

FINGAL,
HOW ARE
WE
DOING?

Fingal Sentiment Report 2025





Contents

● Introduction	3
● Role in the economy	6
● Sentiment	7
● Role in the Fingal community	8
● Dublin Airport as a neighbour	9
● Detailed results across Fingal	10
● Our reflections and activities based on Community Feedback	25



Introduction

Welcome to the report of the second independent research study undertaken by daa.

Building on our Community Sentiment report in 2024, which can be found on our website, daa expanded the scope of the research to include respondents across all of Fingal. In addition to expanding the scope of the research, daa also doubled the sample size of the research, capturing over 1,000 surveys. Mirroring our objectives from 2024, daa undertook this study to gather the views and perspectives of the Fingal constituency regarding Dublin Airport's operation and development. However, due to the expanded scope and sample size, comparisons between the two reports are not valid.

The findings from this research will complement feedback gathered through daa's existing community engagement channels, which include local groups and community leaders.

HELLO



Objectives

Assess

Assess attitudes towards Dublin Airport as a neighbour.

Understand

Understand positive and negative aspects of the relationship with the airport.

Examine

Examine how factors like the experience of noise affects the Fingal community.

Review

Review whether a specific residential area has an influence on these attitudes.

Sentiment

Determine emotional sentiment towards the airport.

Impact

Assess the impact and perception of community and environmental initiatives.

The results demonstrate the very positive and important role that Dublin Airport plays in the Fingal area, and highlights the level of residents' support of further development of the airport. It also provides important feedback about the less positive aspects of living close to a busy, international airport.

Respondents have provided constructive and helpful direction regarding actions daa can take to help grow and improve relationships with communities across Fingal, specifically greater levels of communication on matters of relevance.

Our sincere thanks to the people who participated in this study. It is our intention to run this study regularly, and we look forward to our continued engagement with and support of our Fingal neighbours and local communities.



Methodology



RED C

The survey design, fieldwork and analysis was undertaken by RED C research. RED C was founded in 2003 and has become the fastest growing full-service research company in Ireland and one of the top 120 globally. In 2016, they launched RED C Research UK and in 2023 added Relish Research to the group. RED C are part of the Business Post Group.



Survey Approach

This research was carried out as a face-to-face interview, by trained Red C interviewers. These interviews were recorded on CAPI tablet devices and interviews were conducted door to door within specified catchment areas. Each interviewer was equipped with a map of the area and comprehensive interviewer instructions giving a breakdown of each question within the questionnaire.



Selection of Survey Areas

Drawing on 2022 CSO data, interviews were proportionally distributed across the Areas and District Electoral Divisions (DEDs) within the county to ensure the sample was reflective of the population within Fingal. Quotas were also applied to key demographics - including age, gender, and social grade - in line with the latest CSO figures.



Setting Sample Size

1,011 interviews were carried out among adults aged over 18 who are resident in Fingal. Research was completed between April 9th to May 18th, 2025. Quotas were set on age, gender and social class in line with CSO figures for the area.



Electoral Area

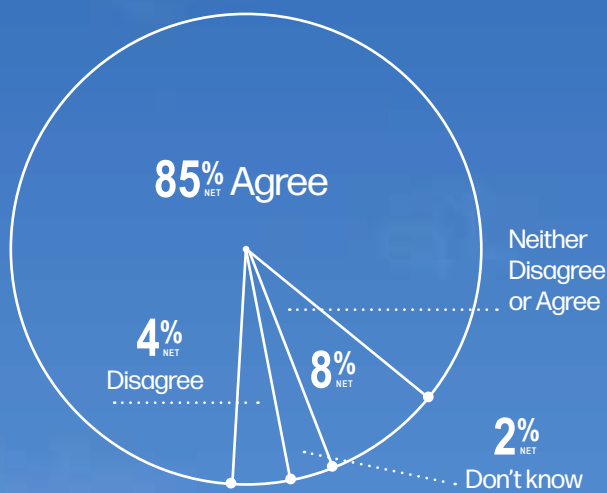
Balbriggan, Howth-Malahide, Rush-Lusk, Swords, Blanchardstown/Dubber/The Ward/Kilsallaghan, Castleknock.



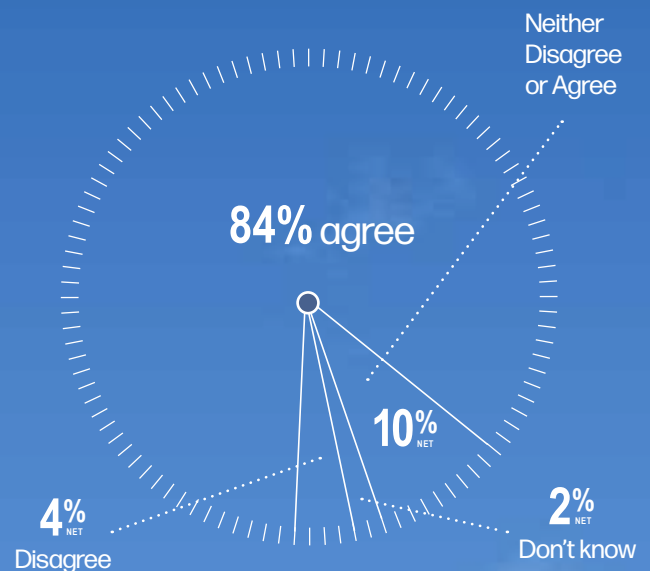
Fingal residents agree that Dublin Airport plays a vital role in the economy

