



Chief Executive's Management Report

Fingal County Council Meeting

Monday, April 9, 2018

Item No. 26

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S MANAGEMENT REPORT – APRIL 2018

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Tourism Development

Food Tourism

Work has commenced on three food tourism projects funded by the LEADER Programme. The projects are currently in the research, consultation and graphic design phase.

Accommodation

An accommodation seminar is planned for April 2018 in partnership with Fáilte Ireland, LEADER and DIT. The seminar will seek to promote greater provision of accommodation across the county.

Local Tourism Groups

Work is ongoing with local tourism groups across the county in relation to marketing and events.

Royal Canal Greenway/Blueway

Fingal County Council is working with Waterways Ireland in developing the Royal Canal as a walkway in Ireland. This can assist tourism performance in Dublin 15.



Events

St. Patrick's Day Festival Events

Despite the cold weather, there was a good attendance at all parades across Fingal with approximately 250 groups taking part in Swords, Balbriggan, Blanchardstown, Skerries, Lusk and Rush.

Dublin Bay Prawn Festival

The 2018 festival took place over the St. Patrick's Festival Weekend from March 17-19. Due to adverse weather conditions, the festival was severely curtailed, with attendance down on previous years as a result.

Flavours of Fingal 2018

An application for an event licence has been lodged with the Council's Planning Department for the Flavours of Fingal County Show which takes place at Newbridge House & Farm from June 23-24.

All plans relating to the event are on display to the public until May 1. Submissions or observations may be made to Fingal County Council until April 9.



Heritage Properties Review Update

Capital Projects Update

- Malahide Casino – Tender has been evaluated and the contract has been awarded. Contractor works are expected to begin mid-April
- Newbridge House and Farm - works to new visitor centre are complete and the restaurant is now open to the public
- Howth Court House - Plans for refurbishment of Howth Court House are currently on public display until May 3.

Heritage Properties Strategy Update

- The procurement process for an operator contract for Malahide and Newbridge is complete and it is anticipated that the operator will be in place before end of May 2018.
- The Bremeore Business Development Strategy is at draft findings stage.
- A presentation on phase two of the feasibility study on Shackleton Mill is being made to the members of the Economic Development and Enterprise SPC on April 10.

Local Enterprise Development

The Local Enterprise Office continues to roll-out a substantial programme of work. Some highlights from March include:



Local Enterprise Week

Local Enterprise Week took place from March 5-9 and was the county's biggest ever Local Enterprise Week with over 1,000 people attending more than twenty events across Fingal.

Fingal Enterprise Awards

The finals of the Fingal Enterprise Awards took place on March 8 in the Atrium of County Hall,

Swords. WeBringg Ltd. from Castleknock were crowned the overall winners with a €5,000 prize out of the total prize fund of €15,000. The runner-up prize was split between two companies; Dropchef Ltd. of Sutton; and ScoobyBox/BusterBox Ltd. of Baldoyle.

WeBringg Ltd will represent Fingal at the National Enterprise Awards on May 24.



WeBringg Ltd receiving their award from The Mayor

Student Enterprise Awards

The Fingal Student Enterprise Awards took place on March 22. Three schools won the overall prizes: Donabate Community College (senior category); Castleknock Community College (Intermediate) and Loreto Balbriggan (junior). In this programme, students start-up and run their own business, learning valuable entrepreneurial skills. The winners will represent Fingal at the National competition in Croke Park on May 2.



Start Your Own Business programme

A new Start Your Own Business Course will commence in April. To date, 36 people have participated in LEO Fingal SYOB courses in 2018.

Business Development Workshops

In March, two Business Development Workshops were delivered to 24 participants. A new iteration

of the six-week QCI Cert in Social Media and Digital Marketing commenced in March with eleven participants enrolled.

Food Sector

A new Food Academy (FA) Programme commenced on March 9. The FA Programme is a training programme run by the Local Enterprise Office with the support of An Bord Bia and SuperValu. It prepares and enables small food producers to become suppliers to SuperValu.

In addition, LEO Fingal has partnered with BWG Food Group and is currently accepting applications for small food producers that wish to exploit commercial opportunities with the retail giant that operates 1,040 retail outlets throughout Ireland including: Spar, Eurospar, Londis, Mace and BWG Foodservice.



Plato

Plato is an advanced 18 month management development programme run by the four LEOs in the Dublin region. A new Plato programme will launch on April 11, in Croke Park and places are available for up to 20 Fingal companies. In the meantime the current programme (which commenced in April 2017) will continue until October 2018, with 20 Fingal companies participating.

Business Clinics

Clinics are offered to individuals that wish to start up a new enterprise or expand their existing business. During March, 7 clinics were undertaken, delivering expertise to 50 businesses

in Fingal. This brings the cumulative figures for 2018 to date to 12 clinics and 161 attendees.

Mentoring

Individual mentoring assignments were approved for three new clients during March. The total number of mentoring assignments approved in 2018 to date is 20.

Aer Lingus / LEO Start-Up Awards

LEO Fingal has partnered with Aer Lingus for an innovative pilot competition exclusive to Fingal Start-Ups. In this competition, three Start-Ups will be selected to receive a valuable prize package consisting of a 12 month allocation of European and long-haul business flights, mentoring with key Aer Lingus managers and exposure for each start-up within the airline's Cara Magazine. LEO Fingal will also provide an intensive management boot-camp to 10 short-listed candidates. The short-listing process has commenced and will conclude in April.

Economic Development

LEADER Programme

At its meeting on March 21, the LCDC-led Local Action Group approved funding for a further 7 projects totalling almost €185,000. Projects approved were under the themes of Economic Development and Social Inclusion. This brings the total approvals to date in 2018 to €215,000. For more information on the LEADER Programme please visit www.dublinruralleader.ie



Local Community Development Committee

As part of the Healthy Ireland Programme, a stakeholder day was held in the Crowne Plaza in Blanchardstown to assist with the formation of the Fingal Healthy Ireland Strategic Plan. The stakeholder day had over 60 people in attendance

from various service providers and agencies who participated in thematic workshops relating to mental health and well-being; healthy weight for Ireland, physical activity, drugs and alcohol, tobacco and sexual health.



Local Economic & Community Plan

A progress report on all 115 LECP actions is currently being completed. Flagship themes for 2018 include Social Enterprise, Integration, Community Engagement and Climate Change.

