

CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

**Minutes of Special In Committee Meeting of Carlow County Council,
held in The Council Chamber, County Offices, Athy Road, Carlow,
on Tuesday 27th September 2015 at 2.00 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.

P Delaney advised of meetings with the Council's Corporate Policy Group, party whips and full Council to discuss 2017 budget. He also advised of meetings with the Minister and with Department officials to discuss the Council's acute financial matters. He set out details of acute financial matters and of points raised from meeting with Department officials.

P Delaney advised of opportunity costs - €2,475,000 and the direct impact on the 2017 draft budget - €1,395,000. Factoring other variances including the redemption and restructuring of capital debt the net shortfall at this point is **€850,000**.

P. Delaney outlined financial effect of the varied rate and the potential impact on a liable person and potential impact on Local Property Tax revenue. He advised if the members decide not to increase the Local Property Tax in 2017 the current level of service will be significantly reduced.

Members had submission received from County Carlow Chamber setting out the key concerns.

Issues raised by the Members included:-

- Target cuts by Irish Water 2016-2017, suspension of public domestic water charges under Service Level Agreement resulting in loss of income to the Council from Irish Water.
- Powerstown Landfill: Members were advised Powerstown was nearing capacity and that the acceptance of waste from

commercial operators was suspended in July, Acceptance of waste from the general public was likely to cease early in 2017

- Visual George Bernard Shaw Theatre:- Council's ability to maintain financial assistance to sustain the Centre.

Councillor McDonald brought to members attention meetings of the Local Authorities Management Association (LAMA) and Association of Irish Local Government (AILG) where the issue of pay rise for Councillors is to be discussed.

The Setting of a Local Property Tax (Local Adjustment Factor) 2017 will be discussed in detail at a Special Meeting to be held after the In Committee meeting of Council.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

