## **COMHAIRLE CONTAE ÁTHA CLIATH THEAS****SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL**

Minutes of South Dublin County Council November 2018 Annual Budget Meeting held on 15 November 2018

**PRESENT**

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

**OFFICIALS PRESENT**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Chief Executive | D. McLoughlin.  |
| Directors/ Heads of FunctionA/Heads of FunctionHead of Finance | T. Walsh, F. Nevin. C. WardL. Leonard. R. FitzGerald. |
| Senior Executive OfficersFinancial Management AccountantA/Financial Management Accountant | C. Hurson, Mary KellyF. Carroll |
| Administrative Officers | C. Murphy, S. Kelly, S. O’Hara, M. Dowling |
| A/Executive AccountantStaff OfficerClerical OfficerIT. SupportSord | A. O’MeliaL. AbbeyD. MurphyR.Siaz, A. Fahey, M. Twynam MuldoonA. O’Brien. |

The Mayor, Councillor Mark Ward, presided

Apologies were received from Councillors T. Gilligan and W. Lavelle.

### **H1/1118 CONSIDERATION OF THE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 2019**

(i)   Draft Budget 2019

(ii)  Circular

(iii) Chief Executive’s Introduction

**To the Mayor and Each Member**

**Annual Revenue Budget 2019**

 Dear Member,

The attached Budget which is presented in the statutory format has been prepared in consultation with the Corporate Policy Group, while also taking account of Members’ views generally and our corporate commitments. The 2019 Budget is the fifth and final budget of this elected Council. Over that five year period (2015-2019) the Council has endeavoured with a good degree of success, to deliver on the objectives of its Corporate Plan, which it adopted in December 2014. Over that period, the Council has exercised financial prudence, while investing in communities and critical infrastructure, in its efforts to guide the local economy out of recession. All of the Budgets have focused on key areas such as housing, economic, enterprise and tourism development, job creation, recreation and amenity, enhanced service delivery and citizen engagement. In the 2015- 2019 period, this Council will have carefully managed an increase in revenue expenditure from €217,322,200 to €242,865,600, an increase of €25,543,400 or 12%. The Budget now presented, is an integral part of this success and builds on progress already made.

**Financial Capacity and Local Taxation**

As in previous years, the Budget takes account of our financial capacity, which in turn is influenced by legal commitments such as loans, arrangements with other local authorities and wage agreements. Equally influential are the decisions of elected members which centre on:

* The 15% reduction in LPT approved at the September council meeting
* The proposal to reduce the Rates Vacancy Refund level from 75% to 50%
* The proposal to increase the Annual Rate on Valuation by 1%, the first increase since 2012

## **Housing**

Members are updated regularly on our comprehensive build, purchase and leasing initiatives under the Capital Programme and a further update will be provided in December as part of the Capital Programme review. In the context of current operations, the following new and enhanced measures are noteworthy:

* With the decline in house sales revenue, a provision of €1,500,000 has been made for pre-let repairs
* An increase in the homeless payments to Dublin City Council of €500,000 has been provided to support homeless initiatives
* An additional €200,000 is included to cover the cost of managing the additional

 HAP and leasing arrangements now in place and planned

* A 50% increase in private rental inspections is planned at an additional cost of

 €200,000

* The €300,000 provision for the repair of council estate roads has been maintained
* In a departure from the annual Planned Maintenance Programme, it is now proposed to bundle the remaining housing stock in urgent need of window and door replacement and tender this work as one lot, in quarter one 2019. The details will be brought before the Housing SPC before the year end

## **Economic, Enterprise & Tourism Development**

In the context of job creation, economic development and business support continues to be central to our strategy. In this regard the Budget continues, expands and redirects supports in this area including:

* + The continuation of the €1,000,000 Business Support Fund, the targeting of which will be agreed by the Economic Development SPC
* The provision of €1,232,600 for tourism promotion including €750,000 for the Tourism Infrastructure Fund, including the Dublin Mountains and Rathfarnham projects
* The €5,000,000 Village Investment Programme will be completed next year with works in Saggart and Lucan. The €500,000 annual funding is being retained and will be redirected to a programme of works for district and neighbourhood centres to be agreed
* The Aesthetic Improvement Works to the N81 will commence later this year and this fund has been increased by €250,000 to €500,000 with a view to advancing landscaping designs for the Belgard and Katherine Tynan Roads
* A new provision of €500,000 has been made in recognition of plans to provide a new Enterprise Innovation Centre in Central Tallaght. This project will go to planning in 2019
* Further detail on the expansions of the Grange Castle Campus will be brought before the Members later this year

## **Recreation, Amenity & Community Development**

In addition to job creation, supporting social infrastructure is a critical influence on peoples’ decisions, in terms of choosing a location to live and invest. We have made good progress in this regard and aim to build on that, with the following additional and enhanced initiatives:

* As the Play Space Programme comes to an end, the annual provision has been increased by €250,000 to €500,000 for investment in Teen Spaces, with proposals to be brought to the respective ACMs in early course
* In the context of the Playing Pitch Capacity Study, a new provision of €1,000,000

has been made to commence the funding of a Programme of all-weather astro pitches, to be operated on a fee paying basis

* Having completed the South Stand at Tallaght Stadium, it is now proposed to bring

forward proposals for the final stand. In anticipation of this, a new funding provision of

€500,000 has been made to underwrite this ambition

* The construction of the Clondalkin and Tymon Libraries are major additions to our community infrastructure. It is now proposed to examine options for the location of a library to serve the rest of the county, including the western villages. I would hope to have an options report prepared within six months and have provided an allocation of

€300,000 towards this study and initial design work

* The Community Infrastructure Fund has been very successful and habitually

oversubscribed. The funding for 2019 has been increased by 40% from €250,000 to

€350,000

## **Enhanced Service Delivery**

As our financial capacity and economic fortunes have gradually improved, we have sought to enhance service delivery and front line services, in particular. In addition to initiatives already mentioned, the following additional improvements are also provided for:

* The provision for seasonal workers on grass cutting / public realm has been

 increased by 50% to €420,000

* + - A one off provision of €300,000 has been made to clear the backlog of “difficult” tree pruning operations
* The street cleaning budget has been increased by €390,000 to increase the

 frequency of cleaning across all routes

* The footpath repairs provision has been increased by 27% or €150,000
* Road maintenance has been increased by 10% which is an additional €320,000
* An additional €200,000 is provided for small works to parks and public realm
* The provision for disability adaptation works to council owned houses, has been

increased by €200,000

* The public lighting improvements budget has been increased by €150,000. In addition, a once off provision of €575,000 has been made to replace the lighting on the N81, in conjunction with our landscape improvement works. This latter amount is being funded by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII)
* The Council has a number of climate change initiatives ongoing and will bring forward a Climate Change Action Plan with the other Dublin local authorities in the short term. A new provision of €250,000 has been made to establish a Climate Action Fund to support new initiatives
* A range of additional community supports has been provided for, including a Sports Inclusion Officer, part funding of the Community Resilience Project, a new Integration Strategy, increased funding for carbon monoxide alarms, an anti-bullying initiative in our local schools, an expanded Intercultural Food Festival, a joint initiative with local Gardaí around youth and active age transportation to events. In all, an additional

€150,000 is provided to support these initiatives

## **Community Engagement & Customer Service**

The successful Participatory Budgeting Initiative will again be provided for, with the inclusion of €300,000 for 2019. The process will not commence until after the local elections.

The digital age that supports our everyday existence, requires the digital enablement of local government services where possible. To this end, work is ongoing for the provision of:

* The €1,000,000 development and roll out of the new housing IT system
* The roll out of an e-Recruitment portal
* The recently launched housing and planning portal “MyDoorStep”
* The collaborative development of e-Planning and Voter.ie with our neighbouring authorities

2019 is the 25th anniversary of the establishment of South Dublin County Council and also marks the 120th anniversary of Local Government in Ireland. Support funding is in place to appropriately mark both occasions.

## **Conclusion**

The Budget as presented is true to our commitments and seeks to further build on recent progress.

I want to sincerely thank the Corporate Policy Group, the expanded Council membership and particularly Ronan FitzGerald, Head of Finance and his team for the advice, support and hard work involved in the preparation of this Budget, which I am happy to commend for adoption.

Yours sincerely,



**(iv) Budget presentation by Directorate**

**Mr. R. FitzGerald Head of Finance presented the Financial Analysis 2018.**

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillor R. McMahon.

Mr. D. McLoughlin, Chief Executive, responded to the Member’s query.

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

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors L. Dunne and R. McMahon.

Mr. C. Ward, 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 Councillor F. Timmons.

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

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

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillor R. McMahon.

Ms. T. Walsh, Director of Environment, Water and Climate Change responded to the Member’s queries.

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

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillor B. Ferron and R. McMahon.

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

**Ms. C. Hurson, Senior Executive Officer of Corporate Performance and Change Management presented Divisions D, G and H.**

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

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

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillor Cllr. R. McMahon.

Mr. R. FitzGerald, Head of Finance responded to the Member’s query.

**Motions to Amend the Draft Budget**

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

**DIVISON H – Miscellaneous Services**

The following Motion was proposed by Councillor M. Murphy and seconded by Councillor M. Johansson.

“South Dublin County Council to increase its commercial rates by 33% (ARV 0.363) with a 100% reduction of this increase available for the 98% of rate-payers with a rateable valuation below €0.5m. The deduction to be applied through the introduction of a ‘Rates Incentives Scheme’ similar to that in operation in Wicklow. This would yield €17 million annually. This money to be used to invest in social and affordable housing.”

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors M. Murphy, P. Foley, M. Johansson, K. Mahon, R. McMahon, D. Looney, G. O’Connell, B. Lawlor, R. Nolan, L. Dunne, S. Holland, B. Ferron, M. Genockey, F. Timmons, P. Kearns, C. King and M. Ward.

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

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

**FOR: 6 (SIX)**

**Councillors M. Johansson, B. Leech, K. Mahon, M. Murphy, R. Nolan, G. O’Connell.**

**AGAINST: 30 (THIRTY)**

**Councillors B. Bonner, V. Casserly, P. Donovan, M. Duff, F. Duffy, L. Dunne, B. Ferron, P. Foley, M. Geneockey, P. Gogarty, J. Graham, E. Higgins, S. Holland, P. Kearns, C. King, B. Lawlor, D. Looney, C. McCann, C. McMahon, R. McMahon, E. Murphy, D. O’Brien, E. O’Brien, C. O’Connor, D. O’Donovan, L. O’Toole, D. Richardson, R. Russell, F. Timmons, M. Ward**

**ABSTAINED: 0 (ZERO)**

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

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

A number of amendments were submitted in relation to the funding provided for Conferences Abroad €70,000 and Twinning €20,000. To facilitate discussions in relation to the distribution of these funds the Mayor, Councillor M. Ward adjourned the meeting for a short period. As a consensus was not arrived at it was agreed that each of the proposed amendments would be considered in order as there were submitted.

**DIVISION H – Miscellaneous Services**

The following Motion was proposed by Councillor R. McMahon and seconded by Councillor B. Lawlor.

“That the amount of €70,000 (H0906) for conferences abroad be secured and spent for conferences abroad, and furthermore limit it’s spend on conferences on Housing, Homelessness and Waste Management/Recycling.”

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

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

**FOR: 2 (TWO)**

**AGAINST: 26 (TWENTY SIX)**

**ABSTAINED: 4 (FOUR)**

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

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

**DIVISON D – Development Management**

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

“That the SDCC Annual Budget be amended as follows: To move €10k from D0903 to fund the relaunch of the MindMindR Mental Health App and for the advertisement of same.”

