

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE
MINUTES OF BUDGET MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL
Held at Corrandulla Sports Hall, Cor an Dola, Co. Galway

Monday 29^h November 2021 at 11.00am

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Peter Keaveney
Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway

I LATHAIR FREISIN:

Baill: Comh./Cllr. T Broderick, J. Byrne, I. Canning, L. Carroll, J. Charity, D. Collins, D. Connolly, M. Connolly, G. Cronnelly, D. Ó Cualáin, J. Cuddy, S. Curley, T. Ó Curraoin, A. Dolan, G. Donuhue, G. Finnerty, D. Geraghty, M. Hoade, D. Kelly, C. Keaveney, D. Killilea, M. Kinane, G. King, P. Mac an Iomaire, M. Maher, E. Mannion, J. McClearn, K. McHugh, A. McKinstry, P. Murphy, E. F. Parsons, A. Reddington, P. Roche, J. Sheridan, N. Thomas, S. Walsh, T. Welby.

Oifigh: Mr. J. Cullen, Chief Executive, Ms. Jean Brann, County Secretary, Mr. Michael Owens, Director of Services, Mr. L. Hanrahan, Director of Services, Ms. E. Ruane, Director of Services, Mr. D. Pender, Director of Services, Mr. G. Mullarkey, Head of Finance, Mr M. McGovern, Management Accountant, M. Jordan, Administrative Officer, M. Duane, Staff Officer, A. Ruane, Clerical Officer.

Thosnaigh an Crunniu leis an Paidir

ITEM NO. 1 CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF BUDGET FOR YEAR 2022

The Chief Executive said that in accordance with the provision of Section 102 and 103 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended) he was presenting to the members, for consideration the Draft Budget for 2022 together with a report on functional activities from each Director of Service which is submitted as an annual progress report on the Corporate Plan.

He said that in the course of preparing the Draft Budget he consulted with the Corporate Policy Group at meetings held on 13th October 2021 and 16th November 2021.

Section 102 (4A) (a) of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended) requires the preparation of a draft budgetary plan for each Municipal District and the Municipal District members must meet to consider it no later than 21 days prior to the Local Authority budget meeting. In this regard, Municipal District meetings were held between 1st and 5th November 2021 for each of the 5 Municipal Districts. None approved the Draft Budgetary Plan for their area.

In considering the draft budget it is open to the council by resolution to amend the draft, but the budget must be adopted with or without amendment and it must determine the annual rate on valuation to be levied.

The Council is required to complete the statutory process within a period of 14 days. This allows for the adjournment, if necessary, of today's meeting but the process must be completed by 12th December 2021.

The Local Property Tax:

He explained that the local property tax is one of the very few sources where it is open to the council to realise locally determined income of significance. On 26th July 2021, the Council considered the Local Property Tax and whether to apply a Local Adjustment Factor for 2022. In his report and recommendation to the Council, to adjust the total property tax by 15% potentially yielding €2.2m in additional revenue, he said that he had provided an estimation of expenditure and income which indicates an excess of expenditure over income of €4.5M.

Ultimately it was decided not to adjust the Rate of Local Property Tax. Obviously, that decision has a significant bearing on the draft budget limiting the available revenue to meet expenditure commitments. Therefore, the funding from Local Property Tax in 2022 will be the same as 2021.

Despite year-on-year cost increases and increased service demands in all areas of Council activity the funding available to the Council in 2022 for Local Property Tax is virtually unchanged since 2014 when it was first introduced. In framing the budget for 2022 the Council is faced with an array of expenditures on one side and a generally static revenue base on the other. In effect, the amount available to spend on public services in 2022 is constrained by the income available rather than the amount that is needed in any service area. By declining the opportunity to realise the potential from locally determined income sources, he said that it is inevitable that public services suffer as a consequence.

Commercial Rates:

The other main source where it is open to the council to realise additional locally determined income of significance is the commercial rates. The Commercial Rate in County Galway stands at 66.59 and this hasn't changed since 2009. It isn't sustainable to leave the commercial rate unchanged while the real costs of providing public services increase. He explained that he has drafted the budget based on a 6% increase to the annual rate of valuation which will yield an income of €1.073m. At the same time, he said that he was bringing forward a complimentary Rates Payment Incentive Scheme as an assistance to smaller businesses and ameliorate the impact of the proposed increase

The incentive scheme is targeted at small businesses whose rate demand in 2022 after application of the proposed increase, is no greater than €10,000. He said that it would be a condition of the scheme that all arrears are cleared.