When asked for the levels of agreement or disagreement with statements made about Dublin Airport, responses show a definitive acknowledgement of the important role that Dublin Airport plays in supporting the local Fingal economy. There was the strongest level of agreement with statements regarding fuelling job growth and economic development in the locality with over 80% of respondents in agreement. Less than 5% disagreed that the airport plays a pivotal role in this regard.

I will read out a list of things that people have said about Dublin Airport. For each one I read out, please can you tell me whether you agree or disagree with that statement.



Dublin Airport fuels job growth in the locality



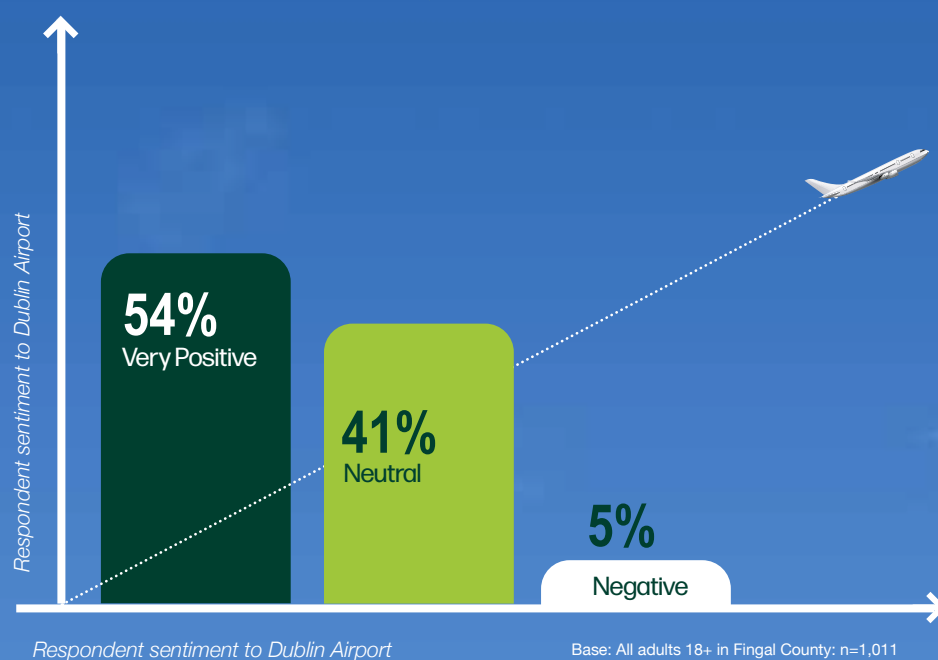
Having Dublin Airport in the community fuels economic development

Base: All adults 18+ in Fingal County: n=1,011



Sentiment towards Dublin Airport is largely positive

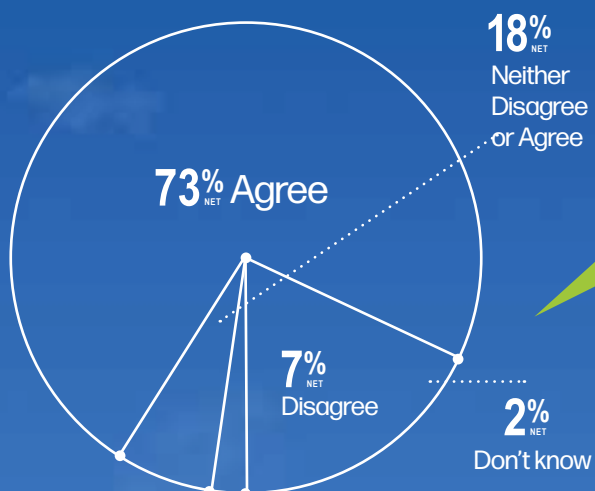
Q. Thinking of Dublin Airport. Using a scale of 1 to 10 where 1 is very negative and 10 is very positive, how do you feel about Dublin Airport in regard to their impact on your local area?



Sentiment towards Dublin Airport is generally positive within the Fingal area. When asked how they felt about Dublin Airport's impact on their local area, 54% of respondents were positive, rating Dublin airport at 8, 9 or 10 out of 10; 41% provided a rating of between 4 and 7 out of 10, which would be considered neutral and 5% provided a negative rating of 3 out of 10 or lower. Residents of Swords were the most likely to award a score of 8 or higher (74% awarding Dublin Airport a score of 8+).



