

**Minutes Of The Local Authority Budget Meeting Of Carlow
County Council For The Financial Year 1st January, 2012 to the
31st December, 2012 Held in The Council Chamber, County
Offices, Athy Road, Carlow On Friday 6th January, 2012 At 2:00
p.m.**

Present: Councillor T. Kinsella, Cathaoirleach
Councillor M. Abbey,
Councillor A. Ahern (Nee Long)
Councillor F. Browne
Councillor M. Doran
Councillor W. Fennell,
Councillor D. Foley,
Councillor D. Hurley
Councillor W. Lacey
Councillor A. McDonald,
Councillor J. Murnane-O'Connor,
Councillor C. Murphy,
Councillor J. Murphy,
Councillor T. O'Neill
Councillor P. O'Toole,
Councillor W. Paton
Councillor J. Pender,
Councillor W. Quinn.
Councillor C. Townsend,
Councillor J. Townsend,

Apologies: Councillor F. Hunter

In Attendance: Mr. Tom Barry, County Manager.
Mr. Ronan Fitzgerald, Acting Head of Finance.
Mr. J. Carley, Director of Services Environment,
Water Services, Health & Safety.
Mr. D. McInerney, Director of Services
Transportation & Safety & Emergency Services.
Ms. B. O'Brien, Director of Services Community &
Enterprise & Economic Development & Corporate
Services.
Mr. T. Butler, Acting Director of Services, Housing,
Recreation & Amenity & Special Projects

Mr. J. Kinsella, Administrative Officer, Finance
Mr. E. Brophy, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate
Services.
Ms. B. Whelan, Assistant Staff Officer.

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor T. Kinsella welcomed the Members to the meeting to consider the Draft Budget 2012.

Members expressed sympathy to Councillor A. McDonald on the death of his cousin Margaret Malone.

The County Manager advised of significant budget issues in preparing the 2012 draft budget having regard to a reduction of €2.2 million in the Council's income compared with the 2011 adopted budget.

The County Manager advised that the principle considerations in preparing the Draft Budget were as follows:

- No increase in commercial rates
- No increase in water charges unless statutorily imposed
- €525,000 loss in Water/ Waste Water income from adjoining counties
- Reduced income of €361,490 from County Demand
- Reduced income of €755,896 from the Local Government Fund.
- €270,000 provided as a local contribution towards Housing Grants
- €786,000 contribution towards the Local Road Programme

The County Manager thanked staff for their flexibility and commitment in rising to the challenges presented as a result of the current economic climate. Since December 2008 Staff numbers within the Council have decreased from 443 to 376.

He made special mention of the workforce involved with last years severe weather conditions particularly Roads, Water Services, Fire Service and Civil Defence staff.

Mr. R. Fitzgerald, Acting Head of Finance advised that the period for the consideration of the draft budget is from 24th November 2011 to 13th January 2012. The 2012 Budget must be adopted on or before 26th January 2012.

Mr. Fitzgerald advised Members of the following:-

- 2012 Budget Format -presented in the activity based costing format.
- National issues – EU/IMF Programme
- Dept of Environment Community and Local Government Current Budget Expenditure. In 2012 the Exchequer contribution to the Local Government Fund of €164m is ended.
- 2012 Local Issues – Expenditure reduced to €46.9m from €49.1m. Income reduced to €46.9m. Local Government Fund reduced to €8.5m. €525K reduction in Water/Waste Water income from other Local Authorities
- €361k Reduction in County Demand
- Commercial rates contribution across the services
- No rate increase in 2012 – Proposed €66.47 annual rate of valuation
- Annual Rate of Valuation for adjoining County Councils - regional average €67.23
- Distribution of rate customers – total 882 with 31% paying less than €1,500, 59% paying €1,500-€3,000, 73% paying €3,001-€5,000. Only 15 rate payers pay in excess of €50, 000 to €100,000 and 8 rate payers in excess of €100,000.
- Proposed average weekly rent 2012 €49
- No increase 2012 for Water or Waste Water

Mr. Fitzgerald outlined the Expenditure and Income by Service & Sub Service included in the 2011 Draft Budget as follows.

