**COMHAIRLE CONTAE ÁTHA CLIATH THEAS**

**SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL**

Minutes of South Dublin County Council November 2017 Annual Budget Meeting held on 16th November 2017.

**PRESENT**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Councillors** |  | **Councillors** |
| Bonner, B. |  | Lawlor, B. |
| Casserly, V. |  | Leech, B. |
| Donovan, P. |  | Looney, D. |
| Duff, M. |  | Mc Cann, C. |
| Duffy, F. |  | McMahon, C.  |
| Dunne, L.  |  | McMahon, R |
| Egan, K. |  | Mahon, K. |
| Ferron, B. |  | Murphy, M. |
| Foley, P. |  | Nolan, R. |
| Genockey, M. |  | O’Brien, D. |
| Gilligan, T. |  | O’Brien, E. |
| Gogarty, P. |  | O’Connell, G. |
| Graham, J.  |  | O’Connor, C. |
| Hendrick, E. |  | O’Donovan, D. |
| Higgins, E. |  | O’Toole, L. |
| Holland, S.  |  | Richardson, D. |
| Johansson, M. |  | Russell, R.  |
| Kearns, P. |  | Timmons, F. |
| King, C. |  | Ward, M. |
| Lavelle, W. |  |  |

**OFFICIALS PRESENT**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Chief Executive | D. McLoughlin  |
| Directors / Heads of FunctionA/Head of Function | L. Maxwell, B. Coman, T. Walsh. L. Leonard, C. Ward. |
| Head of FinanceCounty Librarian | R. FitzGerald.B. Fennell.  |
| Senior Executive OfficerFinancial Management Accountant | M. Maguire, H. Hogan, S. Deegan.M. Kelly.  |
| Administrative OfficerSenior Executive Engineer | C. Murphy, S. Kelly, N. Lawlor.D. Sargent.  |
| Senior Staff Officer  | 1. O’Melia.
 |
| Staff Officer |  P. Brennan. |
| Assistant Staff Officer |  M. Somers.  |
| Clerical Officer |  M. Dunne.  |
| I.T. |  R. Saiz, T. McManus. |
|  |  |

The Mayor Councillor P. Gogarty Presided.

 Apologies for inability to attend were received from Councillor E. Murphy.

### **H1/1117 CONSIDERATION OF THE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 2018**

(i)   Draft Budget 2018

(ii)  Circular

(iii) Chief Executive’s Introduction

**To the Mayor and Each Member**

**Annual Revenue Budget 2018**

Dear Member,

The attached budget, which is presented in the statutory format has been prepared in consultation with the Corporate Policy Group. The budget as always is framed against a background of financial capacity and constraints, which this year included the following key considerations:

* Making provision for the expanded and much needed recruitment of recent years and our obligation to staff under the Public Service Stability Agreement.
* The decision of the elected members to maintain the 15% LPT reduction for 2018.
* The ongoing general rates revaluation which disallows any consideration of a rates income increase and obligates a prudential approach to the possibility of income reductions on appeal.
* In tandem with the budget process, members are being asked to consider reducing the rate of rates vacancy refund from 100% to 75%. This will not result in any increase in income in 2018 as applications are dealt with annually in arrears.
* Significant cost increases across housing and homeless services, including the adoption and implementation of a Vacant Homes Strategy, vastly increased implementation of support schemes such as HAP, annual housing assessments, increased administration associated with the ongoing homeless problem and the support necessary to roll out our Capital Programme which is detailed below.
* Other general cost increases in insurances and general maintenance provisions.

These constraints and increased costs have been offset somewhat by increased rates income from new developments, additional rents from new housing stock and new income of €900,000 arising from the Poolbeg Waste to Energy plant which will be fully operational in 2018. In addition funding provisions for ongoing programmes such as the Villages Initiative, the Play Space Programme and the County Signage Programme have been reduced as they are nearing completion. The net effect has allowed the retention of all 2017 frontline service budgets and initiatives, including the Participatory Budget of €300,000 and the employment of an additional fifteen outdoor summer staff to supplement areas such as grass cutting, litter control and tree pruning for which a further provision of €230,000 has been made. This is in addition to the enhanced budget in 2017 and the employment of an additional tree crew.

The budget is first and foremost a reflection of our organisational priorities as set out in our Corporate Plan including the following key areas.

**Housing**

Housing supply and in particular dealing with the significant fallout from the supply and rental market constraints of recent years, is an area of major focus where we have increased activity across a range of areas most notably:

* We will have ten projects on site by year end with a total yield of 352 units.
* The concession for the construction of circa. 100 older person homes on three sites in central Tallaght has just been awarded to Cluid.
* We have completed the part 8 process for 109 PPP units at Kilcarbery Clondalkin and are at the competitive dialogue stage for the proposed joint venture development of circa. 900 units, including 300 social homes on the adjacent lands.
* A further list of potential sites is being prepared for the agreement of Council by the year end.
* In 2017 we have increased the number of HAP tenancies by over 700 to 2050.
* We are actively targeting derelict sites for compulsory acquisition and will continue to do so under our Vacant Homes Strategy.
* Despite over 180 direct allocations to homeless families this year to date and the continued accommodation of 100 families in family hubs, we continue to have significant numbers in temporary accommodation across the county. Ultimately our build programme is the solution to this crisis, but in the meantime the costs of the temporary support service continues to increase.

