



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí

Cork County Council

Minutes of Proceedings at Annual Budget Meeting of Cork County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Cork and by Microsoft Teams on 27th November 2023 at 11.00am.

I LATHAIR

Comhairleoir Proinsias Ó Flíonn, Méara Chontae

Comhairleoirí: Uí Chochláin G, Ó Colmáin, Ó Murchú C, Ó Suilleabháin S, Uí Shuilleabháin M, Ó Donnabháin, Ó Coileáin, Ó Murchú PG, Ní Chroinín, Ó Conaill, Mac Craith, Uí Daltún, Ní Charthaigh Úna, Uí Bhuachalla, De FaoiteS, Daltún Ó Suilleabháin, Ní Cheallacháin, Barra, Sheppard, Rasmussen, Ó Conchubair S, Ó Conchubair A, MacCarthaigh N, Uí Bhriain, Ó Laoghaire, Dawson, De Róiste, Ó Muineacháin B, Ó Dubhghaill, Ó Sé SP, Ó Murchú G, Críod, Ó Muineacháin G, Ó Luanaigh, Ó Chochláin M, Uí Loinsigh, Ó Luasa, Ó Haodha Padraig, Ó Murchú Gearóid, Ó Cinnéide, Ó Madaoin, Ó Sé T, Léineacháin Uí Foghlú, Ó hÉalaithe, Ó Héigheartaigh, Ní Heachthigheirn, Uí Thuama, MacCarthaigh S, Mac Uaid, Ní Cheallaigh, Ó Cearbhaill, Ó Muirthile, Uí Chaochlaoich, Ó Haodha Pól.

PRESENT

Councillor Frank O'Flynn, County Mayor, presided.

Councillor: Coughlan, Coleman, Murphy K, O'Sullivan J, O'Sullivan M, O'Donovan, Collins, Murphy PG, Cronin, O'Connell, McGrath, D'Alton, McCarthy Ú, Buckley, White, Dalton-O'Sullivan, O'Callaghan, Barry, Sheppard, Rasmussen, O'Connor S, O'Connor A, McCarthy N, O'Brien, O'Leary, Dawson, Roche, Moynihan B, Doyle, O'Shea JP, Murphy G, Creed, Moynihan G, Looney, Coughlan M, Lynch, Lucey, Hayes Pat, Murphy Gearóid, Kennedy, Madden, O'Shea T, Linehan-Foley, Healy, Hegarty M, Ahern, Twomey, McCarthy S, Quaide, Kelly, Carroll, Hurley, Coakley, Hayes Paul.

Chief Executive, Head of Finance, Senior Executive Officer Corporate Services, Management Accountant.

[b] VOTES OF SYMPATHY

TO: Sorcha Cooney on the death of her uncle Patrick O'Donovan.

TO: Oliver Sheehy on the death of his sister in law Joan Sheehy.

TO: Marie Mortell on the death of her father Joe Healy.

TO: Carmel Turner on the death of her mother Kathleen Roche.

- 1. TO CONSIDER THE DRAFT BUDGET PREPARED BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE SHOWING THE AMOUNTS, WHICH IN HER 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 2024.**

The Chief Executive thanked the Mayor and Elected Members for attending today's Budget Meeting. Ms. O'Sullivan said Cork County Council runs an enormous business with a revenue budget of €458 million and a Capital Programme of €1.5 billion. She said Cork County Council is one of the biggest businesses in the country and said it is a huge achievement to be here today presenting a balanced budget to Members. She said to be able to maintain and enhance service levels is a significant achievement. The Chief Executive said the budget being presented today is a prudent budget and represents the first time in many years that Cork County Council does not have to dip into its reserves. She said ratepayers are at the heart of who Cork County Council thinks about every year when preparing the budget Ms. O'Sullivan said people who are paying rates of less than €7000 are seeing no increase. She said that there is a commitment in the 2024 budget to maintain outdoor staffing levels at 374. She said there are services that people can benefit from in this budget and there is an increased spend on outdoor services. The Chief Executive thanked Mayor Frank O Flynn for his assistance with the Budget and his predecessor Councillor Danny Collins. She thanked Mr. Jeremy Canty, Substitute Head of Finance and his team for bringing forward the Budget. Ms. O'Sullivan commended the proposed Budget to the Chamber.

