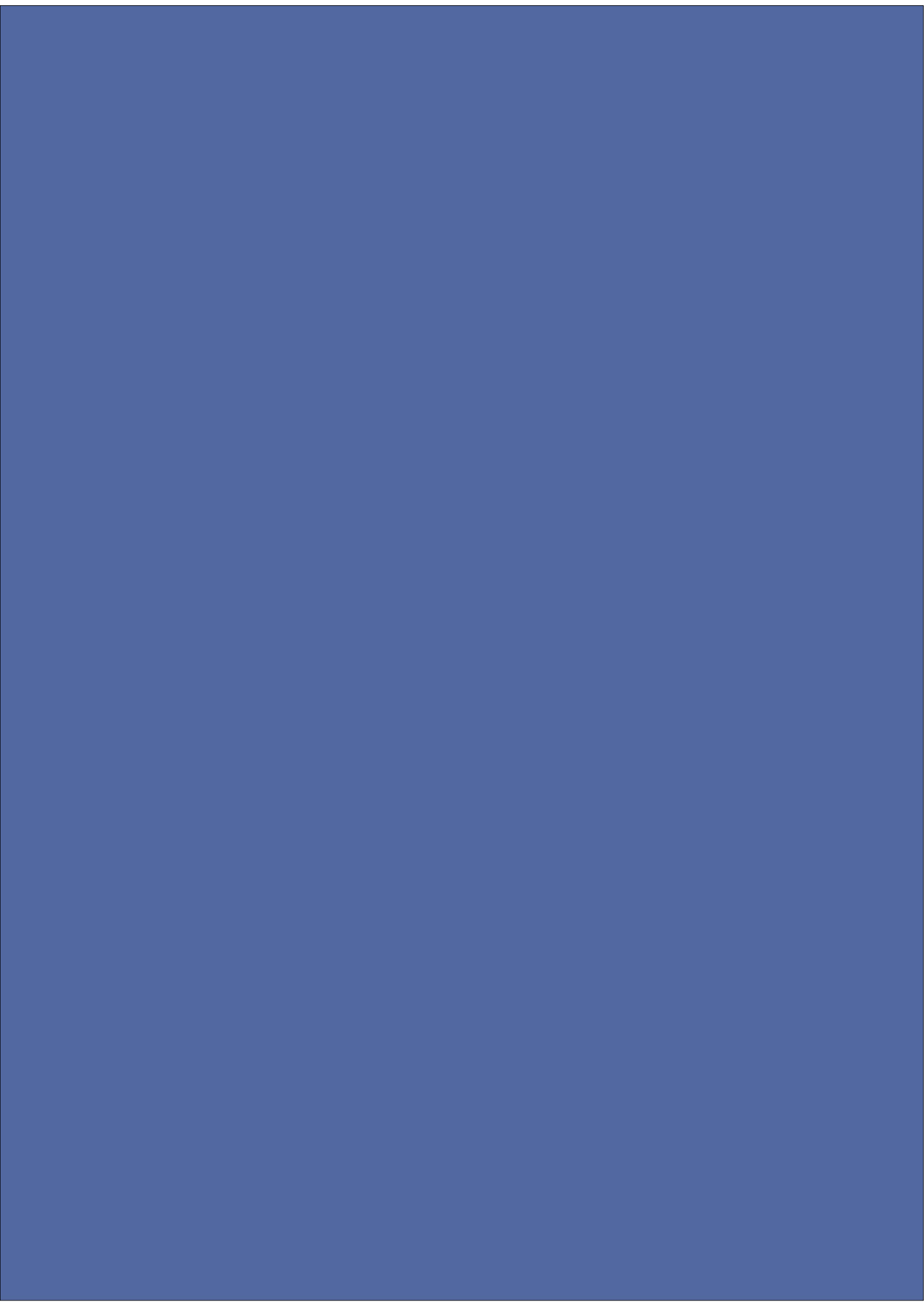




DUNBOYNE
COLLEGE
OF FURTHER EDUCATION

Dunboyne College of Further Education Strategic Plan 2022-2026







D U N B O Y N E
C O L L E G E
O F F U R T H E R E D U C A T I O N

Dunboyne College of Further Education Strategic Plan 2022-2026

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Dunboyne College of Further Education

Strategic Plan 2022-2026

Foreword from our Principal

In September 2022, Dunboyne College of Further Education (DCFE) commences its 20th year of delivering quality further education and training to Meath, West Dublin, North Kildare, as well as surrounding areas. As the only dedicated Further Education (FET) college in the region, we have expanded to cater for over 1000 students, and are now recognised as one of the leading FET colleges in the country. Our sixty courses cover the areas of Health and Community Care, Pre-Employment/Service Industry, and Pre-University Arts, Science, Business and I.T. With courses accredited by QQI at levels 5 and 6, and many specialist industry awarding bodies, we have students coming from all over the country to access courses that are frequently only offered by DCFE. From our humble beginnings with 40 students in the old National School in the village, to multiple units here in the Business Park, Dunboyne College has always been student-centred, a place of teaching and learning excellence, and a college that has forged vital links with universities, employers, industry and the local community.

