



# 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 4<sup>th</sup> December 2024 at 11.00am.**

### **I LATHAIR**

#### **Comhairleoir Seosamh Ó Cearbhaill, Méara Chontae**

**Comhairleoiri:** Uí Bhambaire, Uí Chochláin, Ó Coileáin S Ó Foghlu, Uí Shuilleabháin M, Ó Coileáin D, Ó Murchú PG, Ní Chróinín, Ó hArrachtáin, Ó Fathaigh, Ní Charthaigh U, Uí Bhuachalla A, De Faoite, Daltún-Ó Suilleabháin, Ní Cheallacháin, Barra, Sheppard, Rasmussen, Ó Finn, Mac Iorlla, Uí Bhriain, Ó'Laoighaire, O'Floinn, Mac Coitir, Ó Donochú, Ó Dubhghaill, Críod, Ó Cochláin M, Uí Muineacháin G, Ó Luanaigh, Uí Loinsigh, Ó Luasa, Ó Haodha Padriagh, Ó Murchú Gearóid, Ó Sé Tony, Léineacháin Uí Foghlú, Ó Buachalla S, Ó Héigheartaigh, Ní Heachthigheirn, Cocking, Ó' Maolchathaigh, Ní Cheallaigh, Ó Donnabháin, Ó Seasnáin, Towse.

### **PRESENT**

#### **Councillor Joe Carroll, County Mayor, presided.**

**Councillor:** Bambury, Coughlan, Collins J, Foley, O'Sullivan M, Collins D, Murphy PG, Cronin, Harrington, Fahy, McCarthy U, Buckley A, White, Dalton O'Sullivan, O'Callaghan, Barry, Sheppard, Rasmussen, Finn, Curley, O'Brien, O'Leary, O'Flynn, Cotter, O'Donoghue, Doyle, Creed, Coughlan M, Moynihan G, Looney, Lynch, Lucey, Hayes Pat, Murphy Gearóid, O'Shea Tony, Linehan-Foley, Buckley J, Hegarty M, Ahern, Cocking, Mulcahy, Kelly, O'Donovan, Sexton, Towse.

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

Meetings Administrator advised the Elected Members that there was no recording or photographs to be taken during the Full Council Meeting and that all Members online were to have their cameras on whilst speaking and voting. All Members in the Chamber to sit in their designated seats for voting.

### **[b] VOTES OF SYMPATHY**

**TO:** Councillor Michael Hegarty on the death of his sister Bridie Collins

**TO:** Councillor Michael Hegarty on the death of his grandniece Céire Collins Dunne

**TO:** John Healy on the death of his brother Dan Healy

**TO:** Martin O'Grady on the death of his father Dónal O'Grady

**TO: Mackey family**

**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 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2025.**

The Chief Executive thanked the Mayor and Elected Members for attending today's Budget Meeting. Ms. Murrell said this is a significant day with a significant budget with a revenue budget of €518 million and a Capital Programme of €1.3 billion. She said all of this will be spent in the County of Cork. This budget has been put together following extensive engagement with members through CPG, Development Committee and Full Council. It is a very progressive budget with very significant investment. The budget focuses priorities of Council which meet both statutory requirements and inflationary costs. This budget has to absorb and provide for inflationary costs. Cork County Council currently provides between 1,100 and 1,300 services. This budget will ensure and enhance the level of public provision and meet the huge infrastructural requirements across the county. Sustainability is at the heart of this budget. The report sets out in detail Cork County Council sources of income.

There have been a few key areas identified:

1. Town & Village operational and maintenance investment
2. Estates Taken in Charge
3. Strategic Economic Land Acquisition
4. Roads Relief Design
5. Strategic Housing Land Acquisition
6. Capital Projects Funding Provision

Ms Murrell proposed a 3% increase in commercial rates. She acknowledged the difficult situation businesses are in at the moment. There will be an abatement scheme similar to what is in place at the moment. There is an opportunity to do something very important with regard to town centres.

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 2025.

The Head of Finance confirmed that a copy of the Draft 2025 Budget, together with a report outlining the provisions of that draft, was issued to every Member of the Council. Ms Lynch said the Draft Budget for 2025 is a balanced budget with an increase of almost €60m on last year.

