

Introduction from the Cathaoirleach

The ambitions for County and City Development Boards were articulated by the Government in a document called “*A Shared Vision*”. Central to the ambitions outlined was the belief that democratic planning at local level could ultimately lead to re-invigorated local governance, better local integration in the public service, community ownership and a better quality of life for all citizens.

From the beginning, the Fingal Development Board placed strong emphasis on the word “Shared” which yielded a common sense of purpose to address and resolve social inequalities in Fingal. We wanted to reach as many people in the community as possible to ensure that economic opportunities were both evenly distributed and accessible to all.

Mention must be made here of the considerable commitment given by Board members, the Agencies they represent and by the membership of the eight Working Groups. From my experience in politics, such comprehensive consultation is rare. Everyone has had to learn from each other – Statutory Agencies, the Voluntary Sector, the Local Authority, the Community and Business Fora – and we now understand that this process needs to be further strengthened if the momentum gained is to continue.

The Government must allow us to grasp the moment by providing the necessary resources both to the Development Board and to Lead and Support Agencies listed in this Strategy. The impetus is there to implement our stated Actions, it will serve the process badly if financial resources are the only stumbling block.

I would like to thank the staff of the Development Board who facilitated this process. I must also make special mention of the Management of Fingal County Council, whose enlightened support at a moral and financial level has been exemplary.

Cllr. Anne Devitt
Cathaoirleach

Director's Overview

Drafting a Strategy for the rapidly changing county of Fingal has been both a challenging and rewarding task.

Challenging, because few organisations have structures, operate services or maintain information on the geographical entity of Fingal. Residents underestimate the scale of the county where they live and many others only think of the 200,000 plus populated county as “North Dublin”, not as the specific social, cultural and economic entity now known as County Fingal.

The reward has been to see the birth of an understanding across organisations and individuals that the fastest growing county in Ireland (an annual additional 7,000 people, on average, over the past six years) has its own distinct social and geographical landscape. Fingal is a place that has unique characteristics and which will require unique responses if we are to cater effectively for the basic infrastructural, services and identity needs of what constitutes almost 6% of the country's population.

The challenge that lies ahead, especially in the three years to the end of 2004, is to implement the prioritised Actions of service integration and infrastructural provision so that all Fingallians, whatever their origins, will experience a different and better quality of life - whether in cultural, social or economic terms.

The drafting of the Strategy, which was so willingly engaged in over the past two years, represents only the foundation stone. The Board and its sub-structures must now build the structures (with the assistance of a skilled and dedicated team) and bring about the operational changes that will deliver on the targets articulated in this Strategy.

Senan Turnbull
Director

Introduction

The Fingal Development Board held its inaugural meeting on the 30th March 2000 when the 28 members (comprising Local Government representatives, State Agencies, Local Development Bodies and Social Partner representatives) began the process of identifying the issues affecting the quality of life for those who live and work in County Fingal. Eight strategic issues emerged from this process:

- *County Identity*
- *Land Use Planning*
- *Transportation*
- *Economic Development*
- *Housing*
- *Health and Social Services*
- *Lifelong Learning*
- *Environmental Protection*

The Board believed that a detailed exploration of these issues would allow individuals and organisations in Fingal the opportunity to face the challenges posed by the rapid growth of the county, the scale of which is unprecedented in Ireland.

Population growth, for example, indicates a staggering increase of 25% since 1996, or seven thousand extra people per annum (currently one thousand per annum ahead of projections¹). Of even more dramatic significance, it is expected that, within the next decade, the number of households in Fingal will increase by 85%, necessitating the provision of in excess of 50,000 new housing units².

The Process

Before establishing Working Groups to consider each of the identified issues in detail, the Board accepted principles of operation based on Local Agenda 21 (see Appendix 2). The first step,

¹ Strategic Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area (1999)

² Fingal County Council Housing Strategy 2001-2005

therefore, was the establishment of the Fingal Business Forum and the Fingal Community Forum to ensure that these two specific sectors would be adequately represented in the strategic process.

The Business Forum is comprised of all Chambers of Commerce in Fingal with representation from I.B.E.C., the C.I.F., I.S.M.E. and the S.F.A., while the Community Forum consists of twenty-four representatives drawn from the Community and Voluntary sector, selected on the basis of the six existing *Area Committees* of Fingal County Council and representing a cross section of organisational types.

The Working Groups reflected Fingal Development Board's commitment to participative democracy and included over one hundred and twenty people from Local Development bodies, Local Government, the Social Partners and State Agencies. The Groups typically met every three weeks from September 2000 to July 2001 and again in Autumn 2001, before passing their final papers to the Board for integration and prioritisation in December 2001.

To further facilitate participation in the planning process, draft Strategies emerging from the Working Groups were made available to the general public on an ongoing basis and a series of public information and consultation meetings were held across the county. Feedback from these meetings further informed the deliberations of the Working Groups.

Data Gathering

The relatively recent establishment of Fingal as a County meant that collecting Fingal-specific data was not easy. For example, three Garda divisions include various parts of the geographical area and, other than the County Council, no State Agency operates to the County boundary. In addition, the population in Fingal has grown by almost 25% since the last Census of Population (1996), rendering much of the existing data irrelevant.

Despite these difficulties, the Board carried out an audit of service provision in the county focusing on service delivery across State, State-funded and staffed voluntary/Local Development organisations. Audit methodology consisted of postal questionnaire-based and follow-up phone calls for clarification. Arising from the audit, a *Directory of Services and Service Providers in Fingal* will be published later in 2002.

The Directory will be updated regularly and will be accessible to all organisations, Agencies and members of the public via the Fingal Development Board Website (www.fdb.ie). In addition, Fingal Development Board will encourage all Agencies and service providers to modify and enhance their data collection systems in line with Local Authority boundaries.

Participation

By making every effort to be as inclusive as possible, Fingal Development Board learned some valuable lessons that will inform its future work. Of particular concern was the fact that nationally recognised representative bodies were often unable to participate in Working Groups. This was not due to any lack of interest or commitment, but to the absence of local structures, resources and personnel. This was evident in the case of organisations that represent the interests of marginalised groups and was equally apparent in other sectors. It must be emphasised that, if participation in local planning is to be truly inclusive, enhancing the ability of all interests to be fully involved will require support and resourcing at a National level, otherwise the process will not be sustainable.

Similarly, a major review of County and City Development Boards needs to be undertaken at national level to deepen the levels of commitment from Agencies and service providers in order to ensure that debate and dialogue generated at local and Development Board level impacts internally within participating organisations.

Childcare

While Childcare provision is referred to in a number of Actions, an overview for the county can only evolve from the work of the recently established County Childcare Committee. Fingal Development Board will work closely with this Committee in developing and implementing a strategy for quality and affordable Childcare provision in the County.

Proofing

The Government asked that the County Strategy be examined in the context of National, Regional and European policies (formally known as “proofing”), with special emphasis on the issues of social inclusion, rural development, equality, and environmental sustainability. In many cases, the outcomes contained in the Strategy emerged from an intuitive understanding of what was

required, rather than through following formal steps as suggested, for example, in equality proofing by The Equality Authority.

The Board is committed to the principles of proofing in the areas suggested (see Appendix 3) and a Social Inclusion Monitoring Working Group has been in existence since November 2001. This Group, along with other appropriate advisory groups, will lead the work of the Board in ongoing proofing during the Implementation phase.

Chapter 2

County Fingal – A Profile

Establishment

Fingal (often described as North County Dublin) was established as a County on January 1st 1994, following the dissolution of Dublin County Council and the Borough of Dun Laoghaire and their replacement with the three new counties of Fingal, South Dublin, and Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown.

Topography

Fingal occupies a total land area of 452.7 sq. km. (0.54% of the land area of the country) and is bordered by Dublin City, South Dublin, Meath and Kildare. Its 88 km. of coastline extends from Sutton in the South, to north of Balbriggan. A relatively flat area, its highest point is 176 metres. It is drained by the Delvin River along its northern boundary, by the Broadmeadow and Ward Rivers in the centre and by the Tolka and Santry rivers on its southern fringe. The Liffey forms the boundary in the south-western corner (see map).

There are three large protected estuaries and salt marsh habitats, with thirteen major beaches along the coastal zone which includes the promontory of Howth Head. Of the only three areas covered by Special Amenity Area Orders in the country, two are in Fingal – Howth Head and the Liffey Valley.

Population

At the time of the 1996 Census, Fingal had a population of approximately 168,000 (4.63% of the then national total), giving a density of 371 persons per sq. km. against a national average of 51. The 1996 figures represented an increase of 9.8% from the 153,000 recorded in 1991. Estimates by Fingal County Council (based on house numbers and occupancy rates) indicate a population of 210,000 (over 5.5% of the national total) in 2001. Population density varies considerably between the suburban areas of Blanchardstown/Castleknock and Baldoyle/Sutton on the edges of Dublin City and the large areas of farming land in the North and West of the County.

The comparative youthfulness of Fingal's population is striking, with a high proportion of children under 15. These are mainly located in the newer residential areas of Blanchardstown-Mulhuddart, Swords and Balbriggan. This demographic factor has service delivery implications, particularly in Health, Education and Childcare provision.

The speed and volume of growth has placed great pressure on all resources (environment, infrastructural provision, services and facilities) in County Fingal. By way of illustration, in 1996 there were 47,721 housing units in Fingal compared to 59,558 in 2000 (an increase of approximately 25% over a four year period).

It is essential that this unprecedented rate of population expansion is matched by a corresponding increase in overall public services resourcing and provision in order to adequately serve this new reality.

Key Population Centres

Swords is the County town of Fingal and the major growth area in the centre of the county. Its expansion is driven by the creation and maintenance of jobs with particular emphasis on high-tech industry. It had a population of 24,900 in 1996, an estimated 30,000 in 2002 and is projected to increase to 38,400 by 2011.

Blanchardstown/Castleknock in the South West of the county is increasingly important as a centre for medical, educational, retail, social and cultural activities. It is the largest urban settlement in Fingal with a population of 54,800 at the last Census, now estimated at 76,500 and projected for 118,800 within ten years.

To the North of the County, Balbriggan has been identified as a Growth Centre where the existing population of approximately 11,000 is projected to rise to 25,000 by 2011.

Other major centres in Fingal comprise Baldoyle/Sutton whose current population of 14,600 approx. is expected to increase to 19,000 within the next ten years, Malahide which will grow to 17,000 from the present 15,700 and Portmarnock to 12,700 from 7,700. Skerries is set to expand to 10,400 from its current 9,800 in the same period, Rush to 9,600 from 7,100, Lusk to 8,500 from 2,600 and the Fingal portion of Santry to 5,200 from 2,000, while the population of Howth

is projected to drop to 8,000 from the existing 9,800 as a consequence of the overall trend towards reduced household sizes.

There is a number of rural villages in the North West of the county, principally Garristown, Naul, Ballyboughal, St. Margaret's, Oldtown and Rolestown. Central to Fingal County Council's Rural Housing Policy is the development of sustainable rural communities and the strengthening of the villages.

Economic Profile

The income generated through commercial property rates in the county has risen from €16.8m in 1994 to €47.8m in 2001, an overall increase of 183%. Fingal attracts high levels of foreign direct investment in manufacturing and services, together with local investment in retail, warehousing and recreational infrastructure.

The main industrial categories are computer software and hardware, pharmaceutical, food processing, electrical/electronics, crafts and services. Between 1990 and 2000, the number of jobs created by IDA-supported firms rose from 4,154 to 15,644, making Fingal the highest employment growth area of the country during the period.

Fingal is also Ireland's primary horticultural region, producing 50% of the national vegetable output and 75% of all glasshouse crops grown in the country. The areas of production are, however, coming under severe pressure from other development and the rural towns are increasingly becoming dormitories for the City. Howth harbour, is the biggest fishing harbour on the east coast and the fifth largest in the country.

Fingal is a county possessing many economic advantages. These advantages comprise the presence of Dublin Airport, close proximity to Dublin City, its location on the Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor, the rail infrastructure, access to Dublin Port and the road, power and telecommunications networks. These features will ensure that economic prospects for the county are good. Fingal is, therefore, in a position to continue to stimulate economic growth with concurrent increases in standards of living.

Dublin Airport, in particular, because of its national and international importance, represents the single most significant economic entity in the Region, due to its large employment base, passenger throughput and ready access to airfreight services. It is incumbent, therefore, on the county to protect the development potential of the Airport and to maximise the benefits accruing from its presence.

As well as having the Institute of Technology Blanchardstown within its jurisdiction, Fingal has the advantage of being in close proximity of all of the Third Level Colleges in the City. Dublin City University, because of its physical location bordering of the county, has a particular affinity with, and has declared a strategic interest in, the development of Fingal.

Despite an overall appearance of prosperity, there is, however, a number of disadvantaged areas in the county where unemployment is above the national average and where individuals continue to experience relative poverty and acute social problems.

