In a plenary assembly convened today by the Formentera Council, Gent per Formentera, PSOE and PP party members voted to approve proposed changes to the island's *Pla Territorial* ("Land Strategy") laying the groundwork for course corrections and upgrades in new rules. Land councillor Alejandra Ferrer said the revisions were necessary for "compliance with regulations, adapting to new needs and correcting errors that have come up".

Among the changes Ferrer enumerated, one was made possible by a deal concerning a plot of land in Sant Ferran. The accord gets the ball rolling on a land handoff which will open the door to construction of a new children's park (part of the island's participatory spending initiative), not to mention another land grant—this time to the Balearic housing authority, or IBAVI—so that low-cost public housing can be constructed in Sant Ferran.

CENF directives

With "yes" votes from the GxF, PSOE and Compromís and a "no" from the PP, approval was secured by an early motion to vet the use and operations directive for the island's "Nautical Sports Centre" (*Centre d'Esports Nàutics de Formentera, or CENF*).

The CENF build is still pending authorisation from the Balearic coastal authority (Demarcació de Costes). The facility will consist of two distinct spaces, said CiF sport councillor Jordi Vidal, "one for administrative offices and social and educational initiatives related to the sea, and another for nautical sports".

The directive also covers the way Formentera's "Municipal Sailing School" (EMVF) is used. The EMVF will have access to CENF facilities and equipment to conduct sailing activities included in the "quality school" programme. Club Surf Formentera and the Balearic sailing federation have both collaborated in the programme for the last several years.

Waste transfer

Plenary members also signed off unanimously on a proposal about services offered by UTE GIREF, the firm contracted to transport waste to Eivissa. Environment councillor Daisee

Aguilera pointed out that this year the island sent 500 tonnes, or 8.5 per cent, less rubbish to the transfer plant. The Formentera Council is responsible for meeting these costs, which, compared to 2017, are down €70,800.

Other disposables carry no associated transfer costs because they are already footed by recycling firms. Aguilera pointed out that recycling is at 29 per cent, putting Formentera residents ahead of most of their neighbours in the Balearics.

Report from culture, education and heritage councillor

Culture, education and heritage councillor Susana Labrador spoke to members of the day's session about her departments' work over the last year.

Among the range of initiatives under way, Labrador trumpeted the remodel of la Mola lighthouse. When work finished in January, upwards of two thousand people went to visit the space as part of a full month of open day events at the weekend. She indicated the museum side of the project is not far off and put the opening in early summer.

Labrador highlighted collaboration between the Council and Govern as key to bringing the Formentera museum closer to reality—not to mention the purchase of sa Senieta, which will house the museum seat.

Labrador underscored upgrades and expansion of the year-long programme of cultural activities put together by the CiF culture department in an effort, she said, “to be inclusive of every form of artistic expression and style”.

Turning to education, Labrador assured her department is “in it for keeps on early learning policies with clear objectives: quality education, no waiting lists in 2019, and vouchers—for enrolment and the cafeteria—to remove barriers facing children from lower income families”.

Labrador also called attention to the breadth of Catalan language courses available through the “Language Advisory Service” (*Servei d'Assessorament Lingüístic*), not to mention a suite of other consulting and support services for the Council's entire network of departments.

Official statements
In addition, assembly members voted in favour of two official proclamations: one concerning International Women's Day on March 8 (GxF, PSOE and Compromís party reps voted “yes” alongside PP abstention).

Council members signed off wholesale on a declaration of support to keep spills and pollutants out of the Mediterranean Sea.

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Àrea de Comunicació
Formentera Council