Enterprise Centres

Occupancy rates at the Council's three enterprise centres at the end of March were: Drinan 88%, BASE 91% and Beat 88%.

The three Enterprise Centres currently support 67 businesses and 338 jobs. Five new start-ups were accommodated in the centres during the first quarter of the year with 12 new jobs expected to be created by these start-ups by year end. The three enterprise centres currently employ 11 people directly who deliver the centres' services on an on-going basis. Along with the provision of enterprise space to start-ups, the three centres combined also have 10 training rooms, which facilitate the delivery of training programmes in varied disciplines.

OPERATIONS

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Opening of Rock Garden Park

Tree Planting in Castleknock-Mulhuddart Area

Over 250 trees have been planted in the Castleknock Mulhuddart Area during the current tree planting programme. In addition more than 500 bushes and hedging trees were planted on open spaces and streets during this planting season. There will be an additional 40 trees planted in Tyrrelstown Park next month.

In total, 22 tree species were selected in order to increase biodiversity and improve resilience to diseases and climate change. The selection also took into account the planting locations in order to have the right tree in the right location.



New planting at Coolmine and Delwood Roads to replace poplars damaged during Storm Ophelia

The tree crew will complete tree works in the Harstown area and in April will carry out tree work in Park Drive Estate, Castleknock and in Brookheaven/Edgewood areas. Tree removals will be paused from the end of May to the end of September in order to remove tree stumps.

Fleet Management and Plant Hire

There were 30 hire engagements put in place during March 2018. Included in these were:

- The hire of Portaloos for the Balbriggan Cancer Support Group who hosted a 10k & Half Marathon on St. Patrick's Day Morning.
- The transportation of 3,650 Tonnes of Salt from Dundalk to the Salt Barns in Swords and Coolmine depots during Storm Emma.



- To complement our own fleet during Storm Emma, nine 180° Backhoe Excavators, three Front Loading Teleporters mounted with Snow Buckets, two Front Ended Shovels and three Tractors were hired to help clear snow.



- Contractors were engaged for the use of Pipe Jetting & Suction Machines with Recycler and Vacuum Sludge Tankers on behalf of Irish Water throughout the County. Some of these hires were an emergency response to Storm Emma.

Traffic Management Schemes

The anti-skid surfacing work and road lining is weather dependant and work is continuing at various locations around the County.



Traffic Signals 2017-Gannon Park

The Traffic Signals 2017 Contract Work by TSL is continuing on various sites. 11 sites are 80% completed and are awaiting ESB works to connect the signals.



Left: Baldoyle Library new Traffic Signals.

Below: The Navan Road Pedestrian Crossing Contract by KN Networks is now 85% completed. The ESB connection has been made.



Other Traffic Items:

- Dublin Airport Roundabout Upgrade works are progressing well. Substantial completion due by end of April;
- Cappagh/Heathfield traffic signals junction – Tender awarded to TSL;
- 2018 Signals contract – Tender documents are being prepared at present;

- 2018 VAS Signs & 30kph signs – Tender documents are being prepared at present;
- 2018 Signing and Lining - Package going to AGS for consultation for signing and lining at 26 locations.

Speed Limit Review

The 2018 Speed Limit Review for Fingal County has commenced. As part of this review, further 30 km/h Slow Zones will be provided throughout the county to help make our housing estates safer for all.



Modular Speed Cushions

The tender issued on March 29, for the Supply and Installation of Modular Speed Cushions and replacement sections of existing modular speed cushions and associated road markings/lining for road safety within the Fingal County Council area.



Bridge Rehabilitation

The work on the tender documents for the 2018 bridge construction works is ongoing.

The following three bridges have been included in the 2018 programme: Colecott Bridge, Knightstown Bridge and Calliaghwee Bridge.



Above: Colecott Bridge and below: Knightstown Bridge



Street Lighting

Repairs were carried out to underground street lighting cables damaged on the R132 at Blake's Cross during Storm Emma.



In Lusk, the Round Tower was 'turned green' to celebrate St. Patrick's Day 2018.



Fingal – In bloom



Daffodils in Craobhin Park, Balbriggan



Daffodils in Ardgillan Demesne

Fingal JPC Public Meetings

The first Fingal JPC Public Meeting took place on April 4 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Blanchardstown. The meeting had a very good attendance and featured presentations from the Criminal Assets Bureau and Community Gardai on Cyberbullying.



JPC Public Meeting in Blanchardstown

These public meetings offer an opportunity for members of the public to meet with senior Gardai and FCC officials to discuss matters of local

relevance which fall under the remit of the JPC. There will be three more public meetings, during April, in Sutton, Balbriggan and Swords (see details below):



**Comhairle Contae
Fine Gall
Fingal County
Council**



Fingal Joint Policing Committee Public Meetings 2018

Garda District	Venue	Date	Time
DUBLIN 15 (Blanchardstown/ Castleknock / Ongar / Carpenterstown / Clonsilla / Mulhuddart / Tyrrelstown & areas)	Crowne Plaza Hotel, Blanchardstown Town Centre	Wednesday 04th April 2018	7.30pm-9.00pm
SUTTON / HOWTH / BALDOYLE	Marine Hotel, Sutton	Wednesday 11th April 2018	7.30pm-9.00pm
NORTH COUNTY (Balbriggan / Balbriggan Rural / Naull / Garristown / Skerries / Rush / Lusk & areas)	Bracken Court Hotel, Balbriggan	Wednesday 18th April 2018	7.30pm-9.00pm
SWORDS/MALAHIDE (Swords / Swords Rural / Santry / Portrane / Donabate / Malahide / Portmarnock & areas)	Carnegie Court Hotel, Swords	Wednesday 25th April 2018	7.30pm-9.00pm

Tea/Coffee will be available at the meeting venues from 7pm.
Each year, the Fingal Joint Policing Committee host a series of public meetings across the county. These meetings offer an opportunity for members of the public to meet with Senior Gardaí and Local Authority officials to discuss matters of local relevance which fall under the remit of the JPC. Gardaí and staff from Fingal County Council will be available after the meeting if you wish to speak in private.
For more information, please see www.fingal.ie/FingalJPC or email jpc@fingal.ie or call **01-890 5980**.

