

Reconvened Budget Meeting 19th November 2020

Minutes of Reconvened Budget 2021 Meeting held in St. Gerard's Hall, St. Alphonsus Road, County Hall, Dundalk on Thursday 19th November 2020 at 6.00 p.m.

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Cllr. Dolores Minogue

Members: Councillors: Marianne Butler, James Byrne (remote attendance) Joanna Byrne, Kevin Callan, Emma Coffey, Hugh Conlon, Edel Corrigan, Tom Cunningham, Maria Doyle, Michelle Hall, Conor Keelan, Seán Kelly, Fiachra MacRaghnaill, Colm Markey, Pearse McGeough, Paddy McQuillan, Kevin Meenan, 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 Andrea McKevitt

Minute No. 182/20

Draft Budget 2021

The Chief Executive, Ms. Joan Martin, summarised the meeting on Monday 16th November, and advised that this meeting was to reconvene the previous adjourned meeting.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Dolores Minogue formally advised the meeting that they were to consider the Draft Budget for 2021 and advised that a resolution had been passed on the re-allocation of Municipal District Allocations which still stood. She also indicated that there were now two resolutions that were required to pass the budget, namely:

- The Transfer of conference monies to allocations
- The adoption of the amended budget

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Cllr. Liam Reilly proposed a motion to restore the original budgeted amount of €75,000 allocated per Municipal District, and to engage in meaningful discussion early in the New Year, on how this is dispersed in the future.

Cllr. Emma Coffey seconded the motion.

Members engaged in some discussion on this item. Cllr Keelan advised that he had always intended to vote for the budget and offered to withdraw his motion of the 16th on the allocation of funds for MDs should an undertaking be made by the Executive for some degree of proportionality and fairness for future allocations of funds. Both he and Cllr Sharkey advised that they had researched other Counties and claimed that all other counties divided allocations on a per capita per MD basis.

The Chief Executive advised that there was a long history of funds in Louth being divided equally and that ultimately this was not an executive matter but was for the members to agree amongst themselves. Members were advised that as a roll call vote had been taken on this item that it could only now be overruled by further roll call vote and the motion of 16th Nov could not be withdrawn.

A roll call vote was called for and took place on Cllr. Liam Reilly's motion.

All 28 members present voted in favour of motion.

The Head of Finance advised that the budget needed to be amended to move an amount of €19,150 from Councillor's Conferences (programme H0904) to Councillor's Allocations (programme F0401).

Acceptance of the amendment to budget on this matter was Proposed by Cllr Pio Smith and Seconded by Cllr Marianne Butler.

A motion was proposed by Cllr Pio Smith to adopt the Budget as amended. This was seconded by Cllr Emma Coffey.

Following further discussion this was then put to Members to Vote.

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

For: Cllrs. M. Butler, James Byrne, K. Callan, E. Coffey, H. Conlon, M. Doyle, M. Hall, C. Keelan, S. Kelly, F. MacRaghnaill, C. Markey, P. McQuillan, D. Minogue, D. Power, J. Reilly, L. Reilly, J. Sheridan, P. Smith, J. Tenanty, E. Tully **(20)**

Against: Cllrs. Joanna Byrne, E. Corrigan, T. Cunningham, P. McGeough, K. Meenan, T. Sharkey, A. Watters, M. Yore **(8)**

Absent Cllr. Andrea McKevitt **(1)**

The 2021 Budget was therefore adopted by resolution of Council.

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That concluded the business of the meeting

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

Date: _____

Cathaoirleach: _____

Meetings Administrator: _____