

SPECIAL MEETING OF WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

HELD AT COUNTY BUILDINGS, WHITEGATES, WICKLOW TOWN

AND VIA TEAMS

ON

ON MONDAY, 9 OCTOBER 2023, AT 2:00PM

STENOGRAPHER: Niamh Kelly-Leahy, RMR, MBIVR

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1 PROCEEDINGS COMMENCED ON MONDAY, 9TH OCTOBER 2023 AT
2 2:00 PM, AS FOLLOWS:

3

4 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, members. I think we will get started.

5

6 MS PURCELL: I would just like to welcome everybody to the room and those who
7 joined us online, and members of the public and the press. If anybody has any issues
8 with connectivity, if you could let me know. If we could keep mobile phones in the
9 chambers off please, and the same remotely. And I will now go straight to the roll
10 call.

11 Councillor Tommy Annesley.

12 COUNCILLOR ANNESLEY: Present.

13 MS PURCELL: Councillor Mark Barry.

14 COUNCILLOR BARRY: Present.

15 MS PURCELL: Councillor Joe Behan.

16 COUNCILLOR BEHAN: Present.

17 MS PURCELL: Councillor Vincent Blake.

18 COUNCILLOR BLAKE: Present.

19 MS PURCELL: Councillor Sylvester Bourke.

20 COUNCILLOR BOURKE: Present.

21 MS PURCELL: Councillor Melanie Corrigan.

22 COUNCILLOR CORRIGAN: Present.

23 MS PURCELL: Councillor Avril Cronin.

24 COUNCILLOR CRONIN: Present.

25 MS PURCELL: Councillor Shay Cullen.

26 COUNCILLOR CULLEN: Present.

27 MS PURCELL: Councillor Erika Doyle. (No answer) Councillor Gail Dunne.

28 COUNCILLOR DUNNE: Present.

29 MS PURCELL: Councillor Anne Ferris.

30 COUNCILLOR FERRIS: Present.

31 MS PURCELL: Councillor Pat Fitzgerald.

32 COUNCILLOR FITZGERALD: Present.

33 MS PURCELL: Councillor Aoife Flynn Kennedy.

- 1 CATHAOIRLEACH: Present.
- 2 MS PURCELL: Councillor Tom Fortune.
- 3 COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: Present.
- 4 MS PURCELL: Councillor Patsy Glennon.
- 5 COUNCILLOR GLENNON: Present.
- 6 MS PURCELL: Councillor Mary Kavanagh.
- 7 COUNCILLOR KAVANAGH: Present.
- 8 MS PURCELL: Councillor Pat Kennedy.
- 9 COUNCILLOR KENNEDY: Present.
- 10 MS PURCELL: Councillor Peir Leonard.
- 11 COUNCILLOR LEONARD: Present.
- 12 MS PURCELL: Councillor Grace McManus. (No answer) We have apologies from
13 Councillor Derek Mitchell. Councillor John Mullen.
- 14 COUNCILLOR MULLEN: Present.
- 15 MS PURCELL: Apologies from Councillor Miriam Murphy. Councillor Dermot
16 O'Brien.
- 17 COUNCILLOR DERMOT O'BRIEN: Anseo.
- 18 MS PURCELL: Councillor Paul O'Brien.
- 19 COUNCILLOR PAUL O'BRIEN: Present.
- 20 MS PURCELL: Councillor Rory O'Connor.
- 21 COUNCILLOR O'CONNOR: Present.
- 22 MS PURCELL: Councillor Gerry O'Neill. Apologies. Councillor Lourda Scott.
- 23 COUNCILLOR SCOTT: Here.
- 24 MS PURCELL: Councillor John Snell.
- 25 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Present.
- 26 MS PURCELL: Councillor Stephen Stokes.
- 27 COUNCILLOR STOKES: Present.
- 28 MS PURCELL: Councillor Edward Timmins.
- 29 COUNCILLOR TIMMINS: Here.
- 30 MS PURCELL: Councillor Gerry Walsh.
- 31 COUNCILLOR WALSH: Present.
- 32 MS PURCELL: And we have apologies from Irene Winters. Thank you.
- 33 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you very much, Helen.

1 So we have one item on our agenda today, but before we do that, do we have any votes
2 of sympathies? No?

3 Sorry Mary, hold on there, I will turn you on.

4 COUNCILLOR KAVANAGH: No. It's okay. I did it last week.

5 CATHAOIRLEACH: That's great, thanks. And we have none in-house either.

6 COUNCILLOR BEHAN: I have one.

7 CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorry, Joe. Give me one second, Joe, and I will set the
8 system up here, sorry.

9 (Short pause.)

10 Now, Councillor Behan?

11 COUNCILLOR BEHAN: Yes, it is not a vote of sympathy, it is just a point of
12 information or a point of order, if I could, Cathaoirleach. It is just to say that history
13 was made last Wednesday in Limerick when one of our own was elected President of
14 the AILG, Councillor Gail Dunne, member of the Wicklow Municipal District. It
15 was a fantastic achievement by him personally. I think it is also very good for us here
16 in Wicklow County Council and the people of County Wicklow that we have
17 somebody who will advocate for the rights of councillors, but also the people that we
18 represent. I just want to congratulate Gail and wish him every success in the coming
19 here. Well done. Thank you.

20 CATHAOIRLEACH: Absolutely, Councillor. (Applause). Well said, Joe.
21 Councillor Paul O'Brien.

22 COUNCILLOR PAUL O'BRIEN: I do have a vote of sympathy, but in relation to
23 Gail: First, I want to concur with Councillor Behan. I have known Gail longer than
24 I have been in this chamber and it is no surprise to the people that we speak to every
25 day, or most days, rubbish most of the time but I know we will be well represented, not
26 just here in Wicklow but every councillor in the country I know will be well
27 represented be it party or non-party because, in fairness to Gail, he treats everyone
28 equally and I know he will have all the support of us in here as well. So I wish him
29 well.