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

- General inflation rate January 2022 – October 2024 was 14.8%
- Cost of energy to the local authority almost doubled from 2022 to 2024.
- Growing activity levels across all services, including roads and municipal services are driving costs up.
- Increased investments in our public spaces with upgrade of and additional facilities leads to increased maintenance.
- Increased commitments to capital investments which requires match funding and internal funding requirements.
- Increasing the demand for economic development support and investment, including property and town and regeneration to assist our local business in our towns and villages.
- Increased cyber security threats.

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

- Provision for additional budget capacity for Housing Maintenance.
- Increased investment in town & village operational and maintenance with dedicated teams (€1.4m).
- Provision for investment in increased outdoor services - Divisional Officers.
- Provision for significant increases across all MD's for street cleaning, outdoor works, and maintenance of open spaces.
- Provision for own resources (internal) funding for current Loans in relation to capital delivery schemes – Cost Rental, Public Realm, PLEEP etc.
- Annual rolling fund for strategic acquisition of Economic Development Land.
- Annual Rolling fund for Estates Taken in Charge.
- Annual fund for Relief Roads Relief Design Work.
- Planned Maintenance.
- Provision for Cyber Security Safeguarding.

**The Head of Finance outlined the funding sources contributing to Budget 2025:**

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

Ms Lynch then outlined the Draft Budget by Divisions A-H.

**Division A – Housing**

- Draft Expenditure 2025 - €120,851,005
- Draft Income 2025 – €108,561,393
- Adopted Expenditure 2024 - €97,976,543
- Adopted Income 2024 - €85,056,741
- €1.3m increase in Maintenance and Improvement of LA Housing Units. This includes a strategic provision for Planned Maintenance of €0.5m, retention of voids budget of €5.7m and increased allocation for Response Maintenance €0.6m and Greener Energy Initiatives such as heat pump installation of €0.2m.
- €0.4m increase in Support to Housing Capital Programme. This includes a Strategic Provision of €1m for the acquisition of land for housing development (part funded by ICR's).
- €3.7m increase to the RAS Programme which is driven by SHCEP and is fully recoupable.
- Housing Grants increase of €16.7m resulting from an increased allocation of Adaptation grants (€1.3m 80% recoupable, €256k increased CCC Contribution), and increased activity in Croí Cónaithe of €15.5m, fully recoupable from the Department.
- Increased in income includes €2m increase in Housing Rents, €3.7m increase in SHCEP income, €0.5m increase in RAS income, €16.5m increase in Housing Grants due to Croí Conaithe (€15.5m), increased Adaption Grant Recoupment (€1m).

**Division B – Roads**

- Draft Expenditure 2025 - €136,469,743
- Draft Income 2025 - €95,404,823
- Adopted Expenditure 2024 - €116,825,461
- Adopted Income 2024 - €80,169,175
- Increase in Expenditure in 2025 is driven by Increased Grant Allocations of €14m and Strategic Provision of €0.2m for Roads Relief Design Work.
- Increase in income driven by Increased Roads Grant allocation of €14m and Recoupments from Other Agencies €1m.

### **Division C – Water Services**

- Draft Expenditure 2025 - €48,846,367
- Draft Income 2025 - €42,124,847
- Adopted Expenditure 2024 - €45,151,158
- Adopted Income 2024 - €40,604,563
- Increase in expenditure is driven by Increase in Group Water Schemes of €3.1m, fully recoupable, Increase in Public Conveniences €0.1m, UE Voluntary Redundancy provision fully recoupable €0.5m.
- Increase in income in 2025 driven by Group Water Schemes recoupment of €3.1m in line with expenditure, Reduction of income of €1.3m due to Uisce Eireann transition.

### **Division D – Development Management**

- Draft Expenditure 2025 - €48,106,849
- Draft Income 2025 - €13,688,435
- Adopted Expenditure 2024 - €45,151,158
- Adopted Income 2024 - €40,604,563
- Increase in expenditure is driven by €0.75m increase in expenditure for the County Development Plan, funded from Capital reserves, Strategic Provision for Estates Taken in Charge, €0.2m for the acquisition of Economic Development Land €0.3m, €0.7m increase in the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) which is fully recoupable, Increase in LEO's €0.4m which is recoupable and DAHG Town and Village Renewal budgeted in Capital in 2025 leading to an artificial reduction of €1m.
- Increase in income includes Capital funding of County Development Plan €0.7m, LEO recoupment €0.4m, SICAP income €0.7m, DAHG Town and Village Renewal income budgeted in Capital in 2025.