In relation to existing stock, we have maintained our planned maintenance and estate road refurbishment budgets at €1,000,000 and €300,000 respectively.

**Economic Development, Tourism and Business**

We continue to make good progress with regard to our economic development objectives supported through the annual budgetary process and our three year Capital Programme. In this context the following are noteworthy:

* The continuation of the Village Enhancement Programme with works completed in Rathcoole, Newcastle, Rathfarnham, Saggart and Tallaght. Works planned in Lucan and Templeogue will be progressed during 2018. A further €500,000 has been provided in this budget in support of this programme.
* The advancement of the Tourism Strategy was highlighted with the recent opening of the Round Tower Visitor Centre. Members have been presented with and agreed strategies for the advancement of projects at Rathfarnham Castle, Corkagh Park and the Dodder Valley. The Dublin Mountains Gateway project is with An Bord Pleanála. A report on potential opportunities around the Liffey Blue Way will be presented to Members before the year end. In the context of maintaining this momentum a further provision of €750,000 has been made in this budget to help fund tourism infrastructure attractions.
* The presentation of the county continues to demand our attention, with an ongoing focus on grass cutting, tree pruning, litter prevention initiatives and the elimination of dereliction. Visual improvements to roundabouts are ongoing, while the major upgrading of N81 landscaping will hopefully commence before the year end.
* The business environment has improved significantly but our continued support is vital. In this context the budget provides for a €1,000,000 Business Support Fund, the allocation of which will be subject to a separate report from the Economic Development SPC. This in turn will be informed by the completion of a County Digital Strategy and an enterprise space assessment. Both of these studies are underway and will be presented to Council early in the new year.
* The expansion of existing business and new business development at Grange Castle has been very encouraging. Plans for the expansion of this campus will be brought before Council for consideration in the short term.

**Community Development and Social Infrastructure**

Once again significant funding is provided to support volunteerism and community endeavour, which is critical to the work of this Council and to the development of community spirit. It is in this context that we provide each year in excess of €2,000,000 for community oriented programmes and projects. These financial provisions cover such diverse areas as Arts, Libraries, Sports and Recreation, Festivals and Events, Social Inclusion and Health and Wellbeing. The full ranges of programmes are highlighted in the divisional detail provided.

Our Endeavour Awards which are again funded in 2018 have been very well received as has the Community Initiative Fund. This funding has once again been provided but the Community SPC will be asked to review the criteria to ensure its ongoing relevance. €100,000 has again been provided in 2018 for our Tidy Towns groups and similarly for community festivals, including a repeat of the highly successful intercultural food festival.

A growing community needs quality recreational outlets and significant progress is being made with the planned libraries in Rowlagh and Tymon, the new sports hall in Adamstown, the planned Lucan pool, the continued success of the Play Space Programme and the recently approved recreation scheme at Dodder Valley Mount Carmel.

**Conclusion**

This budget is about maintaining the progress made while continuing to honour the commitments in our five year Corporate Plan. In this context it is commended to you for your favourable consideration.

I want to thank the Corporate Policy Group for their advice and guidance in this process and in particular to thank Ronan FitzGerald Head of Finance and all the staff involved in the budget preparation process for their professionalism and diligence.

Yours sincerely,



Daniel McLoughlin

Chief Executive.

**(iv) Budget presentation by Directorate**

**Mr. R. FitzGerald Head of Finance presented the Financial Analysis 2017.**

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors R. McMahon and P. Foley.

Mr. R. FitzGerald, Head of Finance responded to the Members queries.

**Mr. B. Coman, Director of Housing, Social and Community Development presented Division A, D, F & G.**

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors D. Looney, M. Johansson, R. McMahon, P. Donovan and T. Gilligan.

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

**Ms. L. Leonard, A/Director of Land Use, Planning and Transportation presented Division B and D.**

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors P. Donovan, E. O’Brien, K. Mahon, R. McMahon, E. Higgins and L. O’Toole.

Ms. L. Leonard, A/Director of Land Use, Planning and Transportation responded to the Members queries.

**Ms. T. Walsh, Director Environment, Water and Climate Change presented Division C, E, F, G & H.**

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors M. Genockey, E. Higgins, K. Mahon, P. Donovan, D. O’Donovan, C. McMahon, D. Looney and R. McMahon.

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

**Mr. C. Ward, A/Director of Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development presented Divisions D and F.**

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors E. Higgins and R. McMahon.

Mr. C. Ward, A/Director of Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development, Mr. B. Coman, Director of Housing, Social and Community Development and Ms. T. Walsh, Director of Environment, Water and Climate Change responded to the Members queries.

**Ms. L. Maxwell, Director of Corporate Performance and Change Management presented Divisions D, G and H.**

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors E. Higgins and R. McMahon.

