

CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the 2018 Budget Meeting of Carlow County Council, held in The Council Chamber, County Offices, Athy Road, Carlow, on Friday 24th November 2017 at 2.00 p.m.

Present: Councillor W. Paton (Cathaoirleach)
Councillor F. Browne
Councillor J. Cassin
Councillor A. Dalton
Councillor J. Deane
Councillor M. Doran
Councillor T. Kinsella
Councillor W. Lacey
Councillor A. McDonald
Councillor K. Murnane
Councillor C. Murphy
Councillor J. Murphy
Councillor B. O'Donoghue
Councillor J. Pender
Councillor F. Phelan
Councillor W. Quinn

Apologies: Councillor A. Gladney
Councillor D. Foley

In attendance: Ms. K. Holohan, Chief Executive
Mr. P. Delaney, Head of Finance
Ms. B. O'Brien, Director of Service – Corporate, Planning, Economic Development, Health and Safety,
Mr D. McInerney, Director of Services, Transportation, Environment & Water Services
Mr S. O'Connor, Director of Services, Housing, Community, Building Control & Emergency Services,
Mr. P.J. Leonard, Financial Accountant
Mr. B. O'Donovan, Acting Senior Executive, Environment
Mr. E. Brophy, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services,
Mr. J. Kinsella, Administrative Officer, Finance
Ms. B. Whelan, Assistant Staff Officer, Corporate Services

The Cathaoirleach welcomed everyone to the 2018 Budget Meeting.

The Cathaoirleach commenced the meeting by wishing Councillor Gladney, on his own behalf and on behalf of the members, a speedy recovery to good health.

The Cathaoirleach sought approval to holding of Whips meeting proposed for 3.00pm to discuss two issues arising from the in-committee meeting held at 11.30 am.

The Cathaoirleach invited P. Delaney, Head of Finance to present the Draft Budget 2018.

P. Delaney advised that the Budget must be adopted within a 14 day period commencing on the date of Budget meeting i.e. by 7th December, 2017.

P. Delaney proceeded to outline the Expenditure (as follows) by Service & Sub Service and Income included in the 2018 Draft Budget.

Housing And Building

• Maintenance/Improvement of L.A. Housing	€1,821,808
• Housing Assessment, Allocation and Transfer	€303,289
• Housing Rent and Tenant Purchase Administration	€358,772
• Housing Community Development Support	€184,451
• Administration of Homeless Service	€335,193
• Support to Housing Capital Programme	€1,634,601
• RAS Programme	€5,812,846
• Housing Loans	€405,639
• Housing Grants	€450,833
• Agency & Recoupable Services	€0.00
• HAP Programme	€166,110

Total provision €11,473,542

Road Transportation and Safety

• Maintenance & Improvement Nat. Primary Roads	€ 0.00
• Maintenance & Improvement Nat. Secondary Roads	€ 497,416
• Maintenance & Improvement Regional Roads	€1,886,975
• Maintenance & Improvement Local Roads	€5,199,662
• Public Lighting	€898,422
• Traffic Management Improvement	€156,479
• Road Safety Engineering Improvements	€174,193
• Road Safety Promotion/Education	€211,500

• Car Parking	€225,794
• Support to Road Capital Programme	€ 98,293
• Agency & Recoupable Services	€ 0,00
• Total Provision €9,348,734	

Issues raised by the members included:-

- Funding to recruit outdoor staff as only four workers based in south of the county. D. McInerney advised that a lot of work is done by contract as it is more cost efficient.
- Public Lighting – the number of public lights that are out of order in Carlow and the poor level of service from the contractor. D. McInerney advised that he is in constant discussion with the contractor to improve the situation but that some issues in relation to public lighting rest with the ESB networks. He said it is proposed that all public lighting will be replaced by energy saving LED lighting in the future.
- Car Park Tullow Town Centre. Funding for renewal of lease. D. McInerney advised that he has been in discussions with the landowner but no agreement has been reached on the renewal of the lease. Any increase in funding required for the renewal of the lease will have to be cost neutral.

All issues raised by the Members were address by D. McInerney.

