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| Minutes of South Dublin County Council Annual Budget Meeting held on  5th November 2015 |

PRESENT

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Councillors** | **Councillors** |
| Bonner, B. | Kenny, G. |
| Brophy, C. | King, C. |
| Coules, N. | Lahart, J. |
| Dermody, A-M. | Lavelle, W. |
| Devine, M. | Leech, B. |
| Donovan, P. | Looney, D. |
| Duff, M. | Mahon, K. |
| Duffy, F. | McMahon, R. |
| Dunne, L.  Egan K. | Murphy, M.  Nolan, R |
| Ferron, B. | O’Brien, D. |
| Foley, P. | O’Brien, E. |
| Genockey, M. | Ó Broin, E. |
| Gilligan, T. | O’Connell, G. |
| Gogarty, P. | O’Connor, C. |
| Graham, J. | O’Donovan, D. |
| Higgins, E. | O’Toole, L. |
| Holland, S. | Richardson, D. |
| Kearns, P. | Timmons, F. |
|  | Warfield, F. |
|  |  |

**OFFICIALS PRESENT**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Chief Executive | D. Mc Loughlin |
| Directors / Heads of Function  A/Head of Finance  A/Head of Local Enterprise | L. Maxwell, F. Nevin, B. Coman, T. Walsh, E. Taaffe.  S. Dunne  C.Ward. |
| Senior Executive Officers | P. Murphy, H Hogan, Y Dervan, M Maguire, L Leonard. M Judge. |
| Senior Parks Superintendent | B. Sheehan |
| Administrative Officers    A/Administrative Officer | T. O’Neill, M. Kelly, L .Kelly, M  Hayes  M Kavanagh |
| Senior Staff Officer  Staff Officer | M Kennedy  C Malone |
| Clerical Officer | M Dunne, L Abbey |
| I.T. | R. Heron |

The Mayor, Councillor S Holland presided.

**H1/B/1115** **Consideration of the Annual Budget for the financial year ending 31st December 2016**

1. **Draft Budget Tables**
2. **Circular Fin 07/2015, Fin 08/2015, Fin 10/2015, Fin 11/2015, Fin 12/2015**

**Agreed,**

1. **Chief Executive’s Introduction**

**Chief Executive’s Introduction**

**To the Mayor and Each Member**

**Annual Revenue Budget 2016**

Dear Member,

The attached Budget which has been presented in the statutory format has been prepared in consultation with the Corporate Policy Group and taking into account views expressed by elected members generally. It is informed by the financial context at central and local level and is focused on the delivery of the Corporate Plan objectives.

In this latter regard the economic growth and competitiveness of our County, together with the promotion of the wellbeing of its citizens are our primary objectives.

Housing supply, economic development including tourism and aesthetics, enhanced service delivery, community development and business support are central to the achievement of these objectives, as are health and wellbeing, social inclusion and supporting the less well off. All of these principles are supported through

the financial provisions in this budget.

**Local Taxation**

The Council has, following public consultation, already confirmed its decision to reduce local property tax by15% and the financial provision of €4.6m has been made in this regard. Provision has also been made in the sum of €690,000 to cover the LPT liability on the Council’s own housing stock. The gradual recovery in the retail and

SME sector is recognised and once again the Council will not apply any increase in commercial rates while at the same time increasing the business support fund as set out below. It is also not planned to apply any general increase in housing rents with a modest increase in rental income projected associated with new stock.

**Housing**

The recovery and normalisation of the housing market has been stubbornly slow, with supply shortages having

an adverse impact on the rental market, resulting in affordability gaps and economic homelessness in the most extreme circumstances. Planning applications and on site activity has increased but short term difficulties remain. The homeless budget has been increased by 50% to €2.389m, which is a 3 fold increase on the 2014provision of €794,000. This is a measure of the crises we are endeavouring to manage. Members have also agreed to set aside €600,000 as a capital provision towards further homeless supported accommodation for single men and the provision of a women’s refuge.

Good progress on the planning of additional infill social housing has been made in consultation with local communities. It is the belief of Members that additional housing provision should be supported by estate enhancements and in this context a fund of €300,000 has been established. This will facilitate roads and landscaping works and will greatly enhance the general environment of these areas.

Disappointing progress has been made with the commencement of the apprenticeship painting programme, but discussions are ongoing with SOLAS in this regard. The available fund for this purpose has been increased by €50,000 to €300,000. The ongoing success of the planned maintenance programme is recognised with a provision of €1m being made once again for window and door replacement. The management of over 8,000 units of housing stock requires use of the best systems and procedures available. An examination of our operating system will be externally reviewed, in order to support staff in the development and procurement of new systems of stock management, repair and allocation.