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 for 2024.

The Head of Finance confirmed that a copy of the Draft 2024 Budget, together with a report outlining the provisions of that draft, was issued to every Member of the Council.

He began by saying the Draft Budget for 2024 is a Balanced Budget. He said Budget Allocations enabling continuation of current Service Levels have been maintained or increased. Mr. Canty said there is a new Service Enhancement Fund in this budget, the ARV remains unchanged from 2023, SME Grant Incentive Scheme has been maintained and GMA, VEF, TDF Allocations at €3.3m have been maintained.

The Head of Finance outlined the challenges faced by Local Authorities including:

- Ongoing inflationary pressures on service delivery cost, including Loan Interest Increases.
- Loss of €3m Energy Support Income.
- Growing activity levels across all services, including roads and municipal services, are driving costs up.
- Increased investment in our Public Spaces with upgrade of and additional facilities leads to increased maintenance.
- Increasing the demand for economic development support and investment, including property and town regeneration to assist our local business in our towns and villages.

The Head of Finance outlined the key objectives of Draft Budget 2024:

- Safeguarding Financial Stability
- Committed to maintaining Service Levels
- Focus on Community Supports
- Committed to driving Economic Activity
- Committed to Climate Adaptation Activities
- Increased focus on Outdoor Services

The Head of Finance outlined the funding sources contributing to Budget 2024:

- LPT
- Rates
- Goods and Services Income
- Grants and Subsidies

LPT

- Discretionary LPT Income of €28.46m for 2024 (€17.7m in 2023) following Members decision in September 2022 to vary the basic rate of LPT upwards by 7.5% for 2023 & 2024 and the application of the new model to determine LPT baseline funding levels.
- Self funding LPT revenue element for Housing & Roads shown as grants in Divisions A & B (€1.7m)
- Appendix 2 details the LPT allocation & apportionment

Rates

- Rates income for 2024 is projected at €127,501,721 which includes buoyancy of € 1.55m

Annual Rate of Variation

- Council's overall Annual Rate on Valuation (ARV) remained unchanged from 2023
- The burden to ratepayers has in real terms reduced, taking into consideration the increase in inflation
- CPI inflation at 5.1% to October 2023 year on year

Draft Budget 2024 Continuation of Rates Incentive Grant Scheme SME

- Previously, Rate was payable in two moieties (halves)
- In 2024 this will change with the full Rate becoming payable on 1st January.
- Grant of 3.5% of annual bill, capped at maximum bill of €7,000; i.e. the max relief any ratepayer will receive is 3.5% of €7,000 = €245
- Scheme to apply to all ratepayers countywide

Draft Budget 2024 Payroll

- Additional costs arising from Pay agreements (Public Service Stability Agreement)
- October 2023 -1.5% of annualised Pay or €750 per annum whichever is the greater
- March 2024 -1.5% Pay Increase
- October 2024 -1.5% Pay Increase
- Pension and Gratuities increased requirements €1.8m (Cork County Council has no discretion in this – must be funded through the Revenue Budget)

Climate Adaptation

- Draft Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024 - 2029 (LACAP) published for public consultation from 13th October to 27th November 2023. A final draft of the Plan will be presented to members to be adopted before 23rd Feb 2024.
- The LACAP will facilitate the development of annual implementation programmes and will be driven by the Council's newly appointed Climate Action Co-ordinator, Climate Action Officer and Community Climate Action Officer. Climate Change Impact is a key consideration in any new investment being made.
- Ensure Climate Action and Biodiversity are included on all future developments
- Public Lighting - LED retrofitting national project which will see upwards of 31,000 lights retrofitted and all new public lights fitted with LED lights
- Fleet Management - Fleet Replacement Programme commenced to upgrade the fleet with newer technologies to achieve efficiencies, where possible, to meet climate change targets
- Housing - All newly built houses have minimum energy rating of A2/A3.
- The Energy Efficiency/Retrofitting Programme (EERP) includes the provision of external wall insulation, new windows and doors, attic insulation and Heat Pumps.