30 In terms of the vote of sympathy, I couldn't get in in time.

31 CATHAOIRLEACH: No problem, go ahead.

32 COUNCILLOR PAUL O'BRIEN: I just want to have a vote of sympathy for Mary
33 Byrne (née Smullen) of Castle Street who died in her 91st year there last week. Her

1 son Tommy was the first traffic warden in Wicklow, so I am sure she was a worried
2 mother at times. I know she will be sadly missed by her son Tommy, daughters
3 Margaret and Susan, and her son-in-laws and all her grandchildren and certainly all the
4 community around Blackcastle where I was brought up. She was a great character
5 and unfortunately Wicklow is running out of them now. Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

6 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you very much, Councillor. I am going to stay with
7 votes of sympathy for the moment. If it is not a vote of sympathy, I'll just ask you to
8 turn your light off and we'll just deal with the votes of sympathy. Okay. So I just
9 have one more vote. Silvester Bourke.

10 COUNCILLOR BOURKE: To express sympathy to Councillor Miriam Murphy, her
11 father was buried during the week.

12 CATHAOIRLEACH: Yes, we did actually last week.

13 COUNCILLOR BOURKE: Oh last week, sorry.

14 CATHAOIRLEACH: No, but go ahead.

15 COUNCILLOR BOURKE: I would like to express my sympathies to Miriam on the
16 very sad occasion of losing her dad.

17 CATHAOIRLEACH: No problem. Thank you very much. Then I would like to
18 express a vote of sympathy on the passing of Emmett Ivers, to Bernie Ivers and the
19 family, just to let them know we are all thinking of them. I had the privilege of
20 getting to know Emmett when I worked in some main house services and he is a lovely
21 gentleman person. I know the family will be missing him. If we just stand for a
22 moment.

23 MS PURCELL: May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the
24 mercy of God rest in peace.

25 CATHAOIRLEACH: Now, Vincent Blake?

26 COUNCILLOR BLAKE: Can I just join with the other members as well in
27 congratulating Gail on the election to President of the AILG. It is a great honour for
28 him. There's only five in the five years of it, one for each year. So I say well done.
29 I think it is the first one from Wicklow anyway for quite a number of years, so well
30 done to you, Gail, and best of luck.

31 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you very much. And Councillor Gail Dunne.

32 COUNCILLOR DUNNE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I just thank the members for
33 their kind words. It was a surprise last Wednesday when I won the vote so I was

1 delighted and I am looking forward to representing the members as President and
2 representing Wicklow as well. There's a lot going on and I'm going to get stuck into
3 it. Thank you.

4 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you very much. Okay. I will move onto the first and
5 only item on our agenda: "Consider the variation of the basic rate of local property
6 tax and the setting of the Local Adjustment Factor in accordance with the Finance
7 (Local Property Tax) Act 2012 (as amended) to apply for the period as specified from
8 the next local property tax liability date 1st November 2023."

9

10 So I am going to invite Brian to speak on this. Thank you.

11 MR GLEESON: Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

12 I will just wait until Teresa has it up on the screen.

13 Okay. Thanks, Teresa. We can go to the first slide there.

14 Good afternoon, members. This afternoon I am just going to start off, summarise the
15 items that we'll discuss in the presentation this afternoon. I will first outline the
16 budgetary process for local authorities, I'll then talk about the LPT baseline review that
17 recently took place and how that impacts on our 2024 Local Property Tax allocation.
18 As per the Department of Regulations there are a number of items that the Council
19 must discuss as part of this process. They are the estimated income and expenditure,
20 the financial position of Wicklow County Council, the financial effect of a liable
21 person and the financial effect on the local authority's budget and work plans. And
22 we also have to discuss public consultation process that took place.

23 I will then finish up with the LPT recommendation for 2024.

24 Next slide, Teresa, please.

25

26 The budgetary process: This is the first stage of the budgetary process, the Local
27 Property Tax decision. Under section 20 of the Finance Act, this must be taken
28 before 15th October 2023 and it must then be notified to the Revenue Commissioners.
29 The next stage of the process is the draft budgetary plan and general municipal
30 allocation. This must take place between the period of the 16th October and 17th
31 November and it must be considered by each Municipal District. That will be an item
32 agenda on your normal Municipal District monthly meeting which is scheduled
33 between those particular dates.

1 The next stage is the adoption of the annual budget and that must take place between
2 the 1st of November and the 8th of December and, as you are aware, our budget day is
3 scheduled for Monday the 27th of November.

4 The final stage of the budgetary process is schedule of Municipal District works and
5 that usually takes place in the first quarter of the following year. After the adoption of
6 the budget and we receive our roads allocations for the year, a schedule is prepared
7 showing the break down of the expenditure and the planned works by Municipal
8 District.

9 Next slide, Teresa, please.

10 So the baseline review: Look, we have been talking about the baseline review for a
11 long, long time, since I started here. Thankfully this piece of work took place this
12 year. It coincided with the new census and the updated population figures. A
13 working group was established earlier this year, consisting of members from the
14 Department of Local Government and Housing, DEPR, the Finance Committee of the
15 CCMA and the elected members who were represented by the AILG and LAMA.

16 A new funding model was agreed last month with weighted indicators as following:
17 Population 10%, that is based on the 2022 census data; area 35%; deprivation levels,
18 20%. They are based on the Pobal deprivation index for Municipal Districts; locally
19 raised income, 27.5%. That would cover commercial rates and goods and services,
20 income generated by the Council; for example, parking income, planning fees,
21 housing rent and fire charges. And then finally, achievement of national policy
22 priorities, 7.5%. So there were two areas that were used for that, was housing and the
23 NOAC Performance Indicators that are produced each year. And in respect of
24 climate, the emissions target set by SEAI.

25 The working group also agreed that no local authority would see a reduction in the
26 baseline funding. Obviously when there is one pot of money and you apply a new
27 model, new indicators, there's going to be winners and losers, but the group decided
28 that it wouldn't be fair that local authorities would see a reduction in funding, so that
29 was agreed by the group. So additional funding -- the result of that is additional
30 funding had been secured from DEPR in order to provide for the proposed increases.
31 In addition, the Minister decided that every local authority was to receive a minimum
32 increase of 1.5 million in the baseline funding in recognition of the demands that are
33 currently facing the local government sector.

1 Next slide, Teresa. Thank you.

2 So in total, additional funding of 75 million was provided as part of this new process.
3 The baseline for all local authorities was increased from 335 million up to over 428
4 million. In relation to Wicklow, we have seen an increase of our baseline from 8.5
5 million up to 11.2 million, an increase of 2.7 million. And just to put it in context
6 with all the other increases of 31 local authorities, Wicklow's was the eighth largest.
7 The department have also informed us that any future additional funding allocations
8 provided to local authorities will be used or distributed using this particular model.
9 And also the baseline is to be reviewed every five years following updated census
10 data.

