

Kildare County Council
Minutes of Budget Meeting
held online at 3.00pm on
Monday, 22 November 2021

Members Present: Councillor N Ó Cearúil (Cathaoirleach), Councillors V Behan, A Breen, A Breslin, F Brett, B Caldwell, B Clear, M Coleman, A Connolly, N Connolly, Í Cussen, B Dooley, S Doyle, K Duffy, T Durkan, A Farrelly, A Feeney, D Fitzpatrick, C Galvin, P Hamilton, N Heavey, I Keatley, C Kenny, C Kelly, N Killeen, V Liston, P McEvoy, F McLoughlin Healy, S Moore, J Neville, T O'Dwyer, C Pender, R Power, E Sammon, M Stafford, P Ward, B Weld and B Wyse.

Apologies: Councillors P O'Dwyer.

Also Present: Ms S Kavanagh (Interim Chief Executive), Ms B Sweeney, (A/Head of Finance), Ms F Millane (Financial Accountant) Mr J Boland, Ms E Wright, Mr E Ryan, Ms A Aspell (Directors of Services), Ms M Higgins, A/Director of Service, Ms C O'Grady (Meetings Administrator) and Ms K Keane (Meetings Secretary).

Consideration of Budget

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the members to the Budget meeting.

As due notice of the meeting and of the preparation of the budget had been given as required by law, the council considered the draft budget for the year ending 31 December 2022.

The Cathaoirleach thanked the members who attended the online briefing on the 15 November 2021 and invited Ms. Kavanagh, Interim Chief Executive to introduce the draft Budget 2022 and Ms. Millane to then present it to the members.

Ms Kavanagh thanked Ms Millane, Ms Sweeney and the team in Finance for both the revenue and capital budgets noting the budgeting process had started many months ago and it was a relief to be in a position to bring the members a balanced budget for 2022.

She thanked Management Team for their input into the budget process thus far and for their continued hard work and support. Ms Kavanagh acknowledged the work of the previous Chief Executive, Mr. Peter Carey and his retirement at the end of August, stating that his dynamic leadership and the excellent foundations that he had put in place would continue to bear fruit for years to come. She also thanked the Cathaoirleach and elected members for their ongoing co-operation and collaboration noting it was coming to the end of another difficult year for the elected members, for businesses and for communities but that it was her hope that they could move forward in 2022 with this positive budget and focus on facilitating and supporting communities and the recovery of our economy.

Ms Kavanagh drew attention to a number of key areas and commended the members for their earlier decision to approve a 10% variation in the Local Property Tax allocation to enable the continued active investment in local communities. She noted there had been no increase in Kildare County Council's commercial rates since 2010 but that this was an area that must be reviewed for Budget 2023 in order to achieve some buoyancy and address the resource needs of the organisation as expectations of communities grow in terms of local amenities and infrastructure. She confirmed Housing would remain a significant priority for Kildare as the council worked towards the ambitious targets set out for Kildare County Council in "Housing for All". She confirmed the Chief Executives report sets out a suite of examples of climate action activity including the investment made in human resources in this area with the appointment of a full time Climate Action Officer, Energy Efficiency Officer, and graduate. She acknowledged the funding from the NTA to fully fund a sustainable transport team in Kildare to deliver NTA funded schemes noting €9m was allocated in 2021 for a programme of sustainable transport measures, some of which will be carried forward into 2022.

She concluded by confirming Equality, Inclusivity and Accessibility was a continuing priority for Kildare County Council and that the council was always conscious of the

impact of budget decisions on the most vulnerable in society and that continued to be the case in 2022.

Ms Millane stated that in accordance with S102 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended, the Draft Budget had been prepared in the statutory format

She confirmed that the process of preparing the Budget involved a number of stages including the consideration by CPG of the broad parameters of the budget, followed by a detailed review of income and expenditure headings by Management Team. The decision to vary the Local Property Tax rate was made in July and the draft budgetary plans were discussed at each of the municipal district meetings in October. She confirmed that the members were now required to adopt the budget with or without amendment.

She outlined that the following reserved functions would be determined at the budget meeting including:

- The adoption of the budget by resolution (with or without amendment)
- The determination of the Annual Rate on Valuation
- Approval of the vacancy refund rate
- Noting the 3-year capital programme.

Ms Millane gave an overview of the budget changes, the increases and decreases and confirmed the budget book was divided into a number of sections and that the format of the budgetary tables was prescribed under the Accounting Code of Practise.