Members have made ongoing representations about a pilot programme of traveller caravan grants. A sum of €100,000 has been provided to commence this pilot programme.

**Enhanced Service Delivery**

Efficiencies gained in recent years, together with a modest upturn in income, have afforded us an opportunity to look at enhancing and improving services to the public. In 2016 the recruitment of up to 50 frontline staff will increase our service delivery capability and this has been resourced with additional funding in such areas as:

• Housing maintenance - €300,000.

• Footpath maintenance - €100,000.

• Litter management - €200,000 to facilitate the implementation of the recently adopted litter management plans with initiatives such as additional bins, CCTV, audio messaging, anti-dog fouling and graffiti removal.

• Tree management – €200,000 including planting and removal.

To further resource this work, the machinery replacement fund has been increased from €550,000 to €1m for 2016. Other areas of enhanced services and facilities include:

• The commencement of a 5 year programme of public lighting upgrade and replacement at a cost of €1m p.a., which will see 7,000 lanterns replaced and result in €360,000 annual energy savings on completion.

The health and wellbeing of our communities is a key priority and community provision in this context will focus on:

• The delivery of a new mobile library in January 2016, the opening of a digital library hub in Palmerstown in summer 2016 , the commencement of the planned library in Rowlagh and the planning of a new library in Tymon.

• A programme for the development of new sports pavilions and shared sports facilities will commence in mid-2016 funded from the capital programme.

• The play space programme will be resourced through a further financial provision in this budget of €500,000. A target has been set of 14 completions for 2016.

**Economic Development – County Promotion and Presentation**

Attracting people, indigenous business and overseas investment are the pillars of the plan for economic growth as set out in our Corporate Plan. There are numerous policies being implemented in this context which are set out elsewhere. One of the more fundamental is the presentation of the County in terms of its visual attractiveness.

In this regard 2016 will see the continuation and expansion of a number of initiatives most notably:

• The continuation of the village enhancement programme with works planned in Rathcoole, Newcastle, Saggart, Lucan and Rathfarnham. A further €1.2m has been added to this programme as part of this budget.

• With the benefit of additional employees, the dedication of village teams to maintain their appearance with an emphasis on grass and hedge cutting, litter control, graffiti removal, soft landscaping and working closely with communities including the Tidy Towns committees.

• A further provision of €250,000 has been made to fund the landscaping of the N81, which will be designed in Qtr 1 next year and hopefully go to tender over the summer.

• A roundabout sponsorship scheme will be launched before the year end, with a view to having private sponsorship involved in the landscaping of roundabouts. The Square Tallaght will take the lead in this regard, in sponsoring two roundabouts.

• As outlined earlier increased investment of €300,000 is being made in the areas of litter and tree management.

• Further progress will be made on the elimination of derelict sites which will be the subject of ongoing reporting to Council.

**Tourism and Heritage**

Tourism development and promotion is identified as a new opportunity for jobs and economic growth. The recent adoption of our County Tourism Strategy will guide future investment in this area with substantial progress already being made. The following initiatives are provided for in 2016:

• The construction of the Clondalkin Round Tower Visitor Centre will open very early in 2017. A provision of €50,000 has been made for the advance marketing of this facility.

• The planning and design of a major national visitor attraction in the Dublin Mountains. A funding provision of €500,000 has been made in this regard.

• The continuation of the various elements of the County Signage Programme for which a further €200,000 has been provided. This includes:

. The continuation of the Village Signage Programme in Clondalkin, Lucan and Rathfarnham.

. The completion of a heritage trail for Tallaght.

. The design of village and neighbourhood approach signage.

. The design of a countywide tourism signage strategy.

. A provision of €20,000 has been made for pageantry signage to highlight festivals and social events.

Walkways and the facilitation of outdoor recreation is a natural part of the product offer of our edge of Dublin location. The Dodder Greenway, Slade Valley Walk, The Liffey Valley and the canal walks will continue to be developed. A sum of €200,000 has been set aside to Co-finance Leader funding which may come available to fund rural tourism initiatives of this nature.

In terms of overseas tourism and business, a provision of €20,000 has been made to fund further activity around sister city partnerships. Further specific studies have also been provided for where opportunities have been identified and require further amplification. These include County marketing and branding, Bohernabreena Reservoir, Camac Valley Park, Gateways to the Liffey Valley at Lucan and Palmerstown and the out building adjacent to Rathfarnham Castle.

