

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

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 7th MAY 2024 MS TEAMS

Present

Cllr. Joe Conway (Mayor)	Cllr. Cristiona Kiely
Cllr. Jim Griffin	Cllr. Conor McGuinness
Cllr. Liam Brazil	Cllr. Jason Murphy
Cllr. Joeanne Bailey	Cllr. Seanie Power
Cllr. Lola O'Sullivan	Cllr. John Pratt
Cllr. Tom Cronin	Cllr. Thomas Phelan
Cllr. John O'Leary	Cllr. Donal Barry
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald	Cllr. Pat Nugent
Cllr. Damien Geoghegan	Cllr. Joe Kelly
Cllr. John Hearne	Cllr. Mairead Tobin
Cllr. Stephanie Keating	Cllr. Eamon Quinlan
Cllr. Seamus Ryan	Cllr. David Daniels
Cllr. Adam Wyse,	Cllr. Declan Doocey
Cllr. Declan Clune	Cllr. Seamus O'Donnell
Cllr. Mary Roche	Cllr. Ger Barron.

Apologies:, Cllr. Adam Wyse, Cllr. Frank Quinlan, Cllr. Jody Power.

Officials in Attendance

Mr. M. Walsh, Chief Executive
Mr. I. Grimes, Director of Services, Housing
Mr. R. Walsh, SEO, Economic Development
Mr. B. Pollard, Head of Finance
Mr. P. Johnston, A/Director of Services, Corporate Services, IS, HR, Culture and Planning
Ms. H. Dunphy, Meeting Administrator
Ms. A. Flynn, Corporate

1. Land Disposals

P. Johnston, A/DoS outlined details of the disposal of the former Bank of Ireland, Lismore to Lismore Town Association.

Proposed by Cllr. Doocey and seconded by Cllr. Pratt and agreed by all.

Cllr. McGuinness said he supported the disposal saying there is a need for accommodation of this type in the area. He said initially there was discussions about social housing for this site and said there is a real need for social housing in Lismore and surrounding areas and asked for a commitment from the executive to provide social units in the area.

P. Johnston, A/DoS then outlined details of the disposal of the old Railway Station, Kilmacthomas to Kilmacthomas Social Enterprise CLG.

Proposed by Cllr. S. Power and seconded by Cllr. Brazil and agreed by all.

Cllrs. Phelan, O’Leary and Geoghegan all spoke in support of the disposal.

2. Finance (i) Annual Financial Statement AFS (ii) Section 104

B. Pollard, Head of Finance presented the 2023 Annual Financial Statement. He noted the increased activity in 2023, the continued improvement in rate collection and the continued improvement in the area of loans. He noted the Revenue surplus on the Income and Expenditure Account for the year compared to a debit balance in 2022. The credit balance on the Revenue Account as at 31/12/2023 is €159,080 compared to a debit balance of €1,271,105 as at 31/12/2022. The Capital Account shows a credit balance of €14,590,489 at the year end. He requested the Members approval to the Section 104 Local Government Act 2001 - Statement of Additional Expenditure re 2023 Annual Financial Statement by Division.

Proposed by Cllr. Barron and seconded by Cllr. Geoghegan and agreed by all.

Cllrs. Ryan, S. Power, Phelan, Nugent, Murphy, Kiely, Kelly, Geoghegan, Doocey, Bailey, Pratt, Hearne, Daniels, Cronin, Fitzgerald, Keating and Barry all spoke to welcome the surplus. Suggestions as to how that surplus might best be spent included spend on roads and footpaths, replacement windows and doors, a dehumidifier pilot scheme, funding grants for those residents’ associations who missed the application deadline in 2023 and reducing social rents.

B. Pollard, Head of Finance noted the Revenue surplus of €1, 430,185 cleared the 2022 deficit of €1,271,105 leaving a surplus of €159,080 which he said although not insignificant was not huge. He said primarily it is good for our reputation particularly at Government level that we are no longer in deficit.

The question of allocating monies to those residents’ associations who missed out on funding this year because of missing the application deadline was raised again with I. Grimes, DoS saying there is no surplus in the Community Budget to make additional payments.

M. Walsh, CE said the surplus relates to expenditure in 2023 noting that the Community funding relates to expenditure in 2024. The Revenue surplus is not money available to spend in accounting terms but it eliminates our deficit.

3. AOB

The Mayor closed the meeting by wishing everyone well in the upcoming Local Election on the 7th June.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Mayor of Waterford City & County

Dated: _____