11

12 Now this is something, I suppose, the local government sector as a whole will be
13 pushing for this review to take place on an annual basis rather than every five years
14 because, as you know, inflation doesn't happen every five years. We will be looking
15 to push that.

16 We wouldn't be happy with waiting every five years for it to be updated.

17 Next slide, Teresa.

18 So how does this affect the 2024 Local Property Tax allocation for Wicklow? I have
19 chart there on the presentation screen just explaining how. 100% of the Local
20 Property Tax income for 2024 has been calculated at 19.8 million. That is the gross
21 amount. It is increase of 1.3 million on last year. Which was 18.5. The reason for
22 the increase in the gross figure is due to new properties that have been brought into the
23 net following the change in legislation, and also revised valuations.

24 As you are aware, the national equalisation fund has been eliminated. So 100% of the
25 LPT is retained locally. Our baseline then has increased from 8.5 million up to 11.2.
26 So when we subtract from the gross amount, we get a surplus of just under 8.6 million.
27 In comparison, our surplus last year was a higher amount of 10 million.

28 So of that surplus we are allowed to retain a certain element of it. There's a formula
29 that is in place. You can see it is 22.5% of the gross amount which equates to 4.46
30 million. So when we add the 4.46 million to the baseline amount of 11.2, we come up
31 with a figure of just under 15.7 million. And that is the amount of money that can be
32 retained in the Wicklow County Council revenue budget for 2024.

33 So for comparison purposes, last year we would have had 12.7 million, would have

1 been that figure. So there's a real increase of 3 million.

2 And the surplus, the remaining amount that is left over, it is a self-funding amount for
3 housing and that amount is 4.133. So that in fact, in comparison purposes, that has
4 gone down from 5.8 million last year, because of our increase in baseline it has
5 reduced the amount of self-funding that we are using, but it is still a substantial amount
6 that goes into the self-funding element.

7 Before deciding on whether or not to vary the LPT rate, the local authority must have
8 regard to the following matters and these are part of the regulations that the department
9 issues, so we have to discuss and consider them. The first one is local authority's
10 estimation of income and expenditure for the coming year; the financial position of the
11 local authority; the financial effect of the rate on individuals and also Wicklow County
12 Council budget and service delivery plans; and also feedback from public consultation
13 processes that have taken place.

14 Just to go through income and expenditure for 2024. Our current budget in 2023 is
15 just under 143 million. In comparison, we are estimating a budget of nearly 156
16 million. We expect to see an increase in our income and expenditure next year,
17 mainly due to additional government grants we hope to get and also increased payroll
18 costs. So you can see at the moment we're predicting income of 156.4 million and
19 expenditure of 158.6 million. So there's still a funding gap of over 2 million that we
20 have to close before the end of the year.

21 And to explain that situation of just over 2 million and how that fits in with the Local
22 Property Tax increase. You can see there at the top we have taken in an extra 3
23 million, as I said, because of the Local Property Tax, the additional properties, the new
24 baseline review, that totals 3 million. On the flip side, in 2023 we got one-off funding
25 from the department for energy and inflation costs. That compensation was one-off
26 and we have been informed that it will not be repeated in 2024. So that income is
27 gone.

28 We have a reduction in our income in relation to insurance. There's a number of
29 adjustments that are outlined in the booklet. Our dividend is down 179,000. Our
30 retained earnings distribution is down 200,000 from IPB, but our premium on the flip
31 side - and a good note, our premium is down by 96,000 that we are paying down each
32 year. So the next effect is minus 283.

33 NPPR income, as you know this has been eliminated, this charge, and it'll be fully

1 eliminated in 2025. So year-on-year you will see every year on budget the income is
2 reducing. We expect it to be down another 150,000 for 2024.
3 Commercial rates are slightly down, 100,000, due to some global revaluations that
4 recently took place. We also have a figure for additional net pay costs.
5 As you are well aware, pay talks, public sector pay talks have recently commenced.
6 While we don't know what way they are going to come out, we do have to factor in a
7 provision for that. There is also the retained fire fighters agreement that has been
8 signed off, so we have to make a provision on that. I suppose what we are using is the
9 historical application of 85% compensation that we normally get for any payroll
10 increases.
11 Pension costs. As you are well aware every year that goes up. We have a provision
12 of half a million for that. And also there's obviously greater demands being placed on
13 our directorates and the requests there have come to approximately 2 million. So that
14 covers a number of different areas, such as housing, climate action, ICT, et cetera.
15 So the net effect is expenditure over income of 2.2 million, but as you are well aware
16 we have a statutory requirement to have a balanced budget in place for budget day, so
17 there's still a bit of work to do before the 27th of November.
18 One the items that, as I said, we must discuss as part of the regulations is the financial
19 position of Wicklow County Council.
20 I am glad to report the revenue deficit for the first time in a long, long time is under 1
21 million at the end of 2022 in our AFS. The ratio of current assets to current liabilities
22 stands at 3:1. This shows in the short term we can easily meet our liabilities. The
23 ratio of loan payments to revenue income is 43%, that's an improvement on last year,
24 and this shows that we can support the level of debt that we have. But like every other
25 organisation across Ireland and the world, we have to deal with the ongoing
26 inflationary challenges that are taking place at the moment.
27 The next item I want to discuss is the financial effect on a liable person. That
28 particular table is probably hard to see on the screen, it is on page 10 of the LPT report
29 that was circulated to you all.
30 Basically, that kind of outlines all the valuation bands that have been applied now for
31 Local Property Tax. The first -- the third column in shows the basic rate that's applied
32 for each valuation rate. And then the impact of the adjustment by 1%, 6%, 10% and
33 15%. And then the last number of columns shows the impact of a 6% variation given

1 that that is the current adjustment factor that we have in place at the moment, is 6%.
2 So that shows the impact per week, per month and per annum of that 6% variation.
3 And the last column, just to point out, shows the percentage of houses on the valuation
4 band for each valuation band. We have a total of nearly 57,500 liable properties
5 within the county and that percentage just shows a break down for each valuation
6 band.