Key Challenges ahead

Fingal has changed significantly in the last five years and has experienced both economic and population boom. This growth also brings challenges which need to be addressed. To a large extent, the challenges facing Fingal are challenges brought about by success and they include:

- Capitalising on Fingal's locational advantages
- Creating sustainable communities
- Reducing social problems
- Easing traffic congestion
- Minimising housing shortages and increases in house prices
- Dealing with waste management and other development stresses on the environment
- Ensuring the vibrancy of town centres
- Providing Childcare facilities
- Promoting the cultural richness, diversity and heritage of Fingal

As Fingal continues to grow, there will be increasing pressures on all aspects of life – economic, social and cultural. How these challenges are dealt with will determine the future shape and direction of the county.

Mission Statement

“The Fingal Development Board will act as a catalyst to facilitate the timely and effective delivery of the infrastructural and service needs of a county with Ireland’s fastest growing population and economy. In achieving this, it will pay particular attention to sustainable development, equality, social integration and cultural enrichment”

The Board has the following Vision for Fingal.

County Vision

“By the year 2011, Fingal will be readily identified as a county with a distinct social and cultural identity reaping the benefits of sustainable development where residents and organisations will share responsibility for maximising all of the county’s advantages in enhancing the quality of life for all.”

Chapter 3

Strategic Issues for Fingal

Each of the Working Groups that were established to develop the Strategy held between twelve and fifteen formal meetings, with additional informal sub-Group sessions where workload dictated. Economic Development, for example, held nearly as many sub-Group as full Working Group meetings, during the course of its work.

In all cases, the Working Groups drew on outside expertise so that individuals directly involved in relevant issues could provide inputs. In the cases of Lifelong Learning and Health and Social Services, a joint meeting was convened in an attempt to identify gaps and overlaps in their work.

Initially, most of the Working Groups were facilitated by consultants and, subsequently, by staff of the Development Board. The working papers for each Group emerged from “rolling documents” which adhered as closely as possible to the minutes taken at each meeting. This approach enabled the true sense of what was emerging around the table to be genuinely reflected in the final Strategy.

Mention must be made of the time, energy and commitment given by the members of the individual Working Groups. For well over a year they travelled to and participated in meetings that, typically, commenced at 5.00 p.m. and finished at 7.00 p.m. They consistently articulated and argued their case, compromising where necessary, in pursuit of progress.

This Chapter outlines the Vision, Goals and Actions for each strategic issue and is the core of the overall Strategy.

3.1 County Identity

Vision

“Fingal will be recognised as a distinct county renowned for civic participation”

Fingal is sometimes regarded as a county developed solely for Local Authority administrative purposes. Its older geographical origins can, however, be traced to *The Annals of the Four Masters (1636)* which described Fingal as “that area bounded on the north by the river Delvin, on the south by the river Tolka, on the east by the sea and on the west by a small hill called Cnoc Maeldoid”.

Of the three new counties formed in 1994 (the others being Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown and South County Dublin), it could be argued that Fingal has the greatest historical connections to its name and boasts the most distinct topographical identity. Despite this, it is probably fair to say that people living in the north of the county associate more with a Fingallian identity than those living in the more urbanised parts, while many believe that their identity is linked to Dublin, rather than Fingal.

A clear sense of identity is important for any county, and the development of this perspective is vital for the future of Fingal. The benefits of this shared identity are many and include concerns for the environment, enhanced civic participation, a greater sense of neighbourliness and mutual aid (the *Meitheal* concept in rural Ireland), increased self-confidence, an improved sense of social inclusion and a greater community commitment to higher standards in the county. Having a strong sense of place encourages people to put a higher value on their heritage while generating greater awareness of and participation in contemporary cultural, sporting and community life.

Ultimately, if County Fingal is to take root, there must be strong community and State awareness and ownership of the concept of a distinct place called Fingal. In tandem, there needs to be both national and international recognition of County Fingal as a valid county, as rich in heritage as those counties with a readily identified image.

Goal 3.1.1 **That County Fingal will be recognised as a distinct county nationally and internationally.**

Actions & Agencies

1. To introduce FL Vehicle Registration Plates by 2004.

Lead Agency: *Fingal Co. Co*

2. To introduce a Fingal-specific postal address on a phased basis, starting in 2003; the insertion of “Fingal” after the town/postal code (Phase 1) with the ultimate aim of replacing “County Dublin” with “County Fingal” by 2005.

Lead Agencies: *Fingal Co. Co., An Post*

3. All organisations represented on Fingal Development Board to adopt the practice, by 2003, of specifying relevant addresses with the inclusion of “Fingal” after the town/postal code.

Lead Agency: *Fingal Development Board*

4. Commencing from January 2003, all Agencies delivering services in the county to adopt structures and keep data to a Fingal base.

Lead Agency: *Dept. of Environment & Local Government*

Support Agencies: *All State and State-funded bodies*

5. All Dáil Constituencies that are primarily based on Fingal to be renamed, by 2004, with a Fingal County appropriate title e.g. Fingal North, Fingal South West, Fingal South.

Lead Agencies: *Fingal Co. Co., Dept. of Environment & Local Government*

6. To develop innovative and user-friendly County Identity information packs, by 2003, for students and community groups throughout Fingal, with supporting activities taking place in libraries, community, sports and arts centres throughout the county.

Lead Agency: *Fingal Co. Co.*

Support Agencies: *Fingal Community Forum, Fingal Business Forum, Fingal Sports Partnership, Primary and Secondary Schools*

7. To promote and enforce County Development Plan Guidelines, by 2003, regarding the use of appropriate local place names in Fingal by providing literature to planning applicants, and others, on sources of such place names.

Lead Agency: *Fingal Co. Co.*

Support Agencies: *Association of Fingallian Historical Societies, An Taisce, Dúchas - The Heritage Council*

8. To develop a county brand and logo, by 2005, that distils and promotes the unique character of the county, including mechanisms to create a strong visual identity for Fingal (to be carried on Ordnance Survey maps, Heritage Maps, County Fingal Calendar, Multi-Media packages etc.).

Lead Agency: *Fingal Tourism*

Support Agencies: *Fingal Co. Co, IDA Ireland, Forfás, Fingal County Enterprise Board*

9. To promote sport on a County Fingal basis within the county by 2005.

Lead Agencies: *Fingal Sports Partnership, Fingal Co. Co.*

Support Agencies: *National Governing Sports Bodies*

10. To conduct research, by 2004, on the establishment of a network of community radio services in Fingal.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

Support Agencies: Blanchardstown Area Partnership, Co-operation Fingal, Fingal County Enterprise Board, Fingal Community Forum

Goal 3.1.2 That the unique and distinct characteristics of County Fingal will be well recognised.

Actions & Agencies

1. To support, by 2004, unique County Fingal products that are Fingal-branded, such as “*Fingal Fine Foods*” and “*Fingal Country Markets*”.

Lead Agency: Rural Dublin LEADER Company

Support Agencies: Teagasc, Fingal County Enterprise Board

2. To develop, by 2004, a “*Fingal Seafood Festival*” capitalising on the presence within Fingal of four nationally known fishing ports/villages, and to promote Fingal as the “Sea Food Dining Option” for Dublin.

Lead Agency: Rural Dublin LEADER Company

Support Agencies: Bord Iascaigh Mhara, CERT, Fingal County Enterprise Board, Fingal Tourism

3. To develop, by 2004, “*Feasta Fhine Gall*”, a community celebration of the heritage of Fingal, building on those initiatives already taking place in the county.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

Support Agencies: Fingal Tourism, Fingal Community Forum, Draíocht Arts Centre, Primary and Secondary Schools, Scoil Shéamuis Ennis

4. To continue to support the development of significant leisure and cultural opportunities, such as Fingal Summer Schools, Traditional Music Master Classes and the Fingal International Festival of Photography.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

Support Agencies: The Séamus Ennis Centre, Draíocht Arts Centre, Fingal Community Forum, Fingal Business Forum, Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, Fingal Tourism

5. To develop, by 2005, the walking and cycling brand “*The Fingal Way*”, incorporating coastal, historical, rural, river/canal walks and cycle lanes throughout the county.

Lead Agency: Fingal Tourism

Support Agencies: Fingal Co. Co., Fingal Walking Association, Holiday Ireland, Rural Dublin LEADER Company, the SEMPA Project, Inland Waterways Association of Ireland, Waterways Ireland

6. To develop, by 2004, a Rural Landscape Preservation Programme for County Fingal focusing on indigenous elements such as hedgerows, village character, fishing ports, green spaces, commonage and access to the islands.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

Support Agencies: Dept. of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht & The Islands, IFA, Rural Dublin LEADER Company

7. To promote, by 2004, the theme of County Identity through the medium of art and culture, by commissioning private and public works of art.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

Support Agencies: Rural Dublin LEADER Company, Fingal Tourism, Draíocht Arts Centre, Fingal Community Forum, Fingal Business Forum

8. To develop a programme, by 2004, to promote and support a guild of Fingal artists and craftspersons.

Lead Agency: Fingal Tourism

Support Agencies: Rural Dublin LEADER Company, Fingal County Enterprise Board

9. To make representations, in 2002, for the introduction of a County Fingal stamp to commemorate the establishment of the three new administrative counties.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

Support Agencies: An Post, South Dublin Co. Co., Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown Co. Co.

Goal 3.1.3 That Fingal will be a county renowned for its standards of excellence.

Actions & Agencies

1. To promote the public image of Fingal as one of exceptional friendliness by initiating a programme, from 2003, of quality customer service.

Lead Agency: Fingal Tourism

Support Agencies: Fingal Co. Co., Fingal Business Forum, Fingal Community Forum

2. To promote, by 2003, a sub-brand around the new Fingal logo with concepts such as “*Fingal Fáilte*” and “*Friendliness is Free*”.

Lead Agency: Fingal Tourism

Support Agencies: Fingal Co. Co., Fingal Business Forum, Fingal Community Forum

3. To designate specific towns in Fingal, by 2003, as litter free zones and to promote the establishment of additional Tidy Towns Committees and other anti-litter initiatives within the county.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

Support Agencies: Fingal Business Forum, Fingal Community Forum

3.2 Land Use Planning

Vision

“Fingal will balance the demands of growth and sustainability”

From an early stage, Fingal Development Board identified land use planning as a critical issue facing the county and attempted to find solutions that would draw together sometimes conflicting perspectives. The underpinning concern was to find a balance between the healthy economic and social development of the available land mass, whilst acknowledging the legitimate demands for housing and industrial expansion. The Land Use Planning Strategy must be viewed in the context of the Fingal County Council Development Plan 1999-2004 and the Strategic Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area, which project that the population of Fingal will increase by almost 100,000 (57%) in the 15-year period to 2011.

The rural character of a substantial portion of North Fingal presents unique challenges in the development process, particularly the threats posed by industrial and housing expansion unchecked by social, environmental and community need. Accordingly, the value of developing indigenous industry (in the agricultural, horticultural and tourism sectors) is acknowledged. In this regard, it is important that agriculture/horticulture be actively provided for in the planning of the county.

A holistic approach was central to the drafting of the Strategy and the creation of vibrant and viable communities, rather than just housing developments, was seen as crucial. The early provision of essential and appropriate facilities, amenities and services in new housing areas is a pre-requisite necessitating innovative and integrated approaches. Underpinning this Strategy is a recognition that land use and transportation are inextricably linked and that one has direct implications for, and is dependent upon, the other.

Continued economic growth in Fingal will be essential to generate the employment opportunities needed to cater for the rapidly expanding population. Land Use policies must, therefore, be geared towards allowing maximum benefit to be drawn both from the presence of an International Airport in the County and Fingal’s strategic importance on the Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor. The challenge for the county in this regard is the overseeing of such growth in a manner that does not undermine those qualities and features that make Fingal distinctive.

Goal 3.2.1 That sustainable economic expansion will be achieved in Fingal while preserving the character of the rural part of the County.

Actions & Agencies

1. To continue to give consideration, in re-zonings of lands for development, to the environmental impact on rural landscapes and rural development.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

2. To review the County Development Plan, commencing in 2003, to introduce a new zoning category within agricultural areas for industry specifically linked to Agriculture.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

3. To review the County Development Plan, commencing in 2003, to re-examine control standards in relation to landscaping, design, advertisements and structures close to roadways.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

Goal 3.2.2 That a high quality housing environment will be secured and maintained.

Actions & Agencies

1. To conduct a Study of the Carrying Capacity of the County as part of the Review of the County Development Plan, commencing in 2003, in relation to water, drainage and transport, in terms of future development based on existing infrastructural plans.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

2. To review the County Development Plan, commencing in 2003, to ensure that future residential developments do not threaten the character of rural Fingal or its Green Belts.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

Support Agencies: IFA, An Taisce, Dúchas - The Heritage Council

3. To prepare Residential Design Guidelines for the county by 2002.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

4. To make representations, in 2002, for a change in legislation to provide that, where large areas of land are re-zoned for residential use, sites be provided free of charge to the Local Authority and then allocated for State-funded Primary and Secondary schools and Health Centres. In the event of the sites not being required for such purposes, to be used by the Local Authority for the provision of community facilities. Similarly, sites also to be provided for other State Agencies, where required, on a commercial basis.

