 **COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHORCAÍ**

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**Minutes of Proceedings at Budget Meeting of Cork County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Cork on 11th November, 2019.**

**I LATHAIR**

Comhairleoir Cristoir Ó Suilleabháin, Méara Chontae

Comhairleoiri Uí Chochláin G, Ó Colmáin, Ó Murchú Caoimhín, Ó Suilleabháin S, Uí Suilleabháín M, Ó Donnabháin, Ó Murchú P.G, Uí Mhurchú Cáit, Uí Chearnaigh, Mac Craith, Ui Daltún, Lombard, Uí Bhuachalla, Ó Conchubair L, Daltún Ó Suilleabháin, Ó Suilleabháin P, Sheppard, Rassmussen, Ó Conchubair S, Ó Conchubair A, MacCarthaigh N, Ó Floinn, Ui Bhriain, Ó Laoghaire, Dawson, De Róiste, Ó Muineacháin B, Ó Dubhghaill, Ó Sé J.P, Ó Murchú Gearóid, Críod, Ní Mhuineacháín G, Ó Luanaigh, Ó Cochláin M, UÍ Loinsigh, Ó Luasa, ÓhAodha Padraig, Ó Murchú Gearóid, Ó Cinnéide, Ó Madaoin, Ó Sé T, Léineacháin Ui Foghlú, O Coileáin N, Ó Héigeartaigh, Ó Conchubair S, Uí Thuama, MacCarthaigh S, Mac Uaid, Ó Suilleabháin C, Ó Cearbhaill, Ó Muirthile, Uí Chaochlaoich, Ó hAodha Pól.

**PRESENT**

Councillor Christopher O’Sullivan County Mayor presided.

# Councillors Moynihan B, Doyle, O’Shea J.P, Murphy Gerard, Creed, Moynihan G, Looney, Coughlan M, Lynch, Lucey, Hayes Pat, Murphy Gearóid, Kennedy, Madden, O’Shea T, Linehan – Foley, Collins N, Hegarty, O’Connor J, Twomey, ,McCarthy S, Quaide, O’Sullivan C, Carroll, Hurley, Coakley, Hayes Paul, Coughlan G, Coleman, Murphy Kevin, O’Sullivan J, O’Sullivan M, O’Donovan, Murphy P.G, Murphy Katie, Cairns, McGrath, Dalton, Lombard, Buckley, O’Connor L, Dalton O’Sullivan, O’Sullivan P, Sheppard, Rasmussen, O’Connor S, O’Connor A, McCarthy N, O’Flynn, O’Brien, O’Leary, Dawson, Roche.

Chief Executive, Head of Finance, Senior Executive Officer, Management Accountant

**Votes of Sympathy**

**TO:** Lesley Cotter on the death of her husband, Dr. Denis Cotter

1. **To consider the draft Budget prepared by the Chief Executive showing the amounts, which in his opinion, will be necessary to meet the expenses and provide for the liabilities and requirements of the Council during the local financial year ending 31st December, 2020.**

The Chief Executive said that a series of meetings and briefings were held with Elected Members as part of the statutory budget process ahead of today’s meeting, particularly to assist the newly Elected Members. This is the first Budget of this elected Council which is facing significant challenges due to the recent boundary extension.

The Chief Executive outlined that the Budget, as presented, in consultation with CPG has a good balance across the organisation for continuity of existing services. Cork County Council must protect its own finances however there are future challenges in respect of commercial rates.

The Municipal District budgets have been strengthened by the recent LPT increase of 5% which is very much welcome. There is a 5 year plan across all operations in respect of Climate Change Adaptation & Biodiversity, including significant capital funding of €365,000 allocated to support action on climate change which has a multiplicity of demands.

A strategic approach was taken by the Executive for this Budget which included minimising the effect on the General Reserve which has been depleting over the past number of years; to improve enhancement of capacity; and to continue delivering GMAs through the MDs.

The Chief Executive stated that, although the county has incurred a decrease in population, this Budget has increased the investment per capita by 25.7%. This output should have reduced following the boundary extension however the LPT increase has helped this.

The Chief Executive acknowledged that reliance on the reserve is not in line with the Budget strategy so the decision to increase LPT by 5% is very welcome. The increase provides and additional €1.54m which will maintain schemes including the Town Development Fund (€950,000), Community Arts Programmes (€150,000), LCDCs (€500,000) as well as €1.81m for General Municipal Allocations. This Budget also includes the provision of additional funding of €365,000 for climate action change.

The Chief Executive outlined that in 2017, the Council had 341 outdoor staff. Even though the population of the county and the length of roads has decreased due to the recent boundary extension, outdoor staff will increase to 374 in 2020. Furthermore, a rebalancing of outdoor staff will see an additional 4 members going to Bandon/Kinsale and 7 to Carrigaline. Numbers in these areas will have increased by 27% over 3 years.

The Chief Executive said that it is not his budget; it is the Member’s budget and it continues to try to achieve a balanced focus to serve our citizens. The Chief Executive recommended the budget as presented be adopted as is, and that he was prepared to discuss any amendments proposed. The Chief Executive said he welcomed the Members’ insights.