Housing And Building

• Maintenance/Improvement of L.A. Housing	€911,274
• Housing Assessment, Allocation and Transfer	€207,434
• Housing Rent and Tenant Purchase Administration	€250,731
• Housing Community Development Support	€168,352
• Administration of Homeless Service	€167,934
• Support to Housing Capital Programme	€2,347,401
• RAS Programme	€3778,120
• Housing Loans	€646,396
• Housing Grants	€441,085

• Agency & Recoupable Services	€114,200
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Total provision €9,032,936

Members raised the following issues:-

- Housing Aid Grants 2012 for older people. Mr. Butler advised that category 1 Grants will be dealt with this year. Category 2 and 3 is dependent on funding from Central Government and timing is also an issue.
- RAS Programme
Mr. Butler advised that it is proposed that the Rent Supplement Scheme is to be administered by Local Authorities from next year.

Queries raised by Members were answered by Mr. Butler.

Road Transportation and Safety

• Maintenance & Improvement Nat. Primary Roads	€294,189
• Maintenance & Improvement Nat. Secondary Roads	€369,690
• Maintenance & Improvement Regional Roads	€1,193,089
• Maintenance & Improvement Local Roads	€4,648,490
• Public Lighting	€507,690
• Traffic Management Improvement	€72,563
• Road Safety Engineering Improvements	€187,504
• Road Safety Promotion/Education	€94,139
• Car Parking	€0.00
• Support to Road Capital Programme	€212,800
• Agency & Recoupable Services	€118,300

• **Total Provision €7,697,454**

Members raised the following issues:-

- Loan of €8 million associated with Carlow Eastern Relief Road and Pembroke.
- Public lighting, replacement of heads for lights and installation of new lights – signing of maintenance contract to be completed as soon as possible.

- Category 3 roads –policy in relation to category 3 roads to be discussed at SPC meeting. Issue of funding for grade 3 roads to be brought to Department. Mr. McInerney advised of reintroduction of Community Involvement Scheme.
- Maintenance of bridges

Queries raised by Members were answered by Mr. McInerney.

Water Services

• Water Supply	€3,268,113
• Waste Water Treatment	€3,312,464
• Collection of Water and Waste Water Charges	€340,168
• Public Convenience	€51,263
• Admin of Group and Private Installations	€17,799
• Support to Water Capital Programme	€637,554
• Agency and Recoupable Services	€65,000

Total provision ~~€~~7,692,361

Members raised the following queries

- Water leaks
- Rain water harvesting
- New legislation on septic tanks. Members requested that Carlow County Council write to the Minister requesting grant support to rural dwellers that may have to upgrade their septic tank systems or connect to mains to comply with legislation.
- Water metering contract - services of small local contractors to be availed of.
- Ghost estates - exempt from household charge. The County Manager advised that a national publicity campaign will be launched in the next two weeks in relation to household charge.

Queries raised by Members were answered by County Manager and Mr. Carley.

Development Management

• Forward Planning	€101,961
• Development Management	€605,707
• Enforcement	€209,491
• Industrial and Commercial Facilities	€171,062
• Tourism Development and Promotion	€ 58,081
• Community and Enterprise Function	€ 599,204
• Unfinished Housing Estates	€ 52,946
• Building Control	€128,199
• Economic Development and Promotion	€ 66,873
• Property Management	€ 9,696
• Heritage and Conservation Services	€ 7,608
• Agency and Recoupable Services	€449,600

Total provision €2,460,428

Members raised the following issues:-

- Highlighting Carlow with Fireworks display New Years Eve/Day hosted jointly with Carlow Town Council.
- Unfinished housing estates
- Building control and enforcement costs
- Sensitive information submitted with planning applications being in the public domain on line. The County Manager advised that this issue is being addressed immediately with the removal of this information on line and from hard copies.