He also said that he was very conscious of the impact the pandemic has had in society, generally, and on businesses. That impact was not evenly spread with some faring poorly while others did better. It is important to acknowledge the relief provided by Government departments through Galway County Council to businesses under the commercial rates waiver scheme in 2020 and 2021 and also the other wage subsidy

supports, and restart grants put in place to support businesses through the pandemic. To date, a total of €17M has been paid to 3,433 businesses under the restart grant scheme and a further €601,000 to 267 businesses under the Small Businesses Assistance Scheme for COVID-19.

Main Budget Adjustments

The Chief Executive said that Members can see from the budget tables that the Draft Budget for 2022 is €143,295,409 compared to €136,485,759 in 2021. While there are many adjustments across both income and expenditure, a list of some of the significant changes feeding in the draft budget for 2022 is set out on page 15 of the report.

Staffing:

The Chief Executive said that Galway County Council's staffing complement is one of the lowest in the country per head of population. This is having an ongoing negative impact on Galway County Councils capacity to deliver services. He explained that over the last number of months, he carried out a review of the staff resources across all units to identify pinch points in service delivery in the organisation. He said that as signalled previously the Council has begun to address the critical staffing deficit and has actively been targeting Planning and Waste Enforcement, strengthening of the Municipal Districts structure, responding to the demands of Climate Change & Energy Efficiency, supporting the Traveller Accommodation & Housing Capital Programme and other areas such Active travel, Greenways, Urban and Rural regeneration fund programme.

As indicated in the table on page 15 there will be additional payroll cost to be provided for but he said that he is satisfied that the Council must recruit staff simply to maintain current services and meet its statutory obligations.

Work Programme:

He explained that although it is much less than what he felt is needed for a county of such size and scale, the draft budget of €143.29 M is still a significant contributor to the economy of County Galway and will enable key public services to be delivered over a range of programmes.

In the area of Housing the Council has been approved funding for the delivery of 244 social housing units and a further 158 are being prepared for Department consideration. The Council will continue to maximise the various schemes available to meet the ambitious targets for social housing delivery under the Housing for All Programme. To date in 2021 the Council has facilitated 401 new tenancies in social housing and through housing maintenance and estate management has continue to support the existing 2,771 tenants. The provision for housing maintenance is unchanged from 2021.

Our Infrastructure and Operations Unit will continue to deliver key projects to improve road safety and support the economic development of the County. It is hoped to receive a favourable decision form An Bord Pleanála shortly for the Galway City Ring Road which is critical to resolving the transport issues in the City and County. Works are about to commence on the Moycullen bypass and when complete this will complement the major upgrade already carried out between Maam Cross and Bunakill.

He said that the Council will continue to support active travel measures throughout the County with continuing progress on the Connemara Greenway and the publication of an emerging preferred route for the Athlone to Galway Cycleway shortly.

The level of resources available for road maintenance and improvement is heavily dependent on grant funding. Fortunately, the grants have increased year on year, and we have budgeted in 2022 for the same as received in 2021. He said that unfortunately, though, the Councils own resource contribution to road maintenance is very limited and while he has provided an additional €100,000 to local road maintenance and €70,000 to town & Village maintenance, he has not been able to make any provision for Councillors Notice of Motion in 2022.

It is intended to continue to modernise the ageing fleet and additional lorries will be purchased in 2022 to replace costly and inefficient vehicles. It is intended also to purchase an additional velocity patching unit so that one will be available in each of the municipal district areas. It is proposed also to commence the modernisation of the paid parking system commencing in Tuam and Loughrea with newer machines that will facilitate cashless payment. It is planned that the procurement for the public lighting energy retrofit programme will happen in the first quarter of 2022.

Our Economic and Rural and Community Development Unit continues to support economic, social, cultural and environment initiatives throughout the County. In 2021 the Council provided supports to the food businesses and hospitality sector through the outdoor seating and accessories scheme with 324 successful applications.

