

# Our Balbriggan Town Rejuvenation Plan 2025-2030



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



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# Our Context



01



IRISH SEA



# Background

In May 2019, the 'Our Balbriggan' Rejuvenation Plan 2019 – 2025, was launched by Fingal County Council, setting out an ambitious new vision for the town.

An award-winning public engagement process underpinned the new plans priorities, along with commitments for public investment for a €50million-plus rejuvenation. Just over 25% of the local Balbriggan population aged over 11 got involved, with over 4,000 local people taking the Our Balbriggan survey.

A Balbriggan Leadership Group, representing public, private and social partners and locally elected members, provides collaborative leadership, oversight and stewardship for the plan's implementation. In line with best practice the group initiated a review of progress in January 2024. As part of the process Dr. David Begg was welcomed as newly appointed Chair of the Balbriggan Leadership Group following the stepping down of Professor Brian MacCraith. Professor MacCraith oversaw the work of the Our Balbriggan Rejuvenation Programme since its initial conception in April 2018.

As part of the review the 'horizon' for the Our Balbriggan Rejuvenation Plan was renewed to 2025-2030, bringing it in line with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF) where public funding has been successfully secured.

**A review process of the Governance structures was embarked upon resulting in renewed objectives and actions under the following pillar working groups:**

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

The Public Realm plan, overseen directly by Fingal County Council's Chief Executive, was updated as part of this process with new timeframes agreed. The resultant Our Balbriggan Town Rejuvenation Plan 2025 – 2030, sets out an ambitious framework for harnessing the town's economic, physical, environmental and human advantages and enabling an excellent quality of life for all its inhabitants.

# Local Context

- According to the 2022 Census, the town's population is 24,322. Between 1991 and 2022, the population increased by 215%. The town has a rich maritime and manufacturing history and is well served by local and international companies including Techcrete, Wavin and Bridgestone. The area is also home to the National Passport Office. Balbriggan is also an attractive location for well-known agrifood and distribution businesses such as Fyffes and Country Crest.
- Balbriggan is strategically located in the Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor, and it is close to large logistics hubs. It sits just north of Dublin International Airport with a 2022 throughput of 28.1 million passengers. It is also close to Dublin Port with a 2022 throughput of 36.7 million gross tonnes and 7,473 ship arrivals. To the north of Balbriggan off the Dublin – Belfast M1 motorway is the commercial port of Drogheda handling over 1 million tonnes of cargo and containers annually.
- Balbriggan was the first town in Ireland to be named as a Smart District due to its growing, youthful and culturally diverse population. The Smart Balbriggan programme aims to ensure that Balbriggan benefits from 'smart' and 'digital' initiatives and its core focus will be to enhance community life, support economic opportunities and drive innovation through several smart district projects.

## YOUNGEST TOWN IN IRELAND

**33.6** AVERAGE AGE OF POPULATION

(2022 CENSUS)

## POPULATION

**24,322**

(2022 CENSUS)

## ETHNICALLY DIVERSE

**30%** BORN OUTSIDE IRELAND

(2022 CENSUS)





## Some Key Facts & Figures

### BALBRIGGAN IS ONE OF THE FASTEST GROWING TOWNS IN IRELAND

The population of Balbriggan expanded by **12.5%** between 2016 and 2022 as **2,600** more people were resident in the town.

#### ENROLMENT FIGURE BALBRIGGAN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY

**3101** PRIMARY SCHOOL

**4212** SECONDARY SCHOOL

Source: Department of Education, 2024-2025 enrolment figures.

### BALBRIGGAN IS THE YOUNGEST AND MOST DIVERSE TOWN IN IRELAND

**3** IN EVERY **10** PEOPLE IN BALBRIGGAN ARE UNDER 18.

**CENSUS 2022** There were **49** Towns in Ireland with a population of over **10,000**. Balbriggan with an average of **33.6** years, was the youngest large town in the Country.

**CHILDREN AND TEENAGERS** (0-17 years) comprised 8,338 or

**32.9%**

of Balbriggan's population in the 2022 census.

# Our Vision



02

**Building on its rich history and its diverse and growing talent base, Balbriggan is an ambitious community that aims to be inclusive and will be prosperous, harnessing its social, economic and physical advantages and enabling an excellent quality of life for all its people.**

# Our Process



03

**BALBRIGGAN TOWN  
REJUVENATION PLAN**

**PAST**  
(2019-2024)

**ADOPTED**  
(2025-2030)

# Our Process

In January 2024, the Leadership Group initiated a review and renew process.

