## MEETING OF WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

## HELD AT COUNTY BUILDINGS, WHITEGATES, WICKLOW TOWN AND VIA TEAMS

## ON MONDAY, 12 MAY 2025 AT 2:00PM

STENOGRAPHER: Niamh Kelly-Leahy, RMR, MBIVR

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1	PROCEEDINGS COMMENCED ON MONDAY, 12TH MAY 2025 AT 2.00 PM,
2	AS FOLLOWS:
3	
4	CATHAOIRLEACH: Good afternoon, members. Just bear with us now while we
5	do the roll call first. Thank you, Rachel.
6	MS GILLESPIE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I would like to welcome everyone to
7	today's meeting. Can I remind everyone online to remain on mute unless speaking?
8	Can I also remind everyone in the chamber to have their mobile phones on silent? If
9	anyone has any technical difficulties please contact either myself or Teresa. I will
10	now take the roll call.
11	
12	Councillor Danny Alvey?
13	COUNCILLOR ALVEY: Present.
14	MS GILLESPIE: Present. Thank you. Councillor Mark Barry? Online. I'll come
15	back to him. Apologies received from Councillor Joe Behan. Councillor Sylvester
16	Bourke?
17	COUNCILLOR BOURKE: Present.
18	MS GILLESPIE: Present. Councillor Melanie Corrigan?
19	COUNCILLOR CORRIGAN: Present.
20	MS GILLESPIE: Present. Councillor Avril Cronin?
21	COUNCILLOR CRONIN: Present.
22	MS GILLESPIE: Present. Councillor Erika Doyle?
23	COUNCILLOR DOYLE: Present.
24	MS GILLESPIE: Present. Apologies received in advance from Councillor Malachaí
25	Duddy. Councillor Gail Dunne? He's trying to join in online so I will check in with
26	him after. Councillor Louise Fenelon Gaskin?
27	COUNCILLOR FENELON GASKIN: Present.
28	MS GILLESPIE: Present. Councillor Orla Finn? I understand she's coming late.
29	Councillor Pat Fitzgerald?
30	COUNCILLOR FITZGERALD: Present.
31	MS GILLESPIE: Present. Councillor Tom Fortune?
32	COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: Present.
33	MS GILLESPIE: Present. Councillor Patsy Glennon?
34	COUNCILLOR GLENNON: Present.

1 MS GILLESPIE: Councillor Pat Kennedy? 2 COUNCILLOR KENNEDY: Present. 3 MS GILLESPIE: Present. Councillor Shane Langrell? 4 COUNCILLOR LANGRELL: Present. 5 MS GILLESPIE: Present. Councillor Peir Leonard? COUNCILLOR LEONARD: Present. 6 7 MS GILLESPIE: Present. Councillor Pat Mahon? 8 COUNCILLOR MAHON: Present. 9 MS GILLESPIE: Present. Councillor Jason Mulhall? 10 COUNCILLOR MULHALL: Present. 11 MS GILLESPIE: Present. Councillor Miriam Murphy? 12 COUNCILLOR MURPHY: Present. 13 MS GILLESPIE: Present online. Councillor Ian Neary? 14 COUNCILLOR NEARY: Present. 15 MS GILLESPIE: Present. Councillor Dermot O'Brien? 16 COUNCILLOR O'BRIEN: Anseo. 17 MS GILLESPIE: Councillor Paul O'Brien? 18 CATHAOIRLEACH: Present. 19 MS GILLESPIE: Present. Councillor Gerry O'Neill? 20 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: Anseo. 21 MS GILLESPIE: Present. Councillor Warren O'Toole? 22 COUNCILLOR O'TOOLE: Anseo. 23 MS GILLESPIE: Present. Councillor Graham Richmond? 24 COUNCILLOR RICHMOND: Present. 25 MS GILLESPIE: Present. Councillor Lourda Scott? 26 COUNCILLOR SCOTT: Here. MS GILLESPIE: Present online. Councillor John Snell? 27 28 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Present. 29 MS GILLESPIE: Present. Councillor Peter Stapleton? COUNCILLOR STAPLETON: Present. 30 MS GILLESPIE: Present. Councillor Stephen Stokes? 31 COUNCILLOR STOKES: Present. 32 33 MS GILLESPIE: Present. Councillor Caroline Winstanley? COUNCILLOR WINSTANLEY: Present. 34

1	MS GILLESPIE: Present. Thank you.
2	CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, members. I hope we haven't missed anyone. Just
3	before I go onto the next item on the agenda I just want to, on behalf of all of us,
4	staff and elected representatives, to pass our best wishes on to Councillor Joe Behan,
5	and we wish him a speedy recovery, and we look forward to having him back in the
6	chamber sooner rather than later. Thank you very much.
7	
8	So, do we have any condolences? Do you want to hit your button. Councillor Shane
9	Langrell.
10	COUNCILLOR LANGRELL: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Cathaoirleach, I have a
11	vote of sympathy for Brooke Carey who was from Ashford, who passed away three
12	weeks ago now. Brooke was a neighbour of ours and her life was her horses, and she
13	passed away suddenly, so I would like to send my sympathies on to her dad Declan,
14	mam Susan, and her brother Emmet. May she rest in peace. Thank you,
15	Cathaoirleach.
16	CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Silvester Bourke.
17	COUNCILLOR BOURKE: Cathaoirleach, on behalf of the Fine Gael group I would
18	just like to offer our sympathies to Director of Services, Michael Nicholson, on the
19	passing of his father who was buried this morning. Michael is from a family in
20	Arklow held in the highest of esteem, so it is a very sad day for his family, and we
21	express our deepest sympathies.
22	CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. And I am sure we can all share in that, every
23	elected member would share in that sympathy. Councillor Pat Fitzgerald.
24	COUNCILLOR FITZGERALD: I just want to second what Councillor Bourke has
25	said. I happened to be there this morning in the church, and it was great to see so
26	many elected representatives there this morning in the church. He was a person well
27	renowned in the community, and to hear people talking about him was gratifying for
28	Michael and his family. So, as I say, his family live near me as well in Oaklands, so
29	the best wishes to the family. All right.
30	CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. If there's no one elsewhere there,
31	Rachel, do you have any staff members? Thank you.
32	MS GILLESPIE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. We would also like to extend our
33	sympathies to the families of Anne Blake, mother of recently retired Councillor
34	Vincent Blake; Veronica Carroll, mother of our former colleague and friend Matt

1 Carroll; Aileen Finucane, mother of our colleague Suzanne Finucane; Anne Carroll, 2 mother of our colleague Sinéad Bishop and our former colleague, Pam Kennedy. 3 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Rachel. I would ask everyone to rise for a 4 moment's reflection and silence. Thank you. 5 6 (Moment of silence.) 7 8 MS GILLESPIE: May their souls and the souls of all the faithfully departed, through 9 the mercy of God, rest in peace. 10 CATHAOIRLEACH: Just before I go into the agenda proper I am going to propose 11 that we bring item number 6 up to item number 2, which is the seating of the 12 vacancy of Councillor Aoife Flynn Kennedy. So if there are no objections I will 13 move that up so we can seat the new councillor. Happy enough? So, before I go 14 into that, item number 1 on the agenda: To confirm and sign the minutes of ordinary 15 meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday, 27th April 2025. Can I have 16 a proposer, please? Councillor Pat Fitzgerald. And seconder? Councillor John 17 Snell. Thank you. 18 19 Okay. Just before I do go on to item number 2 on the agenda I want to welcome a 20 very special guest here today. She needs no introduction. She sat in this chamber 21 for almost six years with those of us what were elected in 2019, and we all got the 22 news there not so long ago that she's going on to pastures new. That doesn't mean 23 that we're not going to miss her here in this chamber. As I said, we're colleagues but 24 we're also friends in this chamber. And she is a former Cathaoirleach here in 25 Wicklow County Council and if the speeches were anything like last year when she 26 stepped down I know she's going to leave this chamber very proud, very emotional, 27 like all of us. She's not going to be just a sad loss to myself and Fine Gael, she's 28 going to be a sad loss to everyone in this chamber because she had a broad appeal, 29 she worked with everybody. She didn't see the colour of a party, she seen the colour 30 of the person's eyes and she worked with them. She didn't care if they were

Independent, Sinn Fein, Soc Dems, Fine Gael or Fianna Fáil. She worked with
everybody across the board. And might I also add she also worked well with every
staff member because I know, it went around the room like a vibration, that it was a
shock, and I know a lot of the staff speak very highly of Aoife Finn Kennedy and

1	they were shocked and sorry to see her go, like all of us. So, Aoife, if you would like
2	to come forward maybe to say a few words and I can make a small presentation to
3	you then. You might come up to the podium so people online can hear you then.
4	COUNCILLOR FLYNN KENNEDY: Cathaoirleach, thank you so much for that.
5	Thank you for the invitation here today. It is a unique opportunity to get an
6	opportunity to come down and thank everybody face-to-face because obviously the
7	decision I know came as a shock for a lot of people. It's obviously a really important
8	decision for my family. It changes my family dynamic and my home life, so it's the
9	right decision for the family but a very difficult decision to make, nonetheless.
10	
11	I don't have a lot to say, just to thank everybody for your support. You've all been
12	amazing, and it's been great working with everybody, and I think everybody in this
13	room brings something unique to the table. As Paul said, regardless of party or
14	non-party, I don't think there's anybody in this room that's here for any other reason
15	than to do the absolute best for their own community and that's probably what unites
16	us all. Thank you very much for your support. Much appreciated.
17	
18	(Applause.)
19	
20	CATHAOIRLEACH: Just stay there for a minute. You're not getting off that
21	lightly! Councillor Silvester Bourke.
22	COUNCILLOR BOURKE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Just on behalf of the
23	members of Fine Gael we want to thank Aoife Flynn Kennedy for her hard work and
24	her dedication which often went above and beyond the call of duty. And we all
25	know that when she was in your job there she could have taken some time and
26	possibly should have but didn't she was so committed to the job. And she will be
27	greatly missed by all the members here and we thank her most sincerely for her
28	dynamism and her energy and enthusiasm for leading this group over the past year.
29	So, we wish you the very best of luck in your new endeavour as well and I am sure
30	our path will cross again. So very best of luck, Aoife.
31	CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Councillor Tom Fortune.
32	COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Yeah, I'd like, on behalf of the
33	Independent group and myself, to wish Aoife the very, very best in her new role. No
34	doubt she'll shine in it as she has done in her political role. What we will miss, or

1 what I'll probably miss, Aoife, is the bits of jousting we'd have from time to time on 2 matters of very important local issues. But no, you are very good at what you do. I 3 know you obviously outside of politics, as you know, and your new role I know you 4 have good reasons for it, but it is a great opportunity for you. Maybe someday you 5 will end up back here as a Director or even the CE because you certainly will have 6 the ability. I wish you the very, very best. You're a decent individual, and that's 7 what matters. So I wish you the very best.

- 8 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Corrigan.
- 9 COUNCILLOR CORRIGAN: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. And I know Silvester has 10 spoken on behalf of the Fine Gael group but as a Bray colleague I just wanted to say 11 a few words. Aoife and I worked very closely over the last six years, and we have 12 become very good friends, and I think that will continue for life, I think. But I just 13 wanted to say on record, Aoife, thank you for all the support you've given me, the 14 guidance, the cooperation. You've been absolutely a wonderful co-worker. We've 15 got a lot of things done together. I always thought we were a bit yin and yang; you 16 had your strengths in your areas which supported me, and I was able to help you in 17 other areas. And I will miss you terribly, but I just want to wish you and all your 18 family the best of luck, and we will miss you. Without a doubt you put the people of 19 Bray and County Wicklow foremost in your work and your duties and we were all 20 very, very grateful to you. Thank you.
- 21 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Councillor Miriam Murphy online.
- 22 COUNCILLOR MURPHY: Thanks, Cathaoirleach.
- 23 CATHAOIRLEACH: You've gone on mute, Councillor. Sorry, Miriam.

24 COUNCILLOR MURPHY: Sorry. We go back 25 years in the sense of the role of

25 ...(inaudible)... officer, which is obviously very emotional and actually, Aoife, started 26

- that position over 20 years ago. So, it is very important that we give Aoife all the
- 27 credit for all the disability issues that you brought to the Council many, many years
- 28 ago. And it will get stronger after this meeting today. Aoife, I will miss you as a
- 29 councillor, but I know our friendship will go on forever and you will shine in
- 30 whatever you do.
- CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Lourda Scott. 31

32 COUNCILLOR SCOTT: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Aoife, I am sorry I can't be there 33 in person. I know you understand that struggle with family life. I yet again have to

34 attend this meeting online. But, look, needless to say I was absolutely gutted to hear

1 of your resignation, from a personal level and genuinely it is a huge loss to the 2 chamber. Your contributions here in Wicklow County Council were always so well 3 thought out and measured and worthwhile, and even if we were disagreeing on 4 points I know this is what you had to say because I knew behind it you carefully 5 thought about it and weren't just saying something for the sake of it. You are 6 unbelievably a hard-working councillor not just putting social media posts but 7 background work to get stuff done. And in the few committees we were on, Bray 8 Area Partnership, et cetera, and we worked together organising a few events and all 9 with the incentive ...(inaudible)... we'll get it done and get it done with good humour. 10 And I have great respect for that. When you were Cathaoirleach you ruled with a 11 great sense of humour but also a sensitivity and you were possibly the busiest 12 Cathaoirleach I have ever seen. There wasn't an event big or small that you wouldn't 13 pop up. You stayed for a good length of time; you weren't just there to pop up for a 14 photo. In the depths of the winter last year, at nine o'clock, I was coming out of the 15 shower, and I had a towel on my head and there on the doorstep was Aoife Flynn 16 Kennedy standing there with the Taoiseach looking for votes. Look, I am going to 17 really miss you. I am always here for a call, a chat or to touch base on something. 18 As I said again you will be a huge loss to the Council. We need more people like 19 you to represent the people in Wicklow, not less. If I can point out that you are now 20 going to be the fourth female councillor to have stepped down from your post in the 21 last three years and I think that is a really, really sad note. But I wish you all the best 22 in your future work and I know you will be a massive success as others have said. 23 So best of luck.

24 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Councillor Leonard.

COUNCILLOR LEONARD: Yeah, I just want to follow on from all those true
comments about you and just want to thank you personally for all the times you
helped me outside of hours with housing issues and advice and help, and you most
definitely are a hard-working individual and you're a hard-working councillor for the
community and I wish you the very best in your new role and I am sure our paths
will cross again. Thanks, Aoife.

31 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Councillor Stokes.

32 COUNCILLOR STOKES: Go raibh maith agat, Cathaoirleach. Aoife, thank you so

33 much for your service. You have been a wonderful colleague to have worked with.

34 You were a brilliant councillor and just a wonderful human being and great friend to

all of us. And I am reminded of that Dr Seuss quote, "Don't cry because it's over,
smile because it happened." You know, you did such a wonderful tenure, and I am
sure everybody in the chamber will be long-time friends with you. And it is no
surprise that the lights lit up like a Christmas tree to sing your praises. Thank you,
Aoife.

6 CATHAOIRLEACH: I follow that quote.

7 COUNCILLOR DOYLE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. At this stage of the 8 proceedings all the things have been said. But, Aoife, you've become a close friend, 9 and we obviously work very closely together in Bray and have done over the years, 10 and you've done that with such a spirit of generosity and never once any aspect of 11 territorial politicking which is incredible considering the nature of the business that 12 we do. I think you are such an incredible example for your daughters and for all of 13 our daughters actually, and as somebody else said we need more women like you in 14 politics. I completely understand your decision, but it is a devastating decision 15 actually for politics in County Wicklow and in particular a Bray. But I know you 16 will continue to contribute all your strengths for the benefit of others in your new 17 role, and I am delighted for you on that, but I will miss you and Bray will miss you. 18 The very best of luck and thank you for everything you've shared and given to me 19 over the last few years, and I know that our friendship will continue beyond this. 20 Thank you.

21 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Councillor Dermot O'Brien.

22 COUNCILLOR DERMOT O'BRIEN: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Three things I'll 23 say to you, Aoife. First one, and three things I love about how -- who you are and 24 how you carried yourself in this chamber. And I would say number one, and this 25 very much -- I think we have a lot of resonance in the fact that we see ourselves as 26 part of community, rooted in community and in service to community, and it's 27 something that we see consistently, without pause, sometimes without even 28 consideration for self that you are selfless in your commitment, and I praise you 29 hugely for that. I love the way and loved the way you manage, yeah, as has been 30 mentioned, even in the chamber the tension that might exist between us at times. 31 And what sticks in my mind is that you're the type, which again relates to the type of 32 councillor that we need this chamber where you would say 'I appreciate where 33 Councillor O'Brien is coming from but...' and you will bring your point into the 34 room. And I think that actually says something, because to appreciate where

1 someone is coming from and to disagree with them I think says something about 2 how you do politics, and I think that is to be commended. And the last thing I would 3 say is that I very much loved how also selfless you were to say, Dermot, get into that 4 photo there, get your chains on, up you go, or that you would send me a WhatsApp 5 with a picture of me where I haven't got around to it or haven't bothered, and that is 6 such a thoughtful way to work with someone who may be seen as an opponent, who 7 may be seen as an other, but you are so thoughtful, so considerate and I really, really 8 appreciate that. Best of luck I would say. Yeah, you're another escapee, which 9 might be a good thing, and I know that the role you're going into is also one where 10 there's care and compassion and commitment to community. So, best of luck. 11 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Councillor Patsy Glennon. 12 COUNCILLOR GLENNON: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I have been asked to say a 13 few words on behalf of my Fianna Fáil colleagues. And you were our Cathaoirleach 14 in the last year of the previous term and you did it with great style and fairness to 15 everyone, you were support for us all. I didn't always agree with some of your 16 political judgments but that has never interfered with our friendship and thank you 17 for that. Aoife has the charm and charisma of her father who is great character and 18 clearly the drive and determination of your mum. I wish you well in your future 19 career and every aspect of your life and thank you for everything. 20 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Councillor Caroline Winstanley. 21 COUNCILLOR WINSTANLEY: Sorry I, pressed the wrong button. I should know 22 by now. 23 CATHAOIRLEACH: No problem. Go ahead. 24 COUNCILLOR WINSTANLEY: So, I would like to say thank you on behalf of the 25 Social Democrats. As a new councillor you have offered me nothing but kindness 26 and support, and you have always been very generous with your time, and I have 27 learned so much from you. And if I could be half the councillor you are I would be 28 happy. 29 CATHAOIRLEACH: We are all going to get emotional at this stage. Councillor John Snell. 30 31 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Yeah, thanks, Cathaoirleach. First and foremost on behalf 32 of myself and Councillor O'Neill I just want to thank Aoife for everything that she's 33 done over many years. I was lucky enough to meet Aoife when she worked for 34 Wicklow County Council almost 15, 16 years ago. It was an honour to serve on the

1 East Coast Regional Drugs and Alcohol Task Force when Aoife came on board to 2 chair that forum, and she done it the same way as she carried herself in here in these 3 chambers; she was very open, transparent. And the issues were close to her heart, 4 and she made that known to everybody. If you look down through the item agenda 5 that's coming up, there's nine positions to be filled, that Aoife Flynn Kennedy sat on 6 nine boards. I know at least another six off the top of my head within her own 7 community, within her own political party. Your party was better for you; the 8 Council was better for you and Bray Municipal District was better for you. But I 9 always say to everybody, whether you're an official or an elected member, family 10 first, work second. And I think you have got it right. And knowing that you're a 11 workaholic you're going straight back to work but at least you won't be hopefully 12 leaving some of those 15 positions behind because you're passing on the baton, and I 13 know it will be in good hands with regards to your political party, your colleagues 14 and your friends. I want to wish you and more importantly your family all the best. 15 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. So it is my honour to ask you to 16 come up here and we will present you with a small token of our appreciation. 17 18 (Applause.) 19 20 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Aoife. And as we can see now life goes on 21 unfortunately. So, item number 2 on the agenda now is: To consider the casual 22 vacancy arising from the resignation of our friend, Aoife Flynn Kennedy, in 23 accordance with section 19 of the Local Government Act 2001. So I am looking for 24 a proposer. Councillor Sylvester Bourke. 25 COUNCILLOR BOURKE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I would like to propose 26 Mr Ned Whelan from Bray. Ned has been a very long time loyal Fine Gael 27 supporter. I have known him for as long as I have been a councillor. He has worked 28 for the past 43 years in the Department of Justice. He has great life experience, and I 29 believe if he is co-opted today will make a very positive contribution to life in 30 County Wicklow and to the work that goes on in this chamber, to improve the lives

and improve the services of every citizen in County Wicklow that we serve. So, I

- propose that we accept his nomination from the Fine Gael constituency to become a
   member of Wicklow County Council.
- 34 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Shane Langrell.