Section 1 - The report of the Chief Executive, the report of the departments and the 'Key Features' with some additional detail provided here.

Section 2 - The actual statutory budget (pages T1 to T29) comprising the statutory and explanatory tables which council (with or without amendment) shall adopt.

Section 3 - The Capital Programme 2022-2024. This report was for noting.

Ms Millane stated that the key points to note were contained in Table A – (page T1) and that this was a high-level summary of the draft budget by Division. The key figure that required attention was the Annual Rate on Valuation (ARV) which Council adopts. She confirmed for 2022 the council was proposing maintaining this at **.2246**. She confirmed Table A shows that the budgeted expenditure for 2022 is €165.6m, spread across the 8 divisions and that Income from Goods & Services and Grants amounted to €96,473,616.

She confirmed LPT income was €18,289,092 which included the 10% increase that was to be retained by the MDs but did not include the €1,310,815 that had been instructed to use in Housing as 'self-funding' of expenditure that would previously have been grant funded.

Ms Millane stated budgets had increased from 2021 but that in the main, these were increases to grants in 2021 and it was assumed that these increases would be maintained into 2022. She noted that if that did not happen, expenditure would be adjusted to match.

Division A - Housing and Building

Ms Millane stated that the key points to note were as follows (T7-T9):

- There was an increase in Housing maintenance of €1m. This is a combination of an increase in response maintenance, increases to LPT payable and some small increases in payroll
- A0403 included provision for the full year for having the 5 community workers to provide support to communities and tenants of Kildare – there is also some element of reassignment of staff from housing assessment to this area.
- A0502 Homelessness (which is partially recoupable) is expected to increase further so we have provided for an increase of €800k gross – as this is partially recoupable it results in a KCC commitment of €52k
- A07 RAS/ Social Housing Initiatives – there is significant uptake in social leasing and the budgets are proposed to increase from €11.1 to €12.4m, with matching increases to income. There are also reductions in the numbers being housed through RAS – this is reflected in the budgets.
- A09 – the various housing adaptation schemes have been reviewed. Kildare County Council is increasing its subvention by approximately €100k resulting in increases to the expenditure budget of €500k. You will note that the budgets in this area have been amalgamated into the Housing Adaptations Grant (previously DPGs, ERG's and Mobility Aids). Council had specifically indicated that this was an area of concern and we were very pleased to have been able to finance this request.

Division B - Roads and Transportation

Ms Millane stated that the key points to note were as follows (T10 to T11):

- Most of the changes to Roads budgets relate to grant aided works. We have not yet been advised of the roads' grants for 2022 – these are usually advised in quarter 1 of the year. As such, Roads will come back to each of the MDs in Quarter 1 (generally the March meeting) with the Road Works programme for

2022 which will reflect the actual grants received – for the moment we are estimating based on the grants received in 2021.

- Local Roads General Maintenance (B0405), KCC funded element has been increased by €276k. – can also be seen in Key Features KF2.
- Public Lighting – the closing date for receipt of tenders for the public lighting project was 27 October. This highly anticipated project is expected to have a significant impact on energy usage. Kildare County Council has been providing for this project for some years, and whilst the annual provision reduced in 2021 as part of the reductions that had to be made to balance the budget, we are confident that the monies provided currently will be sufficient to service a loan should it be required.
- Pay-parking has been discussed as part of the MD meetings in October and the figures included in the budget are those that were brought to the MDs at that time.

Division C – Water Services

Water Services are operated under an SLA with Irish Water – the costs under the SLA are fully recoupable (T13 – T14).

C05 the cost of Group Water Schemes is not included in the SLA but the direct costs are recoupable.

Division D - Development Management

Ms Millane confirmed the key points relating to Development Management (T15-T17) were as follows:

- D0101 - For information the non-payroll cost of statutory plans is estimated on a 5-year cycle which is reviewed based on number of plans etc every couple of years. There has been some increase to salary costs in this area with the reassignment of resources between it and Enforcement (D0301)
- D0201 - This budget has provided for additional resources in Development Management – planning applications have increased substantially, and these additional resources are being funded by way of increased income in planning. Also, in D0201, there is an element of Roads salaries – this has also increased as more resources are assigned towards the roads element of the planning process.
- D0601 – There are contra (i.e. fully recoupable) increases here, specifically in Community Enhancement Programme, LCDC Projects and Healthy Ireland.
- D0701 – We are cognisant of council's concerns in the area of Taking-in-Charge, so additional resources have been provided to try to progress some

of the estates. This is not an area where there are likely to be many quick results, but we will continue to review the area over the coming years.