Proposed Upgrade - Coolmine Depot

The Operations Department will initiate a public planning procedure for the redevelopment of facilities at the Coolmine Depot, Dublin 15. The proposal extends an existing modular building to provide 486sqm of additional accommodation. Existing buildings will be demolished to provide more efficient site layout with safer pedestrian routes and rationalised traffic and parking areas.



Plans for the Coolmine Depot Up-grade

The development will result in the following benefits:

- New washroom and welfare facilities will address staff concerns on existing facilities.
- Centralised modern office area will improve flexible team working.
- Extending existing modular construction will deliver a cost effective solution on the site and reduce maintenance and operational costs.

Opening of Rock Garden Park, Swords

On April 4, The Mayor and Chief Executive officially opened Rock Garden Park in Swords. The site of a former quarry, the park is a small green oasis located in one of the oldest parts of Swords, and the design, layout and modern landscaping of the park reflects the local history of the area.



The opening of the park consolidates the Council's commitment to Swords, the County Town, turning what was an unattractive and unused piece of open space into a beautiful local park. The Council acknowledges the significant contribution made to the development of the park by both Swords Historical Society and Swords Tidy Towns group.

MUSIC COMES TO THE CASTLE



LCD
SOUNDSYSTEM

TUES
JUNE 5



KODALINE

FRI
JUNE 8



GORILLAZ

SAT
JUNE 9



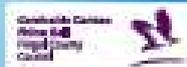
LIAM
GALLAGHER

FRI
JUNE 15



NILE RODGERS
CHIC

SAT
JUNE 16



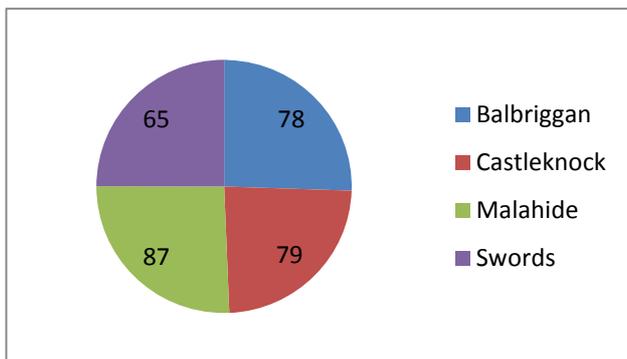
PLANNING AND STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE (PSI)

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Coastal Erosion	Donabate Distributor Road
Urban Framework Plan for Rush Main Street	Metrolink – Emerging Preferred Route

Planning Activity

Planning Applications

There have been 309 planning applications received to the end of March 2018, 26 of these applications were invalid leaving a total of 283 valid applications. The volume of applications received by area is illustrated below:



Planning Decisions

A total of 280 planning decisions have been made to the end of March 2018. There have been 254 decisions to grant permission (90.7%) and 26 refusals of permission (9.3%).

There have been 35 grants of permissions in respect of single house construction, 118 grants of permission for domestic extensions, 82 commercial/retail grants of permission and 12 grants of permission in respect of housing developments - 1 of which related to development in excess of 100 or more housing units and 7 of which related to developments of 2-20 housing units.

Coastal Erosion

The Council is continuing to deal with issues arising from the recent significant coastal erosion event in Portrane. Contact is being maintained with the resident most directly affected and their concerns are being, as far as possible, addressed. A meeting of the Fingal Coastal Liaison Group was convened on Wednesday, March 21. Local elected members were invited to attend and an up-to-date briefing on the situation was provided.

In particular, a commitment was given to update the 2015 Coastal Erosion Risk Management Study Portrane – Rush within the next three weeks to take account of the apparently intensified levels of erosion and to re-examine previously considered control measures along with others suggested by the local community. In addition, the Rogerstown Outer Estuary Coastal Flood Risk Management Works contract has been awarded.

Urban Framework Plan for Rush Main Street

The Draft Urban Framework Plan (UFP) went on public display on April 3, for a four week period. The Draft Plan encompasses the Main Street of Rush and seeks to revitalise and rejuvenate Rush Main Street. The UFP supports the preservation of Rush’s distinct character, retention of its market gardening tradition, the protection and enhancement of amenities and promotion of the town as a local tourist destination.

The Draft UFP outlines a range of actions from community based projects, to the creation of new civic spaces and the development of opportunity sites along the Main Street and is the result of ongoing consultation with the community.



The UFP is advisory in nature with a long term vision, which allows sufficient flexibility to manage changing circumstances of society, economy, environment and culture, as required. It offers a vision for the area, within the structure of the Fingal Development Plan 2017–2023.

A public consultation evening will be held on Thursday, April 19, in Rush Community Centre to facilitate further public participation.

Draft Rivermeade Local Area Plan - February 2018

The Draft Rivermeade Local Area Plan (LAP) 2018 was on public display between February 13 and March 28, 2018. On March 13, a Public Information Evening was held in the Mary Queen of Ireland National School, Rivermeade on the Draft LAP. The event was organised in order to give the local community an opportunity to engage with the Planning Department on how they would like to see their area develop into the future. It was very well attended and overall good consultation took place on the night.



The Rivermeade LAP lands are outlined in red

Following consideration of all of the submissions on the Draft LAP, the CE Report will be prepared and issued to Councillors ahead of the Council meeting on May 14.

Donabate Distributor Road

The Donabate Distributor Road will be some 4km in length and will start at the Hearse Road southwest of Donabate village, running to the south and east of the village, crossing the Dublin-Belfast railway line, and terminating at the Portrane Road. Contracts were signed with the main contractor, MEIC, in late 2017 and site works commenced in February 2018 with site clearance and site compound set up.



The main activities currently taking place on site include setting out of the alignment and earthworks, excavation for road sub-structures and construction of the road drainage network. One of the most visible elements of the contract will be the earthworks phase and this will take place in the coming months when ground conditions are more favourable.

Metrolink – Consultation on Route

In March, TII and the NTA published the Emerging Preferred Route for the 26km Metrolink scheme from Swords to Sandyford. This marks the start of a public consultation process on the Emerging Preferred Route and submissions are being sought in relation to it and the alignment options study.

As part of the consultation process, 12 public consultation meetings are being held in separate venues near to the proposed scheme, the first of which took place in the Atrium, County Hall, Swords on March 27. Further details are available at: www.metrolink.ie



Submissions can be made by post to: MetroLink Consultations, Transport Infrastructure Ireland, Parkgate Business Centre, Parkgate Street, Dublin 8, D08 DK10, before 5pm on Friday, May 11.