### **Division E – Environmental Services**

- Draft Expenditure 2025 - €63,492,842
- Draft Income 2025 - €14,066,368
- Adopted Expenditure 2024 - €61,153,474
- Adopted Income 2024 - €17,104,141
- Increase in expenditure includes €0.6m increase in Landfill Operations due to increases tender costs for waste collection and leachate costs, €0.2m increase in Street Cleaning which is retention of an element of the 2024 Service Enhancement Fund to cater for increases machinery usage for street cleaning activities, €0.6m increase in Climate Community Grants which are fully recoupable.
- Decrease in Income is driven by Reduced income generated from CAS Sites of €0.4m due to reduced activity and footfall, Reduced income from Fire Operations and Callouts €0.3m activity driven, Increased Grant Allocation for Climate Action Grants €0.6m, WRC Recoupment reduction in line with reduced costs.
- Under the WRC Agreement, Local Authorities were to recruit additional retained fire fighters and terms of existing retained firefighters were increased.
- Cork County Council will have recruited 40 additional retained firefighters by the end of 2024.
- All once off costs in relation to these new recruits will be incurred and recouped in 2024.
- The additional costs in 2025 will relate solely to payroll for the new recruits and the revised terms for existing staff.
- The sector does not have capacity to carry this cost unfunded without Departmental support and an income recoupment of has been included in the Draft Budget to cover this cost.

## **Division F – Recreation & Amenity**

- Draft Expenditure 2025 - €35,205,569
- Draft Income 2025 - €2,390,067
- Adopted Expenditure 2024 - €33,144,430
- Adopted Income 2024 - - €3,217,259
- Increase in Expenditure is driven by Increase of €0.2m for the operation and maintenance of swimming pools across the County, Increase of €1.3m for the maintenance and operation of Outdoor Leisure Spaces across the County.
- This includes €0.15m for the Midleton-Youghal Greenway allocated from the Service Enhancement Fund and an additional €0.1m to cater for increased maintenance costs of the new section in 2025. Also included in F03 Outdoor Leisure Areas Operations are increases across the board for maintenance of open spaces, playgrounds, and beaches across all Municipal Districts.
- Increase to Arts of €80k Arts Grants and Youths Arts grants, €80k for Culture Night, and for Briery Gap.
- Increase of €0.5m for Loan Charges for facilities such as Kinsale Library and Briery Gap €0.5m.
- Note that the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme of €1.2m is budgeted in Capital for 2025 which is artificially reducing the increase in Division F. Excluding this, the real increase to services in Division F is €2.2m.
- Reduction in income is driven by Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure income budgeted in Capital for 2025 in line with expenditure, leading to an artificial reduction of €1.2m, Increased pool income €0.1m and Arts Grants of €0.1m.

## **Division G – Agriculture, Health & Welfare**

- Draft Expenditure 2025 - €7,607,198
- Draft Income 2025 – €2,775,435
- Adopted Expenditure 2024 - €7,392,656
- Adopted Income 2024 - €2,799,506
- Key expenditure includes Coastal Erosion Study with UCC, Provision retained for internal match funding for OPW Minor Works Programme, Retention of Coastal Erosion Reserve €150,000.
- Decreased income is driven by Reduction in activity on Food Safety Authority.

## **Division H – Miscellaneous**

- Draft Expenditure 2025 - €57,165,863
- Draft Income 2025 – €76,550,453
- Adopted Expenditure 2024 - €51,861,401
- Adopted Income 2024 - €60,575,107
- Increase in Expenditure includes Strategic Provision of an additional €1.5m to cater for increased requirements for match funding for Infrastructure Fund and Plant & Machinery Expenditure increased by €1m.
- Increased in income is driven by Increase in Plant & Machinery income €1m, FEMPI Compensation €10m increase on 2024 budget, Boundary Extension Agreement €0.7m and Rates Uplift on existing ARV €2m (Global Valuations).