Water Services

• Water Supply	€2,447,928
• Waste Water Treatment	€2,282,983
• Collection of Water and Waste Water Charges	€83,402
• Public Convenience	€94,905
• Admin of Group and Private Installations	€51,360
• Support to Water Capital Programme	€0.00
• Agency and Recoupable Services	€120,250
• Local Authority Water and Sanitary Services	€0.00

Total provision €5,080,828

Issues raised by the members included:-

- Income from Public Conveniences
- Well Grants

- D. McInerney advised that the current SLA runs to 2025. There would be no forced redundancies. He advised that the CCMA represent Local Authorities in discussions with Irish Water at national level on these issues.

All issues raised by Members were addressed by D. McInerney and P. Delaney.

Development Management

• Forward Planning	€167,630
• Development Management	€973,167
• Enforcement	€346,845
• Industrial and Commercial Facilities	€73,251
• Tourism Development and Promotion	€100,078
• Community and Enterprise Function	€ 947,175
• Unfinished Housing Estates	€109,793
• Building Control	€145,150
• Economic Development and Promotion	€2,016,040
• Property Management	€ 82,389
• Heritage and Conservation Services	€ 19,073
• Agency and Recoupable Services	€0.00

Total provision €4,980,591

Issues raised by the members included:-

- Under Economic Development Promotion that the Council make direct contact with multi-national companies promoting Carlow as a county to do business in. B. O'Brien advised that she and the Head of LEO will pursue direct promotion of Carlow in the new year.
- Income from planning fees.
- Recruitment of a Heritage Officer. P. Delaney advised that staff at Carlow County Museum do excellent work in the heritage services area and there was no provision in the 2018 Draft Budget to recruit a Heritage Officer. The matter would be kept under review.
- Conservation Grants. Members suggested that grants be increased for owners of protected structures.

Environmental Services

• Landfill Operation and Aftercare	€ 835,733
• Recovery & Recycling Facilities Operations	€ 944,261
• Waste to Energy Facilities Operations	€ 0
• Provision of Waste to Collection Services	€ 0
• Litter Management	€ 239,255,
• Street Cleaning	€ 685,513
• Waste Regulations, Monitoring & Enforcement	€ 302,391
• Waste Management Planning	€ 115,130
• Maintenance and upkeep of Burial Grounds	€ 249,191
• Safety of Structures and Places	€ 543,459
• Operation of Fire Service	€2,775,230
• Fire Prevention	€ 165,973
• Water Quality, Air and Noise Pollution	€ 174,687
• Agency & Recoupable Services	€ 0
• Climate Change and Flooding	€ 0

Total provision €7,030,823

Issues raised by the members included:-

- Landfill operation and aftercare. B. O'Donovan advised of services that will be provided at the waste facility in 2018. An evaluation of a future use for the site and a cost effective waste management strategy will be implemented during 2018. P. Delaney advised that the services at the facility for 2018 must be cost neutral on the Council.
Members also raised issue of landfill gas odour in the vicinity of the site. B. O'Donovan advised that temporary capping works are currently in operation and permanent capping next year that will seal up north facing site. He also advised that the landfill gas methane carbon monoxide could, as a future investment, be used to generate power.
- Dog fouling – night patrol checks to make dog owners more aware of their obligations.
- Lack of litter receptacles on main walking routes.
- Street cleaning Bagenalstown 5 days a week no weekend cleaning. No regular street cleaning in towns and villages.
- Fire Service- Fire Safety inspections of vacant properties and costs involved.

Issues raised by the Members were addressed by B. O'Donovan.

Recreation and Amenity

• Leisure Facilities Operations	€ 79,050
• Operation of Library and Archival Service	€1,633,369
• Outdoor Leisure Areas Operations	€ 934,753
• Community Sport & Recreational Develop.	€ 39,836
• Operation of Arts Programme	€1,220,619
• Agency and Recoupable Services	€ 0

Total provision of €3,907,627

Issues raised by the members included:-

- Genealogy Service Carlow County Library. Consideration be given to enhancing the service.
- Visual George Bernard Shaw Theatre – breakdown of income and expenditure.

Issues raised by the Members were addressed by P. Delaney.