Lead Agencies: Fingal Development Board, Fingal Co. Co.

Support Agency: Dept. of Environment & Local Government

5. To undertake research, by 2003, into what the people of Fingal want in terms of parks, open spaces, recreational and community facilities.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

6. To review the County Development Plan, commencing in 2003, to have particular regard to the findings of the proposed research and to the range of options and alternatives for the provision of open space, community and recreation facilities.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

7. To adopt a Development Contributions Scheme, within 12 months of commencement of Section 48 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, to allow for the levying on developers of a contribution sufficient to cover projected community needs.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

8. To review the County Development Plan, commencing in 2003, to require, where practicable, that community, recreational and open space facilities be clustered, with community amenities being located in local centres or combined with school facilities, as appropriate.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

9. To modify Deeds of Dedication of public open space, in 2002, so as to legally permit buildings and structures that serve the community (i.e. not-for-profit collective facilities, managed by Companies Limited by Guarantee) to be provided on the lands.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

10. The design and location of new educational facilities to ensure that School lands and halls are suitable also for general community use and, from 2002, lease arrangements with School operators to require their being made available for community use outside of school hours.

Lead Agency: Dept. of Education & Science

Support Agencies: Fingal Co. Co., School Management Committees, Fingal Community Forum

11. To put in place, from 2003, revised and appropriate management structures for community/recreation facilities provided in housing areas.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

Support Agency: Fingal Community Forum

12. To examine best practice, including insurance implications, so as to provide, by 2003, in the preparation of Local Area Plans for child-safe playground facilities, located in safe, observable areas within residential developments.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

13. To review the County Development Plan, commencing in 2003, to require developers of high-density housing schemes to submit Recreational Use Strategies with planning applications.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

14. To adopt a strategy, by 2004, for the phased improvement and upgrading of all Local Authority playing pitches, including field drainage and dressing rooms provision.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

15. To draft a position paper, by 2002, on the uses permitted within Amenity zones.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

16. Consideration to be given to office space being made available, from 2003, in the design of appropriate new public sector buildings, to other local State-funded service providers on a sharing basis, at agreed terms and where sufficient demand exists.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

Support Agencies: All State and State-funded bodies

17. To review the County Development Plan, commencing in 2003, to open for consideration those uses of domestic premises for home economic purposes that do not materially impact on the enjoyment of adjoining homes.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

18. The principle of access for pedestrians and cyclists to be a factor in considering planning applications for residential schemes from 2002.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

Support Agency: Dublin Transportation Office

19. To implement, by 2003, the *National Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Childcare Facilities*.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

Support Agencies: Irish Home Builders Association, Voluntary & Co-operative Housing Organisations

20. To review the County Development Plan, commencing in 2003, to require that, where feasible, an expansion potential of at least 20% of floor space is provided for in the design of houses.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

Support Agencies: Irish Home Builders Association, Dept. of Environment & Local Government

Goal 3.2.3 That high quality Green Belts and environmentally vulnerable areas in Fingal will be protected.

Actions & Agencies

1. To continue the policy of encouraging the locating of Class 1 open space in Green Belt areas.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

2. To review the County Development Plan, commencing in 2003, for the purpose of exploring options for the securing of additional protection for those strategic Green Belts that separate population centres.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

3. To explore the viability of urban forestry in specific areas of Green Belt by 2004.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

Support Agencies: Coillte, Teagasc, An Bord Glas, Rural Dublin LEADER Company, IFA

4. To review the County Development Plan, commencing in 2003, to prohibit one-off houses in the countryside, making allowances for the viability of working farms.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

5. To review the County Development Plan, commencing in 2003, to require that local people from the area receive priority in each new housing scheme built in Rural Villages/Settlement Clusters.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

6. To reword the B zoning classification, as part of the Review of the County Development Plan commencing in 2003, to emphasise that lands falling into that category are actively zoned for Agricultural, Horticultural and related uses.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

7. To review the County Development Plan, commencing in 2003, to state that an objective of the Plan is to support the maximum number of viable farms in Fingal and to ensure that Planning policies do not militate against the commercial viability of the Agriculture Industry.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

8. To review the County Development Plan, commencing in 2003, to state that a factor in considering planning applications will be whether a development may have an adverse impact on the viability of adjoining agricultural lands.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

9. In order to support the viability of local growers, to adopt a Programme, by 2003, for the designation, provision and operation of Country Markets in Fingal.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

Support Agencies: Teagasc, An Bord Glas, Rural Dublin LEADER Company, IFA, Irish Organic Farmers & Growers Association

Goal 3.2.4 That the strategic value to Fingal of Dublin Airport will be maximised.

Actions & Agencies

1. To continue to facilitate and protect the development potential of the Airport and environs.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

2. To review the County Development Plan, commencing in 2003, to introduce a specific zoning category for a Designated Airport Area.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

3. The provision of LUAS and METRO by 2007 and, ultimately, a heavy rail link through the Airport.

Lead Agencies: Railway Procurement Agency, Iarnród Éireann

Support Agencies: Dept. of Public Enterprise, Fingal Co. Co., Aer Rianta, Dublin Transportation Office

4. To continue to disallow development that would compromise safety, surface access to or the operational efficiency of the Airport.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

Goal 3.2.5 That sustainable transport will be facilitated.

Actions & Agencies

1. To review the County Development Plan, commencing in 2003, to ensure that provision is made for the necessary land needs of public transport providers for the upgrading of their services.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

Support Agencies: Iarnród Éireann, Aer Rianta, Bus Éireann, Bus Átha Cliath, Railway Procurement Agency, Dept. of Public Enterprise, Dublin Transportation Office

2. To review the County Development Plan, commencing in 2003, to incorporate the introduction of 3 categories of land use *A, B* and *C*; *A* to indicate office-type business, where staff need not travel by car, *C* for goods-based business dependent on private transportation and needing to be located close to the road network, and *B* a mixture of both.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

Support Agencies: Dublin Transportation Office, National Roads Authority, Dept. of Environment & Local Government, Fingal Business Forum, Bus Átha Cliath, Bus Éireann, Iarnród Éireann, Private & Community Transport Operator representative organisations

3. To review the County Development Plan, commencing in 2003, to allow for the provision of Park & Ride facilities at specified locations.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

Support Agencies: Iarnród Éireann, Bus Átha Cliath, Bus Éireann, Dublin Transportation Office

4. To review the County Development Plan, commencing in 2003, to allow for the planning of bus services and routes in new housing estates.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

Support Agencies: Iarnród Éireann, Bus Átha Cliath, Bus Éireann

Goal 3.2.6 That town centres in Fingal will be supported by sustainable retail strategies and adequate public transport.

Actions & Agencies

1. To review the County Development Plan, commencing in 2003, to modify the existing E zoning classification to permit distinctions to be made between employment generating uses, e.g. Offices, Warehousing, Logistics and to allow lands within easy access to the M50 to be used for Distribution Centres, Warehousing and Logistics.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

2. Negotiations to take place, commencing in 2002, between the Local Authority and transport providers to ensure the provision of transport services sufficient to meet the needs of residents of towns in Fingal.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

Support Agencies: Dublin Transportation Office, Bus Átha Cliath, Bus Éireann, Railway Procurement Agency, Community & Private Transport Operators representative organisations

Goal 3.2.7 That transparent, far-sighted and publicly supported land use policies are implemented.

Actions & Agencies

1. The implementation of a Regional Land Use Planning Strategy by 2006.

Lead Agencies: *Proposed Greater Dublin Land Use and Transportation Authority, Dublin Regional Authority, Mid-Eastern Regional Authority*

Support Agencies: *Fingal Co. Co., Dublin City Council, South Dublin Co. Co., Meath Co. Co., Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown Co. Co., Kildare Co. Co., Wicklow Co. Co.*

2. To explore methods, from 2002, for enhanced pro-active consultation with the general community on the preparation of Local Area Plans and the Review of the County Development Plan (including the Schedule of Listed Buildings).

Lead Agency: *Fingal Co. Co.*

Support Agencies: *Fingal Community Forum, Irish Planning Institute, Royal Town Planning Institute*

3. To develop and provide, by 2003, electronic public access to Planning data.

Lead Agency: *Fingal Co. Co.*

Support Agencies: *Ordnance Survey Ireland, Local Government Computer Services Board, Information Society Commission*

4. To publish, by 2003, planning and development guidelines, in simple language, to include an outline of roles and responsibilities in the area of development control.

Lead Agency: *Fingal Co. Co.*

3.3 Transportation

Vision

“Fingal will have a modern, integrated and accessible transportation system”

Fingal has experienced rapid population and economic growth which, in turn, has placed huge demands upon its transportation system. Supporting the provision of a comprehensive, accessible and integrated public transport system is the main aim of this Strategy. This public transport system should link the various population centres of Fingal with each other, with the Airport and with the City. Public Transport offers a sustainable way to accommodate the ever-increasing number of journeys taken by residents, workers and visitors between their homes, schools, work places, retail, leisure and tourist destinations. Increased connectivity, reliability, capacity and sustainability are vital and the ultimate measure of success will be ease of access in a safe and cost effective manner.

Public Transport has to be frequent and reliable. Pricing is important, but of secondary concern. It is envisaged that one central body, the proposed *Greater Dublin Land Use and Transportation Authority* is expected to have responsibility for the co-ordination and delivery of agreed programmes, including funding of support infrastructure (such as Park and Ride sites).

Peak time journeys can be shortened and congestion somewhat reduced through appropriate land use planning, facilitating shorter commuting distances, rather than solely through improvements to transportation infrastructure and services.

Integrated ticketing and modern weather-proofed interchange points (with appropriate car and bicycle facilities) are essential. Interchange points must be understood as separate but complementary to the concept of Park and Ride. Direct transport links between settled areas within the county need to be provided and, although the population of Fingal is predominantly urban, the Strategy recognises that rural transportation problems affect a sector of the population in the north and west of the county.

Goal 3.3.1 That the combined daily use of walking and cycling is encouraged as alternative modes of transport.

Actions & Agencies

1. To prepare a timetable, by 2003, for the implementation of cycle routes set out in the current County Development Plan.

Lead Agency: *Fingal Co. Co.*

Support Agency: *Dublin Transportation Office*

2. Ongoing studies to influence the locations of cycle routes from 2003.

Lead Agency: *Fingal Co. Co.*

Support Agency: *Dublin Transportation Office*

3. To negotiate with Dublin City Council, by 2003, as to the provision of safe cycle routes connecting Fingal with the City Centre.

Lead Agency: *Fingal Co. Co.*

Support Agencies: *Dublin City Council, Dublin Transportation Office*

4. To devise a programme, by 2003, to encourage businesses to provide bicycle locking, changing and shower facilities for employees.

Lead Agency: *Fingal Co. Co.*

Support Agencies: *Dublin Transportation Office, Fingal Business Forum*

5. To include in Local Area Plans, by 2003, for cycle routes in new Housing Estates.

Lead Agency: *Fingal Co. Co.*

Support Agency: *Dublin Transportation Office*

6. Traffic cells to be built, by 2003, to allow ease of passage for bicycles and pedestrians.

Lead Agency: *Fingal Co. Co.*

7. To introduce a programme, by 2003, to stimulate greater public awareness of safe cycle use and the rules of the road.

Lead Agency: *An Garda Síochána*

Support Agency: *Fingal Co. Co.*

8. Pedestrian routes to be built, by 2004, where appropriate, to connect to modes of public transport, and to include the provision of security arrangements such as cameras, lighting, telephones and appropriate policing.

Lead Agency: *Fingal Co. Co.*

Support Agency: *An Garda Síochána*

9. To discourage gated communities in all future housing designs.

Lead Agency: *Fingal Co. Co.*

10. To construct, by 2003, appropriate pedestrian facilities to traverse major roads.

Lead Agency: *Fingal Co. Co.*

Goal 3.3.2 That the road network in Fingal is improved, providing safe movement for all users and reducing both average journey times and road fatalities.