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY (H&C)

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Housing Pillars I-V	Community Arts Sports Libraries

HOUSING

Social Strategy 2020/Rebuilding Ireland

The Council delivered 2,574 homes since the start of the Housing Strategy 2020/ReBuilding Ireland. The units were delivered over the various delivery mechanisms and do not include units approved for delivery.

Pillar 1:

Address Homelessness

Fingal County Council is currently in contact with circa 470 families who are in homeless circumstances or at risk of homelessness.



A total of 96 families have had their homeless circumstances alleviated in 2018 to the end of March (including 64 Homeless HAP tenancies), with further tenancy arrangements to conclude shortly through the various forms of social housing support. Tenancy Support is provided through supports such as SLI (Support to Live Independently) and varying other supports to ensure new tenancies are sustained. Homeless Prevention advice continues to be offered through the Council's Homeless Team in partnership with Threshold Clinics and the Threshold Freephone service.

Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)

A total of 491 Homeless HAP tenancies have been put in place since the Dublin Region HAP Pilot scheme came into effect in 2015. In addition, 193 mainstream HAP tenancies have been put in place in 2018 to the end of March. A total of 662 tenancies are now in place under mainstream HAP with further tenancy arrangements in the process of being finalised.

Pillar 2:

Accelerate Social Housing Construction Programme

The current position with the construction programme is set out below. Masterplan/Land Management Plan sites are not included in these figures.



	No. Schemes	No. Units
Delivered to Date	6	85
Contractor on Site/Appointed	7	174
Tender Stage	6	149
Pre-Planning Approval	8	222
Total Construction Programme	26	630



Racecourse Common – Phase II

Church Fields Land Management Plan

A briefing session was held with local councillors on Thursday, April 5.

Acquisitions Programme

Report Month	Feb	March	April
Delivered to Date	295	295	310
Pending Sales Closing	70	80	61

Enhanced Long Term Social Housing Leasing

This new scheme was launched in January and its main features are:

- targets newly built or yet to be built houses and apartments for leasing;
- targets property developers and investors who are in a position to deliver housing at a reasonable scale; and
- provides for 25 year lease terms that require the property owner to provide day to day maintenance of the properties under a schedule of Management Services.

The Housing Agency is leading the scheme on behalf of the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government. The deadline for Call for Proposals of the Enhanced Long Term Social Housing Leasing Arrangements is 5pm, April 12, 2018. Further details of the scheme are available on the Housing Agency's website: <http://bit.ly/2ErohLO>

Repair and Leasing Scheme & Buy and Renew

The Repair and Leasing Scheme (RLS) and the Buy and Renew (B&R) schemes target vacant private

properties in the County. Both schemes provide initiatives for the owners in order for the Council to secure the properties for social housing. These properties should be long-term vacant or derelict. Fingal County Council is interested in discussing leasing and purchasing options with owners of these properties.

Part V

Activity in this area has increased with the upturn in construction and early on-site delivery of units is the approach in Part V negotiations with developers.

Reporting on Part V agreements is provided quarterly to the Area Committees. A total of 121 Part V housing units have been delivered over the life of the strategy to date.

Approved Housing Bodies

The Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs) continue to play an important role in the delivery of social housing and the Council continues to work closely with AHB's operating in the County.

The Council facilitates AHBs in the management of funding applications under the Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) and Capital Advance Leasing Facility Scheme (CALF) funding schemes.

Traveller Accommodation

Collinstown Park

The Council is in dialogue with residents of Collinstown Park Halting Site, Swords and the DAA in relation to proposals to move families to a new site in accordance with the provisions of the Traveller Accommodation Programme. A Pre-planning report for the development of a new site was presented to the Mulhuddart/Castleknock Area Committee meeting on April 5.

**Pillar 3:
Build More Homes**

A masterplan for the strategic land bank at Ballymastone, Donabate is currently being prepared.



The development of a Land Management Plan for the land-bank at Church Fields, Mulhuddart is underway. The design team appointed to develop the Plan recently held briefing sessions to discuss the development of the plan was held with the local Councillors and stakeholders.

The Housing Director is participating in a project board to bring forward proposals for Major Urban Housing Delivery Sites.

The Housing Department is available to meet with developers who are building across the county with a view to exploring opportunities to bring forward proposals to increase the supply of social housing.

**Pillar 4:
Improve the Rental Sector**

The table below sets out the current number of RAS and LTL tenancies:



Report Month:	Feb	March	April
RAS Tenancies	193	196	201
LTL Tenancies	79	83	84

Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme

The Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme has been operational since May 2016, now with a

growing number having completed the sales process by March 8, 2018.

Application Forms requested	387
Applications Received	155
Letters of Offer Issued to Tenants	130
Contract of Sale Proposed	21
Sales Completed	25

Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan

A new Government backed mortgage for first time buyers was recently announced. The Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan provides for loans up to a maximum of €288,000 over a maximum term of 30 years, subject to lending terms and conditions. The Loan is attractive to potential borrowers in that the interest rates are very low (2% fixed, or 2.25% fixed for 30 years, or 2.3 variable). The raised loan ceiling will facilitate more purchase options for buyers in Fingal, who may have found that property prices were just beyond their reach.

Borrowers need to meet the following eligibility criteria:

- First Time Buyers (exceptions may apply e.g. for legally separated or divorced applicants)
- Single applicant's income must be less than €50,000, and joint applicants' combined income must be less than €75,000
- The primary earner on the application form must be in continuous employment for at least two years (this can be self-employment) and the second applicant must have at least one year's continuous employment. Certain exceptions can be considered.
- Aged between 18 and 70 years (i.e. loan term must cease by the time the borrower reaches 70 years of age).
- Applicants must prove that they have sought a mortgage from two lenders (banks or building societies) and have received inadequate

funding offers or refusals from each before making an application for a Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan to Fingal County Council.

- The maximum loan amount that may be advanced (subject to lending terms and conditions) is €288,000 over a maximum term of 30 years. The maximum loan-to-value ratio is 90%.

The maximum mortgage loan in each case will be determined by the local authority in accordance with lending terms and conditions, the €288,000 limit, loan-to-value limit and subject to the purchaser’s ability to repay. All applications will be assessed based on the applicant(s) current income, their existing loans and financial commitments. For successful loan applications an additional monthly mortgage protection insurance fee is levied.

