

**COMHAIRLE CATHRACH AGUS CONTAE PHORT LÁIRGE**  
**WATERFORD CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Meeting of the Metropolitan District Draft Budgetary Plan held by MS Teams**  
**on 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2021 at 4.00pm**

**Present:**

Cllr. Seamus Ryan, <b>Mayor</b>	Cllr. Cristiona Kiely
Cllr. Joanne Bailey	Cllr. Eddie Mulligan
Cllr. Donal Barry	Cllr. Jason Murphy
Cllr. Joe Conway	Cllr. Lola O’Sullivan
Cllr. Davy Daniels	Cllr. Jody Power
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald	Cllr. Eamonn Quinlan
Cllr. Jim Griffin	Cllr. Frank Quinlan
Cllr. John Hearne	Cllr. Mary Roche
Cllr. Joe Kelly	

**Apologies:**

Cllr. Adam Wyse

**Officials in attendance:**

Mr. M. Walsh Chief Executive  
Mr. F. Galvin, District Manager  
Mr. B. Pollard, Head of Finance  
Mr. D. Murphy, Financial Accountant  
Ms. H. Dunphy, Meetings Administrator  
Ms. Angela O’Shea, A/Staff Officer

The meeting was called to consider the draft Budgetary Plan for the Metropolitan District for 2022 financial year.

**Draft Budgetary Plan**

The CE outlined the purpose of the meeting which he noted is limited in terms of function. He spoke about significant cost pressures post the Covid pandemic without the Government supports that had sustained services over the previous 20 months. The Budget is relatively fixed with similar Local Government fund allocation for the past number of years. He noted that there will be more pressure in terms of workload in the delivery of new housing schemes, increased levels of planning activity and significant inflationary pressures. He stated there is little to no discretion in the Roads and Housing Budget but there is limited discretion where expenditure in a couple of areas such as parking charges being one area which can be varied up or down.

Cllr. Kelly said nothing of substance can be done other than increasing or reducing parking charges and given the pressures on business’s he would keep charges as is. He said the budget is dictated by Government and he would be happy to propose the budget as presented.

Cllr. O’Sullivan asked what income was received from parking fees and fines in Tramore.

Cllr. Roche asked who makes the allocation of budget for the general maintenance of road works stating it was an unfair division and asked that the monies raised on parking charges in the City and Tramore be

spent on road maintenance in that area. She said the roads in the City are in bad repair and markings are not visible.

F. Galvin, DoS stated the income from parking charges in Tramore last year is up approximately €15,000 in the current year and that the income from traffic fines in Tramore amounted to €5,500. He stated the roads budget is for local roads and the split is calculated by the length of roads/traffic volume/population. He also stated that the spend on local roads is significantly less than required to maintain the roads infrastructure to the required standards.

B. Pollard, HoF said the allocation is based on the 2019 Service Plan agreed by the members.

Cllr. Daniels agrees with Cllr. Roche regarding funding allocation for Roads and is very unhappy with the roads funding from Government. He also asked if the half hour free parking in Dungarvan could be considered for the City.

Cllr. Quinlan questioned the roads budget allocation stating the Metropolitan area brings in 78% of parking income but only gets 28% for roads maintenance compared to 72% for the other 2 Districts. He asked could there be an instruction to adjust split at the Plenary Budget meeting.

Cllr. Fitzgerald stated that the roads in East Waterford are in poor condition and asked if monies for festivals could be arranged to go towards the Roads maintenance budget.

F. Galvin, DoS stated the Metropolitan area is evenly treated in terms of local roads spend and that in addition there is significant spend on traffic management, traffic lights and signage in the Metro area over and above the other Districts.. He said it is within the Councillor's remit to introduce half hour free parking but it would have a significant financial hit which would reduce expenditure on Roads.

M. Walsh, CE said it is within the gift of the Councillors to decide where money is spent but the Government does provide funding for local roads in the city areas.

Cllr. Power asked was there scope to increase planning fees to raise extra income.

Cllr. Griffin asked if we could look at camper vans to bring in extra income. He said we wouldn't have to service them just charge an overnight fee as there are lovely scenic areas around Waterford suitable for parking.

Cllr. Mulligan stated 2019 Budget allocation compared to 2021 is down by €220K with a reduction of €470k for festivals he asked if this was an indication of the overall budget cuts. He noted that Community grants were up and asked if this was due to extra allocation from Central Government. He noted that tourism budget was reduced by €100K and stated we should be promoting our tourism offering. He welcomed the extra €200K for our roads budget and asked should we not allow for extra income for parking for 2021 given the 2019 figures.

Cllr. Murphy asked if there could be a breakdown of monies allocated to roads within the Metropolitan area.

F. Galvin, DoS said the provision of overnight parking for Camper Vans is not straight forward and the Council would be required to provide services. He said the income from the park in Dungarvan was €16K for 2021 which is not very significant. He said the parking income for 2021 is currently similar to the reduced levels in 2020 reflecting a number of Covid related restrictions in both years. As is the case every year, a road works programme will be brought to the Council early in the New Year which will allow the Councillors allocate the spend on roads within the Metropolitan area.

M. Walsh, CE stated there is no discretion on Planning fees as they are set at National level and regarding development charges they are set in scheme and income is used for Capital projects.

B. Pollard, HoF said it is based on discretionary spend and is reasonably split between Districts. The 2022 Budget will be down by €2M.

The Mayor asked about road maintenance budget and raised concerns regarding reduction in spending for festival and arts stating they had been hit badly by Covid.

Members approved the Budget with Cllr. Roche and Cllr. Fitzgerald not supporting.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed:**

**Dated:**

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**Mayor**

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