

High Level Objective - 'To increase access and availability to a wide range of quality education, skills and training opportunities. To plan, assist and collaborate in the development of new and existing services and initiatives and improve interagency cooperation, to achieve these - Our Balbriggan Strategy

No	Pillar Action	Intended Result	Lead partner (s)	Support partners
Theme 1: Education - To include access to educational and training opportunities				
1.1	Commission a feasibility study / business case for the establishment of a further/higher level learning institution/campus located in Balbriggan.	To establish present and projected needs of Balbriggan and its surrounding areas, regards access to further or higher education and training opportunities. To present these findings to the relevant State and Public Sector, educational & training providers.	Education Training & Skills Pillar	DDLETB, HEI's, Public Bodies, Fingal Skills Strategy (FCC), Irish Institute of Music & Song.
1.2	Create a space in Balbriggan Library that serves as the central learning 'HUB' for the community, providing information and acting as a gateway to local lifelong learning opportunities and courses.	Regionally / Nationally recognised as an exemplar HUB with a calendar of regular events such as Guidance clinics, Information sessions, workshops. Existing space reconfigured / expanded to accommodate 'Hub' requirements.	FCC Libraries, DDLETB	Foróige, Empower, Youthreach, Schools, Balbriggan Intreo Office, TU Dublin, Fingal Leader Partnership
1.3	Develop and promote existing pathways and implement new opportunities for progression to further education, higher education and employment.	More accessible pathways for individuals to progress to further education, higher education and employment.	TU Dublin, DDLETB	Foróige, Empower, Youthreach, Schools, Prosper Fingal
1.4	Work collaboratively with other Pillars to engage with relevant bodies to ascertain transport needs / deficits, future plans and influence where possible.	Improve access to colleges and other education facilities beyond the Balbriggan area.	Pillars and Leadership Group	Fingal County Council Active Travel Department, National Transport Authority
1.5	Promote actions identified in the Adult Literacy for Life (ALL) Strategy, including the establishment of a Literacy Champions Project that encourages businesses, stakeholders, and community groups to designate one individual as a literacy champion within their organisation.	Trained personnel within each business, organisation who will champion literacy initiatives to reduce barriers and improve access to services within the town for those with literacy, language or disability needs.	DDLETB	Fingal Libraries, Empower, Chamber of Commerce, MABS, Citizens Information, Local Agencies, Local Businesses, Banks/Credit Union.
1.6	Expand digital literacy initiatives to improve employability, prepare potential employees for the modern workplace and to ensure increased participation in essential community services.	Enhanced digital skills, enabling greater access to employment opportunities, further education and better participation in society.	DDLETB, SMART Balbriggan	Schools, Intreo Office, Youthreach, Empower
Theme 2: Skills - Address identified skills gaps to meet current and future employer needs				
2.1	Forge strong partnerships with local employers and businesses to identify current and future skills gaps, and enhance Further Education & Training (FET) planning and provision to align with the evolving needs of new growth sectors.	Increased provision in new growth areas.	FCC - Economic Development C/O Fingal Skills Strategy, DDLETB	Economic Pillar, Employers, Chamber of Commerce, Intreo
2.2	Develop partnerships with local businesses to create a structured pilot work experience programme to provide meaningful and impactful career experiences for students.	Create an opportunity for students to gain real-world work experience and connect with local employers to enhance their understanding of various career paths.	Schools, Youthreach, DDLETB	Economic Pillar Employers, Local Enterprise Office, TY Coordinator FCC
2.3	Develop tailored educational pathways by actively promoting new and existing traineeship and apprenticeship models, in close collaboration with current and potential employers and industries.	Address skills gaps, meet the evolving demands of the workforce and support economic growth.	DDLETB	Employers

2.4	Creation of a portal/interactive map on the existing Our Balbriggan website to act as a single point of contact for community, employers, enterprise and business to access the range of courses, supports and learning opportunities in the Balbriggan area.	Streamlined access to opportunities and supports for both employers and employees.	Education, Skills and Training Pillar	DDLETB, Chamber of Commerce, Empower, Intreo, Local Enterprise Office, Schools
Theme 3: Building future pathways - Building future pathways (Primary, Secondary Schools and Youthreach				
3.1	Convene a biannual meeting between senior schools staff and members of Education, Skills and Training Pillar group (and other Pillar group members where applicable).	Effective collaboration and planning to create opportunities and pathways for students in the Balbriggan area.	Education, Skills & Training Pillar	All schools and relevant stakeholders
3.2	Develop a student mentoring programme to support TY and Senior Cycle students to access a structured mentoring programme from within the professional and business community.	Provide students with guidance, support and career advice by pairing them with mentors from the professional and business community.	DDLETB, Fingal County Council, Schools, Balbriggan Chamber of Commerce	Business community, Parents, Previous Students
3.3	Collaborate with the Community Development Pillar on the development of a Balbriggan (Youth) student council made up of representatives from all schools in the area.	Ensure student voice in relation to existing and new educational opportunities.	Community Development Pillar	Education, Skills and Training Pillar Existing Student Council Representatives
Policy Context : Adult Literacy for Life (ALL); Fingal Skills Strategy 2024 - 2029; Draft Framework plan for the Stephenstown and Folkstown Little; Learning in the Community Initiative (ETBI, LGMA and FCC Libraries); FCC Active Travel Plan; Balbriggan Active Travel Strategy 2024-2034.				