**Business Support – Enterprise and Innovation**

Commercial rates make a very significant contribution to the functioning of local government in this County and ongoing close collaboration with business is a priority. This is exemplified by the continuation of the “Business Support Fund” which next year has been set at 1% of rates or €1.2m. The fund will be used to support a number of initiatives as follows:

• A rates support fund to assist SME’s as has operated for the last two years.

• A fund for remedial works to industrial estates.

• A grant scheme for the refurbishment of vacant industrial premises for use as micro enterprise space.

• A rates holiday for LEO supported micro enterprise that locate in refurbished premises.

• A training programme for business based on their requirements.

The distribution of the fund along these lines and the precise operation of the grant schemes will be further considered by the Economic Development SPC. Later this year, we will advertise for the preparation of a

County Enterprise Strategy and a steering group of business, education and enterprise support and government agencies will be established to oversee its preparation. A provision of €150,000 has been made to fund smart city region energy and other initiatives.

**Community Development and Supports**

Without the support of our communities and their very substantial voluntary effort, this Council would be much less effective. Volunteerism, civic pride and community spirit are alive and well in this area and we need to reward this.

• As in 2015, in excess of €2,000,000 has been made available for community oriented programmes and projects. These financial provisions cover such diverse areas as Arts, Libraries, Sports and Recreation, Festival and Events, Social Inclusion and Health and Well-being. The full ranges of Programmes are highlighted in the divisional detail provided. I want to highlight the following increases in particular:

. Community grants have been increased by €50,000 to €250,000.

. The Community Initiative Fund has been increased by €80,000 to €250,000.

. The provisions for Festivals and Tidy Towns groups have both been increased to €100,000 from€60,000 in 2015.

. Health and Well-being week will receive support funding of €90,000 and the age friendly programme will have a budget of €50,000.

**Conclusion**

The range of initiatives and core funding supports provided for in 2016, are aimed at honouring the commitments to our citizens set out in our 5 year Corporate Plan. Challenges remain, particularly in relation to housing and employment, but good progress in the improvement and growth of the County is being achieved. I want to thank the Corporate Policy Group for their advice and guidance in this process and in particular, to thank Sinead Dunne A/Head of Finance and her staff, for their professionalism in managing the budgetary process.

Yours sincerely,

Daniel McLoughlin

Chief Executive

1. **Budget Presentations by Directorate**
2. **Head of Finance – Introduction to Divisions**

Ms. S Dunne, A/Head of Finance outlined details of proposed expenditure and income on the following divisions:

**DIVISION A – Housing and Building**

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors P Kearns, C King, T Gilligan, D O Donovan, P Donovan, and D Looney.

Mr. B Coman Director of Housing, Social and Community Development and Chief Executive Mr. D McLoughlin responded to the Members queries.

Division A was **NOTED**

**DIVISON B – Road Transport and Safety**

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors W Lavelle, D O’ Brien,

G O’ Connell, P Gogarty, P Kearns, C King, R Nolan, J Lahart, T Gilligan and L O’ Toole, P. Foley and M. Duff.

Mr. E. Taaffe, director of Land Use, Planning and Transportation, responded to the Members queries.

Division B was **NOTED**

**DIVISON C – Water Services**

Division C was **NOTED**

**DIVISION D – Development Management**

A discussion followed with contributions from, Councillors D O’ Donovan, M Duff, P Donovan, G Kenny, W Lavelle, D Looney, T Gilligan, C O’ Connor, L. O’ Toole, P Gogarty, C King, D O’Brien and R McMahon.

Mr. F Nevin, Director of Economic Enterprise and Tourism Development responded to the Members queries.

Division D was **NOTED**

**DIVISION E – Environmental Services**

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors P Foley, G Kenny, W Lavelle, P Donovan, D Looney, and C O’ Connor.

Ms. T Walsh, Director of Environment, Water and Climate Change responded to the Members queries.

Division E was **NOTED**

**DIVISION F – Recreation and Amenity**

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors T Gilligan, E Higgins, C King, D Looney, M Devine, B Bonner, J Lahart, D O’ Brien, C Brophy and P Kearns.

Mr. B Coman Director of Housing, Social and Community Development, Mr. D. McLoughlin Chief Executive and Ms. T Walsh Director of Environment, Water and Climate Change responded to the Members queries.

Division F was **NOTED**

**DIVISON G – Agriculture, Education Health and Welfare**

Division G was **NOTED**

At this point in the meeting the Deputy Mayor Councillor F. Duffy took the chair with the agreement of the Member as Councillor S. Holland had to leave the Chamber.

