

**Minutes of Corporate Policy Group meeting held on
Monday, 2nd October, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. in the Boardroom
Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.**

Present: Cllrs. G. Keating, G. Flynn, J Crowe, P. McMahon , I Lynch and J. Flynn.

MS Teams: Cllr. P Hayes

Apologies: P. Daly

Officials Present: Pat Dowling, Chief Executive
Noeleen Fitzgerald, Director of Service
Trina Rynne, Financial Accountant
Siobhan McNulty, A/Director of Service.
Ann Reynolds, Senior Executive Officer

Leas Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Gabriel Keating presided.

1. Minutes of meeting held on 4th September 2023.

The minutes of the C.P.G. meeting held on 4th September 2023 were approved, having been proposed by Cllr. G. Flynn and seconded by Cllr. J. Crowe.

2. Headed Items and Notices of Motion for September Council Meeting.

The draft agenda was circulated to the members and the headed items and notices of motion were discussed and reviewed.

3. Budget 2024

Noeleen Fitzgerald gave a presentation on the draft budget 2024, providing an overview of Local Property Tax Baseline Review 2023, rates revaluation, Pension and Payroll costs, Insurance, inflation and energy costs and Uisce Éireann changes. The members welcomed the increase in the LPT baseline allocation. The members discussed the various challenges and noted the difficulties being encountered in staff recruitment and the level of acting positions. Dates were agreed for Council Budget workshops on 15th and 22nd November and a further CPG meeting was scheduled for 1st November.

4. Any other business:

- Cllr. Ian Lynch requested that the vacant SEO post in North Clare would be filled as soon as possible. Pat Dowling advised that the recent Director of Services interviews had concluded, and the appointment process will now commence which will be followed by appointment of vacant SEO post.

- Siobhan McNulty provided an update on the main changes in the delivery of Water Services in line with the new Master Cooperation agreement. Irish Water, now known as Uisce Éireann, has taken direct management control of the water services in Clare from 20th September 2023. On 31st December 2026 the Master Co-Operation Agreement will conclude and the local authority sector will cease to have any further involvement in the provision of water services. A full update will be included in the October monthly management report.

*Ann Reynolds, Senior Executive Officer,
Corporate Services.*

2nd October 2023