## **Proposed Increase in ARV for 2025**

- The Draft Budget 2025 includes an increase in ARV of 3% which has generated an additional €3.8m of income for Cork County Council.
- This additional income has been ringfenced to directly fund the provision of key strategic initiatives and enhanced frontline services discussed earlier such as town & village teams, Land Acquisitions, Capital Projects Funding, Roads Relief Design and Taking in Charge of Estates.
- The effect of a 3 % rates increase on the majority of our rates base is outlined below:

<b>Rate Payers</b>	<b>Annual Avg Cost of 3% Increase</b>	<b>Weekly Avg Cost of 3% Increase</b>
26.7% have rate bills less than €1,000	€16.26 per year	€0.31 per week
52.2% have rate bills less than €2,000	€42.45 per year	€0.82 per week
66.3% have rate bills less than €3,000	€72.51 per year	€1.39 per week
79.4 % have rate bills less than €5,000	€133.05 per year	€2.56 per week
89.2% have rate bills less than €10,000	€206.13 per year	€3.96 per week

### **Rates Incentive Grant Scheme**

- Cork County Council recognises the ongoing challenges businesses are facing in the current economic climate.
- Draft Budget retains the current Rates Incentive Grant Scheme with a primary focus to assist Small and Medium Enterprises (SME's), who comprise the majority of Ratepayers. The scheme applies on the following basis:
  - Scheme to apply to all ratepayers countywide.
  - Relief at 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 €7000 = €245.

### **Effect of Altering the ARV for Commercial Rates & Operational Impact**

Any reduction in the ARV will necessitate cuts to the following strategic provisions:

<b>Draft of Budget 2025 includes the following new initiatives:</b>	<b>Annual Cost €m</b>
Town & Village operational and maintenance investment	1.4
Estates Taken in Charge Fund	0.2
Strategic Economic Land Acquisition Fund	0.3
Roads Relief Design Work Fund	0.2
Capital Projects Funding Provision (loan) Increase	1.5
Strategic Housing Land Acquisition Fund	1.0

### **Capital Programme 2025-2027**

- Ambitious & progressive programme at €1.39bn.
- Aims to meet objectives of County Development Plan (CDP) & Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP).
- Investment to develop towns & villages and to sustain our communities.

- 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.
- Consideration of the programme does not confer Council approval on any project.
- The progression of any project must take account of:
  1. Any contractual obligations in relation to ongoing works.
  2. Works to be undertaken on foot of current and expected grant allocations.
  3. Prioritising projects that can attract funding from other sources.
  4. Prioritising those projects that will yield greatest economic and social dividend.
  5. Projects necessary to continue a reasonable level of advancement in particular areas.
  6. Stretching our limited internal resources to maximise the economic stimulus attainable over the next few years.
  7. 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.
- Housing a key priority for the Council and comprises 47% of the Programme and comprises Affordable, Social and Voluntary Housing.
- Roads Infrastructure accounts for €585.3m (42%), an increase on the 2024-26 capital programme of €245m which is mainly driven by major schemes such as Cork to Ringaskiddy (N28) (€206m).
- 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.

	<b>Total Investment 2025-2027</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>
	€M	€M	€M	€M
Housing	656.6	197.4	249.5	209.7
Roads	585.3	194.5	215.0	175.7
Other Works	109.8	33.2	39.0	37.7
Water & Coastal Services	42.5	15.5	11.2	15.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,3924.2</b>	<b>440.6</b>	<b>514.7</b>	<b>439.0</b>

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

***Housing:***

Total Investment 2025 – 2027: €656.6m  
 Grant Income: €596.6m  
 Local Authority Funding: €59m  
 Funding to be Sourced: - €1m.

