

## **CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Budget Meeting of Carlow County Council, held in  
The Council Chamber, County Offices, Athy Road, Carlow on  
Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2016 at 2.00 p.m.**

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**Present:** Councillor J. Murphy (Cathaoirleach)  
Councillor A. Ahern (Nee Long)  
Councillor F. Browne  
Councillor J. Deane  
Councillor M. Doran  
Councillor D. Foley  
Councillor T. Kinsella  
Councillor W. Lacey  
Councillor A. McDonald  
Councillor K. Murnane  
Councillor C. Murphy  
Councillor B. O'Donoghue  
Councillor W. Paton  
Councillor J. Pender  
Councillor F. Phelan  
Councillor W. Quinn.

**Apologies:** Councillor J. Cassin  
Councillor A. Gladney

**In attendance:** Mr. D. McInerney, Deputy Chief Executive  
Ms. B. O'Brien, Director of Service – Corporate, Planning,  
Economic Development, Health and Safety  
Mr S. O'Connor, Director of Services, Housing, Community,  
Recreation & Amenity, Building Control & Emergency Services  
Mr. P. Delaney, Head of Finance  
Mr. J. Kinsella, Administrative Officer, Finance  
Mr. M. Leahy, Administrative Officer, Finance  
Mr. E. Brophy, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services  
Ms. B. Whelan, Assistant Staff Officer, Corporate Services

### **OPENING PRAYER**

The opening prayer was recited in Irish by the Members.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed everyone to the 2017 Budget Meeting. The Cathaoirleach commenced the meeting by acknowledging and praising Pat Delaney, Head of Finance on the difficult task and many challenges he faced in achieving a balanced Draft Budget. He referred to meetings with the Minister and Department Officials and securing additional funding which helped limit Budget adjustments in 2017. A discussion took place on the harmonisation of Annual Rates on Valuation. Councillor Browne said the 0.5% adjustment towards harmonisation in the 2016 Budget had minimal effect and recommended that the residual 5.5% adjustment be completed by the end of 2017. P. Delaney advised that should the members resolve to expedite rates harmonisation and complete the process by the end of 2017 extra funding will be ring fenced in 2017 for the business districts in the former County area.

P. Delaney outlined the six phase Budgetary Process and the Draft Budget 2017 drivers. He advised that the Budget must be adopted within 14 days of the Budget Meeting by 11<sup>th</sup> December 2016.

P. Delaney proceeded to outline the Expenditure and Income by Service & Sub Service included in the 2017 Draft Budget as follows.

### **Housing And Building**

• Maintenance/Improvement of L.A. Housing	€1,790,744
• Housing Assessment, Allocation and Transfer	€301,628
• Housing Rent and Tenant Purchase Administration	€361,307
• Housing Community Development Support	€178,640
• Administration of Homeless Service	€264,469
• Support to Housing Capital Programme	€1,535,802
• RAS Programme	€5,896,940
• Housing Loans	€465,034
• Housing Grants	€377,597
• Agency & Recoupable Services	€0.00
• HAP Programme	€147,901

**Total provision €11,320,062**

### **Road Transportation and Safety**

• Maintenance & Improvement Nat. Primary Roads	€ 0.00
• Maintenance & Improvement Nat. Secondary Roads	€ 569,250

• Maintenance & Improvement Regional Roads	€1,680,085
• Maintenance & Improvement Local Roads	€4,542,239
• Public Lighting	€969,849
• Traffic Management Improvement	€115,984
• Road Safety Engineering Improvements	€177,767
• Road Safety Promotion/Education	€213,064
• Car Parking	€233,703
• Support to Road Capital Programme	€ 91,276
• Agency & Recoupable Services	€0.00

• **Total Provision €8,593,217**

**Water Services**

• Water Supply	€2,670,164
• Waste Water Treatment	€2,041,759
• Collection of Water and Waste Water Charges	€64,782
• Public Convenience	€91,947
• Admin of Group and Private Installations	€1,243
• Support to Water Capital Programme	€0.00
• Agency and Recoupable Services	€0.00
• Local Authority Water and Sanitary Services	€0.00

**Total provision €4,869,895**

**Development Management**

• Forward Planning	€184,395
• Development Management	€965,345
• Enforcement	€301,240
• Industrial and Commercial Facilities	€156,198
• Tourism Development and Promotion	€101,059
• Community and Enterprise Function	€ 758,187
• Unfinished Housing Estates	€115,324
• Building Control	€152,658
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• Economic Development and Promotion	€1,498,356
• Property Management	€ 74,053
• Heritage and Conservation Services	€ 8,947

• Agency and Recoupable Services	€0.00
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**Total provision €4,315,762**

