

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING OF WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON
MONDAY 24TH NOVEMBER 2025, COMMENCING 10.00 AM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND VIA
MICROSOFT TEAMS**

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS M. CORRIGAN CATHAOIRLEACH, D. ALVEY, M. BARRY, J. BEHAN, S. BOURKE, A. CRONIN, E. DOYLE, M. DUDDY, G. DUNNE, L. FENELON GASKIN, O. FINN, P. FITZGERALD, T. FORTUNE, P. GLENNON, P. KENNEDY, S. LANGRELL, P. LEONARD, P. MAHON, J. MULHALL, I. NEARY, D. O'BRIEN, P. O'BRIEN, G. O'NEILL, W. O'TOOLE, G. RICHMOND, L. SCOTT, J. SNELL, P. STAPLETON, S. STOKES, N. WHELAN AND C. WINSTANLEY (31)

APOLOGIES

CLLRS. M. MURPHY (1)

IN ATTENDANCE:

**MS. E. O'GORMAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE
MS. J. CARROLL, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MS. H. DENNEHY, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MS. L. EARLS, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. B. GLEESON, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. J. LANE, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. M. NICHOLSON, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MS. T. O'BRIEN, T/DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MS. H. PURCELL, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER/MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR
MS. B. MCCARTHY, FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTANT
MS. D. KINSELLA, FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTANT
MR. M. SHEEHY, EXECUTIVE ACCOUNTANT
MS. C. FOGARTY, EXECUTIVE ACCOUNTANT
MS. A. M. ROBERTS, ASSISTANT STAFF OFFICER**

At the commencement of the meeting a roll call was taken. The Meetings Administrator advised all present they are bound by the Code of Conduct for Councillors and Employees. Also, of meetings etiquette for online meetings and that the press and some members of the public were also present.

Votes of Sympathy

Elected Members passed a vote of sympathy to the families of the late Mr. Will Byrne, Mr. Leo Dover, Ms. Wendy Herbst, Mr. Jody Connaughton, Ms. Clodagh Rooney, Ms. Ruth Anne Chambers, Ms. Sheila Joseph, Mr. Kevin Fluskey, Ms. Cathy McCullough and Ms. Margaret Best. A minute's silence was observed for the deceased.

ITEM NO. 1

To consider and adopt the Wicklow County Council Draft Annual Budget for financial year ended 31st December 2026.

Elected Members were circulated with the Wicklow County Council Draft Budget 2026 including the report of the Chief Executive dated 14th November 2025.

TO: CATHAOIRLEACH AND MEMBERS OF WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

**Report of Chief Executive on the Draft Budget for Wicklow County Council
for the local financial year ending 31st December, 2026**

Dear Councillors,

The Draft Annual Budget and Chief Executive's Report for the financial year ended 31st December 2026 has been prepared in the statutory format, in accordance with S102 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended). The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage has determined that the prescribed period for the holding of the Annual Budget Meeting for 2026 is from 3rd November to 28th November 2025. Accordingly, the statutory Annual Budget Meeting is scheduled for Monday November 24th. The Budget must be adopted within a 14-day period commencing on that date.

As you are aware, there are four main stages to the Local Authority budgetary process.

1. Agree the Budget Strategy and Local Property Tax variation.
2. Develop Draft Budgetary plans for the Municipal Districts.
3. Draft and Adopt the Statutory Annual Budget.
4. Prepare the Schedule of Municipal District Works and Service Delivery Plan.

Furthermore, the attached Draft Budget has been prepared in consultation with the Corporate Policy Group (CPG) taking account of all known financial parameters.

The 2026 Budget presented to you provides for expenditure of €183.2m. This represents an increase of €15m (or 9%) on last year's budget. This increase is mainly as a result of increased funded leasing costs under Housing Payment & Availability schemes, extra provision for housing repairs and preletting works, additional payroll costs for national pay agreements, as well as increases in key policy driven services such as climate action and energy conservation works.

While global inflation stabilised in 2025, it should be noted the CPI index for the period 2020 to 2025 is 23.5%, which has significantly impacted the spending power of Wicklow County Council over this period. Notwithstanding this challenge, I believe Budget 2026 represents a positive outcome for Wicklow County Council in that it avoids any cuts to front line services, through the maximisation of existing resources, strong budgetary management, and securing higher levels of Government grant funding. Furthermore, extra provisions have been made across all Service Divisions including priority areas of housing and climate action and energy reduction.

Local Property Tax

At the Local Property Tax meeting of 7th July, the LPT variation rate of 6% was maintained for 2026. Consequently, €1.4m was generated and ring-fenced for discretionary funding within the 5 Municipal Districts to implement important public realm projects. This provision represents an increase of c.151k on the 2025 allocation and has been distributed as follows:

Arklow Baltinglass Bray Greystones Wicklow Total

Arklow	Baltinglass	Bray	Greystones	Wicklow	Total
263,901	263,901	351,868	263,901	263,901	1,407,472

Wicklow County Council's LPT gross allocation for 2026 is €23,457,871. This is an increase of €2.5m on the 2025 allocation of €20,946,669 due to the revaluation of existing properties currently being undertaken by the Revenue Commissioners, along with new properties being brought into the funding net.

Furthermore, the Department has made changes to the LPT funding model by increasing Wicklow's Baseline from €11.2m to €13.1m and increasing the surplus retention percentage from 22.5% to 31%. These adjustments when added to the increase secured by the Elected Members via the retention of the Local Adjustment Factor of 6%, provides a total amount of €21.8m which is retained for our own use in the Revenue Budget 2026. This represents an increase of €4.6m on the 2025 provision of €17.2m.

Details on the 2026 LPT Allocation are provided in Table 1 below and in Appendix 2 of the Draft Budget Tables.

Table 1 – 2026 Local Property Tax Allocation

Wicklow LPT Allocation 2026		€
100% of LPT Income Allocations for Wicklow	A	23,457,871
2026 Baseline	B	13,130,668

“Surplus”	C = (A-B)	10,327,203
LPT Surplus – Net Discretionary Income	D = 31% of A	7,271,940
Amount of surplus to self-fund housing	E = C – D	3,055,263
Additional LPT funding on retaining 6% LAF	F	1,407,472
LPT Funding available for Budget 2026	I = A-E+F	21,810,080

General Municipal Allocation

The General Municipal Allocations (GMA) totalling €1.72m were considered by the Members under the Draft Budgetary Plan that was presented to them at the Municipal District meetings held between the prescribed period of 1st October and 14th November 2025. The 2026 GMA includes Discretionary Funding, Town Twinning, Economic Development, Festivals, and Civic Reception funding allocations.