1 COUNCILLOR LANGRELL: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I second that. 2 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillors. So, are we agreed? Agreed? 3 (Agreed.) So it is again my honour here today to welcome the second councillor I 4 have to do in this term of office. So I would like welcome and formally ask 5 Councillor Ned Whelan to accept his seat. I am obviously going to ask Rachel to 6 read out... (Applause.) 7 MS GILLESPIE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Just for formalities: Due to the casual 8 vacancy arising from the resignation of Aoife Flynn Kennedy I can confirm that Ned 9 Whelan has been nominated to replace Aoife Flynn Kennedy in the Bray East LEA 10 on Wicklow County Council. It is an honour to welcome you to the chamber. 11 Thank you. 12 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Would you like to say a few words? Go ahead. 13 COUNCILLOR WHELAN: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. I can concur with everyone 14 here in the chamber here this evening. I know Aoife for a long number of years. I 15 know her family for a long number of years. I ran with Aoife in Bray East in 2019. 16 Aoife was very successful on that occasion; she was the better person, better lady for 17 the job. I would concur with everybody. I know Aoife's shoes will be hard to be 18 filled. I take size 11 shoes myself, but I think I need a bigger shoe now to be able to 19 fill Aoife's role, but I will try. I will do everything. I am a team player. I will work 20 everyone here, all the people in the chamber, and I will work with all the officials, 21 and I look forward to it. It is a learning process for me, but I will pick it up very 22 quick. Thank you, Cathaoirleach. 23 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Councillor Whelan rather than 24 bringing everyone in, on behalf of all the members I want to welcome you here 25 today, and I want to wish you the best of luck. I had a brief conversation with you 26 before we started today. So your congratulations on your appointment to Wicklow 27 County Council. I do wish you the best of luck on behalf of all the members. We're 28 here to work with you. Thank you. I am going to switch off your microphone so we 29 can keep going. 30 31 Okay. So we go onto the agenda proper again, which is item number 3: To consider 32 the disposal of 0.0421 hectares or thereabouts in the townland of Knockieran Lower 33 being the property known as 6 Knockieran Cottages, Blessington, County Wicklow 34 to Ciaran & Kate Gallagher (as per notice previously circulated). Can I have a

1 proposer, please? Councillor Patsy Glennon. And a seconder? Councillor Avril 2 Cronin. Agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you. 3 4 Item number 4 now on the agenda: To consider the disposal of 0.0331 hectares or 5 thereabouts in the townland of Knockanrahan Lower, being the property known as 6 24 Fernhill, Arklow, County Wicklow to Ms. Eimear Kenny (as per notice 7 previously circulated). Can I have a proposer? Councillor Warren O'Toole. And a 8 seconder? Councillor Pat Fitzgerald. Are we agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you. 9 Item number 5: To consider the disposal of 2 Woodleigh Close, Blessington, County 10 11 Wicklow to Ms Patricia Wiffen (as per notice previously circulated). Welcome on 12 board, Gail. Proposer, please? Councillor Patsy Glennon. Seconder? Councillor 13 Avril Cronin. Item number 6 on the agenda -- sorry. Agreed? (Agreed.) 14 15 Item number 6: To consider the disposal of 0.0057 hectares or thereabouts in the 16 townland of Bray, being the property known as 3 Connolly Square, Bray, County 17 Wicklow to Jane O'Sullivan and Teresa O'Sullivan as legal personal representatives 18 in the estate of John O'Sullivan (as per notice previously circulated). Can we have a 19 proposer? Councillor Melanie Corrigan. And a seconder? Councillor Dermot O'Brien. Agreed? (Agreed.) 20 21 22 We are going to move on to item number 7 on the agenda: To consider the vacancy 23 on the Community & Social Development Strategic Policy committee arising from 24 the resignation of Councillor Aoife. Flynn Kennedy. I am looking for proposer and 25 a seconder. Councillor Sylvester Bourke. 26 COUNCILLOR BOURKE: I propose Councillor Ned Whelan. 27 CATHAOIRLEACH: And Councillor Louise Fenelon Gaskin. 28 COUNCILLOR FENELON GASKIN: I second that. 29 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. And, Councillor Whelan, are you accepting the 30 nomination? 31 COUNCILLOR WHELAN: I will, Cathaoirleach, yes. CATHAOIRLEACH: Agreed? (Agreed.) 32 33

1	Item number 8: To consider the vacancy on the Economic Development &
2	Enterprise Support Strategic Policy Committee arising from the resignation of
3	Councillor Aoife Flynn Kennedy. I am looking for a proposer. Councillor Silvester
4	Bourke.
5	COUNCILLOR BOURKE: Cathaoirleach, I propose Councillor Ned Whelan.
6	CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Melanie Corrigan.
7	COUNCILLOR CORRIGAN: And I second Councillor Ned Whelan.
8	CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor, do you agree to that?
9	COUNCILLOR WHELAN: Yes.
10	CATHAOIRLEACH: Are we agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you very much.
11	
12	Item number 9: To consider the vacancy on the Kildare Wicklow Education
13	Training Board arising from the resignation of Councillor Aoife Flynn Kennedy. I
14	am looking for a proposer. Councillor Louise Fenelon Gaskin.
15	COUNCILLOR FENELON GASKIN: I propose Councillor Avril Cronin.
16	COUNCILLOR BOURKE: I second that, Cathaoirleach.
17	CATHAOIRLEACH: And Councillor Silvester Bourke is going to second it.
18	Councillor Cronin, do you agree?
19	COUNCILLOR CRONIN: Agreed. Thank you.
20	CATHAOIRLEACH: Are we all agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you very much.
21	
22	So items number 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 will be deferred. They will go back to Bray
23	for them to decide on that, and then will come back to us next month to ratify it.
24	
25	Item 15: To consider the vacancy on the Housing Strategic Policy Committee
26	arising from the resignation of Councillor Gail Dunne. Do we have anyone
27	forthcoming for that? Do you want to put on your mic? Councillor Caroline
28	Winstanley.
29	COUNCILLOR WINSTANLEY: I propose myself.
30	CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. To keep things flowing I am happy to second it. I
31	presume you're agreed?
32	COUNCILLOR WINSTANLEY: Agreed.
33	CATHAOIRLEACH: Are we all agreed. Agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you for
34	working with me there, members.

Item number 16: To consider the Proposed Material Amendments to the draft
Wicklow Town - Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025, to consider the Chief Executive's
Report on submissions to the Proposed Material Amendments to the draft plan and to
consider making, not making or modifying the Wicklow Town - Rathnew Local
Area Plan 2025-2031, all in accordance with section 20 of the Planning and
Development Act 2000, as amended. (Copy previously circulated).

8

1

- 9 Just as a way of introduction, we are here to consider the Chief Executive's Report 10 and submissions to the proposed amendments to the Wicklow Town and Rathnew 11 LAP and the proposed alterations to Variation No. 2 to the County Development 12 Plan. There are 45 amendments to the Draft Local Area Plan and four alterations to 13 Variation No. 2. You should all have a copy of the Local Area Plan amendments 14 and the variations and alterations in front of you. You should also have a copy of the summary document that presents a list of the amendments in order of the plan. This 15 16 is the order in which we will consider them today. All of the amendments were 17 considered in detail at the full Council meeting on the 10th February 2025 and each 18 amendment has to be voted on again today and it is important to state your reasons. 19 If it is the same reason as before please state clearly for the minutes that you propose 20 the amendments today for the same reasons as you set out in the February meeting. 21 If you've any additional reasons please clearly state them also. Each amendment also 22 needs to be seconded. The full appropriate assessment of the Local Area Plan was 23 also circulated to all the members last week for your consideration. Alongside the 24 amendments, you also have a copy of the final AA determination of the plan and 25 variation in front of you. Proposed amendment number one is an update to the 26 Residential Land Table which we will consider at the end of the Local Area Plan 27 amendment so that we know what the new zoning amendments have been agreed on.
- 28

So, members, I am asking you to work with me on this and we will get through it. I just want to say that the Wicklow MD, which I just happen to be part of, have done an extensive amount of work on this. We had a lot of meetings on it, a lot of workshops on it and we are mostly in agreement with most of the plan. So I am going to ask you to work with me on this one. So if you have this document here (indicating)? If everyone has that. So I am going to start with number 2. If you see

1	"CE" it's the Chief Executive, if you see "EM" it's the Elected Members. So you
2	know what you are looking at.
3	
4	We will start with number 2: "Add new objectives RE residential development
5	types, tenures and sizes." So I am looking for a proposer and a seconder. There's no
6	rationale given here.
7	COUNCILLOR SNELL: Proposed.
8	CATHAOIRLEACH: John Snell. Seconded by Graham Richmond. Are we all
9	agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you.
10	
11	Number 3: Add new objectives to Wicklow Town and Rathnew Village, priority
12	location, new employment. Proposer? John Snell. Seconded? Shane Langrell. Are
13	we all agreed? (Agreed.) I presume we're all agreed because it's the rationality
14	behind it, the previous report that was circulated? I will do it right from here on in.
15	
16	Item number 4: Add new objective Wicklow Town priority location redevelopment.
17	Proposer? Shane Langrell. Seconded? As for the reasons stated, yeah? John Snell.
18	Are we agreed? (Agreed.)
19	
20	Number 5: Add new objective to Rathnew Village priority location redevelopment.
21	Proposer? John Snell. Seconded? Graham Richmond. As per the February
22	meeting, the report, agreed? (Agreed.)
23	
24	Number 6: Add new objective Rathnew Village priority location, investment and
25	new development. Proposer? Graham Richmond. Seconded by John Snell. As per
26	the rationale, agreed? (Agreed.)
27	
28	Number 7: Update Rathnew Village strategy text. Omit county campus lands.
29	Proposed?
30	COUNCILLOR SNELL: Yeah.
31	CATHAOIRLEACH: John Snell. Seconded? Graham Richmond. As per the
32	rationale, agreed? (Agreed.)
33	

1	Number 8: Update Rathnew Village strategy map. Proposer? John Snell.
2	Seconded? Shane Langrell. Agreed as per the rationale provided? (Agreed.)
3	
4	Number 9: Improve Wicklow Town - Rathnew Village Waterfront strategy maps.
5	Proposer? Graham Richmond. Seconded? Shane Langrell. As per the rationale are
6	we agreed? (Agreed.)
7	
8	Number 10: Add new opportunity site 5, Charvey Lane. John Snell, proposed.
9	Seconded by Shane Langrell. As per the rationale are we agreed? (Agreed.).
10	
11	Number 11: Add new objective when preparing an LTP. Proposer? John Snell.
12	Seconded? Shane Langrell. As per the rationale are we agreed? (Agreed.) Thank
13	you.
14	
15	Number 12: Add new objective RE bus service. I propose this as per the rationale.
16	And a seconder? Shane Langrell. Agreed? (Agreed.)
17	
18	Number 13: Add new objective RE transit orientated development. Proposer?
19	Shane Langrell. Seconded by John Snell. Agreed as per the rationale? (Agreed.)
20	
21	Number 14: Add to Wicklow County Council's objectives FRA text. Proposer?
22	John. Seconded Shane Langrell. As per the rationale agreed? (Agreed.) Thank
23	you.
24	
25	Number 15: Amend zoning objective land use to include childcare and creche.
26	Proposer? Shane Langrell. Seconded? John Snell. As per the rationale agreed?
27	(Agreed.)
28	
29	Number 16: Amend 050S1 lands use to include allotments. Proposer? John Snell.
30	Seconder? Graham Richmond. As per the rationale agreed? (Agreed.)
31	
32	Number 17: Add to zoning objectives infrastructure and OS1 and OS2 lands.
33	Proposed? John Snell. Seconded? Shane Langrell. As per the rationale agreed?
34	(Agreed.) Thank you.

1	
2	So number 37 and number 18 here are combined but we need a proposer and
3	seconder for both of them. Starting with number 37: Rezone lands from unzoned
4	0S2 to WZ/0S2 to rear of old Veha factory. Proposer? I propose that. Seconded?
5	Councillor Shane Langrell. I am actually happy to propose the two of them, but I
6	will do them individually. You are happy enough to second the two of them, Shane?
7	COUNCILLOR LANGRELL: Yes.
8	CATHAOIRLEACH: Perfect. So just number 37, as per the rationale agreed?
9	(Agreed.) Thank you. And number 18: Amend waterfront zone texts and map to
10	extend regeneration area at rear of old Veha factory. Again we have a proposer and
11	a seconder. As per the rationale agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you.
12	
13	Okay. We have an Elected Members one now. So: SLO Tinakilly, Newrath,
14	Elected Members extend boundary and add MUGA and pitch objective. So I am
15	going to call upon Councillor Shane Langrell to come in here
16	COUNCILLOR LANGRELL: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Cathaoirleach, I want to
17	propose to further modify the fourth bullet point of SLO2 Tinakilly, Newrath to
18	change from 25% to 20%.
19	CATHAOIRLEACH: I am happy to second it. You're happy enough with the
20	modifications. Are we agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you.
21	
22	We're going to move on to number 20A. So the new proposal there was to further
23	modify with the CE's modification and the Elected Members' modification and
24	proceed to make PMA No. 19. Thank you.
25	
26	So number 20 A: SLO Miltown North, amend the boundary at Thigh's Avenue.
27	Proposer? John Snell. Seconded by Graham Richmond. As per rationale provided
28	agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you.
29	
30	So we've another Elected Members one here now: SLO Miltown North rezone OS to
31	RN2 along stream. So we need a proposer. So I am looking for a proposer.
32	Councillor John Snell. Seconded by and, John, do you want to come in? Here.
33	Go ahead, John

1	COUNCILLOR SNELL: Yeah. Just based on the same reasons given at the
2	February meeting it's been long-documented, it's there for everyone to see, public,
3	Elected Members and officials alike, so rather than going over old ground I think it is
4	only fair to move the meeting on. So based on the same reasons in February. Thank
5	you.
6	CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. I am going to look for a seconder first before I
7	bring in Councillor Alvey. Councillor O'Neill. Councillor Alvey, do you want to
8	come in there?
9	COUNCILLOR ALVEY: Yes, thank you, Cathaoirleach. I won't go on. I would
10	like to reiterate my position on this amendment as per the reasons outlined at the last
11	meeting on the subject, and I will be voting against this.
12	CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. We have to vote. Unless anyone else wants to come
13	in? Okay. We're going to go for a vote. Do you want to make sure?
14	MS GILLESPIE: Now as proposed by Councillor Danny Alvey sorry. Proposed
15	by John Snell and seconded by Councillor Gerry O'Neill: 20B SLO3 Miltown North
16	rezone OS2 RN 2 along stream. So you're voting for or against.
17	
18	Councillor Danny Alvey?
19	COUNCILLOR ALVEY: Against.
20	MS GILLESPIE: Against. Councillor Mark Barry?
21	COUNCILLOR BARRY: Against.
22	MS GILLESPIE: Councillor Joe Behan is absent. Councillor Sylvester Bourke?
23	COUNCILLOR BOURKE: For.
24	MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Melanie Corrigan?
25	COUNCILLOR CORRIGAN: For.
26	MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Avril Cronin?
27	COUNCILLOR CRONIN: For.
28	MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Erika Doyle?
29	COUNCILLOR DOYLE: Against.
30	MS GILLESPIE: Against. Councillor Malachaí Duddy is absent. Councillor Gail
31	Dunne, I'm not sure if he can hear us online or if he's available. Councillor Gail
32	Dunne?
33	CATHAOIRLEACH: We'll come back to him.
34	MS GILLESPIE: I don't think he has connection there now. He's absent.

1 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. 2 MS GILLESPIE: Councillor Louise Fenelon Gaskin? 3 COUNCILLOR FENELON GASKIN: For. MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Orla Finn? 4 5 COUNCILLOR FINN: Against. 6 MS GILLESPIE: Against. Councillor Pat Fitzgerald? 7 COUNCILLOR FITZGERALD: For. MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Ned Whelan? 8 9 COUNCILLOR WHELAN: For. 10 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Tom Fortune? COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: For. 11 12 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Patsy Glennon? 13 COUNCILLOR GLENNON: For. 14 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Pat Kennedy? 15 COUNCILLOR KENNEDY: For. 16 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Shane Langrell? 17 COUNCILLOR LANGRELL: For. 18 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Peir Leonard? 19 COUNCILLOR LEONARD: Against. 20 MS GILLESPIE: Against. Councillor Pat Mahon? 21 COUNCILLOR MAHON: For. 22 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Jason Mulhall? 23 COUNCILLOR MULHALL: Against. 24 MS GILLESPIE: Against. Councillor Miriam Murphy? Are you online there? I 25 will come back to her in a moment. Councillor Ian Neary? 26 COUNCILLOR NEARY: For. MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Dermot O'Brien? 27 28 COUNCILLOR O'BRIEN: For. MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Paul O'Brien? 29 CATHAOIRLEACH: For. 30 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Gerry O'Neill? 31 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: For. 32 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Warren O'Toole? 33 COUNCILLOR O'TOOLE: For. 34

1	MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Graham Richmond?
2	COUNCILLOR RICHMOND: For.
3	MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Lourda Scott?
4	COUNCILLOR SCOTT: Against.
5	MS GILLESPIE: Against. Councillor John Snell?
6	COUNCILLOR SNELL: For.
7	MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Peter Stapleton?
8	COUNCILLOR STAPLETON: For.
9	MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Stephen Stokes?
10	COUNCILLOR STOKES: For.
11	MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Caroline Winstanley?
12	COUNCILLOR WINSTANLEY: Against.
13	MS GILLESPIE: Against. And can I just check, Councillor Miriam Murphy, are
14	you available? Not present. And Councillor Gail Dunne? Not present. Just one
15	moment. So we have 20 for and eight against. So the motion is carried. Four not
16	present. Motion carried.
17	CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Rachel. We will now go on to number 21: SLO,
18	3 Miltown North add new text to refer to LTP. Proposer? Councillor Snell.
19	Seconded? Councillor Graham Richmond. As per the rationale provided agreed?
20	(Agreed.) Thank you.
21	
22	Number 22A: SLO4, Ballynabarney North, rezone from PU to RN2, rezone RN 2 to
23	OS1 and add AA objectives. So I am looking for a proposer. Councillor Snell.
24	Seconded? Councillor Shane Langrell. As per the rationale agreed? (Agreed.)
25	Thank you.
26	
27	22B: SLO4 Ballynabarney North, rezone from RN 2 to RN 1. This is an Elected
28	Members one. Have we a proposer? I am happy to propose that as given the
29	rationale provided at the February meeting. And seconded by Councillor Graham
30	Richmond. Are we agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you.
31	
32	23: SLO4 Ballynabarney, rezone land from RN2 to RN1. I am happy to propose
33	this. Seconded by Graham Richmond. As per the rationale provided are we agreed?
34	(Agreed.) Thank you.

