

## *Minutes of September Ordinary Council Meeting 2014*

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Minutes of Ordinary Meeting (2nd Adjournment) of Louth County Council held in County Hall, Dundalk at 5.00 p.m. on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2014.

### **In attendance:**

**Cathaoirleach:** Cllr. O. Tully.

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

**Officials** J. Martin, Chief Executive  
F. Pentony, Director of Services  
J. McGuinness Director of Services  
B. Woods, Head of Finance  
M. T. Daly A/ Director of Services  
E. Woulfe, Chief Fire Officer  
P. Donnelly, Meetings Administrator

**Apologies** Cllrs. A. Cassidy, J. Green & P. Savage,

### **Minute No. 231/14**

#### **Local Property Tax Local Adjustment Factor for 2015**

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Oliver Tully reconvened the ordinary meeting of Council adjourned at the meeting of Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2014.

The Cathaoirleach thanked the Chief Executive and the Management Team for facilitating the very informative workshop on the matter of the Local Property Tax Local Adjustment Factor for 2015 on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September and thanked the members who had attended.

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The business of the meeting is to consider by resolution the setting of a local adjustment factor in accordance with The Finance (Local Property Tax) Act 2012 as amended.

The Cathaoirleach set out that the following proposals and amendments were tabled to date:

**Proposal A.** Proposed by Cllr. Callan  
Seconded by Cllr. Culhane

That the LPT be reduced by 2.4% and that the time is taken to find savings that would facilitate a 15% reduction in the LPT.

**Amendment to A.**

Proposed by Cllr. P. Smith  
Seconded by Cllr. P. Bell

As no savings have been found to date, that LCC leave the current rate of property tax in place for 2015, introduce a participatory budgeting method, approved by the CPG, that informs, consults and allows ordinary people to participate in the budgetary process and begin the process of looking for savings, that if found, could be used to reduce the property tax by the maximum amount.

**Proposal B.** Proposed by Cllr. I. Munster  
Seconded by Cllr. E. Corrigan

That the LPT be reduced by 15%

**Amendment to B.**

Proposed by Cllr. M. Dearey  
Seconded by Cllr. M. Butler

That the LPT rate remains unchanged.

**Minute No. 232/14**

There followed a lengthy discussion in the matter during which the Chief Executive and The Head of Finance responded to and clarified the members queries.

The Chief Executive did point out to the members that the legislation and circulars are clear in that the Members "Shall have regard as to the advice and assistance of the Chief Executive."

**Minute No. 233/14**

**Proposed by:** Cllr. D. Breathnach  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. F. Godfrey  
**and resolved:**

That correspondence issue to Minister Kelly and the Taoiseach outlining the extreme difficulty the council finds itself in the current circumstances and that Louth County Council be considered as a pilot for a participatory budgeting scheme.

This was agreed.

**Minute No. 234/14**

Proposed by: Cllr. D. Breathnach  
Seconded by: Cllr. T. Byrne

That the LPT be reduced by 7.5% over two years.

The Chief Executive clarified that it was not possible to consider the local adjustment factor in respect of the LPT over a two year period as members must have reference to income and expenditure reports, details of the public consultation for the period and the Chief Executives report on the matter. There was no provision in law for providing these and therefore the matter was ruled out of order.

**Minute No. 235/14**

Following discussion on the possibility of a 2% reduction the Chief Executive set out in broad terms how she might achieve a 2% saving which would not result in a major impact of Services. On that basis Cllr. Smith agreed to change his Amendment to reflect a 2% adjustment.

**Minute No. 236/14**

**Voting on Proposal and amendments**

The Cathaoirleach concluded the debate and directed that voting proceed on the proposals and amendments.

**Minute No. 237/14**

**Amendment to Proposal A.**

Proposed by Cllr. P. Smith  
Seconded by Cllr. P. Bell

As savings equating to 2% have been identified, that LCC adjust the current rate of property tax in place for 2015 by 2%, introduce a participatory budgeting method, approved by the CPG, which informs, consults and allows ordinary people to participate in the budgetary process.