Actions & Agencies

- 1.** A contra-flow to be piloted, and then evaluated, on one major route by 2003.
Lead Agency: An Garda Síochána
Support Agencies: Fingal Co. Co., Dublin Transportation Office
- 2.** To complete, within specified times, all Road infrastructure projects set out in the National Development Plan. Road upgrade projects, other than these, to be reviewed and listed in the next County Development Plan.
Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.
Support Agency: National Roads Authority
- 3.** To encourage, by 2003, businesses with more than 50 employees to operate varied starting and finishing times (07.00 - 10.00 and 15.00 - 18.00).
Lead Agency: Fingal Business Forum
Support Agencies: Enterprise Ireland, IDA Ireland
- 4.** To encourage medium and large employers, by 2003, to purchase or hire mini and midi-buses for the purpose of transporting employees.
Lead Agency: Fingal Business Forum
Support Agencies: Enterprise Ireland, IDA Ireland
- 5.** To review the County Development Plan, commencing in 2003, to ensure that new designs of commercial areas allow for delivery space for trucks and vans.
Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.
Support Agency: An Garda Síochána
- 6.** To make representations, by 2003, for Dublin Port to be opened on a 24-hour basis to cater for Heavy Goods Vehicles.
Lead Agency: Fingal Development Board
Support Agencies: National Roads Authority, Dublin Port Company
- 7.** To introduce bye-laws, by 2004, to prohibit the parking of commercial vehicles and trailers, in excess of 3 tonnes (unladen) weight, in residential areas.
Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.
Support Agency: An Garda Síochána
- 8.** To review the County Development Plan, commencing in 2003, to identify locations for the secure evening parking of Heavy Goods Vehicles.
Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.
- 9.** To place appropriate traffic calming measures at approaches to the 10 worst accident black spots, by 2003, maintain a rolling record of the 10 worst locations and set priorities for road and safety improvements.
Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.
Support Agency: An Garda Síochána

10. To erect, by 2003, overhead road signage gantries at interchanges of Motorway and National Routes.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.
Support Agency: National Roads Authority

11. To make representations, by 2003, for a significant increase in the number of operational speed cameras on Motorways and National Routes.

Lead Agency: Fingal Development Board
Support Agencies: National Roads Authority, Fingal Co. Co., An Garda Síochána

12. To make representations, by 2003, for appropriate weighbridges to be acquired in order to regulate the movement of Heavy Goods Vehicles.

Lead Agency: Fingal Development Board
Support Agencies: National Roads Authority, Fingal Co. Co., An Garda Síochána

13. To make representations, by 2003, for the provision of statistics on blood toxicity levels relating to road accidents.

Lead Agency: Fingal Development Board
Support Agencies: National Roads Authority, Dept. of Justice, Equality & Law Reform, An Garda Síochána, Fingal Co. Co.

14. To undertake a complete review, from 2003, of the existing speed limits in built-up areas with a new speed limit of 20 m.p.h. being applied to roads near schools.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.
Support Agency: An Garda Síochána

15. To make representations, by 2003, for the provision of a safe Vehicle Inspection Zone, other than the hard shoulder, connected to Motorways in Fingal, and for the location of elevated observation areas to further monitor traffic movement.

Lead Agency: Fingal Development Board
Support Agencies: National Roads Authority, Fingal Co. Co., An Garda Síochána

Goal 3.3.3. That public transport in Fingal is 100% accessible to people with disabilities.

Actions & Agencies

1. To ensure that LUAS, METRO, DART and Heavy Rail interchange points are fully accessible by ramp or lift, contain designated toilet facilities and provide visual and aural timetables by 2005.

Lead Agencies: Railway Procurement Agency, Iarnród Éireann, Bus Átha Cliath, Bus Éireann

2. To provide access ramps or lifts and accessible toilets at all rail stations in Fingal by 2004.

Lead Agencies: Railway Procurement Agency, Iarnród Éireann

3. To make representations, by 2003, that all new bus fleets, excluding purpose-built tourist coaches, be fully accessible for people with disabilities and that licences not be renewed for non-conforming vehicles.

Lead Agency: Fingal Development Board
Support Agencies: Bus Éireann, Bus Átha Cliath, Private & Community Transport Operator representative organisations, Dept. of Public Enterprise

4. To source funding and construct on a pilot basis, from 2003, bus boarder kerb infrastructure for a number of locations on new bus routes.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

Support Agencies: Bus Átha Cliath, National Disability Authority

5. To make representations, by 2003, that all new vehicles granted taxi plates for Fingal be accessible by people with disabilities.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

Support Agency: Dublin City Council

Goal 3.3.4. That transportation services will link to one another at Public Transport interchange points.

Actions & Agencies

1. To design and locate, as appropriate, from 2005, serviced public transport interchange points, accessible by all transport operators (to include facilities such as ticket/information desks, telephones, toilets, timetables, CCTV and seating areas).

Lead Agency: Railway Procurement Agency

2. To review the County Development Plan, commencing in 2003, to ensure the zoning of lands around proposed interchanges as “mixed use high density”.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

3. To implement, by 2005, an integrated ticketing system for bus and rail.

Lead Agency: Railway Procurement Agency

Support Agencies: Dept. of Public Enterprise, Bus Átha Cliath, Iarnród Éireann, Bus Éireann, Private & Community Transport Operator representative organisations

4. To initiate discussions with a view to including taxis and hackneys within the integrated ticketing system by 2006.

Lead Agency: Railway Procurement Agency

Support Agencies: Fingal Co. Co., Irish Taxi Drivers Federation, Dept. of Environment & Local Government, Hackney Drivers Assoc., National Taxi Drivers Union, SIPTU

5. To make early representations to the proposed Greater Dublin Land Use & Transportation Authority to oversee, commencing in 2004, the co-ordination of timetables so that an average waiting time of 10 minutes between services becomes the norm.

Lead Agency: Dublin Transportation Office

Support Agencies: Bus Átha Cliath, Iarnród Éireann, Bus Éireann, LUAS, METRO, Private & Community Transport Operator representative organisations

6. Taxi ranks of appropriate size to be built into the design of all major public transport interchanges, commencing from 2004.

Lead Agency: Railway Procurement Agency

Support Agencies: Fingal Co. Co., Irish Taxi Drivers Federation, Dept. of Environment & Local Government, Hackney Drivers Assoc., National Taxi Drivers Union, SIPTU

Goal 3.3.5 That a vastly improved rail service is developed in Fingal.

Actions & Agencies

1. The Ballymun line of LUAS to be completed by 2006 and Phase 1 of METRO to Swords by 2007.

Lead Agency: Railway Procurement Agency

Support Agencies: Fingal Co. Co., Dublin Transportation Office, Dept. of Public Enterprise

2. To review the County Development Plan, commencing in 2003, to include the reservation of lands for two additional tracks from Howth junction to Balbriggan, in order to allow for the development of future rail capacity and to initiate a heavy rail link through the Airport from one of the available alignments by 2005.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

Support Agency: Iarnród Éireann

3. To press for the electrification of the Maynooth line and the acquisition of rolling stock to run DART services, with an additional spur to Navan serving the Clonsilla/Mulhuddart catchment area to be completed by 2006.

Lead Agency: Fingal Development Board

Support Agencies: Dublin Transportation Office, Fingal Co. Co., Iarnród Éireann

4. To provide increased car parking facilities at stations in the north of the county by 2004.

Lead Agencies: Iarnród Éireann, Fingal Co. Co.

Support Agency: Dublin Transportation Office

5. Park & Ride facilities to be located on arterial commuter routes in Fingal by 2004.

Lead Agency: Proposed Greater Dublin Land Use and Transportation Authority

Supporting Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

6. To carry out all necessary platform extensions and signal improvements throughout the Fingal rail network by 2004.

Lead Agency: Iarnród Éireann

Support Agencies: Dublin Transportation Office, Fingal Co. Co.

7. To conduct a study, by 2003, as to the placement of smaller Park & Ride facilities at outlying railway stations.

Lead Agencies: Fingal Co. Co., Iarnród Éireann

Support Agency: Dublin Transportation Office

8. To commission an independent review, by 2003, to scrutinise the rail stations in Fingal under the headings of safety, disability access, lighting, toilets, shelter and placement of ramps, road access, parking, interchange status and lift-assisted over-bridges.

Lead Agency: Dublin Transportation Office

Support Agencies: Iarnród Éireann, Fingal Co. Co.

Goal 3.3.6. That a comprehensive bus service is developed throughout the county.

Actions & Agencies

1. Park and Ride facilities to be located on arterial commuter routes in Fingal, by 2004, together with the speedy implementation of Quality Bus Networks and Bus Lanes.

Lead Agency: Proposed Greater Dublin Land Use and Transportation Authority

Supporting Agencies: Fingal Co. Co., Dublin Transportation Office

2. The efforts of the seven Local Authorities in the Dublin and Mid-East Regions to be co-ordinated in the carrying out of an evaluation and costing, by 2004, of the placement of 12 or more Park & Ride facilities in a number of other locations.

Lead Agency: Proposed Greater Dublin Land Use and Transportation Authority

Supporting Agencies: Fingal Co. Co., South Dublin Co. Co., Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown, Co. Co., Dublin City Council, Meath Co. Co., Kildare Co. Co., Wicklow Co. Co., Dublin Transportation Office

3. Using Fingal population projections, to make representations, in 2002, for the purpose of securing additional subvention for all transport providers in servicing new and existing population centres in Fingal.

Lead Agency: Fingal Development Board

Supporting Agencies: Bus Átha Cliath, Bus Éireann, Iarnród Éireann, Private & Community Transport Operator representative organisations

4. The findings of the Rural Transport Audit to be examined, by 2003, and possible routes identified to serve the rural areas of Fingal.

Lead Agencies: Bus Éireann, Bus Átha Cliath

Support Agencies: Dept. of Public Enterprise, Private & Community Transport Operator representative organisations

5. The Social Economy Programme to be utilised, by 2003, to facilitate a series of flexible minibus, midibus, MPV and taxi services, run by community groups and other operator entity types, in the north of the County.

Lead Agency: Co-operation Fingal

Support Agencies: FÁS, Private & Community Transport Operator representative organisations

3.4 Economic Development

Vision

“Fingal will have a dynamic labour force and thriving enterprise culture”

Fingal has witnessed the same remarkable economic growth and development experienced by the national economy in recent years. The challenges inherent in the pace of growth need to be met by economic planners and service providers in a way that takes a long-term strategic perspective and strives to ensure the continued economic dynamism of the county. The principle of sustainability is paramount in drawing up this Strategy.

The correct blend and mix of a diverse range of dynamic indigenous and non-indigenous business activities is to be encouraged, with an emphasis on stable activities that are not vulnerable to market changes or slumps within individual sectors. The desirable economic environment in Fingal is one where businesses will prosper and individuals and communities share in this prosperity directly and indirectly, thereby producing an enhanced quality of life throughout the county.

The economic growth rate of the last 10 years has seen an increasing emphasis on developing services to business start-ups. In a rapidly changing economic environment, however, the emphasis must equally focus on sustaining Fingal’s existing businesses. The alleviation of the specific deficits in labour and skills, telecommunications, energy and transportation infrastructure and Childcare facilities will greatly assist the overall task.

The presence of Dublin Airport in Fingal is an enormous economic asset to the county. Its value is best measured by the fact that it incorporates the highest concentration of high value-added employment and business activity in the entire country. As the economic hub of the county, the Airport must, therefore, be sustained and capitalised upon in the best interest of Fingal.

In addition to the Airport, Fingal benefits from various logistical and infrastructural advantages, particularly in relation to the Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor, and it is crucial that all economic policies allow for these advantages to be exploited to the maximum.

Goal 3.4.1 That commerce and industry in Fingal are strengthened by a suitably skilled workforce.

Actions & Agencies

1. To develop a programme to encourage enterprises to engage in the training of existing staff so that the training spend of Fingal enterprises rises to 2% of turnover by 2006 and 3% by 2011.

Lead Agency: FÁS

Support Agencies: Fingal Business Forum, Enterprise Ireland, Fingal County Enterprise Board, Institute of Technology Blanchardstown, Dublin City University, Rural Dublin LEADER Company

2. Assistance to be given to SME's, from 2002, who wish to formulate Training Plans.

Lead Agencies: FÁS, Enterprise Ireland

Support Agencies: Fingal Business Forum, County Fingal Enterprise Board, Dublin City University, Institute of Technology Blanchardstown

3. The establishment of a Fingal Skills Observatory, by 2003, to carry out Fingal-based annual labour market research and planning, to include a review of labour supply and demand, and to convene an Employment Forum.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

Support Agencies: FÁS, VEC, Blanchardstown Area Partnership, Co-operation Fingal, CERT, Institute of Technology Blanchardstown, Dublin City University, IDA Ireland, Enterprise Ireland, Fingal County Enterprise Board, Fingal Business Forum, Teagasc, Rural Dublin LEADER Company

4. To set as a priority the creation of full-time childcare places, with Training and Higher Education providers and employers being encouraged to support the costs of Childcare for trainees.

Lead Agency: Fingal County Childcare Committee

Support Agencies: FÁS, Dublin City University, Institute of Technology Blanchardstown, Fingal County Enterprise Board, VEC, Fingal Business Forum, Northern Area Health Board

5. Data to be circulated, by 2003, concerning communities known to suffer inequalities, with a view to the routine monitoring, recording and reporting on breaches of the 1998 Employment Equality Act, for the purpose of setting targets for Fingal.

Lead Agency: Fingal Development Board

Support Agencies: IDA Ireland, Enterprise Ireland, Equality Authority

6. To formulate an Awareness Programme, supported by research, for Schools, parents and employers, by 2003, to highlight the problems associated with excessive working hours for young people of school-going age.