Mr. D. McLoughlin, Chief Executive, Ms. L. Maxwell, Director of Corporate Performance and Change Management and Mr. R. FitzGerald, Head of Finance responded to the Members queries.

**(v) Head of Finance - Introduction to Divisions**

Mr. R. FitzGerald, Head of Finance outlined details of proposed expenditure and income on the following divisions:

**DIVISION A – Housing and Building**

Division A was NOTED.

**DIVISION B – Road Transport and Safety**

Division B was NOTED.

**DIVISION C - Water Services**

Division C was NOTED.

**DIVISION D – Development Management**

Division D was NOTED

**DIVISION E – Environmental Services**

Division E was NOTED.

**DIVISION F – Recreation and Amenity**

Division F was NOTED.

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

Division G Was NOTED.

**DIVISION H – Miscellaneous Services**

Division H was NOTED.

**Motions to Amend the Draft Budget**

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

**DIVISION B – Road Transport and Safety**

The Following Motion which was proposed byCouncillor R. McMahon, Seconded by Councillor C. McMahon.

“That the allocation of €70,000 under heading H0906 Conferences Abroad, be re-allocated towards the cost of providing the much needed cattle grids in the Glenasmole Valley”

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors R. McMahon, C. King, M. Ward, G. O’Connell, E. Higgins, B. Bonner, D. O’Donovan, P. Donovan, P. Kearns and P. Foley.

A vote was taken by a show of hands vote the result was as follows:

**FOR: 5 (FIVE)**

**AGAINST: 29 (TWENTY NINE)**

**ABSTAINED: 1 (ONE)**

The Amendment to the Draft Budget **FELL.**

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

**DIVISION A – Housing and Building**

The following Motion was proposed by Councillor M. Ward and seconded by Councillor C. Mc Cann.

 “That the Draft South Dublin County Council Budget as presented for the local financial year ending 31st December 2018 is hereby amended as follows :-

**That the provision of €3,007,300 in** A0501 Homeless Grants Other Bodies, as provided by the Chief Executive **be increased by** **€55,000 to €3,062,300** to provide for a Homeless Registration Service in Clondalkin.

To be matched by:

A corresponding reduction in expenditure for 2018 in the following Sub Services:

**Sub Service Division H Misc. Services Reduction**

H0906 Conferences Abroad €55,000

The Amendments to the Draft Budget were **AGREED.**

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

**DIVISION D – Development Management**

The following Motion was proposed by Councillor D. O’Donovan and seconded by Councillor B. Ferron.

**That the provision of €401,000 in** D0603 Social Inclusion, as provide by the Chief Executive **be increased by €35,000 to €436,000** to provide for

a) €5,000 for a Multi-Cultural Community Cook-off

b) €10,000 for a Youth Outreach Programme

c) €20,000 For Free Carbon Monoxide alarm scheme for the Elderly & Vulnerable within the County

To be funded by:

A reduction in expenditure for 2018 in the following Sub Service:

**Sub Service Division H Misc. Services Reduction**

H0906 Conferences Abroad €15,000

D0903 Town Twinning €20,000

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors G. O’Connell, D. O’Donovan, C. King, D. Looney, B. Bonner, E. Higgins, P. Kearns, P. Foley, M. Ward and D. O’Brien.

The Amendments to the Draft Budget were **AGREED.**

**Motions to amend the Draft Budget (4)**

The following Motion was proposed by Councillor E. Higgins, and seconded by Councillor B. Lawlor.

“I propose to amend the budget to reduce D0601 General Community and Enterprise fund by €300,000 and change our policy of running an annual Participatory Budget to bi-annually.

I propose this funding be transferred:

* + In the amount of €100,000 to B04 - Local Roads to provide for an investment in rural road safety throughout the County, which would include specific provision for animal control, in the context of road safety, in the Rathfarnham Electoral Area
	+ In the amount of €75,000 to Division B to increase the Village Initiative Fund to extend the 2018 programme to include the Clondalkin Local Electoral Area
	+ In the amount of €75,000 to F032 to invest in teen facilities as part of our overall play pace strategy
	+ In the amount of €50,000 to Division F, specifically public realm, to increase resources for grass cutting and tree pruning.”

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors D. Looney, W. Lavelle, S. Holland, M. Genockey, G. O’Connell, B. Leech, P. Foley, M. Ward, P. Gogarty, B. Lawlor and E. Higgins.

A vote was taken by a show of hands vote the result was as follows:

**FOR: 7 (SEVEN)**

**AGAINST: 29 (TWENTY NINE)**

**ABSTAINED: 0 (ZERO)**

The Amendment to the Draft Budget **FELL.**

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors M. Murphy, M. Johansson, C. King, D. Looney, M. Duff, K. Mahon, B. Leech, C. O’Connor, E. Higgins, E. O’Brien, M. Genockey, D. O’Brien, R. Nolan, R. McMahon, M. Ward and P. Gogarty.