1	
2	Number 24: SLO Rosanna Lower, amend map and text and to include some of the
3	lands originally in SLO 8, rezone RN1 to REEN locate relocate, sorry, CE zone.
4	So I am looking for a proposer. Councillor Graham Richmond. Thank you. I'll
5	second that. As per the rationale provided are we agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you.
6	
7	Number 25: Delete SLO 8 map boundary and text, Rosanna Lower. Proposer?
8	Councillor Graham Richmond. Seconded by Shane Langrell. As per the rationale
9	provided are we agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you.
10	
11	Okay. So we go now to an Elected Members one. Number 26: New SLO 9 Glebe,
12	rezone from CE to RN1 and RN2. So, Councillor Graham Richmond, because there
13	will be a modification here.
14	COUNCILLOR RICHMOND: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I won't outline what I
15	said before at the February meeting but just one small modification to further modify
16	the text omitting the second bullet point, to omit the bullet point that states "any
17	development on these lands shall make provision for possible future
18	pedestrian/cycling connectivity between Friers Hill and R750." Thank you,
19	Cathaoirleach.
20	CATHAOIRLEACH: You're more than welcome. I am happy to second that. As
21	per the rationale provided are we agreed? (Agreed.) Okay. Number 27 in relation
22	to last one the new proposal is to further modify and proceed to make PMA to
23	number 26. Thank you. But we are agreed. Thank you.
24	
25	We're nearly there. Number 27, another Elected Members, so: New SLO 10,
26	Ashtown Lane, rezoning 3.5 hectares from RN2 to RN1. I am happy to propose this
27	as per the rationale given by Councillor Dunne back in February. Can I have a
28	seconder? Councillor Graham Richmond. Are we agreed as to the rationale given?
29	(Agreed.) Thank you.
30	
31	Number 28: New SLO, 11 Marlton, Ballynerrin Lower, rezone 3.6 hectares from CE
32	to RN1, rezone 3.82 hectares to E to OS1 to CE at grain store and 0.5 hectares from
33	ERN1 to CE. Councillor Graham Richmond and I'm happy to second that. As per
34	the rationale given back in February are we agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you.

1	
2	Number 29: New SLO 12 Broom Hall, rezoning 7.35 hectares from RN2 to RN1
3	from unzoned to AOS. A proposer? Councillor John Snell. I am happy to second
4	that. As per the rationale given back in February are we agreed? (Agreed.) Thank
5	you.
6	
7	Number 30: New SLO 13 Broom Hall, Hawkes Bay, rezone 2.7 hectares from RN2
8	to RN1 from unzoned to AOS. Councillor John Snell. I'll second that. Per the
9	rationale given back in February are we agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you.
10	
11	Number 31: New SLO 14 Ballynabarney, rezone lands from AOS to E/CE.
12	Councillor John Snell, for the rationale modification, sorry.
13	COUNCILLOR SNELL: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Just a small modification in
14	regards to bullet point 2 on SLO 14 Ballynabarney, to read, "No more than 50% of
15	the employment units may be permitted on foot of the zoning may be occupied." It
16	is just a small modification to give this project the best opportunity possible to come
17	to fruition. Thank you, Cathaoirleach.
18	CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. I am happy to second that. That
19	means new proposal to further modify and proceed to make PMA number 31. Are
20	we agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you.
21	
22	Number 32: Rezone land from to DC to WCC at Clermont. I'm happy enough to
23	propose that. Seconded by Councillor John Snell. As per the rationale provided in
24	February are we agreed? (Agreed.)
25	
26	Number 33: Rezone lands from RE to BC at Charvey Lane, Rathnew Village.
27	Councillor Snell. I am happy to second that. As per the rationale given agreed?
28	(Agreed.)
29	
30	Number 34: Rezone lands from OS1 to CE at Knockrobin. I am happy enough to
31	propose that. Do we have a seconder? Councillor Shane Langrell. As per the
32	rationale provided in February are we agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you.
33	

1	Number 35: Rezone lands from OS1 to RN1 at Ballynabarney. Proposer?
2	Councillor John Snell. Seconded by myself. As per the rationale given are we
3	agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you.
4	
5	Number 36: Rezone from RE to CE at Greenhills Road. Can I have a proposer,
6	please?
7	COUNCILLOR SNELL: Yeah.
8	CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Shane Langrell and John Snell. As per the
9	rationale provided are we agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you.
10	
11	Number 38, which is Elected Members: Rezone 0.06 hectares from OS2 to RN1 at
12	Charvey Court, Rathnew. Can I have a proposer?
13	COUNCILLOR SNELL: Proposed.
14	CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Snell. Do I have a seconder? Councillor Shane
15	Langrell. Councillor Alvey, do you want to come in there?
16	COUNCILLOR ALVEY: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Yeah, I just want to reiterate
17	my position on this amendment as per the reasons outlined at the last meeting
18	(inaudible)
19	CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillors. We will now go to a vote.
20	MS GILLESPIE: Thank you. As proposed by John Snell and seconded by Shane
21	Langrell we will have a vote on the rezoning of 0.06 hectares from OS2 to RN1 at
22	Charvey Court, Rathnew. Councillors are voting in favour or against.
23	
24	Councillor Danny Alvey?
25	COUNCILLOR ALVEY: Against.
26	MS GILLESPIE: Against. Councillor Mark Barry?
27	COUNCILLOR BARRY: Against.
28	MS GILLESPIE: Against. Councillor Joe Behan is not present. Councillor
29	Sylvester Bourke?
30	COUNCILLOR BOURKE: For.
31	MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Melanie Corrigan?
32	COUNCILLOR CORRIGAN: For.
33	MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Avril Cronin?
34	COUNCILLOR CRONIN: For.

- 1 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Erika Doyle?
- 2 COUNCILLOR DOYLE: Against.
- 3 MS GILLESPIE: Against. Councillor Malachaí Duddy is not present. Councillor
- 4 Gail Dunne? Not present. Councillor Louise Fenelon Gaskin?
- 5 COUNCILLOR FENELON GASKIN: For.
- 6 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Orla Finn?
- 7 COUNCILLOR FINN: For.
- 8 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Pat Fitzgerald?
- 9 COUNCILLOR FITZGERALD: For.
- 10 MS GILLESPIE: Councillor Ned Whelan?
- 11 Councillor Whelan: For.
- 12 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Tom Fortune?
- 13 COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: For.
- 14 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Patsy Glennon?
- 15 COUNCILLOR GLENNON: For.
- 16 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Pat Kennedy?
- 17 COUNCILLOR KENNEDY: For.
- 18 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Shane Langrell?
- 19 COUNCILLOR LANGRELL: For.
- 20 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Peir Leonard?
- 21 COUNCILLOR LEONARD: For.
- 22 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Pat Mahon?
- 23 COUNCILLOR MAHON: For.
- 24 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Jason Mulhall?
- 25 COUNCILLOR MULHALL: For.
- 26 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Miriam Murphy?
- 27 COUNCILLOR MURPHY: Abstain.
- 28 MS GILLESPIE: Abstain. Councillor Ian Neary?
- 29 COUNCILLOR NEARY: For.
- 30 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Dermot O'Brien?
- 31 COUNCILLOR O'BRIEN: For.
- 32 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Paul O'Brien?
- 33 CATHAOIRLEACH: For.
- 34 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Gerry O'Neill?

1	COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: For.
2	MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Warren O'Toole?
3	COUNCILLOR O'TOOLE: For.
4	MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Graham Richmond?
5	COUNCILLOR RICHMOND: For.
6	MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Lourda Scott?
7	COUNCILLOR SCOTT: Against.
8	MS GILLESPIE: Against. Councillor John Snell?
9	COUNCILLOR SNELL: For.
10	MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Peter Stapleton?
11	COUNCILLOR STAPLETON: For.
12	MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Stephen Stokes?
13	COUNCILLOR STOKES: For.
14	MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Caroline Winstanley?
15	COUNCILLOR WINSTANLEY: Against.
16	MS GILLESPIE: Against. Twenty-three for, five against, three not present and one
17	abstaining. The motion is carried.
18	CATHAOIRLEACH: Per the rationale provided are we agreed? (Agreed.) Thank
19	you.
20	
21	Number 39: Rezone 0.673 hectares from unzoned to RN1 at Ballyguile Beg. I am
22	happy to propose that. Seconded by Councillor John Snell. As per the rationale
23	provided in February are we agreed? (Agreed.)
24	COUNCILLOR SNELL: Your mic was off.
25	CATHAOIRLEACH: So we're still on 39. Thank you. Rezone 0.673 hectares from
26	unzoned to RN1 at Ballyguile Beg. I'm happy to propose that, Councillor Snell was
27	happy to second it. As per the rationale provided in February are we agreed?
28	(Agreed.) Thank you.
29	
30	Number 40: Rezone 3 hectares from RN2 to RN1 at Greenhill Road, Mariners Point.
31	Can I have a proposer? Councillor Shane Langrell. And seconder? Councillor John
32	Snell. As per the rationale provided are we agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you.
33	

1	Rezone 1 hectare from OS2 to E at Murrough. Number 41 we are on. Can I have a
2	proposer? Councillor Shane Langrell
3	COUNCILLOR LANGRELL: Yes, Cathaoirleach, I'd like to propose that to further
4	modify the PMA 41 to add the following local objective for the subject lands set on
5	page 96 and 97 of the CE report. New proposal to further modify and proceed to
6	make the PMA number 41.
7	CATHAOIRLEACH: So that's a new proposal to further and modify and proceed to
8	make PMA number 45. Seconded by Graham Richmond. So are we
9	agreed Councillor Danny Alvey, do you want to come in here?
10	COUNCILLOR ALVEY: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. This proposal relates to the
11	Murrough, it is right on the boundary, it is over the special protection area. I
12	welcome the observation that any development in this area won't happen
13	(inaudible) nonetheless it would significantly affect the bird population in the
14	area that the SPA is due to protect, and it is for that reason(inaudible)
15	CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. We'll be going to a vote.
16	MS GILLESPIE: As proposed by Councillor Shane Langrell and seconded by
17	Councillor Graham Richmond for the rezoning of circa 1 hectare from OS2 to E at
18	the Murrough.
18 19	the Murrough.
	the Murrough. Councillor Danny Alvey, for or against?
19	
19 20	Councillor Danny Alvey, for or against?
19 20 21	Councillor Danny Alvey, for or against? COUNCILLOR ALVEY: Against.
19 20 21 22	Councillor Danny Alvey, for or against? COUNCILLOR ALVEY: Against. MS GILLESPIE: Against. Councillor Mark Barry?
19 20 21 22 23	Councillor Danny Alvey, for or against? COUNCILLOR ALVEY: Against. MS GILLESPIE: Against. Councillor Mark Barry? COUNCILLOR BARRY: Against.
19 20 21 22 23 24	Councillor Danny Alvey, for or against? COUNCILLOR ALVEY: Against. MS GILLESPIE: Against. Councillor Mark Barry? COUNCILLOR BARRY: Against. MS GILLESPIE: Against. Councillor Joe Behan not present. Councillor Sylvester
19 20 21 22 23 24 25	Councillor Danny Alvey, for or against? COUNCILLOR ALVEY: Against. MS GILLESPIE: Against. Councillor Mark Barry? COUNCILLOR BARRY: Against. MS GILLESPIE: Against. Councillor Joe Behan not present. Councillor Sylvester Bourke?
19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26	Councillor Danny Alvey, for or against? COUNCILLOR ALVEY: Against. MS GILLESPIE: Against. Councillor Mark Barry? COUNCILLOR BARRY: Against. MS GILLESPIE: Against. Councillor Joe Behan not present. Councillor Sylvester Bourke? COUNCILLOR BOURKE: For.
19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27	Councillor Danny Alvey, for or against? COUNCILLOR ALVEY: Against. MS GILLESPIE: Against. Councillor Mark Barry? COUNCILLOR BARRY: Against. MS GILLESPIE: Against. Councillor Joe Behan not present. Councillor Sylvester Bourke? COUNCILLOR BOURKE: For. MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Melanie Corrigan?
19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	Councillor Danny Alvey, for or against? COUNCILLOR ALVEY: Against. MS GILLESPIE: Against. Councillor Mark Barry? COUNCILLOR BARRY: Against. MS GILLESPIE: Against. Councillor Joe Behan not present. Councillor Sylvester Bourke? COUNCILLOR BOURKE: For. MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Melanie Corrigan? COUNCILLOR CORRIGAN: For.
<ol> <li>19</li> <li>20</li> <li>21</li> <li>22</li> <li>23</li> <li>24</li> <li>25</li> <li>26</li> <li>27</li> <li>28</li> <li>29</li> </ol>	Councillor Danny Alvey, for or against? COUNCILLOR ALVEY: Against. MS GILLESPIE: Against. Councillor Mark Barry? COUNCILLOR BARRY: Against. MS GILLESPIE: Against. Councillor Joe Behan not present. Councillor Sylvester Bourke? COUNCILLOR BOURKE: For. MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Melanie Corrigan? COUNCILLOR CORRIGAN: For. MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Avril Cronin?
<ol> <li>19</li> <li>20</li> <li>21</li> <li>22</li> <li>23</li> <li>24</li> <li>25</li> <li>26</li> <li>27</li> <li>28</li> <li>29</li> <li>30</li> </ol>	Councillor Danny Alvey, for or against? COUNCILLOR ALVEY: Against. MS GILLESPIE: Against. Councillor Mark Barry? COUNCILLOR BARRY: Against. MS GILLESPIE: Against. Councillor Joe Behan not present. Councillor Sylvester Bourke? COUNCILLOR BOURKE: For. MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Melanie Corrigan? COUNCILLOR CORRIGAN: For. MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Avril Cronin? COUNCILLOR CRONIN: For.
<ol> <li>19</li> <li>20</li> <li>21</li> <li>22</li> <li>23</li> <li>24</li> <li>25</li> <li>26</li> <li>27</li> <li>28</li> <li>29</li> <li>30</li> <li>31</li> </ol>	Councillor Danny Alvey, for or against? COUNCILLOR ALVEY: Against. MS GILLESPIE: Against. Councillor Mark Barry? COUNCILLOR BARRY: Against. MS GILLESPIE: Against. Councillor Joe Behan not present. Councillor Sylvester Bourke? COUNCILLOR BOURKE: For. MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Melanie Corrigan? COUNCILLOR CORRIGAN: For. MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Avril Cronin? COUNCILLOR CRONIN: For. MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Erika Doyle?

- 1 COUNCILLOR FENELON GASKIN: For.
- 2 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Orla Finn.
- 3 COUNCILLOR FINN: Abstain.
- 4 MS GILLESPIE: Abstain. Councillor Pat Fitzgerald?
- 5 COUNCILLOR FITZGERALD: For.
- 6 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Tom Fortune not present. Councillor Patsy
- 7 Glennon?
- 8 COUNCILLOR GLENNON: For.
- 9 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Pat Kennedy?
- 10 COUNCILLOR KENNEDY: For.
- 11 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Shane Langrell?
- 12 COUNCILLOR LANGRELL: For.
- 13 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Peir Leonard?
- 14 COUNCILLOR LEONARD: For.
- 15 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Pat Mahon?
- 16 COUNCILLOR MAHON: For.
- 17 MS GILLESPIE: Councillor Jason Mulhall?
- 18 COUNCILLOR MULHALL: Against.
- 19 MS GILLESPIE: Against. Councillor Miriam Murphy?
- 20 COUNCILLOR MURPHY: Abstain.
- 21 MS GILLESPIE: Abstaining. Councillor Ian Neary?
- 22 COUNCILLOR NEARY: For.
- 23 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Dermot O'Brien?
- 24 COUNCILLOR O'BRIEN: For.
- 25 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Paul O'Brien?
- 26 CATHAOIRLEACH: For.
- 27 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Gerry O'Neill not present. Councillor Warren
- 28 O'Toole?
- 29 COUNCILLOR O'TOOLE: For.
- 30 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Graham Richmond?
- 31 COUNCILLOR RICHMOND: For.
- 32 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Lourda Scott?
- 33 COUNCILLOR SCOTT: Against.
- 34 MS GILLESPIE: Against. Councillor John Snell?

1	COUNCILLOR SNELL: For.
2	MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Peter Stapleton?
3	COUNCILLOR STAPLETON: For.
4	MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Stephen Stokes?
5	COUNCILLOR STOKES: For.
6	MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Caroline Winstanley?
7	COUNCILLOR WINSTANLEY: Against.
8	MS GILLESPIE: Against. We have 19 for, six against, five not present and two
9	abstaining. The motion is carried.
10	CATHAOIRLEACH: So we're all in agreement then. As per the rationale provided
11	are we agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you.
12	
13	Number 42: Land use map, amend OS1 to OS2. Can I have a proposer? Councillor
14	John Snell. I'll second that. As per the rationale provided are we agreed? (Agreed.)
15	Thank you.
16	
17	Number 43: Updated Transport Strategy map. Proposer? Graham Richmond. I am
18	happy to second that. As per the rationale provided are we agreed? (Agreed.)
19	Thank you.
20	
21	Number 44: Infrastructure Delivery Schedule Appendix Table on implementation
22	and timeframe on all objective. I'm happy enough to propose that. Seconded by
23	Councillor John Snell. As per the rationale provided are we agreed? (Agreed.)
24	
25	Number 45: Add SFRA addendum updated flood maps. Proposer? Councillor John
26	Snell. Seconded by Graham Richmond. As per the rationale provided are we
27	agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you.
28	
29	Now, we're going back to number 1. So: Amend Table 3.1 new residential zoning,
30	zonings to include all. I'm happy enough to propose that. Seconded by Councillor
31	John Snell. As per the rationale provided are we agreed? (Agreed.)
32	Thank you, members. Rachel
33	MS GILLESPIE: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. We will now take a vote on the Local
34	Area Plan proposal in total. Having considered the plan, the proposed material

1 amendments, the Chief Executive's Report on consultations and the Strategic 2 Environmental Assessment, Environmental Report for the Draft Plan, the 3 Appropriate Assessment Natura Impact Report for the Draft Plan, the Strategic Flood 4 Risk Assessment for the Draft Plan, the SEA Environmental Report for the proposed 5 material amendments, the Natura Impact Report for the proposed material 6 amendments, written submissions relating to the SEA, AA and SFRA made during 7 the plan preparation process, ongoing advice on the SEA, AA and SFRA from the 8 Council agent staff, the final consolidated Natura Impact Report, the final AA 9 determination, in accordance with the provisions of section 23 of the Planning and 10 Development Act 2000, as amended, the members agree by resolution to make the 11 Wicklow Town-Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025-2031 with those amendments 12 proposed that have been agreed today, with those proposed amendments that have 13 been agreed to make with minor modifications today, without those proposed 14 amendments that were not agreed today, with any changes consequent as a result of 15 the agreed amendments and with any minor data or document updates that have given rise during the adoption of the plan. Can I have a proposer, please? 16 17 CATHAOIRLEACH: I am happy to propose, and Councillor Graham Richmond is 18 happy to second. Are we all agreed? (Agreed.) Members, thank you very much for 19 your patience, especially those from outside of our area. I want to thank my 20 colleagues from the Wicklow district for all your efforts. 21 22 Bear with me one second now. We've to go to number 17 on the agenda: To 23 consider the Proposed Material Alterations to the propose Variation No. 2 to the 24 Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (Wicklow Town - Rathnew LAP), to 25 consider the Chief Executive's Report on submissions to the Proposed Material 26 Alterations to the proposed variation and to consider making, not making or modify 27 Variation No. 2 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028, all in 28 accordance with section 13 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as 29 amended). So you should have all got a copy of that. Okay. 30 31 So just a couple of pages on from the last, you should be on that page there then, 32 okay?