Table 2 – 2026 Revised General Municipal Allocations

Description	Arklow	Baltinglass	Bray	Greystones	Wicklow	Total
Town Twinning	6,000	6,000	10,000	6,000	6,000	34,000
Economic Development and Promotion	28,000	9,000	9,500	10,000	9,000	65,500
Festivals / Other	25,000	20,000	52,000	20,000	25,000	142,000
Civic Receptions	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	10,000
Discretionary Funding	263,901	263,901	416,868	263,901	263,901	1,472,472
Total	324,901	300,901	490,868	301,901	305,901	1,723,972

Additional income of €65k for the Bray Municipal District has been added to the discretionary fund allocation for 2026 as result of their previous decision to increase parking charges within their area. It should be noted, all other Municipal Districts may also consider changes to the local charges applied in their district, with any increase or decrease in those charges impacting on the overall level of funding made available to the district.

Schedule of Municipal District Works

Following the adoption of the annual budget, a schedule of proposed works of maintenance and repairs to be carried out in each municipal district shall be prepared for adoption by the members in

early 2026. To this end, it is appropriate that each Municipal District review their 2025 operations to assess how they have delivered on the Service Plan with a view to agreeing the 2026 works early next year. Furthermore, the process allowing Members' input into the decision-making process for the Roads Programme will continue in 2026. To this end, Members will be asked to submit their requests in December in respect of Restoration Improvement and Restoration Maintenance works for next year.

Commercial Rates

Commercial Rates income is estimated at €33.3m for Budget 2026 which represents an increase of circa €0.9m. Approximately €0.2m is due to global revaluation increases applied to national utility companies, with the balance from the inclusion of new property builds. This figure is also net of any reductions in relation to revaluation appeals heard by the Valuation Tribunal and downwards revisions and delistings applied during 2025.

Details of movements in valuations are outlined below in Table 3:

Table 3 – 2026 Commercial Rates

Table 3 – 2026 Commercial Rates

	Valuation	ARV	Rate Demand
Budget 2025 Rates Book	€149,532,838	0.217	€32,448,626
Valuation Tribunal Appeals	€-185,780	0.217	€-40,314
Global Revaluations	€775,510	0.217	€168,286
New Build Additions	€3,959,281	0.217	€859,164
Revisions/Delisted	€-422,600	0.217	€-91,704
2026 Rates Book	€153,659,249	0.217	€33,344,057

2026 Annual Rate on Valuation (ARV)

The total valuation figure for Wicklow properties is €153,659,249. However, the ARV, which is set by the Elected Members each year, acts as the multiplier to calculate the ratepayer's estimated liability for the coming year. The decision to confirm the ARV for 2026 must be taken by the Members at the Annual Budget Meeting. The Budget Book for 2026 as presented to the Elected Members includes the current ARV of 0.217.

However, an alternative option of increasing the ARV for 2026 is available to the Elected Members in order to generate extra funding for priority areas identified by them. It should be noted that the Commercial Rates ARV has not been increased by WCC since the Town Councils were amalgamated back in 2014.

The table below outlines the extra income generated from incremental increases up to a maximum of 5%. This would still leave Wicklow below the national average ARV of 0.236.

Valuation Listings	ARV	% Increase	Income €	Income Increase €
153,659,249	0.217	0.0%	33,344,057	
153,659,249	0.218	0.5%	33,497,716	153,659
153,659,249	0.219	0.9%	33,651,376	307,319
153,659,249	0.220	1.4%	33,805,035	460,978
153,659,249	0.221	1.8%	33,958,694	614,637
153,659,249	0.222	2.3%	34,112,353	768,296
153,659,249	0.223	2.8%	34,266,013	921,955
153,659,249	0.224	3.2%	34,419,671	1,075,615
153,659,249	0.225	3.7%	34,573,331	1,229,274
153,659,249	0.226	4.1%	34,726,990	1,382,933
153,659,249	0.227	4.6%	34,880,650	1,536,592
153,659,249	0.228	5.0%	35,034,309	1,690,252

Following consultation with the CPG, it is proposed to increase the ARV from 0.217 to 0.224 which represents a 3.2% increase.

In tandem with any increase, it is also proposed to amend the existing Small Business Grant Scheme (SBGS) to protect local SMEs. Currently all ratepayers with a rates bill of under €10k can apply for the SBGS Scheme which provides discounts of between 5% and 7% of the annual bill (up to maximum amounts of €250 and €350 respectively) subject to qualifying criteria. Under the revised scheme it is proposed to expand the eligibility criteria to include ratepayers up to €20k, which will cover 95% of commercial properties throughout County Wicklow. It is also recommended that the discount percentage under the scheme be raised to 10% and the maximum grant payable be increased to €500. Therefore, if the ARV is increased by 3.2% to 0.224, the proposed revisions to the SBGS would insulate 95% of ratepayers from the increase. The other 5% of ratepayers, who pay rates in excess of €20k and account for €21.8m of Wicklow's total rates income, will pay the full 3.2% increase. Moreover, the net increase generated for Budget 2026 is €700k and would be ringfenced for service areas prioritised by the Elected Members. A separate report has been issued to the members on this matter, which provides specific examples of the financial impact of this proposal on the different categories of ratepayers.

Rates Incentive Schemes

If the ARV remains unchanged for 2026, the existing Small Business Rates Incentive Scheme will continue as is, with one small alteration. As stated above, the scheme currently provides grants of between 5% and 7% up to a maximum of €250 and €350 respectively, as a financial support to occupiers of commercial properties with a total annual commercial rates bill of up to €10,000. Budget 2026 has removed the lower discount rate of 5% and maximum grant of €250 and instead will apply one discount rate of 7% along with the higher maximum level of €350. Nearly 90% of ratepayers currently operating in County Wicklow are considered small and medium businesses and are eligible for this incentive scheme.

We are also recommending the continuation of a separate rates incentive scheme that was introduced for new businesses. This scheme is aimed at encouraging the use of long-term vacant premises in the County through the provision of grant support to new businesses.

Wicklow County Council aims to encourage the establishment of new businesses and wants to see the number of vacant retail/commercial properties decrease. This grant scheme is intended to incentivise and encourage new commercial ventures, reoccupy vacant properties and assist in job creation.

