

FCC Policy Proposals:

Policy Proposals from the Arts, Culture, Heritage, Sport, Libraries & Community Linkage Group of the Fingal Public Participation Network (FPPN)

For consideration by the Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) and the Corporate Policy Group (CPG).

1. General Proposals:

- 1.a. In the context of the overall FCC Corporate Plan 2015-19, and in the context of the FCC Community Development Plan 2010-15, there is a requirement for greater recognition and expression of the implicit and explicit overarching and interlinking of FCC services provided. This is a necessary and critical part of any coherent strategy. No Department or Unit is an Island and the collective as a team is greater than any individual player.
- 1.b. Communications in all forms is seen as a critical issue across the board for FCC. The overall Corporate Plan and the Community Plan should/ must provide for an effective communications strategy in all its forms. This strategy must be clear in identifying the major FCC stakeholders on one dimension, and then consider the matching of the varying forms of effective communication required on the other dimension. It is recognised that this is easier said than done. It does take time and resources to evaluate, seek best practice, pilot test, assess, and then recommend and execute. Without such a clear strategy FCC will be like a communications bubble detached from its Fingal citizens. Across the SPC's it remains to be seen what the FPPN Secretariat will do on this front but this is seen as just one part of an overall FCC Corporate Communications Strategy.

2. SPC Specific Proposals:

- 2.a. Facilitation to best understand existing policy, its evolution, and the process for formulating policy recommendations was a common theme and Lorcan Blake, SPC Rep. advised that the SPC has already decided under the chairmanship of Councillor Anne Devitt to have a dedicated evening or Saturday morning for this specific purpose. – Policies should stipulate exactly what they cover e.g. what constitutes Art or Heritage etc.
- 2.b. The Annual Budget for all policy areas in the SPC was requested by the member organisations present in order to better assess and evaluate expenditure against purpose, service and value for policy recommendation purposes. Specifically, under the Fingal Arts Plan a break-down of annual expenditure under the following heads was requested: Youth & Education Art Programme; Funding Scheme for art organisations, groups & individuals; The bursary scheme for artists; The budget for

the commissioning of public art; and The budget for the two art centres (Draocht and the Seamus Ennis Centre)

- 2.c. Within the allocated budgets to the Community/Arts/Sport/Library Departments, it is recommended that every effort should/ must be made to expend those resources fairly and evenly across Fingal and to measure expenditure against effect and value for money going forward.
- 2.d. In the domain of Sport which never ceases to grow and in an environment of limited resources across the board it is recommended that community sports facilities, such as the Bremoore All Weather facility, where facilities are shared, on a commercial basis, be the sports facility model for the future.
- 2.e. In recognition of how sports groups struggle to get off the ground in their developing stage – it is proposed that new Sports groups are financially supported for 3 to 5 years
- 2.f. In the remit of the Sports Strategy it was noted that there is no recognition for any form of water sports (feeding into the perception that water sports are an elite sport – which they are not) or indeed park runs and walking groups.
- 2.g. In the domain of the Sports Strategy it is suggested that more effort is put into encouraging children to take part in a variety of sports – ‘swaps’ could take place between different types of sports clubs – e.g. the local football club could visit the Howth Yacht Club and take part in water sports and vice versa. Also look at the new communities and identify sports from their home countries that could be encouraged here in Fingal.
- 2.h. In the domain of Heritage, the organisation, promotion, communication and leadership of heritage trails and the inter-linkages between trails was considered to be a priority issue not alone for Fingal citizens but as a tourist attraction for that particular market, given Fingal’s heritage.
- 2.i. In the domain of the Arts - artist-in-residence Programme (ARP), under the Youth & Education Programme for art, the yearlong ARP is deeply recognised and appreciated. However, when the ARP moves on there is no follow up strategy for the schools. With limited resources and growing demand, and having stimulated the students this policy needs review to address this reality.
- 2.j. In the domain of the Arts – proposed more emphasis on Arts for Older People - musicians, artists etc. – to form part of the Age Friendly Strategy.
- 2.k. In the domain of Libraries – proposal that all Libraries are resourced equally as is appropriate to the population of the catchment area.

3. Evaluation/Annual Reviews of Policies and Plans

- 2.a. Policies/Plans should be reviewed annually – with input/feedback from the Community.
- 2.b. The wording of the Community Office Plan is very 'airy fairy' – propose that more understandable/less jargon language be used so all can understand.
- 2.c. As Plans etc. are coming to an end over the coming 2 years – organisations should be informed as to how they can submit proposals etc. for New Plans/Policies
- 2.d. It is proposed that when new plans etc. are being developed the Community should also have some input into what the budget is to be spent on – this would make it a Plan for the Citizens of Fingal rather than a Fingal County Council Plan.