- D0901 Urban and Village Renewal has a cost of €600,000 included – this is a contra item.
- D0905 Economic Development – the increase here reflects an increased provision for staff in the public realm team and in the Economic Development team. We have also made a small provision towards the Thoroughbred County (20k) here.
- D0906 Local Enterprise Office – the increase is a combination of staff and new programme costs – most of LEO costs are recoupable from Enterprise Ireland.

Division E - Environmental Services

Ms Millane confirmed the key points were as follows (T18-T20) -

- E05 Litter Management - this service is slightly increased – however there have been some reallocations of staff in the area.
- There has been some reallocation of staff between E0702 and E1301.
- E1001 Civil Defence is part funded through the Dept of Defence.
- E1501 Climate Change –New in 2020 there was a provision for Climate Change Officer plus as requested by Council, €50,000 towards leveraging funds for projects / grants. In 2021 we have also included the Environmental Awareness Officer, together with a provision of €50,000 towards leveraging funds for projects/grants. For 2022 we have directed additional funding into this area and provided for a graduate, plus adding €150k (70k of which is for the Mid-East Energy Bureau – this is a 3-year commitment)
- The balance refers to the Climate Action regional Office which was funded.

Division F - Recreation and Amenity

Ms Millane confirmed the key points were as follows (T21 – T22)

- F0201 Libraries – the increase relates to staff costs
- F0301 Parks & Open Spaces – a new provision towards the upkeep of blueways/greenways included (30k). Also increase (1) in numbers.
- F0403 Community Facilities – €200k the increase here is matched by 100% funding – Drehid Community Fund. The balance relates to the community centres – however, €42,500 additional income is also budgeted here.
- F0404 Recreational Development – the increases here are due to the work programme of Sports Partnership and this is fully recoupable

Agriculture, Education Health & Welfare

Ms Millane confirmed the key points were as follows (T23 – T24)

- G0101 Land Drainage – most of the work done by this team is Capital and therefore capital funded – however some work relates to the ongoing river drainage maintenance (formerly done by specific boards – e.g. Barrow drainage board/ Lerr drainage board/etc)

Miscellaneous Services (T25-T27)

Ms Millane confirmed the key points were as follows (T25 – T27)

- H0303 - Refunds and Irrecoverable rates reflects the level of irrecoverable rates in 2020 plus/minus anything that we are aware of in 2021.
- H0401 - Register of elector costs – this reflects the allocation of staff costs
- H0901 – Representational Payments – the increase here reflects the maximum amounts payable based on the full implementation of Moorhead's recommendations. These are, however being fully funded by the Department and will not result in any impact on other services.
- H0909 – increase of €1.1m - Represents the additional funding to the MDs at the direction of the Members – this is a combination of the increase in the variation on LPT, combined with the expected increases in pay parking income, assuming no lock downs in 2022 – these figures were agreed at the MD meetings in October
- Other Income on T27 – increase of €230k – this predominantly relates to recoupment of the cost of seconded staff.
- Government Grants on T27 have increased by €1.2m which is the FEMPI (financial measures in the public interest) recoupment and the Moorhead recoupment.

Central Management Charge

Ms Millane confirmed the key points were as follows (T28)

- Corporate Buildings – the reduction here is based on insurances – we have been advised of a reduction for 2022.
- IT has increased marginally – the main component of the increase is a provision for an IT security officer.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Ms Millane for the detailed overview. He sought the

members direction on whether a short break was needed to allow members to consider if they wished to advance the written motions they had submitted prior to the meeting based on the reports provided, or were they happy to proceed. He also confirmed that written motions could be accepted at this point of the meeting also. He stated that if they were submitting new motions or revised motions, that they submit them in writing to himself and the Meetings Administrator to this effect. The members agreed to proceed on the basis of the motions that had been submitted but asked if they could seek clarification on matters that had been raised in submissions. This was agreed.

