

Minutes of the Statutory Budget Meeting of Louth County Council held in County Hall, Dundalk on Monday 17th November, 2014 following the ordinary November meeting.

In attendance:

Leas Cathaoirleach: Cllr. M. Butler.

Members: Councillors: P. Bell, D. Breathnach, T. Byrne, K. Callan, A. Cassidy, E. Corrigan, R. Culhane, T. Cunningham, M. Dearey, M. Doyle, K. Flood, F. Godfrey, J. Green, C. Keelan, J. Loughran, C. Markey, J. McGahon, P. McGeough, K. Meenan, D. Minogue, I. Munster, L. Reilly, P. Savage, T. Sharkey, P. Smith, J. Tenanty, M. Yore

Officials
J. Martin, Chief Executive
B. Woods, Head of Finance
F. Pentony, Director of Services
J. McGuinness, Director of Services
M. T. Daly, A/Director of Services
R. McAuley, Financial Accountant
B. Lynch, Financial Accountant
D. Storey, Senior Executive Officer
G. Kelly, Senior Engineer
P. Finn, Senior Engineer
B. Fennell, County Librarian
J. Smith, Administrative Officer
P. Donnelly, Meetings Administrator

Apologies Cllr. O. Tully

Minute No. 294/14

Draft Budget 2015

The Leas Cathaoirleach formally opened the meeting to consider the Draft Budget for 2015. Following an adjournment for lunch the meeting was reconvened and the Chief Executive set out the key elements of the budget.

In the presentation the Chief Executive set out that the Draft Budget provides for expenditure totalling €93.05 million and an income of €50.22 million. The balance of €42.83 million to be funded from a combination of Local Property Tax, General

Purpose Grant, the Pension related deductions from Staff remunerations and commercial rates.

It was highlighted to the members that this was the first budget in six years that no reduction in spending was proposed and that expenditure levels proposed were as in the current year.

The Members were advised that they would be required in the process of confirming the budget to also confirm by resolution the following:

- The base rate to be set at €60.00
- The refund percentage to apply on rates on vacant premises.

Minute No. 295 /14

Budget Programme proposals

The Directors of Service with responsibility for the various service deliveries and statutory functions outlined the expenditure profiles for their respective Directorates and addressed the member's queries in regard to the expenditure and income proposals.

Minute No. 296/14

Rate Refund on Vacant Property – (Amendment)

Proposed by: Cllr M. Dearey

Seconded by: Cllr. F. Godfrey

That the refund rate on vacant properties be 80%

For: Cllrs. M. Butler, M. Dearey, M. Doyle, F. Godfrey, C. Markey, J. McGahon, D. Minogue, L Reilly

Total : **Eight (8)**

Against: Cllrs. P. Bell, D. Breathnach, T. Byrne, K. Callan, A. Cassidy, E. Corrigan, R. Culhane, T. Cunningham, K. Flood, J. Green, C. Keelan, J. Loughran, P. McGeough, K. Meenan, I. Munster, P. Savage, T. Sharkey, P. Smith, J. Tenanty, M. Yore

Total : **Twenty (20)**

Abstain: None (0)

Absent: Cllr. Tully – one (1)

The amendment to the motion fell.

Minute No. 297/14

Rate Refund on Vacant Property

Proposed by: Cllr M. Butler

Seconded by: Cllr. P. Bell

And resolved

That the refund on vacant properties that are vacant for a whole year be at a rate of 50% as recommending by the Chief Executive in the budget document.

For: Cllrs. P. Bell, K. Callan, A. Cassidy, E. Corrigan, R. Culhane, T. Cunningham, K. Flood, J. Green, C. Keelan, J. Loughran, P. McGeough, K. Meenan, I. Munster, L. Reilly, T. Sharkey, P. Smith, J. Tenanty, M. Yore

Total : **Eighteen (18)**

Against: Cllrs. D. Breathnach, M. Butler, T. Byrne, M. Dearey, M. Doyle, F. Godfrey, C. Markey, J. McGahon, D. Minogue, P. Savage

Total : **Ten (10)**

Abstain: None (0)

Absent: Cllr. Tully – one (1)

The motion was carried.