**Environmental Services**

• Landfill Operation and Aftercare	€3,488,495
• Recovery & Recycling Facilities Operations	€ 281,448
• Waste to Energy Facilities Operations	€ 0
• Provision of Waste to Collection Services	€ 0
• Litter Management	€ 227,124,
• Street Cleaning	€ 699,060
• Waste Regulations, Monitoring & Enforcement	€ 272,375
• Waste Management Planning	€ 86,387
• Maintenance and upkeep of Burial Grounds	€ 226,375
• Safety of Structures and Places	€ 457,305
• Operation of Fire Service	€2,653,601
• Fire Prevention	€ 165,159
• Water Quality, Air and Noise Pollution	€ 238,129
• Agency & Recoupable Services	€ 0

**Total provision €8,795,455**

**Recreation and Amenity**

• Leisure Facilities Operations	€ 48,550
• Operation of Library and Archival Service	€1,664,300
• Outdoor Leisure Areas Operations	€ 891,966
• Community Sport & Recreational Develop.	€ 33,145
• Operation of Arts Programme	€ 1,114,440
• Agency and Recoupable Services	€ 0

**Total provision of €3,752,401**

**Agriculture, Education Health & Welfare**

• Land Drainage Costs	€ 68,251
• Operation and Maintenance of Piers & Harbours	€ 0
• Coastal Protection	€ 0
• Veterinary Service	€ 212,731

• Educational Support Services	€ 38,954
• Agency & Recoupable Services	€ 0

- **Total provision of €319,936**

### **Miscellaneous Services**

• Profit/Loss Machinery Account	€304,057
• Profit/Loss Stores Account	0
• Administration of Rates	€4,808,043
• Franchise Costs	€173,527
• Operation of Morgue and Coroner Expenses	€ 124,325
• Weighbridges	€ 0
• Operation of Markets and Casual Trading	€ 19,451
• Malicious Damage	€ 0
• Local Representation/Civic Leadership	€751,777
• Motor Taxation	€536,943
• Agency & Recoupable Services	€320,300

- **Total provision of €7,038,423**

Members raised the following issues:-

- Closure of Powerstown Landfill to the public in early 2017. Members expressed concerns that the closure may lead to illegal dumping and queried the provision of a transfer station, preferably in Carlow Town, to benefit the public. The Deputy Chief Executive advised of high costs to provide a transfer station and said that all options including expanding facilities at Kernanstown had been explored. However the Council must adopt the most cost effective exit strategy from Powerstown. He advised that planning permission will expire in 2018 and all waste disposal must cease at the facility from this date under EU Landfill and EU Waste Directive legislation. Powerstown must close to the general public in early 2017 and there are alternate services provided by the private sector.
- Decrease in funding of €90,000 on 2016 for Visual and George Bernard Shaw Theatre. Members acknowledged the excellent work by the CEO and staff of Visual and called on the Arts Council to recognise this work and increase the level of subvention for Visual going forward. The Deputy Chief Executive said Visual was a huge attraction for Carlow and acknowledged the work of the

CEO and said it was incumbent on everyone to make Visual a flagship for Carlow.

- Councillor Phelan raised issue of Plans and funding model for works on Tullow Street.
- Rates on vacant properties. Councillor Lacy raised the issue of an estimated €3.3 million value of commercial rates on vacant properties in the County. P. Delaney advised that there are 650 vacant commercial properties in the County, 500 in Carlow Municipal District and 150 in Bagenalstown Municipal District. Councillor McDonald queried sub-divided properties. P. Delaney advised that any decisions in relation to varying the level of write off on vacant properties must be made at the Annual Budget meetings.

Following discussion it was Proposed by Councillor W. Lacey and Seconded by Councillor W. Paton and agreed that the Council put former rate payers on notice that Carlow County Council is actively considering varying the level of write off on vacant commercial properties in 2018.

- Members welcomed a sum of €75,000 ring fenced in 2017 for the business districts in the former County area and welcomed in addition in 2017 a sum of €100,000 for Economic Development Special Project 2017. P. Delaney advised that this project will be in consultation with the Carlow Chamber of Commerce.
- Members were unanimous in urging people to shop locally this Christmas.

There was a recess of ten minutes to facilitate a Whips Meeting.

Following the recess the following amendments were proposed as follows:-

D09	Economic Development & Promotion	30,000
F02	Operation of Library & Archival Service	- 15,000
E01	Landfill Operations and Aftercare	- 15,000

**Proposed by Councillor F. Browne**  
**Seconded by Councillor A. Ahern (Nee Long)**  
**AND**

Following a show of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

*“Subject to the above amendments to draft budget that the General Annual Rate on Valuation for year ending 31st December 2017 be*

€69.557 and that the Effective Annual Rate on Valuation (Net of Base Year Adjustment) for year ending 31st December 2017 be € 69.557 thereby achieving rates harmonisation.

