

Our BALBRIGGAN

Our Balbriggan Rejuvenation Plan

2025 – 2030

Economic Development
Community Development
Education, Skills and Training
Sustainability, Climate Action and Biodiversity



High Level Objective: To develop a stronger, more vibrant and prosperous local economy. To plan, assist and implement new opportunities which encourage investment and job creation and strong local businesses, positioning Balbriggan as a premier business destination - Our Balbriggan Strategy.

No	Draft Pillar Action	Intended Result	Lead partner (s)	Support partners
Theme 1 - Leveraging the investments in the Regeneration of Balbriggan by attracting new business, visitors and creating more jobs.				
1.1	Devise campaigns with local businesses (eg Shop local campaigns) to attract footfall and promote Balbriggan as a place to shop and do business.	Significant increase in the level of footfall, visitors and investment in the town.	Balbriggan Chamber	FCC
1.2	Engage with businesses in the town and beyond to identify gaps in the town's offering. To develop creative proposals for new retail/business offerings in the new Harbour Buildings, Kiosks, RNLI Boathouse and potential commercial space at the deBrunns site.	To inform the expressions of Interest process to be undertaken by FCC resulting in exciting new retail, commercial and points of interest that will enhance the town's attraction.	Balbriggan Chamber	FCC
1.3	Devise a campaign to improve the general appearance of businesses, improving the attractiveness of the central and retail areas of the town and encourage and support the business community to invest and avail of grant funding available from the Council.	Uplift in external appearances of shops and retail areas.	Balbriggan Chamber	FCC
1.4	Develop a Town Newsletter / Magazine of the type in place in Skerries, Rush and other small towns around Ireland.	Improve communication channels for the community and advertisement opportunities for local businesses	Balbriggan Chamber	FCC
1.5	Develop a network of businesses in the town to erect new digital/non digital displays and billboards in Balbriggan.	A plan to roll out the delivery of digital displays, information boards and billboards in the town.	Balbriggan Chamber	FCC
1.6	Review the festivals in the town and develop opportunities to improve/increase the town's offering including the potential for a maritime festival that would capitalise on the Quay St/ Harbour regeneration project.	Update Balbriggan Tourism brand, specifically focusing on coastal opportunities (Fingal Coastal Way, Quay Street and Harbour) family events and evening economy.	Balbriggan Tourism Committee	Fingal Food Network, Fingal County Council
Theme 2 - Positioning Balbriggan as the Regional Centre for North Fingal utilising its strategic location on the Dublin Belfast economic corridor for social, leisure and tourism-related activities and services				
2.1	Develop Balbriggan as a regional and national destination for conferences & corporate events.	Year on year increase in number of conferences and corporate events. Reputation as an location for hosting conferences, with a welcoming evening economy.	Balbriggan Chamber	FCC
2.2	Review tourism/heritage style signage and seek opportunities to upgrade the design and consistency of wayfinding to key points of retail, social, leisure and tourism-related activities & interests.	Placemaking / welcome signange at key entrances/ approaches (Harbour, Beach, Martello Tower, Bathouse, Bremore Castle, Train station, Theatre, Hotel, etc). Central wayfinding / map / directional info / in key parts of the town.	Balbriggan Chamber	FCC
2.3	Engage with the potential for the development of creative industry in the town by collaborating with FCC and Arts leaders to develop Balbriggan as a Creative Place with a cultural quarter proposition.	Balbriggan recognised as a key creative regional arts destination with a published yearly calander of landmark creative/artistic events. Increased visitor and footfall in the town.	Balbriggan Chamber	IIMS, Balbriggan Tourism

2.4	Engage with local businesses to devise initiatives that promote modal shift amongst employees and demonstrate leadership to the people of the town in sustainable transport options.	Increase in pedestrians and cyclists in town.	Balbriggan Chamber	FCC
Theme 3 - Promoting Balbriggan, including Stephenstown and other industrial land, as an international location for Investment (green and clean industries).				
3.1	Devise and implement a campaign with local businesses and community groups that presents an image of Balbriggan as an attractive place to live, work, invest and visit and aligns with the vision for the town as espoused in Our Balbriggan.	Statements from business leaders, CEOs, organised business groups and community leaders aligning with the aspiration of the Our Balbriggan vision for the town.	Balbriggan Chamber	FCC
3.2	To disseminate Balbriggan investment guide (when developed) as widely and effectively as possible.	Consistent and agreed messaging on Social media and other channels to links with investment guide (EcoCore Project)	Balbriggan Chamber	FCC
3.3	Devise a branding programme/campaign for the businesses in the town that promotes Balbriggan businesses as sustainable value.	Recognition at regional, national and European level that Balbriggan is an exemplar for green transition.	Balbriggan Chamber	FCC
Theme 4 - Building the Entrepreneurial Eco-system and supporting aspirant entrepreneurs and start-ups in Balbriggan.				
4.1	Host regular business meetups with thematic inputs from experts and service providers across the county.	Regular events for local businesses and entrepreneurs to meet each other in Balbriggan and explore business opportunities.	Balbriggan Chamber	BeAT Centre
4.2	Host events to bring together Balbriggan businesses, employers and skills training providers to promote opportunities for training and skills development.	A strong local business network to support skills development in Balbriggan. A mechanism to remove barriers for labour mobility.	Balbriggan Chamber	Balbriggan Chamber, LEO, DDLETB, HEIs etc.
4.3	Engage with food businesses and industry in the town to establish the basis for connections/supply-chain/markets to a potential food enterprise hub for the town.	Clear pathway identified to expand opportunities for food entrepreneurs and food processing facilities in Balbriggan. Increase participation by Balbriggan based food business on Fingal Food Network.	Balbriggan Chamber	FCC / Beat Centre