Queries raised were answered by the County Manager.

Environmental Services

• Landfill Operation and Aftercare	€1,111,038
• Recovery & Recycling Facilities Operations	€ 392,042
• Waste to Energy Facilities Operations	€ 0
• Provision of Waste to Collection Services	€ 0
• Litter Management	€ 152,952
• Street Cleaning	€ 220,935

• Waste Regulations, Monitoring & Enforcement	€ 374,741
• Waste Management Planning	€ 95,175
• Maintenance and upkeep of Burial Grounds	€ 91,417
• Safety of Structures and Places	€ 300,567
• Operation of Fire Service	€2,588,452
• Fire Prevention	€ 184,915
• Water Quality, Air and Noise Pollution	€ 329,038
• Agency & Recoupable Services	€ 0

Total provision €5,841,272

Members raised the following issues:-

- Waste Management / Recycling Costs
- Campaign to highlight proper use of recycling facilities
- Issue of minimum charge of €20 for waste disposal at Powerstown.
- Reduction of Bring Centres
- Replacement of small street sweepers with 2 large sweepers covering all of county.
- Plastics recycling facility, Borris
- Closure of Kernanstown as a recycling centre
- Polluter should pay policy
- Proposals for Haroldstown
- Environmental Fund for residents Powerstown Area
- Funding for burial ground
- Removal of paper bank facilities- due to improper use.
- Increased recycling facilities at Christmas period
- Provision of CTTV at Tullowbeg recycling centre
- Inspections under Building Control

A discussion took place in relation to Powerstown. Mr. Carley advised that rationalisation of the facility has taken place. He advised if Powerstown closed there is no waste facility available in the County and in addition the Council would incur the cost of disposing of its own waste outside the county. He advised that efforts to secure additional waste for disposal at Powerstown are on going but the

Local Authority is unable to compete with larger waste market sectors where costs can be 50%-60% lower.

Mr. Carley further advised that all proposals for the future of Powerstown are currently being examined and the continued operation of the facility will be reviewed on an ongoing basis.

Queries raised were answered by the County Manager and Mr. Carley.

Recreation and Amenity

• Leisure Facilities Operations	€ 37,400
• Operation of Library and Archival Service	€1,360,793
• Outdoor Leisure Areas Operations	€ 447,493
• Community Sport & Recreational Develop.	€ 3,472
• Operation of Arts Programme	€ 608,425
• Agency and Recoupable Services	€ 0

Total provision of €2,457,583

Members raised the following issues

- Reduced funding for Tullow Show. It was proposed by Councillor Pender and Seconded by Councillor Doran that the voluntary contribution to Tullow Show remain same as 2011 at €1250.
- Contribution to FAI in respect of Sports Development Officer. Following discussion the County Manager advised of correspondence from the FAI requesting half of last year's contribution which is to be split between Carlow Town Council and County Council. In this regard it was unanimously agreed that a contribution of €8,000 be provided for the FAI.

Queries raised were answered by County Manager and Ms O'Brien.

Agriculture, Education Health & Welfare

• Land Drainage Costs	€ 55,041
• Operation and Maintenance of Piers & Harbours	€ 0
• Coastal Protection	€ 0

• Veterinary Service	€ 328,561
• Educational Support Services	€7,467,844
• Agency & Recoupable Services	€ 0

• **Total provision of €7,851,446**

Members raised the following issues:-

- Veterinary services
- Higher Education Grants
- Control of horses

Queries raised were answered by County Manager and Ms. O'Brien.