**H2a/1117 ADOPTION OF FORMAL PROPOSALS FOR THE ANNUAL BUDGET 2018**

The following Motion was read by Mr. R. FitzGerald, Head of Finance was proposed by Councillor P. Gogarty and seconded by Councillor C. King.

“That the County Council **ADOPT** for the financial year ending 31st December 2017 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: 32 (THIRTY TWO)**

Councillors B. Bonner, V. Casserly, P. Donovan, M. Duff, F. Duffy, L. Dunne, K. Egan, B. Ferron, P. Foley, M. Genockey, P. Gogarty, J Graham, E. Higgins, S. Holland, P. Kearns, C. King, W. Lavelle, B. Lawlor, D. Looney, C. Mc Cann, C. McMahon, R. McMahon, D. O’Brien, E. O’Brien, G. O’Connell, C. O’Connor, D. O’Donovan, L. O’Toole, D. Richardson, R. Russell, F. Timmons and M. Ward.

**AGAINST 6 (SIX)**

Councillors E. Hendrick, M. Johansson, B. Leech, K. Mahon, M. Murphy, and R Nolan.

The Resolution was **PASSED.**

### **H2b/1117 ADOPTION OF FORMAL PROPOSALS FOR THE DETERMINATION OF ANNUAL RATE ON VALUATION FOR 2018**

###  The following Motion which was read by Mr. R. FitzGerald, Head of Finance was proposed by Councillor P. Gogarty and seconded by Councillor D. Richardson.

“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 purposes set out in Tables A to F. The general Annual Rate on Valuation being determined at 0.273.”

A vote was taken by a show of hands vote the result was as follows:

**FOR: 38 (THIRTY EIGHT)**

**AGAINST: 0 (ZERO)**

**ABSTAINED: 0 (ZERO)**

The Resolution was **PASSED.**

**H2c/1117 ADOPTION OF FORMAL PROPOSALS FOR THE DETERMINATION OF THE RATES VACANIES REFUND SCHEME FOR 2018**

The following Motion which was read by Mr. R. FitzGerald, Head of Finance was proposed by Councillor P. Gogarty and seconded by Councillor M. Duff.

“That in accordance with the provisions of Section 31 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 and Part V of the Local Government (Financial and Audit Procedures) Regulations 2014, it is hereby resolved to vary the level of rates refunds on vacant properties within the administrative County of South Dublin that applies to eligible persons from 100% to 75% for the financial year ending 31st December 2018.”

A vote was taken by a show of hands vote the result was as follows:

**FOR: 37 (THIRTY EIGHT)**

**AGAINST: 1 (ONE)**

**ABSTAINED: 0 (ZERO)**

The Resolution was **PASSED.**

### **H2d/1117 ADOPTION OF FORMAL PROPOSALS FOR THE APPROVAL OF TRANSFERS TO RESERVES OF THE SUMS PROVIDED FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL PURPOSES**

### The following Motion which was read by Mr. R. FitzGerald, Head of Finance was proposed by Councillor P. Gogarty and seconded by Councillor D. O’Brien.

### “That the County Council approves of the transfers to reserves of the sums provided for various capital purposes in the Annual Budget 2018 as Adopted for the financial year ending 31st December 2018.”

### A vote was taken by a show of hands vote the result was as follows:

### **FOR: 38 (THIRTY EIGHT)**

### **AGAINST: 0 (ZERO)**

### **ABSTAINED: 0 (ZERO)**

### The Resolution was **PASSED.**

### **H2e/1117 ADOPTION OF FORMAL PROPOSALS FOR THE APPROVAL OF ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURES IN THE REVISED BUDGET 2017**

### The following Motion which was read by Mr. R. FitzGerald, Head of Finance was proposed by Councillor P. Gogarty and seconded by Councillor D. Looney.

