



# Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall Fingal County Council

**Consultation:**

Draft Climate Change Action Plan

**Author:** David Healy**Unique Reference Number:**

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**Submission:**

Meeting the commitment to the Covenant of Mayors through a process of public participation

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## Observations:

**Theme:** Climate Change**Title:** Public Participation

I welcome the fact that public consultation is taking place on the draft plan. However, Fingal County Council and the other local authorities decided in adopting the “Strategy towards Climate Change Action Plans” that public consultation was to be used to identify develop many of the actions to be included in the plans. Unfortunately this did not happen.

In our response to the consultation on the draft Strategy, the Green councillors in the four Dublin local authorities specifically identified the importance of public participation in the development of the plans, including through workshops and other opportunities for personal engagement (as opposed to solely written submissions.) We specifically pointed to the success of this sort of participative approach in Vancouver. I also subsequently pointed to the examples of good quality engagement by the Planning Department of Fingal County Council in the initial stages of the development of the current County Development Plan, with workshop-type events at which public input was gathered. The need for public participation in developing the draft Plans was agreed by the Council and reflected in the final Strategy. It is unfortunate that that Strategy was not implemented as agreed.

The consultation events for this draft plan were very welcome and effective. However, they should have been expanded into the sort of workshop events used for the Development Plan.

At this stage, the Plan should now provide for more detailed public participation in developing actions. This would probably most effectively be done with separate events under each of the 5 Action Areas in the Plan, and the Plan should set this out accordingly.

The success of the consultation events demonstrated the level of public interest in the topic; the development of further actions under the 5 Action Areas should build on that interest and enable people to engage further with the Council's climate protection work.

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**Theme:** Climate Change

**Title:** Reduction of Greenhouse Gases from all sectors

It is very welcome that the Plan has a detailed engagement with reducing the Council's own emissions in line with the commitment to the Covenant of Mayors. The County Council's own emissions are estimated at 2% of Fingal's emissions.

However, the target adopted in the Covenant of Mayors is for emissions from the entire County. Considerable extra work is required in order to develop actions to reduce emissions from the other 98% which are not direct emissions from the Council. The Action Areas in the Plan should form the basis for developing actions within the County, informed by the Council's policies and by the public participation approach recommended above, to drive the mitigation and adaptation changes required.

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**Theme:** Climate Change

**Title:** Transport

Transport is the most significant Action Area. This is because it is by far the largest emissions sector in Fingal and it is the one going most rapidly in the wrong direction. The NTA estimate a 30% increase in GHG emissions from the Greater Dublin Area over the period of their Transport Strategy 2016-2035. It is clear that a radical change of direction is needed.

In particular this requires a commitment to develop and fund the necessary facilities for walking cycling and public transport at a completely different rate. It would be based on an understanding that these modes must be the dominant transport modes in a sustainable Fingal and Greater Dublin Area. The Draft Actions in the Plan should be those which would be required in order to facilitate that sort of change. The Plan should the infrastructure and policy measures which would be required to make the emissions reductions required by the Covenant. Transport modelling would enable the necessary calculations to be made. However the Plan doesn't contain the necessary analysis, nor the measures which that analysis would identify.

In relation to cycling, the Plan should start by committing to implementing the Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network Plan within Fingal.

The extra actions needed to reduce transport emissions should be developed under the Transport Action Area heading through a process involving public participation.

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**Documents Attached:** No

**Boundaries Captured on Map:** No