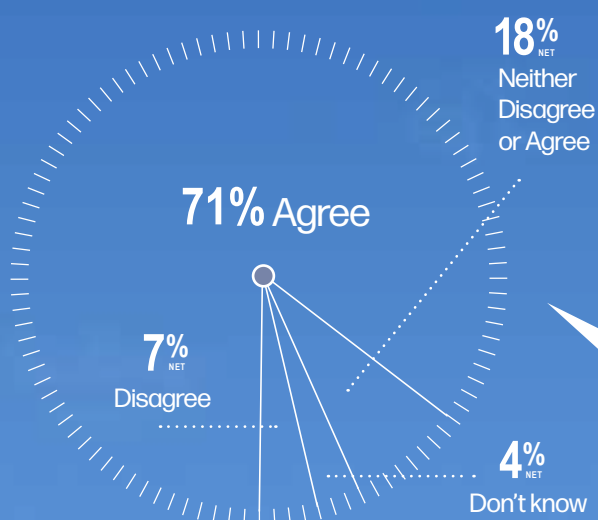
Dublin Airport's role in the Fingal Community



On balance Dublin Airport does more good than harm in the local community

Here are some more things that were stated about Dublin Airport/daa in the past. For each one I read out please can you tell me whether you agree or disagree with that statement.

Respondents were also positive regarding Dublin Airport's contribution beyond the economy. When asked if Dublin Airport does more good than harm, and if Dublin Airport is a good corporate citizen, a large proportion – more than 70% of respondents - responded positively. A small proportion - 7% of respondents - disagreed with both statements.



Dublin Airport is a good corporate citizen

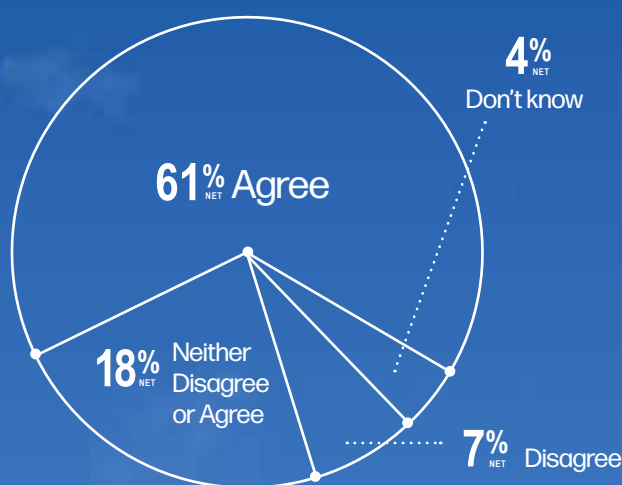
I will read out a list of things that people have said about Dublin Airport. For each one I read out, please can you tell me whether you agree or disagree with that statement.

Base: All adults 18+ in Fingal County: n=1,011

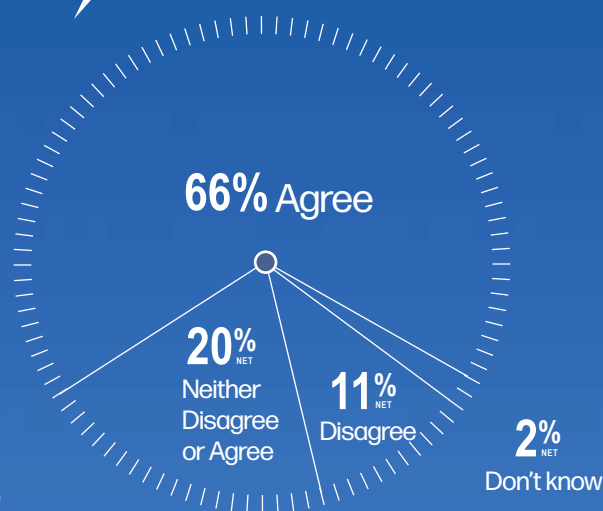


Dublin Airport as a neighbour

I will read out a list of things that people have said about Dublin Airport. For each one I read out, please can you tell me whether you agree or disagree with that statement.



On balance Dublin Airport is helping to improve the quality of life in the local community



Dublin Airport is a trustworthy neighbour

When it came to statements regarding Dublin Airport improving the quality of life in the community and being a trustworthy neighbour, over 60% of respondents from Fingal answered positively and agreed with these statements. Those disagreeing with the statements comprised over 10% of respondents, while approximately 20% neither disagreed nor agreed.

There was one negative statement ('Dublin Airport does as little as they can for the community'); just over 1/3 of respondents agreed with this statement but an equal proportion disagreed, with the final one third neither disagreeing or agreeing. This demonstrates a high level of polarity in the responses.

Base: All adults 18+ in Fingal County: n=1,011



Communities are aligned on positive economic impact

Dublin Airport fuels job growth in the locality

83% <small>NET</small>	87% <small>NET</small>	95% <small>NET</small>	90% <small>NET</small>	81% <small>NET</small>	78% <small>NET</small>
Agree	Agree	Agree	Agree	Agree	Agree
HOWTH MALAHIDE	RUSH LUSK	BALBRIGGAN	SWORDS	BLANCHARDS- TOWN, DUBBER THE WARD, KILLSALLAGHAN	CASTLEKNOCK

I will read out a list of things that people have said about Dublin Airport. For each one I read out, please can you tell me whether you agree or disagree with that statement.