Rates on Vacant Premises

Section 9 of the Local Government Rates & Other Matters Act 2019, as amended by the Historic and Archaeological Heritage & Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2023, provides for the abatement of rates in respect of vacant properties.

S.I No. 349 of 2025 dated 10 July 2025 gave effect to the Local Government Abatement of Rates in respect of Vacant Properties Regulation 2025. As a result of this new legislation, a local Authority must now consult with the public in its administrative area in relation to its consideration of making or amending an existing abatement scheme. An advert in the prescribed format was published on 17th September 2025 inviting submissions from the public by 1st October 2025. One submission was received during this period.

It is estimated that approximately 13.1% of commercial properties are vacant across County Wicklow, which is lower than the national average of 14.6%. Vacant and sometimes semi derelict properties have a negative impact on the vibrancy and economic strength of any town. Many vacant commercial properties have been converted to residential use in recent years, therefore the sale of vacant commercial properties for either commercial or residential use is an option for owners of vacant properties. To act as an incentive to secure occupancy of vacant properties for either commercial or residential use, in Budget 2025 Wicklow County Council reduced the Vacancy Abatement Rate from 60% to 20%, which also generated €465,000 of additional income.

Following consultation and agreement with the Corporate Policy Group, it is recommended that the standard Vacancy Abatement Rate for 2026 remains unchanged at 20%.

The vacancy provisions in section 9 of the Act also allow scope for targeted policies in respect of vacant commercial properties. Consideration can be given to the prevailing local economic environment and prevalence of commercial vacancy. As such, vacancy abatement schemes may be tailored to particular types or categories of vacant property or circumstances of the vacant property ratepayer. During the prescribed public consultation period, a submission was received from an existing ratepayer which contends that due to the unique nature of the film and television studio industry, they will always have vacant periods each year with no control over when and for how long they occur. For these reasons, a higher vacancy abatement rate for film and television studio infrastructures has been requested.

Following agreement with the Corporate Policy Group, it is recommended that due to the unique operational structure of the screen industry, the vacancy abatement rate for Film/TV Studios reverts back to 60% from 20%. This would relate to the vacant periods between series/films or seasons etc.

It is estimated that the introduction of this scheme would cost a maximum of €97k per annum and this has been factored into Budget 2026 as presented to the Elected Members.

The decision to set the rate of abatement for the main vacancy scheme or a tailored vacancy scheme is a reserve function and must be taken by the elected members at the Annual Budget Meeting. A separate report has been issued to the members on this matter, in line with Section 9 of the Local Government Rates & Other Matters Act 2019.

Matched Funding for Capital Projects

Unchanged from 2025, a capital funding provision of €0.4m has been included in the 2026 Budget. This provision is considered essential to the strategic vision of Wicklow County Council, as it allows us the opportunity to apply for and drawdown substantial Government funding under the National Development Plan Schemes, such as the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund and the Rural Regeneration and Development Funds etc. Wicklow County Council has been successful in securing over €60m in Government funding in respect of ongoing capital projects which require matched funding of at least €15m. Moreover, we have other applications submitted and plans for future projects which will require further match funding.

A minimum matched funding element of 25% must be provided by the local authority for successful applications. In the majority of applications, the use of development contributions is used for matched funding. However, this will not be the case for all projects especially in relation to smaller funding schemes such as Town and Village, CLAR and Community CCTV etc., and for certain economic development and climate action projects, therefore this matched funding provision must be provided from within the Revenue Budget.

Payroll / Pensions

A total of €65.8m is included in the budget for pay and pension costs. This is an increase of €4.8m on the 2025 budgeted figure as a result of pay increases under the National Public Service Pay Agreement, the continued implementation of the Firefighters WRC agreement, the inclusion of full year costs for new staff recruited during 2025, and the application of annual increment payments. A provision of c. €0.5m has also been included for new staffing in 2026 in respect of key strategic areas such as property management, parks management, and FMS project management. While provision has been made for the recoupment from Central Government of €1.4m towards the cost of the national pay increases, our pay and pensions continue to be a significant cost driver for the Council and currently represents nearly 40% of all expenditure.

The annual pension cost for Wicklow County Council will again increase next year following the addition of new pensioners. There is no central funding provided for these costs and as such they must be met from the Council's own resources. Moreover, based on the age profile of Council staff and our projected retirements, one-off gratuity payments will continue to place a significant burden on the Council's finances going forward. An additional €0.7m will be required to fund pension commitments in 2026.

With regard to the funding for the Retained Firefighters, the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management recently confirmed an allocation of €2.1m in respect of costs associated

with the WRC agreement next year. This represents an increase of €0.5m on the 2025 allocation, however, it is estimated that WCC will still be short by at least €0.5m versus what it expects to pay out under the agreement next year. This shortfall has been factored into Budget 2026. In addition, call out activity has increased by 20% this year which has resulted in consequential expenditure increases also being factored into the Budget.

The appointment of outdoor staff going forward will be linked to the Uisce Éireann transition, as it is likely that excess staff will arise under this process. At the end of the transition period in 2026 local authorities will cease to be involved in the public water system. As part of the transition process a joint trade union/management water services forum comprising of management and union representatives has been established, chaired by the Director of Services HR. The primary purpose of the forum is to discuss and agree procedures to facilitate those staff who wish to reassign out of water services to other roles in the local authority. For those staff that wish to remain as local authority employees but working outside of water services, Wicklow County Council will work to reassign staff to suitable vacancies within grade and competence to other local authority service areas.

Wicklow County Council completed its Strategic Workforce Plan this year which will proactively manage the current and future workforce to support the service delivery of the Council going forward.

2026 Draft Budget Overview

The Draft Budget presented to you provides for expenditure of €183.2 in 2026. However, as the Council is statutorily required to prepare a balanced budget, expenditure provisions must be matched by income. The Draft Budget has therefore been prepared with the following income projections:

Divisional Income	€128.1m
Local Property Tax	€21.8m
Commercial Rates	€33.3m

Budget Adjustments in 2026

In line with national priorities, Wicklow County Council's main focus for Budget 2026 has been on the areas of Housing and Climate Action.

Housing and Building

Of the total Budget of €183m, nearly €69m or 38% has been allocated under Division A – Housing and Building. This is an increase of c. €7m on the 2025 Housing allocation.

