

Minutes of the Statutory Budget Meeting of Galway City Council held in the Council Chamber, City Hall and virtually on MS Teams on Monday 4th December 2023 at 3.00 p.m.	
Presiding	Cllr. E. Hoare, Mayor of the City of Galway
Present	Councillors: D. Lyons, F Fahy, C Higgins, T O Flaherty, D McDonnell, J Connolly, P Keane, A Cheevers, N McNelis, M Cubbard, A Curran
Present (Online)	Councillors: N. Murphy, M O Connor, C Connolly, I Byrne, N. Larkin, M J Crowe
Officials Present	Ms. P. Philbin, Interim Chief Executive Ms. H. Kilroy, Head of Finance/Director of Services Mr. P. Greene, Director of Services Mr. B. Barrett, A/Director of Services Mr. U. Finn, A/Director of Services Ms. L. Fanning, A/Director of Services Ms. A. Rohan, Meetings Administrator Ms. L. Hynes, Financial Management Accountant Mr. G. McMahon, A/Senior Executive Officer Ms. A. Kenny, Administrative Officer Ms. A. Ní Chúláin, A/Assistant Staff Officer
Officials Present (Online)	Ms. S. Connolly, SE, Ms. C. Kehoe, FMA, Mr. D. Mahon, SEO, Ms. H. Martyn, A/SEO

Ms. A. Rohan, Meetings Administrator commenced the meeting with a statement of intention to conduct the business of the Meeting in line with Standing Orders followed by a moment of silent reflection.

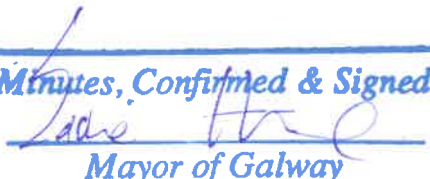
The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and suggested that the draft Annual Budget 2024 which was circulated on 27th November 2023, be taken as read. The Chair further proposed that the meeting finish at 6.00pm with a 15 minute break. This was Seconded by Cllr. D. McDonnell and agreed.

It was further agreed to take agenda items in the order 1, 2 & 3.

The Chair referred Members to agenda item 1 and invited Ms. H. Kilroy to present on this item.

Item 1: Consideration of Draft Annual Budget 2024 and adoption of Annual Budget 2024

Ms. H. Kilroy, Head of Finance, presented on this item.

Minutes, Confirmed & Signed

Mayor of Galway

A number of clarifications were raised by Elected Members and responded to by the Executive.

Cllr. F. Fahy proposed a Motion to adopt the Budget, with some amendments which were circulated to Councillors. This was seconded by Cllr. D. Lyons.

Councillors Budget Adjustments for GCC Budget 2024 - Monday 4th December 2023		
GCC Budget 2024	€121,374,553.00	
Councillors' Proposal for Budget 2024		
Budget Allocation Adjustments		
Details	Total	Code
Retrofitting of Knocknarra & Balinfoile Community Centre	€150,000.00	E1501
Planning Control	€130,000.00	D0201
Staffing	€100,000.00	VARIOUS
Vacancy Relief on Commercial Rates	€90,000.00	H0303
Museum Allocation	€25,000.00	F0503
Total Budget re-allocation as outlined below:	€495,000.00	
Details	Total	Code
Ball Nets Cappagh Park	€55,000.00	F0301
Glenard Continuation Works	€20,000.00	F0301
Knocknacarra Community Centre Staffing Additional Hours	€20,000.00	F0403
Footpath Improvements Central Ward	€20,000.00	B0406
Westside Park Perimeter Fencing	€20,000.00	F0301
Shantalla Neighbourhood Park	€18,000.00	F0301
Storage Facility Crestwood	€18,000.00	F0301
Blue Teapot - Grant	€15,000.00	F0401
Hopespace - Grant	€15,000.00	F0401
Salthill Village - Grant	€10,000.00	F0401
Oaklands Footpaths Repairs	€10,000.00	B0406



Ballyloughane Field TBD	€10,000.00	F0301
Seagrove Upgrade Lighting	€10,000.00	B0603
Ballybane Enhancement Scheme	€10,000.00	F0301
Landscaping Monalee Tennis Courts	€10,000.00	F0301
Knocknacarra additional footpath repairs and lights	€10,000.00	B0406
Planting Playground Projects	€10,000.00	F0302
Road Safety Measures Ashe & Davis Rd Shantalla	€10,000.00	B0701
Equipment Grant Sport's Clubs & Schools	€10,000.00	F0401
Park & Ride Trial Corrib Village	€10,000.00	B0603
Tirellan Residents Association - Grant	€10,000.00	F0401
Ballindooley Village Road Resurfacing	€10,000.00	B0406
Road Resurfacing Menlo Village	€10,000.00	B0406
Galway City Partnership - Provision of Mini-Bus - Grant	€10,000.00	F0401
South Park Works (Capital Fund)	€6,500.00	F0403
Galway Volunteer Centre - Grant	€7,000.00	F0401
Claddagh Enhancement Scheme	€7,000.00	F0403
Shantalla Enhancement Scheme	€7,000.00	F0403
Bohermore Enhancement Scheme	€7,000.00	F0403
Galway Film Society - Grant	€7,000.00	F0401
Defibrillators - Grant	€6,000.00	F0401
Amach LGBT - Grant	€6,000.00	F0401
Liam Mellowes Walkway seating	€5,000.00	F0301
Nolan Park Seating	€5,000.00	F0301
Water Station Ballyloughane	€5,000.00	F0301
Renmore Scouts Den - Grant	€5,000.00	F0401
Gaillimh Le Gaelge - Grant	€5,000.00	F0401
Croí na Gaillimhe - Grant	€5,000.00	F0401