Service Enhancement Fund

- Provision in Draft Budget €650,000
- Provide Additional Outdoor Services Across the County
- Resources Allocated to facilitate equitable services in each region

Mr. Canty then outlined the draft Budget by divisions A-H.

Division A – Housing

- Draft Expenditure 2024 - €97,976,543
- Draft Income 2024 - €85,056,741
- Adopted Expenditure 2023 - €79,512,524
- Adopted Income 2023 - €70,133,360
- Increase of €2.7m to the Expenditure budget for the maintenance and improvement of Local Authority Housing
- Energy Efficiency works (increase €1.5m, 80% funded) VOIDS increase of €1.2m (€5.5m, 2023; €6.7m, 2024)
- Croí Cónaithe Towns Grant €2.5m for 2024 increase of €1.5m (80% recoupable)
- Homeless Services increase of €4.1m to €9.6m – 10% funded by Council including the creation of new Homeless Family Hub in West Cork €800k, 90% recoupable
- Payment and Availability Scheme increased to €12m (€7.5m, 2023)(contra) (increase €4.5m)
- Provision of €11m for the delivery of the Social Housing PPP programme for which Cork County Council is the Lead authority (increase of €1.1m)
- DPG and Mobility Grants of €6.9million (increase of €1.2m) (80% grant funded)
- Increase in rental income of €1.9m
- Decrease in VOIDS income of €1.1m (reduction from €28k to €11k per house)

Division B – Roads

- Draft Expenditure 2024 - €116,825,461
- Draft Income 2024 - €80,169,175
- Adopted Expenditure 2023 - €94,789,303
- Adopted Income 2023 - €59,866,661

- The Roads Budget for 2024 has been increased to reflect the increasing cost of fuel, electricity and materials.
- Grant allocations for national, local and regional roads are in line with expectations for 2024.
- Regional roads spend increased spend from €23.1m to €29.2m (increase of €6.1m)
- Local roads spend increased spend from €57.1m to €71.6m (increase of €14.5m)
- Public Lighting -increase of 1.2% to cover increase in energy costs –Total spend €4.7m
- Presentation of Towns and Approaches-Maintained at 2023 levels-€742k
- Verge Trimming Junctions & Blackspots -Maintained at 2023 levels -€220k
- CLAR moving to Capital -€300k
- Creation of New Service Enhancement Fund-€650k

Division C – Water

- Draft Expenditure 2024 - €45,151,158
- Draft Income 2024 - €40,604,563
- Adopted Expenditure 2023 - €44,178,115
- Adopted Income 2023 - €39,636,304
- €4.2m has been provided for the administration of group water schemes and private installations in line with current grant allocations –(increase of €0.3m, fully funded)
- A total of €1.5m (€1.5m, 2023) is provided for the management of Flood Schemes at Mallow, Fermoy, Clonakilty, Skibbereen and Bandon which reflects the continued investment in flood protection in our towns over the last number of years
- €2m has been provided for Public Conveniences, slight increase on 2023 of €1.93m.
- Remaining Expenditure Uisce Éireann related
- For 2024 the SLA agreement with Uisce Éireann will be replaced by a Master Cooperation Agreement and Support Services Agreement.
- Uisce Éireann Central Management Charge payable by DHLGH in 2024