During the period January 2024 and August 2024, a comprehensive review of the previous 2019 - 2025 plan was undertaken, including progress, gaps and governance structures. Arising from these new terms of references were agreed for the Balbriggan Leadership Group and its reporting Pillar working groups.

During the period September 2024 to March 2025 a series of in-depth workshops took place to inform the making of new plans. Structured workshops, public meetings and online thematic sessions took place, involving over 120

stakeholders, from private, public, community and volunteer led groups and representatives. Draft plans were considered by the Balbriggan Leadership Group before being formally adopted at its March 2025 meeting

**Plans were adopted for the 4 pillar groups under the headings:**

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

### Timeline

	Jan - Mar 24	Apr - Aug 24	Sept - Dec 24	Jan - Mar 25
<b>Review of 2019 - 2025 Plan</b>	←-----→			
<b>Leadership Group</b> Chaired by Dr. David Begg		←-----→		
<b>Action Plan Workshops</b> • Economic Development • Education, Skills and Training • Sustainability, Climate Action and Biodiversity • Community Development			←-----→	
<b>Community Development - Public Engagement Sessions</b> • Family Support and Early Years • Youth Services and Spaces • Integration and Inclusion			←-----→	
<b>Online Thematic Sessions</b> • Thinking Sustainability in Balbriggan (Oct '24) • Biodiversity in Balbriggan (Dec '24)			←-----→	
<b>New action plans adopted by Balbriggan Leadership Group, 19th March 2025</b>				←-----→



# Adopting Guiding Principles

## ENGAGEMENT

Listening to local people about their ambitions and their aspirations for the town of Balbriggan and sharing the plans and actions for the development of the town.

## COLLABORATION

Working in partnership with government agencies, local service providers, local businesses, new investors and intended beneficiaries to best harness resources and ideas to deliver on the Our Balbriggan Plan.

## SHARED LEARNING AND INNOVATION

A willingness to learn from each other and from other cities and locations with the intention to test new ideas and initiate innovations

## PLACEMAKING

Capitalise on community assets and potential with the intention of creating public spaces that promote people's health, happiness and the development of a strong sense of belonging.

# Our Strategy



04

# Our Balbriggan Rejuvenation Public Realm

SUPPORTED BY URBAN REGENERATION DEVELOPMENT FUND (URDF) AND FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

2026

1

## TRANSFORMATION OF QUAY STREET, HARBOUR & ENVIRONS

A rejuvenated Quay Street, Harbour and surrounding area, will be transformed into a multi-purpose, family friendly space, complete with heritage restoration of the RNLI Boathouse, Harbour Pavilion buildings, Public Toilets and Kiosks.

Public Realm works on both sides of its iconic viaduct, will redefine Balbriggans Harbour, Beach and Coastline, creating an outstanding public amenity. A place where people choose to gather and linger and enjoy the authentic experience of a small working fishing harbour, overlooking a beautiful beach, connecting with main street and other leisure, cultural and tourism opportunities.

2027

2

## 2 - 4 DUBLIN STREET - A CREATIVE HUB

The development will deliver a dedicated public space for arts, culture, and innovation. It will include artist studios, digital learning facilities, workshop areas, and a gallery. No. 2 Dublin Street is a protected structure and will be developed in line with best conservation practices, accommodating 8 artistic studios. No.4 Dublin Street will include workshop, training and multimedia digital learning spaces, with an external walled courtyard with a multi-functional space suitable for a gallery, installations and events, strengthening the public, civic and creative heart of the town.

2028

3

## DE BRUNS (6A - 14 BRIDGE STREET, MILL POND PARK - GREEN CORRIDOR)

Located in the centre of the town in an Architectural Conservation Area, the front façade will be preserved. The emergent design maintains the original footprint of the buildings, with frontage onto the main street, access and terrace to the front and rear facing onto green space and the River Bracken, with commercial and or other purposes on the floor(s) above. A linear green park to the rear, with pedestrian and cycle access, connecting to the Mill Pond Park, and Bridge (Main) Street, flowing down to a rejuvenated Quay Street, Harbour Square, beach and coastline.

2029

4

## COASTAL IMPROVEMENTS

### Bathroom & Boathouse

Restoration, adaptation and reuse of the historic Bathroom and Boathouse has commenced, the completed scheme will include upgrades to the immediate public realm, improved accessibility and community and water-based activities at this location.

### Accessibility & Improved coastal amenities

Infrastructure upgrades and accessibility improvements at Balbriggans Front Beach have commenced. Swim shelter and shower, accessibility ramp and railings, steps and improved amenity space completed in 2024 - 25. Design options on the installation a suitable pathway to improve accessibility to the beach from the Viaduct / Quay Street and Banks promenade is progressing.