7 So from the information there you can see that over 75% of properties in Wicklow are
8 valued in the first four bands. That's 437,500. So the impact of the 6% variation
9 ranges for those bands, from a minimum of €5.40 to a maximum of €24.30 per annum,
10 or on a monthly basis that's €0.45 to €2 per month, or even on a weekly basis it is from
11 €0.10 up to €0.47 per week.

12 Just to note, Wicklow County Council and the approved housing bodies paid Local
13 Property Tax charges in respect of their social housing tenants. So I suppose those in
14 most need get covered in that regard.

15 So I suppose the effect of all this is that given that we are retaining the 6% and the 6%
16 is already in place, it will no increase to the payments made by householders in 2024.
17 There is no monetary increase to any member of the public in Wicklow.

18 Next slide, please.

19 So what's the impact on the Wicklow County Council revenue budget? The first
20 column there just shows the variation rates. And the second column shows the
21 amount that that affects. So for every 1% up or down, it adds or reduces 198,247 to
22 the budget. Obviously the maximum variation is 15% so that has an impact of nearly
23 3 million on the budget.

24 As we said already, the current variation rate is set at 6%. So you can see for 2024 the
25 total amount of funding that that brings in is just under 1.2 million. Just to be aware,
26 that's a slight increase on 2023, it's up by 79,000. And the reason for that is because
27 our gross figure has actually increased. It's gone from 18.5 up to 19.8. Hence, the
28 reason why the amount is actually increased.

29 As we have already done, we've always done, we ring-fenced that particular money for
30 discretionary funding by the Municipal Districts, and it's distributed by the number of
31 councillors in each Municipal District. So for Bray, they will receive 297,370 and the
32 other four Municipal Districts will receive 223,028.

33 In relation to our public consultation process, this ran from the 16th of August up to

1 the 27th of September. It was publicised widely on social media. We received a
2 total of 15 submissions; 13 received via the consultation hub and two came in by
3 email.

4 So how they resulted were: 15 requested no increase to the rate; six requested a
5 reduction; two requested an increase on the rate; and two just made general comments
6 about the Local Property Tax.

7 So to conclude, the recommendation of the executive is to retain the Local Property
8 Tax variation rate at 6%. This means that there will be no increase to householder
9 LPT bills in 2024. It stays exactly the same as it is in 2023. But it also generates 1.2
10 million of funding to be ring-fenced for discretionary funding for the Municipal
11 Districts. As I stated, 297,000 will go for Bray Municipal District and 223,000 for the
12 remaining four MDs. This allows districts to support local public ground projects and
13 community and voluntary organisations throughout the county.

14 So that concludes the presentation. As this requires an adoption, I will need a
15 proposer and seconder for this. I am happy to take any questions offer that. Thank
16 you very much.

17 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you very much, Brian. So I will open this out to the
18 floor now. Councillor Pat Fitzgerald.

19 COUNCILLOR FITZGERALD: Yes, I just want to propose that we will retain the
20 LPT variation rate at 6% for 2024. As such, there will be no monetary impact on the
21 householders' bill next week.

22 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks very much, Pat. Do we have a seconder for that
23 proposal? Councillor Silvester Bourke.

24 COUNCILLOR BOURKE: Cathaoirleach, I second that proposal. I feel that we
25 have a lot of projects that are midstream and many others that we want to get done, and
26 it's important that we have this level of discretionary spending in each of the districts
27 to be able to achieve a lot of the objectives that we have promised many constituents.
28 So I am happy to second that.

29 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Do we have any other comments or
30 proposals from the floor? Councillor Tom Fortune.

31 COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. I have a problem with all this
32 process. I have expressed this view before. We're not actually getting any extra
33 money at all, because when you look at the figures that Brian has read out to us, the 3

1 million extra that we get, and then if you look at all the places where we're cut, it
2 actually balances out. It comes in around 3.2 million. And then the figure I had
3 missed originally, the net discretionary income for self-fund housing, so we're losing
4 1.7 there from the figure we had last year.

5 I have a fundamental problem with the concept of this particular tax. And I know
6 other councillors will say we get this, we get that, we get the other, but my position is
7 as follows:

8 The case that it pays for work that otherwise would not be done, doesn't stack up in my
9 opinion. Because we're not getting extra funding because the local government fund
10 is reduced by this amount. If we go back to the famous 2014 and we were destroyed
11 with the baseline, we all know we had a boom and when we had the boom, our local
12 government funding was cut. When we had the crash it was cut. So it has been cut,
13 cut, cut. So anything that we are told we are getting extra, we're not actually getting
14 anything extra at all.

15 The other problem I have with it is: It's not equitable. If I live on the east coast I am
16 charged a certain rate, but if I happen to be lucky enough to live in the midlands or the
17 west coast, I can live in a much, much more expensive home, bigger home and pay
18 less. It is not a fair tax. And it is not that many years ago since our Taoiseach of one
19 of our main parties stated very publicly that the family home should never be taxed.
20 And I absolutely fundamentally 110% agree with that. So on a point of principle I
21 cannot support this process and will be voting against it.

22 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you very much, Councillor. Councillor Edward
23 Timmins.

24 COUNCILLOR TIMMINS: Thanks, Chairperson. Thanks, Brian, for your
25 presentation. I will be supporting that we keep the property tax as it is. But I would
26 like to pass a couple of comments on the system and it is not the doing of Wicklow
27 County Council, it's an issue with the whole way it works. There's just two things I
28 am going to address that are flaws in the system the way it is contrived.

29 Like, abolishing the equalisation thing has made no difference at all because they have
30 effectively, by using the baseline they are restricting what Wicklow can spend.

31 Like, counties with half or less than half the population in a similar area as Wicklow,
32 like, for example, Offaly, Sligo, Cavan, have very similar baselines to Wicklow.

33 That makes no sense at all. Wicklow has double the population of those places.

1 When they were coming up with the baseline, they come up with this -- like the word
2 "baseline" is a bit of a misnomer. It is basically a flawed system that restricts what
3 counties like Wicklow can retain in property tax. Like, when they were coming up
4 with the baseline figure they gave a weighting of 10% of population which is way, way
5 too low. Population should have a much more bigger factor in deciding what the
6 baseline figure is.

7 The baseline is used to deprive Wicklow of €1.4 million. I think we can all see that
8 from the figures. We would have been allowed to keep that extra 4.1 million and
9 keep the whole 19 million if there wasn't the baseline in place.

