



**Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gall**
Fingal County
Council



FINGAL COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT OFFICE
VISION STATEMENT
2019 - 2021

01 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Community development is a process where community members come together to take collective action and generate solutions to common problems. Community wellbeing, economic, social, environmental and cultural challenges are often solved through collective action being taken at a grassroots level. Community development ranges from small initiatives within a local group to large initiatives that involve the broader community.

Building community capacity, strengthening community participation and involving people in decisions that affect their lives is a complex process and can only be achieved by working with local communities and agencies who have responsibility to the people in those communities.



1.1 THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

The Community Development Office (CDO), under the remit of the Community, Culture and Sports Division of Fingal County Council (FCC) was established in 2004 to provide a very important service in the community, one aimed at making a difference to local communities and helping resolve issues where possible at local level. The Community Development Office strives to bring communities together and provide facilities to enable positive change in the lives of the citizens of Fingal. Through this community work and the provision of shared facilities, the communities of Fingal are supported in identifying and collectively addressing their own problems and challenges.

The work of the Community Development Office reaches far into the communities of Fingal, providing funding information and support, facility supports and is an important stakeholder in interagency collaboration with the goal of delivering on the aims and mission of the Community Development Office and Fingal County Council. The work of the office is carried out in adherence to the Putting People First; Action Programme for Effective Local Government 2012 and underpinned by the Local Government Reform Act 2014.

02 THE FINGAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICE VISION



The Community Development Office and local stakeholders share a common vision for the future - to build stronger communities across Fingal that are self sustaining, with greater levels of integration, and have an input into decisions that affect their community.

In delivering on this vision, there is a realisation that the Community Office must ensure that effective leadership, collaboration and communication, both internally and externally occurs. It is also acknowledged that priority should be given to the more vulnerable and disadvantaged communities across Fingal.

2.1 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICE MISSION STATEMENT

Working to build a strong sense of place and wellbeing through the development of equal, inclusive and connected communities.

2.2 THE VALUES OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

The Community Office carries out its work adhering to the following values.

Making a Difference

Equality & Respect

Collaboration

Empowering

People Centered

The office balances a task-oriented approach with the collaborative nature of the community development process, working in partnership while not imposing or directing.

The Community Office works in collaboration with other departments of FCC and with representatives of voluntary groups within the community. This shared involvement in the identification of issues to be addressed, the skills and resources that exist, the opportunities that are available and challenges presenting is central to the development of sustainable communities. This means that the work carried out by the Community Development office is a crucial cog in the wider wheel of Local Government service delivery.

"A key purpose of local government is to promote the well-being and quality of life of citizens and communities, through effective, accountable representation, and efficient performance of functions and delivery of services. Local authorities have certain advantages over more centralised organisations. Many public services can be delivered best through locally-based bodies that are responsive to local needs and circumstances. Local responsibility and accountability, subject to overall standards and oversight, can help to achieve good performance, with greater commitment and ownership than is likely through centralised organisation."

Fingal Community Development office has prepared a Vision Statement to guide and ensure the continued delivery of focused and appropriate community development work in Fingal.

1.2 FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT

Fingal – a great place to live, work, visit and do business

To be a vibrant, outward looking, well run Council that shows leadership and embraces diversity and opportunity.

Fingal County Council Corporate Plan 2019 - 2024

¹ Putting People First, Action Programme for Effective Local Government
Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, October 2012

03 THE STRATEGIC AIMS OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICE



INTERAGENCY SUPPORT

To work in collaboration with agencies to maximise service delivery and resources to communities.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT

To strengthen communities and local leadership through participation, connectivity and inclusion in priority areas.

STRATEGIC SUPPORT

To provide leadership on the delivery of national and local directives that support the development of inclusive communities and civic engagement.

FACILITIES SUPPORT

To support community facilities to enhance wellbeing and meet the changing needs of communities.

FUNDING SUPPORT

To support communities to access a broad range of funding opportunities.



3.1 OBJECTIVES AND GOALS

Strategic Pillar	Objectives	Short Term Goals
Interagency Support	To work in collaboration with agencies to maximise service delivery and resources to communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To represent the interests of FCC and CDO To demonstrate leadership in developing interagency solutions
Community Development Support	To strengthen communities and local leadership through participation, connectivity and inclusion in priority areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building capacity of community leaders Support development of community initiatives Support the development of community groups
Strategic Support	To provide leadership on the delivery of national and local directives that support the development of inclusive communities and civic engagement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support and develop participatory structures and targeted Initiatives in line with national objectives Support and develop projects and initiatives to meet Council objectives
Facilities Support	To support community facilities to enhance wellbeing and meet the changing needs of communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop & improve community facilities Support the development of the community facilities network Develop suitable structures to manage Council community facilities
Funding Support	To support communities to access a broad range of funding opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and manage Community Development Office funding initiatives Support Council led funding initiatives Support national funding initiatives Promote good standards of financial governance and accountability



04 IMPLEMENTATION

The implementation of the objectives outlined in this document will be carried forward through the Community Development Office's operational plans for 2020/21.



05 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This document acknowledges the effort and hard work of the Community Office staff and the many stakeholders who work tirelessly to meet the needs and address the challenges in our communities. Their continued efforts and commitment were evident in the preparation of this vision statement.



“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed it's the only things that ever has”
Margaret Mead

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