Members noted the report of the Chief Executive that outlined the following in particular:

* Local Government Act 2019 and the Cork Local Government Boundary Alteration.
* Climate Change Adaptation and Biodiversity provisions and Climate Adaptation Measures.
* Rates Harmonisation – 5 year period will be completed in 2020.
* Local Property Tax Variation and impact of 5% increase.
* Local Property Tax National Allocation 2020.
* Draft Budget 2020 – €338m in 2020.
* Focus on enhancement of capability of Municipal Districts/Area Office to deliver area-based services, through the General Municipal Allocation.
* Investment in Economic Development of the County.
* Future of Cork County/Capital Infrastructure Programme.

The Head of Finance informed members the budget has been prepared in accordance with the Local Government 2001 Act, as amended. The Draft Annual Budget has been prepared in consultation with the Corporate Policy Group. It sets out the expenditure estimated to be necessary to carry out the Council’s functions, and the income estimated to accrue to the Council.

The Head of Finance confirmed that a copy of the draft 2020 budget, together with a report outlining the provisions of that draft, was issued to every member of the Council.

The Head of Finance gave the budget presentation to Members as follows:

**Draft Budget 2020 – Summary**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **2019** | **2020** |
| **EXPENDITURE** | 344.0M | 338.4M |
| **INCOME DIVISIONS**  **(including compensations)** | 191.4M | 209.4M |
| **RATES** | 133.0M | 110.6M |
| **LPT** | 16.6M | 16.1M |
|  | **3.0M** Deficit | **2.3M** Deficit |

**Draft Budget 2020 – Key Issues**

**LPT**

* Self funding LPT revenue element for Housing & Roads shown as grants in Divisions A & B.
* Discretionary LPT Income of €16.1m following Members decision to vary basic rate.
* 5% increase provided additional €1.54m which provided for maintenance of playground, minor works fund and Community Arts Programme.

***LPT allocation detailed in Appendix 2***

**Rates**

* Rates valuation ARV 74.75 adjusted for Base Year Adjustment Year 5 (final year).
* Net Gain on base year adjustment of €423k.
* Anticipated Rates Yield in 2020 of €110.6m (Includes Irish Water – €2.2m).

**Pay Agreement**

* FEMPI compensation (85%) included in Division H income.

**Reserves Utilisation**

* Draft Budget has been prepared on a deficit basis of €2.3m.
* Revenue surplus at 31/12/2018 was €7.39m.
* Required to allow the Council to meet some of the additional service needs.
* Careful management of our finances with efficient use of resources is critical to the Council’s sustainability and to move towards adopting a budget without recourse from the revenue reserve.

**Draft Budget 2020 – Table A**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Division Description** | | **Draft Expend 2020** | **Draft Income 2020** | **Net to be funded** | | **% to be funded** |
| **A** | Housing & Building | 53,095,994. | 47,251,669. | 5,844,325. | | 4.5%. |
| **B** | Road Transport & Safety | 91,137,092. | 61,05,080. | .30,072,012. | | .21.6%. |
| **C** | Water Services | 37,559,846. | 34,130,335. | 3,429,511. | | 2.3%. |
| **D** | Development Management | 33,962,743. | 11,250,724 . | 22,712,019. | | 16.4%. |
| **E** | Environmental Services | 43,078,630. | 8,860,972. | 34,217,658. | | 26.5%. |
| **F** | Recreation & Amenity | 28,084,529. | 3,341,303. | 24,743,226. | | 17.0%. |
| **G** | Agri; Educ; Health & Welfare | 5,894,739. | 2,328,378. | 3,566,361. | | 2.0%. |
| **H** | Miscellaneous Services | 45,564,362. | 41,152,691. | 4,411,671. | | 13.4%. |
| **LPT** | LPT | 0. | 16,115,798 . | -16,115,798 . | |  |
|  |  | **338,377,935**. | **225,496,950** . | | **112,880,985** . |  |

**Sources of Income**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Own Resources** | **2019** | **%** | **2020** | **%** |
| Commercial Rates | €133.0m | 39.0% | €110.6m | 32.9% |
| Goods/Services (Table D) | €93.7m | 27.5% | €106.3m | 31.6% |
| LPT | €16.6m | 4.9% | €16.1m | 4.8% |
| **Total** | **€243.3m** | **71.4%** | **€233.0m** | **69.3%** |
| **Government Grants** |  |  |  |  |
| Other Grants ( Table E) | €97.5m | 28.6% | €103.0m | 30.7% |
| **Total** | €97.5m | **28.6%** | **€103.0m** | **30.7%** |

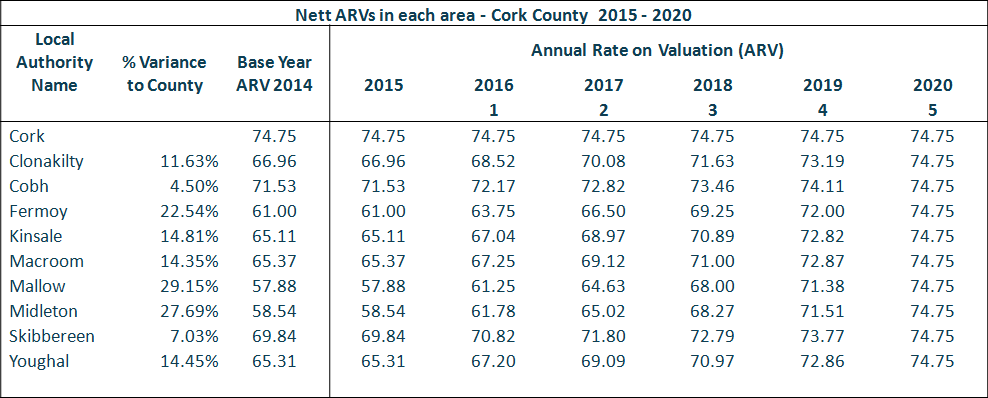
**Summary of Local Property Tax Allocation for Year 2020 – Appendix 2**