Agriculture, Education Health & Welfare

• Land Drainage Costs	€ 67,293
• Operation and Maintenance of Piers & Harbours	€ 0
• Coastal Protection	€ 0
• Veterinary Service	€ 225,500
• Educational Support Services	€ 20,000
• Agency & Recoupable Services	€ 0

- **Total provision of €312,793**

Issues raised by the members included:-

- Operational costs School Meals Service.

P. Delany advised of legacy issue with Carlow County Council on behalf of Department of Social Protection and that 50% is recouped.

Miscellaneous Services

• Profit/Loss Machinery Account	€ 344,978
• Profit/Loss Stores Account	€ 0

• Administration of Rates	€4,585,506
• Franchise Costs	€ 177,388
• Operation of Morgue and Coroner Expenses	€ 125,090
• Weighbridges	€ 0
• Operation of Markets and Casual Trading	€ 17,958
• Malicious Damage	€ 0
• Local Representation/Civic Leadership	€ 803,009
• Motor Taxation	€ 515,183
• Agency & Recoupable Services	€ 300,900

• **Total provision of €6,870,012**

Issues raised by the Members included:-

- Operation of Register of Electors and hire of enumerators.

Issues raised by the Members were addressed by E. Brophy.

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

The meeting reconvened at 16.30 pm. The Cathaoirleach requested approval that the meeting be held in committee for 5 mins to discuss two issues raised at the Whips meeting. This was proposed by Councillor B. O'Donoghue, seconded by Councillor F. Browne and agreed with some Members dissenting. The meeting came out of in-committee at 16.45 pm. The Cathaoirleach advised that it was proposed to allocate €12,000 funding to a School Safety Scheme, €6,000 to the Carlow Municipal District and €6,000 to the Muinebheag Municipal District.

Following discussion it was proposed by Councillor J. Cassin and Seconded by Councillor W. Quinn that the €12,000 funding for a School Safety Scheme be transferred from (F0301) Parks, Pitches and Open Spaces.

A roll call vote was taken

<i>Member of Carlow County Council</i>	<i>For</i>	<i>Against</i>	<i>Abstain</i>	<i>Absent</i>
Fergal Browne	√			
John Cassin	√			
Andrea Dalton	√			

Jim Deane	√			
Michael Doran	√			
Denis Foley				√
Andy Gladney				√
Thomas Kinsella	√			
Walter Lacey	√			
Arthur McDonald	√			
Ken Murnane	√			
Charlie Murphy	√			
John Murphy	√			
Brian O'Donoghue	√			
William Paton	√			
John Pender	√			
Fintan Phelan	√			
William Quinn	√			

The vote resulted in: 16 for and 2 absent and accordingly the motion was carried. The Members requested that should additional income arise in 2018 the first € 12,000 would be made available for Parks, Pitches and Open Spaces.

It was proposed by Councillor B. O'Donoghue and seconded by Councillor F. Browne that for the financial year ending 31st December 2018 the level of rates refunds that applies to eligible persons in the Carlow and Muinebheag local electoral areas be varied to 95% pursuant to the provisions of the Local Government Act 1946, (*as amended by the Local Government (Reform) Act 2014*) and that a Vacant Premises Refund Scheme be adopted and applied to eligible persons pursuant to the provisions of the Local Government Act 2001, (*as amended by the Local Government (Reform) Act 2014*).

Vacant Premises Refund Scheme			
Band	Annual Rates Demand 2018		% Refund
Band A	Less than or Equal to	€ 6,000.00	100%
Band B	Greater Than	€ 6,000.00	95%

In response to a number of queries raised by Councillor F. Phelan P. Delaney advised that the primary purpose of the scheme is to reduce the level of vacant commercial property in the county.

A roll call vote was taken

Member of Carlow County Council	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Fergal Browne	√			
John Cassin	√			
Andrea Dalton	√			
Jim Deane	√			
Michael Doran	√			
Denis Foley				√
Andy Gladney				√
Thomas Kinsella	√			
Walter Lacey	√			
Arthur McDonald	√			
Ken Murnane	√			
Charlie Murphy	√			
John Murphy	√			
Brian O'Donoghue	√			
William Paton	√			
John Pender			√	
Fintan Phelan		√		
William Quinn	√			

The vote resulted in: 14 for, 1 against, 1 abstention and 2 absent and accordingly the motion was carried.