There followed a roll call vote

**For:** Cllrs. Bell, Callan, Culhane, Doyle, Markey, McGahon, Minogue, Smith, Tenanty, Tully, Yore **Total: 11 (Eleven)**

**Against:** Cllrs. Breathnach, Butler, Byrne, Corrigan, Cunningham, Dearey, Flood, Keelan, Loughran, McGeough, Meenan, Munster, Reilly, Sharkey **Total: 14 (Fourteen)**

**Absent:** Cllrs. Cassidy, Green, Savage **Total: 3 (Three)**

The amendment was defeated.

**Minute No. 238/14**

**A.** Proposed by Cllr. Callan  
Seconded by Cllr. Culhane

That the LPT be reduced by 2.4% and that the time is taken to find savings that would facilitate a 15% reduction in the LPT.

This Proposal was withdrawn.

**Minute No. 239/14**

**Amendment to Proposal B.**

Proposed by Cllr. M. Dearey  
Seconded by Cllr. M. Butler

That the LPT rate remains unchanged.

There followed a Roll Call Vote.

**For:** Cllrs. Bell, Butler Dearey, Smith **Total: 4 (Four)**

**Against:** Cllrs. Breathnach, Byrne, Callan, Corrigan, Culhane, Cunningham, Doyle, Flood, Godfrey, Keelan, Loughran, Markey, McGahon, McGeough, Meenan, Minogue, Munster, Reilly, Sharkey, Tenanty, Tully, **Total: 21 (Twenty one)**

**Abstain:** Cllr. Yore **1 (one)**

**Absent:** Cllrs. Cassidy, Green, Savage **Total: 3 (Three)**

The amendment was defeated.

**Minute No. 240/14**

**Proposal B.** Proposed by Cllr. I. Munster  
Seconded by Cllr. E. Corrigan

That the LPT be adjusted downward by 15%

There followed a Roll Call Vote.

**For:** Cllrs. Breathnach, Byrne, Corrigan, Cunningham, Flood, Godfrey, Loughran, McGeough, Meenan, Munster, Reilly, Sharkey **Total: 12 (Twelve)**

**Against:** Cllrs. Bell, Butler, Callan, Culhane, Dearey, Doyle, Keelan, Markey, McGahon, Minogue, Smith, Tenanty, Tully, Yore **Total: 14 (Fourteen)**

**Absent:** Cllrs. Cassidy, Green, Savage **Total: 3 (Three)**

The proposal was defeated.

**Minute No. 241/14**

**Proposal C.** Proposed by Cllr. D. Breathnach  
Seconded by Cllr. T. Byrne

That the LPT be adjusted downward by 7.5%

**Amendment to Proposal C.**

Proposed by Cllr. K. Callan  
Seconded by Cllr. R. Culhane

That the LPT rate be adjusted downward by 1.5% for 2015 and Council introduce a participatory budgeting method, approved by the CPG, which informs, consults and allows ordinary people to participate in the budgetary process.

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There followed a Roll Call Vote.

**For:** Cllrs. Bell, Butler, Callan, Culhane, Dearey, Doyle, Markey, McGahon, Minogue, Smith, Tenanty, Tully, Yore **Total: 13 (Thirteen)**

**Against:** Cllrs. Breathnach, Byrne, Corrigan, Cunningham, Flood, Godfrey, Keelan, Loughran, McGeough, Meenan, Munster, Reilly, Sharkey **Total: 13 (Thirteen)**

**Absent:** Cllrs. Cassidy, Green, Savage **Total: 3 (Three)**

As there was an equality in respect of those voting **For** and **Against** the Cathaoirleach did as provided for in Standing Order 14 (ii) (b) exercise his casting vote **For** the Amendment.

The amendment was carried.

That concluded the business of the meeting.

**Minute No. 242/14**

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Cathaoirleach: \_\_\_\_\_

Meetings Administrator: \_\_\_\_\_