**Approval of additional expenditures as contained in the Revised Budget 2017.**

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 2017** |
| **A** | **Housing & Building**  |  |
| A01 | Maintenance & Improvement of LA Housing Units | 537,600 |
| A03 | Housing Rent and Tenant Purchase Administration | 127,200 |
| A04 | Housing Community Development Support | 417,500 |
| A06 | Support to Housing Capital & Affordable Prog | 228,300 |
| **A** | **Total Above Services** | **1,310,600** |
| **A** | **Budget €68.7m** | **Revised €68.4** | **Decreased Expd.€0.3m** |
|  |  |  |
| **B** | **Road Transport & Safety**  |  |
| B03 | Regional Road – Maintenance and Improvement | 120,100 |
| B05 | Public Lighting | 36,000 |
| B07 | Road Safety Engineering Improvement | 208,300 |
| B10 | Support to Roads Capital Prog | 38,100 |
| **B** | **Total Above Services** | **402,500** |
|  | **Budget €27.5m** | **Revised €27.5m** | **No Change in Exp** |
|  |  |  |
| **C** | **Water Services** |  |
| C01 | Water Supply | 35,400 |
| C06 | Support to Water Capital Programme | 4,900 |
| C08 | Local Authority Water and Sanitary Services | 405,000 |
| **C** | **Total Above Services** | **445,300** |
| **C** | **Budget €11.5m** | **Revised €11.7m** | **Increased Expd €0.2m** |
|  |  |  |
| **D** | **Development Management**  |  |
| D01 | Forward Planning | 32,100 |
| D04 | Industrial and Commercial Facilities | 2,400 |
| D05 | Tourism Development and Promotion | 465,400 |
| D06 | Community and Enterprise Function | 15,800 |
| D08 | Building Control | 271,300 |
| D09 | Economic Development and Promotion | 303,000 |
| D10 | Property Management | 60,600 |
| D11 | Heritage and Conservation Services | 37,300 |
| **D** | **Total Above Services** | **1,187,900** |
| **D** | **Budget €19.7m** | **Revised €20.7m** | **Increased Expd €1.0m** |
|  |  |  |
| **E** | **Environmental Services**  |  |
| E05 | Litter Management | 18,800 |
| E09 | Maintenance of Burial Grounds | 80,500 |
| E10 | Safety and Structure of Places | 2,500 |
| E11 | Operation of Fire Service | 574,900 |
| **E** | **Total Above Services** | **676,700** |
| **E** | **Budget €40.2m** | **Revised €40.1m** | **Decreased Expd.€0.1m** |
|  |  |  |
| **F** | **Recreation & Amenity**  |  |
| F01 | Leisure Facilities Operations | 1,000 |
| F02 | Operation of Library and Archival Service | 218,000 |
| F03 | Outdoor Leisure Areas Operations | 442,700 |
| F04 | Community Sport and Recreational Development | 241,200 |
| F05 | Operation of Arts Programme | 267,400 |
| **F** | **Total Above Services** | **1,170,300** |
| **F** | **Budget €36.3m** | **Revised €37.4m** | **Increased Expd. €1.1m**  |
|  |  |  |
| **G** | **Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare**  |  |
| G04 | Veterinary Service | 30,000 |
| **G** | **Total Above Services** | **30,000** |
| **G** | **Budget €1.8m** | **Revised €1.7m** | **Decreased Expd.€0.1m** |
|  |  |  |
| **H** | **Miscellaneous Services**  |  |
| H03 | Administration of Rates | 333,700 |
| H09 | Local Representation & Civic Leadership | 95,400 |
| H11 | Agency & Recoupable Services | 5,000 |
| **H** | **Total Above Services** | **434,100** |
| **H** | **Budget €22.2m** | **Revised €22.6m** | **Increased Expd.€0.4m** |

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

Increased expenditure is due to additional maintenance works including health & safety emergency works and is funded from increased rental income.

**A03 Housing Rent and Tenant Purchase Administration**

Increased expenditure relates to a reallocation of payroll costs which is offset by reductions in other areas in the Division.

**A04 Housing Community Development Support**

Increased expenditure relates to a reallocation of payroll costs which is offset by reductions in other areas in the Division.

**A06 Support to Housing Capital & Affordable Prog ramme**

Increased expenditure relates to a reallocation of payroll costs which is offset by reductions in other areas in the Division.

**B03 Regional Road – Maintenance & Improvement**

Additional expenditure is due to an increase in contract works which are offset by reductions in other areas in the Division.

**B05 Public Lighting**

Increased expenditure relates to a reallocation of payroll costs which is offset by reductions in other areas in the Division.

**B07 Road Safety Engineering Improvement**

Additional expenditure is due to a redistribution of costs which are offset by a saving in B08.

**B10 Support to Roads Capital Programme**

Increased expenditure relates to a reallocation of costs which are offset by reductions in other areas in the Division.

**C01 Water Supply**

Additional expenditure is due increased payroll costs and is recoupable from Irish Water.

**C08 Local Authority Water and Sanitary Services**

Additional expenditure is due to increased payroll costs.

**D01 Forward Planning**

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

**D05 Tourism Development and Promotion**

Increased expenditure is due to an allocation in the revised budget process of €475k towards the Tourism & Enterprise Development Fund.

**D06 Community and Enterprise Function**

Additional expenditure is due to increased LCDC grant payments which are matched by increased grant income.

**D08 Building Control**

Increased expenditure relates to a reallocation and increase in payroll costs which is offset by payroll reductions in other areas in the Division and increased planning fees income.

**D09 Economic Development and Promotion**

Additional expenditure is due to increased LEO grant payments and other costs which are partly funded by increased grant income.

**D10 Property Management**

Increased expenditure is due to additional contract works to Council owned properties.

**D11 Heritage and Conservation Services**

Additional expenditure is due to increased payroll costs for conservation works.

**E05 Litter Management**

Additional expenditure is due to increased grant payments re litter control initiatives.

**E09 Maintenance of Burial Grounds**

Additional expenditure is due to increased payroll costs and is partly offset by savings within the service.

**E11 Operation of Fire Service**

Additional expenditure is due to an increase in the cost of the fire service within the Dublin Region.

**F02 Operation of Library and Archival Services**

Additional expenditure is due to increased payroll costs.