33

1	Number 1: Alter map 17.09 landscape category map. Proposer? Councillor Shane
2	Langrell. Seconder? Graham Richmond. Are we agreed? (Agreed.) As per the
3	rationale provided, agreed? (Agreed.)
4	
5	Number 2: Alter map 1 land use zoning map for Wicklow Town and Rathnew LAP.
6	I am happy enough to propose that. Seconded by Councillor John Snell. As per the
7	rationale provided, agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you.
8	
9	Number 3: Alter map 4 indicative flood zones maps for Wicklow Town and
10	Rathnew. Proposer? Councillor John Snell. Seconded by Councillor Graham
11	Richmond. As per the rationale provided are we agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you.
12	
13	Number 4: Alter map 5 Transport Strategy Map Wicklow Town and Rathnew LAP.
14	Proposed by Shane Langrell. I'm happy enough to second that. As per the rationale
15	provided are we agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you.
16	
17	MS GILLESPIE: In relation to overall the County Development Plan 2022-2028
18	Variation 2 proposal, having considered the variation, the Proposed Material
19	Alterations, the Chief Executive's Report on consultations and the Strategic
20	Environmental Assessment Screening Report and associated determination for the
21	proposed variation and the Addendum 1 to the SEA Screening Report, Appropriate
22	Assessment Screening Report and associated determination for the proposed
23	variation and Addendum 1 to the AA screening report for the proposed variation,
24	Screening for Strategic Environmental Assessments Determination for the Proposed
25	Material Alterations, Screening for Appropriate Assessments Determination for
26	Proposed Material Alterations, written submissions relating to SEA and AA made
27	during the variation and preparation process, ongoing advice on SEA and AA from
28	the Council's agent staff, the final AA determination, in accordance with the
29	provisions of section 13(6) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended,
30	the members agree by resolution to make Variation No. 2 to the Wicklow County
31	Development Plan 2022-2028 with the proposed alterations that have been agreed
32	today, with any proposed alterations that have been agreed to be made with minor
33	modifications today, without any proposed alterations that were not agreed today,
34	with any changes consequent required as a result of the agreed alteration and with

1	any minor data or document updates that have arisen during the adaptation of the
2	variation, and to proceed in accordance with section 13(8) of the Planning and
3	Development Act 2000, as amended, to publish notice of the making of the variation.
4	
5	I understand we need a proposer and a seconder on that item first.
6	CATHAOIRLEACH: I have a proposer, Councillor John Snell, and a seconder,
7	Councillor Shane Langrell. Are we agreed? (Agreed.).
8	
9	So what we're going to do now, members, to copper fasten everything, we are going
10	to go for a vote on the variation and what we're going to do is go back then and we
11	are doing to vote on the LAP, so we've everything done and dusted then. Thank you
12	very much. Do you want to call a vote on the variation?
13	MS GILLESPIE: Just on item number 16, we're just having the vote overall in
14	accordance with the provision of section 20 sorry, 17 first. Sorry, apologies. In
15	accordance with the provisions of section 13(6) of the Planning and Development
16	Act, as amended, the members agree by resolution to make Variation No. 2 to the
17	County Wicklow Development Plan 2022-28. So we will call for a vote. Councillor
18	Danny Alvey?
19	COUNCILLOR ALVEY: For.
20	MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Mark Barry? Not present. Councillor Joe Behan,
21	not present. Councillor Sylvester Bourke?
22	COUNCILLOR BOURKE: For.
23	MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Melanie Corrigan?
24	COUNCILLOR CORRIGAN: For.
25	MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Avril Cronin?
26	COUNCILLOR CRONIN: For.
27	MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Erika Doyle?
28	COUNCILLOR DOYLE: For.
29	MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Malachaí Duddy, not present. Councillor Gail
30	Dunne, not present. Councillor Louise Fenelon Gaskin?
31	COUNCILLOR FENELON GASKIN: For.
32	MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Orla Finn?
33	COUNCILLOR FINN: For.

34 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Pat Fitzgerald?

- 1 COUNCILLOR FITZGERALD: For.
- 2 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Ned Whelan?
- 3 COUNCILLOR WHELAN: For.
- 4 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Tom Fortune? Councillor Tom Fortune, not
- 5 present. Councillor Patsy Glennon?
- 6 COUNCILLOR GLENNON: For.
- 7 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Pat Kennedy?
- 8 COUNCILLOR KENNEDY: For.
- 9 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Shane Langrell?
- 10 COUNCILLOR LANGRELL: For.
- 11 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Peir Leonard?
- 12 COUNCILLOR LEONARD: For.
- 13 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Pat Mahon?
- 14 COUNCILLOR MAHON: For.
- 15 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Jason Mulhall?
- 16 COUNCILLOR MULHALL: For.
- 17 MS GILLESPIE: Councillor Miriam Murphy? Councillor Miriam Murphy, not
- 18 present. Councillor Ian Neary?
- 19 COUNCILLOR NEARY: For.
- 20 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Dermot O'Brien?
- 21 COUNCILLOR O'BRIEN: For.
- 22 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Paul O'Brien?
- 23 CATHAOIRLEACH: For.
- 24 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Gerry O'Neill?
- 25 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: For.
- 26 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Warren O'Toole?
- 27 COUNCILLOR O'TOOLE: For.
- 28 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Graham Richmond?
- 29 COUNCILLOR RICHMOND: For.
- 30 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Lourda Scott?
- 31 COUNCILLOR SCOTT: For.
- 32 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor John Snell?
- 33 COUNCILLOR SNELL: For.
- 34 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Peter Stapleton?

1	COUNCILLOR STAPLETON: For.
2	MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Stephen Stokes?
3	COUNCILLOR STOKES: For.
4	MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Caroline Winstanley?
5	COUNCILLOR WINSTANLEY: For.
6	MS GILLESPIE: For. That's 26 for and six not present. The proposal is carried.
7	
8	And then to item number 16. In accordance with the provisions of section 23 of the
9	Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, the members agree by resolution
10	to make the Wicklow Town - Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025-2031. Calling on vote
11	for or against.
12	
13	Councillor Danny Alvey?
14	COUNCILLOR ALVEY: For.
15	MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Mark Barry?
16	COUNCILLOR BARRY: For.
17	MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Joe Behan, not present. Councillor Sylvester
18	Bourke? Not present. Councillor Melanie Corrigan?
19	COUNCILLOR CORRIGAN: For.
20	MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Avril Cronin?
21	COUNCILLOR CRONIN: For.
22	MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Erika Doyle?
23	COUNCILLOR DOYLE: For.
24	MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Malachaí Duddy, not present. Councillor Gail
25	Dunne, not present. Councillor Louise Fenelon Gaskin?
26	COUNCILLOR FENELON GASKIN: For.
27	MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Orla Finn?
28	COUNCILLOR FINN: For.
29	MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Pat Fitzgerald?
30	COUNCILLOR FITZGERALD: For.
31	MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Ned Whelan?
32	COUNCILLOR WHELAN: For.
33	MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Tom Fortune, not present. Councillor Patsy
34	Glennon?

- 1 COUNCILLOR GLENNON: For.
- 2 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Pat Kennedy? Not present. Councillor Shane
- 3 Langrell?
- 4 COUNCILLOR LANGRELL: For.
- 5 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Peir Leonard?
- 6 COUNCILLOR LEONARD: For.
- 7 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Pat Mahon?
- 8 COUNCILLOR MAHON: For.
- 9 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Jason Mulhall?
- 10 COUNCILLOR MULHALL: For.
- 11 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Miriam Murphy? Councillor Miriam Murphy,
- 12 not present. Councillor Ian Neary?
- 13 COUNCILLOR NEARY: For.
- 14 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Dermot O'Brien?
- 15 COUNCILLOR O'BRIEN: For.
- 16 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Paul O'Brien?
- 17 CATHAOIRLEACH: For.
- 18 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Gerry O'Neill?
- 19 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: For.
- 20 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Warren O'Toole?
- 21 COUNCILLOR O'TOOLE: For.
- 22 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Graham Richmond?
- 23 COUNCILLOR RICHMOND: For.
- 24 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Lourda Scott?
- 25 COUNCILLOR SCOTT: For.
- 26 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor John Snell?
- 27 COUNCILLOR SNELL: For.
- 28 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Peter Stapleton?
- 29 COUNCILLOR STAPLETON: For.
- 30 MS GILLESPIE: Councillor Stephen Stokes?
- 31 COUNCILLOR STOKES: For.
- 32 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Caroline Winstanley?
- 33 COUNCILLOR WINSTANLEY: For. Twenty-five for and seven not present the
- 34 motion is carried. Thank you.

1 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Rachel, for your assistance today. Can I also 2 thank Leonora, Bernadette, Sorcha and all the team for being very patient with us 3 and very supportive of us over the last number of weeks and months. So my sincere 4 thanks to you on behalf of all the Municipal District members, indeed all the 5 members. So thank you for your help over the last number of months. 6 7 Members, we will move on to item number 18: To note the Annual Financial 8 Statement 2024 and to approve by resolution (1) additional net expenditure in excess 9 of budget in accordance with Section 104(7) of the Local Government Act 2001 and 10 (ii) additional transfers to and from capital (copy attached). Brian. 11 MR GLEESON: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I will give a short overall of the 12 unaudited AFS to start with, and, as the Cathaoirleach said, that is just for noting, 13 and we can take the formal resolutions in respect of net expenditure and the capital 14 transfers following that. 15 16 The financial accounts for Wicklow County Council for 2024 have been prepared in 17 accordance with the Local Authority Accounting in Ireland Code of Practice 18 Accounting Regulations and the directions of the Minister for Housing, Local 19 Government and Heritage. 20 21 I am pleased to report that the Council's overall financial position remained strong 22 throughout 2024. We managed our finances in a prudent manner while ensuring that 23 essential services were delivered to a high quality. The total expenditure that 24 occurred in the revenue account after transfers was 172 million which was an 25 increase of 22 million on 2023. The positive news is that we had a surplus of 26 601,000 which has fully cleared the reserve deficit in the revenue account leaving the 27 account with a small surplus of 2,782 at year end. This represents the first year since 28 the amalgamations of the town councils that Wicklow County Council has produced 29 a closing credit balance, and this is a significant achievement and is testament to the 30 good financial management of the Council over the past number of years to eliminate 31 this deficit which at one point stood at more than 4 million. The capital account 32 expenditure, including transfers, was 114 million in 2024. The vast majority of this 33 expenditure was under the housing programme. A full break down of the 34 programme by group is outlined in Appendix 6 on page 42 of the AFS report. I am

1 also pleased to note that the commercial rates collection rate increased again from 2 91% up to 93% which is the highest collection rate Wicklow has ever received, and 3 also our housing rents have improved their collection rate increasing from 84% up to 4 85%. With a significant amount of expenditure incurred a lot was achieved in 2024 5 and some of the key actions and deliverables are outlined on pages 7 and 8 of the 6 Financial Review. While the AFS itself is just for noting by the members, under 7 section 147 of the Local Government Act approval of the members is sought for the 8 net expenditure in excess of budget in the revenue account and for transfers to and 9 from the capital account. In relation to the net expenditure in excess of budgets these 10 amounts are outlined by division on page 5 of the AFS as well as in Note 16 on page 11 26, and they are as follows: Housing and building 2,235,936; environmental 12 services, 817,741; and agriculture, educational, health and welfare, 84,638. These 13 excesses were offset by under-spends in other areas and explanations for the net 14 expenditure are outlined in the Financial Review on pages 3 and 4. Approval by the 15 members for transfers to and from capital is also requested. The amounts by division 16 are outlined on page 5 of the Financial Review and they're also in Notes 14 and 16 17 on pages 25 and 26. Total transfers to capital are 5,713,463 and from capital, 18 1,399,374. Transfers to capital are in respect of past expenditure which has resulted 19 in deficits in the capital account as well as the provision of specific reserves for future expenditure and commitments. Some of the most significant transfers in 2024 20 21 include capital reserve for fabric upgrade works and conditional surveys, half a 22 million, which is charged to the Housing Improvement Programme; capital provision 23 for match funding requirements, charged to development management; provision of 24 just under half a million for harbour works, including dredging; 300,000 for a capital 25 reserve for County Buildings refurbishment works; and 200,000 for the Public 26 Lighting Energy Efficiency Project. The most significant transfers from capital are 27 the rates revaluation provision of 700,000 that covers rate income reductions from 28 tribunal decisions, also quarter of a million for funding of Local Footpath Renewal 29 Scheme, and our insurance dividend of 300,000. 30

So, if the members have any questions on the AFS I can take them now and after that
I will need a proposer and seconder for both the net expenditure in excess of budget
and then for the transfers to and from capital, thank you.

1	CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Brian. Anyone like to come in? No. Anyone
2	online? No. Councillor Louise Fenelon Gaskin.
3	COUNCILLOR FENELON GASKIN: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I would like to
4	propose everything Brian has said.
5	CATHAOIRLEACH: I am going to do it one-by-one. Okay? So you're proposing
6	the net first. Okay?
7	COUNCILLOR FENELON GASKIN: Yeah.
8	CATHAOIRLEACH: And I'm happy to second it. Can I have a proposer for the
9	second one maybe, the transfer? Okay, we're agreed on the first one. Agreed?
10	(Agreed.) The second one we're looking for the transfer, I'm happy to propose and
11	seconded by Councillor John Snell. Are we agreed? (Agreed.)
12	
13	Brian, just before I move on can I say well done. It's not easy. We have gone
14	through some turbulent times over the last number of years, including the pandemic
15	and so forth, so to get us debt-free is a huge accomplishment, so well done to you
16	and all your team, and we will move on.
17	MR GLEESON: Thanks, Cathaoirleach.
18	CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Number 19: To consider the Chief Executive's
19	Monthly Management Report. So we haven't had one for a while so I did try and
20	bring it up as much as I could on the agenda. Councillor Stephen Stokes.
21	COUNCILLOR STOKES: Go raibh maith agat, Cathaoirleach. Firstly, can I
22	congratulate Wicklow County Council on Magheramore Beach, a very positive
23	achievement. I would be interested in the timeline of events of what is going to
24	happen terms of the process now. But I think it is a great credit to everybody that is
25	involved, the Chief Executive and all the departments.
26	
27	Just one item I'd like to raise. This is an item that comes up regularly at municipal
28	district level and also here in the chamber, just in relation to our staffing, outdoor
29	staffing. I am wondering if there's an update? It had been mooted that there may be
30	staff transferred over from Uisce Eireann to potentially work as general operatives or
31	on the outdoor teams. Most recently we were advised by the outgoing engineer that
32	the staff, the outdoor staff are now down to 12 in the Greystones Municipal District
33	and as I understand it the next level, the next lowest in terms of any other districts is
34	at 28. Maybe that's been updated since. So there is a severe crisis in terms of the

1 outdoor staff in the Greystones Municipal District. In fact, the outgoing engineer 2 advised us on some weeks, on some occasions there can be as few as five staff 3 available. And he stated, and it was minuted in our municipal district meeting, that 4 that number really needs to be over 30. That's not my words, that's what the 5 outgoing municipal district engineer said. As I said, that was noted. So I am trying 6 find is there some sort of plan, you know, to rectify these concerns, and I would be 7 particularly interested in an update on the Uisce Eireann. Go raibh maith agat, 8 Cathaoirleach. 9 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. I want to say congratulation to our finance 10 director, Brian Gleeson, because Councillor Stokes is right. It was a major 11 achievement and a very positive new stories that Magheramore happened. It is 12 something that I know didn't happen overnight, by the way. A lot of work has gone 13 into this over a number of years. I know Brian has given his heart and soul, plus the 14 municipal district office up in the Town Hall. So on behalf of all the members here, 15 Brian, well done, it is a great achievement and a positive news story. 16 MR GLEESON: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. I appreciate the kind words. Can I also 17 mention Annalisa Ryan in our law department who did trojan work in relation to this 18 in a short period. It was over two weeks we closed the deal. That was phenomenal. 19 I want to mention her for the massive work she did. 20 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Brian. Councillor Leonard. 21 COUNCILLOR LEONARD: Yeah, I would like to say congratulations to Brian as 22 well. That is brilliant, to have a piece of our coast back in public ownership. I want 23 to bring up some other parts of the coast. I know there are ongoing coastal 24 protection studies being done but there is an urgency around more erosion down 25 around the Clogher Beach area with landslides and stuff like that. There are a lot of 26 residents really worried about the protection of their homes and businesses down 27 there, so I don't know whether something could be done to liaise with them in the interim. 28 29 30 And then just in relation to the Arklow Flood Relieve Scheme, we had the wonderful 31 opening of the wastewater treatment plan which the whole town really welcomed. It 32 is a transitional point in Arklow's future. We have many different recreational clubs, 33 the sailing and bowing clubs, and different recreational boat users in the town, and I 34 have been asked by them to try and get the dredging part of the deliver prioritised as

1 part of the Flood Relief Scheme. I know we're still at design stage and it's yet to go 2 out to tender, but I think that needs to be made a priority because there's that much 3 silt in the river and I think the dredging part could be prioritised and probably done 4 as one of the first measures of the Flood Relief Scheme going forward. And it would 5 allow these clubs to be able to get the young people using the boats and expand on 6 that recreational amenity over the next few years. There's a real need for recreational 7 amenities for the kids in the town. And they don't even realise that the river is there 8 for them to get involved in. So I would just urge the Chief Executive maybe to have 9 a look at that and prioritise the dredging of the deliver. Thank you. 10 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Councillor Langrell. 11 COUNCILLOR LANGRELL: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Cathaoirleach, just two 12 things. I know you address them. I'd like to say massive thank you and support to 13 Sorcha Walsh and Bernie over the last few months regarding our area plan. They 14 have been outstanding support. And even Bernie this morning put this guidance in 15 the right direction, so I really appreciate the support. 16 17 Just one more thing. The residents of Brittas Bay have been on to me regarding I 18 suppose if they want to attend their local beach and go for a walk with their dog and 19 children the costs of having to park in the car park there. And I believe before my 20 time this was brought up in the chamber before. I do find it a bit -- I don't agree with 21 it, and I suppose it's something that I'd like for us to look at it again, and maybe get a 22 response back. Thank you. 23 CATHAOIRLEACH: Chief Executive, I will do it in groups of threes as usual. It's 24 been a while since we've had a report, just to remind the members. 25 MS O'GORMAN: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. And bear with me, members, if I cough 26 my lungs up; I have an awful chest infection. So don't take it personally. Thank you 27 all, and congratulations on Magheramore. It is a very, very important piece of 28 natural infrastructure that we're very proud to call ours now. And when we have 29 more details on the access and other arrangements we will make them available to 30 you all. 31 32 Councillor Stokes, in relation to staffing and Uisce Eireann, we have been in a very, 33 very protracted transitionary arrangement with Uisce Eireann - this is at a national 34 level, not just locally in Wicklow - much of which is to do with I suppose the

1 country being at full employment. And where staff have expressed an interest to 2 retain with the local authority, Uisce Eireann have asked us on some occasions to 3 hold off on those while they backfill on their end. It is proving to be difficult. That 4 is not going to be the panacea to the problem in Greystones and elsewhere. We 5 have, as you may be aware, undertaken a Strategic Workforce Plan Review. So each 6 directorate, each of the directors here, including district administrators, have looked 7 at their staff compliments, have looked at the corporate plan, have put forward 8 proposals to augment their staffing structure over the next five years in line with the 9 objectives of the Corporate Plan. We have sent that plan, draft, to the unions for 10 their consideration and they've come back with feedback on it, and we have worked 11 along with that. The next stage of that plan then is to submit it to Customs House for 12 their approval. Brian might, or Lorraine may be able to put a figure on the total 13 additional staff overhead that we would be looking -- if I was to fill all the posts that 14 all of my directors are looking for in the morning it is multiples of millions. That is 15 not to say that we don't need posts in specific areas, but we have to be able to fund 16 them. But the Workforce Plan is the first in that notwithstanding the Uisce Eireann 17 hiatus. I might come pass to Lorraine to come to you in a little more detail on the 18 overall cost of that workforce plan and how we might go about filling those posts 19 into the future.