**DIVISION H – Miscellaneous Services**

**Division H was Noted**

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors P. Foley, P. Gogarty, T. Gilligan, C. King, R. McMahon, E. Higgins, D. Looney, L. O’Toole, N. Coules, W. Lavelle, C. Brophy, C. O’Connor, M. Duff, B. Ferron and D. Richardson.

The Chief Executive Mr D McLoughlin responded to the Members queries.

(Copy of annual budget tables, together with copy of Departmental Circulars Fin 07/2015, Fin 08/2015- 2016 Budget Meeting and Other Budget Matters, Fin 10/2015 Fin 11/2015 and Fin 12/2015)were ***NOTED***

**Motions to amend the Draft Budget. (1)**

**DIVISION A – Housing and Building**

The following Motion was proposed by Councillor S. Holland, seconded by Councillor C. King:

“That the Draft South Dublin County Council Budget as presented for the local financial year ending 31st December 2016 is hereby amended as follows :-

**That the provision of €1,574,000 in A0901** Housing and Adaptation Grant Scheme as provided by the Chief Executive be increased by **€44,000 to €1,618,000**

To be funded by:

A reduction in expenditure for 2016 in the following Sub Services;

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Sub Service** | **Division H Misc. Services** | **Reduction** |
| H0906 | Conferences Abroad | €44,000 |

The Amendment to the draft Budget was **PASSED.**

**Motions to amend the Draft Budget. (2)**

**DIVISION D – Development Management**

The following motion was proposed by Cllr D O Donovan, seconded by Cllr M Duff

“That the Draft South Dublin County Council Budget as presented for the local financial year ending 31st December 2016 is hereby amended as follows :-

**That the provision of €329,900 in D0603** Social Inclusion as provided by the Chief Executive be increased by **€44,000 to €373,900** to provide for a new Home Security Pilot Scheme for the elderly.

To be funded by:

A reduction in expenditure for 2016 in the following Sub Services;

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ***Sub Service*** | ***Division H Misc. Services*** | ***Reduction*** |
| *H0904* | *Expenses LA Members* | *€18,000* |
| *H0906* | *Conferences Abroad* | *€26,000* |

The Amendment to the draft Budget was **PASSED**

**Motions to amend the Draft Budget. (3)**

**DIVISON B – Road Transport and Safety**

The following motion was proposed by Cllr W Lavelle seconded by Cllr P. Donovan:

**That the provision of €914,500 in B0801** School Wardens as provided by the Chief Executive be increased by **€20,000 to €934,500** doubling the provision for cycling training for primary school children

To be funded by:

A reduction in expenditure for 2016 in the following Sub Services;

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Sub Service** | **Division B - Road Transport & Safety** | **Reduction** |
| B1001 | Administration of Roads Capital Programme | €20,000 |

The Amendment to the draft Budget was **PASSED**

**DIVISON B – Road Transport and Safety**

The Following Motion which was proposed byCllr W Lavelle and seconded by Cllr L. O’Toole.

“That a sum not exceeding €80,000 be ring-fenced from within the allocation that would be made to the Lucan electoral areas from sub-head ‘B0405 Local Roads General Maintenance Works’ for the following purposes:

* a sum not exceeding €40,000 be ring-fenced to fund the carrying-out of plastering works to complete the boundary wall along Balgaddy Road between the Foxborough Road and Grangecastle Road junctions;
* a sum not exceeding €40,000 be ring-fenced to fund the commencement of works to provide noise barriers along the unfinished stretches of the boundary between Moy Glas estate (Moy Glas Road/Lawns) and Grangecastle Road.

To be subject to further discussion with the Lucan area members as part of the normal discussions on the Road Works programme for 2016”

Cllr E O Brien proposed an **Amendment to** the Motion to change the last sentence as follows:

“To be subject to further AGREEMENT with the Lucan area members, following presentation and consideration of costed proposals for these two projects and other road projects, as part of the normal discussions on the Road Works Programme for 2016”.

The Amended Motion was **DEFEATED** by a show of hands vote,however a discussion followed during which Mr. E Taaffe, Director of Land Use, Planning and Transportation made a commitment to bring back costed proposals for the plastering and the noise barrier to the Lucan ACM when the 2016 Roads Programme is being considered.

**DIVISION E – Environmental Services**

The Following Motion which was proposed byCllr C Brophy, Seconded by Cllr J Lahart.

“That the Council would ring-fence €20,000 from F0401 to residents groups who are carrying out the clean-up operations in their area at this time of year with bags being provided and then collected and provided this extra level of service.”

The Motion was subsequently **WITHDRAWN** however a discussion followed during which Ms. Walsh gave a commitment that if a request is received from a resident’s group for collection of bagged leaves from a community clean up, this request will be processed through the social credits scheme and the service as requested will be provided if the social credits application is approved.