**F03 Outdoor Leisure Areas Operations**

Increased expenditure is due to additional costs of contracts, plant and materials for the operation and maintenance of the service.

**F04 Community Sport and Recreational Development**

Increased expenditure is due to additional costs of contracts, plant and materials for the operation and maintenance of the service and additional expenditure re CES schemes which is recoupable.

**F05 Operation of Arts Programme**

Additional expenditure is due to increased payroll costs and grant payments and is partly offset by increased grant and other income.

**G04 Veterinary Services**

Increased expenditure is due to additional contract costs in relation to control of horses.

**H03 Administration of Rates**

Increased expenditure relates to increased costs of administration of the rates function and is funded from increased PEL income.

**H09 Local Representation & Civic Leadership**

Additional expenditure is due to an increase in Members’ representational payment and allowances and the payment of additional gratuities to retired Elected Members.

**Resolution**

That the County Council approves of the additional expenditures contained in the Revised Budget 2017 for the financial year ending 31 December 2017 as set out in Tables A to F of the Annual Budget 2018 and considered during the budget process.

### A vote was taken by a show of hands vote the result was as follows:

### **FOR: 38 (THIRTY EIGHT)**

### **AGAINST: 0 (ZERO)**

### **ABSTAINED: 0 (ZERO)**

### The Resolution was **PASSED.**

### **H2f/1117 CONSIDERATION OF THE 3 YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2018 - 2020**

### The following Motion was read by Mr. R. FitzGerald, Head of Finance was proposed by Councillor P. Gogarty and seconded by Councillor E. Higgins.

In accordance with Section 135 of the Local Government Act 2001 the Chief Executive shall before the start of the financial year prepare a report on the three year capital programme which may be considered at the Budget meeting or at such other meeting as the elected Council may by resolution decide.

I recommend that the Council adopt the following resolution:

“That the Three Year Capital Programme 2018 – 2020 be considered at the December 2017 Council Meeting.”

 The resolution was **AGREED.**

### During the discussion the Mayor Councillor P. Gogarty, proposed and the Members **AGREED** to suspend Standing Orders to allow the meeting continue past its prescribed time.

### **H3a/1117 PRESENTATIONS FROM SPECIAL ORGANISATION, PROCEDURE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**

 The presentations can be viewed below.

[H3a) Draft Budget Presentation](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=57483)

### The Report was **NOTED.**

### **H3b/1117 QUESTIONS FROM SPECIAL ORGANISATION, PROCEDURE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD THURSDAY 9TH NOVEMBER 2017**

1. **Chief Executive Report**
2. **Head of Finance**

Mr. R. FitzGerald Head of Finance presented an overview of the Draft Budget for 2018.

**Cllr. P. Foley** in relation to the proposed 75% vacancy refund how does this rate compare with our neighbouring Local Authorities?

**Mr. D. McLoughlin** the rate vacancy in Dun Laoghaire County Council is 50%, in Fingal County Council it is 75% and in Dublin City it is 45%. South Dublin County Council is trying to incentivise Landlords to upgrade their properties to improve their prospects to let the property. South Dublin County Council are working with the Chamber of Commerce on this issue.

**Cllr. G. O’Connell** noted a reduction of almost €4m in expenditure on Division E and queried if this would impact on service delivery within the division.   He queried the impact of aftercare maintenance costs of the Arthurstown landfill site?

**Ms. T. Walsh** There is a reduction in the aftercare costs for the Arthurstown landfill.  As part of our EPA Licence obligations a sinking fund was set up and South Dublin County Council in conjunction with our neighbouring Local Authorities made contributions over the last number of years.  Based on the current sinking fund balance there is a reduction in the required transfer to from Revenue to Capital in this year’s (2018) budget, and there will be no further requirement to make transfers into this sinking fund. Similarly, loan repayments requirement will cease post 2018.

**Cllr. M. Murphy** with regard to the rate revaluation should we not be looking at increasing our ARV this year?

**Mr. D. McLoughlin** said we are prohibited by law from increasing our rates income in the year immediately following a revaluation.

1. **Director of Housing, Social and Community Development**

Mr. B. Coman, Director of Housing, Social and Community Development, presented Divisions A, D, F & G.

**Cllr. S. Holland** the €300,000 of recoupable costs for private rental dwellings inspections what is this and how do we recoup it? AO903 essential repairs grant why is there an underspend on this?

**Mr. B. Coman** the €300,000 is the income we recoup for carrying out the inspections on private rented dwellings. With regard to the essential repairs grant he will examine this and come back to Cllr. Holland with the answer.

**Cllr. M. Johansson** asked Mr. B. Coman how much income are we due from Central Government to cover the costs of our Homeless Services.

**Mr. B. Coman** as the Members are aware the Homeless Services are carried out on behalf of the Dublin Authorities by Dublin City Council through the Dublin Regional Homeless Executive and all recoupments are also made through them. There are outstanding recoupments for 2016 and this is due to the substantial increased demands on our Homeless Services which has continued into 2017. We have no definitive indication at this point in time that the outstanding 2016 and 2017 recoupments will be paid by year end.