Lead Agencies: Fingal Business Forum, VEC

Support Agencies: NorDubCo, North Dublin Learning Network, Fingal Community Forum

7. To undertake a review, by 2004, of Third Level retention rates, particularly in the Sciences, Languages and ICT subjects.

Lead Agencies: Institute of Technology Blanchardstown, Dublin City University

8. To make representations, in 2002, to the *Expert Group on Future Skills Needs* for the carrying out of a study, either nationally, regionally or in Fingal, on proven methods of staff retention.

Lead Agency: Fingal Development Board

Support Agencies: Enterprise Ireland, IDA Ireland, FÁS, Fingal Business Forum

9. To undertake, in 2002, a Fingal-based review of the learning infrastructure in schools for ICT, Science and Languages.

Lead Agency: VEC

Support Agencies: Dept. of Education & Science, Secondary Schools

10. To bring about the linking of scientific occupational groups with career teachers, by 2003, in order to promote Science and ICT-based careers.

Lead Agencies: VEC, Dept. of Education & Science

Support Agency: Institution of Engineers in Ireland

Goal 3.4.2 That Fingal's economic sustainability is ensured through the development of knowledge-based economic activities.

Actions & Agencies

1. To explore opportunities, by 2004, for the location of additional enterprise spaces near Third Level institutions.

Lead Agencies: Dublin City University, Institute of Technology Blanchardstown

Support Agencies: Fingal County Enterprise Board, Fingal Co. Co., NorDubCo

2. The identification of sites for the construction of more high technology unit spaces, by 2004, to meet demand in the North of the County.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

3. To provide tailored FIT (Fast-track to Information Technology) type programmes, by 2003, throughout the county, where a need is identified.

Lead Agency: VEC

Support Agencies: Blanchardstown Area Partnership, Rural Dublin LEADER Company, FÁS, Fingal County Enterprise Board, Co-operation Fingal

4. Indigenous high technology and high potential start-up businesses to be given priority for financial support in Fingal from 2002.

Lead Agency: Enterprise Ireland

Support Agency: Fingal County Enterprise Board

5. In encouraging foreign direct investment to Fingal, priority to be given, from 2002, to attracting knowledge-based economic activity.

Lead Agency: IDA Ireland

Support Agencies: Fingal Business Forum, Fingal Co. Co., Institute of Technology Blanchardstown, Dublin City University, NorDubCo

Goal 3.4.3 That the opportunities presented by the Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor are maximised.

Actions & Agencies

1. The County Development Plan to continue to focus on assisting the economic growth of the major towns of Fingal.

Lead Agency: *Fingal Co. Co.*

2. To review the County Development Plan, commencing in 2003, having regard to the recommendations contained in the Report of the South Fingal Study.

Lead Agency: *Fingal Co. Co.*

3. To review the County Development Plan, commencing in 2003, to ensure that the North-South road network, and that connecting with Dublin Airport, is sufficient to meet projected demand.

Lead Agency: *Fingal Co. Co.*

4. To review the County Development Plan, commencing in 2003, to ensure that any special needs of existing Third Level Institutions, including the identification of sites for the expansion of off-Campus buildings and annexes in or in close proximity to Fingal, are fully taken into account.

Lead Agency: *Fingal Co. Co.*

Support Agencies: *Dublin City University, Institute of Technology Blanchardstown*

5. To develop additional links and networks, by 2004, between Fingal towns and towns in Northern Ireland.

Lead Agency: *Fingal Business Forum*

Support Agencies: *Fingal Co. Co., Fingal Tourism, Balbriggan Town Council*

6. To undertake co-operative action, conduct research and develop enterprise clusters, by 2004, between Third Level institutions in and bordering Fingal and other Third Level institutions located on the Dublin-Belfast corridor.

Lead Agencies: *Institute of Technology Blanchardstown, Dublin City University*

Support Agency: *NorDubCo*

Goal 3.4.4 That Fingal's overall share of Dublin's tourist revenue increases.

Actions & Agencies

1. Fingal Tourism to have a promotional presence at Dublin Airport from 2002.

Lead Agency: *Fingal Tourism*

Support Agency: *Aer Rianta*

2. New tourist literature to place emphasis on year-round niche tourist activities in Fingal from 2002.

Lead Agency: *Fingal Tourism*

Support Agency: *Rural Dublin LEADER Company*

3. Grant assistance to be given, from 2002, for the production of brochures for tourist facilities in the rural areas of the county.

Lead Agency: Rural Dublin LEADER Company

4. To provide improved road signage, by 2004, particularly in relation to tourist amenities.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

Support Agencies: Fingal Tourism, Dublin Tourism

5. Additional assistance, financial and otherwise, to be made available from 2003 to Fingal Tourism from existing funders, focusing on specific target marketing projects.

Lead Agencies: Fingal Co. Co., Fingal Business Forum, Dublin Tourism

6. Financial assistance to be devoted to the development of tourist businesses in rural Fingal, from 2002, with an emphasis on the upgrading of self-catering accommodation and the restoration of traditional farm buildings for tourist accommodation.

Lead Agency: Rural Dublin LEADER Company

Support Agency: Fingal Tourism

7. To promote the Back-to-Work Enterprise Allowance, from 2003, as a support mechanism for Tourist accommodation start-ups.

Lead Agency: Fingal Tourism

Support Agencies: Fingal County Enterprise Board, Dublin Tourism, Dept. of Social, Community & Family Affairs, Blanchardstown Area Partnership, Co-operation Fingal

Goal 3.4.5 That Dublin Airport is further developed to meet the demands of projected growth.

Actions & Agencies

1. To commence the provision, by 2005, of a heavy rail link through Dublin Airport.

Lead Agency: Iarnród Éireann

Support Agencies: Dublin Transportation Office, Aer Rianta

2. To establish a Dublin Airport Economic Stakeholders Forum, in 2002, to consider the economic development of the Airport.

Lead Agency: Aer Rianta

Support Agencies: Fingal Co. Co., Fingal Business Forum, Airport businesses

3. To establish a Dublin Airport Skills Traineeship, by 2003, to address skills deficits at the Airport.

Lead Agency: FÁS

Support Agencies: Aer Rianta, Fingal Co. Co., Fingal Business Forum, Airport businesses

4. To develop employment, training and transportation links between Fingal towns and the Airport by 2003, in order to support employment opportunities for the long term unemployed.

Lead Agency: Aer Rianta

Support Agencies: Fingal Business Forum, Blanchardstown Area Partnership, Co-operation Fingal

Goal 3.4.6 That the development needs of Fingal's food industry are supported.

Actions & Agencies

1. To establish networks, from 2002, to consolidate ties and linkages between producers, distributors and retailers within the Horticulture sector.

Lead Agency: Rural Dublin LEADER Company

Support Agencies: An Bord Glas, Teagasc, Enterprise Ireland

2. To provide small "food grade" space within existing vacant enterprise units from 2002.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

Support Agencies: Teagasc, Rural Dublin LEADER Company

3. To make available training on food safety, by 2005, to appropriate staff of food enterprises.

Lead Agency: Teagasc

Support Agencies: IFA, Rural Dublin LEADER Company

4. All Agencies to review potential gaps in the way funding to the sector is allocated and to agree a written operational agreement to overcome such gaps by 2003.

Lead Agency: Teagasc

Support Agencies: Rural Dublin LEADER Company, Fingal County Enterprise Board, Enterprise Ireland, IFA, Dept. of Agriculture, Food & Rural Development, An Bord Glas

5. To organise a branding scheme for Fingal food, by 2003, incorporating the auditing of quality, the devising of a logo and the encouraging of Fingal restaurants to use local produce.

Lead Agency: Rural Dublin LEADER Company

Support Agencies: An Bord Glas, Teagasc, Food Growers Association, Irish Organic Farmers & Growers Association, Fingal Tourism, Fingal Business Forum, An Bord Bia

6. All appropriate Agencies to promote crop diversification.

Lead Agency: Teagasc

Support Agencies: An Bord Glas, Rural Dublin LEADER Company, Fingal County Enterprise Board

7. The carrying out of a study, by 2003, of the viability of new opportunities for crop diversification.

Lead Agency: Teagasc

Support Agencies: An Bord Glas, Rural Dublin LEADER Company, Fingal County Enterprise Board

8. Responses to be formulated, by 2003, to global market changes affecting the sustainability of current Agricultural activities, in order to support rural life in the future and identify viable alternatives to full-time farming in Fingal.

Lead Agency: Teagasc

Support Agencies: An Bord Glas, Rural Dublin LEADER Company, IFA, Fingal Tourism

Goal 3.4.7 That further co-ordination and integration optimises the delivery of supports to enterprise.

Actions & Agencies

1. To devise a standardised information package on supports to enterprise for all frontline staff, from 2003, including the establishment of an inter-Agency website and the production of appropriate brochures.

Lead Agencies: *FÁS, Fingal County Enterprise Board*

Support Agencies: *Enterprise Ireland, IDA Ireland, Rural Dublin LEADER Company, Citizen Information Centres, Fingal Business Forum, Co-operation Fingal, Blanchardstown Area Partnership*

2. Appropriate Agencies to ensure that, from 2003, enterprises in receipt of financial assistance have access to Management Development Programmes, with operating agreements continuously monitored to ensure adherence.

Lead Agency: *Fingal County Enterprise Board*

Support Agencies: *FÁS, Enterprise Ireland, Rural Dublin LEADER Company, Fingal Business Forum, Blanchardstown Area Partnership*

3. To investigate the viability of a local Capital Investment Fund by 2003.

Lead Agency: *Fingal County Enterprise Board*

Support Agencies: *Rural Dublin LEADER Company, Fingal Business Forum*

4. To conduct or commission an evaluation, by 2003, to quantify available enterprise space.

Lead Agency: *Fingal Co. Co.*

Support Agencies: *Enterprise Ireland, Fingal County Enterprise Board*

5. The design of workspace units to incorporate flexibility to allow for future variable uses.

Lead Agency: *Fingal Co. Co.*

Support Agencies: *Enterprise Ireland, Fingal County Enterprise Board*

Goal 3.4.8 That Fingal has a sophisticated and affordable telecommunications service.

Actions & Agencies

1. The identification of those parts of the county without Broadband coverage in order to allow for the provision of the necessary infrastructure by 2005.

Lead Agency: *Fingal Co. Co.*

Support Agencies: *Fingal Business Forum, IDA Ireland, Enterprise Ireland, Fingal County Enterprise Board, Dept. of Public Enterprise*

2. To make representations to the Telecoms Regulator, by 2003, for further de-regulation of the Telecommunications sector in order to effect price reductions.

Lead Agency: *Fingal Business Forum*

3. To make representations to Telecommunications providers, by 2003, to reduce their connection times to prospective customers to a maximum of 1 week.

Lead Agency: *Fingal Business Forum*

Goal 3.4.9 That industrial expansion in Fingal is supported by the development of existing and sustainable energy infrastructures.

Actions & Agencies

1. Energy providers to conduct a review of existing networks, by 2003, with a view to upgrading capacity to serve all areas zoned for commercial, residential and industrial development.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

Support Agencies: ESB, Bord Gáis, Irish Wind Energy Association

2. Energy providers to be furnished, from 2003, with an annual report of actual as well as planned development in the county.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

Support Agencies: ESB, Bord Gáis, all other Private Energy Providers, Fingal Business Forum

3. The appointment of an Alternative Energy Project Officer by 2003.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

Support Agencies: Dept. of the Marine & Natural Resources, Irish Energy Centre, Teagasc, IFA, Environmental Protection Agency, IDA Ireland

Goal 3.4.10 That Fingal has speedy and reliable postal services.

Actions & Agencies

1. To identify new locations, by 2003, for the delivery of those services associated with An Post.

Lead Agency: An Post

Support Agency: Fingal Co. Co

2. To recruit, by 2003, a sufficient number of postal delivery staff to meet expanding demand in the County.

Lead Agency: An Post

Support Agencies: Fingal Co. Co, FÁS, Local Employment Service

3. To further roll out the “early bird” service (where businesses can collect their own post) to cover all of Fingal by 2003.

Lead Agency: An Post

4. The existing complaints and enquiry systems to be improved, by 2003, with a specific service for businesses.

Lead Agency: An Post

Goal 3.4.11 That an entrepreneurial culture thrives in Fingal.

Actions & Agencies

1. To undertake annual Enterprise education programmes with Secondary Senior Cycle pupils in Fingal from 2003.

Lead Agency: Fingal County Enterprise Board

Support Agencies: VEC, FÁS, Fingal Business Forum, Dept. of Education & Science

2. To promote supports to start-up businesses, from 2003, leading to an annual increase in the numbers of micro-enterprise start-ups.

Lead Agency: Fingal County Enterprise Board

Support Agencies: Fingal Business Forum, Enterprise Ireland, FÁS

3. Careers teachers in schools to emphasise a focus on micro-enterprise as an alternative to other career routes, from 2003.