At this point The Mayor, Councillor S Holland resumed the chair.

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**H2a/B/1115) ADOPTION OF FORMAL PROPOSALS FOR ADOPTION OF THE ANNUAL BUDGET 2016**

The following Motion which was read by Ms. S. Dunne, Acting Head of Finance was proposed by Councillor S Holland seconded by Councillor M Duff and **AGREED:**

“That the County Council ADOPT for the financial year ending 31st December 2016 the Annual Budget set out in Tables A to F as amended”.

A Roll call vote was taken on the Amendment with the following result:

**FOR: 24 (TWENTY FOUR)**

Councillors C Brophy, P Donovan, M Duff, F Duffy, B Ferron, P Foley, M Genocky, T Gilligan, P Gogarty, J Graham, E Higgins, S Holland, P Kearns, C King, W Lavelle, D Looney, R Mc Mahon ,D O’ Brien, E O’ Brien, E O’ Broin, G O’ Connell, D O’ Donovan, L O’ Toole, F Timmons.

**AGAINST 6 (SIX)**

Councillors N Coules, G Kenny, B Leech, K Mahon, M Murphy, and R Nolan.

The Resolution was **PASSED.**

**H2b/B//1115 ADOPTION OF FORMAL PROPOSALS FOR THE SUMS PROVIDED FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL PURPOSES.**

The following Motion which was read by Ms. S. Dunne, Acting Head of Finance was proposed by Councillor S. Holland, seconded by Councillor D O’Brien.

“That the County Council approves of the transfer to reserves of the sums provided for various capital purposes in the Annual Budget for 2016 as **ADOPTED** for the financial year ending 31st December 2016”.

The resolution was **PASSED.**

**H2c//B/1115** **ADOPTION OF FORMAL PROPOSALS FOR APPROVAL OF ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURES IN THE REVISED BUDGET 2015.**

The following Motion which was read by Ms. S. Dunne, Acting Head of Finance was proposed by Councillor S Holland, seconded by Councillor D O Brien

“In Accordance with Section 104 of the Local Government Act 2001, the approval of the Members is required for the following items of additional revenue expenditure which exceeded the adopted budget expenditure. The additional divisional and Service Expenditure and the Explanation for same are set out below:”

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Division and Service** | | | **Amount of Additional Expenditure over Budget 2015** |
| **A** | **Housing & Building** | | |  |
| A01 | Maintenance & Improvement of LA Housing Units | | | 286,600 |
| A05 | Administration of Homeless Service | | | 1,418,600 |
| A07 | RAS Programme | | | 1,902,200 |
| A08 | Housing Loans | | | 15,700 |
| A09 | Housing Grants | | | 4,000 |
| A11 | Agency & Recoupable Services | | | 49,800 |
| **A** | **Total Above Services** | | | **3,677,100** |
| **A** | **Budget €61.8m** | **Revised €64.5m** | **Increased Expd. €2.7m** | |
|  |  | | |  |
| **B** | **Road Transport & Safety** | | |  |
| B04 | Local Road - Maintenance and Improvement | | | 321,000 |
| B05 | Public Lighting | | | 172,100 |
| B08 | Road Safety Promotion & Education | | | 65,000 |
| **B** | **Total Above Services** | | | **558,100** |
|  | **Budget €27.1m** | **Revised €27.1m** | **No Change in Exp** | |
|  |  | | |  |
| **C** | **Water Services** | | |  |
| C07 | Agency & Recoupable Services | | | 17,600 |
| C08 | Local Authority Water and Sanitary Services | | | 115,800 |
| **C** | **Total Above Services** | | | **133,400** |
| **C** | **Budget €12.0m** | **Revised €11.6m** | **Decreased Expd €0.4m** | |
|  |  | | |  |
| **D** | **Development Management** | | |  |
| D02 | Development Management | | | 26,600 |
| D05 | Tourism Development and Promotion | | | 40,400 |
| D06 | Community and Enterprise Function | | | 1,405,600 |
| D11 | Heritage and Conservation Services | | | 76,000 |
| **D** | **Total Above Services** | | | **1,548,600** |
| **D** | **Budget €15.3m** | **Revised €16.3m** | **Increased Expd. €1.0m** | |
|  |  | | |  |
| **E** | **Environmental Services** | | |  |
| E02 | Recovery and Recycling Facilities Operations | | | 164,800 |
| E07 | Waste Regulations, Monitoring and Enforcement | | | 11,800 |
| E13 | Water Quality, Air and Noise Pollution | | | 31,600 |
| **E** | **Total Above Services** | | | **208,200** |
| **E** | **Budget €42.8m** | **Revised €42.1m** | **Decreased Expd.€0.7m** | |
|  |  | | |  |
| **F** | **Recreation & Amenity** | | |  |
| F01 | Leisure Facilities Operations | | | 414,500 |
| F02 | Operation of Library and Archival Service | | | 32,800 |
| F03 | Outdoor Leisure Areas Operations | | | 674,500 |
| F04 | Community Sport and Recreational Development | | | 628,100 |
| F05 | Operation of Arts Programme | | | 1,047,900 |
| **F** | **Total Above Services** | | | **2,797,800** |
| **F** | **Budget €33.1m** | **Revised €35.9m** | **Increased Expd. €2.8m** | |
|  |  | | |  |
| **G** | **Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare** | | |  |
| G05 | Educational Support Services | | | 64,900 |
| **G** | **Total Above Services** | | | **64,900** |
| **G** | **Budget €2.4m** | **Revised €2.5m** | **Increased Expd. €0.1m** | |
|  |  | | |  |
| **H** | **Miscellaneous Services** | | |  |
| H05 | Operation of Morgue and Coroner Expenses | | | 45,000 |
| **H** | **Total Above Services** | | | **45,000** |
| **H** | **Budget €24.7m** | **Revised €22.7m** | **Decreased Expd.€2.0m** | |