***Roads***

Total Investment 2025 – 2027: €585.3m  
 Grant Income: €473.7m  
 Local Authority Funding: €31m  
 Funding to be Sourced: - €21.1m  
 Projects under consideration subject to funding: - €59.5

***Water Services:***

Total Investment 2025 – 2027: €42.5m  
Grant Income: €34.1m  
Local Authority Funding: €1.7m  
Funding to be Sourced: - €3m.  
Projects under consideration subject to funding: - €3.7m

***Planning, Economic Development & Tourism***

Total Investment 2025 – 2027: €37.8m  
Grant Income: €12.5m  
Local Authority Funding: €14m  
Funding to be Sourced: - €3.3m  
Projects under consideration subject to funding: - €7.9

***Recreation, Amenities, Arts & Culture***

Total Investment 2025 – 2027: €46.9m  
Grant Income: €20.5m  
Local Authority Funding: €2.9m  
Funding to be Sourced: - €7.9m  
Projects under consideration subject to funding: - €15.6

***Environment & Emergency Services***

Total Investment 2025 – 2027: €10.8m  
Grant Income: €2.3m  
Local Authority Funding: €2m  
Funding to be Sourced: - €6.5m  
Projects under consideration subject to funding: - €0

The Head of Finance concluded by saying this is a €1.39 billion year rolling programme that will change. She said significant analysis has been completed by each directorate. She said progression is based on existing capital commitments and compliance with Public Spending Code.

The Mayor thanked Ms Lynch and her team for the work on this budget adding it was not an easy task. He said it is a progressive budget for the county. He is aware that there is a tough decision to make regarding the rates increase but a responsible decision was needed.

*A recess was proposed by Cllr Gillian Coughlan, seconded by Cllr Mary Linehan Foley*

**Extension of Time**

As the time was now 1.15pm an extension of time was agreed.

*Proposed: Cathal Rasmussen*

*Seconded: Gearóid Murphy*

**RESOLUTION 1:**

**ADOPTION OF THE COUNCIL’S BUDGET FOR THE LOCAL FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2025**

“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 31.12.2025 as presented. by the Chief Executive and as set out in Tables A - H, be and is hereby adopted”.

**Amendment:**



“That pursuant to the provisions of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended by the Local Government Reform Act 2014, and Local Government Rates and other Matters Act 2019, the Draft Budget for the financial year ending 31.12.2025 as presented by the Chief Executive and as set out in Tables A-H, be and is hereby adopted with the following amendments:

- Increase in Annual Rate of Valuation of 2%
- Rates Incentive Scheme for all rate payers including those on payment plans of 3.5% on the demand up to €12,000.
- The increase of 2% provides €1.9m for:
  1. Town & Village Operational and Maintenance Investment
  2. Estates Taken in Charge Fund
  3. Strategic Economic Land Acquisition Fund
  4. Roads Relief Design Work Fund

Proposed by Councillor Joe Carroll, seconded by Councillor Gillian Coughlan.

**During the discussion, the Members made the following points:**

- All members complimented the executive on the budget preparation.
- Members said it was a progressive budget.
- What is the current workforce of Cork County Council?
- Hard sell to businesses whose operational costs continue to rise.
- Improving streetscapes is essential.
- Removal of on street parking is detrimental to businesses.
- Some members said they could not support any rise in rates.
- Central government not providing enough funding.
- More outdoor staff are needed.
- Welcome the provision for economic lands.
- When will the outdoor staff be recruited?
- The administration of rates is not efficient.
- What will the abatement scheme cost the council?
- How will the scheme be administered?

**Chief Executive, Moira Murrell and Head of Finance, Loraine Lynch responded as follows:**

- The scheme will give 3.5% relief to all rate payers on the first €12,000.
- We now have line of sight of level of funding from central government.
- There will be a strong focus on MDS which is really important to the growth of our towns and villages.
- The Town Enhancement Scheme will be aligned to a plan that will go before MDs and will be reviewed.
- The filling of the roles will be a priority.
- Investment need to take place on Cork County Council Fleet .
- There are currently 372 outdoor workers and 84 drivers with a vacancy rate of roughly 4%.
- The abatement scheme will cost €1.5m.

*A recess was proposed by Cllr Michael Hegarty, seconded by Cllr Sinead Sheppard*

**During the discussion, the Members made the following points:**

- Uneasy with decision to increase rates.
- Many businesses are facing closures.
- Levies on derelict buildings should be raised.