* **2020**
* **Description** **€** **€**
* Discretionary Local Property Tax (Table A) 16,115,798

**16,115,798**

* **Self Funding - Revenue Budget**
* Housing & Building 1,313,450
* Road Transport & Safety 126,644
* **1,440,094**
* **Total Local Property Tax - Revenue Budget**
* **Self Funding - Capital Budget**
* Housing & Building 8,668,442
* **Total Local Property Tax - Capital Budget** **8,668,442**
* **Total Local Property Tax Allocation (Post Variation)** **26,224,334**

**Rates – Base Year Adjustment**

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**Payroll**

Additional costs arising from:

* Reduction due to boundary change.
* Pay agreements (Public Service Stability Agreement).
* Pension and gratuities increase requirement €589k.

**Service Support Costs**

**Service Support Costs (SSC) are:**

* + **the apportioned direct salary costs and**
  + **all indirect overhead costs allocated over the eight Service Divisions (from Appendix 1)**

The following indirect costs are included in Service Support costs – (e.g. A0199)

**Indirect cost Apportionment basis**

Corporate Affairs - Salaried Staff Numbers per Service

Corporate Buildings - Metres Squared per Division – Staff per Service

Finance Function - Financial Transactions per Service

Human Resources - FTE ( Full Time Equivalents) Staff per Service

IT Service - No of Network PC’s and Usage Basis

Print and Post Room - Recorded out Postage Costs and Photocopying

Pension and Lump Sum - Salary and Wages Cost per Service

Print and Post Room - Recorded out Postage Costs and Photocopying

Pension and Lump Sum - Salary and Wages Cost per Service

Cost drivers for the allocation of the indirect costs, Central Management Charges (CMC), are reviewed annually:

* + Changes in activities, and staff movement affect the cost drivers.
  + Changes to cost drivers leads to movement in the apportionment of central management charges (e.g. Finance, HR, Pensions) across all services.
  + Changes will materialise as variances between 2019 and 2020 at sub service level.

**Retained Initiatives 2015 – 2020**

Member’s decision to increase the Basic Rate of LPT by 5% allowed for the full retention of:

* Entrance to & Presentation of Towns €1.1m
* Provision of Village Enhancement fund €0.55m
* Arts Programme enhancement (MD) €0.15m
* GMA allocation €1.82m
* Town Development Fund €0.95m

It also facilitated the retention of the following:

* Social Housing Disability works €0.25m
* Housing Planned maintenance €0.5m
* Provision to support 3 LCDCS €0.5m
* Housing Maintenance – Boiler Programme €0.35m
* Pay Parking Dividend €0.27m

**Draft Budget 2019 – Table A**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Division Description** | | **Draft Expend 2020** | **Adopted Expend 2019** | **Expend Change**  **2020 v 2019** |
| **A** | Housing & Building | 53,095,994 . | 57,064,409 . | -3,968,415 . |
| **B** | Road Transport & Safety | 91,137,092 . | 84,308,506 . | 6,828,586 . |
| **C** | Water Services | 37,559,846 . | 36,548,961 . | 1,010,885 . |
| **D** | Development Management | 33,962,743 . | 38,469,191 . | -4,506,448 . |
| **E** | Environmental Services | 43,078,630 . | 44,007,418 . | -928,788 . |
| **F** | Recreation & Amenity | 28,084,529 . | 29,101,137 . | -1,016,608 . |
| **G** | Agri; Educ; Health & Welfare | 5,894,739 . | 5,432,433 . | 462,306 . |
| **H** | Miscellaneous Services | 45,564,362 . | 49,115,654 . | -3,551,292 . |
|  |  | **338,377,935** . | **344,047,709** . | **-5,669,774** . |

**VARIATIONS AT SUB SERVICE**

**Division A – Housing**

* Decrease in Payment & Availability Scheme (Contra Income & Expenditure) -€1,600,000
* RAS reduction -€1,150,000
* LPT reduced payment -€138,000
* VOIDS decreased activity and funding -€116,000
* Day to Day repairs decrease -€48,000
  + - * + Homeless accommodation Increase (90% contra income) €785,000
* Repair to Lease scheme increase €400,000
* Loan Repayments for proposed Loan for Planned Maintenance €250,000
* Refugee support (fully recoupable) €200,000
* Replacement of existing boilers with air to water heat pumps €150,000

**Division B – Roads**

* *Roads Allocations*Increased road grants on 2019 Budgeted figures expected for 2020.

Department will notify of actual 2020 allocations in January 2020.

* *Public Lighting*Reduced by €1m in line with boundary change and energy savings.
* *Town Approaches* Maintained at €1.1m because of LPT increase.

*/ Roadside Maintenance*

*Programme*

**Division C – Water Services**

* Irish Water expenditure under SLA is fully recoupable (C01, C02, C06, C07).
* Flood Relief (OPW funded) – Skibbereen and Clonakilty Flood Relief works contra income and expenditure increase of €200k.
* Provision for Public Conveniences improvements - €100k.
* Private Grant Water Schemes increase €1.5million (contra income).