Having Dublin Airport in our community fuels economic development

81% <small>NET</small>	83% <small>NET</small>	91% <small>NET</small>	88% <small>NET</small>	82% <small>NET</small>	75% <small>NET</small>
Agree	Agree	Agree	Agree	Agree	Agree
HOWTH MALAHIDE	RUSH LUSK	BALBRIGGAN	SWORDS	BLANCHARDS- TOWN, DUBBER THE WARD, KILLSALLAGHAN	CASTLEKNOCK

When these statements were analysed by the residential location of the respondent, there are differences in the patterns of response. This could be influenced by several factors such as proximity to the airport, benefits assumed by location, such as access to the airport's Community Fund, and the impact of noise.

However, notwithstanding these factors, the two elements where there is very strong agreement across all areas is around the economic role the airport plays. This seems to be well-known and well-understood.

Base: All adults 18+ in Fingal County; n=1,011



LOVELY

On balance, Dublin Airport does more good than harm for the Fingal community

73%
NET Agree

74%
NET Agree
HOWTH
MALAHIDE

72%
NET Agree
RUSH
LUSK

83%
NET Agree
BALBRIGGAN

76%
NET Agree
SWORDS

69%
NET Agree
BLANCHARDS-
TOWN, DUBBER
THE WARD,
KILLSALLAGHAN

66%
NET Agree
CASTLE-
KNOCK

I will read out a list of things that people have said about Dublin Airport. For each one I read out, please can you tell me whether you agree or disagree with that statement.

Over 70% of Fingal residents agreed with the statement that Dublin Airport does more good for the local community than harm. Highest agreement was in Balbriggan (83% agreement) while at the lower end of the scale was Castleknock, however even here 66% agreed that Dublin Airport does more good for the local community than harm.

Base: All adults 18+ in Fingal County: n=1,011

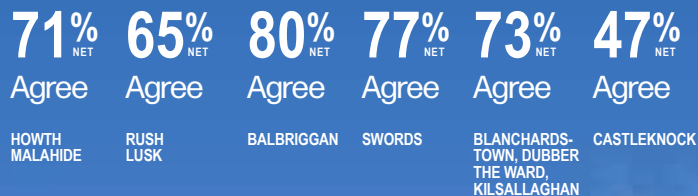


There is only slight variation in scores between areas

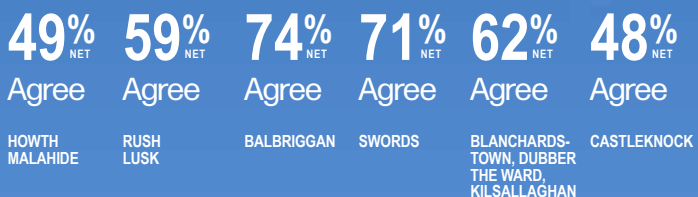
I will read out a list of things that people have said about Dublin Airport. For each one I read out, please can you tell me whether you agree or disagree with that statement.

Respondents living in Balbriggan and Swords were also the most positive about daa's efforts to improve the quality of life in the community (74% & 71% agreement). 62% of respondents in Blanchardstown/Dubber/The Ward/Kilsallaghan were positive about daa's efforts to improve the quality of life in the community with 59% in Rush/Lusk. While Castleknock and Howth-Malahide responded somewhat lower with 48% and 49% respectively.

Dublin Airport is a good corporate citizen



Dublin Airport is helping to improve the quality of life in the community



There is only slight variation in scores between areas

Dublin Airport is a trustworthy neighbour



Dublin Airport does as little as it can for the community



53% NET Agree	60% NET Agree	84% NET Agree	77% NET Agree	70% NET Agree	37% NET Agree
HOWTH MALAHIDE	RUSH LUSK	BALBRIGGAN	SWORDS	BLANCHARDS- TOWN, DUBBER THE WARD, KILSALLAGHAN	CASTLEK- NOCK

30% NET Agree	45% NET Agree	47% NET Agree	24% NET Agree	31% NET Agree	37% NET Agree
HOWTH MALAHIDE	RUSH LUSK	BALBRIGGAN	SWORDS	BLANCHARDS- TOWN, DUBBER THE WARD, KILSALLAGHAN	CASTLEK- NOCK

I will read out a list of things that people have said about Dublin Airport. For each one I read out, please can you tell me whether you agree or disagree with that statement

When asked if Dublin Airport is a trustworthy neighbour, two-thirds of all respondents agreed with the statement. This is highest in Balbriggan (84%), and lowest in Castleknock with only 37% agreeing. The residents of Balbriggan were the most likely to agree with the statement that Dublin Airport does as little as they can for the community. This is likely driven by the fact that this area, as well as Castleknock, and Blanchardstown/Dubber/The Ward/Kilsallaghan, does not directly benefit from Dublin Airport's Community Fund or other such initiatives.