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors C. King, M. Duff, E. Hendrick, D. O’Donovan, C. McCann, L. Dunne, C. O’Connor, D. Richardson, B. Leech, D. O’Brien, and M. Ward.

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

**FOR: 27 (TWENTY SEVEN)**

**AGAINST: 0 (ZERO)**

**ABSTAINED: 4 (FOUR)**

The Amendment to the Draft Budget was **AGREED.**

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

**DIVISON D – Development Management**

The following Motion was proposed by Councillor M. Ward and seconded by Councillor D. O’Brien

“To move €20k from H0906 and €10k from D0903 to a disability proof Council Buildings such as County Hall, Clondalkin Civic Centre and County Libraries.”

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors M. Ward, V. Casserly, K. Mahon, R. McMahon, D. Richardson, F. Timmons, E. Murphy, B. Ferron, P. Gogarty and D. Looney.

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

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

**FOR: 20 (TWENTY)**

**AGAINST: 8 (EIGHT)**

**ABSTAINED: 1 (ONE)**

The Amendment to the Draft Budget was **AGREED.**

**Motions to amend the Draft Budget (5)**

**DIVISON D – Development Management**

The following Motion was proposed by Councillor E. O’Brien and seconded by Councillor D. O’Brien:

“It is proposed that the sum of €50,000 be moved from heading H0906 and used to establish a fund for the provision of fit out works and equipment for Men Sheds located within the South Dublin County Council administrative area.”

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors E. O’Brien, L. Dunne. P. Kearns, C. McCann, E. Murphy, L. O’Toole, C. King, P. Gogarty, B. Leech, C. O’Connor, D. O’Brien, K. Mahon, B. Lawlor, B. Ferron, F. Timomns, M. Ward and D. O’Donovan.

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

Councillor L. O’Toole proposed and E. Higgins seconded an amendment to the Motion:

“That the sum of €50,000 for Men’s Sheds be reduced to €40,000 with €10,000 going towards D0906 Window Security.”

A vote on the Amendment to the Amendment to the Budget was taken by a **show of hands vote** and the result was as follows:

**FOR: 10 (TEN)**

**AGAINST: 23 (TWENTY THREE)**

**ABSTAINED: 2 (TWO)**

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

A vote was taken by a **show of hands** on the Original Amendment to the Draft Budget and the result was as follows:

 **FOR: 29 (TWENTY NINE)**

**AGAINST: 0 (ZERO)**

**ABSTAINED: 5 (FIVE)**

The Amendment to the Draft Budget was **AGREED.**

**Motions to amend the Draft Budget (6)**

**DIVISON B – Road Transport & Safety**

The following Motion was proposed by Councillor R. McMahon and seconded by Councillor K. Egan:

“That a figure of €50,000 be ring-fenced From Heading B04 – Local Roads – Road Maintenance and Improvements, towards the cost of providing much needed Cattle Grids in the Glenasmole Valley.”

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors R. McMahon and M. Murphy.

Mr. D. McLoughlin, Chief Executive, and Ms. L. Leonard A/Director of Land Use, Planning and Transportation responded to the Members queries.

A vote was taken by a **show of hands** on the Amendment to the Budget and the result was as follows:

**FOR: 14 (FOURTEEN)**

**AGAINST: 13 (THIRTEEN)**

**ABSTAIN: 3 (THREE)**

The Amendment to the Draft Budget was **AGREED.**

It was then stated by Mr. D. McLoughlin, Chief Executive that the amendment to the Draft Budget would not proceed as the installation of cattle grids were an uninsurable risk.

**Motions to amend the Draft Budget (7)**

**DIVISON H – Miscellaneous Services**

The following Motion was proposed by Councillor E. Higgins, B. Lawlor, V. Casserly, W. Lavelle, K. Egan, P. Donovan, C. McMahon and seconded by Councillor D. O’Donovan:

“That this Council, in light of the Business Support Grant’s uncommitted reserves of in excess of €2.3m, and in order to compensate for the proposed 1% increase in commercial rates, asks for no provision of finance to be made towards the BSG fund for 2019 and no increase in the ARV to be made.

Capital programmes which may have benefited from projected funding should be provided for in the 2019 and 2020 Capital Expenditure Programmes and South Dublin County Council should investigate potential grant opportunities available through the European Regional Development Fund and Enterprise Ireland in order to ensure the most appropriate funding model is used to deliver this positive capital project for South Dublin County Council, with a focus on value for money for it’s citizens and businesses.

Other BSG initiatives which directly impact existing local businesses, for example the Business Sustainability Grant and training, should continue to be funded in 2019 by the BSG surplus being carried over”

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors E. Higgins, B. Ferron, P. Foley, R. McMahon and D. Looney.

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

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

**FOR: 10 (TEN)**

**Councillors V. Casserly, P. Donovan, K. Egan, P. Gogarty, E. Higgins, B. Lawlor, C. McMahon, R. McMahon, D. O’Donovan, L. O’Toole,**

**AGAINST: 22 (TWENTY TWO)**

**Councillors B. Bonner, L. Dunne, B. Ferron, P. Foley, E. Hendrick, S. Holland, M. Johansson, P. Kearns, C. King, B. Leech, D. Looney, C. McCann, K. Mahon, E. Murphy, R. Nolan, D. O’Brien, E. O’Brien, G. O’Connell, D. Richardson, R. Russell, F. Timmons, M. Ward**

The Amendment to the Draft Budget **FELL**

**Motions to amend the Draft Budget (8)**

**DIVISON J -**

The following Motion was proposed by Councillor P. Gogarty and seconded by Councillor F. Timmons:

“That this Council, given the unspent funds within the Business Support Grant allocation over consecutive years, allocates €160,000 from the coming year’s €1,000,0000 Business Support Grant proposal towards the setup and implementation of live webcasts and broadcasts for 2019, in line with all other Dublin Councils that support transparency and democratic participation, with any unspent monies going back into the BSG Fund.”