**Division D – Development Management**

* Development Plan Printing – being funded from Reserves - €565k.
* Decrease in planning fees income €70k.
* Increase in provision for ePlanning project €115k.
* SICAP provision €1.92m – year 3 of 7 year programme.
* Economic Development Fund decreased to €1m.
* Provision for Tourism Operations & Development including Michael Collins House, Camden Fort and Spike Island.
* LAG LEADER moving from Revenue to Capital for 2020 (impact of €2.9m income & Expenditure).
* Retention of LCDC ‘Community Development Initiative’ fund to support community initiatives €500k.
* Increase on Commemorations budget of €20k.
* Town & Village Renewal €1.58m (€1.09m contra income).
* Healthy Ireland Programme – increased to €202,500 from €150,000 – contra to income.

**Division E – Environmental Services**

* + Reduction in Landfill costs due to Boundary change – €180k.
  + Increase in Civic Amenity and Bring Sites expenditure – €163k.
  + Street Cleaning decreased spend due to boundary change – €50k.
  + Haulbowline remediation decrease – €68k.
  + Provision for Dereliction continues at €120k.
  + Fire Services decrease due to Fire Service Agreement and Ballincollig – €1.09m.
  + Increase in Fire Services Equipment and Training budgets – €272k.
  + Climate Change – €365k additional.
  + Waste Enforcement increased spend – €320k (€173k – WERLA contra income).

**Division F – Recreation & Amenity**

* + Parks Pitches and Open Spaces budget increased for new amenities – €85k.
  + Overall reduction in Park and Pitches due to boundary change – €184k.
  + Arts budgets maintained at 2019 levels.
  + Overall reduction in library budget due to boundary change – €512k.
  + New mobile library investment – €100k.
  + Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure grant - €1.89m (€1.49m contra income) part funded by LPT increase.
  + Parking Dividend continues at €270k.
  + €50k for Island development and €150k for Iron Man (€100k contra income).
  + Continued provision for Beaches for minor upgrades – €120k.
  + Retention of :
  + General Municipal Allocation €1.8m.
  + Town Development Fund €0.95m.
  + Village presentation and enhancement €0.55m.
  + Provision for playgrounds/parks for minor upgrades – €150k.

**Division G – Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare**

* + Continued Provision for Dredging Programme €180k.
  + Piers and Harbours increases - €247k.
  + Reduced Veterinary income.
    - €171k – reduction in funding from FSAI.
    - €40k – dog licenses due to boundary change.
    - €20k – control of horses due to boundary change.

**Division H – Miscellaneous Services**

* + Provision for Infrastructure Programme of €1.15m.
  + Reduction in Bad Debt provision for Rates €3.5m.
  + Inclusion of Dept compensation towards costs of pay agreements.
  + Irish Water Rates income included in Rates – €1.5m.

**Central Management Charge**

* Extra pension requirement of €589k.
* Decrease in Pension Income – €611k.
* Increase in facilities maintenance and operations – €50k.
* Maintenance of Finance, Corporate and ICT budgets in line with boundary change.
* Continued provision for Customer Service team including improvements to internet and Corporate plan development - €100k.
* Increased provision for Irish language office – 150% increase to €75k.

**Area Office & Municipal District Services**

* Area and Municipal Offices provide multiple services from
  + community support
  + road maintenance, and improvement
  + street cleaning
  + parks and amenity maintenance
  + burial ground operation
  + Management of parking
  + Playgrounds & leisure facilities
  + Coastal, piers & harbours and beach maintenance/operations
* Investment has increased per capita in key service areas, as per next table.
* In addition the Council has successfully secured and provided match funding for schemes including:
  + Urban and Village Renewal €207,000
  + Outdoor Recreation Improvement (ORI) €401,000
* Summary of Budget spend on key services 2017 to 2020:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Service** | **2017** | **2018** | **2019** | **2020** | **% per capita increase**  **2019 to 2020** |
| Roads Maintenance | 44,735,227 | 47,439,542 | 53,913,061 | 63,833,922 | 48.6% |
| Maintenance Parks & Open spaces | 1,689,854 | 2,043,939 | 2,202,913 | 2,018,220 | 14.9% |
| Operation of Street Cleaning | 2,020,111 | 2,264,399 | 2,613,286 | 2,563,452 | 23.1% |
| Playgrounds | 468,415 | 558,428 | 600,370 | 542,809 | 13.4% |
| Operation and Maintenance of Piers | 570,222 | 717,300 | 731,196 | 978,587 | 67.9% |
| Litter Control | 568,006 | 690,547 | 722,018 | 702,615 | 22.1% |
|  | **50,051,835** | **53,714,155** | **60,782,844** | **70,639,605** |  |

* Over recent budgets the Council also increased investment in MD specific funds with €4.6m across
  + Entrance to & Presentation of Towns €1.1m
  + Provision of Village Enhancement fund €0.55m
  + Arts Programme enhancement (MD) €0.15m
  + GMA allocation €1.82m
  + Town Development Fund €0.95m
* LPT increase allowed for these initiatives to be maintained at current levels with some increases:

Village Enhancement Fund increased by €6,250 per Municipal District.

Increased Match Funding for ORI €181,000.

GMA retained at €1.82m.

* The GMA fund value has increased spend per capita by 25%,from €4.36 to €5.47.