Extra rental income of €1.5m, arising from additional housing units and the current rent review, has been estimated for 2026. This amount will be fully retained within the Housing Budget to increase repair and maintenance costs. Furthermore, an additional own resource provision of €500k has been allocated to this high demand area providing a total increase of €2m in the A01 Service area.

The main adjustments include a new allocation of €345k for planned maintenance, an increase of €223k for conditional survey works, €100k in respect of a new windows and doors replacement programme, an increase of €964k for the high demand area of pre-letting repairs, and an extra c. €100k for standard repairs and maintenance works.

The allocation under the Croí Cónaithe Vacancy Property Grant Scheme, has been increased by €0.7m up to €4m for 2026. In addition, Payment and Availability allocations have increased by €1.9m and now amount to €25.2m. The Homeless services allocation has increased by over €816k up to €4m, while the Housing Adaption Grant Scheme has also seen a significant improvement, increasing from €2.4m last year to an allocation of €3.5m for 2026.

Climate Change/Energy Initiatives

Wicklow County Council is currently progressing its Climate Action Plan which was adopted by the elected members in January 2025. An amount of €580k has been included in the 2026 Budget to implement priority actions within the climate plan as well the newly drafted Biodiversity Plan. Furthermore, the recently announced Community Climate Action Programme provides €646,000 in funding to assist community, voluntary, and non-profit groups in delivering local climate and biodiversity projects across the county.

Following the establishment of the Mid East Energy Unit with Kildare, Meath and Louth County Councils, a number of joint initiatives will continue throughout 2026 under the SEAI Pathfinder Programme. An amount of €1.64m is included in the Budget to support Wicklow's commitment under the retrofit programme as well as funding other Council led energy saving initiatives. The total direct expenditure allocated for Climate Action and Energy Measures in 2026 is €2.9m, an increase of €0.96m on 2025.

Water Services

In relation to Water Services, Wicklow County Council has been operating under a Service Level Agreement with Uisce Éireann since 2014 for the provision of water supply and wastewater operation and maintenance. The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage published a framework for the future delivery of Water Services in 2022, which sets out the policy on Uisce Éireann taking full control of water and wastewater services and this took effect in Wicklow on September 6th 2023. Wicklow County Council will continue to work with Uisce Éireann under a new Master Co-operation Agreement, which includes a Service Support Agreement, until 31st December 2026. In this context, the budget is prepared on the basis that the cost of Local Authority staff (now under the direction and control of Uisce Éireann) will be recouped directly from Uisce Éireann. Central Management Charges, previously recovered from Uisce Éireann, are now be recouped from the Housing, Local Government and Heritage Memorandum until 2026.

Other significant budget items and relevant adjustments for Budget 2026 include:

- The Roads budget remains more or less in line with the revised 2025 allocation and will ultimately be determined by the DTTAS /TII allocations made in Q1 2026. The provision in the 2026 budget represents an increase of €1.5m on the 2025 adopted budget.

- Our general insurance premium has increased by €0.3m to €3.1m. This is due to additional housing units being added to our policy as well as the full year cost of a number of new policies that were purchased during 2025 to address the changing risk environment in Local Government. The dividend payable from IPB for 2026 will remain unchanged at €244k. However, a Special Member's Dividend of €406k that was paid out during 2025 in recognition of the reduction of injury claims frequency in tandem with the positive impact of the Personal Injury Guidelines (PIGS), was a one-off payment and will not be repeated in 2026.
- Non-Principal Private Residence (NPPR) income has been eliminated for 2026 as the charge expired on 1st April 2025.
- ICT costs will increase significantly due to increased licence and maintenance commitments for existing systems and new essential technology supports such as Office365. In addition, the Agresso Financial Management System is being upgraded to a cloud based solution for the Local Government Sector. Implementation of this new project has commenced this year and will result in extra costs of c. €100k. Overall, additional ICT costs of €386k have been included in Budget 2026.

Other adjustments made across the Divisions include:

- The Community Grant Scheme allocation for 2026 is increased by €20k to €140k.
- Library Book Fund expenditure remains unchanged at €300k.
- Water quality management including HSE testing has increased by €131k.
- Contra provision of c. €1m for Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT).
- Contra provision of c. €134k for the establishment of the Local Community Safety.
- Partnership which replaces the previous Joint Policing Committee.
- Decreased income of €200k for new property rates valuations.
- Reduced enforcement grant income of €100k.
- Communication cost increase of €80k which includes the development of a new website.
- Building maintenance increase of €80k.
- Staff health screening expenses €50k.
- Additional Health and Safety measures €50k.
- Town Regeneration programme increased by €30k.
- Rates Incentive Scheme increased by c. €60k.

While addressing the financial challenges we face in 2026, we are restricted in the areas from which savings can be identified and taken. Up to 90% of our expenditure each year is considered to be 'Non-Discretionary', covering items like pay and pensions, contra/grant funded areas such as RAS/HAP, DPGs, Housing the Homeless, Roads Grants, SICAP, LEO, Sports Partnership, Irish Water and the Machinery Yard. Other non-discretionary costs include light and heat, insurance, loan interest, capital transfers and statutory contributions. This leaves the following limited areas of 'Discretionary' costs from which to find savings:

- Regional and Local Roads Maintenance (own resources).
- Public Lighting.
- Housing Maintenance.

- Community Supports.
- Environmental Initiatives.
- Arts and Festivals.
- Library Book Purchases.
- Economic supports.
- Matching funding for Capital Programmes.
- Discretionary spend in Municipal Districts.

However, I am pleased to report that in order to meet our statutory obligation to balance the budget we have not had to cut front line services.

Key changes in the Draft Annual Budget are summarised in Tables 4 & 5 below.