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors P. Gogarty, G. O’Connell, D. Looney, D. O’Brien, K. Mahon, R. Nolan, L. Dunne and E. Higgins, F. Timmons

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

**FOR: 11 (ELEVEN)**

**Councillors P. Gogarty, E. Hendrick, M. Johansson, B. Leech, K. Mahon, M. Murphy, R. Nolan, G. O’Connell, D. O’Donovan, L. O’Toole, F. Timmons.**

**AGAINST 21 (TWENTY ONE)**

**Councillors B. Bonner, V. Casserly, P. Donovan, L. Dunne, B. Ferron, P. Foley, E. Higgins, S. Holland, P. Kearns, C. King, B. Lawlor, D. Looney, C. McCann, C. McMahon, R. McMahon, E. Murphy, D. O’Brien, E. O’Brien, D. Richardson, R. Russell, M. Ward.**

**ABSTAIN: 0 (ZERO)**

The Amendment to the Draft Budget **FELL**

**Motions to amend the Draft Budget (9)**

**DIVISON B – Road Transport & Safety**

The following Motion was proposed by Councillor P. Kearns and seconded by Councillor D. Looney:

“I am requesting that €30,000.00 be ring fenced under section B04 to meet and fund the findings and implementation of a mobility study in and around the area of St Michaels house.”

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors P. Kearns, D. O’Brien, L. Dunne, L. O’Toole, P. Gogarty, C. King, P. Foley, B. Leech, E. Murphy, D. Richardson and R. McMahon.

A vote was taken by a **show of hands** on the Amendment to the Budget and the result was as follows:

**FOR: 27 (TWENTY SEVEN)**

**AGAINST: 0 (ZERO)**

**ABSTAIN: 3 (THREE)**

The Amendment to the Draft Budget was **AGREED.**

**Motions to amend the Draft Budget (10)**

**DIVISON D – Development Management**

The following Motion was proposed by Councillor D. Looney and seconded by Councillor L. O’Toole:

“To move a sum of €10,000 from H0904 (Annual Allowances LA Members – Home Conferences) to D0603 (Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation - Window Security).”

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors D. Looney, C. McMahon, L. Dunne, D. O’Brien, R. McMahon, C. King, P. Gogarty, G.O’Connell, D. O’Donovan, E. O’Brien, B. Leech, E. Murphy, M. Ward and L. O’Toole.

A vote was taken by a **show of hands** on the Amendment to the Budget and the result was as follows:

**FOR: 13 (THIRTEEN)**

**AGAINST: 16 (SIXTEEN)**

**ABSTAIN: 0 (ZERO)**

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

**DIVISION A – Housing and Building**

Division A was NOTED and AGREED

**DIVISION B – Road Transport and Safety**

Division B was NOTED and AGREED

**DIVISION C - Water Services**

Division C was NOTED and AGREED

**DIVISION D – Development Management**

Division D was NOTED and AGREED

**DIVISION E – Environmental Services**

Division E was NOTED and AGREED

**DIVISION F – Recreation and Amenity**

Division F was NOTED and AGREED

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

Division G Was NOTED and AGREED

**DIVISION H – Miscellaneous Services**

Division H was NOTED and AGREED

### **H2a/1118 ADOPTION OF FORMAL PROPOSALS FOR THE** **ADOPTION OF THE ANNUAL BUDGET 2019**

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

### “That the County Council **ADOPT** for the financial year ending 31st December 2018 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: 19**

**Councillor B. Bonner, B. Ferron, P. Foley, P. Gogarty, S. Holland, P. Kearns, C. King, D. Looney, C. McCann, E. Murphy, D. O’Brien, E. O’Brien, G. O’Connell, D. O’Donovan, L. O’Toole, D. Richardson, R. Russell, F. Timmons, M. Ward.**

**AGAINST: 11**

**Councillor V. Casserly, P. Donovan, E. Hendrick, E. Higgins, M. Johansson, B. Lawlor, B. Leech, C. McMahon, R. McMahon, K. Mahon, R. Nolan.**

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

**H2b/1118 ADOPTION OF FORMAL PROPOSALS FOR THE DETERMINATION OF ANNUAL RATE ON VALUATION FOR 2019**

### The following Motion which was read by Mr. R. FitzGerald, Head of Finance was proposed by Councillor M. Ward and seconded by Councillor F. Timmons.

“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 0.276.”

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

**FOR: 19 (NINETEEN)**

**AGAINST: 9 (NINE)**

**ABSTAIN: 0 (ZERO)**

The Resolution was **PASSED.**

**H2c/1118** **ADOPTION OF FORMAL PROPOSALS FOR THE** **DETERMINATION OF THE RATES VACANCIES REFUND SCHEME**

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

### “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 75% to 50% for the financial year ending 31st December 2018.”

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

**FOR: 19 (NINTEEN)**

**AGAINST: 8 (EIGHT)**

**ABSTAIN: 2 (TWO)**

The Resolution was **PASSED.**

**H2d/1118** **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 M. Ward and seconded by Councillor P. Foley.

### “That the County Council approves of the transfers to reserves of the sums provided for various capital purposes in the Annual Budget 2019 as Adopted for the financial year ending 31st December 2019.”