**Climate Change Adaptation and Biodiversity**

* Cork County Council is a key contributor to improving the climate conditions in Cork County by:
  + reducing the carbon footprint of the organisation.
  + and supporting communities to do so.
* The impact of climate change is a key consideration in any new investment being made.
* Every Directorate within the organisation has an ever increasing focus on Climate Change Initiatives, the impact of change is most prevalent in:
  + - Environment
    - Housing
    - Roads
    - Municipal Districts
    - Facilities

**Environment**

Specific provision of €365,000 for Climate Change Initiatives for areas such as:

* Audit and Improve conditions of Corporate Buildings including solar panel installation and lighting upgrade to more energy efficient lighting.
* Green Schools Programme roll-out in association with An Taisce.
* Grant scheme to community groups and social enterprises for waste prevention activities.

Cork County Council is also the Climate Action Regional Office for the Atlantic Seaboard South Region.

**Other initiatives**

* Single use plastics – close association with refill.ie.
* Waste Prevention - Funding social enterprise group Recreate encouraging use of unwanted materials.
* Green Workplace - Support initiatives to carry out waste characterisations in 4 Council buildings and develop software to monitor data over time.
* Reuse Republic – Yearly Exhibition in County Hall.
* Community Environment Action Fund - €68k awarded to communities for climate action and biodiversity focused projects.
* Air Quality - €30k spent on installing monitors in Cobh, Mallow and Macroom.

**Housing**

The Housing Directorate consider climate change impact on all repairs, improvements and new builds. Some initiatives currently being undertaken include:

* 5,400 houses retrofitted with cavity wall and attic insulation since 2013 costing €10million.
* All newly built houses have minimum energy rating of A2/A3.
* Better Energy Communities improvements works carried out annually – jointly funded by Cork County Council, SEAI and DHPLG. Savings of 20 to 40 euro weekly per house on energy savings.
* €1.1million spent in 2018 and spend of €2.3 million planned in 2020;
  + External wall insulation
  + Zoned heating control systems
  + Closing fireplaces
  + Replacing boilers with Air to Water heat pumps

**Roads**

The Roads directorate main focus on climate improvement work at present is the areas of Public Lighting and fleet management.

* ***Public Lighting***
* Lead Authority in Public Lighting Road Management Office
* LED retrofitting national project commencing in 2020
* All new public lights fitted with LED lights
* Over 700 lights retrofitted in 2018/2019 programme
* ***Fleet Management***
* 6 Electric Vehicles being introduced to fleet on a trial basis to establish efficiencies and suitability.

**Municipal Districts**

The Municipal Districts directorate drives a wide range of climate initiatives:

* ***Libraries***
* Buildings being audited on water and energy consumption.
* ***Architects***
* Public realm design work puts pedestrian and cycling facilities to the fore.
* Landscape architects are including meadow areas where applicable in designs.
* Natural building materials are considered where economically viable.
* ***Others***
* Wildflower meadow developments across the county e.g. 8 to 10 acres at Midleton Lodge Public Park.
* Tidy Town groups funded through GMA specifically for biodiversity plans e.g. wildflower gardens.
* Ensure Green Agenda and Biodiversity are included on all future developments.

**Facilities**

The facilities team has carried out a number of key initiatives over the last number of years investing €180,000 and these have given a fast payback on investment:

* Multi-level car park roof lighting upgrade – payback 1.6 years.
* Urinal flush control in County Hall – payback 1.55 years.
* Stairwell lighting upgrade to LED – payback 4.68 years.
* Solar panels and energy efficient boilers in County Hall – payback 5.7 years.
* External Lighting upgrade to LED – payback 4.5 years.

Cork County Council will continue to:

* Maintain core services to a high standard.
* Seek efficiencies in the delivery of services.
* Meet the challenge of ensuring the success of the Municipal Districts.
* Prioritise our role in Economic Development & Climate Change while operating in a challenging climate.

The Mayor invited Party and Group Leaders to make general comments which included as follows:

* Members thanked the Head of Finance and Chief Executive for the detailed Budget presentation.
* 2019 was a challenging year for Cork County Council with the Boundary Change.
* The budget is a key reserved function.
* The actual delivery of services is critically important.
* Fianna Fáil signalled it would be proposing budget amendments.
* Should be seeking further income from central government – LPT is a blunt instrument.
* If we want to attract tourists into the county, then we need to have investment in our open spaces and parks.
* Sinn Fein signalled it would be proposing budget amendments.
* Housing Crisis is one of the key issues and will take years before there is new builds.
* The need for air monitoring pilot programme to be carried out at schools.
* Creation of specific climate change fund very welcomed.
* Rateable valuations a vital issue for businesses.
* Openness and transparency is vital and needed as we have responsibility for over €340 million of public funds.

The Chief Executive responded on a number of issues raised by Party Leaders:

* Commented on the close relationship Cork County Council has with Community Groups and the benefits of grant aid from Cork County Council to these groups.
* Clarification on outdoor staff 340 approx outdoor staff for general operations doesn’t include supervisors, engineers and curators.

The Mayor informed Members they must consider the Budget under the following separate headings:

**Division A** Housing and Building

**Division B** Road Transport and Safety

**Division C** Water Services

**Division D** Development Management

**Division E** Environmental Services

**Division F** Recreation and Amenity

**Division G** Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare

**Division H** Miscellaneous Services

**Division A: Housing and Building**

The Head of Finance outlined total estimated expenditure of €53,095,994 and total estimated income of €47,251,669.

During the discussion, Members made the following points:

* Reduction in Housing maintenance expenditure due to boundary change.
* Homeless Services – is there a change in this service provision.
* Welcomed increase in repair to lease scheme & how beneficial it is.
* Requested a pilot scheme be put in place for repair to lease scheme.
* Estate management need more resources on the ground.