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Councillor Leonard, in relation to the coastal protection at Clogher Beach area, I
don't know if Maeve has any more detail on that. We can get more detail from you,
and we might liaise with you. I am very mindful that Maeve is stepping into the
breach here today at short notice, as is Caroline, so you might bear with us, some of
the question we might have to come back to you on. Similarly on the Arklow Flood
Relief Scheme, we will certainly look at that and we will come back to you directly
on that.

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Councillor Langrell, on Brittas Bay and parking in the car park. Obviously the car
park is there for a particular reason, because of the influx of tourists in the
summertime. I take your point about locals not being able to access the beach in the
same way. It is under a contract, is my understanding. We might have a look at it,
and we will have a discussion with you offline about that. Lorraine, if you might just
want to come in on the Workforce Plan.

1 MS GALLAGHER: Yeah. There's a lot of information contained within the 2 Workforce Plan, and I am just looking at the Greystones one. So for Greystones, for 3 example, there's an additional 12 GOs recommended over the next five years. I just 4 haven't got the costings to hand, but it is all subject to finance. Going back to Uisce 5 Eireann, in relation to the GO grade, there are no staff working with Wicklow 6 County Council who either wish to transfer over to Uisce Eireann or stay within the 7 Council at GO grade. So it doesn't come into the equation. So Uisce Eireann doesn't 8 come into the equation in terms of that staff. As the Chief Executive said, what's 9 included in the Strategic Workforce Plan is what will be included in the next five 10 years. But just to say that we did extend our current GO panel for another couple of 11 months and we are filling vacancies as they arise. So it is not like we are not 12 fulfilling current vacancies, we are.

13 MR GLEESON: I might just come in on the costing. I think the last costing that 14 was done on it, and it's kind of a live document, it was minimum of 5 million 15 anyway. So it's a fairly substantial amount in order to get all the staff that we feel we 16 need, and obviously that's over a five-year period. It wouldn't be a case of we need 17 all that staff right here right now. But it would include increases across all the 18 districts, including Greystones. So it is something that is finance, we want to put 19 forward a strategic plan and obviously, as you're well aware, there's only certain 20 sources of funding we have that can generate additional money, so we will be 21 looking at that and putting forward a proposal in advance of the budget later on this 22 year. Thank you.

23 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Fenelon Gaskin.

24 COUNCILLOR FENELON GASKIN: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. I want to bring up 25 the Farrankelly estate in Greystones again. This has come up a few times and it is 26 going on since before my time here in the Council, and it's going around in circles 27 and I know I bring it up, it's come up at our local level, but it's just at this stage off 28 the Richter scale what the Council are doing about it. I know they're saying that they 29 need to sell priorities and everything, but there in the estate the residents are at 30 breaking point at this stage. We were told that an engineer took a walk around. A 31 walk around isn't sufficient at this stage, so I think it's down here now to Wicklow. 32 We need to take immediate action and do something in Farrankelly, and I'd like to 33 hear back from her what they are going to do.

34 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Councillor Dermot O'Brien.

1 COUNCILLOR DERMOT O'BRIEN: Thanks very much, Cathaoirleach, and 2 thanks, Chief Executive, for the report. Just a few bits. Just noting in the housing 3 section the homeless figures again which are never pleasant reading. I guess if we 4 look at the presentations, Cathaoirleach, we're really looking at one homeless 5 presentation every single day in 2025 up to the point that the report was made. One 6 thing I am wondering is, and I am not saying this with any presumption or sense of it 7 myself but, with the prohibition notices coming into the picture now as an important 8 part of how we try and bring up the standards in HAP properties in particular is that 9 having an impact on homeless figures? That is a curiosity which probably can't be 10 answered today which I understand but that is something I am curious about. In 11 terms of youth homelessness also, which is a feature in the report, and I know we 12 flag it because there's a national strategy on youth homelessness, but I wonder is it 13 possible for us to have figures? Do we have that data I wonder so that we can see 14 where youth homelessness -- what it looks like in Wicklow in terms of the age 15 profile that fits the criteria for youth and then that might inform what we do, how we 16 respond. Again there's a strategy sitting there but I guess it's difficult to streamline 17 the response to youth homelessness without a sense of the data so I just wonder is 18 that possible.

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20 A couple of other items. I know I have mentioned maybe, I'm not sure was it the 21 January or February meeting, around whether there is scope in the Chief Executive's 22 Report to include the updates and details on motions that are passed in the chamber 23 and whether that is an appropriate place. And I say that because I am just mindful 24 that we have on record when motions are debated and passed in the chamber and 25 that's public record, but we don't necessarily have an update on the progress of 26 motions, and I know sometimes they're passed and then there's a resolution to send 27 them off to all the other councils. And I am also aware and have had experience 28 myself of motions that are passed in the chamber but become unimplementable. And 29 I think you know, and as frustrating as that can be and as much of a hit that might 30 feel like for any councillor or councillors who propose motions I think it is probably 31 appropriate for that to be recorded; that a motion that was passed is not 32 implementable or is going to take a period of time to be implemented. And I think it 33 also gives us an opportunity to share the success of motions and to show the record 34 that this motion has been passed on this date and it has been implemented on this

date. So I wonder is there scope for that, Chief Executive? I'm not sure whether the report is the place for that, but I think it would be valuable for the public record that we show the updates on the journey of our motions.

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5 The last item, Cathaoirleach, I am just looking again at the Fire Service Report and 6 the percentage increase in call outs, and I know I mentioned this before as well and I 7 wonder is there scope for us to have a presentation in the chamber from the chief fire 8 officer. I think 2022 was the last time that the chief fire officer was in the chamber, 9 and, as I said before, there's been a significant amount of change since then and a lot 10 of new members. So I wonder is there scope for us to have a presentation from the 11 chief fire officer. Thanks very much, Cathaoirleach.

12 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Graham Richmond.

13 COUNCILLOR RICHMOND: Thank you, Cathaoirleach and Chief Executive.

14 Literally two notes of thanks. Firstly, following on from Shane Langrell, it's just to

15 thank Leonora, Sorcha and Bernie with their help with the LAP but also pay tribute

to the fellow councillors, the six of us I think worked very well together with the sole
option of gaining something for the community. I hope we have achieved that.

18 Secondly, it is just to compliment Brian and the team on the Magheramore thing. It

19 is the one thing, and over the last few days the amount of people who have said to

20 me complimenting the work of Wicklow County Council which it's nice to see that

21 we're getting out there, it's being recognised and just thank you.

22 CATHAOIRLEACH: Chief Executive.

23 MS O'GORMAN: Thank you, members. Councillor Fenelon Gaskin, I might ask 24 Caroline to come in on Farrankelly. I don't know if we're going to be able to answer 25 the question on youth homeless, but you might be able to give some context to 26 Councillor O'Brien in a moment. In relation to the updates and decisions on 27 motions, yeah, I agree with you, it'd be a good way to track it. In a previous 28 authority that I worked in there was a tracking system where members could see, so 29 we've started to look at that to see. I don't think the CE report is the place for it but if 30 we had some sort of online tool where we could go and look that's where the motion 31 was passed in member, that's where it is resting now, or we have had X response, or, 32 as you say, it is not implementable for whatever reason. So we're working on that. 33 If you bear with us on that. In relation to the fire services, yeah, I take your point on 34 that. We were I suppose awaiting the final outcome of some of the WRC matters.

They have now been resolved so I think. My understanding is it will go back to the
 CPG for a recommendation for CPG to invite the fire service in. I have no issue with
 that. I might hand over to Caroline. Thank you.

4 MS FOX: Just on Farrankelly, yes, myself and the senior engineer and the Clerk of 5 Works did visit the site possibly three weeks ago and we did visit a property as well. 6 So we actually physically went into a property to view it. We are aware that there 7 has been numerous reports carried out on this but the view of the senior engineer at 8 the time was to do with a full survey once again on the stop that's there and to 9 ascertain and to survey exactly what is needed at this very present time. We would 10 hope to have that carried out in the next two to three weeks and it was agreed with 11 the administrator and the manager of Greystones Municipal District that we would 12 report findings back to the MD itself and keep in contact with you on our approach. 13 I acknowledge that you mentioned there that there was some few that we'd sell 14 housing stock to possibly fund that. That is an item we are looking at. But the first 15 step is to see the costs of the works that is needed to be carried out. And again, I do 16 acknowledge this is an item that is continuously brought up at MD and it needs to be 17 addressed. So that is where we stand, councillor. Thank you.

18 CATHAOIRLEACH: Keep going.

19 MS FOX: So coming to Councillor O'Brien there on the homeless issue. Yes, 20 figures of presentations have indeed unfortunately increased. We have noticed that 21 ourselves over the last few months. Homelessness is an issue that is getting more 22 and more complex. We, with our other local authorities, Meath and Kildare, we are 23 taking a regional approach to it, and it is something that we coagulate all the data on, 24 who is presenting. We also have data on the youth. Obviously they are in care until 25 they are 18 and they may present with family members. That certainly sometimes 26 happens. But normally once they're 18 they would present themselves to Wicklow 27 County Council. But it is an issue that we currently are reviewing the strategy that is 28 there, and we would hope to kind of keep an eye on that and see what the increase is 29 there. But certainly numbers are increasing. We've also recently in Bray carried out 30 a survey on the homeless people sleeping rough in Bray and we should have data soon on that. So it is an area that we are working on. Thanks, councillor. 31 32 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Lourda Scott, I know you're online 33 there.

1 COUNCILLOR SCOTT: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Just a couple of quick things first 2 and then I want to touch on a matter already raised but a follow-up question on this. 3 I would like to see the list of rent arrears going back over the Chief Executive's 4 Report. It seems to have dropped off in the last year or so and I would like to see 5 that, just what arrears are outstanding and just what changes there are from time to 6 time. I have also been asked to look for an update on the two strategy documents 7 which I appreciate won't be available right now, but if they could be circulated to the 8 representatives I'd really appreciate that. One is on the ...(inaudible)... strategy which 9 I think there's two years left on the current strategy, and the second is on the 10 Wicklow Migrants Integration Strategy which was adopted in 2020 and is valid until 11 2026, so that is coming to near the end of the line. I am not sure which committees 12 ...(inaudible)... give an update on the implementation, if that could be circulated I'd 13 appreciate that. I was going to raise a question on Farrankelly, and it is important 14 that I ask my question anyway. We had been told at our last meeting that an 15 outgoing survey had been done in 2021. I had asked our MD for a copy of that 16 survey to be sent to all the Greystones elected representatives and I would like to 17 reiterate that ask now. It is very good to hear that survey is going to happen up there. 18 Both past and present representatives have been asking for surveys to be carried out 19 since 2022, so we're now in May 2025. I would ask if you could possibly follow up 20 after this meeting with the date as to when that survey will take place, so we are 21 aware. And I would ask that is done. Thank you. 22 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Avril Cronin.

23 COUNCILLOR CRONIN: Thank you very much, Cathaoirleach. Last week the 24 members of the Baltinglass Municipal District received an email with an attachment 25 of an ad that was sent out in relation to the establishment of a town team in 26 Baltinglass. And on that ad it said: "The town team will typically consist of 27 representatives from local businesses community groups, residents, tourism 28 organisations, And Garda Síochána, charities, social enterprises, sports organisation, 29 cultural groups, voluntary groups, chamber of commerce, retailers, developers and educational institutions." There was actually no mention of elected representatives 30 31 in that advert. My query is just in relation to first of all the role of the Elected 32 Members in the establishment of a town team, will it actually be discussed at 33 municipal district level with the Elected Members, as to date it has not been 34 discussed, or is the membership of the town team ultimately down to the decision of

1 the Executive? At the end of the day it is the elected members in the district that will 2 have to make the decisions relating to their MD. And following on from that, 3 considering it is the establishment of a town team in Baltinglass, we are still waiting 4 on development to begin with the Baltinglass RRDF funding. We're still waiting on 5 work to commence there. So I am just wondering is there any update on what's 6 actually happening with the RRDF funding in Baltinglass. My final question is in 7 relation to the two parks that we have in our municipal district. We have a new park 8 in Blessington, and we have the redeveloped park in Baltinglass. But unfortunately 9 our staff are -- they are quite stretched at the moment. They are under pressure 10 trying to do all their everyday tasks that they have to do and then we obviously have 11 our new park as well. I know our local town are very great assistance. I know it's 12 been discussed at our MD meeting, but you might give me an update on that thank 13 you.

14 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Councillor Stapleton.

15 COUNCILLOR STAPLETON: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Just a few different 16 points and issues to raise with the Chief Executive arising from the report. Firstly, 17 the new houses that have been developed by the Council in Tinahely, just looking for 18 status update on that. There's 20 houses there in Lugduff that look fully developed at 19 this stage. I know that the ESB and water connections have been made. So I am just 20 being inundated by the people on the housing list wondering when the allocations are 21 going to be made and when they can expect for keys to be handed out. I know you 22 can appreciate there's an awful lot of people for which this is going to hugely impact 23 their lives, so they are apprehensive.

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25 Then just on Council's housing stock, the vacancy within our stock. I was wondering 26 would it be possible to share with the members a detailed list of the houses that are 27 empty and perhaps like a status report on how long they have been empty for and 28 what the plan of action is. I don't know, I assume I'm not the only councillor who 29 will be -- it's often pointed out too by members of the public that, oh, this house is 30 sitting empty, what's the story with that? It's a question we get over and over again 31 and it'd be nice to know we could give them information on that. I am thinking 32 particularly of a four-bed house, or even possibly bigger, on Barton Street, Tinahely, 33 that I know has been sitting vacant for a long time. I can't even go back to residents 34 or members of the community and say that's definitely the Council's house because I

1	don't have that information readily available. So if that was possible it would be
2	hugely helpful. It'd be great for us to monitor our vacant stock.
3	
4	Thirdly, just on the status of the Arklow and Shillelagh Greenway. I welcome that
5	there has been an update in the Chief Executive's Report that there was a meeting
6	with the National Parks and Wildlife service around Tomnafinnoge Wood as part of
7	the Arklow-Shillelagh Greenway, and I was wondering what arose from that
8	meeting, but also to request if it would be possible for the Council to issue some sort
9	of a press release in giving a general status update of the Arklow-Shillelagh
10	Greenway and its future prospects and projects. I know I get a lot of feedback from
11	people throughout the different communities saying that they felt that the
12	communication was really good at the start in terms of how it was progressing and
13	what they could expect but just feel a little bit in the dark. It is something I get asked
14	over and over again.
15	
16	Finally, on the Tenant in Situ Scheme. I know there's been a number of changes
17	brought about by our government that have been passed on to councils, and I am just
18	wondering if you could share some information not necessarily today but at some
19	point with the Elected Members so that we can you understand exactly what the
20	changes are and how the Council are applying them. Thank you very much.
21	Appreciate there's a bit in that
22	CATHAOIRLEACH: Chief Executive.
23	MS O'GORMAN: Thank you, members. Councillor Scott, in relation to the list of
24	rent arrears, we can get that back in the CE Report. I don't know why that dropped
25	off.
26	MR GLEESON: Sorry, Cathaoirleach, Chief Executive, I might come in. It's
27	actually on page 92, under "Finance." So I am not sure if you were looking at the
28	housing section, but it's always been grouped with the commercial rates and housing
29	loans. There's a table on page 92 that outlines the arrears are 3.2 million at the end
30	of March, which is down from 3.3 at the start of the year. Thank you.
31	MS O'GORMAN: If that's not what you're looking for, Councillor Scott, you might
32	come back to me directly. Thanks, Brian. In relation to the two strategies, the Age
33	Friendly and Migrant Strategy, the implementation, we can arrange for updates to be
34	provided to all members on that. The 2021 survey.

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MS FOX: Sorry, then we will come back to you with a date of the proposed new
 survey, so we will definitely, as I say, mention we will feedback into the Greystones
 Municipal District on that.

4 MS O'GORMAN: I might pass over to Ms Earls on the RRDF and Baltinglass but 5 just to say the members absolutely do have a role to play in town teams. As you 6 know, in some of the districts the Cathaoirleach of the town team, the Cathaoirleach 7 of the MD, it is completely up to the MD as to what shape and form the town team 8 takes, but Leonora might give you a little more detail on that. In relation to the two 9 parks in the MD area, again as part of the Workforce Plan proposals Teresa O'Brien 10 in her role as Director of Environment and with her eye on the MD has sought to 11 create a kind of parks outdoor maintenance team as part of her work programme, so 12 that will be taking account of the large number of public spaces that come into public 13 ownership and then are left in the districts to manage. It is just not sustainable. So 14 we're looking to try and address that through our Workforce Plan. It is not going to 15 be today or tomorrow it will be fixed but we are working on a plan to do that.

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17 Councillor Stapleton, Caroline might come in again on Tinahely on the houses there. 18 Certainly vacant stock, we can look at that to see -- we should have a list of our 19 housing stock that is vacant and then we should be in a position to tell you if that 20 house in Tinahely is ours or not, and again the duration that it is vacant. Often 21 they're hard to let properties so we've started, as you will know in some of our newer 22 schemes started using choice-based letting and that might be a solution in those 23 vacant properties that are vacant for longer for particular reasons. We can certainly 24 look at that. I will ask Joe to give you an update on the Arklow to Shillelagh 25 Greenway. Caroline, you might come in quickly on Tinahely and then I will go to 26 Leonora.