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

**FOR: 21 (TWENTY ONE)**

**AGAINST: 0 (ZERO)**

**ABSTAIN: 8 (EIGHT)**

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

**H2e/1118** **ADOPTION OF FORMAL PROPOSALS FOR THE APPROVAL OF ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURES IN THE REVISED BUDGET 2018**

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

**Approval of additional expenditures as contained in the Revised Budget 2018.**

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 2018** |
| **A** | **Housing & Building**  |  |
| A01 | Maintenance & Improvement of LA Housing Units | 659,100 |
| A04 | Housing Community Development Support | 85,700 |
| A05 | Administration of Homeless Service | 149,800 |
| A06 | Support to Housing Capital & Affordable Prog | 160,400 |
| A07 | RAS and Leasing Programme | 580,500 |
| A11 | Agency & Recoupable Services | 37,000 |
| A12 | HAP Programme | 22,900 |
| **A** | **Total Above Services** | **1,695,400** |
| **A** | **Budget €70.8m** | **Revised €72.2** | **Increased Exp.€1.4m** |
|  |  |  |
| **B** | **Road Transport & Safety**  |  |
| B02 | NS Road – Maintenance and Improvement | 938,400 |
| B03 | Regional Road – Maintenance and Improvement | 162,200 |
| B04 | Local Road – Maintenance and Improvement | 858,700 |
| B06 | Traffic Management Improvement | 172,700 |
| B07 | Road Safety Engineering Improvement | 33,600 |
| B08 | Road Safety Programme & Education | 44,200 |
| B10 | Support to Roads Capital Prog | 32,700 |
| **B** | **Total Above Services** | **2,242,500** |
| **B** | **Budget €27.6m** | **Revised €29.8m** | **Increased Exp.€2.2m** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **C** | **Water Services** |  |
| C02 | Waste Water Treatment | 75,000 |
| C08 | Local Authority Water and Sanitary Services | 38,500 |
| **C** | **Total Above Services** | **113,500** |
| **C** | **Budget €13.1m** | **Revised €13.0m** | **Decreased Exp. €0.1m** |
|  |  |  |
| **D** | **Development Management**  |  |
| D03 | Enforcement | 81,300 |
| D05 | Tourism Development and Promotion | 59,000 |
| D06 | Community and Enterprise Function | 820,900 |
| D09 | Economic Development and Promotion | 314,800 |
| **D** | **Total Above Services** | **1,276,000** |
| **D** | **Budget €19.5m** | **Revised €20.4m** | **Increased Exp. €0.9m** |
|  |  |  |
| **E** | **Environmental Services**  |  |
| E02 | Recovery and Recycling Facilities Operations | 51,800 |
| E06 | Street Cleaning | 640,600 |
| E07 | Waste Regulations, Monitoring and Enforcement | 73,300 |
| E09 | Maintenance of Burial Grounds | 31,900 |
| E11 | Operation of Fire Service | 1,230,000 |
| E13 | Water Quality, Air and Noise Pollution | 2,400 |
| E15 | Climate Change and Flooding | 142,700 |
| **E** | **Total Above Services** | **2,172,700** |
| **E** | **Budget €36.6m** | **Revised €38.4m** | **Increased Exp. €1.8m** |
|  |  |  |
| **F** | **Recreation & Amenity**  |  |
| F02 | Operation of Library and Archival Service | 237,000 |
| F03 | Outdoor Leisure Areas Operations | 468,400 |
| F04 | Community Sport and Recreational Development | 334,800 |
| F05 | Operation of Arts Programme | 17,600 |
| **F** | **Total Above Services** | **1,057,800** |
| **F** | **Budget €38.4m** | **Revised €39.4m** | **Increased Exp. €1.0m** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **G** | **Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare**  |  |
| G04 | Veterinary Service | 9,800 |
| **G** | **Total Above Services** | **9,800** |
| **G** | **Budget €1.7m** | **Revised €1.7m** | **No Change in Exp.** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **H** | **Miscellaneous Services**  |  |  |
| H04 | Franchise Costs | 86,600 |
| H08 | Malicious Damage | 70,500 |
| H11 | Agency & Recoupable Services | 17,900 |
| **H** | **Total Above Services** | **175,000** |
| **H** | **Budget €24.7m** | **Revised €21.7m** | **Decreased Exp. €3.0m** |

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

Increased expenditure is due to additional maintenance and pre-let works and is funded from increased rental income.

**A04 Housing Community Development Support**

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

**A05 Administration of the Homeless Service**

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

**A06 Support to Housing Capital & Affordable Programme**

Increased expenditure relates to increased valuers fees and a reallocation of payroll costs which are offset by reductions in other areas in the Division.

**A07 RAS and Leasing Programme**

Additional expenditure is due to increased payments to Landlords and management fees which is funded by additional grant income.

**A11 Agency & Recoupable Services**

Additional expenditure is due to an increase in the number of private rental inspections.

**A12 HAP Programme**

Increased expenditure is due to additional costs of HAP and is partly grant funded.

**B02 NS Road– Maintenance & Improvement**

Additional expenditure is due to resurfacing works on the N81 and is fully grant funded.

**B03 Regional Road – Maintenance & Improvement**

Additional expenditure is due to an increase in contract and plant costs.

**B04 Local Road – Maintenance & Improvement**

Increased expenditure relates to increases in payroll, insurance and contract costs and is partially offset by additional grant funding.

**B06 Traffic Management Improvement**

Additional expenditure is due to an increase in payroll, contract and plant costs.

**B07 Road Safety Engineering Improvement**

Additional expenditure is due to an increase in payroll costs.

**B08 Road Safety Promotion & Education**

Additional expenditure is due to an increase in payroll costs.

**B10 Support to Roads Capital Programme**

Increased expenditure relates to reduction in the amount recoupable from capital schemes.

**C02 Waste Water Treatment**

Additional expenditure is due to increased machinery and support costs and is fully recoupable from Irish Water.

**C08 Local Authority Water and Sanitary Services**

Additional expenditure is due to increased payroll, security & energy costs.

**D03 Enforcement**

Increased expenditure relates to increased costs of administration of the planning function.

**D05 Tourism Development and Promotion**

Increased expenditure is due increases in payroll and printing costs.

**D06 Community and Enterprise Function**

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

**D09 Economic Development and Promotion**

Additional expenditure is due to an increase in voluntary contributions which are partly funded by increased grant income and an allocation in the revised budget process of €250k towards an Innovation Centre.