The members sought clarification on a number of items, including €150k funding listed as a 3-year budget under Environment, details of funding and resources allocated to the Sustainable Transport Team, details of the estates to be Taken in Charge under the heading D07, detail of the budget line related to the provision of a playground in Newbridge and details of resources assigned to casual trading. Clarification was provided by the Ms. Millane and relevant Directors on the items raised. Councillor McLoughlin Healy sought further clarification on the amount of “unspent” funding by the County Twinning Association Committee for 2020 and 2021. Ms Higgins confirmed that the Town Twinning policy had come into effect in 2021. She stated that the Annual Report that had been circulated to the members prior to the meeting, was what had been presented at the last Twinning meeting. She also confirmed that the application period for grant funding in 2021 was still open. **Resolved** that a report issue to Councillor McLoughlin Healy detailing the “unspent” monies by twinning groups for 2020 and 2021.

Councillor Veralouise Behan stated she accepted the report on her motion but sought the Cathaoirleach and the members agreement to ask some questions, given she had to leave the meeting for a time later. The members agreed.

Motion No 6 – Cllr Veralouise Behan

Would it be possible to motion that extra provision be made in the budget to facilitate extending the winter road gritting program. To facilitate road gritting around all rural schools. As some approach roadways are treacherous underfoot, as they are currently ungritted.

A report from Ms Millane stated Councillor Behan would need to identify where expenditure reductions were to be made to fund this as a balanced budget had been provided.

A report from Ms Wright stated that following a review of the Council's Winter Maintenance Plan in 2018/19, Kildare County Council has increased its Winter salting programme, effective from Spring 2019 increasing the existing route lengths by up to 70 km. Ten separate routes are now salted during the winter period, resulting in a total of 680 km of road being treated to ensure safer travel for all road users.

This is the second increase in roads added to the salting routes within the past 5 years. There are no plans at present to add/amend existing salting runs to existing schedule due to existing resources and availability of drivers and plant.

A review may be carried out later in the year, however, as this service is currently at full capacity, any amendments to the current routes will result in the service being discontinued/removed from another location. There are an estimated 50 primary schools in rural locations throughout the county.

Councillor Behan noted the reports and asked that if for any reason funding did become available, the matter be considered. Ms Wright stated that all fleet and resources were being fully utilised at this time but that the council committed to reviewing the routes, in consultation with neighbouring authorities, in Spring 2022.

Councillor Behan thanked the Director for her comments and commitment given, noting it was not new routes she was seeking, but an extension of the already existing routes that were there.

Motion No 1 – Cllr Tim Durkan

That all unspent Local Property Tax monies, plus pay parking surpluses, are retained and rolled over within their respective municipal districts

A report from Ms Millane stated this was a matter for the members to agree.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Durkan, seconded by Councillor Feeney and with the agreement of the members, the motion was agreed.

The Cathaoirleach proposed to take Motions No 2, 4 and 7 in the names of Councillor McLoughlin Healy, Councillor Doyle and the Social Democrats group respectively. The members agreed.

Motion No 2 – Councillor McLoughlin Healy

I am happy to add my name to Annettes suggested motion that we reallocate from A0101 to A0901 in order to maximize return by going after matched funding.

Motion No 4 – Fine Gael Group

That the Council transfer funding from A0101 Maintenance of LA Housing Units in the sum of €237,325 to A0901 Housing Adaptation Grants for 2022.

Motion No 7 – Social Democrats Group

Housing Adaptation Grants Transfer of funding from A0101 Maintenance of LA Housing Units in the sum of €237,325 to A0901 Housing Adaptation Grants specifically for local authority tenants for 2022.

A report from Ms A Aspell, Director of Housing and Corporate Services stated that this was a matter for the members to agree.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Sammon, seconded by Councillor Caldwell and agreed by the members that the sum of €237,325 be transferred from A0101 Maintenance of LA Housing Units to A0901 Housing Adaptation Grants, specifically for local authority tenants for 2022.

Motion No 3 – Councillor Noel Connolly

That Kildare County Council reduce its Vacant Commercial Property Rates relief to 75%.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Noel Connolly and seconded by Councillor Clear.

A report from Ms Millane stated that the Draft Budget, as presented, recommends vacancy relief of 100%. A high-level review of the vacancy relief given in 2020 (*2021 vacancies will be addressed in Jan 2022*) was done. Should the vacancy relief be reduced from 100% to 75%, as proposed, it would only affect 31% of the vacancy

relief given in 2020. As per the table below, the highlighted numbers represent the 68.94% of customers to whom vacancy relief couldn't (*eg KCC properties*) or wouldn't (*we would be reluctant to charge rates on charities*) apply.

