

CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of Special Meeting of Carlow County Council, held in The Council Chamber, County Offices, Athy Road, Carlow, on Tuesday 27th September 2016 at 3.00 p.m

Present: Councillor J. Murphy (Cathaoirleach)
Councillor A. Ahern (Nee Long)
Councillor F. Browne
Councillor J. Deane
Councillor M. Doran
Councillor A. Gladney
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 D. Foley

In attendance: Mr. D. McInerney, Deputy Chief Executive
Mr. P. Delaney, Head of Finance
Ms. B. O'Brien, Director of Service – Corporate, Planning, Economic Development, Health and Safety
Mr. M. O'Brien, Senior Executive Office, Housing
Mr J. Kinsella, Administrative Officer, Finance
Ms C. Harper, Staff Officer, Finance
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) 2017 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) 2017.

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**.

Matters to which the members must have regard to

1. Estimation of income and expenditure for the period for which the varied rate is to have effect.
2. Financial position of the local authority.
3. Financial effect of the varied rate.
4. Feedback from public consultation.

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 2017** at this point in time in the 2017 budget process additional funding in the sum of **€850,000** is required to balance the 2017 draft budget.

As the Annual Rate on Valuation cannot increase until rates harmonisation is achieved the only viable remaining source of additional discretionary income is an **increase in Local Property Tax in 2017**.

P. Delaney advised if the members decide not to increase the Local Property Tax in 2017 the current level of services will be significantly reduced.

P. Delaney advised that the Council is overall in a stable financial position. Members expressed dissatisfaction with decisions taken nationally which are outside the Council's control and seriously impede the Council's ability to enhance the level of services provided and to progress new initiatives.

Councillor O'Donoghue said he would support an increase in Local Property Tax if the additional income generated was ringfenced for special projects and not to meet the shortfall required to balance the budget.

Councillor Paton requested a breakdown from the Department on what basis the Equalisation Fund is distributed. If no response is received from the Department a Notice of Motion will be put forward for the next meeting of Council. He also requested that the Deputy Chief Executive raise the issue at a CCMA meeting.

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.

It was

Proposed by Councillor F. Browne

Seconded by Councillor W. Paton

And following a roll call vote

<i>Member of Carlow County Council</i>	<i>For</i>	<i>Against</i>	<i>Abstain</i>	<i>Absent</i>
Ann Ahern nee Long	√			
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: 15 for, 2 absent, 1 abstention

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.

Councillor McDonald raised issue of Leader funding 2016 for Towns and Villages and short time frame available for submission of applications.

This concluded the business of the meeting.