10 In addition to that, if you look at the figures and you just plug in the figures, Brian has
11 the little spreadsheet there, if you just put in a figure beside it, and say next year we got
12 an extra million in property tax, you put in all the figures, the amount of that extra
13 million we're allowed retain is 22.5%. So Wicklow, let's say a number of houses
14 were built next year, a million extra comes in property tax, or over the next two years
15 or however long it takes, we would only be allowed to keep 22.5% of that figure.

16 Like that is a completely unfair restriction on Wicklow.

17 So it is just really, the setup of this, the way it is contrived, is an accounting trick to
18 restrict counties that like Wicklow that have higher property taxes than most parts of
19 the country, it is a trick to stop Wicklow spending the money it gets. So every extra
20 euro that Wicklow earns in property tax, we can only keep 22.5 cent of it. That is a
21 flawed system.

22 I would ask that the Executive here write to the department again and see can this be
23 changed. Even the idea, as Brian said, the baseline not being reviewed for five years.
24 Sure that's completely -- the baseline should be abolished. I said it last year. I said it
25 the year before. The baseline should be abolished. Keep the property tax. It is not
26 going to impact other counties that have lower property tax in the west and the
27 midlands. We're not affecting them at all. They shouldn't lose out from where they
28 are at the moment. Let them get the same funding. We should really ask that an end
29 be put to this smoke and mirrors of baselines, 22.5% magicked up. Like where do
30 they get the 22.5%? Wicklow, you're only allowed to keep 22.5% of any extra you
31 earn. Completely wrong. Completely flawed. We as a Council need to point that
32 out, you know, we're not fooled by it. Thanks.

33 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks very much, Councillor.

1 Councillor Gerry Walsh.

2 COUNCILLOR WALSH: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Thanks to Brian for the
3 presentation.

4 Just on the outside, looking at this, you know, we were looking for this baseline to be
5 addressed for a number of years now since the beginning of this particular process.

6 So, look it, is welcome that it is being addressed, but when you drill into it and shine a
7 lens on it, you know, it is disappointing to -- as Councillor Timmins pointed out, you
8 give it with one hand and take it away with the other. You're looking, just to give
9 examples: Last year we had a special fund there to cover inflationary cost; no longer
10 there. You know, I would argue that inflation is still very much with us. We have
11 pay increases. Now, we're assuming 85% of that will be covered and pension,
12 et cetera. That should be -- you know, that 85% should be 100% in my view. But
13 overall, looking at the way this was contrived and looking at this new model, the
14 weightings that were applied to this and just the population, as Councillor Timmins
15 also pointed out, the 10%, and that looks like a done deal. I would ask Brian, is that
16 going to be reviewed again? Because I think we are losing out there with population
17 only 10% as against deprivation 20% in terms of the number of new house that have
18 come on stream in the county. So any surplus we have is quickly taken away from us.
19 So we will be approaching our budget meeting next month, again, trying to find that
20 2.7 million, et cetera.

21 So just another quick question: I see, Brian, in your report you mention an additional
22 road grant allocation in 2024. Along with that, we spoke here at previous meetings
23 about footpath maintenance and where the money was going to come from for that. I
24 know the directors would have had several meetings to see could there be a separate
25 fund for footpaths. Because any discretionary monies arising from the LPT increase,
26 in my view and other members' views here, should not be allocated to general footpath
27 maintenance in housing estates that are in existence since the '70s and '80s that badly
28 need this work be done.

29 Overall just to finish, the proposal for the 6%, the net impact it has on the householder,
30 75% of the properties are in the first four bands and you're looking at, on average, 47%
31 per week which really is minimal in the overall scale of things and I think that
32 discretionary money coming back into the districts, you know, does provide some
33 good work, but also it takes time to get these works up and running and in the

1 meantime costs keep rising and going up and up. So the money is decreasing in its
2 overall value. Thanks again.

3 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks very much, Councillor. Councillor Joe Behan.

4 COUNCILLOR BEHAN: Thanks, Cathaoirleach and thanks, Brian.

5 Well the most significant thing first of all I would say is that finally we have an
6 admission by Brian and I think an acceptance by councillors that we actually did have
7 a 6% increase in the property tax rate last year and the year before, if I recall rightly.
8 So while he's doing a great job of presenting this as being no increase because the
9 people won't have to pay any more next year, they actually have had to pay the
10 increase over the last two years. So what we are actually being asked to do is retain
11 the increased rate rather than not ask people to pay more. We have asked them to pay
12 more for two years in a row and this will be the third year that this has passed.

13 The other point is that the budget hasn't even been announced yet, but yet the Director
14 and the Chief Executive can be psychic enough as to tell us what we are going to get
15 under different headings, which we actually don't know yet. And I would also say
16 that in relation to some of the estimations that he has brought forward, it's very unclear
17 whether he has built in enough, for example, with regard to all of the new houses that
18 are built in the county, additional housing rents coming on stream from all the new
19 houses that we now have tenants in, a serious underestimate in my opinion of
20 commercial rates, and then, very much a guess with regard to additional net pay costs
21 and energy costs, et cetera.

22 So we all know, we have been here before, these are all stabs in the dark. They're
23 being put forward to make this allegedly unarguable case that we must retain a 6%
24 increase at a time when people are suffering the greatest increase in cost of living that
25 they have witnessed in many years and in particular, those people who have been hit
26 with increased interest rates. There is no consideration -- those people who are being
27 hit with increased mortgage rates are the same people who will be hit with the 6%
28 increase in the property tax.

29 There's no allowance for the fact that fuel costs have gone up so high and look like
30 they're heading to €2 per litre for diesel and petrol and heating oil, et cetera. And the
31 cost of food and all the other items.

32 So effectively, what we are saying is, we don't know what the Government is going to
33 give us but we're going to charge 6% extra just like we did last year and the previous

1 year, and it doesn't matter whether you have higher mortgages, or it doesn't matter
2 whether you have got higher cost of living, or it doesn't matter whether you have got
3 higher child care fees, we think it is acceptable without having even a proper
4 discussion about some of these figures and drilling into them, we think it is acceptable
5 to just pass along and have this 6% increase for a third year in a row. I don't think it is
6 acceptable. I think we could do far better. I am quite sure that under the old system,
7 and every time I ask this it doesn't seem to register with the Finance Director, but in the
8 last number of years I always thought that councils who could afford to have down to a
9 15% reduction were listed, those who absolutely couldn't reduce any more than 10%
10 were listed. Wicklow was always in the band that from the point of view of the
11 department, we actually could sustain not a 6% increase but a 15% decrease. But we
12 have never had a realistic discussion about can we actually manage that given that we
13 don't know whether a lot of these figures that have been put forward in this report are
14 ever going to turn out to be accurate at all.