Table 4 - Budget 2025 v 2026 Main Expenditure Variances

Division	Expenditure	€000's
Housing	Pre-letting works	964
	Repairs and Maintenance	560
	Windows & Doors Replacement Programme	100
	Conditional Surveys	223
	P&A Agreements	1,851
	Rental Allowance Scheme	-288
	Homeless Services	816
	Croí Cónaithe Vacancy Property Grant Scheme	710
Road Transport & Safety	Housing Adaption Scheme	1,135
	Regional Road Maintenance & Improvements	1,235
	Local Road Maintenance	-126
	Traffic Management Improvement	144
Development Management	Local Community Safety Partnership	134
	Property Management	332
	Integration Support Services	782
	Ukraine Response	-1,483
	Heritage Services	503
	Rural Capital Delivery Programme	363
Environment	Climate Action & Energy	996
	Fire Service Operations	1,886
	Maintenance of Burial Grounds	117
	Water Quality Management	197
Recreation & Amenity	Community Grant Scheme	20
	Outdoor Leisure Areas Operations	193
	Arts Programme	153

Miscellaneous	Discretionary Expenditure	151
	ICT Costs	386
	Pensions	660
	IPB Insurance Premium	300
	Veterinary Services	-251

Table 5 - Budget 2025 v 2026 Main Income Variances

Division	Income	€000's
Housing	Rental income	1,520
	RAS Operations	-178
	P&A Agreements	1,851
	Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme	1,124
	Housing of the Homeless	974
	Croí Cónaithe Grant Scheme	710
Road Transport	Roads Programme Income	899
Development	Local Community Safety Partnership	111
Management	Ukraine Response	-1,500
	Integration Support Services	782
	Rural Capital Delivery Programme	303
	Heritage Services	100
	Local Enterprise Office	134
Environment	Climate Action Programmes	584
	Fire Service Operations	521
	Sports Partnership	160
Miscellaneous	Pay Agreement Compensation	1,400
	IPB Dividends	-406
	NPPR	-50
	Register of Electors	140
	New Property Commercial Rates Valuations	-200
Other	Local Property Tax	4,610
	Commercial Rates	895

Conclusion

I have prepared the 2026 Draft Annual Budget in consultation with the Corporate Policy Group and in accordance with the Local Government Act, 2001 (Section 133). This consultation with the Corporate Policy Group has been a key aspect of the budget preparation. At these meetings

significant factors within the Budget were raised and discussed and I am grateful to the Members of the Corporate Policy Group and the Cathaoirleach Cllr. Melanie Corrigan for their constructive engagement with the budgetary process.

The 2026 Draft Budget before you today is a plan of action to best deal with the challenging environment of local government. While significant financial challenges remain, we can cautiously look to build on the progress achieved to date and translate this to increased and improved services growth across the County. Moreover, we will continue to seek out alternative sources of funding and work in collaboration with the relevant State Agencies, Government Departments, Business Community and the Community and Voluntary Sector to maximise all available opportunities to address the local needs and support the economic and social development of County Wicklow.

Organisationaly, we continue to expand our workforce to deliver the level of services committed to in this budget. There is also ongoing investment provided for key organisational and workforce development, enhancing our connectivity with local communities and citizens and other key corporate and governance measures including managing data access, cyber security, ongoing digitisation of services, and debt management.

The draft budget has been prepared in accordance with the relevant statutory provisions, and this report, with the accompanying detailed financial tables, sets out the position for consideration by the Council. There is considerable detail contained in the Draft Budget Report to assist the Members in their deliberations. Please take the opportunity to discuss aspects of the Draft Budget with each of the Directors of Service.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Members of the Council for their support and look forward to continuing to work with the Elected Members to deliver high quality services for the people of Wicklow.

The Draft Budget preparation required significant input from staff across the Council's Divisions. I wish to thank all the Directors and their staff who have contributed to and supported that process. Finally, I would like to express my appreciation to the Director of Finance, Brian Gleeson and the staff in the Finance Section for their hard work in preparing and framing this Budget.

I recommend the 2026 Budget to you for adoption.



EMER O'GORMAN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

The Chief Executive gave a brief overview of the budget. She thanked members of the Corporate Policy Group and all of the Elected Members for their input into the deliberations in order to get a balanced budget.

Mr. B. Gleeson, Director of Services gave a presentation to the Elected Members covering the following areas:

Summary

- 2026 Budgetary Process
- 2026 Planned Expenditure and Income
- Budgetary Challenges for 2026
- Expenditure/Income Adjustments to 2026 Budget
- Commercial Rates – 2026 ARV and Rates Vacancy Relief
- Budget Review by Service Division
- Adoption of Budget 2026

2026 Budget Meeting Decisions

1. Agree Annual Rate of Valuation (ARV) for 2026 Commercial Rates.
2. Agree Rates Abatement Rate on Vacant Premises.
3. Agree Film Industry Abatement Scheme
4. Adopt Statutory Annual Budget for 2026.

2026 Budget Process

- Local Property Tax Rate Variation Decision
- Municipal District Draft Budgetary Plans including the General Municipal Allocation (GMA)
- Adoption of the Statutory Annual Budget
- Schedule of Municipal District Works

Local Property Tax

- Wicklow County Council's LPT gross allocation for 2026 is €23,457,871. Increase of €2.5m relates to new properties and revaluation of existing properties.
- Baseline increased from €11.2m to €13.1m.
- Surplus Retention increased from 22.5% to 31%
- LPT 2026 net provision **€21.8m** (2025 €17.2m)
- The decision taken by Members at the LPT meeting in July to retain the variation rate of 6% generated **€1.4m** income. 100% of this money has been ring-fenced for Discretionary Funding in the Municipal Districts.

Arklow	Baltinglass	Bray	Greystones	Wicklow	Total
263,901	263,901	351,868	263,901	263,901	1,407,472

Municipal District Expenditure

- General Municipal Allocation includes Twinning, Festivals, Economic Development & Discretionary Funding.

Description	Arklow	Baltinglass	Bray	Greystones	Wicklow	Total
Town Twinning	6,000	6,000	10,000	6,000	6,000	34,000
Economic Development and Promotion	28,000	9,000	9,500	10,000	9,000	65,500
Festivals / Other	25,000	20,000	52,000	20,000	25,000	142,000
Civic Receptions	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	10,000
Discretionary Funding	263,901	263,901	416,868	263,901	263,901	1,472,472
Total	324,901	300,901	490,368	301,901	305,901	1,723,972

2026 Budgeted Expenditure

Div	Description	2026	2025	Variance	Variance %	Divisional %
A	Housing and Building	68,573,473	61,841,947	6,911,526	11%	38%
B	Road Transportation and Safety	32,590,653	31,114,006	1,476,647	5%	18%
C	Water Services	6,307,217	6,486,994	-179,777	-3%	3%
D	Development Management	23,872,831	20,594,189	3,278,642	16%	13%
E	Environmental Services	23,504,514	20,393,000	3,111,514	15%	13%
F	Recreation & Amenity	13,691,543	12,956,267	735,276	6%	7%
G	Agriculture, Education, H & Welfare	2,411,686	2,733,340	-321,654	-12%	1%
H	Miscellaneous Services	12,052,646	11,970,932	81,714	1%	7%