Division D – Development Management

- Draft Expenditure 2024 - €45,151,158
- Draft Income 2024 - €40,604,563
- Adopted Expenditure 2023 - €44,178,115
- Adopted Income 2023 - €39,636,304
- Provision of €418,800 is made for the County Development Plan process including advertising, consultation, meetings, printing and Irish translation
- Maintained the budget for maintenance of industrial units and sites as the Council remains committed to supporting local enterprise.
- Budget provision of €4.2m towards the delivery of the LEO Programme
- SICAP provision increased by €250k. (€1.92m, 2023; €2.17m, 2024)
- Economic Dev Fund (€565k) and Property Activation Fund (€500k)
- Increased spend on Town Regeneration – increase of €326k
- Town and Village Renewal at 2023 spend - €1.58m with income of €1.38m
- Increase in Conservation Grant and Commemorations Budget for 2024 with a total budget of €674,800 (part grant-funded). Increase of €275k in Community Monument Grant
- Re-opening and operation of Camden Fort Meagher - €950k, (€200k, 2023) increased spend of €750k

Division E – Environmental Services

- Draft Expenditure 2024 - €61,153,474
- Draft Income 2024 - €17,104,141

- Adopted Expenditure 2023 - €52,003,857
- Adopted Income 2023 - €10,177,605
- The operation of Landfill sites has increased by €1m due to increased activity, costs of disposal of materials including leachate, energy increases and loan charges.
- The council continues its investment in the regional WERLA office and dealing with waste enforcement and promoting awareness (grant funded) – increased spend €512k
- Financial resourcing of street cleaning has been maintained with a draft budget of €3.1m a slight increase on last year (€3m 2023).
- Provision of the maintenance of burial ground maintenance with a draft budget of €3.7m for 2024.
- Increase of €5.5m in Operation of Fire Service and Training (€18.1m, 2024; €12.6m, 2023) due to Retained Fire Services Agreement – fully funded.
- The designated Climate Action Fund is retained at €400k to reflect the Councils focus on Climate Action.
- New Community Grant Fund – spend of €600k expected in 2024 with balance carried to 2025.

Division F – Recreation & Amenity

- Draft Expenditure 2024 - €33,144,430
- Draft Income 2024 - €3,217,259
- Adopted Expenditure 2023 - €32,339,458
- Adopted Income 2023 - €3,281,180
- 2024 budget for Libraries has increased to €13.6m (€13.1m, 2023).
- Protected the book fund.
- Additional funding to deliver on the National My Open Library Service and library e-resources program including €200k for Briery Gap Macroom.
- Cork County Council has secured an Arts Council Creative Places award. In 2024 we will receive Creative Places funding of €150,000 from the Arts Council to which the Council must add €30,100 of its own resources.
- Due to the opening of a number of new parks and greenways (Midleton to Youghal) we have increased the funding for the maintenance of our parks and open spaces to €6.1m. (€5.9m 2023)
- Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure budget of €1.38m in line with 2023 with funding of €1.2m

The GMA/TDF/VEF have been retained the €3.3m split as follows :

	GMA	TDF	VEF
	€	€	€
Carrigaline MD	188,598	120,000	68,750
Cobh MD	183,394	120,000	68,750
East Cork MD	241,218	120,000	68,750
Fermoy MD	198,250	110,000	68,750
Kinsale Bandon MD	208,100	115,000	68,750
Macroom MD	197,253	98,000	68,750
Mallow Kanturk MD	284,913	139,000	68,750
West Cork MD	314,000	130,000	68,750
Total	1,815,726	952,000	550,000

Division G – Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare

- Draft Expenditure 2024 - €7,392,656
- Draft Income 2024 – €2,799,506
- Adopted Expenditure 2023 - €7,051,145
- Adopted Income 2023 - €2,674,319
- Continued Provision of €1.8m for Piers and Harbours to maintain service delivery level
- Dredging Provision of €180k has been maintained
- Inspection of Abattoirs, Food Safety, Dog Warden and Animal Welfare Services maintained at 2023 levels