Members will be aware that the draft County Development Plan is currently being reviewed. Over a series of Council meetings in December 2021 and January 2022 the 2,877 submissions will be considered and the material alterations to the draft will then go on public display leading to the adoption of the Plan in 2022. The Development Plan process, together with increases in the number of planning applications which have reached 1,996 to date in 2021, and increased enforcements complaints is placing a considerable strain on the staff resources. As indicated earlier in the report, it is imperative to provide additional staff to the planning unit and that is underway. As a response to the ongoing management of illegal dumping in the County, and in response to concerns raised by the members, the staffing complement to deal with waste enforcement was strengthened in 2021. There are now dedicated waste enforcement officers managed by the waste enforcement lead and supported by dedicated administrative support. We can already see the impact that this team is having on the ground with successful court proceedings in recent weeks. This approach will continue in 2022 and beyond, and when partnered with the impending legislation to support the use of CCTV for environmental enforcement will make significant inroads in dealing with the scourge of illegal dumping.

A new National Waste Management Plan for the Circular Economy is being developed in 2022 through the regional waste management structures. Galway County is part of the Connacht Ulster Region and all local authorities are contributing financially to the development of the plan in 2022. Galway County Council's contribution is €33, 504 in 2022.

Work will continue on the burial ground management and development programme in 2022 to progress projects at Quansboro, Brookodge, Creagh, Claregalway, Annaghdown, Abbey, Ballyconnelly, Kilbannon and Lettermore, subject to site acquisition at certain locations.

Provision of €50,000 has been made for the appointment of an Energy Bureau Officer for the Council in 2022 as part of the Regional Energy Bureau model. The model has

been developed in partnership with the Climate Action Regional Office and the SEAI. It is expected that the officer will be in place in Q1 2022.

The library service for the City and County is operated by the County Council on a shared services basis. The spend per capita on library services is the lowest in the country yet the service provided by the staff is of the highest quality despite being under resourced. Additional provision of €80,000 has had to be included for on-line resources, distribution services and library management system and €40,000 towards our commitment to the My Open Library Programme in Ballinasloe and Oranmore. Unfortunately, it hasn't been possible to provide any additional funding to the book fund.

He explained that he was pleased to report that the leisure centres in Tuam and Ballinasloe are operational and in common with other business were supported by government wage subsidies. In the likelihood that the operating environment will continue to recover in 2022 he said that he has reduced the financial support to the leisure centres in the draft budget.

In 2021, in response to the changed vacationing pattern, the Council developed a Summer Ready Programme including extended lifeguard hours and additional welfare facilities at popular beach locations. In response to requests from the members provision has been made to facilitate the continued extended hours for the beach lifeguards in 2022 with a provision of €35,000 and for the beach facilities at €64,000.

As part of an ongoing of ICT development and modernisation the Council will be investing further in cyber security measures to protect the systems that support all council operations. He said that he was unable to make provision in the draft budget for live streaming of Council meetings, but the matter will remain under consideration. Priority will be given in 2022 to the roll-out of e-Planning project in which the Council is one of the pilot site locations. This will facilitate much greater use of online services for making planning applications.

Members will be aware of the plans for the development of a new pier at Inis Óir and the planning for this is progressing. Due to a significant increase in visitor numbers and for the safety of all users of the pier bylaws will be introduced in 2022 for the management and operation of the pier. Provision of €50,000 has been included in the

budget for this and for the employment of a harbour master. A provision of €100,000 has also been included as a matching contribution towards possible grant support for the Councils piers and harbour programme but this is a €50,000 reduction on the 2021 provision.

Expenditure proposals

The Chief Executive explained that the Expenditure by Programme Group and the Estimated Revenue Income for the years 2021 and 2022 is outlined on page 20 of the report.

Conclusion and Recommendation

The funding system for local government is complex and we derive income from a variety of sources including commercial rates, charges for goods and services, the local property tax and grants from Central Government. Galway County Council is particularly reliant on grant funding, the majority of which is either project or programme specific, such as roads or housing, rather than discretionary in nature. In 2022 42% of our revenue budget will be supported by grants and subsidies totalling €60.11 M.

It is a matter for Galway County Council to consider how it can maximise local income sources such as varying the rate of Local Property Tax and the annual rate on valuation for commercial rates. These sources, which account for 29% of the Councils revenue budget are critical in supplying the financial resources needed to meet the day-to-day cost of public services provision. The Council decided not to vary the rate on local property tax for 2022 thereby declining the opportunity of €2.2 M of discretionary funding.

