



PRESS RELEASE

February 6, 2017

Fingal County Council is Council of the Year



Fingal County Council was named Council of the Year at the Local Authority Members Association's 2017 Awards on Saturday night in the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Santry.

It is the second time in just over two months that Fingal County Council has been recognised with a major national award as last November the Council was named Local Authority of the Year at the Excellence in Local Government Awards organised by Chambers Ireland.

The other Council's short-listed for LAMA's Council of the Year Award were Cork City Council, Kildare County Council and Mayo County Council.

Two other Fingal County Council projects were winners on the evening with InvizBox, one of the successful businesses supported by Fingal's Local Enterprise Office, winning the Best New/Micro Business Award while BASE Enterprise Centre in Mulhuddart won the Best Irish Business Working in the Community Award.

Nine other Fingal projects were short-listed at the LAMA Awards while on Friday evening at the 2017 Irish Tourism Industry Awards, Fingal County Council's Fingal Tourism Strategy was short-listed for the Best Local Authority Tourism Innovation Award.

The Mayor of Fingal, Cllr Darragh Butler and the Chief Executive of Fingal County Council, Paul Reid, attended Saturday evening's LAMA Awards along with several councillors and Council staff members. Former Mayor of Fingal, Cllr Mags Murray, is the current chairperson of LAMA.

"I would like to offer my congratulations, on behalf of all our councillors, to the staff of Fingal County Council on winning the Council of the Year Award," said Cllr Butler. "Coming so soon after the Chambers Ireland Local Authority of the Year Award, the LAMA Award is further acknowledgement of the excellent work being done by management and staff across all areas of the Council. This is an award that everybody in Fingal should be very proud of."

Mr Reid added: "Our staff, with the support of our Councillors, work on a daily basis for the citizens of our county and to make Fingal a better place to live, to work, to learn, to visit and to do business in. It is an award that everybody within the organisation has contributed to and we are delighted that our work has been recognised in this way."

The Community and Council Awards presented by IPB Insurance and LAMA highlight and recognise community and councils working together, bringing national recognition to projects and developments that may otherwise go unrecognised. City and County Councillors nominate projects across 20 categories that demonstrate the work implemented through unique projects that enhance their local area for the good of the community and these are then judged by an independent panel of judges

The other categories with Fingal nominees at the LAMA Awards were:

- **Best Connected Community:** Fingal County Council for working in Partnership with local Councillors, Balbriggan Chamber of Commerce and Balbriggan Community Council.

- **Best Health & Wellbeing Initiative:** Fingal County Council for MarathonKids.
- **Best Heritage Project:** Fingal County Council for Swords Castle Digging History.
- **Best Public Building:** Fingal County Council for Atrium Redevelopment at County Hall, Swords.
- **Best Public Park:** Fingal County Council for St. Catherine's Park, Lucan.
- **Most Innovative Authority:** Fingal County Council for Fingal Online Consultation Portal.
- **Local Sports Club of the Year:** Baldoyle United Football Club and Donabate Portrane Community & Leisure Centre.
- **Best Road Safety Initiative:** Balbriggan Community Gardaí & Foroige for RSA Wrecked Initiative.

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PHOTO: The Mayor of Fingal, Cllr Darragh Butler, receives the Council of the Year Award from Cllr Mags Murray, Chairperson of LAMA.