27 MS FOX: Again, Tinahely, you're correct is almost ready. We're probably two to 28 three weeks out, then we will be handed over the key. It is imminent, so that would 29 be a great scheme. On the vacancies, we have constantly in the region of 120 to 150 30 houses all the time vacant for, as the CE mentioned there, either they are about to let. 31 So the relets can take some time. Obviously when we get stock back some only 32 takes a few weeks' work, some can take four to six months' work, depending on the 33 level of work that needs to be carried out. We generally don't share the list because 34 obviously if tenants are aware we would be inundated with calls, so it is something

1 we generally don't share in the public domain. As you said, obviously when people 2 are in the local area that they do know when a house is free, so that's probably why 3 we wouldn't share it really public. If you don't mind, if you give me that exact 4 address on Main Street, Tinahely, I will have a look at that. And then the 5 actual -- there was one other scheme. Tenants in Situ. So yeah, we were awarded 6 6 million this year. How and ever the Tenants in Situ Scheme has changed somewhat. 7 If we buy a property now, if there any repair works that need to be done the Council 8 are to carry those costs themselves. So that is a big piece that has changed. As I 9 mentioned the 6 million is awarded, how and ever that is to cover some previous 10 costs that have been carried out by ourselves and some CPO, the compulsory 11 purchase houses that we bought in previous years. So we're looking at what remains 12 in that 6 million going forward for this year. But the scheme has changed somewhat, 13 and it may not suit us as a Council, as I say, going forward particularly because we 14 still have to look at some costs that were incurred last year. So we're looking at that 15 balance, what remains, for this year 2025. Thanks.

16 MS EARLS: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. So just I suppose we have been talking 17 about setting up these new town teams for a while in Baltinglass, Rathdrum and 18 Kilcoole. The process we take is that we appoint consultants to go out and do a 19 public consultation just to gather ideas and thoughts of the community, kind of give 20 them a background to what a town team is, and then they can put in an expression of 21 interest to see if they are interested in being on the town team. The most recent town 22 team set up was in Newtown and we have two Elected Members sitting on that town 23 team. So they have a very central part in playing in the town team. We will keep 24 you informed. This is the public consultation stage, to let people know what the 25 town team is about and see if they are interested in coming in, but as we move into 26 the next stage obviously the members will be as part of that consultation informed of 27 what the next stages are and what the make-up of the town team will be, what will be 28 the headings that the town team will have, and the members can then decide if they 29 wish to sit on the town team and what grouping within the town team they wish to sit 30 on. So there is an important role for the members there because the community 31 obviously will look to the Elected Members for their assistance also.

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Just in relation to the Baltinglass RRDF. Look, I acknowledge the patience of the
 members in relation to this when it has gone on a while. So we have completed the

1 tender preparation, finalising the costings, so we've kind of covered all the areas 2 around landscaping and services, SuDs, the drainage, what materials will be used and 3 just kind of drawings and specifications. So we are going out to tender with a view 4 to using the shortest possible tendering process that we can use. So we are looking at 5 SupplyGov rather than E-tenders because that speeds it up. We have added in an 6 extra piece, so there was a piece of ground that wasn't included close to the bridge, 7 and we've now included that in to finish off that whole Phase 1A piece. We have got 8 a new resource attached to the RRDF area. We've a new senior executive engineer, 9 so that should have a significant impact on delivery because heretofore we simply 10 didn't have the physical resources we have been asking other departments to assist us 11 but now we will have a dedicated senior engineer on the project. I suppose just to 12 say that in relation to the public consultation that happened in Baltinglass last 13 Wednesday, it was very positive, there was good engagement, a lot of questions 14 asked not least about the RRDF project but there seems to be very good interest from 15 the community out there in the setting up of the town team. So we will ensure that 16 we keep that communication piece going with the public but obviously we will speak 17 to Elected Members first and let you know how the piece is travelling. I think as 18 well in relation to the RRDF what we might do is once we start on the ground we 19 will put photo montages up around so the public can see physically what it is going 20 to look like, because at the moment they probably don't have, so that is a 21 communication piece that we need to do as well. Thank you. 22 MR LANE: Yes, councillor, you're correct, we have met with the National Parks 23 and Wildlife, and that is to revise the route along that particular area Tomnafinnoge, 24 dividing an environmentally sensitive area and the subsequent challenges that would 25 be possible afterwards. We're waiting for the finalisation of that report which will be 26 forwarded to TII before we can move to Phase 3 design and environmental thing. So 27 the publication will be in the next couple of weeks, but we are waiting for that report 28 to be finalised. 29 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Gerry O'Neill. 30 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. It is just clarification from the 31 CEO on three issues. Ten year ago, 11 year ago, 12 year ago I looked for a bus stop, 32 and that's a pole in the ground with a sign on top, B-U-S, for Hollywood Cross and 33 12 year later still no sign of it. It is not a designated stop which means that some

34 drivers will bring people on to Annalecky which is 6 kilometre away. But anyway,

lo and behold we believe there's a lot of money around at the moment and there's a
lot of money being talked about being spent in the Hollywood area, whether some
people think there's a new airport going in, according to the local Monsignor
Glennon Monsignor Horgan did it so maybe he could manage it. I don't know. But
there's a ferocious amount of money around the Hollywood area, but we still don't
have the pole and the sign on top so I am just wondering how quick we can get that
in place. It's still happening that there's buses going by, monsignor or no monsignor

it is not happening, it's not stopping. I can't get answers from the Cathaoirleach on

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11The other issues there is, there was a Part 8 here a year and a half ago on the12Blessington housing, over a hundred houses there in Burgage, in the new estate there13in Burgage, over 100, I think 113, but there's been no movement on that. And can I14briefly say you know how urgent it is we are? We're in dire needs for housing in15West Wicklow. It's dreadful. The amount of people waiting and under pressure. So16I would love to see that movement or have an idea of when they will be ready.

the Baltinglass Municipal District at all.

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18 The third one I want clarification on this one. I know it's a live planning and we 19 can't discuss it too far but it is a little bit strange in that I've had a lot of calls, maybe 20 a dozen calls during the week of an application for a solar farm and I admit I missed 21 it, and I know other councillors missed seeing it because the address on the 22 application wasn't Hollywood or wasn't Donard or whatever, it was a townland 23 Mullicar. The local people know nothing whatsoever about it. And I am just 24 wondering is there any way of communicating with the people? This is more than a 25 solar farm. I think it's the biggest one in Ireland. It's off the N81 there. Parts of it 26 can be seen from the N81. It's up to 200 acres of solar farms. I think it is a little bit 27 unfair. The application for this farm was on one of the English tabloids, it wasn't on 28 a local paper. No one knew a thing about it that way, you know. As I say, the 29 townland was only mentioned in the application, so everybody missed out on it. But 30 it is a massive development, and it would be developed off very, very small rural 31 roads. So there's huge concern on it. So maybe if there was -- I don't know whether 32 we have to sit and wait for the decision and then from there move on but I think it is 33 a very unfair approach by Wicklow Renewables, the applicants, whoever they are I 34 don't know either, but I think it is a very unfair way of going about it by putting the

1 planning application in a tabloid somewhere and not even mention the village that it's 2 near. Go raibh maith agat, Cathaoirleach. 3 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Councillor Melanie Corrigan. 4 COUNCILLOR CORRIGAN: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. And I know this was 5 discussed at length at our last meeting but it's such a massive issue in the Bray area 6 that I want to keep it highlighted and that is the proposed closure of the Herbert 7 Road. The campaign is growing from strength to strength, public opinion is real, 8 people are very distressed. I know we can do nothing about it at this meeting. I 9 want to keep it highlighted on behalf of the residents of Bray. Campaign is really growing. There's been a lot of road stops, slowdowns for want of a better word 10 11 which is causing a lot of stress in the community. I want to keep it highlighted that 12 this is still a massive issue for people in Bray. Thank you. 13 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Jason Mulhall. 14 COUNCILLOR MULHALL: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Just for the Chief 15 Executive as per my written communications I do want to express my 16 disappointment at what appears to be a somewhat, in my opinion, quiet withdrawal 17 from the Blessington Greenway Project. I do acknowledge that the community had 18 outline concerns on certain elements of the projects but at the same time there was 19 and still remains strong community and agency support. We're all aware that 20 significant sums of monies have already been spent to this point on the greenway. I 21 do fully recognise the pressures on local authority resources, but I am asking you to 22 consider re-examining and considering to possibly establish a small working group 23 bringing together Council, local reps, community to explore a way forward and 24 examine what could be salvaged. I do not believe pushing it to the MD office for 25 investigation of smaller projects is appropriate. I don't believe they have the 26 resources to give it the attention that's required. I believe our local community in 27 West Wicklow deserves more than a quiet withdrawal from that project, and clarity 28 and what alternatives, if any, could genuinely be considered. And I am personally 29 not particularly happy with or supportive of the decision to simply drop the project. 30 I believe there remains an opportunity to re-engage with the project in a meaningful 31 way. I do welcome the clarity on the current situation on the Arklow-Shillelagh 32 Greenway by the Director. Much like Councillor Stapleton, the community on the 33 ground have been outlining their concerns on the future of the project. So it is good 34 to hear there's movement again. Then in addition, thanks for the update on

1 Councillor Cronin's query on potential staffing numbers for the parks in the 2 Baltinglass MD. The parks are maturing now and in need of maintenance. And I 3 can confirm that it is being left to the local tidy town groups in Blessington to look 4 after the park. Nobody else is. In my view it is not acceptable. We deliver these 5 resources, parks, and this needs to be addressed without further delay. Thank you. 6 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. If you don't mind, Chief Executive, if no one else 7 is coming in I will ask my own question. I am looking for the casual trading licences 8 to be looked at again because to me they're antiquated at the moment. They're 9 stretching back decades at this stage. For example, I'm not going to go into any other 10 MD but for example in my own MD the only place you can have a casual trade 11 licence in Wicklow is AIB car park. We're not actually doing the town justice; we 12 have a Market Square; we can't have the market. I know the Director is not here, but 13 I think it is something we should look at and maybe have a bit more leeway where 14 common sense comes into it. There's going to be festivals and so forth. We can look 15 at it through the MDs as well. Thank you very much. 16 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Thank you, members. Councillor 17 O'Neill, I am going to defer to Joe on the bus stop in Hollywood Cross and on the 18 Part 8 housing. In relation to the planning query that you have, if the application is 19 still live there's very little we can say about it, but Leonora may clarify around 20 placing of advertising and how notices go into the press and that. 21 22 Councillor Corrigan, thank you for your comments. It's noted, and it is of concern 23 certainly. 24 25 Councillor Mulhall, I note the disappointment, and you know what you've expressed. 26 To say it's not a slow withdrawal from the Blessington Greenway Project. We have 27 to take stock and take time with it, and in the meantime we felt it would be useful for 28 the MD to get on with some smaller projects to give some positivity in the area. A 29 significant amount of time and effort and money was spent on getting that 30 application to the stage it was at, and I would be very foolish to spend that time and 31 money again on a similar application if the outcome is likely to be the same. 32 Notwithstanding that, we do have to look at it again. It's too significant I suppose a 33 tourism opportunity in the area. Our resources are very limited. I mean I think four

34 or five members today have queried staffing and we had one member of staff looking

1after all the greenway projects and that's not sustainable. So at this moment in time2the focus is on the Arklow-Shillelagh project to get that one over the line and then3resources will get freed up. So in the meantime I think the MD should progress. But4I am quite happy to meet with any group or members again in Blessington, I am5quite happy at your suggestion to have a working group and look in a more broad6sense at what we can do in the future, but there's not a quick fix to it is the very7simple answer I will give you on it.

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9 Councillor O'Brien, the casual trading bye-laws, yeah, we can certainly have a look 10 at them. I think it has been raised in a couple of MD areas about them not being fit 11 for purpose and I know a discussion has been had between the Director of Planning 12 and Director of Environment on it, so we will certainly take that away and get back 13 to you.

MS EARLS: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I can't be specific about any planning 14 15 application but just in general within the Planning and Development Regulations 16 2001 an applicant can list the townland as the location for a development, and they 17 can put the newspaper notice in any newspaper that circulates in the area but they are 18 also required to put a site notice on the site so that is another means of the public to 19 become aware of an application if they don't see it in the newspaper. Any 20 application that is under the Planning and Development Regs allows for newspaper 21 circulating in the area and the use of the townland as the location. Thank you.

22 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Okay.

MR LANE: Okay. Just for the councillor, it is not quite as simple now as putting a pole up and putting "Bus", B-U-S, on top but thank you for the clarification. The area has to be safe for pedestrians, and it has to use the comprehensive traffic calming scheme. We've currently gone out to tender and we're awaiting those tender reports. Subject to TII funding and approval of those we'd hope to be starting during this year. So it is getting there but it is not quite as simple as putting up a pole.

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And I fully understand the email regarding Herbert Road, but people might look when they get an opportunity because there was an awful lot going through it but there is a Bus Priority Interim Scheme website explaining the rationale and if people have time now there is a 13-minute video explaining the rationale of that. I know the Bray councillors have seen it but some of the others might keep it going. Thank you.

The Burgage, yeah, tenders have been received on that. That's PPE bundle 3. Tenders have been received. There's a few little design tweaks, and a little bit of legal work but we will be progressing it. It might be a small bit later. We anticipated it would have commenced by now but there's a few issues being looked at. Nothing major, just small procedural issues. But the contractor has been appointed, preferred option.

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8 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Just before I go on to item number 20, it just 9 seems to be a day for good-byes which is unfortunate. Today we say good-bye to 10 Director of Services Lorraine Gallagher who will be retiring at the end of the month. 11 This will be Lorraine's last meeting. On behalf of all the members, I'm not sure if 12 they want to come in, I just want to put first of all say thank you for your 41 years of 13 service. You were one of the first phone calls I got when I got elected in 2019 to 14 welcome me to Wicklow County Council. You couldn't have been any more helpful. 15 It was obvious from the get-go that your wealth of knowledge and the experience 16 you have was invaluable not just to Wicklow County Council but to us newbies at 17 the time and I'm sure all the new members elected there recently last year as well got 18 that same attention as well. So you will be missed. Your knowledge will be missed, 19 not just by the Elected Members but the staff also because I know we all look to you 20 at times up here, what do we do next, how do we do this. So all I want to say is 21 thank you and to wish you every success in your retirement, I hope you enjoy it and 22 get to travel and spend more time with your family as well. So thank you very much 23 for your service to the public, to County Wicklow and to Wicklow County Council. 24 Thank you. Would you like to say a few words?

25 MS GALLAGHER: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. So this time last year it was all 26 about the Local Elections and here we are a year down the road and how the time 27 flies, and that's exactly how time has flown for me since I joined Wicklow County 28 Council in 1984 in the different roles and different directorates. Over half my career 29 has been working in Corporate Services in this chamber in partnership with the 30 Elected Members, and it's been absolute honour and privilege for me to serve the 31 people of County Wicklow in a place I born, grew up in and went to school in and 32 live in. So I consider myself extremely fortunate to work in such a progressive 33 organisation with some very inspirational people down through the years. And I 34 have seen many changes and worked with many good people, staff and Elected

1 Members, but it is time to call it a day and hand the reign over to others. Looking at 2 the people up here and with people standing here today, new faces, and that's the way 3 life is. I want to thank you, Cathaoirleach and the Elected Members. Thank you, 4 Chief Executive, Emer O'Gorman, for her support and guidance and friendship over 5 the last two years, my colleagues on the senior management team for their support 6 and friendship too, the senior team that I have led by Helen Purcell and Joanne 7 O'Dowd and the team in Bray MD, Garvin Hickey and Steve, and all the staff in 8 Wicklow County Council for the work that they do and the support that they have 9 given to me. So it's been quite a journey, but it is time now for a new chapter and it's 10 what I am looking forward to. So thank you very much. (Applause.) 11 CATHAOIRLEACH: Not surprising my screen has lit up again. Councillor 12 Leonard. 13 COUNCILLOR LEONARD: I am in shock. I can't believe Lorraine is leaving. I 14 want to thank her personally. As Paul has just said, you're such a lady and you've 15 been such a great help and support to elected representatives, all the newbies coming 16 in. I think when you work in the Council and to put that time and experience that 17 you brought to Wicklow County Council there's been a lot of seeds planted in the 18 county, good seeds, positive seeds, and things that have come to fruition, that 19 everybody, all the directors have been involved in. We're not great at good PR a lot 20 of the time. A lot of the PR is usually when there's a battle which we navigate 21 through, but the amount of good work that's been done throughout those years and I 22 think there's probably a book or two in you in your experience here and I want to 23 wish you the best of look going forward and you deserve a really enjoyable 24 retirement, and as Paul said to travel and enjoy life, but you have planted a lot of 25 very good seeds and been part of a good County Wicklow. Thank you. 26 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Bourke. 27 COUNCILLOR BOURKE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Well, I am really stunned at 28 this news because I thought Lorraine would go on for a lot longer. I hadn't realised 29 the clock had caught up so quickly. I have known Lorraine for quite a while because 30 I was elected here since 1999, so I did a quick calculation she has had at least six 31 Chief Executives that she has worked with in that time and maybe even before that. 32 So on behalf of the Fine Gael group I want to say congratulations on all the hard 33 work and achievements that you have made in County Wicklow, Wicklow County 34 Council. I am sure there's many legacy items there that will have your stamp on

1 them and that you've helped to get over the line and has had a really positive effect 2 on the lives of everybody in the county. You will be certainly missed. I recall every 3 former the Cathaoirleach of the county council praising you to the highest heavens 4 for your help and assistance, particularly Councillor Vance when he was saying 5 good-bye he was nearly crying because he was having to say goodbye to Lorraine at 6 the time. But I do think that you have left a huge legacy and a difficult job for 7 whoever takes over from you as well in due course. So I hope that your advice will 8 be available as well to help whoever is coming behind you because you've got huge 9 experience and that may be needed to help others to guide them in the right direction 10 as well. Thank you very much, Lorraine. I'm looking forward to perhaps a more 11 formal arrangement if the Council will be doing something for you to pay their 12 tributes to you.

13 CATHAOIRLEACH: I will two reasons to cry next month. Councillor Dermot14 O'Brien.

15 COUNCILLOR DERMOT O'BRIEN: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. I was going to not 16 say it but like I was ten years of age in 1984 but what I mean by that is I know when 17 we say the word "institution" we think of a big building and a big machine but I 18 think people can be institutions as well and it is incomprehensible to me how much is 19 stored in the mind of Lorraine Gallagher and how accessible it is to her whenever she 20 needs it. I have the world of admiration and respect for you, Lorraine. Again what 21 an asset to this council, to this county that we will miss. If we could get a budget for 22 cloning maybe for extracting what's in there we would benefit from that. At the 23 same time huge congratulations for this moment. You have so much to reflect on 24 and to be proud of I am sure, but we will miss you. Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

25 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Miriam Murphy, you're online.

COUNCILLOR MURPHY: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I know Wicklow has loads
of gems, but I think we have a gem in Lorraine. It is actually very emotional. I'm
sorry I can't be with her today. She sat with me on Friday in the Bay, and you know
said she'll be gone in three weeks, I couldn't believe it. Lorraine, you've always been
very inclusive, you have always raised the flag any time I approached you on

31 disability, but as a person you're welcome for anybody, your understanding is just

- exceptional and your knowledge, as Councillor O'Brien has said, will be something
  left untold. I am sending hugs, Lorraine.
- 34 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Erika Doyle.