**Cllr. P. Donovan** she wanted clarification on the process involved in the inspection of private rented dwellings in the County. She also asked if the Director could confirm that the skills and training levels of the staff carrying out these inspections is adequate.

**Mr. B. Coman** the staff carrying out private rental dwelling inspections utilise a template and this is used to ensure that certain agreed standards are checked for all properties. Most of the checks are to do with fire alarms, fire blankets and fire extinguishers there is no additional training needed.

**Cllr. B. Leech** where Approved Housing Bodies such as Cluid, who cater for Elderly residence, are awarded specific sites will the rents charge be higher than South Dublin County Council differential rent scheme? The HAPS application numbers have increased from 700 to 2500 but the expenditure figure has remained the same. Could Mr. Coman clarify this?

**Mr. B. Coman** with regard to the older person’s housing projects we avail of the services of AHB as they provide a specific service. We are currently in the process of finalising a specific project and the question of the rent charges has yet to be discussed and agreed. The amount of €300,000 in the budget is to cover staff costs and there is no plans to decrease the numbers for 2018.

**Cllr. P. Gogarty** under the reinvigorate Community initiative fund is there still funding available for organisations? Could we describe the school meals as healthy school meals, due to the fact next year is health and wellbeing year?

**Mr. B. Coman** Yes the funding is still there for organisations. School meals is the statutory name we must put in the budget it is prescribed we cannot change it.

1. **A/Director of Land Use, Planning and Transportation**

Ms. L. Leonard, A/Director of Land Use, Planning and Transportation, presented Division B and D.

**Cllr. S. Holland** was wondering what table Biodiversity and Heritage comes under. D1102 Conservation services has a little increase is this the biodiversity? D0501 is this the area of Tourism Promotion?

**Ms. L. Leonard** confirmed that Heritage and Biodiversity are included in her budgets. The Biodiversity plan has been brought to the September SPC Meeting. There is not a huge provision expenditure wise however a substantial amount of work has gone into the plan. On the conservation side we are anticipating income under a grants scheme.

**Cllr. E. O’Brien** under the Vacant Site Register is there any appeals to An Bord Pleanála and what are the areas?

**Ms. L. Leonard** outlined that we have 7 sites on the register, 2 appeals have been lodged with An Bord Pleanála, the outcome of their decision is awaited, the Register is available on the following link <http://www.sdcc.ie/vacant-site> and details of sites are listed.

**Cllr. B. Lawlor** asked are we intending to buy any land this year to replace the land we are using for housing.

**Mr. D. McLoughlin** there are no current plans to purchase Housing land in 2018. However it was agreed with the Members previously that if there was an acceleration of land sales at Kilcarbery any funds received would go towards the purchase of future housing lands.

1. **Director of Environment, Water and Climate Change**

Ms. T. Walsh, Director of Environment, Water and Climate Change, presented Divisions C, E, and part of D, F, G & H.

**Cllr. S. Holland** Noted improvement in grass and tree service. Noted increase in sanitary services budget. Is waste water going into the Owendore River?  E0601 Street Cleaning: could the Director explain why there was a reduction of €68,000?  Why are there variances in the Support services?  E0201 Recycling facilities operations: why is expenditure decreased?  G0405: why has the expenditure increased?

**Ms. T. Walsh** Ms. Walsh agreed to examine this (Odour issue) further and revert to Cllr. Holland as soon as possible.  Street cleaning is the reapportionment of salary costs.

Support cost are the charges that are apportioned out under each directorate for the services provided by our Finance, HR, Law and Corporate Services departments, and these vary from year to year.  The decrease in the recycling budget is mainly due to a reduction in the level of subsidy that the Council has to provide. The increase in costs on G0405 is due to the increased costs associated with the new contract we have recently signed.  We are making submission to DAFM for increased subvention.

**Cllr. D. Looney** Why is there a substantial reduction in F0302 playgrounds. F0301 the Pitch maintenance: what is happening at the moment with pitch maintenance.  The €250,000 play-space allocation: where is this on the budget tables, and is it the same as previous years or is it a reduction?

**Ms. T. Walsh** newplayground provision (Delivery Programme) has been reduced from €500,000 to €250,000 after consultation with the CPG, as noted earlier in CE’s address to the meeting.  The planned pitch maintenance programme is for works on our grass pitches around the goal areas (posts and goal mouths to be replaced).  The play space programme is due to complete at the end of 2018 and provision of €250,000 has been made through a revenue to capital transfer.

**Cllr. T. Gilligan** was there a budget for Weed Control last year and is the allocation this year specifically for Japanese knot weed? Reference to small stone underfoot at play space in Corkagh Park, and under the Play space programme can replacement of this be included?

**Ms. T. Walsh** Last year’s provision for Weed Control was €93,000. This year’s provision has increased to €313,000 to include necessary works to also deal with Japanese knotweed. We will look at the surface of the play space in 2018.

**Cllr. L. O’Toole** E13 water quality: the expenditure is similar but the income is down from last year she is wondering why this is? Why is there no provision for litter bins?