- Inflation is causing huge issues.
- VAT should have been decreased by central government during the budget.
- Central government should cover the cost of taking in charge estates.
- Hard to sell a rates increase to businesses which were affected by Storm Babet.
- Cork County Council is no exception to inflation.
- Collection of rents from housing stock needs to be examined.
- Hard to implement extra outdoor staff without extra funding.
- There is a willingness in this budget to address core issues.
- Need to recoup the money for Atlantic Shellfish.

The Mayor requested that a vote be taken on the amendment, which resulted as follows:

**FOR:** Councillors Bambury, Barry, Buckley A, Carroll, Cotter, Coughlan G, Coughlan M, Doyle, Finn, Harrington, Hegarty, Kelly, Looney, Moynihan G, Murphy G, Murphy PG, O'Brien, O'Callaghan, O'Flynn, Towse [20]

**AGAINST:** Councillors Buckley J, Collins D, Collins J, Curley, Fahy, O'Donoghue, O'Leary, Rasmussen, Sexton, Sheppard, White [11]

**ABSTAIN:** Councillors Ahern, Cocking, Creed, Cronin, Dalton O'Sullivan, Foley, Hayes, Linehan Foley, Lynch, McCarthy U, Mulcahy, O'Donovan, O'Shea T, O'Sullivan [14]

The Mayor requested that a vote be taken on the amendment with the above amendment, The Mayor declared the resolution carried.

**RESOLUTION 2:**

**DETERMINATION OF THE ANNUAL RATE ON VALUATION FOR THE LOCAL FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2025**

Proposed by Councillor Gillian Coughlan, seconded by Councillor Patrick Gerard Murphy

“That pursuant to the provisions of the Local Government Rates and Other Matters Act 2019, as amended, and the provisions of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended by the Local Government Reform Act 2014, and in accordance with the Local Authority Budget for the Financial Year ending 31 December 2025, as adopted, the annual rate on valuation as set out in Table A be the annual rate on valuation to be levied for the said Financial Year. The Annual Rate to be levied shall be 81.27”.

The Mayor requested that a vote be taken, which resulted as follows:

**FOR:** Councillors Ahern, Bambury, Barry, Buckley A, Buckley J, Carroll, Cotter, Coughlan G, Coughlan M, Creed, Cronin, Dalton O'Sullivan, Doyle, Fahy, Foley, Harrington, Hayes, Hegarty, Kelly, Linehan Foley, Looney, Lynch, McCarthy U, Moynihan G, Mulcahy, Murphy G, Murphy PG, O'Brien, O'Callaghan, O'Donovan, O'Flynn, O'Leary, O'Shea T, O'Sullivan, Rasmussen, Towse, White [37]

**AGAINST:** Councillors Collins D, Collins J, Curley [3]

**ABSTAIN:** Councillors Cocking, O'Donoghue, Sexton

[3]

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 one hundred percent 100% of rates due to Cork County Council by a liable person for the financial year ending 31 December 2025.”

The Mayor requested that a vote be taken, which resulted as follows:

**FOR:** Councillors Ahern, Bambury, Barry, Buckley A, Buckley J, Carroll, Cocking, Collins D, Collins J, Cotter, Coughlan G, Coughlan M, Creed, Cronin, Curley, Dalton O'Sullivan, Doyle, Fahy, Foley, Harrington, Hayes, Hegarty, Kelly, Linehan Foley, Looney, Lynch, McCarthy U, Moynihan G, Mulcahy, Murphy G, Murphy PG, O'Brien, O'Callaghan, O'Donoghue, O'Donovan, O'Flynn, O'Shea T, O'Sullivan, Rasmussen, Sheppard, Sexton, Towse, White

[43]

**AGAINST:** None

[0]

**ABSTAIN:** None

[0]

The Mayor declared the resolution carried.

### **[K] VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS**

**TO:** John Paul O'Shea on his election to Dáil Éireann.

**TO:** Seamus McGrath on his election to Dáil Éireann.

**TO:** Liam Quaide on his election to Dáil Éireann.

**TO:** Noel McCarthy on his election to Dáil Éireann.

**TO:** Eoghan Kenny on his election to Dáil Éireann.

~ **THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING** ~