 **E02 Recovery and Recycling Facilities Operations**

Additional expenditure is due to increased contract costs which are partially funded by increased grant income.

**E06 Street Cleaning**

Additional expenditure is due to an increase in payroll and contract costs and is partially funded by increased grant income.

**E07 Waste Regulations, Monitoring and Enforcement**

Additional expenditure is due to an increase in payroll costs.

**E09 Maintenance of Burial Grounds**

Additional expenditure is due to increased payroll costs.

**E11 Operation of Fire Service**

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

**E15 Climate Change and Flooding**

This is a new service in 2018 and the expenditure is offset by reductions in other areas within the Division.

**F02 Operation of Library and Archival Services**

Increased expenditure is due to additional costs of contracts and allocations in the revised budget process of €300k towards provision of new libraries.

**F03 Outdoor Leisure Areas Operations**

Additional expenditure is due to an allocation in the revised budget process of €500k towards the pavilions programme and €100k towards the Dodder Greenway.

**F04 Community Sport and Recreational Development**

Increased expenditure is due to additional payroll costs and an allocation in the revised budget process of €300k towards the 4th stand in Tallaght Stadium.

**F05 Operation of Arts Programme**

Additional expenditure is due to increased payroll and support costs and is offset by decreases in other areas and increased grants.

**H04 Franchise Costs**

Increased expenditure relates to increased payroll and printing costs.

**H08 Malicious Damage**

Additional expenditure is due to legal fees and is fully grant funded.

**H11 Agency & Recoupable Services**

Increased expenditure is due to additional refunds and is funded from increased NPPR income.

**Resolution**

That the County Council approves of the additional expenditures contained in the Revised Budget 2018 for the financial year ending 31 December 2018 as set out in Tables A to F of the Annual Budget 2019 and considered during the budget process.

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

**FOR: 25 (TWENTY FIVE)**

**AGAINST: 2 (TWO)**

**ABSTAIN: 3 (THREE)**

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

**H2f/1118** **CONSIDERATION OF THE 3 YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2019 - 2021**

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

I recommend that the Council adopt the following resolution:

“That the Three Year Capital Programme 2019 – 2021 be considered at the December 2018 Council Meeting.”

Show Of Hands:

**FOR: 27 (TWENTY SEVEN)**

**AGAINST: 2 (TWO)**

**ABSTAIN: 0 (ZERO)**

 The Resolution was **AGREED.**

### **H3a/1118 PRESENTATIONS FROM SPECIAL ORGANISATION, PROCEDURE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**

### The presentations can be viewed below.

###  [H3 (a) Draft Budget Presentation](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=61660)

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

**H3b/1118** **QUESTIONS FROM SPECIAL ORGANISATION, PROCEDURE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD THURSDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 2018**

**Cllr. F. Timmons:** Thanked the Chief Executive for meeting all groups to discuss the budget outline prior to today’s meeting. Can the Chief Executive confirm if there is funding included in today’s Budget to address some of the damp and mould issues in the Balgaddy houses?

**Mr. D. McLoughlin**: As mentioned at the Area Committee funding will be put aside from the Capital Budget to address any problems identified following the survey of the relevant properties.

**Cllr. G. O’Connell:** Indicated his support for this initiative as it is not just a housing issue its cross departmental and needs to be addressed over the next 12 months.

1. **Head of Finance**

Mr. R. FitzGerald Head of Finance presented an overview of the Draft Budget for 2019.

**Cllr. R McMahon**: Referring to the Rates vacancies at 75% how much was taken in by the council this year and has it been easy to collect? How many rate payers got an increase due to revaluation last year? There was an increase in miscellaneous income of 60% from 10m to 16m what makes this up?

**Mr. R. FitzGerald:** Details in relation to rates vacancies are currently being complied and will be forward to the Member once finalised. The 60% increase in miscellaneous income is due to an increase in grant income and PEL. There has been a growth in the number of new properties assessed under PEL and some of these are large data centres which would have high valuations.

**K. Mahon:** PEL increase of €4.3m is that due to Amazon sites? What is the anticipated rates to come out of these sites? The €2m increase in rents where does this come from, we agreed that the €10 per week wouldn’t be passed on to over 65’s.

**Mr. R. FitzGerald:** PEL has increased due to a growth in the number of new properties assessed and some of these are large data centres which would have high valuations Increase in rents will come from new housing stock coming on board. The Director of housing will address the issue of the €10 reduction for over 65’s.

**P. Donovan:** Why are we increasing rates when they were increased last year due to revaluation? Are you suggesting the rates increase across the board or different rates for different business types? What does it mean to the business is this a further increase?

**R. FitzGerald:** It’s the Valuation Office that determine the revaluation which has to be under taken every 10 years. The revaluation of the County last year did not result in an increase in the total amount of rates collected by the Council but there was a re-balancing of valuations for different business activities resulting in some valuations increasing others decreasing while some experiencing no change at all. The proposed 1% increase for 2019 will be applied evenly to all rate payers. It should be noted that this Council has not had a rate increase since 2012. There is an increase in expenditure of 4.5% for 2019 and the proposed 1% increase in rates will go towards funding this.

**Cllr. P. Foley:** Commercial Rates Vacancy Figure does the 2017 take into account the 75% rates vacancy or is it only in the 2018 figures?

**R. FitzGerald:** Income is small in 2018 approx. €250,000 and that is because we are only beginning to process the applications now. The real benefit is under the miscellaneous expenditure which has dropped from €24m to €21m, this comes about as we will not incur the same level of the expenditure because the amount being refunded will be reduced.

**Cllr. R. McMahon:** How much of the misc. 16m is PEL?

**Mr. R. FitzGerald:** Increase in PEL from €1.4m to €5.4m

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

Mr. C. Ward Director of Housing Social & Community Development, presented Divisions A, D, F & G.