This Strategic Plan (2022-26) is our third document to date and is underpinned by our strong values, vision and mission statements. It encompasses our priorities in the areas of skills, pathways, student experience and infrastructure. It aligns closely with the recent strategy document by SOLAS, “Future FET: Transforming Learning,” where Minister Simon Harris notes that:

“Further education is at the heart of communities across this country but as the economy and society change, we must reshape our plans for this area...this exciting new strategy aims to repair, repurpose and revive our economy and our communities”.

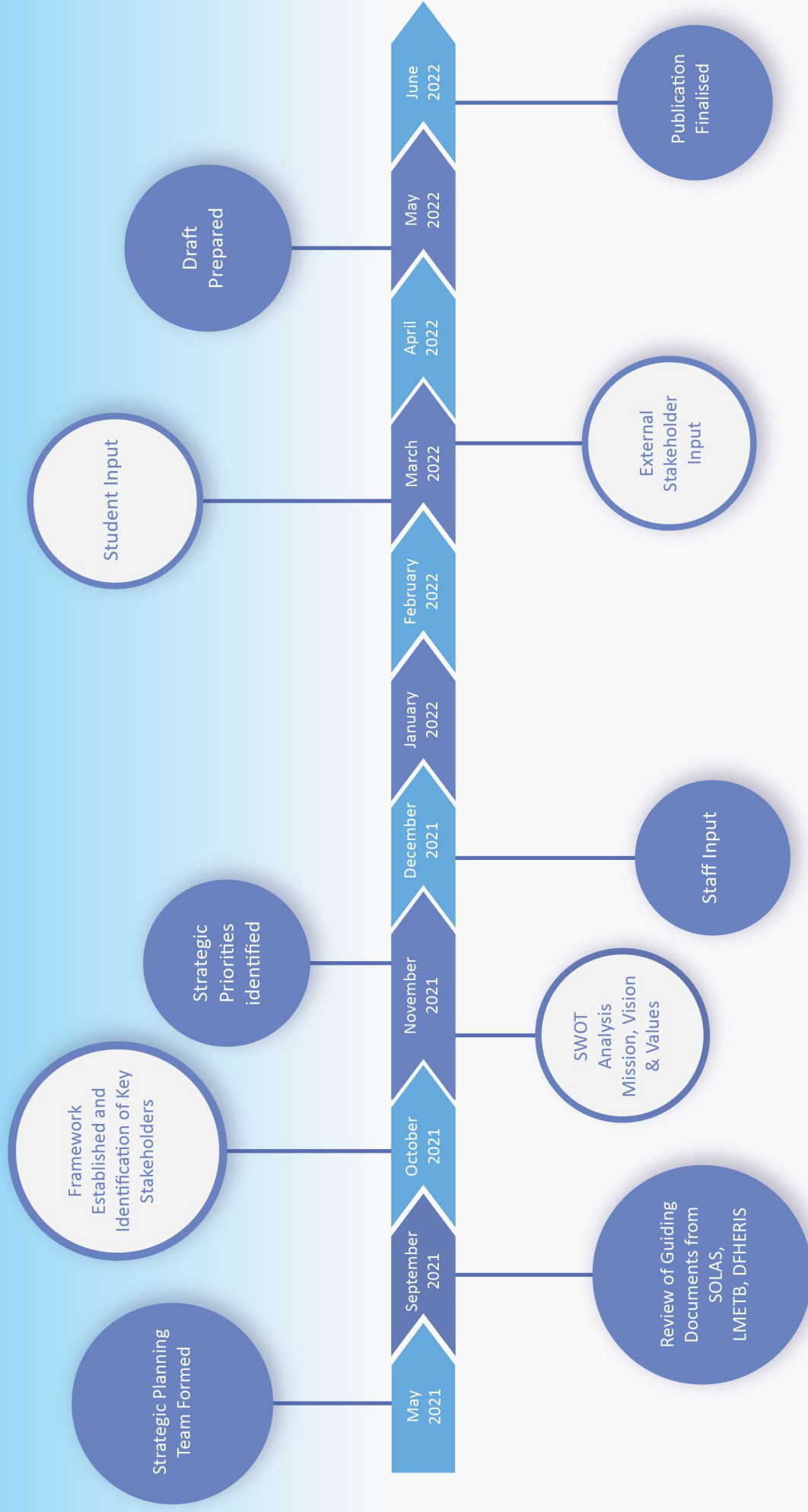
In December 2021, Dunboyne College was approved for a €40 million plus investment for a new campus located in Dunboyne. This new “FET College of the Future” will embrace full-time and part-time provision, night school options, apprenticeships, and traineeships. It will offer Skills to Advance and other partnerships with industry, to support cutting edge skills developments. Such developments are critical to the needs of a growing and sustainable economy that balances economic growth with climate-action strategies. This document lays out a blue-print for our strategy, and will rely on the cooperation and support of the countless stakeholders who have helped the college become what it is in this region.