15 Now, look it, I'm a realist. I know we have been here before. It looks like there's
16 going to be a majority for continuing things as before, but I think people should realise
17 you're continuing with a 6% increase at a time when people are facing extraordinary
18 pressures. Thank you.

19 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you very much, Councillor. Councillor Pier Leonard.

20 COUNCILLOR LEONARD: Thank you. I'm not an accountant. I suppose I am a
21 local rep and I know a lot of people probably don't make submissions into things when
22 they should. So what I do is I phone people on the ground and that's what I did over
23 the last week or so. A lot of what I am hearing is that there are people out there and
24 they're just not seeing where the Local Property Tax is spent in their local
25 communities. We have ongoing problems with not enough resources in our MDs to
26 even maintain green spaces and I noticed in the report that the Local Property Tax is
27 the main fund for Wicklow County Council to solve critical issues such as housing
28 repairs, streetlight repairs, playgrounds, traffic calming, improved road safety
29 measures, community grants, tourism initiatives. This €15,691,000-odd people want
30 to know where that is spent. Not the 6% that we are proposing to raise today that is
31 handed out to the MDs for councillors to propose small little projects. They want to
32 know where the main bulk of the Local Property Tax is being spent in their local
33 communities when they see services being reduced all around them.

1 If you go into a shop and you pay money across the counter you have a product at the
2 end of it and I think that transparency needs to be, you know, happen across the board
3 in Wicklow County Council. People need to see what departments the Local
4 Property Tax funds, where it is spent and, you know, how their hard earned money -- if
5 we are going to ask them for a rise in Local Property Tax, they want to know where
6 that is going and why, and why it is needed.

7 My own mortgage has gone from 1.7 -- Joe has mentioned mortgages there, 1.7% up
8 to 5.6% in the last few years. There's a lot of people out there -- we have an older
9 generation in our county that are homeowners. I know Brian mentioned that the
10 social housing, that people are catered for, the most vulnerable. There's a lot of
11 people living on their own that, you know, I know €20 mightn't seem a lot, but it is
12 more the principle of the thing. That if we keep increasing taxes on them and not
13 trying to help these people when they're at their lowest of all low with the cost of rising
14 energy costs and everything across the board, the Government are increasing their
15 social welfare to try and help people and we on the other hand are taking it away.
16 So, I suppose, I would like to put the proposal forward that we keep it at the baseline
17 rate of zero and not keep it at the increased rate as we have for the last few years.

18 Thank you.

19 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks very much, Councillor. We just need a seconder for
20 that.

21 COUNCILLOR KAVANAGH: I second.

22 CATHAOIRLEACH: Mary Kavanagh, thanks Mary. Councillor Silvester Bourke.

23 COUNCILLOR BOURKE: I would like to mention to the members, I forgot to say
24 earlier, there's a very interesting article in Saturday's edition of the Irish Independent
25 written by Sarah Carey about the Local Property Tax and what the Dublin councillors
26 did and the fact that they reduced it by 15%, and it is very critical of them doing that.
27 It is a very, very well written article, one of the best I have seen in terms of local
28 government in a long time, in Saturday Irish Independent and it is food for thought. I
29 would recommend everyone to read it. Because it does highlight, the main point I got
30 from it was that we have the power to make a difference and we're not using it and yet,
31 as councillors we whinge about the dilution of our powers and the systematic removal
32 of our powers, but yet when we have a bit of power to do certain things we're balking
33 at it, walking away from it and that is evident here as well amongst some of the

1 Councillors. And I do notice too some of the councillors who will say we should
2 reduce it, will be at the table when it is being divvied out looking for money for this
3 and money for that for their own projects and, you know, that's frustrating as a
4 councillor who I would see myself as a progressive thinker, you know, and I don't like
5 paying tax no more than anybody, I hate paying tax, but I have --

6 COUNCILLOR PAUL O'BRIEN: We know that.

7 COUNCILLOR BOURKE: But I do have to pay, and I am happy that we can make
8 progress with a lot of projects that we have done, when we have some control over it.
9 Is small, but it does make a difference in certain parts of our community. We can't do
10 it across the entire district that we are representing because we just don't have enough
11 to do everything that everybody wants. Every light that everybody wants or every
12 footpath that everybody wants. It is a gradual process. That's why -- I don't like
13 having to pay property tax as I said, but I will. I am prepared to second this and get on
14 with the job.

15 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks very much, Councillor. Councillor Tom Fortune, I'll
16 bring you in again quickly.

17 COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: Just a point of order in reaction to what Councillor
18 Bourke has said.

19 CATHAOIRLEACH: Yes.

20 COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: I take serious concern with what he is saying, just
21 because someone else has a different opinion than he has. I mean, we're in here.
22 We're all democratically elected. He's entitled to come in and make his opinion. I
23 resent the fact that he would have a subtle go at other people's very passionate views.
24 And also, the let's put on the record, if he's going to start naming names in the media,
25 Sarah Carey is one of his own party and was very, very involved with the party for
26 years, maybe still is. I don't think that is a very necessarily objective view that
27 appeared in the newspaper. We all know newspapers are all about selling, selling
28 print. So they will print articles from all kinds of people.

29 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Councillor Paul O'Brien.

30 COUNCILLOR PAUL O'BRIEN: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. On behalf of the
31 Labour Party, myself and Councillor Ferris, we will be voting in retaining the 6% for
32 the simple reason we have seen the positivity it can bring on the ground.

33 I am not going to speak on behalf of other Municipal Districts, I am only going to

1 speak on behalf of my own.