Further details and application forms available on: www.rebuildingirelandhomeloan.ie

Statistics on Loan Applications

The loan was available from the February 1, 2018 and statistics on applications to end March 2018 are as follows:

Number of applications received (end March)	151
FCC applications as % of total in Dublin	48%
Value of loans applied for	€40m
Value of loans approvals issued	€5.4m

Vacant Homes Strategy

Fingal County Council has submitted the vacant homes action plan to the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government. The vacant homes publicity plan continues to operate and continues to be a reliable source of information for follow up by the vacant homes team.

Information gathering and verification is ongoing in relation to properties located in the Dublin 15, Balbriggan and Swords. Initial verification work

has also started on properties located in Rush and Lusk. Engagement and negotiation is ongoing with a number of identified property owners, however progress in some cases is slow.

To date we have signed contracts on three 20 year long term lease agreement for a long term vacant property. Repairs to the properties are underway prior to allocation. We are processing two further long term lease applications where agreement has been reached with the property owner and expect to sign contracts on these properties in Q2, 2018.

Contracts are in draft form for one property where agreement has been reached under the repair and lease scheme. A further two properties are under assessment for eligibility under RLS. Once signed repairs will commence prior to allocation.

Pillar 5: Utilise Existing Housing Void Management

There were 47 casual voids within social housing stock at the end of March 2018. Of these dwellings, 17 are complete and are being offered for letting. Work is underway to 10 dwellings and the balance is with the County Architect for the procurement of pre-let repairs.



Windows and Doors / Cyclical Maintenance

The Windows/Doors Replacement Programme for 2018 has commenced in Sheepmore Estate, Dublin 15 and a procurement process is ongoing in respect of the remaining estates in Dublin 15.



Example of Window & Door Replacement in Dublin 15

The Cyclical Maintenance Programme is continuing in Ballygara, Garristown; Bun-a-Knock, The Naul; Clonard Rise and Curran Park in Balbriggan. Works have been completed in Corduff Estate, Dublin 15, Mooretown/Seatown Walk in Swords and Rivermeade in St Margarets.

COMMUNITY, CULTURE & SPORTS **COMMUNITY**

Failte Isteach Tyrrelstown

Failte Isteach Tyrrelstown was one of three groups nationwide, from a total of 131, invited to make a presentation at the recent launch of the 2018 Communities Integration Fund by the Office for the Promotion of Migrant Integration (OPMI). Three members of the group, tutors Aine and Marina and participant Koko, supported by the Community Office outlined the integration and conversational English programmes delivered weekly by this community project based in Tyrrelstown, D15.



Representatives of Failte Isteach and FCC at the OPMI launch

Tree Planting in Tyrrelstown

The FCC Community Office, FCC Operations and two Foróige youth groups came together in Tyrrelstown Park last month to help remove graffiti, carry out a litter pick and plant new trees in the park. This is one of four youth citizenship projects being supported by Foróige and the FCC Community Office in the Tyrrelstown area this year.



Positive Publicity

Changing Ireland Magazine recently ran a six page article on the Community, Culture & Sports Division which featured the Fingal Age Friendly County Initiative, the Fingal Schools Model of shared community facilities and the work of the Balbriggan Integration Forum. The article also featured the work of the Council's Sports Development Office and the recent link-up between Fighting Words writing project and Failte Isteach Tyrrelstown.

Kaleidoscope Intergenerational Project

The Fingal Kaleidoscope Project has been shortlisted for Age Friendly Community Innovation Award (Social Participation, Respect and Social Inclusion) "What happens when a group of pre-schoolers invite a group of seniors into their school?" Amazing things happen.



The Fingal Kaleidoscope Project - the Community Development Office in conjunction with Bright Sparks Montessori and Donabate-Portrane Seniors have developed this innovative intergenerational project. Sharing arts, crafts, stories, news, songs and lunch the two groups, seniors and children, have developed a strong relationship and share special times including Patrick day preparations and the Easter Egg Hunt. The Age Friendly Community Innovation Award will be held in Monaghan in April.

Mayor's Community Volunteer Awards

The Mayor's Community Volunteer Awards was announced on March 28. The scheme celebrates

the efforts of local volunteers who make a difference to our communities because of their hard work, dedication and vision. Volunteers will be awarded within the following five categories of Social Inclusion, Active Citizenship, Creative Arts, Culture and Heritage, Community Facilities and Sports and Recreation. Closing dates for nominations is April 27.



To nominate a volunteer: <http://bit.ly/FMCVA2018>

Fingal Summer Project Funding Scheme

Fingal Summer Project Funding Scheme was announced on March 12, by Mayor of Fingal, Mary McCamley, Paul Reid, Chief Executive and representatives from the Lusk Summer Project. Approximately €70,000 funding is available to community and voluntary groups who are providing a supervised programme of recreational and educational activities for young people during the summer months.



In 2018 participants groups are invited to run programmes that reflect any of the following themes: community /civic awareness activities, environmental awareness activities, Cruinnu nÓg and promote integration. A series of Funding Workshops were held across Fingal in Balbriggan, Swords and Blanchardstown to assist groups in

applying for funding. Closing date for applications is 16th April 2018. To make an application:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SummerProjectApplication>

Training Opportunities for Community Groups

Fingal PPN, in partnership with the Community Development Office, Environmental Education Office and Empower Partnership, has launched a Spring/Summer Training Programme that will commence in April and continue into May and June. Workshops will run in Balbriggan, Blanchardstown and Swords and aim to equip community groups with skills and knowledge on topics such as GDPR, Grant Writing, Good Governance, Reducing Waste and Volunteer Management. Details are available on the Fingal PPN website www.fingalppn.ie/training

Creative Ireland – Fingal Programme

The Fingal Creative and Cultural Strategy 2018 – 2022 is being presented to the Elected Members at the April Council meeting and will set out the framework for this four year period of the Strategy and the actions to be implemented in 2018.

ARTS OFFICE

Public Art March 2018

The Hide Sculpture – Rogerstown Park

The Council was delighted to host tutor Gareth Kennedy and the students of NCAD's Sculpture Department for a seminar session, which included presentations on commissioning public art, working with materials and public engagement led by artist Garrett Phelan and Caroline Cowley, FCC's Public Art Coordinator. More sessions are planned over the coming months.

