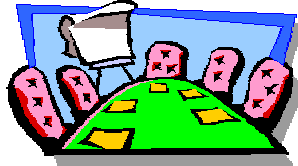


A Strategy for Economic, Social & Cultural Development in Fingal 2002 - 2011

Everything you want to know
(but might be afraid to ask)

Who is on the Fingal Development Board?



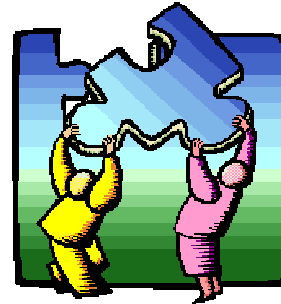
The Fingal Development Board (or FDB for short) is made up of 28 people who were nominated from across all sectors of society.

Many of them provide services to the public (in education, health, business). We have representatives from the Social Partners (trade unions, representative organisations) as well as individuals who represent the community (the community forum) and the voluntary sector (individuals involved in sporting and cultural life). We also have Local Government Councillors who represent the public in Fingal County Council. Everyone on the Board is involved in some area of life in Fingal, which affects each and every citizen in the county.

What does the Board actually do?

When the Government set up the Development Boards the biggest job they gave them was to draw up a County Strategy for the next decade. The Strategy was to cover all aspects of life in Fingal - Social, Cultural and Economic. The purpose of the plan is to make sure that everyone already providing a service to the citizens of Fingal was aware of what everybody else was providing (to avoid duplication) and that new services could be developed to meet the needs of the community over the next ten years.

That's where the voice of the community was vital - because nothing makes for better planning than the inclusion of everybody's experience. That's the part where local people really get a chance to participate in their own future.



So what exactly are County Development Boards?

For a long time, people in Ireland have wanted change in the way policy is made.

They want a chance to have a say in how services are delivered.

They want to know that they are getting good value for money and that their experience on the ground matters when policy makers are deciding how things should be in the future.

Which is why the Government set up the City and County Development Boards - to give local people a chance to participate in their own future.

How did the Board make sure everybody had their say?

First of all, the Board held public meetings and encouraged people to get involved. At a major seminar in Malahide the Board asked people to list the major issues facing Fingal and to divide them into a number of themes. These are some of the things they came up with.

County Identity – Fingal needs to be better recognized. How big is the county and what does it stand for?

Land Use Planning – We have lots of land but will it all get used for housing, and how do we make the best use possible of the land that we have?

Transportation – Can anything be done about the traffic? Is this a local or regional problem? Can you make it so we get to work faster?

Economic Development – OK, so the economy is doing well now, but how do we make sure it continues to grow and what problems do we need to solve?

Housing – We don't just want to build houses, and more houses – we want communities and nice places for our children to play.

Health and Social Services – What about the growing problem of drugs and drug addiction? What about care for the elderly?

Lifelong Learning – Why don't people value education as being more than what you learn at school? Can I continue to learn and grow throughout my life?

Environmental Protection – Fingal has beautiful beaches and rural villages but can we make sure that we protect all of our natural advantages for the future?



8 Themes, 8 Working Groups and over 140 meetings.....

For the past two years, over 120 people have participated in the eight Working Groups set up to explore the eight themes above. They met every three weeks for nearly two years when their final papers were presented to the Board. The Board and staff of the FDB then edited all the papers under agreed Goals and Visions to form the overall Strategic Plan.

And that is what you will find in "A Strategy for Economic, Social And Cultural Development in Fingal".

The Jargon Explained



A Strategy

A strategic plan is what you get when all interested parties discuss, agree and describe what is best for their area and what steps they will take to achieve this.

A Vision

A vision represents your ultimate aim – the picture you want to see for your county when you look into the future.

A Goal

Goals are long-term ambitions, which lead to the achievement of your vision.

How to read the Strategy



Chapter 1: Contains background details about the Fingal Development Board and all the participants. Some of the problems encountered and things we need to do in the future.

Chapter 2: Contains a profile of Fingal like population, layout, size, economy and some of the key challenges facing the county.

Chapter 3: Is about what we are going to do about all the things that need improving, who is going to do them, when, where and how.

This chapter outlines all the Visions, Goals and Actions proposed in the plan. You will see under each Action a **Lead Agency** and then a list of **Support Agencies** (These are the people who will deliver the improved services).

Chapter 4: Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation (Did you do what you said you would do, and if not why not?)

Obviously a Strategy is no good unless it is implemented and this chapter proposes ways in which the Board can check progress over the next few years.

Do I need to read the plan in full and how long is it in total?

Over the next two pages we have done a short summary of the eight strategic themes covered in the plan.

These are only a small snapshot to give you an idea of the work that has been done and what areas might affect you.

We want as many people as possible to read the plan and to give us feedback. So, once you have an idea of what is contained in the Strategy, we have listed contact addresses at the back of this brochure where you can pick up (or download) a copy of the full Strategy.

In total the document is around 65 pages long.