The members requested that a report on the output from the Vacant Premises Refund Scheme be presented to Council before the end of 2018.

Extension of Time

Members unanimously resolved following a show of hands
'We, the Members of Carlow County Council, in accordance with Standing Orders, approve the continuation of the meeting to 5.45 p.m'

Adoption of the 2018 Budget

It was proposed by Councillor B. O'Donoghue and seconded by Councillor F. Browne that the 2018 Draft Budget be adopted subject to the following amendments and that we the members of Carlow County Council by

resolution adopt for the financial year ending on 31st December 2018 the Budget set out in Tables (A-F) and by resolution determine in accordance with the said Budget the Rate set out in Table (A) to be the Annual Rate on Valuation to be levied for that year for the purposes set out in those Tables.

Service	Service Description	Details	Draft Budget Amendments	
H09	Local Representation / Civic Leadership	Training	- 9,000.00	Decrease
H09	Local Representation / Civic Leadership	Stationery/Office Requisites.	9,000.00	Increase
H03	Administration of Rates	Vacant Premises Provision	- 65,000.00	Decrease
H03	Administration of Rates	Vacant Premises Refund Scheme	65,000.00	Increase
F03	Outdoor Leisure Areas	Parks /Openspaces	- 12,000.00	Decrease
B08	Road Safety Promotion/Education	Schools Safety Scheme	12,000.00	Increase

TABLE A - CALCULATION OF ANNUAL RATE ON VALUATION							
		Summary per Table A 2018					
Summary by Service Division		Expenditure	Income	Budget Net Expenditure 2018		Estimated Net Expenditure Outturn 2017 (as restated)	
		€	€	€	%	€	%
Gross Revenue Expenditure & Income							
Housing and Building		11,473,543	12,822,214	-1,348,671	-6%	-1,325,999	-6%
Road Transport & Safety		9,360,735	4,807,759	4,552,976	22%	4,445,553	22%
Water Services		5,080,828	4,821,576	259,252	1%	227,748	1%
Development Management		4,980,591	1,247,436	3,733,155	18%	3,127,751	15%
Environmental Services		7,030,822	1,729,627	5,301,195	26%	5,067,403	25%
Recreation and Amenity		3,895,626	151,151	3,744,475	18%	3,556,230	17%
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare		312,793	88,239	224,554	1%	196,958	1%
Miscellaneous Services		6,870,013	2,581,298	4,288,715	21%	5,289,004	26%
		49,004,951	28,249,300	20,755,651	100%	20,584,648	100%
Provision for Debit Balance							
Adjusted Gross Expenditure & Income	(A)	49,004,951	28,249,300	20,755,651		20,584,648	
Financed by Other Income/Credit Balances							
Provision for Credit Balance							
Local Property Tax			6,138,650	6,138,650		6,138,650	
Sub - Total	(B)			6,138,650		14,445,998	
Net Amount of Rates to be Levied	(A-B)			14,617,001			
Value of Base Year Adjustment							
Amount of Rates to be Levied (Gross of BYA)	(D)			14,617,001			
Net Effective Valuation	(E)			56,854,900			
General Annual Rate on Valuation	D/E			0.2571			

A roll call vote was taken

Member of Carlow County Council	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Fergal Browne	√			
John Cassin	√			
Andrea Dalton	√			
Jim Deane	√			

Michael Doran	√			
Denis Foley				√
Andy Gladney				√
Thomas Kinsella	√			
Walter Lacey	√			
Arthur McDonald	√			
Ken Murnane	√			
Charlie Murphy	√			
John Murphy	√			
Brian O'Donoghue	√			
William Paton	√			
John Pender	√			
Fintan Phelan		√		
William Quinn	√			

The vote resulted in: 15 for, 1 against, and 2 absent and accordingly the motion was carried.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Pat Delaney, Head of Finance, the Finance Department and staff at all levels who inputted into the Budget process. He thanked the Members for their assistance in the preparation of the Budget.

This concluded the business of the meeting.