I want to thank all who have helped in the year-long consultation that has culminated in this document, from students, staff, community and industry reps, local and national politicians, our board of management and others. Most of all I would like to thank the tireless committee under Kathleen Murphy and Emer Cloak who have put in massive work to make this document what it is. To them and to Clare Blackwell, Susan Clarke, Ellen Holian, Rob Kelly and Orla O’Dea, my deepest gratitude. I hope you find in these pages much about who we are and a lot more about what we want to become.



Denis Leonard
Principal

Strategic Plan Timeline 2021-22



SWOT Analysis

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES	OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS/CHALLENGES
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• High standard of teaching and learning• Dynamic and innovative staff• Positive culture• Student supports• Wide range of courses• Strong partnerships with stakeholders• Location and catchment area	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Infrastructure• Transport links• Awareness of the value of FET• Pathways to Higher Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• FET Strategy 2020-2024• New campus• Partnerships with key stakeholders• Addition of FET to CAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Competition with other providers• Recruitment and retention of qualified personnel• Retention of learners• Student and staff wellbeing in light of world events

Dunboyne College of Further Education Strategic Plan 2022-2026

Our Mission

Dunboyne College is a dedicated Further Education and Training centre that recognises and nurtures the potential of all students. We offer positive learning experiences, promote lifelong learning, and empower our students through a holistic and student-centred approach.

Our Vision

To be a dynamic centre of excellence, providing opportunities in Further and Higher Education and Industry.

We will build and strengthen strategic partnerships between education, industry and community to meet the demands of an ever-changing environment.

In the lifetime of this strategic plan, we envisage that our goal of a purpose-built campus will be realised, allowing us to deliver the full possibilities and potential of the FET College of the Future.

Our Values

Inclusion

Innovation

Respect

Learner-Centred

Strategic Priorities



Priority

Building Skills



Priority

**Creating
Pathways**



Priority

**Student
Experience**



Priority

Infrastructure

Strategic Priority Building Skills

FOCUS

- Industry relevant skills for learners
- Core and transferable skills for learners
- Personal and professional development of staff

Objectives

- Collaborate with SOLAS and key stakeholders to identify developments in industry and skills deficits locally, nationally and globally
- Tailor work experience programmes to meet the needs of employers and learners
- Foster core skills that equip students to be responsible citizens and contribute positively to the workplace and community
- Adopt a whole course approach to programme planning to consolidate learners' skills
- Facilitate personal and professional development to enable our team to contribute to a positive working environment and thrive in their role

Strategic Priority: Creating Pathways

FOCUS

- FET as a respected and valuable option
- Clearly defined pathways within FET and to Higher Education
- Paths to employment

Objectives

- Promote FET options and opportunities to schools, community organisations, and non-QQI providers
 - Create and expand partnerships with other Further Education providers
 - Establish new partnerships and further develop feeder routes to Higher Education
 - Strengthen links with employers and expand pathways to employment
-

Strategic Priority: Student Experience

FOCUS

- Dynamic Teaching, Learning and Assessment
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion
- The “College Experience”
- Student Wellbeing

Objectives

- Support active learning and student engagement through a variety of accessible platforms
- Keep pace with advances in technology for learning and offer flexible learning opportunities
- Embed a culture of equality and inclusivity that values diversity as a strength
- Foster systems that enhance the “College Experience” through non-academic opportunities and activities
- Provide supports for positive physical, mental health and wellbeing
- Ensure access to quality guidance and counselling for all learners
- Empower the student voice through the Student Union

Strategic Priority: Infrastructure

FOCUS

- FET College of the Future with industry standard facilities and community access
- Inclusivity, Accessibility and Sustainability
- Quality Assurance in physical, financial and human resources

Objectives

- Design, build and realise a FET centre of excellence that responds to local and national skills needs
 - Integrate the college into the local community, further developing it as a community resource
 - Develop balanced and considered campus spaces observing the principles of inclusivity and accessibility
 - Observe best practice in relation to energy-efficiency and sustainability
 - Determine the physical, financial and human resources required to achieve our strategic goals
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