Tirellan Boundary Wall	€5,000.00	B0406
Online Booking System Credit	€5,000.00	F0403
Castlelawn Walking Improvement Walking Project	€5,000.00	B0406
Resurfacing Works Cul de Sac Glenina Heights	€4,500.00	B0406
Polytunnel Shantalla Allotments	€4,000.00	F0403
Youth Activity Project - rolled out via GSP	€4,000.00	F0404
Footpaths in Salthill Project	€4,000.00	F0303
Gráinne Mhaoil Rowing Club - Grant	€4,000.00	F0401
Gaillimh Gallgóglagh - Grant	€3,500.00	F0401
Senior Citizen's Dinner - Grant	€3,000.00	F0401
Sports Mental Health Project - rolled out via GSP	€3,000.00	F0404
Women's Shed - Grant	€2,500.00	F0401
Phase 2 Greening of Laneway Redlane/Mural	€2,000.00	F0301
Nora Barnacle Museum	€2,000.00	F0401
Shantalla Men's Shed - Grant	€1,000.00	F0401
Friends of Merlin Woods - Grant	€1,000.00	F0401
Galway Community Circus - Grant	€1,000.00	F0401
Youth Matters Project Fund - Grant	€1,000.00	F0401
Corrib Rangers Drive for 2025 Support - Grant	€1,000.00	F0401
Defibrillator Training for Sports Clubs - Grant	€1,000.00	F0401
Galway West-End - Grant	€1,000.00	F0401
Bushypark Active Retirement Group - Grant	€1,000.00	F0401
Westside Active Retirement Group Grant	€1,000.00	F0401
Total Budget Allocation Councillors	€495,000.00	

A discussion followed and a number of clarifications were raised by Elected Members and responded to by the Executive.

Cllr. C. Connolly queried a motion she submitted in relation to the status of Galway and its current status level for Central Government funding.

The meeting administrator agreed to follow up on Cllr. C. Connolly's motion's progress.

The Chair referred to the proposal from Cllr. F. Fahy and Seconded by Cllr. D. Lyons and moved to adopt the draft budget with amendments.

Ms. A. Rohan, Meetings Administrator proceeded to take a Vote as follows:

Proposed by Cllr. F. Fahy	Seconded by Cllr. D. Lyons
That Galway City Council approve the Draft Annual Budget 2024 subject to the amendments outlined in the table circulated at the meeting.	
In Favour: 18 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 18 The Motion was carried, and the draft budget 2024 adopted.	

The Chair referred members to a motion proposed by Cllr. T. O'Flaherty and invited comments.

Cllr. T. O'Flaherty proposed a motion for the provision of new public toilets at Ballyloughane and that these works be done as early as possible in 2024. This was Seconded by Cllr. C. Connolly and agreed.

Ms. A. Rohan, Meetings Administrator proceeded to take a Vote as follows:

Proposed by Cllr. T. O'Flaherty	Seconded by Cllr. C. Connolly
That Galway City Council provide new public toilets at Ballyloughane and that these works would be done as early as possible in 2024.	
In Favour: 18 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 18 The Motion was carried.	

Item 2: Determination in accordance with the Annual Budget adopted of the Annual Rate on Valuation to be levied for the several purposes specified in the Annual Budget for the financial year ending 31st December 2024.

The Chair referred members to agenda item no. 2 and invited comments.

Proposed by Cllr. D. Lyons	Seconded by Cllr. N. McNelis
That the Annual Rate on valuation to be levied for the several purposes specified in the Annual Budget for the financial year ending 31 st December 2024 be €0.217	
In Favour: 16 Against: 2 Abstain: 0 Present: 18 The Motion was carried and the Annual Rate on Valuation of €0.217 was adopted.	

Item 3: That Galway City Council makes a scheme for the abatement of rates due to it by liable persons, or classes of liable persons, in respect of vacant properties in accordance with the provisions of Section 9 of the Local Government Rates and Other Matters Act 2019, as amended. Such a scheme in respect of vacant property will provide for an abatement of 36.5% of rates due to Galway City Council by a liable person for the financial year ending 31st December 2024.

The Chair referred Members to agenda item No.3 and invited comments.

Cllr. D. Lyons proposed that the 36.5% be reduced to 30%. This was Seconded by Cllr. M. O'Connor and agreed.

Proposed by Cllr. D. Lyons	Seconded by Cllr. M. O'Connor
That Galway City Council makes a scheme for the abatement of rates due to it by liable persons, or classes of liable persons, in respect of vacant properties in accordance with the provisions of Section 9 of the Local Government Rates and Other Matters Act 2019, as amended. Such a scheme in respect of vacant property will provide for an abatement of 30% of rates due to Galway City Council by a liable person for the financial year ending 31 st December 2024.	
In Favour: 18 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 18	
The Motion was carried and adopted.	

The Chair thanked the Ms. P. Philbin, Ms. H. Kilroy and the Finance team for all their work in preparing the draft budget for 2024.

The Meeting concluded at 17.34