1 COUNCILLOR DOYLE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I'm going to save my long 2 good-bye, Lorraine, for tomorrow night in Bray. I have no doubt that it is the right 3 time for you to go because you do everything in just the right way. And when 4 anything happens or when anybody is unsure all eyes go to you because everybody 5 knows that you are absolutely rock solid and you know exactly how things work, 6 how they should work, how to resolve sticky issues to everybody's satisfaction and 7 it's such a skill that sometimes it is almost invisible and that's when you really know 8 that somebody knows their stuff. I am under instructions as well to pass on my 9 regards from Stephen, Stephen Matthews, who you were such a huge support to as 10 well and me too in my early days as a co-opted councillor and in fact even before 11 that, because I would have known you before that. But yeah, an absolute institution 12 and I really do hope we get to say a proper goodbye to you. Whether you want that 13 to happen or not I think it needs to. Thank you for everything.

14 MS GALLAGHER: Thank you.

15 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor John Snell.

16 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Yeah, thanks, Cathaoirleach. I don't get shocked easily in 17 the council chambers over all these years, but I am shocked to hear that. I wasn't 18 aware that Lorraine will be stepping aside. Sixteen years I've spent working in 19 Wicklow County Council and you said that Lorraine has been here for 41 years, so 20 doing the maths I reckon you must have started when you were nine or other than 21 that it is Oil of Olay. You're looking well on it anyway. Lorraine, over the years in 22 Wicklow County Council there's been turbulent years, and I have no doubt that you 23 resolved more issues behind the scenes than any one person that has passed through 24 Wicklow County Council. If I was to say what your legacy is, what you've left 25 behind I think you know the passion that you put into the Enterprise Offices, County 26 Wicklow Tourism, but the big one for me is the campus, County Wicklow campus 27 out in Rathnew. Again, I am a bit biased because there's a little bit of the Rathnew 28 DNA in you and that has come through, your passion for the county as a whole. 29 Every member that has passed through here over the 41 years, it is very seldom that 30 someone wouldn't have a bad word to say about somebody, I don't think anyone 31 could have a bad word to say about you. I wish you well in your retirement. Unlike 32 previous speakers, I don't think you should pass on your knowledge. I think you 33 should get the laptop, the phone, throw them in over the footbridge down there 34 because I am sure people will keep asking you. But if you are looking for something

1	to do at some stage there's loads of boards out there who are out there actively
2	looking for really good members in regards corporate governance, there's Wicklow
3	Town Team and beyond, but I wish you and your family all the best.
4	CATHAOIRLEACH: I probably shouldn't have said the 41 years but anyway.
5	Councillor O'Neill.
6	COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: Thanks, Cathaoirleach, yeah. Lorraine Gallagher, what,
7	it is a big shock to hear you're bailing out. It really is. You know, Wicklow County
8	Council is Lorraine Gallagher in my book. No matter where you move around,
9	Kildare, you know we knew Lorraine Gallagher in Wicklow. It is a big shock for me
10	anyway to hear that you're moving out, but I just want to thank you for all the help. I
11	have been dealing with you, Lorraine, for a long, long time. As I said earlier I'm
12	probably second 12 year, ten or 11 year but it is way over the 30 years since I met
13	you. I'll always remember how helpful you were you know to me as just a member
14	of the community trying to help the people of my community, you know, 20 years
15	before I was elected, and how helpful you were. And right up to this day you know
16	you could ring Lorraine Gallagher, and she'd answer, if she didn't she'd get back to
17	you within no time. The query she'd carry through. You never let me down once.
18	Never once. You'll be a huge loss. And I just want to wish you I know you will
19	have a long, long retirement, as John says you've a long way to go with your
20	retirement and probably you spend some of it up there in Leitrim with the hubby and
21	that, but I want to thank you for what you have done for West Wicklow and your
22	courtesy and wish you and your family the very best of luck, Lorraine. Thanks a
23	well.
24	CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Councillor Pat Kennedy.
25	COUNCILLOR KENNEDY: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Lorraine, it is very hard to
26	know what to say about you today because I think it has already been said. I agree
27	with all the sentiments the other members said. But I think what Councillor Doyle
28	said struck a chord with me because everything you do you do it the right way. And
29	for you to retire now is the right time for you because you think about everything and
30	you're very professional in the work that you do. You've been very professional in
31	the role here in Wicklow County Council. You're part of a great management team
32	led by Emer. And I don't believe there's a Cathaoirleach that has ever sat up there
33	could have done the job without you being at their side. I know when I was there I
34	certainly couldn't have done it without you there and I know of other Cathaoirleachs

1 who would have said the very same thing as the Cathaoirleach said, Councillor Pat 2 Vance referred to it at one stage as well, and I think that's very true. The one thing 3 that always struck me about you, Lorraine, was not just your professionalism but it 4 was every time you spoke about Wicklow the passion in your voice for your county 5 was something to behold. And I wish you the very best. It is great to take time off 6 when you're healthy, still young enough to do it and I wish you the very best in the 7 future. Thank you for everything you have done not just for the councillors here in 8 this chamber but for the things that you have done for the people in Wicklow behind 9 the scenes they don't ever see. It is only by working closely with you over the years 10 that you see what you have done for the people in Wicklow whether that be by 11 enterprise or other things you have done. Thanks for all that you have done. 12 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Councillor Orla Finn. 13 COUNCILLOR FINN: Yeah, I have to say it is a shock. I would like to thank you 14 very much for being so welcoming when I joined the Council last year. I haven't 15 really had a huge amount of time to get to know you personally, but I think it is great 16 to have strong, capable, intelligent women at the top level of any organisation. So I 17 know you will be a huge loss to ourselves as councillors but also to Wicklow County 18 Council. And to reiterate what John Snell said, you will be very welcome in every 19 and all of the many organisations that are around the county, but I obviously hope as 20 well that you will take some time to yourself and to enjoy your retirement and I 21 would like to thank you very much. It's been great. Thank you. 22 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Finally, Councillor Lourda Scott online. 23 COUNCILLOR SCOTT: Lorraine, I just want to wish you the absolute very best in 24 your retirement. I was very sorry to hear you're going. I would echo what 25 everybody else has already said here, but my abiding memory is you reached out to 26 me when I first joined the Council and when I sent in my first motion you very 27 gently and professionally guided me through it. That is a marker of how you dealt 28 with people throughout your years here; very professionally and kindly. You were 29 particularly great help and support to myself when we were trying to set up the 30 Women's Council Caucus. There's lots of organisations that we'd love to have you on if you find yourself at a loose end. 31 32 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, members. Chief Executive, maybe you might say 33 a few words.

1 MS O'GORMAN: Yeah, thank you, Cathaoirleach. I don't even know where to 2 start. I have only known Lorraine I suppose a reasonably short period of time but as 3 I think maybe Councillor O'Neill said before I ever dreamt of coming to Wicklow 4 everybody knew Lorraine Gallagher, Lorraine Gallagher Corporate Services, the 5 go-to person if you had a query about local government, about the legislation, 6 standing orders, whatever it was. So for the last two odd years Lorraine has been 7 what I would consider my conciliary, she has been my adviser, guidance, the person 8 who has kept me on the straight and narrow and always with a smile on her face, but 9 I suppose what I admire most about Lorraine is that she puts people first all the time, 10 whether that's the people of Wicklow, the people of this organisation, business 11 people, everything is done through that lens. Like I've seen the passion even in 12 doing small changes internally in the building here and what it meant to the staff, and 13 Lorraine led that because she thinks about the staff first. And that's a real testament 14 to what a truly wonderful leader of her team she has been and is going to be a great 15 loss to this organisation. On behalf of all the management team - we will say out 16 proper goodbyes another day, but - I want to say thank you sincerely for all of your 17 help to me. I wouldn't be able to do this job without your help. Thank you very 18 much, Lorraine. 19 MS GALLAGHER: Thank you. 20 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Chief Executive. So it gives me great pleasure 21 and honour again on behalf of all the Elected Members indeed all the staff and 22 people of County Wicklow to present you with a small little token of our 23 appreciation.

24 MS GALLAGHER: Thanks everybody. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: So we're going on now to item number 20, and it is: To note
 and receive a presentation on Wicklow County Council 2025 Countywide

- 27 Differential Rent Scheme for Social Housing Tenants. I think we have Brian up28 here.
- 29 MS O'GORMAN: Just before Brian starts, members, you'll recall from the last
- 30 meeting we had this item on the agenda and members asked and we provided a
- 31 second legal opinion for you. So it confirms the position that we had; that it is an
- 32 executive function of the Council to make a Differential Rent Scheme. So today's
- 33 presentation is for noting, for your information, we thought it would be useful for the
- 34 members to see a couple of working examples, just to see the impact the new

1 countywide scheme will have on people of Wicklow. A review of the scheme 2 emanated from multiple audit reports from the local government auditor about the 3 need to consolidate the two schemes into one. So Brian will walk you through that. 4 If you have any queries on that, Brian is happy to take questions, after the 5 presentation. 6 CATHAOIRLEACH: Just before we go on, I want to, I am conscious -- I don't 7 know how long your presentation goes on for, but I am conscious that there is a 8 notice of motion in here for long time, so I am going to look for an extension to half 9 five. I hope I don't need but I do I would like to have that option. So I am looking 10 for a proposer. Councillor Shane Langrell. Seconder? Councillor John Snell. Are 11 we agreed? Yeah. Thank you. Brian, sorry about that. Thank you. 12 MR WILDES: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. And thanks for the invite down here to

discuss and present on our new proposed rent scheme and rent review that we are
planning for this summer hopefully. Just on this presentation I will briefly go
through an overview of both the Bray MD Scheme and the Wicklow MD Scheme,
our plans for the rent review, an overview of the new scheme that we are bringing in
in the next couple of months and the impact this may have and will have on certain
cohorts of our tenants in Wicklow.

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20 So just a brief overview on the rents then. There's two income-based Differential 21 Rent Schemes in Wicklow: We have the Bray MD Differential Rent Scheme, and 22 the Wicklow Rent Scheme. Our last rent review was in 2019, and this is going to be 23 our first step in rolling out the new rent scheme.

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25 As everyone knows, it is an obligation of the tenants to inform Wicklow County 26 Council of any changes to their incomes, and in fairness the majority of tenants do 27 do this. However, starting off with the rent review will give us a really good base to 28 have a solid new rent scheme going forward. The two schemes in the county. As far 29 as I know we're the only county in the country with two rent schemes in operations 30 so there's difficulties there. You can see the weekly accrual is in around 326,000 and 31 our arrears are down to 3.2 million now. I will take the opportunity to discuss 32 arrears. Myself, Caroline, Aideen, under Michael's guidance, have been proactively 33 engaging with people on rent arrears and asking tenants to come forward and get into 34 repayment plans. That has been somewhat successful so far.

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2 So just an overview of the two schemes. So the Bray Municipal District Differential 3 Rent Review Scheme. This was initiated in 2014. Subject to annual review, the 4 primary earner in a household is charged rent not the tenant. So whoever earns the 5 most money who is over 18 we base the rent on that. There is no rent cap in the 6 district. The minimum rent is currently €25 per week. A couple of other points to 7 note, that we do assess maintenance people receive and Carers Allowance in the rent 8 and there's a deduction of total rent of €1 per child in the household. The Wicklow 9 Differential Rent Scheme, the difference here is that the tenant not the primary earner 10 is assessed, there is a rent cap of  $\notin$  200, and the minimum is  $\notin$  27. As with the Bray 11 scheme, maintenance and carers allowance is assessed, however there is a  $\notin 5$ 12 reduction per child in the Wicklow Rent Scheme.

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14 So why are we reviewing the schemes and why are we amalgamating the schemes? 15 As I said there's been no countrywide rent review since 2019, and this is where we 16 are going to start and roll it out. As our Chief Executive said, we're annually asked 17 by the auditor to merge these schemes and it has been something that we have been 18 planning for quite a while, so we're in a position now that we are ready to execute. 19 Since the last rent review in 2019 there has been roughly a 17% increase in people's 20 Social Welfare earnings, and this is not reflected in what rent we can accrue on our 21 weekly rent. From a personal perspective here it is easier to manage. As the 22 Housing Administrative Officer in Bray having two rent schemes in the town is 23 difficult. There may be people living next door to each other paying different rents, 24 we have to deal with people asking why and what the difference is, so bringing this 25 in will be beneficial to Bray in particular. I believe one rent scheme will be fairer as 26 well for the county and the changes that we're going to propose will make sure that 27 everybody in the county is treated the same and pays the same percentage of their 28 income no matter what they earn towards their rent.

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So how we went about it? Myself, Caroline, Michael, Aideen and Annemarie would
have went into detail on both schemes to discuss what was working, what wasn't
working and how we can tweak both schemes to be mindful of the more vulnerable
people, people under Carers Allowance or receiving maintenance, and we also
looked at all the local authorities nearby to see what rent schemes they were using

and how they were working. If we were going to take a model of what was being
used in Dublin City Council it would make a massive change to everybody's rent, so
we decided to tweak our two schemes into one scheme that we are quite happy to
stand over going forward. And I will explain the changes shortly.

Once we decided what we were going to do we did a cost benefit analysis where we looked at a random cohort of 150 people in Bray, similar in Wicklow, to see what way would the rent go, up or down, or what the impact would be, and then we formed a plan. The next step then is the rent review. That is the last step is how we got there but it is the first step in rolling it out. That will be this summer hopefully.

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12 Proposed changes then is the next slide. So amalgamate the schemes, okay. We will 13 have one scheme in the country -- in the county. We will raise the minimum rent to 14 €30 per week across the board. That's up from €24 in Bray, €27 in Wicklow. The 15 rent cap will be removed countywide. There's no rent cap in Bray at the minute, so I personally think this is a good thing, so everyone is paying the same percentage of 16 17 their income no matter what their income is. Rent cap in Wicklow of €200 is going 18 to be removed. This will increase the higher earners' rent but they will still be paying 19 the same percentage of rent. We will not be assessing carers allowance or 20 maintenance going forward under the new scheme, and this will hopefully help out 21 our more vulnerable tenants. One other slight change is that to reflect the Wicklow 22 Scheme there will be a discount of €5 per child instead of €1 per child. So that will 23 be a positive impact for the people under the Bray Scheme.

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25 I suppose if anyone has concerns about specific tenants let us know, put them in 26 touch with us and we can let them know what their rent will be when we roll out the 27 rent review and new recent scheme. But just as example: An applicant in receipt of 28 pension, current income 243, current rent charged  $\notin$  30.50, and under the new scheme 29 the rent will go up to 36.50. That is just with the raising of the minimum rent 30 amount. The next one: Two tenants in receipt of Carers Allowance. As you can 31 see, their income there, current rent charge is 168 but their updated rent will be down 32 to 127.86, a reduction of  $\in$  40. This is when we're not taking into account people's 33 Carers Allowance. Onto the next one. Joint tenants, three children, income of 503, 34 rent charge 86.20, and the updated rent will be roughly 80.50 and this is with the

deduction of the -- so previously in Bray they would be given a deduction of €1 per
child, this is because it is €5 per child. That is why there is a decrease there. Then
finally the joint tenant, five children, their updated rent will be 50 cent lower, and
this is for similar reasons as to the charges around children and the discounts.

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6 Just a couple on the Wicklow rents now as well. This is, the next two examples are 7 of people who are currently at the rent cap. Okay? So as you can see, one of our tenants, their income of 939 per week, their rent will go up by €17 when the rent cap 8 9 is removed. The next one is a little bit more higher I suppose, and their rent will be 10 going up by close to  $\notin 80$  a week. Now, I suppose one thing what we would be pretty 11 strong on is that if people are kind of earning that and paying that rent we would 12 encourage people to look at tenant purchase and we would be supportive of that as 13 well. The last two examples then are income 104, rent charge 27 and the updated 14 rent would be going up by  $\in 17.50$ , and that's just with the minimum amount rent 15 raising. The last one then, as you can see, a €3 increase for someone on the 16 minimum rent. So that's just a very brief overview of the rent schemes. I can take 17 questions if there's any.

18 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you for that presentation. Councillor John Snell. 19 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Yeah, thanks, Cathaoirleach, and thanks, Brian, for the 20 presentation and explanation and thinking behind it. If I could, Cathaoirleach, with 21 your indulgence just first and foremost before I get onto the rents I did seek a second 22 legal opinion at the last meeting because for me it's another power that's being 23 diminished in regards to publicly Elected Members and I would be calling on the 24 members of this chamber who are part of the LAMA group and the AILG to go and 25 seek opinion from them in regards to LAMA, Local Authorities Members 26 Association, and AILG, Association of the Irish Local Government. We did have 27 the Cathaoirleach for AIG for 2019 from this chambers. But really what I am 28 seeking is clarification which we got from senior counsel Esmonde Keane, and we 29 have to accept that the information he has given is correct. What we have been 30 given, we're told that it is legally privileged and it is not to be forwarded on for 31 transmission to any other parties external to Wicklow County Council without the 32 express consent of the author, and I would be asking that the Chief Executive would, 33 through our law agent, see if Esmonde Keane would allow us to forward that on to 34 the members here who could give it to the AILG and LAMA. And really, Chief

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1 Executive, what I am getting at is for many years people believed that it was a 2 reserve function, it's listed as a reserve function for the Elected Members and now 3 we're told that the Act didn't implement it. The Local Government Act 1925-2014 4 said that it was a reserve function. Part 14 of the 2001 Act said the same. Section 58 5 of the Housing Act 1966, Elected Members were under the impression that this was a 6 reserve function, not an executive function. It's been quite clearly demonstrated that 7 you have the authority to implement this. What I am saying is that section 31 of the 8 2009 Act, it was never implemented by senior government, so it is there to be 9 implemented but it was never done. That is not the fault of any person in this room, 10 but it is something that needs to be highlighted to the people who are meant to have 11 the best interests of us as Elected Members. Because over the years our powers have 12 been diminished significantly. Even prior to the abolition of the 2014 town councils, 13 now here is another Act, a reserve function that we believed we were entitled to have 14 and it's not. So I am aware of some of the members of those two bodies that I've 15 mentioned and I am asking -- rather than me putting in a motion here and going 16 through the whole rigmarole I am asking the Elected Members of Wicklow County 17 Council who sit on those two boards to please raise this to see can they talk to the 18 Minister to enact the 2009 Act, section 31? It's only a very small thing. I actually 19 don't disagree with the senior executives of this Council implementing a rent review 20 after six years. I have no issue with that. But it is the loss of power that was 21 perceived for Elected Members. So please, members, go and talk to LAMA and 22 AILG and I'll leave at that.