Lead Agencies: Fingal County Enterprise Board, Secondary Schools, Dept. of Education & Science

Support Agencies: Fingal Business Forum, Enterprise Ireland, FÁS

3.5 Housing

Vision

“Fingal will have socially cohesive and sustainable communities”

Given the scale of housing need that escalated in the late 1990’s, it was important that issues of supply and demand did not overshadow the work of the Fingal Development Board. This Strategy, therefore, deals with a range of challenges that, of themselves, are as important as the need to simply provide houses at speed and at cost-effective unit prices.

This is not to suggest that very real concerns about supply and demand can be ignored but, rather, that they must be viewed in a way that balances a range of social and community concerns. The Board sought to learn from the lessons of past housing policies, where design and location often acted to further social division, thereby creating a wide range of social and economic problems. Housing must be addressed, therefore, not solely as an issue of shelter but as a primary part of people’s lives.

The core principles of future housing policy in Fingal include the following: The acknowledgement of the role of housing provision in the creation and support of communities. The understanding and acceptance that, while housing stock in one particular location may be economically and technically viable, the social and physical segregation of single economic groups (for example Local Authority housing tenants) is both socially unacceptable and economically more costly in the long term. Sustainability, in terms of design, build and occupancy, must be a core issue for future housing development in Fingal.

The needs of young people who are attempting to establish a foothold in the housing market must be met, not only by creative and imaginative financial support measures but also through the provision of an adequate mix of house types, with flexibility for future expansion. It is acknowledged that the recently published Fingal County Council Housing Strategy 2001-2005 addresses the housing needs of the county for that period. The Housing portion of this County Strategy should, therefore, be read in conjunction with and as supplemental to that document.

It is essential that the Actions outlined are given immediate effect, given the scale of likely housing development in Fingal over the next decade.

Goal 3.5.1 That all housing development in County Fingal will balance the economic, social and cultural needs of the community.

Actions & Agencies

1. To continue to promote the development of housing which is appropriate to need, household and income size and which avoids the establishment of single social class estates.

Lead Agency: *Fingal Co. Co.*

Support Agencies: *Irish Home Builders Association, Voluntary & Co-operative Housing Organisations*

2. To review the County Development Plan, commencing in 2003, to ensure that lands zoned for new residential development are properly served by essential services such as health, education, sporting, community and cultural facilities.

Lead Agency: *Fingal Co. Co.*

3. To develop and implement Estate Management strategies, by 2003, with clear roles for Estate Management groups and relevant Local Authority cross-departmental staff, that respond to the needs of both existing estates and new schemes and include structured links to Statutory, Voluntary and Local Development Agencies.

Lead Agency: *Fingal Co. Co.*

Support Agencies: *Fingal Community Forum, An Garda Síochána*

Goal 3.5.2 That housing policies in County Fingal will continue to address issues of demand and supply.

Actions & Agencies

1. To undertake research on supply and demand, by 2003, as well as on issues of rights and security of tenants in the private accommodation sector in Fingal.

Lead Agency: *Fingal Co. Co.*

Support Agencies: *Threshold, Dept. of Environment & Local Government*

2. To optimise the efficiency, through co-ordination and management, with which casual vacancies are filled and added to Local Authority housing stock.

Lead Agency: *Fingal Co. Co.*

Support Agency: *Fingal Community Forum*

3. To continue to maintain a comprehensive and inclusive housing database and to undertake ongoing trend analysis on housing needs, by 2003, in order to develop responses and services accordingly.

Lead Agency: *Fingal Co. Co.*

Support Agencies: *Voluntary & Co-operative Housing Organisations*

Goal 3.5.3 That housing and planning policies in County Fingal will promote social cohesion, integration and inclusion.

Actions & Agencies

1. As part of the implementation of the Fingal County Council Housing Strategy, to actively plan and nurture a diverse social mix in housing, from 2002, thereby avoiding the ghettoisation or stereotyping of marginalised groups.

Lead Agency: *Fingal Co. Co.*

Support Agencies: *Voluntary & Co-operative Housing Organisations, Northern Area Health Board*

2. To establish housing mechanisms and related policies and programmes, from 2002, that prevent the occurrence of racism and discrimination against ethnic minorities or other vulnerable groups such as the elderly and people with disabilities.

Lead Agency: *Fingal Co. Co.*

Support Agencies: *Primary and Secondary Schools, Dept. of Education & Science, Fingal Community Forum, Northern Area Health Board, An Garda Síochána*

3. The continued implementation of the Traveller Accommodation Programme within the designated timescales.

Lead Agency: *Fingal Co. Co.*

Support Agencies: *Irish Traveller Movement, Pavee Point, Fingal Community Forum, Blanchardstown Area Partnership, Co-operation Fingal*

4. To develop inter-Agency guidelines, by 2003, for dealing with members of households who are evicted, in order to ensure access to temporary accommodation and other essential services.

Lead Agencies: *Fingal Co. Co., Northern Area Health Board*

5. To reduce the occurrence of anti-social behaviour, as defined in the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1997, by addressing the design and layout of existing and new estates through the implementation, from 2002, of Residential Design Guidelines.

Lead Agency: *Fingal Co. Co.*

6. The appointment of sufficient Garda resources by 2004, including Community Gardaí, in line with national norms.

Lead Agencies: *An Garda Síochána, Dept. of Justice, Equality & Law Reform*

7. To make representations, in 2002, for the enactment of legislation suited to dealing expeditiously with problems of anti-social activity in housing areas.

Lead Agency: *Fingal Development Board*

Support Agencies: *Dept. of Justice, Equality & Law Reform, An Garda Síochána, Fingal Co. Co., Estate Management Committees, Fingal Community Forum*

8. To introduce and enforce, from 2002, Bye-laws to deal with the consumption of alcohol in public places.

Lead Agencies: *Fingal Co. Co., An Garda Síochána*

Support Agencies: *Estate Management Committees, Fingal Community Forum*

9. To introduce inter-Agency youth development teams, by 2003, to co-ordinate development activities with agreed targets and monitoring procedures.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

Support Agencies: National Youth Council, Blanchardstown Local Drugs Task Force, Regional Drugs Task Force, Fingal Community Forum, Northern Area Health Board

Goal 3.5.4 That housing development in County Fingal will include adequate provision for Social and Affordable Housing.

Actions & Agencies

1. To monitor the continuous implementation of the Fingal County Council Housing Strategy to ensure the required provision for Social and Affordable Housing.

Lead Agency: Fingal Development Board

Support Agencies: Fingal Co. Co., Voluntary & Co-operative Housing Organisations, Dept. of Environment & Local Government

2. To make representations for the development of pilot programmes in the private sector, from 2002, which use diverse financial approaches such as co-operative equity sharing.

Lead Agency: Fingal Development Board

Support Agencies: Dept. of Environment & Local Government, Irish Mortgage and Savings Association, Voluntary & Co-operative Housing Organisations

3. To establish an integrated “One Stop Shop” for housing advice, by 2003, to provide information on the range of available inter-Agency supports.

Lead Agencies: Fingal Co. Co., Northern Area Health Board

Support Agencies: An Garda Síochána, The Homeless Agency, Dept. of Social, Community & Family Affairs

4. To develop a training programme, by 2003, for all front line staff on risk assessment to enable the early identification of potentially homeless people.

Lead Agencies: Fingal Co. Co., Northern Area Health Board

Support Agencies: An Garda Síochána, The Homeless Agency, Dept. of Social, Community & Family Affairs

Goal 3.5.5 That sustainability will be the core principal of housing development in County Fingal.

Actions & Agencies

1. To introduce innovative Guidelines, by 2003, to improve housing design encouraging higher density, mixed schemes, reduced maintenance, good access and the reduction of noise pollution.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

Support Agencies: Dept. of Environment & Local Government, Voluntary & Co-operative Housing Organisations, Fingal Community Forum

2. To promote increased use of alternative modes of transport by ensuring that the planning for Public Transport needs is included in the design of new housing estates by 2003.

Lead Agencies: Fingal Co. Co., Dublin Transport Office

Support Agencies: Bus Átha Cliath, Dublin Cycling Campaign

3. To review the County Development Plan, commencing in 2003, to encourage mixed use zoning, with the emphasis on the provision for educational, social and recreational facilities as well as employment possibilities within or adjacent to new schemes.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

Support Agencies: Northern Area Health Board, Irish Home Builders Association, Dept. of Education & Science

3.6 Health and Social Services

Vision

“Fingal will have world-class Health and Social Services”

A number of themes were constant throughout the development of the Health and Social Services section of the County Strategy. The first is that there must be sufficient advance planning to ensure that the population expansion of Fingal is matched by an adequate provision of Health and Social Services. The Strategy identifies some gaps in the provision of these services and recommends accordingly.

A second theme concerns the nature of service provision. Many providers are not aware of services that may be provided by other Agencies or organisations. It is deemed essential, therefore, that Agencies create mechanisms for information sharing and create inter-Agency awareness, co-operation and integration.

The third theme identified is that of “Community”. It is specifically felt that there is a need for more community-based staff, particularly in the area of health. In addition, community participation needs to be brought more to the fore in the planning of service delivery in the County. In terms of Primary Health Care, individuals and communities must be able to avail of first contact health services as close as possible to where they live and work.

Finally, this Strategy was developed in the knowledge that a National Health Strategy was imminent. The National Health Strategy has now been published and it is intended that this County Development Strategy will ground those developments that are taking place at national level, in particular Health Impact Assessment, the Cardiovascular Strategy, the National Cancer Strategy, Tobacco Control legislation and the National Health Promotion Strategy.

Goal 3.6.1 That the health, development and social well being of children and families in Fingal will be maximised.

Actions & Agencies

1. The establishment of a multi-Agency committee, by 2003, to focus on ensuring strong links between all service providers (health, education, voluntary, statutory and community) at local level, particularly relating to ensuring that the necessary supports and tracking systems are in place for young people at risk.

Lead Agency: *Northern Area Health Board*

Support Agencies: *Dept. of Education & Science, FÁS, VEC, Fingal Community Forum, An Garda Síochána, Blanchardstown Area Partnership, Co-operation Fingal*

2. The proposed multi-Agency committee to consider, by 2003, the implementation of structured referral and co-ordination systems between health and social service providers with a case management emphasis, ensuring the involvement of informal support mechanisms.

Lead Agency: *Northern Area Health Board*

Support Agencies: *Dept. of Education & Science, FÁS, VEC, Fingal Community Forum, An Garda Síochána, Blanchardstown Area Partnership, Co-operation Fingal*

3. To provide a Social Welfare local office in Swords, by 2004, in the context of integrated State Agency provision, and full, Social Welfare services in Balbriggan by 2005.

Lead Agency: *Dept. of Social, Community & Family Affairs*

4. All front-line staff to undergo training, by 2005, to enable them to deal with clients of varying cultural, ethnic and educational attainment diversity and to facilitate inter-Agency collaboration.

Lead Agency: *Northern Area Health Board*

Support Agencies: *Dept. of Social, Community & Family Affairs, An Garda Síochána, FÁS, VEC, Fingal Co. Co., Dept. of Education & Science, Probation & Welfare Service, Fingal Community Forum*

5. To conduct research, by 2003, on the number of women in Fingal affected by domestic violence and, consequently, appropriate refuges to be provided in accordance with the recommendations of the research findings.

Lead Agency: *Northern Area Health Board*

Support Agencies: *Dept. of Social, Community & Family Affairs, Blanchardstown Area Partnership, Co-operation Fingal, National Network of Women's Refuges and Support Services, Fingal Community Forum*

6. To make representations, in 2002, for the establishment of a National Child Protection Unit, to be responsible for co-ordinating the screening of all employees and volunteers working with vulnerable client groups.

Lead Agency: *Fingal Development Board*

Support Agencies: *Dept. of Health & Children, An Garda Síochána, Dept. of Justice, Equality & Law Reform*

Goal 3.6.2 That primary health services and community supports for older people are strengthened.

Actions & Agencies

1. To conduct a study of service provision for the elderly in Fingal, by 2004, based on 2002 Census data, in order to identify need for the provision of necessary facilities such as Respite Centres, Alzheimer Units and Nursing Homes.

Lead Agency: Northern Area Health Board

Support Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

2. To facilitate the creation of strategic alliances between all Agencies and organisations providing services for older persons, by 2004, in order to bring about the development of cohesive packages of care.

Lead Agency: Northern Area Health Board

Support Agencies: Dept. of Social, Community & Family Affairs, Blanchardstown Area Partnership, Co-operation Fingal, National Network of Women's Refuges and Support Services, Fingal Community Forum

3. To provide qualitative and accessible information, by 2003, on a range of issues for Carers and to conduct research in order to establish the level of relief services needed in Fingal.

Lead Agency: Northern Area Health Board

Support Agency: Fingal Community Forum

Goal 3.6.3 That all services for people with disabilities in Fingal will be integrated and co-ordinated.

Actions & Agencies

1. Equality Officers to ensure that, by 2003, disability awareness training is carried out for all employees and that services are proofed against the social model of disability.