Arts Council Invitation to Collaboration – An Urgent Enquiry - Fingal County Council, Dublin City Council & Wexford County Council

FCC's Public Art Coordinator is engaged in ongoing research with partner local authorities on the subject of climate change and its effects on the east coast. How public art can play a role in positively raising awareness of and celebrate our delicate shared biodiversity through collaboration with scientists, artists and local authority biodiversity officers through a series of Think Tank sessions, the latest of which took place in Wexford at The Raven Nature Reserve. The research is being documented by the Head of the MA in Art and Ecology at The Burren and is leading to policy and deeper collaborations nationally & internationally.

Swords Youth Engagement Workshops

The Arts Office is liaising with the drama facilitator Anna Galligan, videographer Kilian Waters, and report writer Sinead Begley, alongside the school and youth service to deliver this workshop on April 19. The workshop will be held in the school in the morning and in the youth service that evening. Both workshops will be captured on film for a comprehensive report thereafter.

Everything is in Everything 2017-2018

On Tuesday, April 24, artists Clodagh Emoe, Jenny Brady and TY students from Hartstown Community School will showcase their new artwork titled 'The Butterfly Effect'. This work considers causality, climate change and regret in modern life. This collaborative art project, curated by Superprojects and funded by Fingal Arts Office and The Arts Council, began in 2017. Students visited IMMA to see the work of Jac Leirner and Dennis McNulty, and welcomed contemporary writer Sue Rainsford into the school to speak with them about creating a narrative within their work. A documentary of the

artistic processes undertaken by the artists and students will also be screened.



2018 Artist Support Scheme & CPD

The closing date for the Artist Support Scheme was March 23. The Arts Office received a record number of applications this year with a 20% increase on 2017. This strand of funding, which has increased by 50% in 2018 will allow professional artists to avail of an award towards travel/professional development opportunities, a residency, or towards the development of work.

In order to support artists with the application procedure the Arts Office ran an Artists Professional Training & Mentoring Session on Developing a Creative Proposals in Malahide Castle Visitors Centre. The Creative Proposal Writing and Mentoring session was for artists working in Visual Art, Music, Dance, Theatre and Literature.



Developing a Creative Proposal Session, Malahide Castle

SPORTS OFFICE

Primary School Athletics

Three athletic meetings took place over the last two weeks. Two were held in Newbridge Demesne and one in Porterstown Park, an average of 600 children attended each event. The highlight of the programme, the finals, will take place this year in Morton Stadium on Tuesday April 10, when in excess of 15,000 children, teachers/parents will be welcomed on the day.



Coaching Children Workshops

As part of our commitment to training and development, we ran a four week series of "Coaching Children" workshops. The three hour sessions were run in the Liam Rodgers Centre on Friday evenings. The workshops developed by Sport Ireland, Coaching Division, addressed physical literacy and understanding the importance of child centred approach to coaching and physical activity. The sessions consisted of both classroom based and activity sessions. A total of 12 coaches signed up and completed the course. The feedback is extremely positive and we will consider running further courses, subject to demand in the future.



Schools Programmes

We continue our wide range of sports programme in schools some examples, the schools cricket programme culminates in the Leprechaun Cup in

two sections, in addition to the Fingal Girls Cup and 4th Class Cup. There will also be a Fingal under 13s indoor cricket competition in the new indoor sports arena at Abbotstown Campus.

A number of rugby and football programmes are taking place throughout the county including afterschool drop ins, come and play futsal, school coaching in conjunction with the North Dublin Schoolboys League, blitzes and competitions.

Our girls programme continues to grow with a variety of girls only programmes taking place throughout the county. Girls only Easter sports camps are proving very popular.

In order to maintain sustainable sports programmes we deliver a range of teacher training and supports, in addition we are meeting the demands from clubs for Safeguarding Children Courses (Child Protection) at three different levels.

Wednesday, March 9, was a big day for 10 young people from Swords Youth Service, who accompanied by their parents and Youth Workers were presented with Sports Leadership Certificate by the Mayor. The young people completed a fourteen week course covering all aspects of sports leadership. The Mayor told the young people "Leadership is such an important skill, which you can take with you and it can be used in so many walks of life not only in sports, but also in your future careers".

LIBRARIES

Bibliotherapy: Fingal Libraries and Jigsaw

The Mayor, Cllr. Mary McCamley launched the Read Your Mind Bibliotherapy Project in Blanchardstown Library on March 21. Read Your Mind is a catalogue which brings together an invaluable collection of over 100 recommended books on a range of mental health related topics, including anger, anxiety, autism, bullying, mindfulness, family life and social media. The titles have all been recommended by Jigsaw, the National Centre for Youth Mental Health in Ireland and are available to borrow from Fingal Libraries.



Read Your Mind Bibliotherapy launch, Blanchardstown Library

Read Your Mind aims to encourage the use of reading material for therapeutic purposes, known as Bibliotherapy. The term applies to a wide range of reading materials and is used to denote any form of directed reading which may serve a therapeutic purpose. Self-help books have been used in this way for many years, and are now recognised as a useful support for people experiencing emotional and psychological difficulties.

Century of Challenge and Change Conference

A Century of Challenge and Change, a conference to celebrate the centenary of Irish women winning the right to vote in 1918, was launched by the Mayor of Fingal, Cllr. Mary McCamley, at the Castleknock Hotel on March 13. Organised by the Europe Direct Centre at Blanchardstown Library, as part of the Council's Creative Ireland programme, the conference highlighted how

politics, power and gender affects women today. Speakers included Prof. Diarmaid Ferriter, Professor of Modern Irish History, UCD; Dr. Theresa Reidy, Political Scientist, Department of Government, UCC; Senator Ivana Bacik, Barrister and Reid Professor of Criminal Law and Criminology, TCD; Louise Bunyan, Digital Marketing Specialist with Smartfox and Ciairín de Buis, CEO of Women for Election. The conference attracted 300 attendees and was moderated by Orla O'Connor, Director of the National Women's Council of Ireland.

Fingal Libraries Development Plan: 2018 – 2023

The Mayor and the Chief Executive took part in a photocall on March 28, to launch the Fingal Libraries Development Plan 2018 – 2023. The Strategic Plan provides a road-map for the next five years and sets out the vision for the future of Fingal Libraries as a dynamic and inclusive space, supporting culture, recreation, literacy, education and economic development in the County.