Provision for Debit Balance	0	150,000	-150,000	-100%	0%
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	183,184,563	168,240,675	14,943,88	8%	100%

2026 Sources of Income

Income Category	2026	2025	Variance	Variance %	Category %
Grants & Subsidies	85,642,796	78,468,060	7,174,736	9%	47%
Goods & Services	42,387,630	40,123,520	2,264,110	6%	23%
Commercial Rates	33,344,057	32,448,626	895,431	3%	18%
Local Property Tax	21,810,080	17,200,469	4,609,611	27%	12%
Total income	168,240,675	168,240,675	14,943,888	9%	100%

2026 Budget Challenges

- Inflationary impact
- Increased Pay & Pension Costs
- Climate Action commitments/Energy Targets
- Increased demand for Housing services
- Continued demand for Road improvements
- Match Funding Capital commitments
- Implementation of new Government policies
- Additional ICT requirements
- Discretionary v Non-Discretionary Costs
- Per Legislation must approve a Balanced Budget

Non-Discretionary Costs

- **Payroll Costs:** Salary/Wages/Pensions.
- **Contra/Grant Funded Items:** RAS/HAP, DPGs, Homeless Funding, Road Grants, SICAP, LEO, Sports Partnership, Irish Water, Machinery Yard.
- **Other Non-Discretionary Costs:** Light & Heat, Insurance, Loan Interest, Capital Transfers, Statutory Contributions, Rates Write Offs.
- 90% of Budget Expenditure

Discretionary Costs

- 10% of Budget
- Regional & Local Roads Maintenance (own resources)
- Public Lighting
- Housing Repairs & Maintenance

- Community Grants
- Environmental & Energy Initiatives
- Arts and Festivals
- Library Book Purchases
- Economic and Tourism supports
- Match funding for Capital Programmes
- Discretionary Funding for the Municipal Districts

Corporate Policy Group Input

- The Local Government Act 2001, as amended by the Local Government Reform Act 2014, provides the legislative basis for the budget process.
- The adoption of the budget is a reserved function of the members of the local authority.
- The CPG should assist with the setting of overall parameters and the identification of issues and approaches to be taken.
- CPG met to agree Budget Proposals on 3rd & 11th November

2026 Budget Adjustments

Pay & Pensions

- A total of €65.8m is included in the budget for pay and pension costs.
- Increase of €4.8m on 2025 Budget.
- Pay Increases/Increments €1.6m.
- Ongoing implementation of WRC Firefighters Agreement €1.2m.
- Includes €0.5m provision for 2026 recruitment.
- Full year cost of 2025 recruitment €0.8m.
- Pension costs increase of €0.7m.
- Nearly 40% of total expenditure.

Housing & Building

- Increased expenditure of €7m to €69m.
- Extra Rental Income €1.5m up to €20.7m.
- Pre-letting increase of €964k up to €6.4m.
- Housing R&M increase of €630k up to €3.6m.
- Conditional surveys increase of €223k.
- Homeless Services up €816k to €4m.
- Housing Adaptation Grants up €1.1m to €3.5m.
- Payment & Availability expenditure and income increased by €1.9m to €25.2m.

Roads, Transport and Safety

- 2026 allocation up €1.5m to €32.6m.
- Expenditure in line with the revised 2025 allocation.
- Regional Road Maintenance €1.24m increase.

- Local Road Maintenance €126k decrease.
- Traffic Management Improvement €144k increase.
- Roads Programme Income €0.9m.
- 2026 Budget to be determined by DTTAS /TII allocations in Q1 2026.

Development Management

- Local Community Safety Partnership €134k.
- Property Management €332k.
- Ukraine Response €1.483m decrease.
- Integration Support Services €782k increase.
- Heritage Services €503k increase.
- Rural Capital Delivery Programme 363k.

Environment

- Climate Action & Energy Programme up €996k to €3.3m incl. CMC.
- Community Climate Action Programme - Contra item €646k.
- Mid-East Energy Unit €1.64m.
- Climate Action/Biodiversity Plans €580K.
- Fire Service Operations net increase €1.9m.
- Maintenance of Burial Grounds increase €117k.
- Water Quality Management increase €197k.

Community and Recreation

- Community Grant Scheme increased by €20k to €140k.
- Library Book Fund retained at €300k.
- Arts Programme increased by €153k.
- Outdoor Leisure Area Operations €193k increase.
- Recreational Development incl. Sports Partnership and Healthy Ireland increases by €200k to c. €1m.

Miscellaneous

- NPPR income reduced by 50k.
- Insurance negative cost movement of €706k.
- Pay Compensation €1.4m increase.
- Veterinary Services €251k
- ICT expenditure increase €386k.
- New commercial property valuations – decrease €200k

Commercial Rates 2026

	Valuation	ARV	Rate Demand
Budget 2025 Rates Book	€ 149,532,838	0.217	€ 32,448,626
Valuation Tribunal Appeals	-€ 185,780	0.217	-€ 40,314
Global Revaluations	€ 775,510	0.217	€ 168,286
New Build Additions	€ 3,959,281	0.217	€ 859,164
Revisions / Delisted	-€ 422,600	0.217	-€ 91,704
2026 Rates Book	€ 153,659,249	0.217	€ 33,344,057

Budget 2026 rates income €33.3m – increase of 0.9m on 2025.

Commercial Rates ARV 2026

- **Option 1:** leave unchanged at 0.217 for 2026 per Budget Book
- Or
- **Option 2:** Increase to 0.224 which represents a 3.2% increase.
- Proposal to increase the ARV from 0.217 to 0.224 which equates to a 3.2% increase.
- Current ARV of 0.217 below National Average of 0.236.
- Inflation was 23.5% over the period 2020-2025.
- No increase to ARV since Town Councils were amalgamated in 2014.
- Increase to 0.224 will generate additional rates income of c. €1.07m.
- Enhanced rates incentive scheme to offset ARV increase at a cost to WCC of €0.37m.
- Net amount of €700k available for additional services e.g. line marking/local roads works.

Small Business Support Grant Scheme

- Eligibility limit to be increased from €10k to €20k.
- Incentive discount rate increased from 7% to 10% to protect SMEs from ARV change.
- 95% of ratepayers can avail of the scheme.
- Only 204 ratepayers in > €20k category are excluded from the scheme.
- Over €20k category includes global utility companies and large business e.g. factories, supermarkets, service stations, windfarms, which contribute €21.8m in rates income.