The Head of Finance said that the Repair to Lease Scheme is a national drive with an increase in funding of €400,000 and Cork County Council will be promoting as a Local Authority.

The Chief Executive stated that he is satisfied with the successful system for dealing with homelessness that the Housing Directorate has in place and that it has adequate resources available to respond to homelessness. The Local Authority also works very closely with the HSE and Voluntary Bodies to prevent homelessness.

**Division B: Roads**

The Head of Finance outlined total estimated expenditure of €91,137,092 and total estimated income of €61,065,080.

During the discussion, Members made the following points:

* Members expressed their concern for the state of the roads in the County.
* Requested a follow up letter be sent to the Taoiseach for a delegation from CCC to meet to discuss further funding.
* Cost of pay parking enforcement of €1m could be put to better use.
* Welcomed general maintenance increase.
* Need to demand more funding from TII.
* Concerned about signage not visual to public.
* School wardens have not materialised to date.
* We have the highest density of rural and regional roads, and we need increased funding for these roads.
* Raised concerns about pay parking system.

The Chief Executive stated that pay parking regimes are reserved to Municipal Districts and any changes must be made at Municipal District level and reflect in Full Council budget. The Municipal District Budgets have already been adopted so changes cannot now be made.

**Extension of Time**

*At 1.15 pm an extension of time and suspension of standing orders number 7 was agreed following the proposal of Councillor Seamus McGrath, seconded by Councillor John Paul O’Shea.*

**Division C: Water Services**

The Head of Finance outlined total estimated expenditure of €37,559.846 and total estimated income of €34,103,335.

During the discussion, Members made the following points:

* Concerns that Cork County Council were continuing certain activities for Irish Water.
* Welcomed overall Rural Water Allocation of €1.5m.
* Cost of providing public conveniences was high.

The Chief Executive stated that the decision to renew public conveniences contracts was to be carried out at Municipal District level.

**Division D: Development Management**

The Head of Finance outlined total estimated expenditure of €33,962,743 and total estimated income of €11,250,724.

During a discussion, Members made the following points:-

* Requested we implement a policy for Rates Relief Scheme.
* Grants rebate for start up businesses in vacant buildings.
* Building must be vacant for 3 years for it to be considered.
* New Rates Act – Rates Alleviation Scheme awaiting regulations cannot implement through Rates Harmonisation.

The Chief Executive said that the rates relief scheme did not come to Full Council Meeting from the Economic Development SPC. Work would need to be carried out on the scope, need to look at wider issues. Also local property owners would need to be consulted on their reaction if Cork County Council implemented a proactive approach. He suggested this matter go to Corporate Policy Group for further discussion.

**Time:**

*2.00pm – 10 minute recess agreed*

**Division E: Environmental Services**

The Head of Finance outlined total estimated expenditure of €43,078,630 and total estimated income of €8,860,972.

During the discussion, Members made the following points:

* Requested information on cost of derelict sites.
* More assistance needed for Tidy Towns Committees.
* As the Fermoy area does not have a civic amenity site, additional limited service should be provided.
* Reduction in street cleaning costs due to boundary changes.
* We need to provide additional funding for our cemeteries.

The Head of Finance stated that there is a provision for street cleaning allocated across all eight Municipal Districts including pay, machinery, materials, etc. Burial Grounds upgrades are covered in the Capital Budget. Funding for tackling derelict sites was allocated across the MDs.

**Division F: Recreation & Amenity**

The Head of Finance outlined total estimated expenditure of €28,084,529 and total estimated income of €3,341,303.

* Library and parks funding reflected the boundary change.
* Can beach wheelchair scheme be extended to other beaches.
* Welcomes increase in Arts as there is a huge demand for bursary.

The Head of Finance outlined that the accessibility of beaches should be dealt with by MDs.

**Division G: Agri, Educ, Health & Welfare**

The Head of Finance outlined total estimated expenditure of €5,894,739 and total estimated income of €2,328.378.

During the discussion, Members made the following points:

* Queried funding for Piers, Harbour & Coastal Protection – long coastline to maintain.
* Enquired about Higher Education Grants funding.
* Control of dogs requested income from fines & licences.
* Why is there an increase in funding for abattoirs.

There is a large number of funding requests coming in for Piers, Harbour & Coastal Protection and Cork County Council has tried to increase investment in this infrastructure. Cork County Council has a long length of coastline to maintain and will endeavour to increase funding over the next number of years.

**Division H: Miscellaneous Services**

The Head of Finance outlined total estimated expenditure of €45,564,362 and total estimated income of €41,152,691.

* Welcome increase in lrish language funding.
* Requested that all press releases & draft County Development Plan be available in Irish version.
* Requested clarification on the income figure for casual trading.
* Why the increase for administration for the Rates Office.

The Head of Finance stated that the increase for the administration for the Rates Office is to provide for amendments exercise with valuations to clear backlog of work.

The Mayor thanked Head of Finance, Loraine Lynch, for answering all questions from the Council Members on the proposed Budget.

1. **To deal with such draft Budget in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended, and the Local Government (Financial Procedures and Audit) Regulations 2002.**

The Mayor informed members that they had three resolutions to consider, the first being the Adoption of the Council’s Budget for the local Financial Year ending 31st December 2020.

