

# FINGAL SCORES HAT TRICK OF ELG AWARDS FOR 2019

With this year's Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards due to be presented on 26 November, 'Council Review' looks back at the 'Local Authority of the Year' Award winner for 2019 – Fingal County Council – and the Dublin local authority also took home two category awards for 'Best Practice in Citizen Engagement' and 'Festival of the Year'.

The 2019 win for Fingal County Council was the third time in 11 years that the council had been named 'Local Authority of the Year' at the Excellence in Local Government Awards, having previously received the accolade in 2009 and 2016.

And the North Dublin local authority also won two out of 11 category awards – 'Best Practice in Citizen Engagement' and 'Festival of the Year' – in which it had been nominated.

On accepting the award last November, the then Mayor of Fingal, Cllr Eoghan O'Brien, said it was a huge honour for Fingal County Council, elected members and staff. He said that it was "extremely humbling to be recognised as the best council in Ireland, especially in the year that we celebrate our 25th anniversary".

Fingal's Chief Executive AnnMarie Farrelly said it was recognition of the excellent work by both the council and elected members on a daily basis on behalf of Fingal's citizens.

"It shows we are a progressive council and always looking for new and better ways to deliver our services."

## EFFECTIVE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Congratulating Fingal County Council on winning the award for the second time in four years, Chief Executive of Chambers Ireland, Ian Talbot, said the council had shown engagement across the different facets of the community, with the development and sustainability of Fingal's localities and environment, to achieve this accolade.

"For their commitment to serving their community, and also raising their area's profile nationally as a stand-out



*Pictured at the presentation of the 'Local Authority of the Year' Award for 2019 to Fingal County Council were (l-r): Ian Talbot, Chief Executive of Chambers Ireland, Fingal's Chief Executive AnnMarie Farrelly and Mayor Cllr Eoghan O'Brien, Chambers Ireland President Siobhan Kinsella and John Paul Phelan, TD, Minister of State for the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, at the Awards Banquet in Santry on 28 November 2019.*

destination, Fingal County Council deserves to be commended." He also extended his congratulations to the 16 category winners, the shortlisted organisations and to those behind all award-winning projects.

The then Minister of State for Local Government and Electoral Reform, John Paul Phelan TD, said the annual Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards offered an opportunity to acknowledge those in local authorities, elected members and officials, who continue to meet the dynamic and diverse needs of Ireland's changing communities.

The 16th Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards was again held in association with the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government to showcase the best of local government in Ireland.

A total of 16 awards were presented on the night plus the overall award for 'Local Authority of the Year'. Individual awards were sponsored by European Recycling Platform (ERP), TEKenable, Healthy Ireland, LGiU Ireland, Fáilte Ireland and EirGrid, while the crystal awards designed by Waterford Crystal were presented to all winners on the night.