Base: All adults 18+ in Fingal County; n=1,011



Dublin Airport is in the top 3 organisations that contributes most positively to the local community

At the start of the survey, and unprompted by any references to Dublin Airport or other organisations, respondents were asked to name organisations that come to mind when they think of those that contribute most positively to their local community. Looking at the aggregate picture, Dublin Airport was placed highly, in third position overall after Lidl and SuperValu. Other companies named spontaneously by respondents included Aldi, Aer Lingus, Tesco and Bank of Ireland. Reviewing responses by area of residency, Dublin Airport is the top mention in Swords as well as in Howth-Malahide. It was second in Rush-Lusk and Blanchardstown/Dubber/The Ward/ Kilsallaghan after SuperValu and Lidl.

Thinking of all types of companies in your area, which one do you feel contributes most positively to the local community?



Base: All adults 18+ in Fingal County; n=1,011



Residents would appreciate better and more regular communication

Respondents were asked to indicate their agreement or disagreement with a range of statements regarding Dublin Airport and its engagement and communications with the community.

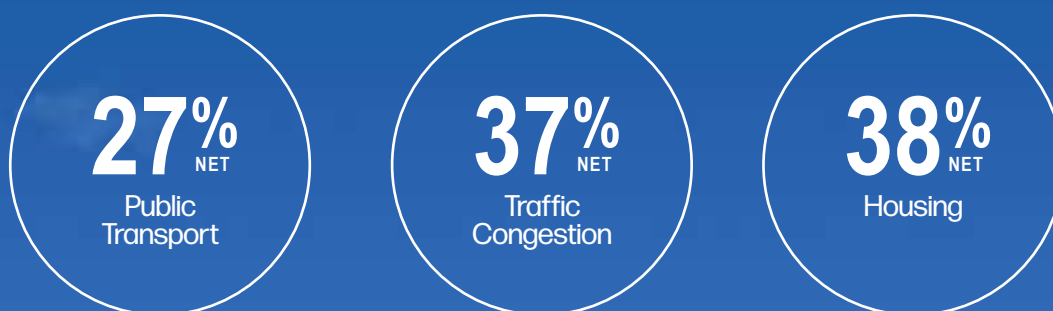
Close to half (48%) of the respondents agreed that Dublin Airport is open and transparent with the Fingal community, with less than 20% disagreeing with this. There is a very similar distribution of responses for statements regarding honesty in communication with citizens and leaders and responsiveness to community issues or concerns.

The statement with the highest amount of disagreement was around Dublin Airport providing clear communication to the public about issues affecting the community. However, while 27% disagreed with this, 40% of respondents agreed, showing some polarisation with this statement. When asked whether they felt that Dublin Airport is doing less for the community than it has done historically, the majority of respondents could not agree or disagree with the statement, perhaps representing the proportion of new residents in these areas. However, 37% agreed and 18% disagreed.

Looking at the responses to these statements by area of residence, there are some clear and significant differences in responses depending on location. Residents from Balbriggan, Rush-Lusk and Swords are the most likely to agree with the statements regarding openness and transparency whereas the Howth-Malahide area is the least likely to agree with such statements.



Housing is the top issue for Fingal residents



While the airport clearly plays an important role in the community, when asked what the most important local issues or problems are, 38% of Fingal residents mentioned housing, with 18% of those mentioning housing without prompting.

Other important issues mentioned include road and traffic congestion, public transport, crime, lack of services, health services and parking. flight noise and flight paths were ranked 10th overall, with 5% referencing this as an issue unprompted, rising to 14% when prompted responses were included.

While crime/law and order was mentioned by 10% unprompted, the overall proportion mentioning this as a top issue was 25% once unprompted mentions were included.

Thinking specifically of this area where you live, what would you say is the most important local topic / issue / problem if any?

Base: All adults 18+ in Fingal County; n=1,011

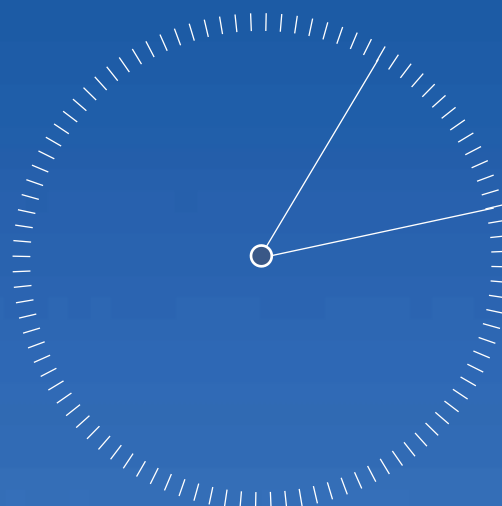


Thinking specifically of this area where you live, what would you say is the most important local topic / issue / problem if any?



20%
NET

Healthcare



14%
NET

Flight paths and flight noise

When the responses to these statements are reviewed by local area, the results are quite different. In Howth-Malahide, flight noise and flight paths were ranked in third position as a key issue at 35%, with roads/ traffic congestion ranked at the top at 64%.