**Cllr. K. Mahon:** That the increase of €10 hasn’t been passed on to the over 65’s?

**Mr. C. Ward:** No, the reduction of €10 for the over 65’s is still in place. This amounts to a loss of income of €1.3m per annum and over 2,000 tenancies benefit from this. There was a commitment at the Housing SPC last February to remove this, but it hasn’t happened as yet, and will be discussed again at the SPC.

**D. Looney:** Outline where there is any major increases or decreases in income/expenditure in Community or Housing, are there any changes?

**Mr. C. Ward**: The biggest increases are in the following areas, housing maintenance €1.5m pre-lets and repairs, €200k additional for disability grants and €100k for community infrastructure funds this is a 40% increase.

**B. Lawlor:** Quick to increase the Rates by 1%, was there any proposals to increase the differential rents? Other local authorities pay an average of 15%. We need to have a proper balance to have a proper housing strategy.

**Mr. C. Ward:** With regard to differential rents there is a study going on, within the CCMA for a national differential rent scheme and we are part of that.

**P. Donovan**: €130k for access to sports halls is this new and what role do the Department of Education have? Is there matching funding from the Department?

**Mr. C. Ward:** The ETB incur the staffing and running costs and the Council makes a contribution towards these as indicated in the budget (€130k) to ensure that there are community access arrangements in place.  Aside from Adamstown which has come on stream this year, the other schools are: Firhouse Community College, Killinarden Community College, Collinstown Park Community College & Pobailscoil Iosolde, Palmerstown.

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

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

**Cllr. E. Higgins:** Slides really helpful and great to see e-planning on the cards, regarding planning enforcement has this reduced?

**Ms. L. Leonard:** No decrease in resources to planning enforcement, was a reallocation in costing and chargeability.

**Cllr. M. Murphy:** With the substantial increase in activity in planning can it be confirmed it there has been a similar increase in staff numbers?

**Ms. L. Leonard:** In terms of recruitment there is a large turnover of staff, we are competing with all Dublin local authorities. We assess regularly our staff resources against demands in conjunction with the work force plan.

**Cllr P. Donovan:** Has any money been set aside to talk to TII regarding a movement strategy for Rathfarnham/Knocklyon/Firhouse area? Is there any money in the Budget to fund a cycling officer even on a part time basis?

**Ms. L. Leonard:** In terms of traffic such costs will be provided for in the traffic budget under B06. While there is no funding available for a cycling officer, funding is provided to support the cycling for school children programme as well as cycle track maintenance and there are other provisions for cycling.

**Cllr. D. O’Brien:** Village initiative €500k is there any areas allocated for this? Nothing has been done in Lucan, it was announced in 2014 and no works have been done?

**Ms. L. Leonard:** We have ring-fenced the funding for Lucan, there is an element of redesign required and the scheme will be progressing in 2019. The funding provided for 2019 will now be targeted at up grading local neighbourhood areas. The identification of these will take place in early 2019.

**Cllr. R. McMahon:** The €500k included in the budget for LED replacements – how many lighting heads will this replace? What is the savings on the 9,000 lamps already replaced?

**Ms. L. Leonard:** The savings for every 5000 lanterns replaced is approximately €125,000. We are working towards an energy saving target of 33% by 2020. It is envisaged that all but 8,000 public lighting columns will be changed to LED by 2026. It was agreed by the Director that they would come back with cost savings to date.

**Ms. L O’Toole:** I would have concerns over the staffing issues within planning and their ability to deal with increase work-loads due to the development of SDZ’s. Have the difficulties that have held back the progress on the Lucan Village works been identified and overcome to allow the project to proceed? Congratulations to all concerned in the delivery of “mydoorstep”.

**Ms. L. Leonard:** Construction has begun again in Adamstown and the developer has appointed a liaison person to monitor the impact of the construction works on the residents. We have ring-fenced the funding for Lucan, there is an element of redesign required and the scheme will be progressing in 2019.

**Cllr. D. Looney**: On public lighting would it be a good idea to update ACMs on what has been done. Area based assessments works required on Ballycullen/Firhouse we are seeking support for funding from NTA and TII afraid that this will be lost and nothing will be done in terms of junction upgrades, could you indicate what you hope to happen in this area what role the Council will have in funding and works terms and what role the other agencies will have? Can talk about it in another forum?

**Ms. L. Leonard:** The Senior Executive Engineers will prepare and present a report to the ACM with an update on the number of public lighting columns converted to LED. In relation to the traffic in Ballycullen, the Council will have engaged with NTA on the issue and will progress a proposal to fund a study. Once the report is finalised the traffic lighting columns traffic section will bring it to the ACM.

**Cllr. F. Timmons:** Is money ring-fenced for Newcastle and how much, if we could get a break down?

**Ms. L. Leonard:** To date the following works at a cost of €250,000 have been carried out in Newcastle Village [Early 2016]:

Main Street, Footpath Improvement accessibility & widening works completed.

Aylmer Road, New Footpath and new public lighting scheme completed.

Newcastle Gateway at Newcastle Lyons, roundabout landscaping works and measures to prevent truck parking installed

**Cllr. M. Murphy:** Raised queries on cattle grids, Brittas Village Study and the Tallaght Town Centre Plan.

**Ms. L. Leonard:** The matter of installing cattle grids was extensively discussed and debated. The Council’s insurers IPB deemed their installation an uninsurable risk. The matter was referred back to the SPC where the Director of Service stated this to be the case.

 She also informed the Member that works had started on the Brittas Village Study and would be progressed over the next number of months.

**Cllr. M. Ward:** Village initiative moving to district and neighbourhoods, what does an area need to have to access this funding?

**Ms. L. Leonard:** Regarding villages and neighbourhoods we haven’t fully formulated where to spend monies, areas under consideration would be those where there are a cluster of shops and other services.