The income from rates on commercial properties has always been a fundamental source of funding for the local government system. Since 2009 the rate on valuation in County Galway hasn't increased and this is not sustainable especially as the cost of providing public services has risen year on year. It is not possible to pretend that public services won't suffer when service costs increase but the available revenue remains static. He said that it was, therefore, necessary, in his view, to begin addressing this with the rate increase proposed and the accompanying relief measure.

He said that Members will be aware that the council has had an underlying structural weakness in its funding baseline for some time. Across a broad range of indicators, Galway County Council compare unfavourably to local authorities with similar characteristics but who enjoy much higher levels of equalisation funding. Council members, Oireachtas members and the Executive have been making the case forcefully at every opportunity for a baseline correction and we must continue to do so until a result is achieved. This case has not been helped by the Council's own reluctance to realise locally derived income from local property tax and commercial rates. He outlined that while he has no expectation of additional equalisation funding in 2022 he remains hopeful that as part of the review of the local property tax and equalisation model, relief may come in 2023.

The Chief Executive explained that a letter was received from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage on Friday and was circulated to the Members. He said it contains an allocation of €600,000 for Galway County Council and importantly the Department has committed that a review of the Local Property tax and funding model will take place in quarter one of 2022. He said that the amount of €600,000 is not included in the figures he has presented at today's meeting.

The preparation of the draft budget for 2022 has been particularly challenging. Nonetheless, the proposed revenue budget of €143M, together with a capital spend in the order of €65M represents a very considerable investment in the development of the county and the delivery of public services.

The Chief Executive thanked all of the members for their support in 2021 and in particular the Cathaoirleach Cllr. Peter Keaveney and former Cathaoirleach Cllr. James Charity for their commitment to the special office of Cathaoirleach. He also thanked the Corporate Policy Group and the leaders of the various groupings on the Council who have engaged with him in this budgetary process.

The Chief Executive then thanked the Head of Finance and his staff and the Directors of Services not just for their work in helping prepare this budget but more so for their ongoing effort and commitment to public service provision throughout the year. To the wider staff group at all levels and grades he expressed his deepest appreciation for their efforts and commitment, often in the most trying of circumstances.

The year ahead will bring its own challenges but hopefully none as great as those the Council has faced and overcome in the recent past. He said that he was confident that with the support of the members and staff colleagues Galway County Council will continue to provide vital public services that will benefit all the citizens of County Galway.

He recommended the Draft Budget for 2022 for adoption.

Cllr Byrne acknowledged the letter received from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and said that while he welcomed the extra funding of €600,000 he required further clarification on this, and the review of allocations and the funding model during the first quarter of 2022. He said that he was asking that the review be complete by the end of quarter one and not just commenced. He requested the Chief Executive write to the Department and seek clarification on this matter.

Cllr Hoade said that she commended the Chief Executive and agreed to postpone the meeting. She said that she was aware of the extra funding and welcomed the review of the baseline funding but stated it was not enough to fund services.

Cllr D. Connolly said that he had no difficulty adjourning the meeting if it makes a difference to the budget. The amount of €600,000 was only a drop in the ocean. When the matter of underfunding was raised by his colleague in the Dail the response was that the Local Property Tax should be increased, and this would provide funding of €2.2M. He said that the Ministers need to engage with members.

Cllr Cuddy said that the Department had done nothing to resolve the funding issue and that the government must deal with the imbalance

The Chief Executive said that it is clear from the Department's letter that the funding model will be reviewed in the first quarter of 2022 but if the Members wished him to write to the Department for further clarification he will do so.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr Byrne, **SECONDED** by Cllr Welby it was **AGREED** to adjourn the budget meeting to Thursday, 9th December, 2021 at 3.00

Chriochnaigh an Cruinniú Ansin.

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE
MINUTES OF BUDGET MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL
Held via Teams on Thursday, 9th December, 2021 at 3.00

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. P. Keaveney
Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway

I LATHAIR FREISIN:

Baill: Comh./Cllr. T Broderick, J. Byrne, I. Canning, L. Carroll, J. Charity, D. Collins, D. Connolly, M. Connolly, G. Cronnelly, D. Ó Cualáin, J. Cuddy, S. Curley, T. Ó Curraoin, A. Dolan, G. Donuhue, G. Finnerty, D. Geraghty, S. Herterich Quinn, M. Hoade, D. Kelly, C. Keaveney, D. Killilea, M. Kinane, G. King, P. Mac an Iomaire, M. Maher, E. Mannion, J. McClearn, K. McHugh, A. McKinstry, P. Murphy, E. F. Parsons, A. Reddington, P. Roche, J. Sheridan, N. Thomas, S. Walsh, T. Welby.