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24 In regards to the rent review, Brian, if we could have that forwarded out to all 32 25 members I do think it makes sense to have one rent throughout the whole county. It 26 makes perfect sense. But there is, if you delve down into it, when you talk about, 27 like in 2009, 2010 there was four families in County Wicklow who were paying the 28 maximum of  $\notin 200$  per week,  $\notin 200$  per week was a lot of money back then, but by 29 and large people had an option to purchase their home then. They could do the 30 tenant purchase scheme. As we progress now as a local authority and as a nation, the 31 vast majority of the housing stock that we're bringing forward now cannot be 32 purchased. The approved housing bodies are stepping into the breach, and I 33 welcome that as well, because we in Wicklow have used everything that is available 34 to us, every scheme that's out there and the approved housing bodies step in, but can

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1 you not purchase those houses. They're not for sale. So somebody now, if you don't 2 have a rent cap of 200, if you don't increase it to 300 or 500, whatever you want to 3 call it, if there's no rent cap, that will be implemented across the approved housing 4 bodies and it's also something that's implemented across the Housing Assistance 5 Payment Scheme. The HAP scheme is based on what is incorporated in the local 6 authority. So now you have people who will be expected to pay the same, the 7 minimum rent was  $\notin 27$ , it's increasing to  $\notin 30$ . No major issue with that. But every 8 other scheme follows suit based on what you implement as the top table. The Chief 9 Executive is going to clarify? 10 MS O'GORMAN: Yeah, just to clarify, Councillor Snell. The approved housing 11 bodies do not adopt our rent scheme. They have their own schemes. And you are 12 completely correct in saying that you cannot purchase an approved housing body 13 home, but you can -- as Brian alluded to, people that are on a higher income we 14 would encourage them to purchase the property. But they do not mirror our rent 15 scheme. They have to have regard to our rent scheme, but they don't automatically 16 adopt ours. Just to make that point. 17 CATHAOIRLEACH: I'm sorry, Councillor Snell, I know this is an important to 18 you, but I also have four other speakers. 19 COUNCILLOR SNELL: No, and I appreciate that. And look it, we've waited since 20 2019 for this, we've waited four weeks for legal opinion of which I fully accept. But 21 it is important and it's not -- it's important to the constituents of County Wicklow, 22 because if I can't get my head around it I cannot explain it to them. And that's why 23 the slides that's been given to us, whatever stages you go through between now and 24 implementing this in a couple of months, it has to go beyond the strategic policy 25 committee, it has to filter down to the municipal districts and there has to be a 26 conversation with each municipal district to let them know what you're 27 implementing. Because if we can't explain it to the four and a half how families out 28 there who are in our local authority homes -- and we have enough four and a half 29 thousand waiting to get into the local authority homes of which now the approved 30 housing bodies fill the vacuum. So my question is: Have you looked at a cap on the maximum rent in this scheme or is it still open for debate, or is it open-ended? And 31 32 it's just to bear in mind that not everybody can purchase, do the tenant purchase. The 33 other thing to be mindful of is, as the approved housing bodies step into the breach if 34 they're not governed by what we set in Wicklow County Council it is very important

1 for people who have made an offer that go into approved housing body that they 2 know how much the rent is going to be. Because people are there now basing it on 3 the fact of what you're going to implement here is what they will be charged, and fact 4 we know these are businesses with boards, they are answerable to their boards and 5 they need to have money in a sinking fund for repairs and everything else, and there 6 is 504 approved housing bodies in the country of which we deal with an awful lot of 7 them here in County Wicklow. For me it is not straightforward but I commend our 8 Senior Executive Officer, Caroline, Michael Nicholson, the Director of Services, our 9 SPC and to you, Brian, and the staff in Bray because it hasn't been easy dealing with 10 two different rents, it's not, and it's probably not fair and it is time it is collated into 11 one, but I'd still have more questions into the future.

12 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Do you want to come in?

MS O'GORMAN: Thank you, Councillor Snell. Just two very brief points. Firstly,
we had anticipated that there might be a request for the legal opinion to be sent on
and Mr Esmonde Keane has no issue with it going to LAMA or AILG. That is not
an issue. I suppose that riders on his advice is not just published on the internet.
COUNCILLOR SNELL: Yeah.

18 MS O'GORMAN: That is not a problem at all. Secondly, the housing team will 19 happily facilitate workshops in the MDs as we work through this. That is not an 20 issue for anybody. We want to members to be comfortable and understand the 21 process. My final point I make is that, yes, this has been listed as a reserve function 22 and that piece of legislation has never been enacted and that is not what was intended 23 when the legislation was written. In my 30-plus years in local government it has 24 never been brought to a chamber for adoption by members in any council that I have 25 worked in. That's not to say that that shouldn't be the process, but I suppose that's for 26 the members to pursue with their TDs and Minister. So Mr Keane has no issue with 27 the advice or the opinion going to LAMA or AILG. Just to make that point before 28 others come in. Thank you.

29 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Graham Richmond.

30 COUNCILLOR RICHMOND: Cathaoirleach, firstly, to back up an awful lot of

31 what Councillor Snell said there particularly in seeking the advice between AILG

32 and LAMA. I welcome the fact that we're going from two rental schemes to one.

- 33 Like, it is common sense. What struck me on the set of examples were what certain
- 34 people on certain incomes are paying in rent. There's one category that is often

1 ignored, it's the ones before they get to the social housing, those on HAP who are 2 struggling to find rental properties which will match what their allowance is for 3 HAP. But then in the same way I would encourage a rent review is an ongoing event 4 and particularly if you have, for example, someone -- if there's a household income 5 of over €900 a week and your rent is €217, it is very heavy encouragement to buy a 6 house, because that is actually holding up a social house for those who require it 7 most. And I think that's where we have to look at that. And maybe look at, when 8 you're at a certain level it's where we go from there. Thank you. 9 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Dermot O'Brien. 10 COUNCILLOR DERMOT O'BRIEN: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. And thanks, Brian, 11 for the presentation. Thanks for putting this on the agenda as a follow up for a very 12 meaningful conversation that happened last month. I won't go over what has been 13 said already. But I think when change happens there's both a challenge and an 14 opportunity. And the challenge is this do it smooth so that, as Councillor Snell, we 15 are also -- they'll come to us when they have questions and issues and concerns, 16 when they have things to critique, so the more we're tuned in I think the better. I 17 think the opportunity as well is to, in lieu of it kicking off that we have in place 18 through the SPC and otherwise the opportunity is to have scrutiny and review woven 19 into the change. I think that's also an asset because the things that I would be 20 concerned about is even the smoothness of our hardship cause response, the system 21 that's in place that will make that smooth rather than someone you know losing a job, 22 having a howler, things go south and then they accrue arrears while they're trying to 23 negotiate and manage a scenario, which again is stressful in its own right. Another 24 thing I would say is worthy of attention is the self-employed piece, because the gig 25 economy is also the self-employed world and for some people that's up and down 26 and gone. So again that we're mindful of that I think would be really useful. Then 27 the other thing I would say is again for when we're thinking about how we track the 28 changes that we also have rights with the Irish Human Rights and Equality 29 Commission, we have opportunities with the Poverty Proof, we have opportunities 30 with the Minimum Essential Standard of Living Index. So there's things as well that 31 I think would be a strength if we were weaving them in at this stage as we manage 32 the change and that we also are in a position to -- if we're committed to review then 33 we can also tweak as needed. Thanks very much for the presentation. Appreciate it. 34 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Leonard.

1 COUNCILLOR LEONARD: Yeah, look it, I absolutely agree with a fair system and 2 that everybody should be paying the same. I suppose I feel a bit uncomfortable with 3 this because the reality on the ground is that everybody's situation isn't the same, and 4 people have debt, they have other costs that might not be factored in, and that a lot of 5 mental health issues are related to financial stress and with the cost of living and 6 everything it's the impact on you know people. So I think the transition period is 7 really important and that it's not done really fast and that it's kind of done in a 8 gradual -- and give people preparation time you know to do this. That it is not just 9 brought in in a couple of months and people are impacted. They need plans. Some 10 people will have to access MABs, you know to adjust. It might look on paper that 11 they have loads of money coming in, but the reality is they might have other costs 12 that aren't being factored into their household. They mightn't have that spare money 13 every week. And then just I had asked before at a previous meeting about housing 14 bodies and how they operate and how does Wicklow County Council contribute to 15 the rents for the housing bodies at all or is it just completely separate? 16 MS O'GORMAN: Separate. 17 COUNCILLOR LEONARD: And we don't contribute to the Local Property Tax that 18 we pay? They pay their own Local Property Tax on the... Okay. Thank you.

19 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Councillor Stapleton.

20 COUNCILLOR STAPLETON: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Thanks for the 21 presentation. Just a few comments/questions. Just wondering if you considered 22 having a cap where the rents would be capped by the market rent for similar 23 properties in the area. Just I understand in a normal functioning housing market you 24 might want to be encouraging people to move into the private rental market or to 25 purchase their own home, but in cases where people's incomes are going up they 26 can't avail of private rental markets or purchase their own house, and we mightn't 27 necessarily want to encourage them to purchase the social house because we want to 28 maintain our own stock, that I think it would be a good back stock considering there 29 would be probably very few where people are breaching the limit but that it could be 30 capped by the market rent in an area. My other point, I had flagged before and I 31 think it was confirmed just that earners, other earners in the house doesn't include 32 people in full-time education that maybe have a job on the side, but just if that could 33 be confirmed here it'd be great, or if it's included in the scheme just to flag it for 34 people I think would be helpful. Then just to an understanding piece, as you go

down through how the rent is calculated there's a Part 5 where it says, "multiplied by 3%." I don't get that at all what that refers to, so just to explain would be helpful. CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Councillor Caroline Winstanley. COUNCILLOR WINSTANLEY: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Thank you, Brian. I am not going to repeat everything that has been said but what really pleases me about this change is that I think it really captures those people that are falling in that no man's space where they were earning slightly too much not to be able to get social housing because they had different benefits that would be included in that rent, and I think it's that kind of strand of the population this is really going to impact, it's going to allow more people to be able to access social housing. So I just wanted to make that point thank you. CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Pat Kennedy. I'm going to keep going if you don't mind. COUNCILLOR KENNEDY: Thanks, Cathaoirleach and thank you, Brian, for the presentation there. Just on one of your slides there I think there was a family earning I think €1,300 in one slide, and you said that you would be steering those towards probably the Tenant Purchase Scheme. But anybody that is in a Part 5 house doesn't have any an option of buying that house or is that going to change? Perhaps now I'm not up to speed. Is that going to change now, that somebody in a Part 5 will be let buy their house? Because at the minute they can't unless it has changed recently. Thank you, Cathaoirleach. CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Erika Doyle. COUNCILLOR DOYLE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Just a brief comment to say I think it is an absolute no-brainer to have the one rent scheme and there's always going to be difficulties initiating that anything that has to be ironed out like this. One particular thing I am really pleased to see is the removal of maintenance and Carers Allowance. I think that these fall into the category of some of the most vulnerable tenants that we have and particularly single parents and the maintenance may be very

30 but they are a single parent, they are operating by themselves, and I think that the

little but it might tip them over into a responsibility that they have to pay added rent

- removal of that would probably make a difference to quite a few single parents. I
  think that's a really good move to see. And thanks for the presentation, Brian, thank
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1 CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorry, Brian, I thought we were nearly done. Councillor 2 Silvester Bourke. 3 COUNCILLOR BOURKE: Cathaoirleach, I agree with the changes that are being 4 proposed. There will be winners and losers. Now I would like to propose in 5 addition that as Chief Executive you would make at least one extra person of staff 6 available to the rent section to deal with all the queries that are going to come in. 7 There will be an avalanche of them I would predict, and it is going to fall back on us 8 as councillors to deal with those queries which I don't think is really fair. I think you 9 need to put in a couple of extra staff for at about six months to deal with it. I know 10 they are overworked as it is, and they can't deal with the volume of work they're 11 doing so please make staffing adjustments to the staffing levels in that department. 12 CATHAOIRLEACH: Brian, there's been a few queries if you want to answer them 13 as best you can. 14 MR WILDES: Yeah, thanks very much. Councillor Snell, no, there is going to be 15 no cap on the maximum rent. Okay. And your comment regarding people knowing 16 the rent, if they're signing up with AHBs, everyone will see the rent before they sign 17 the tenancy agreement so that shouldn't be an issue. Councillor Leonard, a transition 18 period. That's something that I might discuss with Caroline, if we're going to do a 19 transition period when it comes to rolling out the new rent scheme. Caroline. 20 MS FOX: So that on that, yeah, you're correct, like there will be some increases. 21 We will be taking it step-by-step, and as the CE said we will discuss it at MD level 22 and so all the councillors are aware what the queries would be and possibly issues 23 raised. The issue here really is we've had no rent review at all in six years. Income 24 hasn't been submitted by all our tenants and at the moment as it stands the rent 25 review that we're charging we've over 5,000 tenants isn't fair, and the discrepancies 26 there are huge over those six years, and we badly need to address that, and it is an 27 opportunity here now with councillors to start to address that. How and ever, yes, 28 the tenants will need to be aware of the increases but overall you'll note there as well 29 there is decreases. So there is benefits to the tenants. It is going to be absolutely a 30 huge piece of work, and I acknowledge Councillor Bourke that mentioned that. We 31 would see the scheme taking numerous months to carry out. It is something that 32 previously in 2019 there was a huge amount of queries following it so you are 33 correct there, we will look at how to address that. We will put plans in place how we 34 are going to deal with those queries. But I think overall it is going to be beneficial to

1 most of our tenants. The issue around the Tenant Purchase Scheme, I think one of 2 the councillors brought it up, the Part 5 Tenant Purchase Scheme won't change. And 3 you did also mention, Councillor Snell, that some of the houses are not for purchase. 4 You know, so the one-beds is something we always look at closely. When you see 5 the amount of rent we're charging and the quality of homes that we're now delivering 6 for  $\notin 30$  a minimum rent you are now getting -- now, obviously there is older stock, 7 but the newer homes we're giving out you're still being charged minimum rent. I 8 think there's a number of councillors that mentioned the cap. Our view was there's 9 very few tenants that would, you know, be on the higher earners, there's very few of 10 those tenants. So we'd like to flush those out and see how that pans out. We would 11 see them and give them generally the opportunity to buy the property. I mean if 12 you're earning that type of income, and I know Councillor Leonard said, well, you 13 don't know the other bills behind that, you're correct, there could be, but generally I 14 think if you're earning that type of money paying 280 or 250 a week is manageable. 15 And I think for the quality of home you've got to factor in then as well that if there's 16 any major issue as a local authority we're maintaining the home, you're not like a 17 standard homeowner you have to look at the property yourself. If anything goes 18 wrong the Council then steps in. So you've got to factor that in as well. So yes, this 19 rent review being that it hasn't been done in a number of years it is very important 20 that we look at it and I think it is fairer that we do carry out a rent review for all the 21 tenants that are there at the moment. Just on the AHBs, and I think you're concerned 22 about that. The AHBs will absolutely look closely at what we are charging, and they 23 don't have to, but they generally are in line with our charges. And yes, it is correct, 24 even though you are getting as such a long-term home with AHB you can't buy it 25 out, but you're there, it is a long-term home and that's the way we would treat an 26 AHB property. So thanks. 27 MR WILDES: Thanks, Caroline. I think, Caroline, covered all the questions there, 28 but, Councillor Stapleton, we might discuss the 0.3% out of chamber if that's okay. 29 And anyone who is in education then is not charged the minimum rent on the 30 rate -- the rate on the rent. Your query about the capital market rate that's not 31 something we're going to have in this rent scheme. I think that's everybody. 32 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Thank you very much. Just to reiterate what

Councillor Dermot O'Brien said, I think it was valuable to bring it here today to have
a further discussion rather than what we probably would have had at the last meeting.

1 Thank you very much for your presentation, Brian. Thank you very much. Thank 2 you, members. 3 4 Okay item number 21: Correspondence. I believe we have no correspondence. Item 5 number 22: A notice of motion. Notice of motion in the name of Councillor Miriam 6 Murphy, proposer, seconded by Councillor Lourda Scott and supported by 7 Councillors Caroline Winstanley, Jason Mulhall, Warren O'Toole and Melanie 8 Corrigan. Is Miriam online to propose it? 9 COUNCILLOR MURPHY: Yes, I am. I propose it. 10 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. And Councillor Lourda Scott is 11 online to second it. Thank you. And I have the response for you now. 12 MS GILLESPIE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Wicklow County Council is 13 recognised as being an access and disability champion in the local government sector 14 with our unique partnership with the Disability Federation of Ireland, the 15 establishment of a Disability and Inclusion Steering Committee 2020 and the 16 development of a Disability and Inclusion Strategy 2023. To achieve a 17 multi-departmental approach to making the services provided by the Council 18 equitable and accessible to all our approach to access and disability is in line with the 19 United Nations Convention on Human Lights. Our commitment to accessibility and 20 disability is further enshrined in our other local strategies, such as the Local Sports 21 Strategy, the Outdoor Recreation Strategy, the Library Strategy and the Wicklow 22 Age Friendly Strategy. It also aligns with the Council's Corporate Plan and our 23 Customer Charter. Within the Social Development Directorate of the Council a 24 dedicated staff member has responsibility as Access Officer, along with other duties, 25 such as Age Friendly Officer, Disability Officer, Comhairle na nÓg Coordinator, as 26 there is symmetry between these activities as they focus primarily on the aged, the 27 disabled and the youth of the county. Provision has been made in the recently 28 developed Workforce Plan to continue with this decision in the Social Development 29 Directorate. Thank you. 30 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Rachel. Councillor Murphy, would you like to 31 come back in or are you happy with the response? 32 COUNCILLOR MURPHY: Yeah, no, I think I need to, Cathaoirleach. I fully 33 support the outline there that has been given. In saying that we need to raise the bar 34 a hundred percent. We have a brilliant part-time access officer, she has done

1 wonderful work, and I know our relationship has been ongoing, but we're only I 2 suppose on the side lines really. We need to persist. We're only hitting the side lines 3 on some of the works that needs to be implemented around the county, and I think 4 now we need to step that up. As the motion reads, and I'm sure you all read it in 5 detail ...(inaudible)... Ireland has an Age Friendly National Policy ...(inaudible)... 6 and again it is very beneficial I think this needs to be implemented sooner than later 7 to improve Wicklow County Council's work in all departments not just in 8 community development culture, but in every department Wicklow County Council. 9 And I hope that it is given support. Thank you. 10 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor Murphy, for that contribution. 11 Councillor Lourda Scott, you have your hand up. 12 COUNCILLOR SCOTT: Yeah, thank you, Cathaoirleach, and I just want to echo 13 and support what Councillor Murphy has said. The Executive response gives a 14 really good overview of the great strides that Wicklow County Council has taken in 15 this area, and I suppose by bringing this motion and helping push towards a full-time 16 position of access officer we could only imagine ...(inaudible)... And just to point out 17 the seconders to this motion, we all sit on this committee which does great work and 18 is also supported by other members of the Council that are sitting there during the 19 last Council term, it does great work but again we have to think about what could be 20 achieved, whether a full-time role would be able to support that. Just because we are 21 leading the way, as Miriam said, the bar could be raised. I hope we have the support 22 of our members in putting pressure on Government to provide funding for this area. 23 Thank you. 24 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor Scott. Again I would like to commend 25 Councillor Murphy and Councillor Murphy for bringing this and to all the 26 councillors who are not just listed here but support it. Councillor Winstanley. 27 COUNCILLOR WINSTANLEY: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I just wanted to add to 28 what has been said. So this motion actually has come through a piece of research 29 that was done by the Disability Federation of Ireland, and I suppose it is a motion 30 that's been encouraged that all councils bring to council because it is something that 31 kind of came out of a piece of research as being an issue across the county. I wanted 32 to pick up that Laura technically isn't the Access Officer, that it is actually Stephanie 33 Lang. And just to say that I think she has three massive jobs. So she doesn't just do 34 the Access Officer role, she has the older persons work and she has Comhairle na

1	nÓg, and I actually think that that many jobs is too much for one person just due to
2	the I suppose growing disability and older persons demographic, that actually
3	particularly the older persons role and the Access Officer should both be distinct
4	roles. Thank you.
5	CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor, and apologies I didn't see your light
6	on there. Members, that brings the meeting to a conclusion, and I shall see you all
7	next month. Thank you very much.
8	
9	(Meeting concluded at 5.11 pm)

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