Policy Context: FCC Development Plan 2023-2029; Future Fingal: An Economic Development Strategy 2024-2039; Fingal Food and Drink policy 2024-2029; FCC Active Travel Plan, Balbriggan Active Travel strategy 2024-2034; Balbriggan Public Realm Strategy 2024-2034; Fingal Local Economic and Community Plan 2023-2028; Fingal Tourism Strategy 2024-2029; Draft Balbriggan (Stephenstown) Green Transition Integrated Action Plan 2025-2030

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.

HIGH LEVEL OBJECTIVE: 'To plan, support and collaborate in the development of services and initiatives which make space for nature and health, reduce our carbon footprint, and allow biodiversity to flourish, revitalising streets and open spaces and the wider environment.' - Our Balbriggan Strategy

No	Pillar Action	Intended Result	Lead partner	Support partners
Theme 1: Climate Action - A resilient and climate friendly Balbriggan				
1.1	Support Fingal County Council's designated decarbonisation zone for Balbriggan.	Reduce carbon emissions in Balbriggan by supporting the delivery of an Implementation Plan to help achieve the decarbonising zone vision for Balbriggan 2030.	FCC Climate Action Office.	SMART Balbriggan, Codema, FCC Environment, Fingal Active Travel, Balbriggan S.E.C
1.2	Organise online or drop in learning sessions on sustainability, climate action and biodiversity topics aimed at the population and businesses in Balbriggan.	A broader knowledge and understanding in the communities of Balbriggan of the challenges and opportunities for change that encapsulate climate change, biodiversity and other sustainability issues affecting the resilience of the town.	Balbriggan S.E.C.	FCC Environment, FCC Climate Action Office, Fingal Active Travel, FCC Community Dept.
1.3	Create local success stories and establish local 'climate champions' who embody and support climate action.	More volunteers and public participation in 'climate friendly' activities across generations in Balbriggan communities.	B.O.W.W	Fingal Climate Action Office, FCC Communication Dept, SMART Balbriggan.
1.4	Support all schools in Balbriggan to showcase actions on Sustainability, Climate Action and Biodiversity.	An annual week-long event hosted on a rotating basis where the projects of students from all Balbriggan schools are showcased.	Balbriggan Tidy Towns	Balbriggan Schools, FCC Climate Action Office.
Theme 2: Environment and Biodiversity - Protect the Environment and Increase Biodiversity				
2.1	Develop an Urban Greening and Biodiversity Plan for Balbriggan.	Short, medium and long-term actions and targets to increase biodiversity and liveability in the town centre and estates including application to FCC for residential estate. Map and prepare a visually appealing online resource focused on Urban Greening and Biodiversity Projects in Balbriggan.	B.O.W.W	Balbriggan Tidy Towns, FCC Biodiversity, Climate Action, Environment, Operations, Parks, Our Balbriggan Office, SMART Balbriggan.
2.2	Develop a plan with a set of agreed activities that will underpin the continual improvement of Water Quality.	Establishment of a Beach Management Committee, working towards Blue Flag criteria for Balbriggan beach.	FCC Environment Dept	B.O.W.W., Climate Action, Operations, Parks, Bio Diversity Offices, National Parks and Wildlife Services, North West Irish Sea Special Protected Areas (SPA)
2.3	Identify locations of Japanese Knotweed and implement and review a programme of control measures.	Planned control and management of Invasive Species in Balbriggan.	FCC Biodiversity Office	Balbriggan Tidy Towns Committee
2.4	Support the preparation of a wetland and river restoration project for the Bog of the Ring and the Matt river (Bracken River) corridor.	Interventions that will improve flood management, river wildlife restoration and water quality. Feasibility of nature based solutions such as Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) in the catchment area.	FCC Biodiversity Office	B.O.W.W
2.5	Carry out an Urban Bird and Bat Survey in Balbriggan.	Balbriggan map (printed and digital) of birding wildlife.	FCC Biodiversity	SMART Balbriggan, Tidy Towns, B.O.W.W