Oifigh: Mr. J. Cullen, Chief Executive, Ms. Jean Brann, County Secretary, Mr. Michael Owens, Director of Services, Mr. L. Hanrahan, Director of Services, Ms. E. Ruane, Director of Services, Mr. D. Pender, Director of Services, Mr. G. Mullarkey, Head of Finance, Mr M. McGovern, Management Accountant, M. Jordan, Administrative Officer, U. Ni Eidhin, Senior Staff Officer, M. Duane, Staff Officer, A. Ruane, Clerical Officer.

Thosnaigh an Cruinniu leis an Paidir.

ITEM NO. 1 CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF BUDGET FOR YEAR 2022

The Chief Executive noted that at the budget meeting held on 29th November that he was asked to write to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and that he had received a response which he would circulate to members. He noted that

the additional funding allocation of €600,000 as notified by the Department and set out on the 29th November 2021 still applies. He said that the Department stated in their letter that they must consider every Local Authority, and it will involve the examination of various publications and other materials on funding local government. While the Department intend to adopt an ambitious timeframe in respect of this work, it may not be possible to fully conclude the process by the end of the first quarter of 2022, but it is a key priority for 2022.

Cllr Byrne said that he welcomed the response from the Department, and he made the following proposal;

“I propose that the draft budget be adopted subject to the following amendments:

An expenditure increase of €434,000 in service heading B0406 for Notice of Motion

An expenditure increase of €166,000 in service heading H0301 for the rates payment incentive scheme

And an increase of €600,000 on the income side to reflect the additional allocation from the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage

I also propose to transfer €79,000 from service heading H0904 to service Heading B0406 in respect of transferring training allowance to Notice of Motion”

The proposal was seconded by Cllr Welby.

Cllr Charity said that he was not in agreement with the proposal but that he was not putting a counter proposal forward.

The Cathaoirleach then invited contributions from the elected members. These are summarized as follows:

- A query was made on the number of dog wardens that would be employed by the Council in 2022
- A query was made on the sum of €3m for housing and if the Capital assistance funding for 230 units was ring fenced.
- A query was made on the funding for the housing adaptation grants, how many did we have and what was the expenditure?

- A query was made in relation to funding for the upgrade of the Ballinasloe Fire Station.
- The sum for derelict sites is very small considering the dereliction in the county.

The community grants have been reduced and this will have an effect on the community groups.

Mr Mullarkey clarified that there is a sum of €197,000 in H0702 for the Ballinalsoe Fair which is an increase in this code of approximately €50,000 from last year.

Mr Mullarkey confirmed that there is a figure for the maintenance of Aughrim Heritage Centre in the budget.

A number of members welcomed the review of funding for Galway County Council that was taking place in the first quarter by the Department and acknowledged that the report from NUIG that was submitted highlighted the underfunding of Galway County Council for a number of years.

A number of members said the amount of €600,000 allocated by the Department was far short of the funding needed.

A number of Members were not in favour of a rate increase. Concern was expressed that there is already a problem with the vacancy tax.

Concern was expressed by some members in relation to the Department coming in to take over the running of the Council and they highlighted that they had an obligation to their electorate to pass the budget and prevent this happening.

In response to a query on using the overdraft facility to resolve the shortfall in funding, Mr Mullarkey explained that the Council cannot use the overdraft facility to balance a budget or until such a time as extra funding was available from the Department. He explained that the overdraft is used for cash flow purposes only.

Mr. Mullarkey explained how the new Rates Payment Incentive Scheme would apply to rate payers. He said that the proposal in the draft budget report is targeted at businesses whose rate demand in 2022 after application of the proposed increase, is no greater than €10,000. The proposal by Cllr Byrne has changed the amount to

€20,000. It was clarified that if a rate payer qualified for the scheme and was in arrears they could clear their arrears or make a payment plan with the Council which would enable them to avail of the scheme. The rates increase will apply to all rate payers.

It was explained that the loan for the County Buildings has been paid off. The provision of the sum of €500,000 in the budget for this loan that was made in previous years towards the funding of unfunded codes in the Capital account had not been provided in the draft 2022 budget.

Cllr. Canning asked if the proposed transfer of training funds related to this years or next years training budget.