2 Because the majority of councillors here had the gumption and the foresight to vote for
3 the 6% last year, in my own municipal area we were able to provide 14 defibs and
4 cabinets to housing estates at a cost of 18,500. And to be honest with you,
5 Cathaoirleach, if that saves one life, I will be proud of that vote. I hope they never
6 have to be used, but if it saves one life, I will be proud of that. But we have also been
7 able to do footpath repairs. We have also been able to look at car parks that have been
8 neglected for years, roads being resurfaced. For the first time in over 20 years, and it
9 might sound trivial to others, we were able to provide a new raft and platform for the
10 harbour here for hundreds of kids to enjoy during the summer. Thanks to Councillor
11 Cullen's proposal last year, we were able to provide monies to our smaller villages and
12 towns a grant for Christmas lights which we thought was a once-off, but are able to do
13 it again this year.

14 We have also been able to distribute monies to three festivals that were struggling this
15 year because of discretionary money. We are also able to provide information signs
16 to the communities. We are also able to provide new benches, pedestrian crossings
17 and that is just somewhat I could think of in the last couple of weeks. We have
18 provided much more.

19 It's been put to us over a while that this is an easy decision. It is not an easy decision
20 for us. Like Councillor Behan has explained about the tracker mortgages, I have a
21 tracker mortgage. My interest payments have gone up quite a bit, so they have. But
22 I am willing to sacrifice, and I am looking at it here, I am willing to sacrifice 47 cent,
23 that's 47 cent a week so I can keep the good work up and keep providing it. I was
24 contacted by a lot of estates after the defib saying can we bring it in again, and I said it
25 all depends if we have the monies. And I think as someone said earlier on, once we
26 can show where the monies are going people will support us. I am sure we will have
27 blow back after today and people will be saying, oh there you go again, in the cost of
28 living crisis you will putting up the tax. It is 6% over the baseline and I'm not afraid
29 to shy away from saying that. But the reality on the ground, it's no more next year
30 than it is this year. The people have come to me and I've seen them in their
31 abundance, again with everything I have listed there, they are appreciative now
32 because when I put it up on social media I always explain it's the Local Property Tax
33 that funded this. So people see where it is going. And I have also seen councillors

1 around the counties taking credit for some of these projects and they turn around and
2 they say we called for this and it happened.

3 It reminds of people who, like, pray to win the Lotto but they will never buy a ticket.
4 They just think it is going to happen. There's a majority of us here today, hopefully,
5 that will take the difficult but necessary decision that will ensure that we can continue
6 the progress that we have already started. And to be honest with you, last week, and I
7 will finish on this, Cathaoirleach, last week some of us were being accused of being in
8 this chamber for the money and the trips, but what I am going to say something here
9 today. I am not going to abdicate my responsibility by taking the difficult decisions
10 because I see the benefits it brings to the community and that's why I will be
11 supporting maintaining the 6% increase which we voted for two years ago. Thank
12 you.

13 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks very much, Councillor. So we have two proposals in.
14 We have a proposal for 6% above the base rate from Pat Fitzgerald, seconded by
15 Councillor Sylvester Bourke; and then we have a second proposal in to keep it at base
16 rate, proposed by Peir Leonard and seconded by Mary Kavanagh.

17 So we will vote on the first, first, if that is okay. Everybody clear on that?

18 MS PURCELL: I will read the whole proposal out. In accordance with provisions
19 of section 20 of the Finance (Local Property Tax) Act 2012 (as amended) that the basic
20 rate of Local Property Tax should stand varied upwards by 6% for 2024 in respect of
21 relevant residential properties situated in the administrative area of Wicklow County
22 Council. Proposed by Councillor Pat Fitzgerald. Second by Councillor Sylvester
23 Bourke. Is everybody clear?

24 CATHAOIRLEACH: Just to clarify as well, Helen, if this vote is passed, that we
25 don't take --

26 MS PURCELL: That we don't need to take a second vote. If this vote isn't passed,
27 then we proceed to the second proposal. Is that clear? So you are voting for or
28 against.

29 CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorry, Helen, I'll just bring Councillor John Snell in.

30 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Again, I suppose, I was lucky
31 enough to get the presentation last week and that's why I waited until last, just to say
32 that I made my feelings known to the directors and chief executive. And I get it, it's
33 very difficult, very difficult for you as senior officials of this local authority because

1 you have to sell this to the members in whatever way you can. But the reality is that
2 we wouldn't be meeting here unless we had to vary this from the baseline. So it is a
3 proposal for an increase of 6%. There's a lot of talk there in regards to, you know, yes
4 the equalisation and doing away with the equalisation fund was always an issue,
5 bringing the core vote of people who were in new houses in this county since 2013
6 who escaped paying any Local Property Tax for nine, ten years was a disgrace and a
7 very poor system. And I suppose what we have here in front of us today is something
8 that's a little bit better, but unfortunately it still doesn't go to the core of the issue.
9 I genuinely feel that Wicklow County Council are in a financial good position. Brian,
10 head of finance, has spelled it out there earlier in his report. The position is good in
11 this local authority at this moment in time, and by increasing the 6%, really what you
12 are bringing in is the discretionary. And if I can just point out, you know, in regards
13 Municipal Districts, it really equates to 37,000 per elected member. That's the way it
14 is broken-down, throughout the county and throughout the country. But in reality, if
15 it was being seen to benefit the people on the ground, the vast majority might be able to
16 accept this but they don't. And I'm talking for, not people in local authority housing
17 or local approved housing bodies because they don't feel this at all because it is paid
18 for them. I am talking about people who are senior citizens who are in their family
19 home that they paid for many, many years ago. There's people in this town and
20 throughout this county who are in houses in band 4 and band 5 and the reality is that
21 we are asking them to pay €429 per annum. Band 5, €524 per annum. That's the
22 reality. So you can talk about it 47 cent all you want, but the truth is that somebody
23 who is living in a house that needs a lot of work, they probably inherited it, they may
24 have paid for it, elderly people. These people are not being discussed here today, and
25 they're the people that I want to just say these few words on, that it's not as simple as
26 it's a couple of cent. They're the people who will suffer again perhaps tomorrow in
27 the budget.

28 I won't cascade anybody in regards to this chambers. I know it is a difficult decision
29 for all members to come along and try and sell it that it's not an increase, it is an
30 increase. We get all this sort of nonsense, political nonsense. The reality is that, yes,
31 we have to make a decision. But if you make a decision based on your own
32 principles, your own heart, it's not a tough decision irrespective of what way you vote
33 because you believe you are doing the right thing.