In all other areas of Fingal, flight noise and flight paths did not make the top 5 list. In Balbriggan, the top 5 list comprised lack of services, health services, housing, road congestion and crime/law and order/vandalism. For Blanch-Mulhuddart, the top 5 most important issues were road congestion, housing, crime/law and order/vandalism, parking and drugs. In Rush-Lusk, flight noise and flight paths did not make the top five list which comprised lack of services, public transport, housing, health services and roads traffic congestion, each of which were rated higher in importance.

Similarly, in Swords, flight noise did not make the top five list. For residents of this area, the top five issues were housing, crime/law and order and vandalism, roads and traffic congestion, drugs and public transport.

Base: All adults 18+ in Fingal County; n=1,011



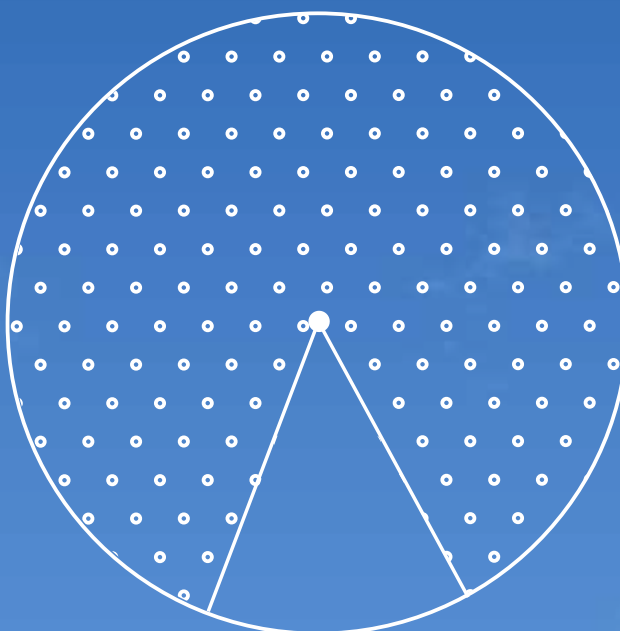
A majority of Fingal residents support the further development of Dublin Airport

There is support for the expansion of Dublin Airport among Fingal residents, with net positive support at 86%. There is little difference between the areas in terms of the breakdown of support, with the strongest being in Blanch-Mulhuddart (91%), Swords (89%) and Castleknock (88%) but followed closely by Balbriggan (82%) and finally Howth/Malahide and Rush/Lusk (79%).

To what extent do you support or are you against further development of Dublin Airport?

86%
NET
Support

Support for the expansion of Dublin Airport



Base: All adults 18+ in Fingal County: n=1,011



However, while limited, there are some concerns regarding the impact of development

Concern around the development of Dublin Airport is strongest in Howth-Malahide and Rush-Lusk compared to other areas of Fingal. However, it should be noted that less than 20% of residents in these 2 areas hold this view.

Supports Development

79% <small>NET</small>	79% <small>NET</small>	82% <small>NET</small>	89% <small>NET</small>	91% <small>NET</small>	88% <small>NET</small>
Support	Support	Support	Support	Support	Support
HOWTH MALAHIDE	RUSH LUSK	BALBRIGGAN	SWORDS	BLANCHARDS- TOWN, DUBBER THE WARD, KILSALLAGHAN	CASTLEKNOCK