### Tidal Swim Platform

A feasibility study and early-stage concept designs have been completed for an outdoor (tidal) swim platform area.

2030

5

## RAILWAY STREET, STATION & PLAZA

A reinvigorated Railway Street, Station and Plaza area will ensure better connectivity between the front beach, Quay Street and entrance and exit points at the station. Extensive streetscape improvements, signage, greening and public realm improvements will lead to more vibrancy and footfall in this historical central location.



# Fingal County Council - Capital Investment Plan

- 2025

6

**HARRY REYNOLDS PEDESTRIAN & CYCLE ROUTE**

A pedestrian and cycle-link between Drogheda Street and Hamilton Road, serving 3 school campuses at Ardgillan Community College, St. Mologa's NS and Balbriggan Educate Together National School, as well as shops, childcare facilities and community amenities including Millpond Park and Flemington Community Centre is completed. National Transport Authority (NTA) funded it represents a significant upgrade in connectivity and active travel in Balbriggan.
- 2025

7

**BATH ROAD & BATH ROAD OVERFLOW CAR PARK & BREMORE CASTLE CAR PARK**

Construction of 3 car parks within a 10–15-minute walk to Balbriggan Town Centre and Railway Station completed. An additional 280 (free) car parking spaces at these locations includes dedicated coach facilities (Bremore), electronic vehicle charging and bike parking (Including covered stands).
- 2028

8

**INDOOR SWIMMING POOL**

A 11m public swimming pool is to be built in Balbriggan. Castlelands one kilometre south of Balbriggan Town Centre, The six lane 25 metre pool will include a changing village, reception area with café and a viewing gallery. The statutory planning consent process for the new swimming pool is expected to be concluded at the end of quarter one, 2026, and, subject to funding, construction could commence by 2027.
- 2028

9

**BALBRIGGAN OUTDOOR RECREATION SPACES**

Three locations have been completed in Millpond Park, Bremore and Charlie Moore Parks. A further scheme is approved for installation in 2026 including a Basketball / MUGA half court and other outdoor enhancements including seating in outdoor space between Chieftan's Drive / Moylaragh Road. Further locations for youth recreation spaces to be identified in 2027 - 2028.
- 2030

10

**INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT LANDS (STEPHENSTOWN)**

Provision of road infrastructure to service industrial lands in Stephenstown Industrial Estate over 3 phases (Including the Naul Road, R122).
- 2030

11

**BREMORE CASTLE & REGIONAL PARK**

Works on the construction of the Castle Gatehouse are complete and landscaping with ongoing boundary treatment including railings and hedge planting nearing completion. Works on the upgrade of Bells Lane are also completed. Works anticipated to enable the upper floors of the castle to be opened up. The first phase of the active 'Recreational Hub' at Bremore is completed. Procurement will proceed in 2026 on further phases of the Sports & Recreational Hub to include, Athletics Track, GAA & Soccer Pitches and Basketball & Tennis Courts and changing facilities.
- 2030

12

**FINGAL COASTAL WAY**

The Fingal Coastal Way will be a high quality, safe, attractive and environmentally sympathetic coastal walking and cycling route linking Donabate, Rush, Loughshinny, Skerries and Balbriggan. The proposed rural and urban greenway, which is being progressed in conjunction with Transport Infrastructure Ireland, will encourage tourism and recreation while offering an attractive alternative transport choice for school children and commuters, bringing significant environmental, economic and health benefits to the wider community.



## OUR BALBRIGGAN

**Economic Development Pillar - 2025-2030**

**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
<b>Theme 1: Leveraging the investments in the Regeneration of Balbriggan by attracting new business, visitors and creating more jobs.</b>				
<b>1.1</b>	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
<b>1.2</b>	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 deBruns 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
<b>1.3</b>	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
<b>1.4</b>	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
<b>1.5</b>	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
<b>1.6</b>	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
<b>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</b>				
<b>2.1</b>	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
<b>2.2</b>	Upgrade signage and improve wayfinding at key entrance points to the town (retail, harbour, beach, tourism, car-parking, trails)	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

No	Draft Pillar Action	Intended Result	Lead partner (s)	Support partners
<b>Theme 2:</b> 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.				
<b>2.3</b>	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. Upskill creative practitioners.	Balbriggan Chamber	IIMS, Balbriggan Tourism, FCC Arts Office
<b>2.4</b>	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
<b>Theme 3:</b> Promoting Balbriggan, including Stephenstown and other industrial land, as an international location for Investment (green and clean industries).				
<b>3.1</b>	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
<b>3.2</b>	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
<b>3.3</b>	Devise a branding programme/campaign for the businesses in the town that promotes Balbriggan.	Recognition at regional, national and European level that Balbriggan is an exemplar for green transition.	Balbriggan Chamber	FCC
<b>Theme 4:</b> Building the Entrepreneurial Eco-system and supporting aspirant entrepreneurs and start-ups in Balbriggan.				
<b>4.1</b>	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
<b>4.2</b>	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.
<b>4.3</b>	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

OUR BALBRIGGAN

# Community Development Pillar - 2025-2030

**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
<b>Theme 1: Family Support and Early Years Promoting collaboration and advocacy to ensure more effective accessible childcare, disability, and family support services</b>				
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, Foróige, 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)	Foróige DDLETB, Community Council, Empower, Aster Family Resource Centre, FCYPSC
<b>Theme 2: Youth - Empowering young people by amplifying their voices in decision-making, providing safe public spaces, and ensuring access to comprehensive youth services</b>				
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, NDRDATE, 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

No	Pillar Action	Intended Result	Lead partner (s)	Support partners
<b>Theme 2: Youth - Empowering young people by amplifying their voices in decision-making, providing safe public spaces, and ensuring access to comprehensive youth services.</b>				
<b>2.4</b>	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
<b>2.5</b>	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
<b>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.</b>				
<b>3.1</b>	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
<b>3.2</b>	The development of a "Volunteer Centre Pop-Up" in Balbriggan Library and a "Volunteer Expo" in Balbriggan. Continued promotion to support the Fingal Volunteer Centre incentives being marketed town-wide.	A "Volunteer Centre Pop-up" and a "Volunteer Expo" in Balbriggan to promote the effective collaboration with existing organisations and raising volunteering opportunities.	Fingal Volunteer Centre & Fingal County Council Community Department	All Community & Voluntary Groups in Balbriggan, Foróige, Our Balbriggan Programme Office
<b>3.3</b>	Raise community awareness about upcoming events, town developments, community services and local resources.	Installation of a minimum of three, regularly updated public notice boards.	Balbriggan Community Council & Community Partners	Fingal County Council, SMART Balbriggan, local business
<b>3.4</b>	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
<b>3.5</b>	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
<b>3.6</b>	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 Communication 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

**Education, Skills and Training - 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
<b>Theme 1: Education - Access to educational and training opportunities.</b>				
<b>1.1</b>	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
<b>1.2</b>	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
<b>1.3</b>	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
<b>1.4</b>	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
<b>1.5</b>	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
<b>1.6</b>	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

No	Pillar Action	Intended Result	Lead partner (s)	Support partners
<b>Theme 2: Skills - Address identified skills gaps to meet current and future employer needs.</b>				
<b>2.1</b>	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
<b>2.2</b>	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
<b>2.3</b>	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
<b>2.4</b>	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
<b>Theme 3: Building future pathways - Building future pathways (Primary, Secondary Schools and Youthreach.</b>				
<b>3.1</b>	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
<b>3.2</b>	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
<b>3.3</b>	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

## OUR BALBRIGGAN

## Sustainability, Climate Action and Biodiversity Pillar - 2025-2030

**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 (s)	Support partners
<b>Theme 1: Climate Action - A resilient and climate friendly Balbriggan.</b>				
<b>1.1</b>	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
<b>1.2</b>	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.
<b>1.3</b>	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
<b>1.4</b>	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
<b>Theme 2: Environment and Biodiversity - Protect the Environment and Increase Biodiversity.</b>				
<b>2.1</b>	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.	B.O.W.W	Balbriggan Tidy Towns, FCC Biodiversity, Climate Action, Environment, Operations, Parks, Our Balbriggan Office, SMART Balbriggan
		Map and prepare a visually appealing online resource focused on Urban Greening and Biodiversity Projects in Balbriggan.		
<b>2.2</b>	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)

No	Pillar Action	Intended Result	Lead partner (s)	Support partners
<b>Theme 2: Environment and Biodiversity - Protect the Environment and Increase Biodiversity.</b>				
<b>2.3</b>	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
<b>2.4</b>	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.	FCC Biodiversity Office	B.O.W.W
		Feasibility of nature based solutions such as Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) in the catchment area.		
<b>2.5</b>	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
<b>2.6</b>	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
<b>2.7</b>	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
<b>Theme 3: Sustainable Mobility - Public transport and active travel measures.</b>				
<b>3.1</b>	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.		
<b>3.2</b>	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
<b>3.3</b>	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
<b>3.4</b>	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

**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.

# Making it Happen



# 05

# Leadership



Leadership continues from Fingal County Council, underpinned by professional, political and technical support. Dedicated Local Authority staff and personnel are responsible for supporting Balbriggan Leadership Group members and Pillar Chairpersons on assisting progress of the actions in the Town Rejuvenation Plan 2025 - 2030. The Balbriggan Leadership Group representing public, private and community partners currently

comprises 16 members, including the x5 Balbriggan locally elected Councilors, and is chaired by Dr. David Begg (Chairperson of the Workplace Relations Commission and a former General Secretary of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions and CEO of Concern Worldwide) The Leadership Group provides collaborative leadership, oversight and stewardship for the plan's continued implementation.

Strong collaborative networks have been established between the community, private and public sectors. The continued operation and strengthening of these networks will enable an integrated and flexible approach to the resourcing and delivery of the plan's actions to continue.

# Funding



€27.5 million has been awarded to Fingal County Council, under the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF). Fingal County Council have allocated a minimum of 25% match funding, bringing the total funding ringfenced for Balbriggan to €34.3 million.

In the period 2019 - 2025 significant growth in public funding has supported the expansion of public services and infrastructure, to catch up with the growth in the Town's population. Significant private investment has occurred during this period, particularly in food and beverage, hospitality and entertainment and music education.

Fingal County have made provision for future funding commitments to develop road infrastructure and services at the industrial development lands at Stehentown, to attract industry, investment, and jobs. Funding commitments have been made for an indoor swimming pool at Castlelands, and continual improvement and development of sporting, leisure, and visitor amenities at Bremore Regional Park and Bremore Castle.

Other public bodies and stakeholders have an equally important responsibility to review current resource levels, and address deficits through the allocation of new funding where necessary.

Funding secured by Fingal County Council, underline its commitment to realise the ambitious vision contained in Our Balbriggan Rejuvenation Plan 2025 to 2030. The priorities and that of its predecessor are the result of historic and ongoing community engagement. In 2019 more than 25% of Balbriggan's residents outlined their preferences.

# Managing Performance

Our Plan sets out the higher level objectives and actions that will help achieve Our Vision.

## Objective of Leadership Group is:

To develop actions to implement a long term socio-economic strategy for Balbriggan through collaboration with Local Communities, Businesses and stakeholders.

To provide collaborative leadership, oversight and stewardship in the implementation of the Our Balbriggan Rejuvenation Plan; ensuring progress, review and recommended adjustments where necessary. To uphold our implementing values and principles in the Our Balbriggan Rejuvenation Plan.

The Leadership Group meet four times a year where they receive updates, review progress and address challenges of its four Pillar Groups together with details on the progress of public realm schemes funded through the Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF) and Fingal County Council.

The Chair and its members provide collaborative leadership, oversight and stewardship in the implementation of the Our Balbriggan Rejuvenation Plan.

In carrying out its duties the Leadership Group are responsible for upholding its adopting guiding principles. In addition to these the Leadership Group is tasked with initiating reviews and making recommended adjustments to plans where necessary.



Regular progress updates are available on [www.balbriggan.ie](http://www.balbriggan.ie) and across Our Balbriggan social media platforms.

# Acknowledgements

## BALBRIGGAN LEADERSHIP GROUP

### Dr. David Begg

**Paul Carroll (Chair)**  
**Community Development Pillar**  
 Director of Services  
 Fingal County Council

**Fionnuala May (Chair)**  
**Public Realm Placemaking Pillar**  
 County Architect  
 Fingal County Council

**John Quinlivan (Chair)**  
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 Director of Services  
 Fingal County Council

**David Storey (Chair)**  
**Sustainability, Climate Action and Biodiversity**  
 Director of Services  
 Fingal County Council

**Fiona Kavanagh (Chair)**  
**Education, Skills and Training**  
 Adult Literacy Organiser, DDLETB

**Seamus Quigley**  
 Department of Employment & Social Affairs

**Alice Davis**  
 Chair, Balbriggan Community Council

**Sarah Duku**  
 Manager, Cairde

**Insp. Brendan Keane**  
 An Garda Siochana

### Cllr Grainne Maguire

### Cllr. Tony Murphy

### Cllr. Brendan Ryan

### Cllr. Tom O'Leary

### Cllr. Malachy Quinn

**Roisin Lowry**  
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**Gerry McDermott**  
 Head of Communications  
 Fingal County Council

## EXECUTIVE

**Declan Ryan**  
 Senior Executive Officer,  
 EETCD

**Breffni O'Rourke**  
 Programme Manager

## PILLAR WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

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## ONLINE THEMATIC SESSIONS

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## WORKSHOP FACILITATORS

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