

Borough District of Drogheda 2023 Budgetary Plan Meeting

Minutes of the Borough District of Drogheda meeting hosted in The Council Chamber County Hall, Dundalk on Monday 17th October 2021 at 11.30a.m.

In attendance:

Leas Chathaoirleach: Councillor Kevin Callan

Members: Councillors: James Byrne, Joanna Byrne, Tom Cunningham, Fiachra MacRaghnaill, Declan Power, Pío Smith, Eileen Tully.

Apologies: Councillors: Michelle Hall, Paddy McQuillan.

Officials: Joan Martin, Chief Executive
Joe McGuinness, Director of Services
Bernie Woods, Head of Finance
Catherine Duff, Director of Services
Thomas McEvoy, Director of Services
Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services
Gráinne Tuomey, Meetings Administrator

Minute No. 96/22

Budgetary Plan 2022

Leas Chathaoirleach/Deputy Mayor, Councillor Kevin Callan, commenced the meeting and invited the Executive to speak.

Bernie Woods, Head of Finance advised Members that the executive expected clarification from the Department this week, on the allocation to Louth County Council including pay increases and energy costs. At this point in time, it was proposed that €60k could issue to each Municipal District for their 2023 Discretionary Fund. This would be reviewed at final balancing of Budget and may increase.

Ms. Woods further advised Members they had discretion on whether to accept the allocation laid out before them, as well as to allocate it now or decide to allocate it in the New Year at Municipal District.

Separately Municipal Districts had an option to increase local charges, such as Pay-Parking and advised Members that a 10cent charge increase would net an extra €100,000.

The Chief Executive advised that the allocation of €60k was as it stood today and it was hoped to be able to match the 2022 Discretionary Allowance of €75k but that would remain to be seen. Members were invited to raise any issues particular to their area that they might want addressed in the Budget.

It was **proposed by Cllr Kevin Callan** to accept the initial draft budget of €60,000 with allocations to be decided in 2023, this was **seconded by Cllr Pio Smith** and agreed.

A discussion took place around pay parking, which ultimately saw a proposal for a charge of €1 a day to be applied to free car park areas with funds raised to be ringfenced for the Drogheda Municipal District, as

Proposed by Cllr Pio Smith, and

Seconded by Cllr Fiachra MacRaghnaill

A **counter proposal** of €2 a day was suggested by **Cllr Eileen Tully** but did not get support, with an **objection** to implementation of any charges raised by **Cllr James Byrne**.

A Roll Call Vote was therefore called on the proposal to apply a €1 daily rate to free car park spaces, and ringfence funds for a separate fund stream for Drogheda District Projects as follows:

Councillor Voting	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
James Byrne		1		
Joanna Byrne	1			
Kevin Callan	1			
Tom Cunningham	1			
Michelle Hall				1
Fiachra MacRaghnaill	1			
Paddy McQuillan				1
Declan Power	1			
Pio Smith	1			
Eileen Tully		1		
Totals	6	2	0	2

And the motion was carried.

A suggestion was made to move meetings back upstairs in Tholsel and confirmation was received of car parking fee amnesty around Christmas.

There being no other business, the meeting concluded.

The Minutes were confirmed at a meeting of the Council held on:

Date:

7th Nov 2022

Cathaoirleach:

Cllr Pio Smith

Meeting Administrator:

Alice Quinlan