2.6	Run a primary schools biodiversity programme and public events programme.	Greater engagement and environmental awareness through learning and public events. Minimum of 2 primary schools per year (three year programme)	FCC Biodiversity Office	External facilitator. Balbriggan Tidy Towns
2.7	Support the Balbriggan Tidy Towns Our Nature Festival as a significant educational and family event in Balbriggan that promotes Biodiversity.	Greater publicity and community participation in the Balbriggan Tidy Towns Our Nature Festival.	Balbriggan Tidy Towns	Fingal County Council Climate Action, Biodiversity and Community Departments
Theme 3: Sustainable Mobility - Public transport and active travel measures				
3.1	Support the conducting of surveys, installation of counters, sensors, monitors and signage where appropriate, to assist establish baseline data on active travel usage and air quality.	Periodical publication and comparative analysis of data, increase in cycling (in designated routes), reduction in emissions, increase in air quality.	SMART Balbriggan	FCC Active Travel, Schools, Balbriggan S.E.C
		Increased awareness and use of active travel options.		
3.2	Support and promote community actions such as Fresh Air Friday, walking bus and school streets as well as bike library initiatives in partnership with local schools.	Increase in participation by schools in Active Travel initiatives. Cleaner air, safer and healthier environment.	Balbriggan Tidy Towns & Fingal County Council, Active Travel	Schools/PTA, Smart Balbriggan, FCC Active Travel, SMART Balbriggan
3.3	Advocate for more active travel linkages in the town centre and from other population centres (S, NW) to the town centre and Balbriggan Railway Station.	Improved local bus services, improved cycling and pedestrian routes (corridors) through the town and from new and existing housing density areas (S & NW) to the centre of town.	Balbriggan S.E.C & FCC Active Travel	FCC Active Travel, PSI, FCC Operations, Bus Services, Irish Rail, SMART Balbriggan.
3.4	Continue to focus on improving infrastructure and nurturing a culture of walking and cycling in Balbriggan.	A bike-share scheme and more bike shelters and parking and more resting points (seating & benches).	FCC Active Travel	FCC Operations, Our Balbriggan Office, SMART Balbriggan, Balbriggan Chamber.
<i>Policy Context: Fingal Climate Action Plan 2024 - 2029; Fingal Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030; Balbriggan Sustainable Energy Community Energy Masterplan; Fingal County Council Bathing Water Management Plan for Front Strand Beach, Balbriggan; FCC Active Travel Plan; Balbriggan Active Travel Strategy 2024-2034; Balbriggan Public Realm Strategy 2024-2034.</i>				

HIGH LEVEL OBJECTIVE: 'To continue making Balbriggan an ambitious, confident, safe and inclusive community where all people can realise their full potential. To plan, assist and collaborate in the development of services and improve interagency cooperation to achieve this'
Our Balbriggan Strategy