1 The easiest thing for me to do would be to support the increased 6% here today and go
2 with the flow, and be one of the boys and girls that's going to appease the senior
3 management here. But the reality is, I can't. I can't go against my principles,
4 because I believe that it's an unfair tax. And there's only two members in this
5 chamber who studied taxation, two members: Councillor Timmins and
6 Councillor Kavanagh. And both, indeed I tip my hat Councillor Timmins because
7 he's the only one that I know from one of the mainstream parties who actually voted
8 against this in previous years, the only one that went against his party and voted
9 against it. And he didn't do that lightly, because he was also a member of the budget
10 meeting here, the committee, the subcommittee that we have that looks into the
11 finance and the workings of Wicklow County Council. So he fully understands it.
12 I genuinely don't want to fall out with anybody, but I can see what's happening in
13 regards to the discretionary within Municipal Districts, particularly our own.
14 Pre-2019, for example, there was 60 metres of footpath to be put in at Merrymeeting
15 Hill in Rathnew, 60 metres, and it still hasn't been done. The money was set aside
16 from the discretionary. We as members had voted that particular year that we
17 wouldn't decrease the property tax which was proposed by some members, and I have
18 never supported that, but all members here did not go against that. But the reality is,
19 that footpath is still not done. We have three schools there, over 2,000 pupils use that
20 section of roadway. We as a local authority put in a housing estate of 147 houses.
21 Children still have to use that roadway minus the 60 metres of footpath. And then we
22 talk about discretionary and the wins in regards to putting in our seats and putting in a
23 few dustbins. That's what local authorities are meant to do. That's what we are
24 meant to do. And people want to stand up and champion that that's what they have
25 delivered for the people, I've no problem with that. I'm not here to pick holes in any
26 of that. But I will remind every member of this chambers and further afield, that
27 there's certain standards in public office that has to be upheld by every elected member
28 and every official within this chambers and it's based on the principle of fairness,
29 fairness and none of this codology that seems to be creeping in creating toxic
30 environments. Unfortunately, Cathaoirleach, I have no issue with anyone proposing
31 to increase or otherwise, but I won't be supporting that. I will support keeping at the
32 base rate. Thank you for your time.

33 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks very much. We're going to go to a vote now.

1 COUNCILLOR FITZGERALD: Excuse me can I come in here? Councillor Snell
2 said there are two people that can --

3 CATHAOIRLEACH: Taxation.

4 COUNCILLOR FITZGERALD: Yes. I attend the Rapid Results school, an
5 accountancy school in England for a long time, so to correct your two people, there's
6 three people but I don't talk about it.

7 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, we'll move to a vote. Thanks very much, Councillor
8 Fitzgerald. Go ahead, Helen.

9 MS PURCELL: Just to be clear we are voting as I read out the motion earlier, that the
10 LPT should stand varied upwards by 6% for 2024. You're voting either for or against.
11 This is the first motion. Councillor Tommy Annesley.

12 COUNCILLOR ANNESLEY: For.

13 MS PURCELL: Councillor Mark Barry.

14 COUNCILLOR BARRY: For.

15 MS PURCELL: Councillor Joe Behan.

16 COUNCILLOR BEHAN: Against.

17 MS PURCELL: Councillor Vincent Blake.

18 COUNCILLOR BLAKE: For.

19 MS PURCELL: Councillor Sylvester Burke.

20 COUNCILLOR BOURKE: For.

21 MS PURCELL: Councillor Melanie Corrigan.

22 COUNCILLOR CORRIGAN: For.

23 MS PURCELL: Councillor Avril Cronin.

24 COUNCILLOR CRONIN: For.

25 MS PURCELL: Councillor Shay Cullen.

26 COUNCILLOR CULLEN: For.

27 MS PURCELL: Councillor Erika Doyle, is not present --

28 COUNCILLOR DOYLE: For.

29 MS PURCELL: Oh sorry. I have you as a 'for' there. Thank you. Councillor Gail
30 Dunne.

31 COUNCILLOR DUNNE: For.

32 MS PURCELL: Councillor Anne Ferris.

33 COUNCILLOR FERRIS: For.

- 1 MS PURCELL: Councillor Pat Fitzgerald.
2 COUNCILLOR FITZGERALD: For.
3 MS PURCELL: Councillor Aoife Flynn Kennedy.
4 CATHAOIRLEACH: For.
5 MS PURCELL: Councillor Tom Fortune.
6 COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: Against.
7 MS PURCELL: Councillor Patsy Glennon.
8 COUNCILLOR GLENNON: For.
9 MS PURCELL: Councillor Mary Kavanagh.
10 COUNCILLOR KAVANAGH: Against.
11 MS PURCELL: Councillor Pat Kennedy.
12 COUNCILLOR KENNEDY: For.
13 MS PURCELL: Councillor Peir Leonard.
14 COUNCILLOR LEONARD: Against.
15 MS PURCELL: Councillor Grace McManus is not present. Councillor Derek
16 Mitchell is not present. Councillor John Mullen.
17 COUNCILLOR MULLEN: For.
18 MS PURCELL: Councillor Dermot O'Brien.
19 COUNCILLOR DERMOT O'BRIEN: Against.
20 MS PURCELL: Councillor Paul O'Brien.
21 COUNCILLOR PAUL O'BRIEN: For.
22 MS PURCELL: Councillor Rory O'Connor.
23 COUNCILLOR O'CONNOR: For.
24 MS PURCELL: Councillor Gerry O'Neill is not present. Councillor Lourda Scott.
25 COUNCILLOR SCOTT: Against.
26 MS PURCELL: Councillor John Snell.
27 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Against.
28 MS PURCELL: Councillor Stephen Stokes.
29 COUNCILLOR STOKES: For.
30 MS PURCELL: Councillor Edward Timmins.
31 COUNCILLOR TIMMINS: For.
32 MS PURCELL: Councillor Gerry Walsh.
33 COUNCILLOR WALSH: For.

1 MS PURCELL: And Councillor Irene Winters is not present.

2

3 We have 20 for, 7 against and 5 not present. As that motion was passed we will not be
4 proceeding to the second motion. Thank you.

5 CATHAOIRLEACH: That concludes the items for today's meeting, everybody.

6 Thank you very much for your cooperation and attendance.

7

8 (Time noted - 3:02 pm)

9 * * * *

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1 Certified to be a complete and correct transcript of the record of the proceedings
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5 D. O'Malley Stenography Ltd.

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