Miscellaneous Services

• Profit/Loss Machinery Account	€390,187
• Profit/Loss Stores Account	0
• Administration of Rates	€372,305
• Franchise Costs	€146,779
• Operation of Morgue and Coroner Expenses	€ 89,501
• Weighbridges	€ 0
• Operation of Markets and Casual Trading	€ 28,344
• Malicious Damage	€ 0
• Local Representation/Civic Leadership	€807,402
• Motor Taxation	€621,624
• Agency & Recoupable Services	€1,442,550

Total provision of €3,898,692

Members raised the following issues:

- Coroner Fees and operation of Morgue
- Register of electors
- Non Principal Private Residence
- Motor taxation operation

Queries raised by Members were answered by Ms. O'Brien and Mr. Brophy.

Central Management

• Area Office Overhead	€	0
• Corporate Affairs Overhead	€	836,000
• Corporate Buildings Overhead	€	666,650
• Finance Function Overhead	€	496,600
• Human Resources Function	€	390,630
• I T Services	€	921,900
• Print/Post Room Service Overhead Allocation	€	85,000
• Pension & Lump Sum Overhead	€	2,150,000

•
Total provision of €5,546,780

It was proposed by Councillor Doran and seconded by Councillor Paton that the proposed budget be adopted by the Members with 3 amendments as follows:-.

- Contribution to Tullow Show €1250
- Carlow Mans Associations €3,500
- Contribution to FAI for Sports Development Officer €8,000

The members agreed that the Draft Budget be adopted as per table as set out hereunder.

TABLE A - CALCULATION OF ANNUAL RATE ON VALUATION

Summary by Service Division	Summary per Table A 2012				Estimated Net Expenditure Outturn 2011 (as restated)	
	Expenditure	Income	Budget Net Expenditure 2012			
	€	€	€	%	€	%
Gross Revenue Expenditure & Income						
Housing and Building	9,022,934	9,532,889	-509,955	-3%	-381,459	-2%
Road Transport & Safety	7,697,455	4,600,378	3,097,077	17%	2,947,349	16%
Water Services	7,692,361	1,931,733	5,760,628	32%	5,139,886	27%
Development Management	2,462,425	616,139	1,846,286	10%	1,915,014	10%
Environmental Services	5,841,272	1,483,879	4,357,393	24%	5,091,955	27%
Recreation and Amenity	2,473,583	162,275	2,311,308	13%	2,298,895	12%
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	7,851,446	7,565,766	285,680	2%	286,018	2%
Miscellaneous Services	3,898,694	2,914,281	984,413	5%	1,593,056	8%
	46,940,170	28,807,340	18,132,830	100%	18,890,714	100%
+ County Charge	0					
- County Charge		3,005,000	3,005,000		3,366,490	
Provision for Debit Balance	0		0			
Adjusted Gross Expenditure & Income (A)	46,940,170	31,812,340	15,127,830		15,524,224	
Financed by Other Income/Credit Balances						
Provision for Credit Balance		0	0			
Local Government Fund /General Purpose Grant		8,532,830	8,532,830		9,288,725	
Pension Related Deduction		820,000	820,000		840,000	
Sub - Total (B)			9,352,830		5,395,499	
Amount of Rates to be Levied C=(A-B)			5,775,000			
Net Effective Valuation D			86,881			
General Annual Rate on Valuation C/D			66.47			

**Proposed by Councillor M. Doran
Seconded by Councillor W. Paton
AND**

Following a showing of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

“That we, the Members of Carlow County Council, adopt for the financial year ending 31st December 2012, the Budget set out in Tables (B-F), as amended, and by resolution determine in accordance with the said Budget the Annual Rate on Valuation set out in Tables A and C, to be the Annual Rate on Valuation to be levied for that year for the purposes of those tables”.

The Chairman thanked the County Manager, Pat Delaney, Head of Finance, Ronan Fitzgerald, Acting Head of Finance, Staff and Members for their support and assistance.

The County Manager thanked P Delaney, Head of Finance for his work on the budget. He thanked R. Fitzgerald for his work and commitment in preparing and presenting the budget in the absence of P. Delaney.

This concluded the business of the meeting.