

# Budget Meeting 30th November 2017

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Minutes of Budget Meeting of Louth County Council held in County Hall, Dundalk on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2017 @ 6.00 p.m.

## **In attendance:**

**Cathaoirleach:** Cllr. C. Markey

**Members:** Councillors: P. Bell, M. Butler T. Byrne, K. Callan A. Campbell, E. Corrigan, R. Culhane, T. Cunningham, M. Dearey, M. Doyle, K. Flood, F. Godfrey, C. Keelan, J. McGahon, P. McGeough, R. O' Murchu, D. Minogue, L. Reilly, D. Saurin, P. Savage, T. Sharkey, P. Smith, J. Tenanty, O. Tully, A. Watters, M. Yore

**Apologies :** Cllrs. J. Byrne

**Absent :** Cllr. E. Coffey

**Officials:** J. Martin, Chief Executive  
F. Pentony, Director of Services  
J. McGuinness, Director of Services  
E. O' Gorman, Director of Services  
P. Donnelly, Director of Services  
B. Woods, Head of Finance  
A. Sherry, Meetings Administrator  
B. Lynch, Financial Accountant  
R. McAuley, Financial Accountant  
P. Finn, Senior Engineer

## **Minute No. 213/17**

### **Draft Budget 2018**

The Cathaoirleach formally opened the meeting to consider the Draft Budget for 2018. He explained to the members that it was planned to bring a motion to the next Council meeting to establish a representative committee of the members to meet with officials to look at ways the interaction between the members and officials could be improved and that the committee would complete it's work in a 2 month period. He then referred to the legal advice that had been circulated to the members with the meeting notification and opened the discussion on the budget itself.

In the course of the discussion queries and questions from the members were answered by the officials. A number of issues were raised in relation to the need to progress the realignment of rates and the need for central government to adequately fund local government.

It was proposed by Cllr. C. Keelan and seconded by Cllr. P. Savage that the funding for the municipal discretionary budgets should be divided proportionally based on the number of Councillors representing the municipal district.

A roll call vote followed:

**For:** Cllrs. M. Butler, M. Dearey, M. Doyle, C. Keelan, J. McGahon, P. Savage

Total: **Six (6)**

**Against:** Cllrs. P. Bell, T. Byrne, K. Callan, A. Campbell, E. Corrigan, R. Culhane, T. Cunningham, K. Flood, F. Godfrey, C. Markey, P. McGeough, D. Minogue, R. O' Murchu, L. Reilly, D. Saurin, T. Sharkey, P. Smith, O. Tully, J. Tenanty, M. Yore

Total: **Twenty (20)**

**Absent:** Cllrs. J. Byrne, E. Coffey, A. Watters (3)

A number of proposals were suggested in the course of the discussion involving reducing the discretionary budget for Economic Development. The Chief Executive expressed her concern at the negative impact that may have on job creation in the County.

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Smith and seconded by Cllr. M. Dearey to transfer €15,000 from D0903 (Town Twinning) and €20,000 from D0905 (Economic Development and Promotion) to A0501 (Homeless Grants Other Bodies).

The following amendment to the motion was proposed by Cllr. P. Bell, seconded by P. Smith and agreed by the members;

“To be spent by the Municipal Districts on homeless and social support organisations”

A roll call vote followed in relation to the amended motion:

**For:** Cllrs. P. Bell, T. Byrne, K. Callan, R. Culhane, M. Dearey, M. Doyle, F. Godfrey, J. McGahon, D. Minogue, L. Reilly, P. Savage, P. Smith, J. Tenanty, O. Tully, M. Yore

Total: **Fifteen (15)**

**Against:** Cllrs. M. Butler, A. Campbell, E. Corrigan, T. Cunningham, K. Flood, C. Keelan, C. Markey, P. McGeough, R. O' Murchu, D. Saurin, T. Sharkey

Total: **Eleven (11)**

**Absent:** Cllrs. J. Byrne, E. Coffey, A. Watters (3)

The motion was passed.

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Bell and seconded by Cllr. P. Smith to transfer €25,000 from D0905 (Economic Development and Promotion) to the provision of additional recycling bring banks.

A roll call vote followed:

**For:** Cllrs. P. Bell, T. Byrne, K. Callan, F. Godfrey, C. Keelan, P. Smith, J. Tenanty

Total: **Seven (7)**

**Against:** Cllrs. M. Butler, A. Campbell, E. Corrigan, R. Culhane, T. Cunningham, M. Dearey, M. Doyle, K. Flood, C. Markey, J. McGahon, P. McGeough, D. Minogue, R. O' Murchu, L. Reilly, D. Saurin, P. Savage, T. Sharkey, O. Tully, M. Yore

Total: **Twenty (19)**

**Absent:** Cllrs. J. Byrne, E. Coffey, A. Watters (3)

The motion was defeated

Following a lengthy discussion on the possible reintroduction of bring banks for plastics in which a number of suggestions were raised it was proposed by Cllr. M. Doyle, seconded by Cllr. M. Butler and agreed by the members that the issue should be examined by the Planning and Environment Strategic Policy Committee.

It was proposed by Cllr. Liam Reilly, seconded by M. Butler and agreed by the members to transfer €15,600 from H0904 (Expenses LA Members) to F0401 (Community Grants)

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Bell, seconded by Cllr. P. Smith and agreed by the members to transfer €50,000 from H0907 (Retirement Gratuities) to H0904 (Expenses LA members) to cover the additional expenditure in relation to circular LG07-2017 Expenses and Allowances of Local Authority members.

### **Adoption of the Budget**

Proposed: by: Cllr. F. Godfrey

Seconded by: Cllr. P. Bell

And resolved

That having considered the draft budget, subject to the provisions of Section 103 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended by the Local Government Reform Act 2014) to pass a resolution adopting the draft budget for 2018 with the following amendments;

€15,000 from D0903 (Town Twinning) and €20,000 from D0905 (Economic Development and Promotion) to be transferred to A0501 (Homeless Grants Other Bodies).

€15,600 from H0904 (Expenses LA Members) to be transferred to F0401 (Community Grants)

€50,000 from H0907 (Retirement Gratuities) to be transferred to H0904 (Expenses LA members)

Shall subject to Section 10 of the Local Government (Financial Provisions) Act 1978 by resolution 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 Act 2014.

Also to agree the rate of refund for the rates on vacant premises as provided for in section 29 of SI226 of 2014.

A roll call vote followed:

**For:** Cllrs. P. Bell, M. Butler, T. Byrne, R. Culhane, M. Dearey, M. Doyle, F. Godfrey, C. Keelan, C. Markey, J. McGahon, D. Minogue, L. Reilly, P. Savage, P. Smith, J. Tenanty, O. Tully

Total: **Sixteen (16)**

**Against:** Cllrs. K. Callan, A. Campbell, E. Corrigan, T. Cunningham, K. Flood, , P. McGeough, R. O' Murchu, D. Saurin, T. Sharkey, M. Yore

Total: **Eleven (10)**

**Absent:** Cllrs. J. Byrne, E. Coffey, A. Watters **(3)**

The Cathaoirleach confirmed the budget for 2018 as amended adopted.

The meeting then concluded

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

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

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

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