**A01 Maintenance & Improvement of LA Housing Units**

Additional expenditure is due to an increased allocation in the revised budget process of €300k for the windows programme and a provision for the introduction of a caravan loan pilot scheme.

**A05 Administration of Homeless Service**

Additional expenditure is due to an increase of €850k in the cost of the homeless services within the Dublin Region and allocations of €600k towards the establishment of homeless facilities in the revised budget process.

**A07 RAS Programme**

Increased expenditure is due to additional RAS tenancies and is matched by grant income.

**A11 Agency & Recoupable Services**

Additional expenditure is due to increased costs of providing inspection service for private rented dwellings.

**B04 Local Road – Maintenance & Improvement**

Additional expenditure is due to additional works to bridges, staff costs and an allocation in the revised budget process of €100k for works in local authority estates.

**B05 Public Lighting**

Increased expenditure relates to an increase in energy costs and is offset by increased grant income.

**B08 Road Safety Promotion & Education**

Additional expenditure is due to increased provision for the school warden service.

**C08 Local Authority Water and Sanitary Services**

Additional expenditure is due to costs for Central Lab associated with river water sampling.

**D02 Development Management**

Increased expenditure relates to increased costs of administration of planning control function and is funded from increased planning application income.

**D05 Tourism Development and Promotion**

Additional expenditure is due to provision for additional staff engaged in tourism promotion.

**D06 Community and Enterprise Function**

Increased expenditure relates to SICAP payments which are matched by increased grant income.

**D11 Heritage and Conservation Services**

Additional expenditure is due to an allocation of €100k in the revised budget process for special conservation projects.

**E02 Recovery and Recycling Facilities Operations**

Increased expenditure relates to compliance with new regulations re disposal of paint and to costs associated with additional glass being recycled.

**E07 Waste Regulations, Monitoring and Enforcement**

Additional expenditure is due to a provision for Waterstown Landfill Study.

**E13 Water Quality, Air and Noise Pollution**

Additional expenditure is due to reapportionment of Environmental Health Officers costs which is offset by reductions in other areas.

**F01 Leisure Facilities Operations**

Increased expenditure is due to an allocation of €400k in the revised budget process for a swimming pool in Lucan.

**F02 Operation of Library and Archival Services**

Additional expenditure is due to an allocation in the revised budget process of €250k for a new library in Tymon.

**F03 Outdoor Leisure Areas Operations**

Increased expenditure is due to an allocation of €500k in the revised budget process towards the Pavilions programme. There is also an increased provision for the maintenance and operation of additional facilities provided within the year.

**F04 Community Sport and Recreational Development**

Additional expenditure is due to allocations in the revised budget process of €250k towards completion of Tallaght Stadium and €500k towards shared/flexible sports facilities.

**F05 Operation of Arts Programme**

Increased expenditure is due to an allocation of €1m in the revised budget process towards Templeogue House. There is also an increased provision for music generation which is funded from increased income in this area.

**G05 Educational Support Services**

Increased expenditure is due to residual Higher Education Grant claims above expected amount and will be matched with increased grant income.

**H05 Operation of Morgue and Coroner Expenses**

Additional expenditure is due to an increase in the cost of operation of the morgue and coroner’s services within the Dublin Region.