The Plan identifies 7 key objectives in the areas of Workforce; Capital and Infrastructure; Collections and Resources; Programming of Events and Activities; Technology; Marketing and Communications; and Collaboration and Partnerships, which will be implemented by way of 42 actions over the 5 year period.

Mobile Library van and St. Patrick's Day parades

One of our new mobile library vans was warmly received by spectators, as Driver Shay Donnelly drove it through the village of Blanchardstown

and the town of Swords for their St. Patrick Day parades.



Seachtain na Gaeilge

During Seachtain na Gaeilge, sisters Mary Louise and Theresa O'Donnell gave harp recitals and sang traditional songs in Irish and English at branch libraries around Fingal. Their performances were thoroughly enjoyed by the large audiences who attended



Poetry Day

To celebrate Poetry Day Ireland on April 26, and as part of our Creative Ireland programme, Fingal Libraries is running a bilingual poetry competition for adults, teenagers and children. The winners will receive their prizes at a presentation in the Atrium, County Hall, at 7 pm on Poetry Day. Poet and Swords Library staff member, Máighréad Buckley, will also give a performance on the same evening in the Atrium on the theme of poetry appreciation.

Dublin: One City, One Book – The Long Gaze Back

A 'Late Evening Event' in Blanchardstown Library on April 12, will celebrate The Long Gaze Back, edited by Sinéad Gleeson, which is the book chosen for this year's 'Dublin: One City, One Book' initiative. The Long Gaze Back is an anthology of thirty short stories by Irish women writers.

Contributing authors Bernie McGill, Lia Mills and Éilís Ní Dhuibhne will talk with Sinéad Gleeson about the book itself and about being a female author in Ireland today.

Spring into Story-time

Special Spring into Story-time sessions for children, delivered by library staff, will take place in all library branches in April.

Snapshot of other library events:

Swords: Computer classes for beginners and improvers take place every Wednesday morning from 10am to 12.30pm.

Malahide: Malahide Active Retirement Association meets on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at the Library at 10.15am.

Donabate: Fingal Volunteer Centre will have an information stand in the Library on April 23, from 6.00 – 7.30pm.

Baldoyle: Children enjoyed an Easter crafts session at the Library on March 26.

Balbriggan: Local 6th class students will attend an anti-racism workshop on April 18, called Show Racism the Red Card.

Garristown: The Library will host a quiz on April 4, during the Easter holidays for children aged 8-12 years.

Howth: Michael Connaughton and Christina Molloy will give a performance of their poetry to celebrate Poetry Day Ireland on April 26.

Rush: A workshop for parents and guardians on Internet Safety and Cyberbullying will be held at the Library on April 16, at 6.30pm.

ENVIRONMENT & WATER SERVICES (EWS)

Contents	
Environment Environment Education in Schools RMCEI Plan 2018 Litter Management Waste Enforcement Bathing Waters	Water Services Operations Capital Projects

ENVIRONMENT

Environment Education in Schools

The Environmental Awareness Officer completed thirteen environmental Green-Schools assessment visits in March. Each visit involves an evaluation of environmental education and practices in the school. It also provides an opportunity to offer guidance on best practice. Schools that were successful with their application for a new Green-Schools flag will be notified in April (see textbox for examples).

RMCEI Plan 2018

The Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections Plan 2018 (RMCEI Plan 2018) for the County of Fingal has been submitted to the EPA. The Plan is a requirement of EU Directive (2001/331/EC) providing for Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections in Member States.

The overall objective of the Plan is to identify and prioritise enforcement activities for 2018 and to set out inspections in the areas of air, noise, water pollution and pollution resulting from waste activities to ensure that Fingal County Council can effectively and efficiently comply with its obligations under all environmental legislation. The legislation underpinning the RMCEI Plan is designed to protect the environment and minimise the risk of air and noise pollution, water pollution and pollution resulting from waste activities.

St Patrick's National School, Dublin 15 has applied for a Green-Schools Flag for Water. The school has worked hard to educate the pupils and local community about water conservation and good environmental practices. The images below show an igloo created from milk cartons, their Green Code and mural created from water bottle caps.



Corduff National School has applied for a Green-Schools Flag for Global Citizenship Litter and Waste. The images below show some of the actions completed in the school, including a project on the nearby Balleally Landfill, a project on Microbeads.



Blakestown Community School has applied for the Green-Schools Global Citizenship, Litter and Waste Flag. The school has an embedded environmental education into the curriculum work including Enterprise projects, science and art. The images below illustrate some of the displays they have created in the school.



Litter Management

A total of 80 Litter Fines, 27 Warning Notices and 36 prosecutions were issued in March.

Waste Enforcement (Waste Tyres)

On October 1, 2017, the Waste Management (Tyres and Waste Tyres) Regulations, 2017 (S.I. No 400 of 2017) came into effect with the aim of promoting the environmentally sound management of tyres. A compliance scheme has been established under these regulations to track tyres through the distribution chain and ensure waste tyres are managed in an environmentally sound manner. This compliance scheme is a Producer Responsibility Initiative (PRI) operated by Repak ELT – a non-profit organisation working under approval from the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment. Since last October all tyre operators are obliged to join the compliance scheme and charge the relevant visible Environmental Management Cost (vEMC).



An awareness campaign, including the broadcast of a radio advert, is currently being run by Repak ELT to inform car owners of their obligations with regards to the visible Environmental Management Cost (vEMC). This charge funds the proper management of waste tyres and all tyres placed on the Irish Market will be subject to it. A leaflet has also been produced for information and is available at all compliant retailer outlets. An approved membership certificate is issued from Repak ELT which registered members must display. Membership posters and stickers are also being delivered to all registered members.

Currently, 71% of tyre operators within the administrative area of Fingal have registered with Repak ELT. Inspections will be carried out by waste enforcement staff in line with the RMCEI plan for 2018 to further increase this compliance rate. The regulation of waste tyres is one of the national waste enforcement priorities for Ireland.

Bathing Water Classification for 2018 Season

The classification is derived from the previous four years water quality data (namely 2014 to 2017.)

Beach	Status 2018	Change from 2017
Balbriggan, Front	Sufficient	↔
Skerries, South	Sufficient	↓
Loughshinny	Poor	↔
Rush, South	Poor	↓
Rush, North	Sufficient	Newly identified
Portrane, The Brook	Poor	↔
Donabate, Balcarrick	Sufficient	↓
Portmarnock, Velvet Strand	Excellent	↔
Sutton, Burrow	Excellent	↔

Management Plans for the poor status beaches at Loughshinny, Rush South and Portrane have been approved by the Environmental Protection Agency. These detail the short and longer term measures to be implemented to address potential pollution sources at these locations. The plans also outline the communication strategy to promote public awareness of the 'Poor Status' of these beaches.