Lead Agencies: Northern Area Health Board, Dept. of Social, Community & Family Affairs, An Garda Síochána, Fingal Co. Co., FÁS, VEC

2. The production of a comprehensive Directory, by 2005, on disability services in Fingal.

Lead Agency: Northern Area Health Board

Support Agencies: Dept. of Social, Community & Family Affairs, Fingal Co. Co., FÁS, VEC, Fingal Community Forum, An Garda Síochána

3. To make representations for the establishment of a school's programme, by 2004, with the aim of improving attitudes towards disability in society.

Lead Agency: Fingal Development Board

Support Agencies: Dept. of Health & Children, VEC, Fingal Community Forum, Special Olympics Ireland, Dept. of Education & Science

4. To establish courses, by 2004, for the provision of training and support for community and voluntary groups, aimed at increasing the level of participation of persons with disabilities in those groups.

Lead Agency: Northern Area Health Board

Support Agencies: FÁS, VEC, National Training & Development Institute, Fingal Community Forum

5. The provision of additional “job coaches”, by 2004, to enable disabled persons to avail of employment opportunities.

Lead Agencies: FÁS, Northern Area Health Board
Support Agency: Fingal Community Forum

Goal 3.6.4 That drug addiction services provided by Statutory, Voluntary and Non-Government Organisations are integrated.

Actions & Agencies

1. The implementation of the recommendations of the National Drugs Strategy.

Lead Agency: Northern Area Health Board
Support Agencies: Blanchardstown Local Drugs Task Force, Regional Drugs Task Force, Dept. of Social, Community & Family Affairs, An Garda Síochána, Probation & Welfare Service, FÁS

2. To make representations for the full implementation of the School's Drugs Policy, by 2004, including the provision of teacher training programmes by the Community Drugs Teams.

Lead Agency: Fingal Development Board
Support Agencies: Northern Area Health Board, Fingal Community Forum, VEC, Primary and Secondary Schools, Blanchardstown Local Drugs Task Force, Regional Drugs Task Force, Dept. of Education & Science

3. To provide appropriate and comprehensive treatment services in Fingal, in line with the National Drugs Strategy.

Lead Agency: Northern Area Health Board
Support Agencies: Blanchardstown Local Drugs Task Force, Regional Drugs Task Force, Co-operation Fingal

4. To further develop evidence-based and needs-based responses to the drugs problem in Fingal by ensuring that ongoing review, monitoring, evaluation and research are key components of service delivery and to make the research findings available to the Fingal Development Board.

Lead Agency: Northern Area Health Board
Support Agencies: Blanchardstown Local Drugs Task Force, Regional Drugs Task Force

5. To establish a pilot project, by 2003, that involves the 14 to 18 age group in the planning and delivery of drug addiction services.

Lead Agency: Northern Area Health Board
Support Agencies: Fingal Community Forum, Blanchardstown Local Drugs Task Force, Regional Drugs Task Force

6. The enhancement of support programmes, by 2003, to focus on the needs of the families of drug users.

Lead Agency: Northern Area Health Board
Support Agency: Fingal Community Forum

7. To provide structures and supports, by 2004, to allow for the prescribing and dispensing of Benzodiazepines and the provision of complementary therapies for those in recovery.

Lead Agency: Northern Area Health Board
Support Agencies: Irish College of General Practitioners, Irish Pharmaceutical Society, Fingal Community Forum, Dept. of Health & Children

Goal 3.6.5 That mental health services in Fingal are expanded to meet current and projected need.

Actions & Agencies

1. To develop, by 2006, a range of specialist Psychiatric services, including the provision of rehabilitation services and a further range of step-down and community facilities in Fingal.

Lead Agency: *Northern Area Health Board*

2. To bring about, by 2003, an improvement in the linkages between General Practitioners and the statutory mental health services.

Lead Agency: *Northern Area Health Board*

Support Agency: *Irish Medical Organisation*

3. Increased resources to be provided, by 2006, for the engagement of additional Mental Health teams based in the community.

Lead Agencies: *Northern Area Health Board, Eastern Regional Health Authority*

Goal 3.6.6 That Primary Health Care services in Fingal are expanded to meet current and projected need.

Actions & Agencies

1. To establish a multi-sectoral *Forum for Health*, by 2003, to consider and address the broad range of factors that affect health levels in Fingal.

Lead Agency: *Northern Area Health Board*

Support Agency: *Fingal Development Board*

2. To carry out an analysis of orthodontic needs in Fingal, by 2003, with a view to appropriate orthodontic service provision within the county.

Lead Agency: *Northern Area Health Board*

3. To employ Traveller Community Health Workers by 2004, recruited from within the Travelling Community, for the provision of culturally appropriate healthcare.

Lead Agency: *Northern Area Health Board*

Support Agencies: *Irish Traveller Movement, Pavee Point, Co-operation Fingal*

4. To assist in the introduction of Health Impact Assessment, as proposed by the National Health Strategy, as part of the public policy development for all Agencies involved in service delivery in Fingal.

Lead Agency: *Fingal Development Board*

5. To develop a Strategic Action Plan for Fingal, by 2003, with an integrated approach to Primary Care delivery involving G.P.'s, Public Health Nurses and Community Health professionals.

Lead Agency: *Northern Area Health Board*

6. To carry out an analysis, by 2003, of the current provision of ambulance services in the county relative to population density and distances to the nearest Accident & Emergency Unit.

Lead Agency: *Northern Area Health Board*

7. To undertake research, by 2004, to produce a Deprivation Profile of the county, arising from the 2002 Census data.

Lead Agencies: Northern Area Health Board, Eastern Regional Health Authority
Support Agencies: Dept. of Social, Community & Family Affairs, Blanchardstown Area Partnership, Co-operation Fingal, Fingal Co. Co., FÁS

8. The proposed *Forum for Health* to explore ways, by 2003, of encouraging an increased level of blood donation by residents of Fingal.

Lead Agency: Northern Area Health Board
Support Agency: Fingal Development Board

9. To establish a specialised service, by 2003, for the delivering of vaccinations to G.P.'s.

Lead Agency: Northern Area Health Board

10. In noting the Primary Health Care element of the National Health Strategy, and taking into account the number of Primary Health Care units needed for a county with a rapidly expanding population, to liaise with the appropriate Agencies with a view to Fingal being a pathfinder area for the said Strategy.

Lead Agency: Fingal Development Board
Support Agencies: Dept. of Health & Children, Northern Area Health Board, Eastern Regional Health Authority

11. To develop links with career guidance teachers, by 2003, in order to further promote careers in medicine, nursing and community health.

Lead Agency: Northern Area Health Board
Support Agencies: Dept. of Education & Science, Secondary Schools

3.7 Lifelong Learning

Vision

“Fingal will foster and promote a culture of Lifelong Learning”

The concept of Lifelong Learning, being from “cradle to grave”, underpins the Strategy. Lifelong Learning must also be recognized as taking place in both a formal and informal context, and that learning which takes places outside an accredited system should be acknowledged within every individual’s life.

This holistic approach would allow all learners in Fingal to move between the “Formal Learning Services” (Primary, Secondary and Third Level education) to “Developmental Learning Services” (Art, Culture, Health and Education programmes) and “Support Intervention Services” (Career Guidance, Language Tuition and School Retention Programmes) at appropriate stages in their lives.

Access and participation were seen as key elements for consideration in the drawing up of a County Fingal Lifelong Learning Strategy as was the idea of “Ladders of Learning”, or accreditation links, so that the experience gained in one sector could be easily transferred to another. In this way, life experience and previous training can have a transferable currency. There is core acceptance that all education in the information age must be person-centred and needs-based, with the learner at the centre of policy development and service provision.

The Goals and Actions outlined with regard to Lifelong Learning have the core objective of removing barriers to, and fostering a culture of, education in Fingal. More specifically, the changing nature of today’s technological/knowledge-based society is seen as a challenge, particularly the “Digital Divide” which is opening between those who have the opportunities to adapt to technology and its opportunities and those who do not.

Goal 3.7.1 That a culture of Lifelong Learning is fostered in Fingal.

Actions & Agencies

1. To promote a culture of lifelong learning throughout the community through the establishment of the *Fingal Learning Forum*, by 2003, with the support of all major service providers.

Lead Agency: Fingal Development Board

Support Agencies: Fingal County Enterprise Board, Fingal Business Forum, FÁS, VEC, Blanchardstown Area Partnership, Co-operation Fingal, Institute of Technology Blanchardstown, Dublin City University, Rural Dublin LEADER Company, Teagasc, Fingal Co. Co., North Dublin Learning Network

2. The proposed *Fingal Learning Forum* to develop targeted work programmes by 2004.

Lead Agency: Fingal Development Board

Support Agencies: Fingal County Enterprise Board, Fingal Business Forum, FÁS, VEC

3. To develop mechanisms, by 2004, to involve marginalised people in determining lifelong learning policies, including the planning of guidelines for increasing the use of community building stock for multi-purpose activity.

Lead Agency: Fingal Learning Forum

Support Agencies: Fingal Co. Co., Blanchardstown Area Partnership, Co-Operation Fingal, VEC, Primary and Secondary Schools, Fingal Community Forum

4. To fast-track the processing of planning applications for crèches by 2003.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

5. To develop 4 Adult Learning Centres in Fingal by 2005, while, simultaneously, extending Adult Career and Educational Guidance Services.

Lead Agency: VEC

Support Agencies: FÁS, Dublin City University, Institute of Technology Blanchardstown, Fingal Co. Co.

6. To extend Adult Literacy and Numeracy programmes in Fingal, by 2004, to all early school leavers who wish to improve their competency, and to expand services to cater for twice the present number of clients.

Lead Agency: VEC

Support Agencies: FÁS, National Adult Literacy Agency, Dept. of Education & Science

7. To develop a Fingal *Ladders to Learning* system of accreditation, by 2004, where Service Providers in Fingal adopt national criteria and are proactive in recognising each other's courses.

Lead Agencies: Proposed Local Adult Learning Boards, Fingal Learning Forum

Support Agencies: Further Education & Training Awards Council, Higher Education & Training Awards Council, FÁS, VEC, CERT

8. To provide more local recognised courses, involving the optimisation of facilities, by 2004, based on the proposed system of accreditation and incorporating greater use of outreach and distance learning.

Lead Agencies: Proposed Local Adult Learning Boards, Fingal Learning Forum

Support Agencies: Further Education & Training Awards Council, Higher Education & Training Awards Council, FÁS, VEC, CERT

9. The implementation of a School Building Programme, by 2005, that caters for the current and projected needs of Fingal.

Lead Agencies: Dept. of Education & Science, Fingal Co. Co.

Support Agencies: School Management Committees, VEC

10. The Dept. of Education & Science's database of school aged children, which tracks student progression, to be available to local School Inspectors from 2002.

Lead Agency: Dept. of Education & Science

Support Agencies: FÁS, VEC

11. Expanded Youth Training Programmes, catering for early school leavers, to be delivered throughout the county by 2003.

Lead Agency: VEC

Support Agency: FÁS

Goal 3.7.2 That greater numbers of people in Fingal participate in lifelong learning.

Actions & Agencies

1. To seek the expansion, by 2003, of the National Psychological Assessment Service to countywide provision at both Primary and post-Primary level, securing 4 full-time Educational Psychologists specifically for Fingal to work closely with school staff and outside service providers.

Lead Agency: Fingal Development Board

Support Agencies: Dept. of Education & Science, VEC, Northern Area Health Board

2. To take the necessary steps to secure higher retention rates so that, by 2006, 90% of students remain in school until completion of the Leaving Certificate.

Lead Agency: Dept. of Education & Science

Support Agency: VEC

3. An increased participation in the Arts to be achieved at school and community level so that, by 2005, all schools in Fingal will have participated in a Community Arts programme.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

Support Agencies: Draíocht Arts Centre, Scoil Shéamuis Ennis

4. To provide accessible services in the formal education sector to encourage progression to include, by 2005, mentoring programmes, accessible foundation modules for mature students and accessible introduction courses for transition from Secondary to Third level.

Lead Agencies: Institute of Technology Blanchardstown, Dublin City University

Support Agency: VEC

5. To develop and implement a socially inclusive Fingal Sports Strategy, by 2003, and ensure that all planning and building requirements are addressed to provide the required physical infrastructure.

Lead Agencies: Fingal Sports Partnership, Fingal Co. Co.

6. To develop a Fingal-specific Youth Support and Information Service by 2003.

Lead Agency: VEC

Support Agencies: National Youth Federation, Co-operation Fingal, Member organisations of The National Youth Council

Goal 3.7.3 That people in Fingal will have an increased appreciation and awareness of the importance of Information and Communications Technology (ICT).