Division H – Miscellaneous Services

- Draft Expenditure 2024 - €51,861,401
- Draft Income 2024 – €60,575,107
- Adopted Expenditure 2023 - €52,041,739
- Adopted Income 2023 - €58,286,364
- Plant and Machinery increased spend from €16.9m to €17.2m due to increased maintenance costs
- Extra pension and lump sum requirement of €1.8m
- Increase in Boundary Compensation to €15.6m
- Compensation for increases in rates of pay is €23.8m

The Head of Finance said the preparation of draft budget 2024 has been a challenging process but the budget presented achieves its objectives:

- Maintaining Service Levels by providing additional funding to cover inflation for Core Housing, Roads and MD Services
- Balanced Budget -no recourse to General Revenue Reserve
- No LPT Increase
- No ARV Increase and maintenance of Rates Incentive Scheme
- Creation of New Service Enhancement Fund
- Commitment to Climate Adaptation Activities
- Focus on Supporting Communities through maintenance of GMA/TDF/ VEF

The Head of Finance presented the Capital Programme from 2024– 2026 to Members. Mr. Canty informed Members the Capital Programme has been prepared in accordance with Section 135 of the Local Government 2001 Act, as amended. He outlined the Capital Investment Programme (€1.5 bn) and said:

- the Programme has been prepared based on the information and priorities available at the present time
- rolling programme which will change as allocations received, statutory process is progressed etc

The progression of any project must take account of:

- Contractual obligations in relation to ongoing works
- Works to be undertaken on foot of grant allocations
- Prioritising projects that can attract funding from other sources
- Prioritising those projects that will yield greatest economic and social dividend

- Projects necessary to continue a reasonable level of advancement in particular areas
- Stretching our limited internal resources to maximise the economic stimulus attainable over the next few years
- Identifying funding source/revenue streams for future lifecycle maintenance costs

Commencement of Projects will only be allowed as per the normal statutory processes and compliance with the Public Spending Code.

Strict adherence to national stipulations in terms of ensuring balanced capital account.

Capital Investment Programme 2024 – 2026:

- Increase of €230m over the 2024 – 2026 Capital Programme
- Housing a key priority for the Council and comprises 62% of the Programme with an increase of €349m over the 2023-2025 Capital Programme
- Roads Infrastructure accounts for €340.7m (23%) a reduction on the 2023-25 capital programme of €113m due the near completion of the Ballyvourney – Macroom By-Pass, the progression of the M28, Annakisha South and Clogher Cross projects and the advanced stage of the PLEEP project.
- Impact of the Climate Adaptation Strategy is reflected across all categories including active travel measures, energy efficiency works, public lighting and fleet management.
- Importance of Sustainable Community and Cultural investment through recreation facilities, libraries, public realm, greenways and connection hubs

Mr. Canty outlined the funding sources of the Capital Programme:

- Government Grants
- Borrowing
- Development Contributions
- Internal Capital Receipts – Housing
- Capital Reserves
- Provisions in the Revenue Budget

He then outlined a summary of major areas of proposed expenditure as follows:

Housing:

Total Investment 2024 – 2026: €927.69 m

Grant Income: €827.05 m

Local Authority Funding: €1.50 m

Loan / Other Income: €99.14m

Funding to be Sourced: -

Roads:

Total Investment 2024 – 2026: €340.75 m

Grant Income: €235.76m

Local Authority Funding: €29.17 m

Loan / Other Income: €42.93 m

Funding to be Sourced: €32.89 m

Other Works:

Total Investment 2024 – 2026: €214.58 m

Grant Income: €81.75 m

Local Authority Funding: €34.38 m

Loan / Other Income: €15.42 m

Funding to be Sourced: €83.03 m

Water Services:

Total Investment 2024 – 2026: €20.58 m

Grant Income: €13.83 m

Local Authority Funding: €0.72 m

Loan / Other Income: €3.40 m

Funding to be Sourced: €2.63 m

Public Realm:

Total Investment 2024 – 2026: €64.05 m

Grant Income: €34.70 m

Local Authority Funding: €4.48m

Loan / Other Income: €7.03 m

Funding to be Sourced: €17.84 m

Recreation & Amenities:

Total Investment 2024 – 2026: €65.72 m

Grant Income: €14.95 m

Local Authority Funding: €6.47m

Loan / Other Income: €5.48 m

Funding to be Sourced: €38.82 m

Libraries:

Total Investment 2024 – 2026: €18.05 m

Grant Income: €7.20 m

Local Authority Funding: €1.60 m

Loan / Other Income: € 1.91 m

Funding to be Sourced: €7.34m

Tourism & Enterprise:

Total Investment 2024 – 2026: €5.52 m

Grant Income: €0.75 m

Local Authority Funding: €0.05 m

Loan / Other Income: € 0.09 m

Funding to be Sourced: €4.63 m

Burial Grounds:

Total Investment 2024 – 2026: €3.65 m

Grant Income: -

Local Authority Funding: €2.09 m

Loan / Other Income: -

Funding to be Sourced: €1.56 m

Environment:

Total Investment 2024 – 2026: €24.65 m

Grant Income: €15.82 m

Local Authority Funding: €3.20 m

Loan / Other Income: €0.91 m

Funding to be Sourced: €4.72 m

The Head of Finance concluded by saying this is a €1.5 billion year rolling programme that will change. He said significant analysis has been completed by each directorate. He said progression is based on existing capital commitments and compliance with Public Spending Code.

The Mayor said this budget is about balance and the right balance has been struck to provide for continued growth across the county while protecting vital services. He said this budget will ensure continued growth across the county. He said it is pro-family, pro-community and pro-business. He said everything the Cork County Council does is about achieving the best value in expenditure and creating real differences for the citizens of the county.

During the discussion, the Members made the following points:

- Members thanked the Chief Executive, Mr. Canty and his staff for the work in preparation of the Budget.
- Members said it is a positive budget overall
- Said there are no increases to commercial rates, local property taxes for households and no increases for tenants in housing rents
- Said the capital budget and the revenue budget represent a significant investment in the county
- Said the budget represents huge investment around the county and shows support for businesses
- Members said it is welcome that rates are not being increased in this budget
- Said more outdoor staff across Municipal Districts are needed and should be calculated by the size of each Municipal District
- Said increasing outdoor staff numbers from 354 to 374 is a priority for 2024
- Said 374 outdoor staff across the county is not enough and not balanced out of a total workforce of 2,000
- Said there needs to be an allocation of 2 extra outdoor staff per Municipal District as well as the extra 20
- Said Tidy Towns and Volunteer groups are being relied on too much
- Members welcomed the increased focus on outdoor services in this budget
- Said the extra funding for roads and housing is positive
- Said some roads across the county have been so badly damaged by heavy agricultural machinery that the extra funding will not go far enough to cover what needs to be done
- Members welcomed the Service Enhancement Fund and said that it is work that constituents can see on the ground
- Said there are a lack of burial plots in the county and funding needs to be set aside for that
- Said there is a need to enhance and maintain burial grounds
- Members said they would like to see an increase in the funding for dog wardens as it would be a deterrent in terms of dog fouling
- Members queried if businesses will have to pay their rates in one go under the new rates scheme
- Said it would be very difficult for smaller businesses to pay their rates in one go
- Asked that rate collectors would be flexible in their approach when dealing with business owners
- Members said extra funding needs to be set aside for Piers and Harbours as they bring an economic boost to many areas
- Said the €180,000 set aside for dredging has to be welcomed
- Said Affordable Housing needs to be progressed in towns around the county especially for Kinsale, Macroom & Charleville
- Said that climate changes that are expected to be implemented will have a big impact on finance going forward and will need to be centrally funded for that
- Said leadership needs to be shown in dealing with the challenges of the climate crisis
- Members said they need a breakdown of properties that need to be taken in charge in their areas at the start of the new year
- Said more funding needs to be set aside to deal with the dereliction and enhancement of town centers
- Members queried if there is any funding to deal with the shortfall of €1 million for the treatment plant in Crossbarry
- Asked if there is any funding in the budget to deal with traffic calming