No	Pillar Action	Intended Result	Lead partner (s)	Support partners
Theme 1: Family Support and Early Years Promoting collaboration and advocacy to ensure more effective accessible childcare, disability, and family support services.				
1.1	Identify and develop evidence based options for a Community element, as part of planned Town Centre development at 6 - 14a Bridge Street.	A viable proposal with identified funding sources, which leads to a vibrant town centre space, providing a range of community activities.	HSE, Foroige, DDLETB, Balbriggan Community Council, Community & Voluntary Groups, Empower, Aster Family Resource Centre, FCYPSC (Members), Fingal County Council	
1.2	Research commissioned into the level of creche provision in Balbriggan, including "not for profit".	Improved future planning of early years services.	FCYPSC (Members), HSE, Aster Family Resource Centre	Fingal County Council
1.3	To quantify and respond to the issue of support services for children and young people on waiting lists for mental health and disability services. Ensure to the greatest extent possible, access to essential resources, coping strategies, and referrals during these periods.	Improved interim (and permanent) support services developed for children on disability and mental health assessment waiting lists.	HSE, (Children's Disability Network Team Balbriggan)	Foroige DDLETB, Community Council, Empower, Aster Family Resource Centre, FCYPSC
Theme 2: Youth - Empowering young people by amplifying their voices in decision-making, providing safe public spaces, and ensuring access to comprehensive youth services				
2.1	Develop a Balbriggan Youth Council	Youth Council established and meets regularly, with formal role in collaborating with Fingal County Council (and other publically funded bodies) to influence youth-related policies and programmes.	Foróige, DDLETB, NDRDATF, Empower, Youthreach, Schools, Tidy Towns.	Fingal County Council
2.2	MUGA - Multi Use Games Area and additional seating, play features in open spaces.	MUGA (minimum x2) seating and play features installed.	Fingal County Council C/O, Operations & EETCD Our Balbriggan Office	DDLETB, Foróige, Sports Clubs, Residents Associations, Balbriggan Community Council.
2.3	Leverage the Creative Balbriggan programme to develop new initiatives aimed at involving young people in the Arts.	Significant increase in young people (incl young adults up to 25) accessing, developing and programming Arts activities in Balbriggan.	Fingal County Council c/o Balbriggan Creative Places Scheme (Arts Council)	Balbriggan Library (FCC), Schools, DDLETB, Foróige, Empower, Youthreach, Irish Institute of Music & Song, SCEAL, Balbriggan Music Generation.
2.4	Investigate Multi-Purpose Teen provision, as part of Community Resources Hub (see Action 1)	Multipurpose Teen space in Town Centre.	DDLETB, Foroige.	Balbriggan Community Council, Fingal County Council, Empower.
2.5	Public awareness campaign about the positive role of teenagers in the Community.	Public awareness campaign launched	Balbriggan Youth Council (newly established)	Foroige, DDLETB, NDRDATF, Fingal County Council, Empower, Youthreach, Schools
Theme 3: Inclusion and Integration - Fostering an inclusive, safe, connected and vibrant community by improving transport, expanding access to outdoor spaces, and promoting social engagement for all residents				
3.1	Establish a Balbriggan Inclusive Policing Forum.	Balbriggan Inclusive Policing Forum established to facilitate a partnership approach to community policing issues and encouraging the active involvement of representatives from diverse / minority communities.	An Garda Síochána	Fingal County Council, Cairde, Balbriggan Integration Forum, Community and Voluntary Groups representing minority groups, Foroige.
3.2	Launch a town-wide initiative to promote volunteerism, actively promoting opportunities, raising awareness, and building a strong culture of community involvement.	Engage and match a minimum of 200 volunteers to new opportunities / organisations over a three year period.	Fingal Volunteer Centre & Fingal County Council Community Department.	All Community & Voluntary Groups in Balbriggan.

3.3	Raise community awareness about upcoming events, town developments, community services and local resources.	Instalation of a minimum of three, regularly updated public notice boards.	Balbriggan Community Council & Community Partners	Fingal County Council, SMART Balbriggan, local business.
3.4	A town-wide inclusivity programme that includes diverse cultural events, ensures diverse representation in leadership, and gathers regular feedback to ensure all groups feel valued and integral to the community.	Inclusivity programme for Balbriggan developed.	Cairde, Balbriggan Integration Forum, Community and Voluntary Groups representing minority groups, Foroige.	Fingal County Council
3.5	Increase in free, family-friendly spaces .	Inclusive annual programme of activity in new Quay Street, Harbour Plaza.	Fingal County Council C/O Operations, PSI & EETCD - Tourism	Balbriggan Historical Society, Balbriggan Tidy Towns, Community and Voluntary Groups
3.6	Make representation for improved public transport particularly on the east side of the town (Fancourt Heights, Craoibhinn Park, Derham Park), and in the newer estates to the NW.	Existing bus routes improved and expanded.	Pillar Group	Fingal County Council, NTA, Bus Eireann

Policy Context: Social Spaces and Youth Services for Young People in Balbriggan (DCU, 2024); "Double Disadvantage: Reduced Access to Early Childhood Care and Education for Children at Risk of Poverty in Fingal (FCYPSC); Fingal Volunteering Strategy 2020-2025; Our Balbriggan Communciation Strategy 2025-2029; Migrant Integration and Social Cohesion Strategy 2019-2024; LGBT Strategic Plan 2023-2027 - Making Ireland the Best Place in Europe to be LGBTQI+; Balbriggan Public Realm Strategy 2024-2034; FCC Active Travel Plan and Balbriggan Active Travel Strategy 2024-2034.

Our Balbriggan 2025 - 2030 - Pillar Groups (x4) Cross Cutting Action

No	Draft Pillar Action	Intended Result	Lead partner (s)	Support partners
1	To host an annual meeting of the Pillar Chairs, Pillar Group Members and the Leadership Group.	Foster more effective collaboration and awareness amongst partners to maximise collective impact and ensure successful implementation of Balbriggan Socio Economic Plan. <i>Publish plan updates on balbriggan.ie</i>	Our Balbriggan Leadership Group, c/o FCC Our Balbriggan Programme Office.	All Pillar Chairs & Members.



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