Minute No. 298/14

Base Rate

Proposed by: Cllr K. Callan

Seconded by: Cllr. M. Dearey

And resolved

That as per the Chief Executives recommendation set out in the Budget Document to set the base rate for County Louth at €60.00

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For: Cllrs. P. Bell, D. Breathnach, M. Butler T. Byrne, K. Callan, A. Cassidy, E. Corrigan, R. Culhane, T. Cunningham, M. Dearey, M. Doyle, K. Flood, F. Godfrey, J. Green, C. Keelan, J. Loughran, C. Markey, J. McGahon, P. McGeough, K. Meenan, D. Minogue, I. Munster, L. Reilly, P. Savage, T. Sharkey, P. Smith, J. Tenanty, M. Yore

Total : **Twenty-seven (27)**

Against: Cllr. P. Savage - one **(1)**

Abstain: None **(0)**

Absent: Cllr. Tully – one **(1)**

The motion was carried.

Minute No. 299/14

Conference allocations

Proposed by: Cllr P. Smith
Seconded by: Cllr. T. Byrne
And resolved

That the budget be amended to reflect the transfer from Conference allocations the sum of €17,800 to the Members Community allocations.

The amendment was agreed.

Minute No. 300/14

Allowances for Cathaoirleigh

Proposed by: Cllr I. Munster
Seconded by: Cllr. E. Corrigan
And resolved

That the budget be amended in order that the combined total of the allowances (€78,000) payable to the Cathaoirleach, Leas Cathaoirleach, Cathaoirleach and Mayor of the respective Municipal Districts and Cathaoirleach of Strategic Policy Committees not be paid and that the amount be transferred for the purpose of Housing adaptation grants.

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For: Cllrs. P. Bell, K. Callan, A. Cassidy, E. Corrigan, T. Cunningham, K. Flood, F. Godfrey, J. Green, J. Loughran, P. McGeough, K. Meenan, I. Munster, T. Sharkey, P. Smith, M. Yore

Total – **Fifteen (15)**

Against: Cllrs. D. Breathnach, M. Butler, T. Byrne, R. Culhane, M. Dearey, M. Doyle, C. Keelan, C. Markey, J. McGahon, D. Minogue, L. Reilly, P. Savage, J. Tenanty

Total – **Thirteen (13)**

Abstain: None (0)

Absent: Cllr. Tully – one (1)

The amendment was agreed.

Minute No. 301/14

Budget 2015

Proposed by: Cllr M. Butler

Seconded by: Cllr. K. Callan

And resolved

That having considered the Draft Budget, and subject to the provisions of Section 103 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended by the Local Government Reform Act 2014) resolve to adopt the Draft Budget for 2015 with amendments set out above and subject to section 10 of the Local Government (Financial Provisions) Act 1978, determine in accordance with the local authority budget as so adopted (as set out in Tables A to F), the annual rate on valuation to be levied and where appropriate, have regard to the base year adjustment determined in accordance with Section 29 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014.

For: Cllrs. P. Bell, D. Breathnach, M. Butler T. Byrne, K. Callan, R. Culhane, M. Doyle, F. Godfrey, C. Keelan, C. Markey, J. McGahon, D. Minogue, L. Reilly, P. Smith, J. Tenanty, M. Yore –

Total : **Sixteen (16)**

Against: Cllrs. A. Cassidy, E. Corrigan, T. Cunningham, M. Dearey, K. Flood, J. Green, J. Loughran, P. McGeough, K. Meenan, I. Munster, P. Savage, T. Sharkey

Total : **Twelve (12)**

Abstain: None **(0)**

Absent: Cllr. O. Tully – one **(1)**

The Leas Cathaoirleach confirmed the Budget for 2015 approved.

That concluded the business of the meeting.

The Minutes were confirmed at a meeting of Council held on:-

Date: _____

Cathaoirleach: _____

Meetings Administrator: _____