- Members welcomed the extra funding towards footpaths
- Said existing footpaths are not wheelchair and buggy friendly and that needs to improve
- Said capital infrastructure for the arts needs to be maintained
- Members queried what happens if the boundary payment is not received from the City Council

Extension of Time

As the time was now 1.15pm, an extension of time was requested.

Proposed: Councillor Seamus McGrath

Seconded: Councillor Gobnait Moynihan

The Mayor thanked all for their contributions to the debate.

The Chief Executive responded as follows:

Ms. O’Sullivan said it is evident that all Members are doing the best for their areas and that has to be respected. She said as the transition to Uisce Éireann is ongoing, it would be beneficial if members of staff stayed with Cork County Council and automatically the numbers would then be more than 374. She said the issue of staffing is a complex exercise. She said it is not assessed per head and there is no specific formula for staffing. Ms. O’Sullivan said it is the law that the Cork City Council must pay compensation to Cork County Council. She said it is factually incorrect to say that this budget does not show leadership.

The Head of Finance responded to the Members’ discussion:

- Said there is €3 million set aside in the Capital Programme for works on playgrounds
- Said there is no source of funding for works to be done on the carpark in Bandon
- Said the Little Island part of the project of the Midelton/Youghal Greenway has no funding towards it
- Said there was a change in the rates abatement legislation and will re examine it in 2024
- Said the full amount set aside for burial grounds is €3.7 million
- Said businesses cannot be expected to pay full rates at the start of January
- Said there is Department of Agriculture funding towards Piers & Harbours and funding coming from the reserves
- Said the €442 million in the Capital Programme is earmarked towards Climate and there is significant development happening in that space
- Said €500,000 has been allocated towards the Property Activation Fund
- Said responsibility for the treatment plant in Crossbarry now lies with Uisce Éireann
- Said there is nothing specifically in the Budget for traffic calming measures

2. 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 2024.

RESOLUTION 1:

ADOPTION OF THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET FOR THE LOCAL FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2024

Proposed by Councillor Seamus McGrath, seconded by Councillor John Paul O'Shea

"That pursuant to the provisions of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended by the Local Government Reform Act 2014, the Draft Budget for the financial year ending 31.12.2024 as presented by the Chief Executive and as set out in Tables A-F, be and is hereby adopted".

FOR: Councillors Coughlan G, Coleman, Murphy K, O'Sullivan J, O'Sullivan M, O'Donovan, Collins D, Murphy PG, O'Connell, Cronin, McGrath, D'Alton, McCarthy Ú, Buckley, White, O'Callaghan, Barry, Sheppard, Rasmussen, O'Connor A, O'Flynn, O'Brien, Dawson, Roche, Doyle, O'Shea JP, Creed, Moynihan G, Looney, Coughlan M, Lynch, Lucey, Hayes Pat, Murphy Gearóid, O'Shea T, Linehan-Foley, Healy, Hegarty, McCarthy S, Ahern, Quaide, Kelly, Carroll, Hurley, Coakley, Hayes Paul
[46]

AGAINST: None
[0]

ABSTAIN: None
[0]

The Mayor declared the resolution carried.