The resolution was **PASSED**

**H2d/B/1115** **ADOPTION OF FORMAL PROPOSALS FOR DETERMINATION OF ANNUAL RATE ON VALUATION FOR 2016.**

The following Motion which was read by Ms. S. Dunne, Acting Head of Finance was proposed by Councillor S Holland seconded Councillor by D O Brien

**“** That the County Council **DETERMINE** in accordance with the Annual Budget as Adopted, the rate as set out in Table A to be the general Annual Rate on Valuation to be levied for the financial year ending 31st December 2016 for the purposes set out in Tables A to F”

The resolution was **PASSED**

**H3a) B/1115 PRESENTATIONS AND REPORT FROM SPECIAL ORGANISATION, PROCEDURE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 29TH OCTOBER 2015**

**[Presentations from Special Organisation, Procedure & Finance Committee Meeting 29](http://intranet/cmas/documents/Annual%20Budget%20Meeting/2015/November/November2015AnnualBudgetMeetingMeeting/46374_Draft%20Budget%202016%20from%20OPF%2029.10.ppt)[TH](http://intranet/cmas/documents/Annual%20Budget%20Meeting/2015/November/November2015AnnualBudgetMeetingMeeting/46374_Draft%20Budget%202016%20from%20OPF%2029.10.ppt) [October 2015](http://intranet/cmas/documents/Annual%20Budget%20Meeting/2015/November/November2015AnnualBudgetMeetingMeeting/46374_Draft%20Budget%202016%20from%20OPF%2029.10.ppt)**

The Report was **NOTED**

**H3b)/b//1115 QUESTIONS FROM SPECIAL ORGANISATION, PROCEDURE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 29TH OCTOBER 2015**

**Chief Executive**

**Cllr P. Kearns,** questioned the apprenticeship programme and the requirement of a one to one ratio between the apprentices and the qualified tradesperson.

**The Chief Executive Mr. D. McLoughlin and Ms. L. Maxwell,** responded that they were investigating the matter and had received a more favorable response from SOLAS in this regard

**Cllr J. Lahart,** requested that consideration be given to the employment of apprentices and proper trainers. He said that open spaces could benefit. He alluded to the importance of recognizing the involvement of residents groups and community involvement.

**Mr. D. McLoughlin**, **Chief Executive**, responded that he was happy to examine this but that the nature of apprenticeships was determined by SOLAS and was largely construction based. This programme was funded in Budget 2015 and has been delayed due to ratio of tradesmen to apprentice. There is an increase of €50,000 this year in respect of this programme.

**Cllr P. Gogarty,** welcomed play space programmes. He asked if there was funding for the Round Tower in Clondalkin.

**Mr. D. McLoughlin, Chief Executive**, responded and said that the Round Tower project would proceed in 2016.

**Cllr. T. Gilligan**, questioned about the grants available to LEO and why not expand the grants to businesses other that LEO companies

**Mr. D. McLoughlin, Chief Executive,** responded in relation to LEO grants he noted the qualifying rules were determined by DJEI.

**Cllr M. Devine,** asked about the terms and conditions for the 50 new staff and whether or not they are being advertised. She questioned if illegal signage was being addressed.

**Mr. D. McLoughlin, Chief Executive** indicated that in relation to outdoor staff short listing is taking place following advertisement.

In relation to illegal signage he confirmed the frustration between Gardai and

Council Enforcement Staff in trying to address this issue.

1. **Head of Finance – Financial Overview**

Ms. S. Dunne A/Head of Finance presented an overview of the Draft Budget for 2016

**Cllr P. Gogarty,** asked if the Councillors could have any input in affecting how the capital budget is spent.

**Mr. D. McLoughlin, Chief Executive** mentioned that the capital budget

is predicated on the corporate plan and council policy decisions made all year round through various forums and meetings based on Members reserved functions. The Annual Budget and the Corporate Plan are formulated with this in mind.

**Cllr G. Kenny,** asked if the exemption of commercial rates to Irish Water could be explained.

**Ms. S. Dunne,** responded that Budget 2015 had included a provision for commercial rates income billable to Irish Water. New legislation which came into effect subsequent to budget adoption exempted Irish water operations from commercial rates with effect from 1st January 2015. This late decision affected income for 2015 but was replaced by a grant from the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government. The 2016 commercial rates income has been reduced to allow for this exemption, grant income from the DECLG in line with 2015 is however anticipated and has been provided in Division H income.

**3) Director of Housing, Social and Community Development**

Mr. B. Coman, Director of Housing, Social and Community Development, presented.

**Cllr C. King,** supports the Community Grant Scheme and he queried the €30,000 provision for PPN and questioned what the money is spent on.

