

Minutes of Budget Meeting 16th November 2020

Minutes of Budget 2021 Meeting held in St. Gerard's Hall, St. Alphonsus Road, County Hall, Dundalk on Monday 16th November 2020

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Cllr. Dolores Minogue

Members: Councillors: Marianne Butler, James Byrne, Joanna Byrne, Kevin Callan, Hugh Conlon, E. Corrigan, Tom Cunningham, Maria Doyle, Conor Keelan, Seán Kelly, Fiachra MacRaghnaill, Pearse McGeough, Andrea McKeivitt, Paddy McQuillan, Declan Power, John Reilly, Liam Reilly, Tomás Sharkey, John Sheridan, Pio Smith, Jim Tenanty, Eileen Tully, Antoin Watters, Maeve Yore,

Officials: J. Martin, Chief Executive
F. Pentony, Director of Services
C. Duff, Director of Services
J. McGuinness, Director of Services
P. Donnelly, Director of Services
B. Woods, Head of Finance
G. Tuomey, Meetings Administrator
Roisin McAuley, Accountant
Brian Lynch, Accountant
Mark Bagnell, Head of I. T.

Apologies: Cllr. Kevin Meenan

Minute No. 181/20

Draft Budget 2021

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Dolores Minogue formally opened the meeting to consider the Draft Budget for 2021. The Chief Executive Joan Martin gave a brief overview on how the budget had been drafted and impact of Covid-19 on resources.

The Head of Finance then gave a presentation to the members outlining the main points of the draft budget following which the members had questions answered in relation to the expenditure and income tables for each division.

Initially Cllr. Maria Doyle proposed to adopt the budget and Cllr. Liam Reilly seconded the proposal.

However Members were advised by the Head of Finance that some amendments had been made which must be adopted as part of the budgetary process before the budget could be adopted. This included a reallocation of €700 from each of the Councillors from the training/conference allocation to the Councillors allocations which had now been increased to €75,000 per MD.

A further discussion around amendments took place.

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Cllr Yore requested that a stay was put on the €10,000 allocation to Stephenstown Pond Trust from the proposed budget. Members were advised that as there was no specific allocation within the budget for Stephenstown Pond this could not be done within the budget process.

It was proposed by Cllr. Yore that an amendment be made to the draft budget to take €10,000 from Environment Service Code E0503 and redistributed to Dundalk MD, Cllr. H. Conlon seconded this proposal. A roll call vote followed:

For: Cllrs. M. Yore, H. Conlon **(2)**

Against: Cllrs. M. Butler, James Byrne, Joanna Byrne, K. Callan, T. Cunningham, M. Doyle, C. Keelan, S. Kelly, F. MacRaghnaill, P. McGeough, A. McKevitt, P. McQuillan, D. Minogue, D. Power, J. Reilly, L. Reilly, T. Sharkey, J. Sheridan, P. Smith, J. Tenanty, E. Tully, A. Watters **(22)**

Absent: Cllrs. E. Coffey, E. Corrigan, M. Hall, C. Markey, K. Meenan **(5)**

Cllr. C. Keelan advised that he was opposed to districts receiving the same amount of allocation where some districts supported a much larger population base than others. He proposed to combine the €75,000 allocation per district and reallocate this to a pro rata method based on numbers of Councillors per District. Cllr S. Kelly seconded this amendment. A roll call vote followed:

For: Cllrs. M. Butler, Joanna Byrne, T. Cunningham, M. Doyle, C. Keelan, S. Kelly, P. McGeough, A. McKevitt, J. Reilly, T. Sharkey, A. Watters, M. Yore **(12)**

Against: Cllrs. James Byrne, K. Callan, H. Conlon, P. McQuillan, D. Minogue, D. Power, L. Reilly, J. Sheridan, P. Smith, J. Tenanty, E. Tully **(11)**

Abstain: Cllrs. F. MacRaghnaill **(1)**

Absent: Cllrs. E. Coffey, E. Corrigan, M. Hall, C. Markey, K. Meenan **(5)**

It was clarified for members on questioning that if the budget was adopted with amendments including the transfer of conference training allowance that all amendments voted for in the current meeting would be included in adopted budget.

It was noted that the adoption of the amended budget was already proposed and seconded but following further discussion this was then put to Members to Vote.

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A roll call vote followed to pass the budget with amendments:

For: Cllrs. M. Butler, James Byrne, K. Callan, M. Doyle, C. Keelan, S. Kelly, A. McKeivitt, P. McQuillan, D. Power, J. Reilly, L. Reilly, E. Tully **(12)**

Against: Cllrs. Joanna Byrne, H. Conlon, T. Cunningham, F. MacRaghnaill, P. McGeough, D. Minogue, T. Sharkey, J. Sheridan, P. Smith, J. Tenanty, A. Watters, M. Yore **(12)**

Absent: Cllrs. E. Coffey, E. Corrigan, M. Hall, C. Markey, K. Meenan **(5)**

It was a split vote of 12 members each.

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor D. Minogue requested to have the casting vote against the amended budget.

The Chief Executive advised Members that they could not vote against the budget but would now need to reconvene and requested a date and time for next budget meeting.

The next meeting date was set for Thursday 19th November at 6p.m.

That concluded the business of the meeting

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

Date: _____

Cathaoirleach: _____

Meetings Administrator: _____