Covid has resulted in longer turn-around times where properties are available for letting/sale, but also for businesses to get refurbished. Many sectors of the economy, especially the smaller businesses have not rebounded to the pre-Covid levels. In addition, government has been very pro-active about supports to these small businesses and we would recommend following suit.

The motion would therefore be to apply 75% vacancy on 31.06% of customers who are eligible for vacancy relief – customers that we have proof are trying to let / sell / refurbish their properties. Given the additional workload, it would a) require additional staff resources and b) will result in legal costs. We have spoken with a number of other authorities that give less than 100% vacancy relief – the collection rate in this area is significantly lower than for standard rates and therefore means that the full value is not available for use.

I recommend, therefore that the vacancy relief remains at 100%.

Rates Vacancy/Strike Offs - actual 2020 - basis for 2022	
Vacant (To Let)	17.73%
Domestic/Derate/Derelict	4.59%
Partial Vacant - Vacant Period during the before New Tenant	5.67%
Partial Vacant - Property currently partially used by Tenant	5.66%
Refurbishment/Planning Permission	1.99%
Exempt/ Charity	11.38%
No funds Rece/Liq/ Exam	1.43%
Bad Debt/ Gone Away	6.83%
Tribunal Adj Prev Yrs	29.76%
KCC Own Properties	14.96%

Councillor Noel Connolly stated that South Kildare streets contained significant dereliction citing examples of Monasterevan and Rathangan which had six and five units vacant respectively and confirmed that most of these properties had been

derelict for up to twenty or thirty years. He stated the Buy and Repair Scheme was not producing the results needed and something needed to be done on the fact that there was no sanction on property owners who leave their property's vacant. He stated other local authorities did apply a lower vacancy relief citing the example of Dublin City Council who had a 25% vacancy relief in place. Councillor Clear fully supported the motion and stated that full rates should apply, and only in exceptional circumstances should they be waived.

Following discussion, the following points were raised by the members:

- It was important not to mix up derelict sites and vacant properties as they are dealt with very differently.
- The council should be trying to purchase some of these vacant properties and turn them into living accommodation which would aid the housing agenda, and breathe life back into some of our towns.
- Kildare received no income from the Derelict Sites levy in 2020

Ms Millane noted that derelict sites and vacant sites are different matters, dealt with by two separate sections of the council. She also confirmed that from speaking to Heads of Finance colleagues who have a vacancy relief, it was very difficult to collect monies owed and the resources and legal cost of following up on the non-payments could be more than the value of the rates owed in a lot of instances.

The Cathaoirleach called for a vote on the motion that was before the members.

Resolved with 5 members voting in favour of the motion, 31 members voting against and with 1 abstention, the motion fell.

Motion No 5 - Fine Gael Group

That the Council ring fence funding within the Parks Department and in partnership with the Climate Action Officer, for staff to conduct a survey of trees across the county.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Evie Sammon and seconded by Councillor Fintan Brett.

A report from Ms F Millane stated that the motion needed to identify income/reductions in expenditure unless the relevant departments are prepared to ringfence within already assigned resources. We have provided a balanced budget and have no role in identifying how to fund motions from the floor.

A report from Ms M Higgins, A/Director of Services, Economic Development, Community and Culture stated it would not be practical to survey all the estates in Kildare for trees damaging footpaths as the damage depends on the tree species, the rooting volume available to it and what size it will grow to based on these. The Parks Section do not have the finance and staff resources to do such an extensive survey. Additionally, because the trees are growing the survey may only be valid for 2-3 years before it would have to be repeated. A more practical solution is to apply design standards to new developments to design tree planting so that the correct species of tree is chosen based on planting location and the correct area of ground or volume of soil is provided to allow the tree to grow and prevent future problems with roots lifting paths etc. This would be implemented through planning conditions.

Councillor Brett confirmed that the reports were accepted.

The reports on Motions no 8 and 9 were accepted by the Social Democrats Group and were not put to the meeting.

Motion No 8 – Social Democrats Group

Deposit Return Scheme - Rental of one van - 30K in 2022 E05

A report from Ms Millane stated these motions need to identify reductions in expenditure lines. We have provided a balanced budget and have no role in identifying how to fund motions from the floor.

Motion No 9 – Social Democrats Group

S5.4 Reverse Vending machine - 3 – 5 machines - €90k Pilot (Naas)

A report from Mr Boland stated this was not without its complexities in terms of logistics; the machines are expensive and there is also the need to remove the material on an ongoing basis, its storage and its ultimate transport to a recycling facility (Monaghan). Also likely to be labour costs. Really, the practicality of such a

new and significant budget line needs to be more fully considered. It is noted that a similar initiative for Naas MD has not progressed largely for these reasons.