**Mr. B. Coman,** replied that the €30,000 was for contribution towards a coordinator and literature for linkage groups etc.

**Cllr P. Donovan,** asked if there was available funding in the sports and recreation budget for Hockey partnership with Leinster Hockey and whether or not there was any capital budget for this.

**Mr. B. Coman,** referred to an established Sports Partnership with the SAI, Leinster Rugby, IRFU, Leinster Cricket and Dublin GAA County Board and a lot of support is provided by the Council, SDCC is happy to discuss any arrangements with any national or regional body once they have something to offer in terms of finance, participation programmes and engagement.

**Cllr L. Dunne,** asked about Caravan loan scheme and how much funding can a family apply for.

**Mr. B. Coman,** stated that theLocal Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee requested this Scheme, but there were concerns on the level of arrears and on the levels of underpayment. A scheme for the travelling community only, will be put together similar to Fingal County Councils. He added that a report would go to the LTACC and the SPC.

**Cllr M. Devine,** asked why the amount is being underspent in relation to the Housing Grants in the Housing Budget.

**Mr. B. Coman,** responded in terms of the grants the overall allocation has remained the same for the 3 main housing grants, HAPS, MAGS and HOPS.

**4) Director of Land Use, Planning and Transportation**

**Mr. E. Taaffe**, Director of Land Use, Planning and Transportation, presented.

**Cllr D. O’Donovan,** asked if there are other School Wardens being appointed and if so are some being stood down. She mentioned if there was any plans to increase the cycle ways especially in Knocklyon. She queried if there was increased income from planning fees.

**Mr. E. Taaffe,** responded that where there is improved traffic signaling there would be a possibility to transfer School Wardens to new locations where the need for School Wardens is identified. He stated that cycle ways would be increased if funding is available. He also referred to page 55 on the report that there will be €875,000 income on planning applications.

**Cllr E. O’Broin,** questioned if there were any plans to improve the traffic calming or was it the same as last year.

**Mr. E. Taaffe,** responded that priority will be given to repairing or replacing existing traffic calming measures, and where the budget allows and particularly within housing estates, new traffic calming procedures would be instituted.

**Cllr T. Gilligan**, queried the income raised for pay for parking.

**Mr. E. Taaffe,** referred to page 45 on the report that there will be €670,000 income from parking.

**5) Director of Environment, Water and Climate Change**

Ms. T. Walsh, Director of Environment, Parks and Climate Change, presented.

It was **noted** there was no business under this heading.

**6) Director of Economic Enterprise and Tourism Development**

Mr. F. Nevin, Director of Economic Enterprise and Tourism Development, presented.

**Cllr T. Gilligan,** requested that there should be funding available for the library in Nth Clondalkin.

**Mr. F Nevin** accepted the acknowledgements.

**7) Director of Corporate Performance and Change Management**

Ms. Lorna Maxwell, Director of Corporate Performance and Change Management presented.

**Cllr T. Gilligan,** requested information on the funding each year for the Register of Electors.

**Ms. L. Maxwell,** responded giving details of the breakdown of funding available under this programme**.**

**Cllr P. Gogarty,** asked if there was sufficient funding available in respect of Councilor’s gratuities given that there is an Election next year.

**Ms. L. Maxwell,** said that this cost is always factored into the annual budget in the event that a Councillor retires, resigns or a former Councillor reaches the age of 50 and is entitled to a gratuity.

**Cllr C. O’Connor,** questioned the twinning programme and whether or not there was any payback for this.

**Ms. L. Maxwell,** responded that the budget allocation had been increased to €20,000 for 2016 due to the Sister City agreement with Tampa and that historic twinning relationships still formally exist but there has been no activity for a number of years.

**Cllr P. Donovan,** asked if there was extra funding required for such items as the Members Reps facility.

**Ms. L. Maxwell,** responded that there are sufficient resources in house to address any issues that arise with the Members Reps system.

**H3c)/B/1115** **3 YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2016-2018**

Cllr W Lavelle Proposed and Cllr C Brophy seconded:

“To bring the 3 year capital programme to the OP&F meeting in November and that it be noted at the December Council meeting”.

**The Item was AGREED.**

**Closing Statements from Party Leaders**

The Mayor Councillor S Holland and the Group Leaders Councillors C. King, D Looney, W Lavelle and P Kearns thanked the Chief Executive D McLoughlin, all the Management and Staff and in particular Ms. S Dunne and her staff on the considerable work involved in the preparation and balancing of the budget. They also said that the budget was fair and reflected the overall economic situation.

**The Meeting ended at 7.30**

**SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Mayor**

**DATED: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**