To what extent
do you support
or are you
against further
development

Against Development

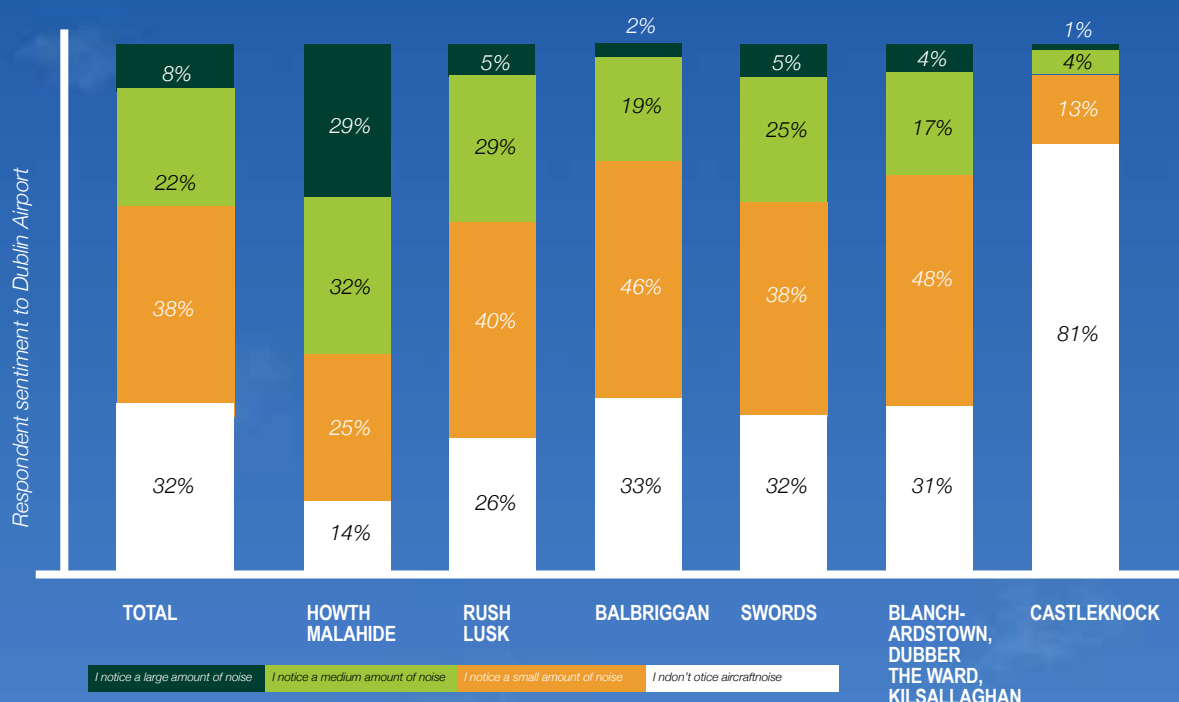
17% <small>NET</small>	19% <small>NET</small>	13% <small>NET</small>	10% <small>NET</small>	6% <small>NET</small>	11% <small>NET</small>
Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against
HOWTH MALAHIDE	RUSH LUSK	BALBRIGGAN	SWORDS	BLANCHARDS- TOWN, DUBBER THE WARD, KILSALLAGHAN	CASTLEKNOCK

Base: All adults 18+ in Fingal County; n=1,011



Varying levels of Aircraft noise affects over 2/3rds of Fingal residents

Respondents were asked to describe their personal experience regarding the noise generated by flights departing from or arriving into Dublin Airport. Looking at the total picture, 32% stated that they noticed no aircraft noise at all.



38% of Fingal residents reported noticing a small amount of noise. In contrast, 22% stated that they noticed a medium amount of noise while 8% stated that they noticed a large amount of aircraft noise, giving a net result of 68% who experience some level of aircraft noise.

Looking at the results by area, as may be expected, there are some significant differences depending on the area in which respondents are living. 48% of residents in Blanch-Mulhudart state they notice a small amount of noise, while another 31% state they do not notice any noise. Residents of Balbriggan are the most likely to notice a small amount of noise with 46% of those surveyed responding in this manner. Most residents from Rush-Lusk and Swords reported noticing a small to medium amount of noise (69% and 63%).

29% of residents from Howth-Malahide reported noticing a large amount of noise, with another 32% reporting noticing a medium amount of noise.

Carbon emissions and air quality are primary sustainability focus areas

In your opinion, please select the top three environmental topics that you see as being of most significant importance to Dublin Airport that should be focused on in the coming year.



Respondents were asked to select the three environmental topics that they believe are of greatest importance to Dublin Airport, and on which the airport should focus in coming years. Two specific focus areas were clear: carbon emissions and air quality. Each of these achieved between 61% and 59% of the votes of all respondents. Noise pollution came third, with 38% of respondents' votes.

Base: All adults 18+ in Fingal County; n=1,011

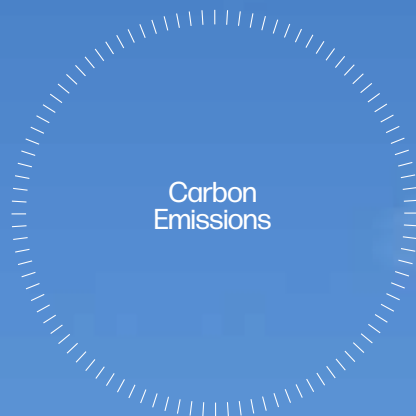
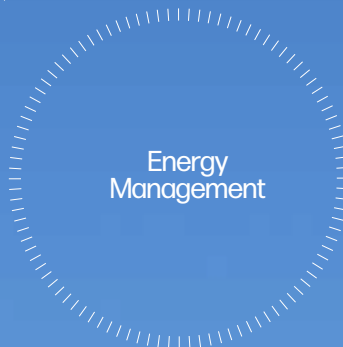
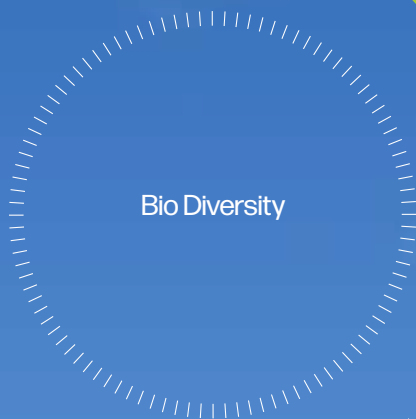


Some variation in environmental priorities across Fingal residential areas

In your opinion, please select the top three environmental topics that you see as being of most significant importance to Dublin Airport that should be focused on in the coming years.