The DECC are introducing a deposit return scheme in Quarter 2 of 2022 and it might be best to await the details.

Councillor Doyle proposed a motion from the floor and confirmed she had submitted it in writing to the Cathaoirleach and the Meetings Administrator as required:

Motion – Councillor Doyle

That a quarterly report of budget be given to Council, identifying codes that are not on target in order to assess means to redeploy resources at members discretion.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Doyle and seconded by Councillor McLoughlin Healy.

Councillor Doyle stated the council needed to be more customer orientated in its approach to resource redeployment when required and referenced an initiative proposed by the previous Chief Executive around maximising efficiency within the organisation and sought an update on this. She stated that it should be possible at the half year point to identify areas that require more resources, such as street cleaning/parks and that there needed to be a flexibility in expenditure in response to identified public priorities.

Ms Millane confirmed that it had taken some time to receive sanction for a Systems Innovation position and that the advertisement for same would be issued that week, with the hope that this post would be filled and in-situ by Quarter 2 2022.

She noted that 2 years previously, there was a proposal to increase commercial rates which did not happen and that the Finance Committee had a remit in considering where best to reallocate budget additionality. She proposed that the matter be further considered in Quarter 1 2022, with a view to having this process in place in 2023. She also drew the members attention to the fact that outturns are based on a quarterly basis and the council does not budget on a flat line, or by time, given timing of grant awards and the fact that a lot of expenditure tends to happen towards the latter part of the year.

The Interim Chief Executive stated that one of the key points to be addressed was the staff resourcing levels in the council noting the example of the Parks team, which did not exist a couple of years ago but which was being built up over time based on the demands and expectations of the public. She noted that a large proportion of the councils spend was contra spend thus did not allow for much lift in spend adding that the actual outturn could be seen in the AFS.

During the course of discussion, the members raised the following points:

- Anticipate more LPT funding in 2023 which needs to be considered during further debate
- Members depend on the officials to deliver the agreed projects
- Ask the Finance Committee to report to the MD's on a quarterly basis, as if the council is considering increasing commercial rates in 2023, it would benefit everyone
- Additional funding needed to be put towards street cleaning as it should be a 7-day service
- Support for the motion, but concern around the second part of it relating to redeployment of resources
- Flexibility needed on expenditure

Ms Millane noted that if there was an increase in income, due to increase in income from LPT or commercial rates, the Finance Committee would review how the money should be spent and report to council. She also confirmed that the council provides both monthly and quarterly reports to council as part of the monthly Chief Executives Report.

The Interim Chief Executive confirmed that the budgetary process was a reserved function but that the redeployment of resources was an executive function.

Councillor Doyle proposed an amendment to her motion:

That a bi-annual report of budget be given to Council, identifying codes that are not on target.

The amended motion was proposed by Councillor Doyle and seconded by Councillor Liston.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Doyle, seconded by Councillor Liston and agreed by the members that a bi-annual report of budget be given to Council, identifying codes that are not on target.

As there were no further motions to be considered, the Cathaoirleach called on the members to vote on the draft budget that was before them by way of the hands-up option on Teams.

The Cathaoirleach read the Resolution for the Budget 2022.

Adoption of Budget

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor E Sammon, seconded by Councillor S Moore, with 35 members voting in favour, 2 members voting against and 1 member abstaining, that pursuant to Section 103(7) of the Local Government Act 2001, Kildare County Council do hereby adopt for the financial year ending 31 December 2022 the budget set out in tables A, B, D,E and F of the draft budget with amendment presented to the council and do hereby determine in accordance with the said budget on the proposal of Councillor K Duffy seconded by Councillor F Brett and agreed by the members, the annual rate on valuation set out in Tables A,B,D,E and F of €0.2246 to be the annual rate on valuation to be levied for that year for the purposes set out in those tables.

Vacancy Relief

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor M Stafford seconded by Councillor C Kelly and agreed by the members that this council continue to effect vacant premises relief as outlined in Section 14 of the Local Government Act 1946.

Capital Programme 2022-2024

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor P Hamilton seconded by Councillor S Doyle, and agreed by the members present that the Capital Budget 2022 – 2024 be noted.

The meeting concluded.