Agencies establish Dublin Airport Stakeholders Forum

In recognition of the need for a formal consultative mechanism on Dublin Airport, the FDB, the Dublin Airport Authority and Fingal County Council have agreed to the setting up of a stakeholders forum in line with the commitment given in the FDB Strategy.

Guidelines for the establishment of the Forum were agreed by the Board on the 1st July 2005.

The Forum will provide an opportunity for serious, regular and constructive discussion on issues concerning the airport and hopefully lead to a new understanding and improved relationships among the different sectors affected by developments at the airport. This includes users of the airport, the local airport and organisations representing the interests of persons concerned with the locality in which the airport is situated. A total of 31 groups have been listed as nominated bodies to the Board.

To maintain the confidence of the general public in the operation of the Forum, the Board agreed to the appointment of an independent Chairperson to Chair the Forum.



Pictured at the launch of the Dublin Airport Stakeholders Forum from l to r: Cllr. Ciaran Byrne, Cathaoirleach of Fingal Development Board, Bob Hilliard, Director of the Dublin Airport Authority, Dr. Danny O'Hare, Chairperson of the Forum and John Tierney, Manager of Fingal County Council.

Dr. Danny O'Hare agreed to act as Chair of the Forum. Dr. O'Hare currently chairs the Food Safety Authority, the Government Task Force on Physical Sciences, the Expert Group on Future Skills Needs, the Ballymun Regeneration project, and also serves on the Board of Directors of MLE (Media Lab Europe) and Calor. He is also Chairman of the Independent Hospitals Association of Ireland and a member of the Food Safety Promotion Board.

It is envisaged that all administration and secretarial services, and costs associated with the operation of the Forum will be provided by the FDB through funding received from the Dublin Airport Authority and Fingal County Council and under the direction of the independent Chairperson.

A copy of the Forum document is available on www.fdb.ie. For further information contact Anita Morris at 890 6235 or email: anitamorris@fingalcoco.ie

[Link to the FDB Strategy](#)

Goal 4.2.5

"To establish a Dublin Airport Economic Stakeholders Forum..."

Marked Register Analysis of 2004 Local Election Results

A Marked Register Analysis of the 2004 Local Election results in Fingal has recently been completed and is due to be published in the Autumn. The report prepared by Dr. Adrian Kavanagh (NUI Maynooth) offers a detailed, spatially based analysis of voter turnout levels in the county, and points to considerable turnout differences across the county, as well as turnout differences between general and local elections. Dr. Kavanagh notes that the findings of this report will need to be built on by further analysis, mainly in the form of questionnaires, interviews and focus groups, before one can definitively outline the causes of turnout differences across the county. This is a vital step before remedies can be devised to address the issue of low turnout and the problems associated with it.

With that in mind, the Fingal Development Board are now exploring the possibility of creating a once-off fellowship with NUI Maynooth for a M.Litt / PhD student to build on this report and present a comprehensive overview and analysis of the factors shaping political participation in Fingal. The timeframe to be covered by this thesis will cover the results of the 2004 local elections, the upcoming general election (2006 or 2007) and the lead-up to the next set of local elections in 2009. *(Continued on page 3)*

continued from page 2

It may also be possible to include the election results from the period from 1999 - 2004.

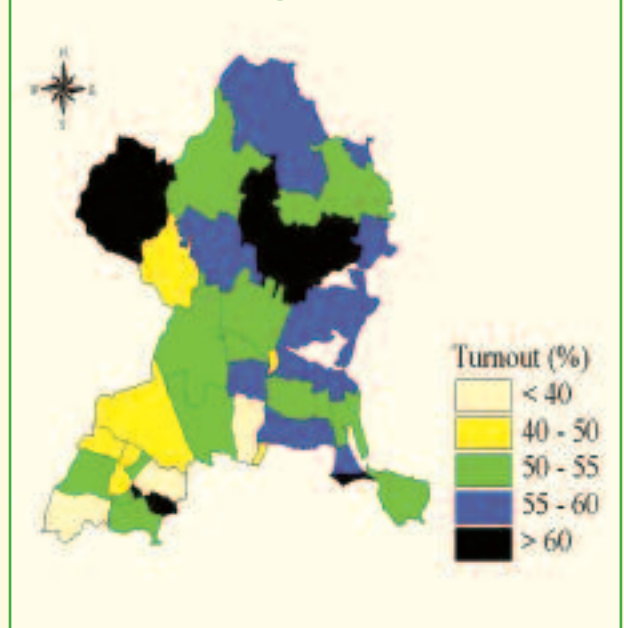
This new study has huge potential in terms of providing opportunities to link into the current adult population of potential and registered voters across the county. It may also form the basis for voter education and wider civic participation / community leadership programmes that could be developed with communities, schools and youth organisations. It is expected that this study will take three to four years to complete.

Link to the FDB Strategy

Goal 4.2.5

"To undertake research on voter turnout in Fingal and to develop an education programme to significantly increase voter participation over the life of the Fingal County Strategy.

Turnout in Fingal, Local Elections



Protecting Fingal's Rich Heritage and Biodiversity

Fingal is one of the fastest growing Counties in Ireland and balancing the demands of growth and sustainability is a key priority for Fingal County Council. Every effort is being made to preserve and conserve both the heritage and natural environment of Fingal.

The Council is leading the way in this challenge and is about to publish its Heritage Plan, which sets out key initiatives that will be undertaken over the next five years. The Plan covers all aspects of Fingal's heritage including wildlife, coast and countryside, buildings, archaeology, local history and much more.

