

CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of Special Meeting of Carlow County Council, held in The Council Chamber, County Offices, Athy Road, Carlow, on Tuesday 26th September, 2017 at 3.00 p.m.

Present: Councillor W. Paton (Cathaoirleach)
Councillor F. Browne
Councillor J. Deane
Councillor M. Doran
Councillor D. Foley
Councillor A. Gladney
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 J. Cassin

In attendance: Ms. K. Holohan, Chief Executive
Ms. B. O'Brien, Director of Service – Corporate, Planning, Economic Development, Health and Safety,
Mr. P. Delaney, Head of Finance
Mr. P.J. Leonard, Financial Accountant
Mr. E. Brophy, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services,
Ms. B. Whelan, Assistant Staff Officer, Corporate Services

The Cathaoirleach welcomed everyone to the meeting to discuss the Setting of a Local Property Tax (Local Adjustment Factor) 2018 in accordance with the Finance (Local Property Tax) Act 2012 (as amended).

P. Delaney, Head of Finance briefed the members on issues pertaining to Local Property Tax (Local Adjustment Factor) 2018.

The members may as a reserved function resolve to vary the basic rate of the Local Property Tax within its functional area by a maximum of +/- 15%.

Any decision by the members to vary the basic rate of Local Property Tax must be taken by **30 September**

Members were briefed by P. Delaney at the In Committee Meeting on details of acute financial matters.

Current Position

Assuming **no reduction** in income from **Commercial Rates** and **Local Property Tax in 2018** at this point in time in the 2018 budget process additional funding in the sum of **€810,000** is required to balance the 2018 draft budget.

P. Delaney advised that the only viable remaining source of additional discretionary income is an **increase in Local Property Tax in 2018**.

P. Delaney advised if the members decide not to increase the Local Property Tax in 2018 the current level of services may be significantly reduced.

P. Delaney advised that the Council is overall in a stable financial position. Members queried if additional income generated by an increase in Local Property Tax will be ringfenced for special projects and not to meet the shortfall required to balance the budget.

The Chief Executive urged Members that in order to maintain the current level of services that the Council gives serious consideration to increasing Local Property Tax Income in 2018 by adjusting the basic rate upwards. She said it is expected that Government funding will be forthcoming to cover accumulated costs due to pay increases under the Haddington Road Agreement/ Public Stability Pay Agreement but no confirmation has been received. She said the cumulative effect of an increase of 15% would have significant benefits for the County.

Following discussion Members said the preferred option was not to vary the basic Local Property Tax rate for a period of one year from the next Local Property Tax liability date.

The Cathaoirleach advised of email from Councillor Cassin of his support not to vary the basic Local Property Tax rate.

It was

Proposed by Councillor F. Browne

Seconded by Councillor W. Quinn

And following a roll call vote

Member of Carlow County Council	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Fergal Browne	√			
John Cassin				√
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, 1 absent,

There was no further proposal to reduce or increase the basic Local Property Tax rate and accordingly the members did not vary the basic Local Property Tax rate for a period of one year from the next Local Property Tax liability or set a local adjustment factor.

This concluded the business of the meeting.