The Chief Executive explained that the proposal put forward was for the transfer of €79,000 of training funding into NOM funding for 2022. He said that it was not possible to transfer money from the Members training account directly to Community Groups. He said that the Executive advice is that it is not appropriate for Members to allocate individual amounts to individual groups. Community groups, inclusive of the tidy towns committees, can make an application to the Community and Enterprise Section for funding. He highlighted that this transfer of funding was never recommended by the Executive and that it was not the correct process for disbursement of public money.

A number of Members expressed their dissatisfaction at not being able to transfer the training money directly to local groups.

Some Members who had requested the transfer of their training money to community groups stated that they did not want to transfer this money to NOM.

It was clarified that Members could leave their funding for Training in the Training Code or could transfer their allocation to NOM. The amended amount provided for each Member for Notice of Motion in 2022 is €11,128 and the amount that can be transferred from training to Notice of Motion is a maximum of 2,800

The Cathaoirleach said that the County Secretary would call out the names from a list of Members who had made a submission to transfer funding from the training budget for 2022 to Community Groups. He said that the Members could state their preference to retain the money in the training codes or transfer the amounts to NOM. The county Secretary called out the names and the Members stated their preference. Following

this process, the revised amount to be transferred from the training budget to the NOM budget was €57,300.

The Cathaoirleach then proceeded to a vote on the 2022 Budget to include the amended proposal.

The result of the vote was as follows;

FOR: (Vote 30)

Cllr. T. Broderick	Cllr. J. Byrne	Cllr. L. Carroll	Cllr. D. Collins
Cllr. M. Connolly	Cllr. G. Cronnelly	Cllr. J. Cuddy	Cllr. S. Curley
Cllr. A. Dolan	Cllr. G. Donuhue	Cllr. G. Finnerty	Cllr. D. Geraghty
Cllr. M. Hoade	Cllr C. Keaveney	Cllr. P. Keaveney	Cllr. D. Kelly
Cllr. D. Killilea	Cllr. G. King	Cllr. P. Mac an Iomaire	Cllr. M. Maher
Cllr. E. Mannion	Cllr. J. McClearn	Cllr. K. McHugh Farag	Cllr. A. McKinstry
Cllr. P.J Murphy	Cllr Dr.Francis Parsons	Cllr. A. Reddington	Cllr. P. Roche
Cllr. S. Walsh	Cllr. T. Welby		

AGAINST: (Vote 7)

Cllr. J. Charity	Cllr. D. Connolly	Comh. D O Cualain	Cllr. S. Herterich Quinn
Cllr M. Kinane	Cllr. J. Sheridan	Cllr N. Thomas	

ABSTAIN: (Vote 1)

Comh T O Curraoin

No-Voting: (Vote 1)

The Cathaoirleach advised that the Budget has been approved and then requested proposals and seconders for items 2-6 on the Agenda.

ITEM NO. 2 DETERMINATION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BUDGET ADOPTED, OF THE RATE ON VALUATION TO BE LEVIED FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 2022

It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Byrne, **SECONDED** by Cllr Welby and **AGREED**

“That Galway County Council hereby determine in accordance with the Budget adopted, of the rate on valuation to be levied for the financial year ending 31st of December 2022”.

ITEM NO. 3 RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE ESTIMATED OUTURNS 2021

It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr E. Mannion, **SECONDED** by Cllr McKinstry and **AGREED** “To pass a resolution to approve the estimated outturns for 2021.”

ITEM NO. 4 TO NOTE THE REPORT ON THE THREE YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAMME

Cllr McKinstry said that it was proposed at the CPG meeting that the amount of €30,000 from the Capital budget would be put towards live streaming of Council Meetings.

It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr McKinstry, **SECONDED** by Cllr Welby and **AGREED** to note the Report on the 3-year Capital Programme.

ITEM NO. 5 TO NOTE THE ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT ON THE GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL CORPORATE PLAN 2020 – 2024 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 134 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED)

It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. Maher, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Welby and **AGREED** to note the Annual Progress Report on the Galway County Council Corporate Plan 2020 – 2024.

ITEM NO. 6 TO APPROVE THE RATES PAYMENT INCENTIVE SCHEME

It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr McClearn **SECONDED** by Cllr Byrne and **AGREED** that the Rates Payment Incentive Scheme be approved subject to a revised eligibility threshold of €20,000 instead of €10,000.