

COMHAIRLE CATHRACH AGUS CONTAE PHORT LÁIRGE
WATERFORD CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL

Meeting of the Metropolitan District Draft Budgetary Plan held by Zoom
on 5th November, 2020 at 5.00pm

Present:

Cllr. Breda Brennan	Cllr. Jason Murphy
Cllr. Donal Barry	Cllr. Lola O’Sullivan
Cllr. Joe Conway	Cllr. Jody Power
Cllr. Davy Daniels (Mayor)	Cllr. Eamon Quinlan
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald	Cllr. Frank Quinlan
Cllr. Susan Gallagher	Cllr. Seamus Ryan
Cllr. Jim Griffin	Cllr. Mary Roche
Cllr. Joe Kelly	Cllr. Adam Wyse
Cllr. Eddie Mulligan	

Apologies: Cllr. John Hearne

Officials in attendance:

Mr. M. Walsh Chief Executive
Mr. F. Galvin, District Manager
Mr. B. Pollard, Head of Finance
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 2021 financial year.

Standing Orders

The Meetings Administrator outlined the draft Supplementary Standing Orders, as issued by the Department, regulating the proceedings of the council in holding remote meetings and these require adoption by the Council in order to take effect. It was noted that an additional section was required as follows: in the event that connectivity was lost section 15(b) defined alternative means of voting by contacting the meetings administrator by phone and registering the vote by phone.

The Supplementary Standing Orders were proposed by Cllr. Roche seconded by Cllr. Mulligan and agreed by all.

Draft Budgetary Plan

The CE outlined the purpose of the meeting which he noted is limited in terms of function. He spoke about the current financial situation in general and the difficulties in financial planning for the year ahead due to the very uncertain current position. All income streams continued to be under pressure in particular rates, parking income etc due to the ongoing COVID 19 situation in addition to the loss of the Irish Water rates which will have a €2m negative impact on the budget calculations. He stated that Government has and continues to be very supportive and noted that discussions are ongoing with the Department on the Irish Water rates issue.

B. Pollard, HOF outlined the principle figures in the draft plan including the amounts available for allocation to the Metropolitan District, which have been allocated in in line with population.

Cllr. Quinlan questioned the roads budget allocation for the Metropolitan area stating that there are higher traffic volumes on these roads by comparison to the rural roads.

Cllr. Murphy asked if unused festival funding could be earmarked for capital projects.

Cllr. Roche asked if there was any monies available from the festival Budget due to not holding events this year and also looked for a breakdown of income per district.

M. Walsh, CE stated there was no under-spend in festival funding as events were held online and any under-spend would come back into other services.

Cllr. Griffin asked if the planning policy for one-off rural houses could be relaxed to generate income from planning contributions.

Cllr. Kelly asked why Clár funding not applied for in the Metropolitan area.

Cllr. Mulligan stated the need to focus on 2021 tourism promotion and the need for festival contingencies.

M. Walsh, CE outlined that Clár is a specific scheme for areas with population decline. He will look at overall promotion expenditure for tourism stating that €100K has been allocated to Tourism Waterford for integrated campaign. He also noted that income from planning contributions was allocated to capital.

Cllr. Conway asked if an annual Parking Pass could be introduced as a parking incentive.

Cllr. Ryan agreed with Cllr. Quinlan regarding re-balance of roads budget, asked if extra monies received by housing rent increase be ring-fenced for housing maintenance and stated that the Arts are under pressure and budget needs to be maintained.

Cllr. O’Sullivan stated that any under-spend on festivals should be discussed at plenary budget meeting and acknowledged all the work that went into preparing the budget and is happy to propose.

M. Walsh, CE stated that he will review annual parking ticket but added that it would be difficult to manage and extra money from rents would normally go to housing maintenance.

Cllr. Gallagher asked what monies from the roads budget was allocated for footpaths and stated there would be an extra cost on services for one off houses.

Cllr. Power asked if extra funding could be sought for national primary routes and if the new sustainable bridge would affect income on berthing at the marina.

Cllr. Daniels asked if there could be an incentive for parking in the run up to Christmas and stressed the need for extra funding for footpaths.

M. Walsh, CE stated there is a specific need for footpath maintenance funding, income from berthing in city is around €50-€60K per annum and some pontoons will have to be moved to facilitate the bridge.

F. Galvin, DoS outlined considerable work has been done in the City and Tramore under the Stimulus Plan with €2.8M of the €4M allocated to the Metropolitan area. Additional funding is being sought from the NTA for footpath restoration/improving. Will look at incentive for Christmas parking and will engage with private car park operators.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Dated:

Mayor