A Fingal Heritage Forum was established in 2004 by Fingal County Council and its role was central to the development of the Plan. The Forum is made up of representatives from a wide range of statutory and voluntary organisations concerned with heritage issues. Members of the public were invited to comment during the drafting of the Plan. The Heritage Plan will be implemented under the guidance of the Council's Heritage Officer, Gerry Clabby and the Forum.

A Local Biodiversity Plan (LBP) is also being prepared in parallel with the Heritage Plan. The LBP will be the key document that will guide the work of everyone involved in the conservation of Fingal's natural environment. The primary purpose of this plan is to focus resources to conserve and enhance biodiversity, by

means of preparing action plans for the most important habitats and flora and fauna species.

Fingal County Council is one of the first local authorities in Ireland to work on a LBP and in 2002 they appointed a Biodiversity Officer, Hans Visser, to coordinate the preparation of the Plan.

Due to a lack of up-to-date ecological data in Fingal it was decided to carry out survey work and then prepare action plans. An Ecological Study of Fingal Coastal Habitats has been finalised and an action plan for coastal habitats will be finalised in 2006. A Countryside Survey programme will commence in 2006 and an countryside action will be finalised in 2009.

For further information contact:

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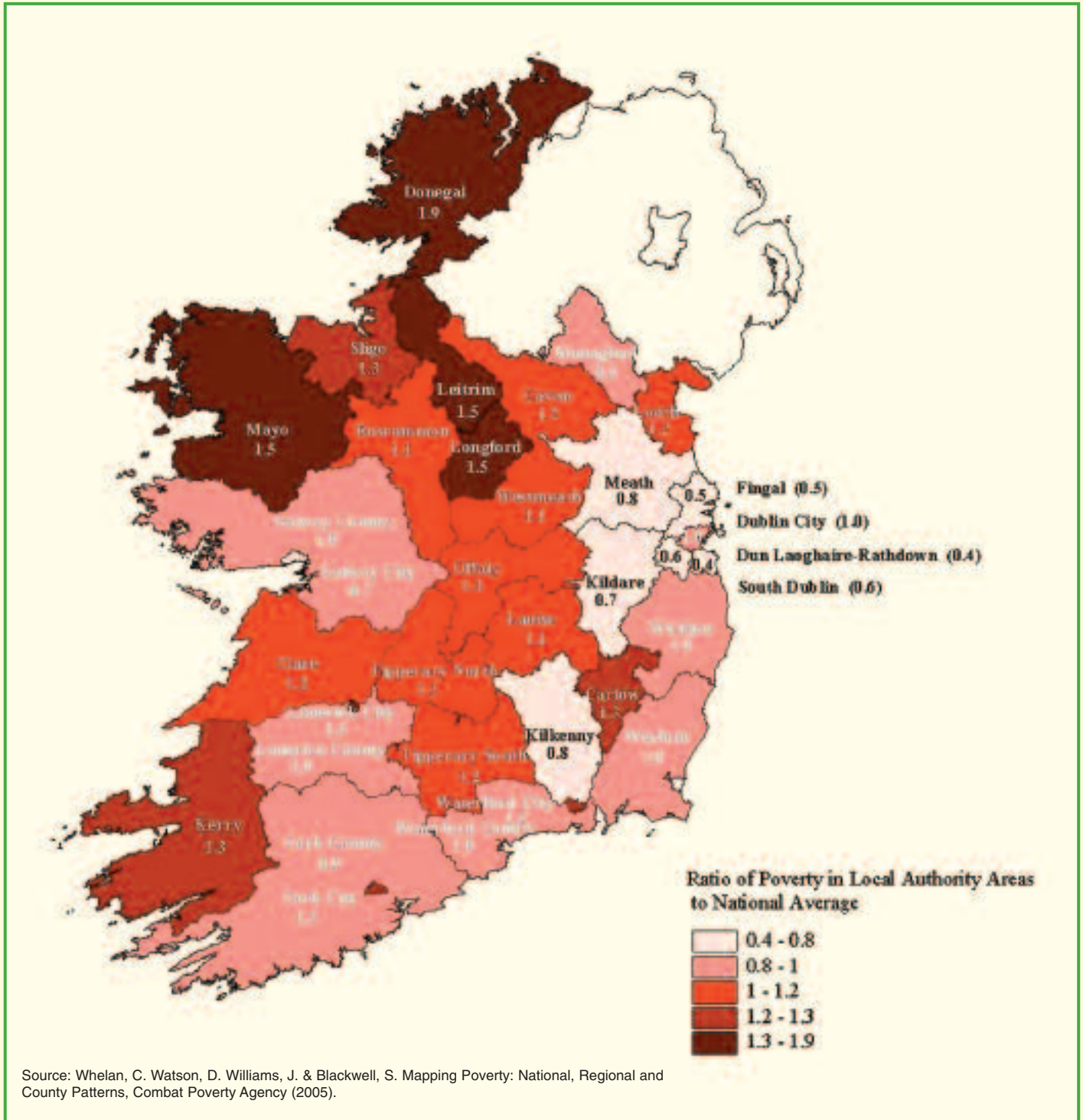
Link to the FDB Strategy

Visions 2 & 8

"Fingal will balance the demands of growth and sustainability"

Fingal's natural environment will flourish through regulation and education'

Relative Poverty Map



The Combat Poverty Agency Report mentioned on page 1 "Mapping Poverty: National, Regional and County Patterns" by Dorothy Watson, Christopher T. Whelan, James Williams and Sylvia Blackwell can be sourced from www.esri.ie or www.cpa.ie

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