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

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

**Cllr. P. Donovan:** Figure allocated for weed control prevention - is there an opportunity to give funding to assess alternatives to round up? What is the current position in relation to the eradication of hog weed and Japanese knot weed? Can you give an update on solar big belly bins will there be an allocation around the county?

**Ms. T. Walsh:** Alternative weed control methods are being trialled and the council has consulted with Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown on the issue. The use of glyphosate is limited to locations where the eradication of perennial weeds is required and in particular this is on areas of hard landscaping and on roadside margins.  There is a 5 year programme of eradication of invasive species such as Japanese knotweed in place and the Director has agreed to compile an up to date report and circulate to the Member. The tender process for the pilot solar big belly bins project has just completed and once the contract is awarded the solar bins included in the pilot will be installed and monitored, a report on this pilot will be brought back to the Environment SPC.

**Cllr. D. Looney:** Division G control of horses and dogs are we spending similar amount year on year regarding horses? Is the problem escalating or decreasing? Control of Dogs - Is all the money included in the budget to cover the cost of the pound service?

Have locations been identified for locations for Astro pitches? Will we build on existing parkland or will we be building them elsewhere and leaving the current grass playing pitches available for use?

**Cllr. E. Murphy**: Similar to Councillor Looney can you please outline if the Astro pitch programme is it an addition to our current pitches?

**Ms. T. Walsh:**  Expenditure in Division G Veterinary Services is in line with previous years. The number of horses impounded has reduced slightly, it usually amounts to approximately 300 - 330 per year. Expenditure figures for the provision of functions relating to the control of dogs covers the full cost of the service including the payroll for South Dublin County Council employed dog wardens and associated administration staff and the operation of the Dog Pound Services.

The Pitch Strategy study is about to be awarded and it is hoped to have it back within 4-5 months when a full report will be brought back to the members. No locations for All Weather Pitches have been selected as yet and no decisions will be made until the study is completed. It is envisaged that the cost of engaging the consultants for the study will be in the region of €30,000.

**Cllr. C. McMahon:** Asked for some clarification in relation to the tree management programme and how it is proposed to address “difficult trees”?

**Cllr. P. Foley:** Asked if the €300k for difficult trees could be included in the budget for the next number of years. Is the €500k for the teen space on going or once off, some more details would be welcome.

**Cllr. C. O’Connor**: Indicted the he would have the same concerns as Councillor Looney in relation to astro pitches. When does the difficult tree programme start?

**Ms. T. Walsh:** The additional allocation of €300,000 will facilitate the programming of pruning/removal of problematic trees and will commence in January 2019. Part of the tree management review will investigate how best to develop a planting criteria so as to eliminate the planting of trees in unsuitable areas. The Teen Space Programme is a 3 year programme starting with 5 projects with funding of €500,000 provided for 2019. A report will be brought to the Members with details of the projects.

**Cllr. L. O’Toole:** I’m glad to see increase in the Public Realm section and hopefully this will reduce the number of public reps being submitted. I welcome the Teen Space Programme. Could the Director clarify if the big belly solar bins pilot scheme is to be delivered in 2019 or 2020?

**Ms. T. Walsh:** The pilot is included in the 2019 Budget and any expansion would have to be considered in light of the success of the pilot, the generation of savings and the availability of funding in future budgets.

**Cllr. F. Timmons:** Burial grounds - does this cover the cost of security at night time to counter any anti-social behaviour?

**Ms. T. Walsh:** With regard to burial grounds, we are not aware of any significant anti-social behaviour after dark in the burial grounds. It would be a matter for the Gardai to take any appropriate action. There is CCTV at Esker and Bohernabreena cemeteries and a need has not been identified to expand this service to other cemetery locations at this time.

**Cllr. M. Ward:** There are a lot of positives in this budget in relation to public realm. Due to the greater frequency of storms in recent years there have been an increased number of trees blown and knocked down and is there any additional monitoring that could be implemented in relation to this? Was there an additional Litter Warden engaged following last year’s Budget?

**Ms. T. Walsh:** Any dangerous trees should be reported immediately for inspection and attention. There was no additional Litter Warden provided for but we did fill a vacancy bringing us back to our full complement.

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

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

**Cllr. R. McMahon**: €500k for the Enterprise Centre in Tallaght how far will this go towards the total cost and what is the time frame?

**Mr. F.Nevin:** A reserve fund has been established from the business support fund and a further €500,000 is proposed to be added to it as part of this year’s Budget. The next stage of the project procurement will commence before the end of the year.

**Cllr. D. Looney**: Has any funding been provided in 2019 for the historians in residence programme?

**Mr. F. Nevin:** We have to examine what form the project might take and will be in contact with Cllr Looney in this regard.

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

Ms. C. Hurson Senior Executive Officer presented Divisions D, G, H and J.

1. **Head of Finance - Division H**

Mr. R. FitzGerald Head of Finance gave the presentation.

**Cllr. E. Higgins**: In relation to the vacancy refund do we have any information regarding the demographic of those businesses i.e. how long are they vacant etc.?

**Mr. R. FitzGerald:** Not at the moment but it is planned to examine this next year and the results will hopefully assist the Council in identifying why these properties have remained vacant.

**Cllr. E. Higgins:** Is this having a negative impact on investment into the county?

**Mr. R. FitzGerald:** The vacancy refund of 50% is in line with other local authorities in the Dublin area. Due to the location of South Dublin County Council’s administrative area we are attractive in our own right and have the ability to bring new businesses into our area.

**Cllr. B. Lawlor:** The €15m ear marked for the Hellfire Club, if the oral hearing goes against the Council where will the €15m be allocated.

**Mr. R. FitzGerald:** The Dublin Mountains project is part of the Capital programme which will be discussed in December.

The Report was **NOTED.**

**Closing Statements from Party Leaders**

The Mayor Councillor M. Ward 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 @ 21:02

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Mayor

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_