Blue Flag Awards 2018

Fingal has submitted a Blue Flag Award application for Velvet Strand Beach, Portmarnock for the 2018 season.



Bathing Water Season – no additional bathing waters for the 2018 season

There were 18 submissions on the identification of new bathing waters from 16 individuals during the public consultation period. Six additional locations were proposed. These are located at High Rock, Low Rock, Balscadden Beach, Broadmeadow Estuary, Sutton Creek and Rush Harbour Beach.

The Council reviewed each site against the criteria set out in the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 2016 publication 'A framework to assist Local Authorities in the assessment of submissions for the identification of new bathing waters'. None of the locations proposed met the criteria for identification.

Public Consultation on Derogation process from the EU Birds Directive

The Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht has initiated a public consultation on the Derogation process



from the obligations of the Birds Directive. Such Derogations allow in certain circumstances for the culling of birds which would otherwise be prohibited by the Directive. Elected Members will be aware that the Department has made a Declaration for part of Balbriggan, effective for the period May 1, 2017 to April 30, 2018, allowing

the taking of nests and eggs for 3 gull species. The closing date for this consultation is Friday, May 4. Further details at: <https://www.npws.ie/news/dchg-public-consultation-notice>

WATER SERVICES

Operations

Water and Drainage Services continue to be provided as agreed in the Service Level Agreement with Irish Water.

Capital Projects

All Capital Projects for Fingal will be managed directly by Irish Water (IW) from April 2, 2018.

Consequently, there will be no reports regarding Capital Projects in this or future CE's Report.

Queries in relation to projects will have to be made directly to IW. Similarly, Motions and Questions to Area Committees or the Council will be referred to IW for a response to be sent direct to the Member.

CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNANCE (CAG)

Contents	
Fingal News – Next Edition NOAC Citizen Survey	Special Olympics Ireland

CORPORATE AFFAIRS

Fingal News – Next Edition

The next edition of the relaunched ‘Fingal News’ will be available in the coming days. The first edition, launched in February, has been well received, with good engagement levels across the online platforms.

Fingal News is intended to give citizens an insight into the work being done by the Council on their behalf as well being a guide to available services and events and the Council will continue to develop the publications and its readership over the coming months.



Launch of Fingal News in February

The newsletter is available electronically for download by citizens from the Council website and hard copies are available at Council offices and libraries.

NOAC Citizen Survey

The National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) is undertaking a citizen satisfaction survey in 10 local authorities. Fingal is one of the authorities included in the survey.

The survey is being undertaken by Ipsos MRBI on behalf of NOAC.

Special Olympics Ireland

The 2018 Special Olympics Ireland Games will take place in Dublin from June 14-17, with many of the events taking place in Fingal at the National Sports campus in Abbottstown.

1,600 Special Olympics athletes from across the island will participate in the 4-day residential Games in 14 sports competitions. These athletes will be supported by 600 coaches and delegates and 2,500 volunteers. To volunteer for the Ireland Games: <https://irelandgames.ie/volunteer/>



FINANCE

Contents

Financial Reports

Financial Reports

Refer to Appendix 1 for the following reports:

- Revenue Account Income & expenditure to March 31, 2018
- Capital Account Income & Expenditure to March 31, 2018
- Summary of Corporate Debtors to March 31, 2018

APPENDIX 1

REVENUE ACCOUNT								
		EXPENDITURE			INCOME			NET
		Expenditure €	Adopted Full Year Budget €	% Budget Spent to date	Income €	Adopted Full year Budget €	% Budget Raised	€
A	Housing & Building	14,009,505	52,747,799	27%	11,594,684	52,526,599	22%	2,414,820
B	Road Transport & Safety	5,389,299	21,661,799	25%	1,558,099	6,694,100	23%	3,831,201
C	Water Services	3,487,089	14,894,200	23%	3,677,130	18,586,300	20%	-190,040
D	Development Management	2,969,833	12,878,600	23%	1,020,614	3,860,900	26%	1,949,219
E	Environmental Services	9,184,593	38,283,600	24%	895,909	4,129,600	22%	8,288,684
F	Recreation & Amenity	7,638,741	31,267,902	24%	450,934	1,247,100	36%	7,187,807
G	Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	214,294	880,400	24%	61,172	254,600	24%	153,123
H	Miscellaneous Services	2,645,095	10,207,300	26%	2,507,062	9,335,100	27%	138,033
J	Central Management Charge	10,224,002	44,447,999	23%	623,734	2,759,800	23%	9,600,268
LG	Local Property Tax / GPG				1,880,350	7,521,400	25%	-1,880,350
RA	Rates				30,088,600	120,354,400	25%	-30,088,600
		55,762,452	227,269,599	25%	54,358,287	227,269,899	24%	1,404,165

CAPITAL ACCOUNT
INCOME & EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION TO 31/03/2018

	Estimated Balance at 01/01/2018	Expenditure YTD €	Income YTD €	Estimated Balance at 31/03/2018 €
A Housing & Building	-47,496,422	28,403,801	-18,537,215	-37,629,836
B Road Transport & Safety	12,143,887	14,868,209	-1,489,589	25,522,507
C Water Services	-11,626,869	1,365,279	-259,165	-10,520,755
D Development Management	-50,579,799	6,432,240	-5,174,473	-49,322,032
E Environmental Services	-14,037,274	-126,983	-2,263,792	-16,428,049
F Recreation & Amenity	-8,350,846	1,384,913	-1,425,682	-8,391,615
H Miscellaneous Services	-34,013,383	104,412	-576,294	-34,485,265
Total	-153,960,706	52,431,871	-29,726,209	-131,255,044

SUMMARY OF CORPORATE DEBTORS TO 31/03/2018

	Balance at 01/01/2018 €	Balance at 31/03/18 €	Current debt €	> 1 Year €
RATES	6,562,335	94,578,942	88,685,080	5,893,862
LOANS	1,229,092	1,244,367	321,350	923,017
RENTS	3,407,366	4,041,137	2,556,832	1,484,305

Figures for rents and loans are unadjusted by credits/prepayments