Commercial Rates – Vacancy Abatement Rate

- Per new legislation, a public consultation and a financial impact report are now required.
- Recommendation that the rate of abatement for eligible vacant properties is retained at 20% for 2026.
- Section 9 of the Act also allow scope for targeted policies in respect of vacant commercial properties.
- It is recommended that due to the unique operational structure of the screen industry, the vacancy abatement rate for Film/TV Studios reverts to 60% from 20%.
- Maximum cost of scheme is €97k.

Budget 2026 Summary

- €183m Budget
- €15m (9%) increase on last year
- Avoids reductions to existing services
- Focus on Housing and Climate Action
- Increases across most services to address pay increases, cost inflation and increased demands
- Provision of €1.4m Discretionary Funding for the Municipal Districts
- Option to retain Commercial Rates ARV at 0.217 or increase to 0.224 with enhanced Rates Incentive Scheme.
- Vacancy Abatement Rate to remain at 20% with new proposal to set 60% rate for Film/TV Industry

Budget 2026 Divisional Review

- Division A – Housing & Building: Pages 66, 77-79
Expenditure €68.8m Income €65.3m
- Division B – Roads, Trans & Safety: Pages 67, 80-82
Expenditure €32.6m Income €20m
- Division C - Water Services: Pages 68, 83-84
Expenditure €6.3m Income €5.5m
- Division D – Development Mgt: Pages 69, 85-87
Expenditure €23.9m Income €11.4m
- Division E – Environmental Services: Pages 70, 88-90
Expenditure €23.5m Income €6.3m
- Division F – Recreation & Amenity: Pages 71, 91-92
Expenditure €13.7m Income €1.5m
- Division G – Agriculture, Ed, H&W: Pages 72, 93-94
Expenditure €2.4m Income €0.7m

- Division H – Miscellaneous Services: Pages 73, 95-97
Expenditure €12.1m Income €17.3m

Post Presentation Decisions

1. Agree Annual Rate of Valuation (ARV) for 2026 Commercial Rates.
2. Agree Rates Abatement Rate on Vacant Premises.
3. Agree Film Industry Abatement Scheme.
4. Adopt Statutory Annual Budget for 2026.

It was proposed by Cllr. P. O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. M. Duddy to adjourn the meeting following the questions and answers session.

A discussion followed. The Elected Members acknowledged the amount of work involved in preparing the draft budget and some of the items discussed were as follows:

- Affordable Housing Bray, provision of funding for construction of bridge.
- Provision of homeless services in Bray.
- Retro-fitting of housing stock.
- Provision of emergency accommodation.
- Local & Regional Road maintenance.
- Planned housing maintenance and repairs of existing stock.
- Provision of Affordable Housing.
- Grants for Derelict Houses to be brought into housing stock.
- Housing Rent arrears.
- Housing loans.
- Bonus for achieving housing targets.
- Additional staff requirements.
- RAS and HAP figures.
- Fabric upgrade works.
- Maintenance of Parks and Open Spaces – extension of Estate Development Grants.
- Income from paid parking.
- Operation and maintenance of car parks.
- Upgrade of the N81.
- Rural road maintenance.
- Maintenance of parks and open spaces.
- Sporting facilities for West Wicklow.
- Phasing out of the RAS scheme.
- Development levies and expenditure.
- Maintenance and upkeep of burial grounds.
- Re-opening of the Cliff Walk.
- Planning bond account.
- Resurfacing programmes.
- Line Marking.

- Water services.
- Public conveniences.
- Burial grounds.
- Increase of outdoor staff in MD areas.
- Staffing levels.
- Parks and Open spaces.
- Transition of staff to Uisce Eireann from Wicklow County Council.
- Legal fees.
- Investment income.
- Arts funding for West Wicklow.
- Proposed Film Sector Rates Vacancy Abatement Scheme.
- Extension of incentive scheme for payment of rates by Standing Order beyond end July.
- Extend time frame for payment of rates.
- Rates arrears in respect of the Rates Incentive Scheme.
- Agreed to allow ratepayers on standing orders up to the end of October to clear annual rates bill to qualify under the incentive scheme.
- Non standing orders ratepayers to clear annual bill by end of June to qualify under scheme.
- The maximum rates incentive grant to increase from €500 to €650.
- Threshold for rates incentive grant to increase from €20,000 to €25,000.
- Cost of additional changes €150,000. Net Income reduction from €700,000 to €550,000. Providing €110,000 to each Municipal District.

The meeting was adjourned at 12.55 p.m.

Meeting resumed at 14.17 p.m. commencing with a roll call.

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS M. CORRIGAN CATHAOIRLEACH, D. ALVEY, M. BARRY, J. BEHAN, S. BOURKE, A. CRONIN, E. DOYLE, M. DUDDY, G. DUNNE, L. FENELON GASKIN, O. FINN, P. FITZGERALD, T. FORTUNE, P. GLENNON, P. KENNEDY, S. LANGRELL, P. LEONARD, P. MAHON, J. MULHALL, I. NEARY, D. O'BRIEN, P. O'BRIEN, G. O'NEILL, W. O'TOOLE, G. RICHMOND, L. SCOTT, J. SNELL, P. STAPLETON, S. STOKES N. WHELAN AND C. WINSTANLEY (31)

APOLOGIES

CLLR. M. MURPHY (1)

TO INCREASE THE ANNUAL RATE OF VALUATION FOR 2026 SET AT 0.224

Subject to Section 6 of the Local Government Rates and Other Matters Act 2019, as amended and in accordance with the proposed budget, Wicklow County Council has determined the annual rate on valuation applicable in the calculation of the amount of the rate under Section 4 of the Local Government Rates & Other Matters Act 2019 as amended to be 0.224 for 2026.