The Mayor called for any amendments and said that an individual vote would be taken on each of the amendments unless withdrawn by the proposer.

**Amendment 1:**

Fianna Fáil, proposed by Councillor Seamus McGrath, seconded by Councillor Gearóid Murphy brought forward an amendment of an increase of €1m be put in place to support outdoor area office activities as an increase to the General Municipal Allocation (GMA).

Fianna Fáil confirmed they would be seeking budget amendments totalling €1,000,000 as follows:

* Reduction of Postage/Print facilities €100,000
* Reduction of Central Management Charges €500,000
* Reduction in Revenue Reserves €400,000

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**€1,000,000**

**Amendment 2:**

Sinn Fein, proposed by Councillor Danielle Twomey, seconded by Councillor Paul Hayes brought forward an amendment of a €500k increase to be put in place to support Maintenance LA Housing Units.

Sinn Fein confirmed they would be seeking budget amendments totalling €500,000 as follows:

* Reduction of Recreational Development €200,000
* Reduction of Environmental Service Support Costs €300,000

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**€500,000**

**Amendment 3:**

Green Party, proposed by Councillor Liam Quaide, seconded by Councillor Danielle Twomey brought forward an amendment of €20,000 for a Pilot Programme of Air Monitoring at school locations.

Green Party confirmed they would be seeking budget amendments totalling €20,000 as follows:

* Reduction in Revenue Reserves €20,000

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**€20,000**

The Head of Finance addressed the **first amendment** outlining the following:

1. Post/Printing has already been cut by €85k and would affect efficiency in house including contact centre, insurance, OSI mapping, Irish Office.
2. €30m gap had to be bridged already.
3. €500k from Central Management Charges would impact on the ability to provide support services and would affect efficiency in house including Service Republic.
4. Revenue Reserves – one third already needed to balance this budget.

The Chief Executive asked the members to note the following on the proposal of €1m amendment:

*Four Discretionary Areas Open:*

1. Staff Training
2. Occupational Health
3. Municipal District Building improvements
4. Climate Change Actions

All of these decreases would have a huge impact on all areas such as staff, level of services, energy efficiency work.

The Head of Finance addressed the **second amendment** outlining the following:

* €200k from Recreational Development funding means Cork County Council would not be able to match grants.
* €300k from Service Support Costs will result in a reduction in reserves as this expenditure is not discretionary.

The Chief Executive asked the Members to note the following on the proposal of €500,000 to support maintenance of Local Authority housing units.

* Strongly recommended not to approve as the Council’s financial situation would worsen.
* No scope for reduction as not in a good financial position compared to last year.
* It is a risk to worsen position of reserves.

The Head of Finance addressed the **third amendment** outlining the following:

* €20k from Revenue Reserves would affect reserves balance.

During this discussion members made the following points:

* + Members asked for an update on the compensation package from Cork City Council following the Boundary Extension.
  + Asked that the Council write to the European Commissioner see if there is funding/grants for air monitoring.
  + Sponsorship also to be considered.

The Chief Executive stated that the compensation package from the City Council in relation to the boundary extension was nearing finalisation. He suggested that the air monitoring proposal be referred to the Environment, Climate Action and Biodiversity SPC.

**Time:**

*Mayor proposed 10 minute recess at 4.00pm to 4.10pm, seconded by Councillor Frank O’Flynn*

***Meeting reconvened at 4.10pm***

**Withdrawal of Amendments 2 & 3:**

The Sinn Fein party confirmed it would withdraw its amendment of €500,000 additional funding to support Maintenance Local Authority Housing Units. It had been agreed that the Fianna Fáil party proposal would include €100,000 provision for housing maintenance.

The Green Party also confirmed it was happy to withdraw their amendment of €20k increase for a Pilot Programme Air Monitoring and for it to be included with a proposal to be given by Fianna Fáil party that included their €20,000 provision.

**Amendment:**

Proposed by Councillor Seamus McGrath, seconded by Councillor Danielle Twomey.

The following amendments to the Budget:

Additional funding to General Municipal Allocation €617,000

Pilot Project for Air Pollution at school locations €20,000

Maintenance of Local Authority Housing Units €100,000

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**€737,000**

Seeking Budget amendments totalling €737,000 as follows:

* Post Print Facilities (reduction) €100,000
* Service Supports (reduction) €237,000
* Revenue Reserves (to fund balance) €400,000

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**€737,000**

The Chief Executive indicated the following:

* €260,000 could be taken from Climate Change proposal.
* Taking funding from Support Services will have significant impact.
* Operations would be affected if funding was taken from core, non-discretionary expenditure.
* The proposal would affect the Chief Executive’s ability to run the organisation.
* The Members need to decide where the funding of additional expenditure will come from in the Budget.

The Mayor then called for a vote on the amended proposal to be taken, which resulted as follows:

**FOR:** Councillor Coughlan G, O’Donovan, Cairns, McGrath, Buckley, O’Flynn, O’Brien, O’Leary, Doyle, Moynihan G, Looney, Hayes Pat, Murphy Gearóid, Linehan–Foley, O’Connor J, Twomey, Quaide, O’Sullivan C, Carroll, Hayes Paul

**[20]**

**AGAINST:** CouncillorColeman, Murphy Kevin, O’Sullivan J, O’Sullivan M, Murphy Katie, D’Alton, Lombard, O’Connor L, O’Connor A, Dawson, O’Shea J.P, Murphy Gerard, Creed, Coughlan M, Lynch, Madden, O’Shea T, Collins N, Hegarty, McCarthy S, Coakley

**[21]**

**ABSTAIN:** CouncillorDalton–O’Sullivan, Roche

**[2]**

The Mayor declared that the motion was defeated.