Actions & Agencies

- 1.** To develop a Fingal-specific Lifelong Learning Digital Policy by 2005.
Lead Agency: Fingal Learning Forum
Support Agencies: Fingal Co. Co., Dublin City University, Institute of Technology Blanchardstown, FÁS, Teagasc, VEC
- 2.** To increase the provision of accredited ICT training modules by 2006.
Lead Agency: VEC
Support Agencies: FÁS, Institute of Technology Blanchardstown, Dublin City University
- 3.** The achievement of an increase in the number of ICT modules on programmes such as Youthreach, VTOS, by 2006, resulting in 80% of participants taking accredited modules and a 25% increase in the number of community ICT teaching hours.
Lead Agency: VEC
Support Agency: FÁS

Goal 3.7.4 That Fingal residents will participate in the social, cultural and economic life of the county as active citizens furthering the goals of participative democracy.

Actions & Agencies

- 1.** To encourage all Secondary Schools in Fingal to introduce Civic, Social and Political Education (CSPE) as a Transition Year subject and to lobby, from 2003, for the introduction of CSPE as a Senior Cycle subject.
Lead Agency: Fingal Learning Forum
Support Agencies: Fingal Development Board, Fingal Community Forum, Secondary Schools, Dept. of Education & Science
- 2.** To undertake research, by 2003, on voter turnout in Fingal and to develop an education programme to significantly increase voter participation over the life of the Fingal County Strategy.
Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.
Support Agencies: Fingal Development Board, Fingal Learning Forum, all Local Elected Representatives, Blanchardstown Area Partnership, Co-operation Fingal
- 3.** To ensure that policies impacting on services provided by volunteers take special account of the nature of voluntary contribution and, specifically, pay particular regard to the scheduling of meetings at appropriate times and the removal of any other barriers that prevent individuals in Fingal from volunteering.
Lead Agency: Fingal Development Board
Support Agencies: Fingal Co. Co., Fingal Volunteer Centres, all relevant State and State-funded bodies

4. To continue to resource the Fingal Volunteer Centres, thus enabling them to continue their advocacy work in the Education and Training Sector, thereby recognising and supporting those volunteers in the community who provide lifelong learning services.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

Support Agencies: Blanchardstown Area Partnership, Co-operation Fingal, Comhairle, VEC, Fingal Volunteer Centres

5. To develop an educational programme on litter prevention for Fingal schools, from 2003, with the aim of improving performances in Tidy Towns and Tidy Districts events.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

Support Agencies: Fingal Community Forum, Tidy Town Committees, Fingal Schools, Dept. of Education & Science

6. The promotion, from 2002, of the *Meitheal* concept by supporting initiatives such as “*Reach out – Be a Better Neighbour*” with a specific focus on older citizens of the county, in order to ensure that the national average mortality rate among older people in winter (currently the highest in Europe) is reduced in the Fingal area through greater community awareness and monitoring.

Lead Agency: Fingal Community Forum

Support Agencies: Fingal Co. Co., the “Reach Out” Campaign, Estate Management Committees

3.8 Environmental Protection

Vision

“Fingal’s natural environment will flourish through regulation and education”

County Fingal is fortunate to have a large amount of natural open space, a scenic coastline and a very high standard of parklands. It is crucial that these key amenities are protected and that every effort is made to ensure the preservation and conservation of the natural environment of the county.

Fingal is also unique in terms of the volume of intensive residential, commercial and recreational development undertaken in recent years. Socio-economic progress, changing lifestyles and massive population growth in Fingal are, as in other areas of the country, leading to the transformation and transportation of increasing quantities of energy and materials. This is altering the balance between environment and society.

The need for comprehensive environmental education is, therefore, a central theme that emerges in this Section. Whilst the regulatory bodies strive for best practice, each and every person in Fingal must play his and her role in protecting the environment. Waste minimisation, for example, through recycling and re-use, must become part of everyday lives.

Regulatory controls, also, must be stringent in order to allow the natural environment of Fingal to flourish without hindrance. Proper waste management, excellent water and air quality and coastal protection standards are high priorities for Fingal and this Strategy proposes best practice and the highest standards in attaining these goals.

Goal 3.8.1 That the Fingal Coast will be protected and valued.

Actions & Agencies

1. The appointment of an officer, by 2003, to act as a central co-ordinator of a voluntary agreement for the coastal areas of Fingal.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

Support Agencies: Dept. of Marine & Natural Resources, Dublin Port Company, Coastwatch, Eastern Regional Fisheries Board

2. To develop a coastal walkway between Skerries and Rush, by 2005, as part of an overall coastal walkway from the north of Balbriggan to Sutton.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

Support Agency: The SEMPA Project

3. The maintenance of the harbours of Fingal for commercial fishing and amenity use, when all necessary repairs have been undertaken.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

Support Agencies: Dublin Port Company, Coastwatch, Eastern Regional Fisheries Board, Balbriggan Town Council, Dept. of Marine & Natural Resources

4. To carry out an Eco-audit, by 2003, including a coastal air survey of areas popular with visitors, and to develop Visitor Management Schemes to deal with any problems of pollution/erosion highlighted in the audit.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

Support Agencies: Coastwatch, Birdwatch Ireland

5. To review the County Development Plan, commencing in 2003, to include a new zoning objective to facilitate the protection, where appropriate, of all waterfront and saltmarsh areas.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

6. Blue Flag status to be attained by five beaches in Fingal by 2011.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

Goal 3.8.2 That an integrated approach to waste management is adopted.

Actions & Agencies

1. The implementation of the Dublin Regional Waste Management Plan.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

Support Agencies: Dublin City Council, South Dublin Co. Co., Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown Co. Co.

2. The selection of a new landfill site, by 2004, following consultation with local communities.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

3. The carrying out of a full analysis, by 2004, of the waste stream produced in Fingal.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

4. To arrange collection points for domestic hazardous waste by 2003.
Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.
5. To continue to develop public education campaigns to promote re-cycling practices.
Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.
6. To develop a waste minimisation pilot scheme, by 2003, involving, where suitable, Social Economy initiatives.
Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.
Support Agencies: Fingal Community Forum, FÁS
7. To encourage retailers to discontinue the practice of issuing plastic bags to customers by 2004.
Lead Agency: Fingal Business Forum

Goal 3.8.3 That both the quality and quantity of water in Fingal will be maintained and improved.

Actions & Agencies

1. To maintain the present high standard in the quality of drinking water in Fingal.
Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.
Support Agency: Northern Area Health Board
2. To improve the standard of water in the rivers, streams and ground-water in line with the E.U. Framework Directive.
Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.
3. The implementation of a residential and industrial pilot scheme, by 2003, for water conservation.
Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.
Support Agencies: Fingal Community Forum, Fingal Business Forum
4. The development, by 2003, of a Water Conservation Awareness Campaign.
Lead Agencies: Fingal Co. Co., Dept. of Environment & Local Government
5. All proposed water and waste water projects, with particular regard to future economic and population needs, to be delivered within designated timescales.
Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

Goal 3.8.4 That the countryside and wildlife of Fingal will be protected.

Actions & Agencies

1. To make representations, in 2002, for the appointment of a full-time Wildlife Officer for Fingal.
Lead Agency: Fingal Development Board.
Support Agency: Dúchas – The Heritage Council

2. To make representations for the full implementation and designation of Natural Heritage Areas in Fingal by 2003.

Lead Agency: Fingal Development Board

Support Agency: Dept. of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht & The Islands

3. To make representations for the inclusion of comprehensive Hedgerow Management Guidelines, by 2003, in the *Code of Good Farming Practice*³.

Lead Agency: Fingal Development Board

Support Agencies: Dept. of Agriculture, Food & Rural Development, Teagasc, IFA

4. To review the County Development Plan, commencing in 2003, to include areas proposed for Special Areas of Conservation, as put forward by the *NGO Special Areas of Conservation Shadow List*⁴.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

Support Agency: Dúchas – The Heritage Council

5. To make representations, in 2002, for the full implementation of the E.U. Birds and Habitats Directive.

Lead Agency: Fingal Development Board

Support Agencies: Dúchas – The Heritage Council, Birdwatch Ireland

6. To make representations, in 2002, for an early improvement of the amenity facilities along the Royal Canal.

Lead Agency: Fingal Development Board

Support Agencies: Waterways Ireland, Inland Waterways Association of Ireland, Fingal Co. Co.

Goal 3.8.5 That the high air quality that already exists in Fingal will be maintained and improved.

Actions & Agencies

1. The implementation, from 2002, of the Air Quality Management Plan for the Dublin Region.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

Support Agency: Environmental Protection Agency

Goal 3.8.6 That acceptable noise standards are respected and adhered to by the population and industries of Fingal.

Actions & Agencies

1. To prepare Noise Maps, in accordance with the forthcoming EU Noise Directive, by 2005, for major roads, railways and the Airport, and Action Plans to be implemented by 2005 and 2010.

Lead Agency: Fingal Co. Co.

Support Agencies: Aer Rianta, Fingal Business Forum, Environmental Protection Agency, Irish Aviation Authority

³ Dept. of Agriculture, Food & Rural Development

⁴ Dwyer, R.B. (2000) "Protecting Nature in Ireland"

Goal 3.8.7 That both built and natural environments of Fingal are litter free.

Actions & Agencies

- 1.** To employ additional Litter Wardens by 2003.

Lead Agency: *Fingal Co. Co.*

Support Agency: *An Garda Síochána*

- 2.** To identify the 10 worst litter black spots in Fingal, by 2003, and implement an Action Plan to detect and prosecute offenders particularly in these areas, and to publish a list of numbers of litter offenders, by area.

Lead Agency: *Fingal Co. Co.*

Support Agencies: *An Garda Síochána, Local Newspapers*

- 3.** The collection of litter remaining on river banks following floods.

Lead Agency: *Fingal Co. Co.*

Goal 3.8.8 That quality of life for people in Fingal is achieved through sustainable development.

Actions & Agencies

- 1.** The establishment, in 2002, of a Local Agenda 21 Working Group.

Lead Agency: *Fingal Development Board*

Support Agencies: *Fingal Co. Co., the SEMPA Project, all other relevant Agencies*

- 2.** The establishment, by 2003, of an Educational programme for schools, which encourages "prevention, minimisation, reuse and recycling" as the proper hierarchy of waste management.

Lead Agency: *Fingal Co. Co.*

Support Agencies: *Dept. of Environment & Local Government, VEC*

- 3.** To carry out a review, by 2004, of the Major Incident Plan for Fingal from an environmental protection perspective.

Lead Agency: *Fingal Co. Co.*

Support Agencies: *Environment Protection Agency, Radiological Institute of Ireland, Health and Safety Authority, Dept. of Marine & Natural Resources, An Garda Síochána, Northern Area Health Board, Eastern Regional Health Authority, Dublin City Council*

Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation

If this Strategy is to move from aspiration to delivery, there must be an agreed programme to ensure its implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Below is an outline of the process which will be developed as the next three year phase of work commences.

Board

The role of the Board is to oversee the timely, qualitative and quantitative achievement of the Goals and Actions outlined in the Strategy. To achieve this, the Board will meet at least four times per annum to consider progress and set new targets in the light of changing situations.

Monitoring Committees

Prior to their being considered by the Board, Action Reports will be examined by Monitoring Committees, which will be established to reflect the main themes in the Strategy. These Committees will deal with standardised reports on Actions by each Lead Agency. The Action Reports, together with the assessment of the Monitoring Committee, will form the basis of a twice yearly consideration by the Board on each Action.

Additional Monitoring Committees will be established on matters that impact on the Board. Such Committees will initially be established with the following remits: Social Inclusion/Equality (see also Appendix 3), Sustainability/Local Agenda 21 and Cultural Development.

Evaluation

An Evaluation Committee will be established to advise the Board, from time to time, on the commissioning of independent evaluation of the work of the Board and its sub-structures, including the development of Performance Indicators to measure achievement.

Feedback and Promotion

Subsequent to the publication of the Strategy, the work of the Board will be promoted on a countywide basis. A review of its work under this Chapter will be published annually and the Board will organise such seminars/workshops and carry out research as it deems appropriate, in order to deepen public understanding of its work. All Board documents for wider readership will be produced in a user-friendly style.

Staffing

The staff will assist the Board in its overseeing role. In particular, they will undertake research, support the Monitoring Committees and Advisory Groups and develop a Fingal-specific database on all aspects of the work of the Board and of infrastructure and service delivery in the county. As appropriate, they will represent the Board on external committees and their work will be supplemented, whenever necessary, through specific consulting contracts.

Resourcing

The Board will address the issue of resources and support for all members in the context of their ability to participate both at Board and sub-structure level. The Board will agree a means of support to ensure their continued participation and engagement in the process.

Regional Dimension

Many of the Strategies and Actions have implications beyond the county boundaries. The Board will work closely with neighbouring Boards and the Dublin and Mid-East Regional Authorities in achieving the stated targets.

Next Draft

This Strategy is an evolving document that must respond to the ever-changing circumstances within and without the County. Based on the experience of preparing this March 2002 version, and the outcomes of the implementation, monitoring and evaluation work outlined here, and in order to respond to inevitably changing circumstances, it is likely that an updated version will be drafted during 2004 for publication in 2005.