Following a roll call resolution was agreed by a margin of 30 for, 1 vote against and 1 not present viz:-

FOR 30	CLLRS. D. ALVEY, M. BARRY, J. BEHAN, S. BOURKE, M. CORRIGAN, A. CRONIN, E. DOYLE, M. DUDDY, G. DUNNE, L. FENELON-GASKIN, O. FINN, P. FITZGERALD, T. FORTUNE, P. GLENNON, P. KENNEDY, S. LANGRELL, P. LEONARD, P. MAHON, J. MULHALL, I. NEARY, D. O'BRIEN, P. O'BRIEN, G. O'NEILL, W. O'TOOLE, G. RICHMOND, L. SCOTT, J. SNELL, P. STAPLETON, N. WHELAN AND C. WINSTANLEY
AGAINST 1	CLLR. S. STOKES
NOT PRESENT 1	CLLR. M. MURPHY

TO MAKE A SCHEME FOR THE ABATEMENT OF RATES DUE

That Wicklow County Council makes a scheme for the abatement of rates due to it by liable persons, or classes of liable persons, in respect of vacant properties in accordance with the provisions of Section 9 of the Local Government Rates and Other Matters Act 2019. Such a scheme will provide for a 20% abatement of rates on vacant premises as provided for in Section 9(1) of the Local Government Rates & Other Matters Act of 2019 for the financial year ending of 31st December 2026 with the exception of film /tv studios which will have a vacancy abatement rate of 60%.

Following a roll call the motion was defeated by a margin of 12 votes for, 18 votes against, 1 not present and 1 abstained viz:-

FOR 12	CLLRS. M. BARRY, M. CORRIGAN, E. DOYLE, G. DUNNE, P. GLENNON, S. LANGRELL, P. LEONARD, I. NEARY, G. RICHMOND, J. SNELL, S. STOKES AND N. WHELAN
AGAINST 18	CLLRS. D. ALVEY, J. BEHAN, S. BOURKE, A. CRONIN, M. DUDDY, L. FENELON-GASKIN, O. FINN, P. FITZGERALD, P. KENNEDY, P. MAHON, J. MULHALL, D. O'BRIEN, P O'BRIEN, G. O'NEILL, W. O'TOOLE, L. SCOTT, P. STAPLETON AND C. WINSTANLEY
NOT PRESENT 1	CLLRS M. MURPHY
ABSTAINING 1	CLLR. T. FORTUNE

TO MAKE A SCHEME FOR THE ABATEMENT OF RATES DUE

That Wicklow County Council makes a scheme for the abatement of rates due to it by liable persons, or classes of liable persons, in respect of vacant film/ tv studio properties in accordance with the provisions of Section 9 of the Local Government Rates and Other Matters Act 2019. Such a scheme will provide for a 60% abatement of rates on vacant film/tv studio premises as provided for in Section 9(1) of the Local Government Rates & Other Matters Act of 2019 for the financial year ending of 31st December 2026.

Following a roll call the motion was defeated by a margin of 12 votes for, 19 votes against and 1 not present viz:-

FOR 12	CLLRS. M. CORRIGAN, E. DOYLE, G. DUNNE, T. FORTUNE, P. GLENNON, S. LANGRELL, P. LEONARD, I. NEARY, G. RICHMOND, J. SNELL, S. STOKES AND N. WHELAN
AGAINST 19	CLLRS. D. ALVEY, M. BARRY, J. BEHAN, S. BOURKE, A. CRONIN, M. DUDDY, L. FENELON-GASKIN, O. FINN, P. FITZGERALD, P. KENNEDY, P. MAHON, J. MULHALL, D. O'BRIEN, P O'BRIEN, G. O'NEILL, W. O'TOOLE, L. SCOTT, P. STAPLETON AND C. WINSTANLEY
NOT PRESENT 1	CLLR. M. MURPHY

TO MAKE A SCHEME FOR THE ABATEMENT OF RATES DUE

That Wicklow County Council makes a scheme for the abatement of rates due to it by liable persons, or classes of liable persons, in respect of vacant properties in accordance with the provisions of Section 9 of the Local Government Rates and Other Matters Act 2019. Such a scheme will provide for a 20% abatement of rates on vacant premises as provided for in Section 9(1) of the Local Government Rates & Other Matters Act of 2019 for the financial year ending of 31st December 2026.

Following a roll call it was agreed by resolution by a margin of 30 votes for, 1 vote against and 1 not present viz:-

FOR 30	CLLRS. D. ALVEY, M. BARRY, J. BEHAN, S. BOURKE, M. CORRIGAN, A. CRONIN, E. DOYLE, G. DUNNE, L. FENELON-GASKIN, O. FINN, P. FITZGERALD, T. FORTUNE, P. GLENNON, P. KENNEDY, S. LANGRELL, P. LEONARD, P. MAHON, J. MULHALL, I. NEARY, D. O'BRIEN, P O'BRIEN, G. O'NEILL, W. O'TOOLE, G. RICHMOND, L. SCOTT, J. SNELL, P. STAPLETON, S. STOKES, N. WHELAN AND C. WINSTANLEY
AGAINST 1	CLLR. M. DUDDY
NOT PRESENT 1	CLLR. M. MURPHY

TO ADOPT THE STATUTORY ANNUAL BUDGET FOR 2026, AS PRESENTED, WITH AMENDMENT

To consider the Chief Executive's Draft Budget of Wicklow County Council for the year ending 31st December 2026 and subject to the provisions of Section 103 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended, pass a resolution adopting the Draft Budget for 2026, with amendment, increased income of €1.07 million from commercial rates offset by additional expenditure under D09 of €0.52million for enhanced rates incentive scheme and B04 of €0.55 million for local roads maintenance.

Following a roll call it was agreed by resolution by margin of 30 votes for and 2 not present viz:-

FOR 30	CLLRS. D. ALVEY, J. BEHAN, S. BOURKE, M. CORRIGAN, A. CRONIN, E. DOYLE, M. DUDDY, G. DUNNE, L. FENELON-GASKIN, O. FINN, P. FITZGERALD, T. FORTUNE, P. GLENNON, P. KENNEDY, S. LANGRELL, P. LEONARD, P. MAHON, J. MULHALL, I. NEARY, D. O'BRIEN, P O'BRIEN, G. O'NEILL, W. O'TOOLE, G. RICHMOND, L. SCOTT, J. SNELL, P. STAPLETON, S. STOKES, N. WHELAN AND C. WINSTANLEY
NOT PRESENT 2	CLLRS. M. BARRY AND M. MURPHY

In conclusion, the Cathaoirleach thanked all of the Elected Members for their time and attention.

Chief Executive Emer O'Gorman thanked Brian Gleeson, Director of Services and his team in Finance and the Management Team and staff of Wicklow County Council involved in the process.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING


CLLR. MELANIE CORRIGAN
CATHAOIRLEACH
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL


MS. HELEN PURCELL
SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER/
MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR

Confirmed at meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday the 12th January 2026.