**Cork County Council – Budget 2020 Resolutions:**

**Resolution 1:**

**Adoption of the Council’s Budget for the Local Financial Year ending** 31st December 2020

# Proposed by Councillor Martin Coughlan, seconded by Councillor Liam O’Connor.

“That pursuant to the provisions of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended by the Local Government Reform Act 2014, the Local Government (Financial and Audit Procedures) Regulations 2014 and the Local Authority Accounting Code of Practice and Accounting Regulations, the Draft Budget for the financial year ending 31st December 2020 as presented by the Chief Executive and as set out in Tables A – H, and is hereby adopted.”

The Mayor requested that a vote be taken, which resulted as follows:

# FOR: Councillors Coleman, Murphy Kevin, O’Sullivan John, O’Sullivan Marie, Murphy Katie, D’Alton, Lombard, O’Connor L, Dalton O’Sullivan, O’Connor A, Dawson, O’Shea J.P, Murphy Gerard, Creed, Coughlan M, Lynch, Madden, O’Shea T, Linehan–Foley, Collins N, Hegarty, McCarthy S, O’Sullivan C, Coakley.

# [24]

**AGAINST:** Councillor Coughlan G, O’Donovan, Cairns, McGrath, Buckley, O’Flynn, O’Brien, O’Leary, Doyle, Moynihan G, Looney, Hayes Pat, Murphy Gearóid, O’Connor J, Twomey, Quaide, Carroll, Hayes Paul

**[18]**

**ABSTAIN:** Councillor Roche

**[1]**

# The Mayor declared the resolution carried.

# RESOLUTION 2

# Determination of the Annual Rate on Valuation for the Local Financial Year ending 31st December 2020

# Proposed by Councillor Kevin Murphy, seconded by Councillor Michael Hegarty.

“That pursuant to the provisions of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended by the Local Government Reform Act 2014, the Local Government (Financial and Audit Procedures) Regulations 2014 and the Local Authority Accounting Code of Practice and Accounting Regulations, and in accordance with the Local Authority Budget for the Financial Year ending 31st December 2020, as adopted, the annual rate on valuation as set out in Table A hereunder be the annual rate on valuation to be levied for the said Financial Year having regard to the Base Year Adjustment period of 5 years that commenced in 2016 determined in accordance with Section 29 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014. The Annual Rate to be levied shall be **74.75**.”

The Mayor requested that a vote be taken, which resulted as follows:

# FOR: Councillors Coughlan G, Coleman, Murphy Kevin, O’Sullivan J, O’Sullivan Marie, O’Donovan, Murphy Katie, Cairns, McGrath, D’Alton, Lombard, Buckley, O’Connor L, O’Connor A, O’Flynn, O’Brien, O’Leary, Dawson, Roche, Doyle, O’Shea J.P, Murphy Gerard, Creed, Moynihan G, Looney, Coughlan M, Lynch, Hayes Pat, Murphy Gearóid, Madden, O’Shea T, Linehan–Foley, Collins N, Hegarty, O’Connor J, McCarthy S, Quaide, O’Sullivan C, Carroll, Coakley, Hayes Paul

# [41]

**ABSTAIN:** Councillor Dalton O’Sullivan

**[1]**

# The Mayor declared the resolution carried.

**RESOLUTION 3**

**Rates Vacancy Refund**

# Proposed by Councillor Marcia D’Alton, seconded by Councillor Aidan Lombard.

“That pursuant to the provisions of section 14 of the Local Government Act 1946, Cork County Council will continue to apply a 100% rates vacancy refund for 2020.”

The Mayor requested that a vote be taken, which resulted as follows:

# FOR: Councillors Coughlan G, Coleman, Murphy Kevin, O’Sullivan J, O’Sullivan M, O’Donovan, Murphy Katie, Cairns, McGrath, D’Alton, Lombard, Buckley, O’Connor L, Dalton O’Sullivan, O’Connor A, O’Flynn, O’Brien, O’Leary, Dawson, Roche, Doyle, O’Shea J.P, Murphy Gerard, Creed, Moynihan G, Looney, Coughlan M, Lynch, Hayes Pat, Murphy Gearóid, Madden, O’Shea T, Linehan–Foley, Hegarty, O’Connor J, McCarthy S, O’Sullivan C, Carroll, Coakley, Hayes Paul

# [40]

# The Mayor declared the resolution carried.

The Chief Executive thanked the County Mayor, Cllr Christopher O’Sullivan, and his predecessor, Cllr. Patrick Gerard Murphy, along with the Corporate Policy Group for their assistance and support in the past year and, in particular, in the consultative process of this Budget. The Chief Executive thanked all Members for their engagement with the process of finalising the 2020 Budget.

The Mayor thanked the Head of Finance, Loraine Lynch, Management Accountant Jeremy Canty, Katherine Woods, Ann O’Sullivan and other Members of the Finance Team for their work on the 2020 Budget. He also thanked the Chief Executive’s Management Team.

**VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS**

**TO:** Kevin Flanagan

*on winning three gold medals in syncro/trampoline in Dublin*

**TO:** Carol Crean and Maria Shannon

*on the most Harry Potters in the one place for Guinness book of records*

**~ This concluded the business of the Meeting ~**