It was further

**Proposed by Councillor F. Browne**

**Seconded by Coucillow W. Quinn**

**And**

Following a show of hands it was resolved:-

*“that the 2017 draft budget as amended be adopted and that we the members of Carlow County Council by resolution adopted for the financial year ending on 31st December 2017 the budget set out in Tables (A-F) and by resolution determined in accordance with the said budget the Rates set out in Tables (A & C) to be the annual rate on valuation to be levied for that year for the purposes set out in those Tables”.*

TABLE A - CALCULATION OF ANNUAL RATE ON VALUATION							
Summary by Service Division		Expenditure	Income	Budget Net Expenditure 2017		Estimated Net Expenditure Outturn 2016	
		€	€	€	%	€	%
Gross Revenue Expenditure & Income							
Housing and Building		11,320,063	12,746,505	- 1,426,442	-7%	- 1,316,983	-7%
Road Transport & Safety		8,593,217	4,265,005	4,328,212	21%	4,356,179	22%
Water Services		4,869,895	4,777,021	92,874	0%	110,742	1%
Development Management		4,345,761	1,112,440	3,233,321	16%	2,892,726	14%
Environmental Services		8,780,454	3,465,400	5,315,054	26%	4,392,684	22%
Recreation and Amenity		3,737,401	150,972	3,586,429	17%	3,529,456	17%
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare		319,936	97,847	222,089	1%	258,175	1%
Miscellaneous Services		7,038,423	1,805,310	5,233,113	25%	5,952,524	30%
		<b>49,005,150</b>	<b>28,420,500</b>	<b>20,584,650</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>20,175,503</b>	<b>100%</b>
Provision for Debit Balance		-		-			
<b>Adjusted Gross Expenditure &amp; Income</b>	<b>(A)</b>	<b>49,005,150</b>	<b>28,420,500</b>	<b>20,584,650</b>		<b>20,175,503</b>	
Financed by Other Income/Credit Balances							
Provision for Credit Balance			-	-			
Local Property Tax			6,138,650	6,138,650		5,352,500	
Pension Related Deduction			-	-		530,000	
<b>Sub - Total</b>	<b>(B)</b>			<b>6,138,650</b>		<b>14,293,003</b>	
Net Amount of Rates to be Levied	(A-B)			<b>14,446,000</b>			
Value of Base Year Adjustment				-			
Amount of Rates to be Levied (Gross of BYA)	(D)			<b>14,446,000</b>			
Net Effective Valuation	(E)			207,686			
General Annual Rate on Valuation	D/E			<b>69.557</b>			

Table C - CALCULATION OF BASE YEAR ADJUSTMENT					
	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(v)
Rating authority	Annual Rate on Valuation 2017	Effective ARV (Net of BYA) 2017	Base Year Adjustment 2017	Net Effective Valuation	Value of Base Year Adjustment
			(ii)-(i)		(iii)*(iv)
	€	€	€	€	€
Name of rating authority	69,557				
Former rating authority areas					
Former town rating area		69,557	-	97793	-
Former county rating area		69,557	-	109893	-
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>207686</b>	<b>-</b>

The Deputy Chief Executive thanked the Finance Staff, Cathaoirleach, leas Cathaoirleach, the Cathaoirleach of Muinebheag Municipal District and the Mayor of Carlow Municipal District for their assistance with Budget 2017. He also acknowledged the assistance given by Deputy Pat Deering T.D and Senator Jennifer Murnane O'Connor.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

***Extract from December Monthly Meeting Minutes of Carlow County Council held in the Council Chamber on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2016 at 2.00 p.m.***

The Minutes of the Statutory Budget Meeting 2017 held on 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2016

**Proposed by Councillor J. Pender**  
**Seconded by Councillor W. Lacey**  
**AND**

Following a show of hands it was unanimously resolved:-  
*'That the Minutes of the Statutory Budget Meeting 2017 of Carlow County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Offices, Athy Road, Carlow, on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2016, at 2.00 p.m. having been circulated to each Member be taken as read, confirmed as to accuracy and accordingly signed subject to the following amendment to the Statutory Budget Meeting Minutes;-*



*'P Delaney, Head of Finance confirmed that the economic funding of €105,000 included in the 2017 Adopted Budget which is ring fenced for the Business Districts outside the functional area of the former Carlow Town Council includes the old Carlow East and Carlow West.'*

Certified True Copy of Resolution.

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E. Brophy,  
Senior Executive Office/  
Meetings Administrator.

10<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2017.