



Miontuairiscí/Meeting Minutes

Statutory Budget Meeting

21st November, 2016 - 2.00p.m. - Council Chamber

An Cathaoirleach, Councillor Maria Murphy, presided.

Members Present:

Councillors Joe Bonner, Sinéad Burke, Eugene Cassidy, Francis Deane, Seán Drew, Eimear Ferguson, Pádraig Fitzsimons, Brian Fitzgerald, Enda Flynn, Wayne Forde, Joe Fox, Noel French, Michael Gallagher, David Gilroy, , Johnny Guirke, Wayne Harding, Suzanne Jamal, Tom Kelly, Sharon Keogan, Nick Killian, Caroline Lynch, Ronan McKenna, Paddy Meade, Gerry O'Connor, Claire O' Driscoll, Maria O' Kane, Damien O' Reilly, Darren O' Rourke, Bryan Reilly, Joe Reilly, Sarah Reilly, Tommy Reilly, Seán Smith, Alan Tobin, Sharon Tolan, Gillian Toole.

Apologies: Trevor Golden, Stephen McKee

Officials in Attendance:

Chief Executive: Jackie Maguire

Directors of Service: Kevin Stewart, Fiona Lawless, Des Foley, Barry Lynch.

Meetings Administrator Olive Falsey

Senior Executive Officers: Michael Griffin, Dara McGowan

Finance Staff: Paul Timoney, Sheila Harkin, Ger Soady.

1. To consider the Draft Budget circulated herewith for the Financial Year on 31st. December, 2017.

The Cathaoirleach opened the meeting and called on the Head of Finance to make the formal presentation.

Fiona Lawless, Head of Finance, presented the details of expenditure across the service divisions A – J as follows:

- Service Division A – Housing and Building
- Service Division B – Road Transport and Safety
- Service Division C – Water Services
- Service Division D – Development Management
- Service division E – Environmental Services
- Service Division F – Recreation and Amenity
- Service Division G – Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare
- Service Division H – Miscellaneous Services
- Service Division J – Central Management Charges

Following the presentation, the Cathaoirleach thanked the Chief Executive and the Head of Finance for their work in preparing and presenting the budget and



Miontuairiscí/Meeting Minutes

particularly for the detailed presentation of information to all the Councillors at the Municipal District meetings.

The Chief Executive addressed the meeting and noted that the proposed expenditure of €104,642,530, in 2017 would ensure the continuation of existing levels of services and make increased provision in a number of areas including:

- Maintenance and improvement of Local Authority Housing Units increased by €437k.
- Homeless Services increased by €362k
- Mobility Aids Housing Grants increased by €200k to a total budget in 2017 of €1.5m.
- Increased provision of €432k from Council's own resources towards county road maintenance.
- Additional staffing in Community, Environment, LEO office and outdoor areas.

The Chief Executive noted that the Council's decision to retain the Local Property Tax at the existing rate enabled financial provision for:

- Economic Development and implementation of the actions agreed in the Council's Economic Strategy - €300,000
- €350k has been provided for the continuation and expansion of the Small Business Support Scheme.
- Planned programme of road and footpath improvements in Housing Estates - €300,000
- Municipal District Allocation - €480,000

The Chief Executive thanked the Cathaoirleach, the members of the CPG and the elected Councillors for their input into the Draft Budget and recommended the Statutory Budget for adoption.

The main comments and items discussed included:

Councillors welcomed the budget as progressive and positive for the county and noted:

- The increase in Housing expenditure.
- No increase in rent or commercial rates.
- The extension of the Business Support Scheme.

The main issues raised included:

- Disappointment at the allocation of funding from central Government.
- The need for significantly more funding for housing services.



Miontuairiscí/Meeting Minutes

- The roadworks programme and the need to address road conditions in North Meath.
 - The issues in regard to the CIS scheme.
 - Road gritting routes and the need to address the salting of rural roads including Lobinstown.
 - The need for safety audits at schools.
 - The need for a civic amenity site in Ashbourne.
2. Meath County Council adopts, for the financial year ending 31st December 2017 the Annual Budget set out in Tables A – F.

It was proposed to adopt the annual Budget on the proposal of **Councillor Gerry O' Connor** and seconded by **Councillor Brian Fitzgerald**.

A vote on the proposal to adopt the Budget was called as follows:

Councillor	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Clrr. Joseph Bonner	For			
Clrr Sinead Burke		Against		
Clrr. Eugene Cassidy	For			
Clrr. Francis Deane	For			
Clrr Sean Drew	For			
Clrr. Eimear Ferguson		Against		
Clrr Pdraig Fitzsimons	For			
Clrr. Brian Fitzgerald	For			
Clrr. Enda Flynn	For			
Clrr. Wayne Forde		Against		
Clrr. Joe Fox	For			
Clrr. Noel French	For			
Clrr. Michael Gallagher		Against		
Clrr. David Gilroy	For			
Clrr. Trevor Golden				Absent
Clrr. Johnny Guirke		Against		
Clrr. Wayne Harding	For			
Clrr. James Holloway	For			
Clrr. Suzanne Jamal	For			
Clrr. Tom Kelly				Absent
Clrr. Sharon Keogan	For			
Clrr. Nick Killian	For			
Clrr. Caroline Lynch		Against		



Miontuairiscí/Meeting Minutes

Cllr. Stephen McKee				Absent
Cllr. Ronan McKenna	For			
Cllr. Paddy Meade	For			
Cllr. Maria Murphy	For			
Cllr. Gerry O' Connor	For			
Cllr. Claire O' Driscoll	For			
Cllr. Maria O' Kane				Absent
Cllr. Damien O' Reilly	For			
Cllr. Darren O' Rourke		Against		
Cllr. Bryan Reilly	For			
Cllr. Joe Reilly		Against		
Cllr. Sarah Reilly	For			
Cllr. Tommy Reilly	For			
Cllr. Sean Smith	For			
Cllr. Alan Tobin	For			
Cllr. Sharon Tolan	For			
Cllr. Gillian Toole	For			
Result	28	8		4

The Statutory Budget was duly adopted.

- That Meath County Council determines in accordance with the Budget as adopted the rate as set out in Table A and Column (7) of Table C to be the annual rate on valuation to be levied for the financial year ending 31st December 2017 for the purposes set out in Table A and Table C.

Unanimously adopted on the proposal of **Cathaoirleach Councillor Maria Murphy** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O' Connor**.

- Formal Determination of the Rates Vacancy Refund Rate

Unanimously adopted on the proposal of **Cathaoirleach Councillor Maria Murphy** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O' Connor**.

- That Meath County Council approves of the transfer to capital account of the sums provided for various capital purposes in the Annual Budget for 2017 as adopted.

Adopted, on the proposal of **Cathaoirleach Councillor Maria Murphy** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O' Connor**, by all present with the exception of **Councillor Seán Drew** who noted his dissent.



Miontuairiscí/Meeting Minutes

6. That Meath County Council approves the estimated over expenditure for financial year 31st December 2016 as set out in Table A – F and outturn details.

Unanimously adopted on the proposal of **Cathaoirleach Councillor Maria Murphy** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O' Connor**.

7. To adopt the Business Support Scheme, 2017 in accordance with Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2001

Unanimously adopted on the proposal of **Cathaoirleach Councillor Maria Murphy** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O' Connor**.

The Chief Executive concluded by thanking the Head of Finance and her staff for their work in compiling the Draft Budget.

This concluded the business of the meeting.