RESOLUTION 2:

DETERMINATION OF THE ANNUAL RATE ON VALUATION FOR THE LOCAL FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2024

Proposed by Councillor Seamus McGrath, seconded by Councillor John Paul O'Shea

"That pursuant to the provisions of the Local Government Rates and Other Matters Act 2019, as amended, and in accordance with the Local Authority Budget for the Financial Year ending 31 December 2024, as adopted, the annual rate on valuation be the annual rate on valuation to be levied for the said Financial Year. The Annual Rate to be levied shall be 79.68".

FOR: Councillors Coughlan G, Coleman, Murphy K, O'Sullivan J, O'Sullivan M, O'Donovan, Collins D, Murphy PG, O'Connell, Cronin, McGrath, D'Alton, McCarthy Ú, Buckley, White, O'Callaghan, Barry, Sheppard, Rasmussen, O'Connor A, O'Flynn, O'Brien, Dawson, Roche, Doyle, O'Shea JP, Creed, Moynihan G, Looney, Coughlan M, Lynch, Lucey, Hayes Pat, Murphy Gearóid, O'Shea T, Linehan-Foley, Healy, Hegarty, McCarthy S, Ahern, Quaide, Kelly, Carroll, Hurley, Coakley, Hayes Paul
[46]

AGAINST: None
[0]

ABSTAIN: None

[0]

The Mayor declared the resolution carried.

RESOLUTION 3

RATES VACANCY ABATEMENT

Proposed by Councillor Seamus McGrath, seconded by Councillor Susan McCarthy

“That Cork County Council makes a scheme for the abatement of rates due to it by liable persons, or classes of liable persons, in respect of vacant properties in accordance with the provisions of Section 9 of the Local Government Rates and Other Matters Act 2019, as amended. Such a scheme in respect of vacant property will provide for an abatement of 100% of rates due to Cork County Council by a liable person for the financial year ending 31 December 2024.”

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 PG, O’Connell, Cronin, McGrath, D’Alton, McCarthy Ú, Buckley, White, O’Callaghan, Barry, Sheppard, Rasmussen, O’Connor A, O’Flynn, O’Brien, Dawson, Roche, Doyle, O’Shea JP, Creed, Moynihan G, Looney, Coughlan M, Lynch, Lucey, Hayes Pat, Murphy Gearóid, O’Shea T, Linehan-Foley, Healy, Hegarty, McCarthy Susan, Ahern, Quaide, Kelly, Carroll, Hurley, Coakley, Hayes Paul

[45]

AGAINST: None

[0]

ABSTAIN: None

[0]

The Mayor declared the resolution carried.

The Mayor thanked the Head of Finance Jeremy Canty, and other members of the Finance team for their work on the 2024 Budget. He also thanked the Chief Executive and all Members for their engagement with the process of finalising the 2024 Budget.

[K] VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS

TO: Rosemarie Ahern O’Gorman on attaining BHS Performance Dressage Coach BHSI Qualification.

TO: Sr. Josephine McCarthy on winning Cork Person of the Month for November.

TO: Crosshaven Development Committee & Tidy Towns on a successful Christmas Tree lighting event.

TO: Edel Bodie and family on the recent birth of her son.

TO: Charleville Chamber on Turning on Lights Christmas Shop Local Campaign.

TO: Midelton Christmas Lights Committee on their excellent work.

TO: Kinsale U16 Football Premier 2 on qualifying for the County Final.

TO: Sam and Maud Black on the opening of their Distillery/Brewery.

TO: Brodericks Filling Station on winning the best family business in the Cork awards.

TO: Fiona Everard on her success as National Senior Womens Cross Country Champion.

TO: Millstreet Lights Committee on their great event to celebrate their Christmas Lights.

[i] ANY OTHER BUSINESS

MIDLETON FLOODING

Members queried if the residents outside Midelton who were affected by flooding during Storm Babet will have the opportunity to engage with Cork County Council and the OPW.

The Chief Executive said that Cork County Council always intended to establish a two way channel of communication with the people of East Cork. She said the flood relief scheme is being progressed for Midelton and people need to know where it is at.

~ THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING ~