

Our Balbriggan Town Rejuvenation Plan 2025-2030 Executive Summary



Introduction



Dr. David Begg,
Chairperson Balbriggan
Leadership Group

The Balbriggan 2025 - 2030 Town Rejuvenation Plan 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 inhabitants.

The Balbriggan Leadership Group, representing public, private and social partners and locally elected members, provides collaborative oversight and stewardship for the plan's implementation.

In line with best practice, in January 2024, the Leadership Group initiated a review of progress on its previously adopted Socio-Economic plan (2019 - 2025). 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.

You can follow the progress of the plan and get involved through any of the Our Balbriggan social media channels, the blogs on balbriggan.ie or simply by posting about your town and using **#ourbalbriggan**.

To download the Our Balbriggan 2025-2030 Rejuvenation Plan go to www.balbriggan.ie, the full version contains a comprehensive set of socio-economic plans and actions.



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.

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)



OUR BALBRIGGAN REJUVENATION PLAN 2025-2030

Pillar Groups

01

Economic Development

16 Actions

High Level Objective

To develop a stronger, more vibrant 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.

Themes

- › Leveraging Regeneration
- › Regional Centre
- › Promoting Investment
- › Entrepreneurial Eco System

02

Community Development

14 Actions

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 co-operation to achieve these.

Themes

- › Family Support and Early Years
- › Youth
- › Integration and Inclusion

03

Education, Skills and Training

13 Actions

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 co-operation, to achieve these.

Themes

- › Education
- › Training Skills
- › Building Future Pathways

04

Sustainability, Climate Action and Biodiversity

15 Actions

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.

Themes

- › Climate Action
- › Environment and Biodiversity
- › Sustainable Mobility

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 conservations 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

TIDAL SWIM PLATFORM

Bathhouse & Boathouse

Restoration, adaptation and reuse of the historic Bathhouse 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.



R132

BREMORE REGIONAL PARK

12

9

11

4

MARTELLO TOWER

7

5

1

3

2

R127

6

R132

8

CASTLELANDS COMMUNITY CENTRE

CASTLEMILL SHOPPING CENTRE

FLEMINGTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

MILLFIELD SHOPPING CENTRE

SS PETER & PAUL'S CHURCH

IRISH INSTITUTE OF MUSIC & SONG

COASTAL WAY

CASTLELANDS COMMUNITY CENTRE

ARDGILLAN CASTLE

LADY STAIRS

FLEMINGTON LN

CHIEFTAIN'S WAY

MOYLARAGH RD

CHAPEL ST

CLONARD RD

HARRY REYNOLDS RD

BRACKEN RIVER

R122

CLONARD CROSS

BELFAST 140 KM

NAUL 9 KM

DUBLIN AIRPORT 29 KM

DUBLIN CITY 33 KM

M1

IRISH SEA

HAMPTON COVE

BALROTHERY

BALBRIGGAN GOLF CLUB



Regular progress updates are available on www.balbriggan.ie and across Our Balbriggan social media platforms



WWW.BALBRIGGAN.IE

#ourbalbriggan    