



## *Miontuairiscí/Meeting Minutes*

### **Statutory Budget Meeting**

**19th November, 2018 – 1.30pm. - Council Chamber**

**An Chathaoirleach**, Councillor Tom Kelly, presided.

#### **Councillors Present:**

Councillors Joe Bonner, Sinéad Burke, Eugene Cassidy, Francis Deane, Seán Drew, Edward Fennessy, Eimear Ferguson, Brian Fitzgerald, Padraig Fitzsimons, Enda Flynn, Wayne Forde, Joe Fox, Noel French, Michael Gallagher, David Gilroy, Trevor Golden, Johnny Guirke, Wayne Harding, Jim Holloway, Suzanne Jamal, Sharon Keogan, Nick Killian, Caroline Lynch, Stephen McKee, Ronan McKenna, Paddy Meade, Maria Murphy, Gerry O' Connor, Claire O' Driscoll, Damien O' Reilly, Darren O' Rourke, Bryan Reilly, Sarah Reilly, Tommy Reilly, Alan Tobin, Sharon Tolan

Apologies: Cllrs. Maria Uí Ruairc, Gillian Toole,

#### **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:** Dara McGowan, Robert Collins

**Finance Staff:** Paul Timoney, Sheila Harkin, Ger Soady, Ailie Dempsey

1. To consider the Draft Budget circulated herewith for the Financial Year on 31<sup>st</sup>. December, 2019.

The Cathaoirleach opened the meeting and called on the Chief Executive to address the Councillors.

Chief Executive, Jackie Maguire, addressed the meeting and noted that the Budget for 2019 provides for expenditure of €123,941,815, which is an increase of €13,188,415 on the 2018 budget. It was noted that the 2019 budget has no increase in rents, rates or property tax.

The Chief Executive noted that the increase in rates revenue was very positive and was largely due to the Economic Strategy and the efficient management of the rates account.

The Chief Executive also noted that this was the last budget of the current Council and that, over the period of the Council, the overall expenditure had increased with particular investment in critical areas.



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The Chief Executive also noted that the focus of the budget would be to ensure the continuation of existing levels of services and make increased provisions in areas such as housing, roads and the protection of the environment.

Fiona Lawless, Head of Finance, then made a presentation to the Councillors on the Draft Budget for the Financial Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019. The presentation included information on:

- Budgeted expenditure 2015 v 2019
- Analysis of income 2019 v 2015
- 2019 LPT Calculation for Meath County Council – Circular 14/2014
- Commercial Rates
- Analysis of Expenditure

The presentation also outlined the Annual Budget 2019 by Service division 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 particularly for the detailed presentation of information at the Municipal District meetings.

Councillors were then given an opportunity for questions and comments.

The main comments and items discussed included:

- The increases in expenditure, with no increases in LPT or commercial rates, over the five year period were noted.
- It was noted that central funding per head of population is the lowest in the country, and the Department should be consistently made aware of this situation.
- Spend on housing adaptation grants was welcomed.
- The delay in completing the pipeline at Staleen was noted and the issues associated with water disruption.
- Concern in regard to legal costs and a suggestion that the Council should have its own legal department.
- Civic amenity site needed for Ashbourne.
- The positive effects of the Town and Village Renewal Scheme were noted.



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- The reduction in the entry fee to the recycling centres was welcomed.
- Transport challenges for people commuting out of the county were noted.
- The need for community facilities in East Meath was noted.
- EU fund office should be established in the county.

Responses and clarifications were provided by the Chief Executive, the Head of Finance and the relevant Directors of Services.

2. Meath County Council adopts, for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 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 |
|-------------------------|-----|---------|---------|--------|
| Cllr. Joseph Bonner     | For |         |         |        |
| Cllr Sinead Burke       |     | Against |         |        |
| Cllr. Eugene Cassidy    | For |         |         |        |
| Cllr. Francis Deane     | For |         |         |        |
| Cllr. Sean Drew         | For |         |         |        |
| Cllr. Edward Fennessy   |     | Against |         |        |
| Cllr. Eimear Ferguson   |     | Against |         |        |
| Cllr. Brian Fitzgerald  | For |         |         |        |
| Cllr Pdraig Fitzsimons  | For |         |         |        |
| Cllr. Enda Flynn        |     |         |         | Absent |
| Cllr. Wayne Forde       | For |         |         |        |
| Cllr. Joe Fox           | For |         |         |        |
| Cllr. Noel French       | For |         |         |        |
| Cllr. Michael Gallagher |     | Against |         |        |
| Cllr. David Gilroy      | For |         |         |        |
| Cllr. Trevor Golden     | For |         |         |        |
| Cllr. Johnny Guirke     |     | Against |         |        |
| Cllr. Wayne Harding     | For |         |         |        |
| Cllr. James Holloway    | For |         |         |        |
| Cllr. Suzanne Jamal     | For |         |         |        |
| Cllr. Tom Kelly         | For |         |         |        |
| Cllr. Sharon Keogan     | For |         |         |        |



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|                          |           |          |  |          |
|--------------------------|-----------|----------|--|----------|
| Cllr. Nick Killian       | For       |          |  |          |
| Cllr. Caroline Lynch     |           | Against  |  |          |
| Cllr. Stephen McKee      | For       |          |  |          |
| Cllr. Ronan McKenna      | For       |          |  |          |
| Cllr. Paddy Meade        | For       |          |  |          |
| Cllr. Maria Murphy       | For       |          |  |          |
| Cllr. Gerry O' Connor    | For       |          |  |          |
| Cllr. Claire O' Driscoll | For       |          |  |          |
| Cllr. Damien O' Reilly   | For       |          |  |          |
| Cllr. Darren O' Rourke   |           | Against  |  |          |
| Cllr. Bryan Reilly       | For       |          |  |          |
| Cllr. Sarah Reilly       | For       |          |  |          |
| Cllr. Tommy Reilly       | For       |          |  |          |
| Cllr. Maria Uí Ruairc    |           |          |  | Absent   |
| Cllr. Alan Tobin         | For       |          |  |          |
| Cllr. Sharon Tolan       | For       |          |  |          |
| Cllr. Gillian Toole      | For       |          |  | Absent   |
| <b>Result</b>            | <b>29</b> | <b>7</b> |  | <b>3</b> |

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 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 for the purposes set out in Table A and Table C – the rate @ 69.6245 and net effective valuation €534,488

Unanimously adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Nick Killian**.

- Formal Determination of the Rates Vacancy Refund Rate

Unanimously adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Ronan McKenna**.

- That Meath County Council approves of the transfer to capital account of the sums provided for various capital purposes in the Annual Budget for 2019 as adopted.

Unanimously adopted, on the proposal of **Councillor Ronan McKenna** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O' Connor**.



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6. That Meath County Council approves the estimated over expenditure for financial year 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018 as set out in Table A – F and outturn details.

Unanimously adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Gerry O' Connor** and seconded by **Councillor Brian Fitzgerald**.

7. To adopt the Business Support Scheme, 2019 in accordance with Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2001

Unanimously adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Padraig Fitzsimons** and seconded by **Councillor Ronan McKenna**.

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.