**Ms. T. Walsh** the Water and Air Pollution Monitoring income is reduced due to Service Support Costs being reduced. There is provision within the general Litter Control / service budget for litter bins.

**Cllr. P. Donovan** in the preamble there is an amount of €435,000 for a provision for flood alleviation works subject to funding. Can you clarify what this means? Will the old play space at Willington (Tymon) be refurbished?

**Ms. T. Walsh** the €435,000 funding in the Revenue budget is under C08 Revenue to Capital transfer for minor capital (Surface water) works which are separate to the flood alleviation schemes which are bigger projects and these are done in conjunction with the OPW, subject to funding.  These (OPW assisted) projects are of a capital nature and would be included in the Capital Programme. Play space at Willington (Tymon) will be refurbished).

**Cllr. M. Ward** Can see improvement in litter picking and grass cutting. Under Litter Warden Services there seems to have been an underspend last year, however it has increased this year could the Director give an explanation?  E0502: there is an increase in litter control initiatives, what are these initiatives?

**Ms. T. Walsh** There is a vacancy within Litter Warden Service and there are plans to fill this over the next number of months.  The Litter control initiatives will include the use of Mobile CCTV, Drones, the anti-dog fouling scheme, illegal dumping and fly-tipping investigations.

**Cllr. E. Murphy** was wondering about the big belly solar powered bins do we plan to extend this beyond the pilot scheme. And is there a provision for this?

**Ms. T. Walsh** the provision for that is in under the litter management initiatives and there are no plans to extend their usage until the pilot is complete and fully assessed.

1. **A/Director of Economic Enterprise and Tourism Development**

Mr. C. Ward, A/Director of Economic Enterprise and Tourism Development, presented Division D & F.

**Cllr. S. Holland** D0501 Tourism promotion we budgeted €1.5 million last year and we spent €2 million what was the overspend, was it for hell fire project or some other project? We have €1.2 million in for this year what will we be spending this on?

**Mr. D. McLoughlin** money is being transferred from Revenue to Capital and we have been gradually building up a Tourism fund over the last few years. The tourism development fund is going towards the Hellfire project, Rathfarnham Castle outbuildings and stables, Corkagh Park and Liffey Blue way.

1. **Director of Corporate Performance and Change Management**

Ms Lorna Maxwell, Director of Corporate Performance and Change Management presented Divisions D, G, H and J.

**Cllr. D. Looney** queried Town Twinning, as we haven’t spent any money is it necessary to include it in the budget provision? H0906 We budget for conference abroad there is €70,000 this year but there was no budget last year. Projected increase in annual allowance is this due to the Vouched expenses coming in and can we recoup this money from the Department. Under the NPPR we budget for the money to come in every year but we get much more than we budget. Should we not be increasing this budget?

**Ms. L. Maxwell** with regard to Town Twinning we have put aside €5k for any activity that may happen in 2017 and €20,000 in the 2018 budget. It is up to the Members to decide if they wish to continue to dedicate the budget here. The provision for conferences abroad was initially provided for in the 2017 budget, however the Members Agreed that this money should be reallocated as follows €50,000 to D0603 Social Inclusion to extend the home security scheme for the elderly. A further €20,000 was reallocated to A0103 Traveller Accommodation Management to provide for a traveller specific participatory scheme. The increase in the Allowances is the increases announced by central Government for the Members. We cannot recoup the money from Government.

**Mr. D. McLoughlin** he does not accept that in relation to NPPR we under-estimate the budget, and that if we were to overestimate the income and this money failed to materialise it will have a serious impact on our service delivery.

**Mr. R. FitzGerald** said that the problem with NPPR is that it is a self-declaring tax. This money will drop off at some stage and it will be a huge loss the Council.

**8) Head of Finance - Division H**

 Mr. Ronan FitzGerald, Head of Finance presented Division H.

**Cllr. D. Looney** on P4 and P20 of the preamble there is a provision of €300,000 for Participatory budgeting his understanding was that €600,000 was allocated to this for 2 areas.

**Mr. D. McLoughlin** this was discussed at the CPG Meeting and it was Agreed to reduce the provision from €600,000 to €300,000 and to only include one Area in 2018.

The Report was **NOTED.**

### **H4/1117 TO AGREE COMMENCEMENT OF COLLABORATIVE BUDGETING INITIATIVE**

1. To determine designated electoral area by drawing of lots.

The Clondalkin Electoral Area was drawn for the 2018 Collaborative Budgeting Initiative.

2) To agree nomination of Elected Members to steering group.

It was **AGREED** that following on from the recommendations contained in the €300K Have Your Say IPA Evaluation Report, the Members of the steering Group would remain the same for the 2018 Collaborative Budgeting Initiative.

**Closing Statements from Party Leaders**

The Mayor Councillor P. Gogarty and the Group Leaders thanked the Chief Executive D. McLoughlin, all the Management and staff and in particular Mr. R. FitzGerald and his staff on the considerable work involved in the preparation and balancing of the Budget.

 Meeting finished at 7.50pm.