While the Fingal DED were quite consistent in their views of the importance of the top 3 environmental topics that they believe are of greatest importance to Dublin Airport, there was some variation by area of residence.

In particular, the Balbriggan and Swords areas focus is less on carbon emissions and more on air quality. Carbon emissions was rated highest by those in Blanchardstown/Dubber/The Ward/Kilsallaghan, Castleknock, Rush-Lusk and Howth-Malahide, followed by air quality. There was some variation in the rating of the third most important among these areas. For Rush-Lusk, climate mitigation ranked third rated. In Howth-Malahide and Blanchardstown/Dubber/The Ward/Kilsallaghan noise pollution was rated third.



Base: All adults 18+ in Fingal County: n=1,011



Community Fund and charity sponsorship are the most recognised Dublin Airport initiatives

In a two-part question, respondents were first asked to name (without prompting) any initiatives underway by Dublin Airport to support the local community. The highest level of spontaneous awareness was of Dublin Airport's sponsorship of charities - this achieved a 18% awareness rate.

The second highest unprompted awareness was for the Dublin Airport WebTrak flight monitoring system with 15% awareness rate, followed by the Dublin Airport Newsletter (14%). The Dublin Airport Newsletter was restarted in summer 2024, in response to feedback from our 2024 Community Report. It is delivered on a biannual basis, providing locals with increased communication from Dublin Airport. In third place was local community events and insulation of homes (12%).

Once provided with a list to establish prompted levels of awareness, the Dublin Airport Community Fund achieved the highest overall awareness levels at 26%, followed closely by charity sponsorship and noise monitoring system.

Looking at the results across different areas, there is consistency of awareness across areas for the Community Fund. The awareness of the Dublin Airport Newsletter was lower outside its catchment area.



Noise impact and proximity to the airport should influence where support is offered



When asked if the respondent had personally benefited from any of the initiatives, the delivery of the Dublin Airport Newsletter achieved the highest score, driven by Swords where 43% of respondents benefiting from it. This was followed by local community events, charity sponsorship, the WebTrak flight monitoring system and the DCU scholarships. There were some variations depending on residency, with Swords scoring highest on the Dublin Airport Newsletter and charity sponsorship. Howth-Malahide scored highest on WebTrak flight monitoring system.

The majority of respondents agree that funding should be prioritised in areas most impacted by noise. Nearly half of the respondents agreed with this prioritisation approach, with the second most popular approach being one based on distance radius. However, there were differences in scores depending on the location of residence of the respondents. Residents of Rush-Lusk preferred a prioritisation of spend based on distance radius.



Our reflections and activities based on Community Feedback

We work hard to engage with and listen to our local communities, through established forum, individual meetings and scheduled events. One of the key asks from the 2024 Sentiment Report was for more consistent and open communication. This is sought and valued by local residents, in addition to increased supports for local communities. We are listening, and this is part of why we expanded our 2025 survey to include a larger group so we can hear more, from the whole of the population of Fingal.

But this is not all that we have been doing. In 2024/2025 we:

Increased our communications channels:

- We relaunched our Dublin Airport Newsletter, with a circulation of 50,000 households in Fingal and East Meath.
- Carried out over 300 visits to individual local residents, schools and community groups.
- Continuously add to the content of our website to provide more transparent and detailed information.

Increased our spend on local educational and community supports:

- Provided €1 million in financial support for over 200 community projects (during 2024/2025), as part of the €10 million Dublin Airport Community Fund.
- Launched the Elevate '25 programme, a €2 million support scheme for local schools.
- daa also supports 40 students to attend third level education through the DCU Access Programme, and offers an annual bursary on the university's Aviation Management degree course.



Additionally, as part of our programme to support those most impacted by noise, over the last 8 years we have...

- Invested over €21m on insulating 191 local homes, with more to come.
- Insulated four local schools, with works being completed at a fifth this summer.
- Developed a voluntary purchase scheme, offered to 41 homeowners in the vicinity of the airport, which includes a 30% premium on current market value, in addition to generous allowances.
- Announced a 50% increase in the noise insulation grant scheme which means that up to 400 more homes will be offered up to €30,000 worth of noise insulation measures.
- To help monitor aircraft noise, we have installed 25 fixed noise monitors in Dublin, Meath and Wicklow. We have also made seven additional temporary monitors available for monitoring at locations nominated by the Dublin Airport Environmental Working Group and the Community Liaison Group. Noise levels at all monitors can be viewed on Dublin Airport's WebTrak which also provides near-live flight information, as well as a simplified complaint submission process.
- In conjunction with the monitoring terminals, we also developed two new online platforms that offer full and transparent information relating to aircraft noise. 'InsightFull', launched in April 2025 provides interactive location-specific information about flights to and from the airport, and 'Maploom', launched in October 2024, makes it easier and quicker for the public to check their eligibility for the airport's extensive insulation and home purchase schemes.

We are very proud about what we have done to date. We will continue to engage with and listen to the residents of Fingal and our local communities to ensure that the supports we provide reflect the needs of our neighbours.



Fingal Sentiment Report 2025

