

COMHAIRLE CATHRACH AGUS CONTAE PHORT LÁIRGE
WATERFORD CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL

ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING HELD ON 27th NOVEMBER 2020 AT 5PM, BY ZOOM

PRESENT

Cllr. Damien Geoghegan (Mayor)	Cllr. Eddie Mulligan
Cllr. Ger Barron	Cllr. Jason Murphy
Cllr. Donal Barry	Cllr. Pat Nugent
Cllr. Liam Brazil	Cllr. Seamus O'Donnell
Cllr. Breda Brennan	Cllr. John O'Leary
Cllr. Declan Clune	Cllr. Lola O'Sullivan
Cllr. Joe Conway	Cllr. Thomas Phelan
Cllr. Tom Cronin	Cllr. Jody Power
Cllr. Conor D. McGuinness	Cllr. Seanie Power
Cllr. Davy Daniels	Cllr. John Pratt
Cllr. Declan Doocey	Cllr. Eamon Quinlan
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald	Cllr. Frank Quinlan
Cllr. Susan Gallagher	Cllr. Seamus Ryan
Cllr. Jim Griffin	Cllr. Mary Roche
Cllr. John Hearne	Cllr. James Tobin
Cllr. Joe Kelly	Cllr. Adam Wyse

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. M. Walsh, Chief Executive
 Mr. I. Grimes, Director of Services, Housing, Community & Emergency Services
 Mr. F. Galvin, Director of Services, Roads, Water & Environment
 Mr. K. Kehoe, Director of Services, Corporate, Culture, HR & IS
 Mr. M. Quinn, Director of Services, Economic Development & Planning
 Mr. B. Pollard, Head of Finance
 Mr. D. Murphy, Financial Accountant
 Ms. H. Dunphy, Meetings Administrator
 Ms. A. O'Shea, Corporate

Chief Executive, M. Walsh stated it was a very positive budget and thanked central government for their commitment in supporting rates waivers up to 75%. He said that income from rats and parking were challenged and government had given commitment to local government of €12m to support this deficit. He said it was a very positive budget with an additional €3.9M roads grants and an increase of €300k for housing maintenance and additional €120k for mobility aids grants resulting from an increase in housing rents for extra units, which is very positive. He said it sends out a message of stability and certainty with no additional changes and maintaining level of services. He is committed to a footpath programme over a 5-year period with €500k coming from capital programme and €300k from existing roads grants. He is happy to recommend the adoption of the budget as presented.

The Mayor proposed the budget be adopted as presented stating it was a very positive budget and he welcomed the increase in footpath funding and in housing maintenance and mobility aid grants. Cllr. Tobin seconded the proposal and said he was delighted with the support from central government.

Cllr. Kelly welcomed the budget stating he would support it and welcomed the extra spend on footpaths, housing maintenance and mobility aid grants.

Cllr. Brazil supported the budget stating that great work has been done under the stimulus fund.

Cllr. Conway said that stability was guaranteed with this budget and central government played a significant role with a positive message. He welcomed the extra spend on footpaths and was happy to support.

Cllr. Roche was happy to support the budget and thanked all staff for their hard work. She raised the issue of a University for the South East and need for this to be progressed.

Cllr. S. Power is supportive of the budget and welcomed the €3.9m increase in roads funding which will be of great help in rural roads. He thanked the Chief Executive and his team on a very positive budget.

Cllr. D. McGuinness paid tribute to central government and welcomed the increased investment in housing maintenance and mobility grants. He asked if further money was received before year-end that it be used to address the crisis in housing. He stated that Sinn Féin would be supporting the budget.

Cllr. Barry stated it was a fair and well-balanced budget and asked that monies be given to literacy and mental health. He fully supported the budget.

Cllr. J. Power said it was a very prudent budget and stated the pier in Cheekpoint needed funding. He noted that the cost to run the fire service was €5.3m and asked if the insurance companies were fully paying for charges. He also asked that due to environmental issues and climate change if consideration be given to appoint a Biodiversity Officer.

Cllr. Pratt said it was a very positive budget and was particularly happy about the commitment to the footpath programme. He will be supporting the budget.

Cllr. Fitzgerald said it was good news and welcomed the increased spend in roads. He stated that the local authority should not get too dependent on the LPT as it's a tax on home owners.

Cllr. Ryan stated that it was a progressive budget and welcomed the additional funding investment in roads. He also asked that we maintain expenditure in Arts and Culture and that we make funding available for estate management officers.

Cllr. Murphy fully supported the budget stating it gave people hope. He welcomed the extra funding for housing maintenance, disability grants and the footpath programme and he commended the role of central government.

Cllr. Mulligan fully supported the budget.

Cllr. Phelan stated it was a positive budget after a tough year; he welcomed the footpath scheme and fully supported the budget.

Cllr. Gallagher fully supported the budget and welcomed the extra funding for the footpaths and mobility grants. She raised the issue of climate change and biodiversity emergency and the need for a Biodiversity Officer.

Cllr. Clune stated it was a very positive budget and was supportive of it. He welcomed the additional funding for our roads and footpaths and thanked the Chief Executive and staff for their hard work.

Cllr. Barron was delighted to support the budget but raised the issue of a lighting programme for the County.

Cllr. O'Leary welcomed the budget, welcomed the extra funding for mobility aid grants and disabled persons grants stating that it will help vulnerable people, and allow independent living.

Cllr. O'Sullivan said the budget offers hope to people she welcomed the extra funding for footpaths and mobility grants and thanked the Chief Executive, Management Team and Finance Team for all their hard work.

Cllr. Hearne welcomed the extra funding for the housing maintenance and disability grants and fully supported the budget.

Cllr. Brennan welcomed the extra funding for housing maintenance, mobility grants, community services and footpaths. She thanked all the staff for their hard work and fully supported the budget.

Cllr. Griffin thanked the Chief Executive and staff for all their hard work he said we are sending out a positive message of solidarity to the people of Waterford and he supports the budget.

Cllr. Cronin said it was the easiest and most progressive budget to pass and thanked central government and Ministers for their support. He welcomed extra funding for mobility grants that will help the most vulnerable and welcomed the footpath programme. He fully supports the budget.

Cllr. O'Donnell said it was a good budget and fully supports it and welcomed the extra funding for the footpaths and mobility grants.

Cllr. Wyse thanked the CE and Executive for sending out a positive message to shop local and for supporting business over the past few months. He welcomed the extra spend on disability grants and asked for commitment to climate change.

Cllr. F. Quinlan fully supports the budget stating it was very positive. He welcomed extra funding for roads, housing, mobility grants and footpaths.

Cllr. E. Quinlan welcomed the budget and was happy for the support from cross parties.

Cllr. Daniels asked if there was more funding what areas would it be allocated he also asked that footpaths in housing estates be looked after. He fully supported the budget.

Chief Executive, Michael Walsh assured the members that he is committed to estate management and will maintain numbers of Community Development Officers.

The Mayor thanked the Chief Executive and staff for all their work with this very positive budget. He thanked all Councillors and central government for their support. He wished the Waterford hurlers well in the All Ireland semi-final.

All councillors unanimously passed the budget.

Signed: _____
Mayor

Dated: _____