



Comhairle Contae Lú  
Louth County Council

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## **Louth County Council Budget 2024 Meeting 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

Minutes of 2024 Budget Meeting hosted in the Chamber of County Hall Dundalk on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023 immediately following the Plenary Council meeting

### **In attendance:**

### **Presiding:**

Cathaoirleach: Councillor Paula Butterly

### **Members:**

Councillors: Marianne Butler, James Byrne, Joanna Byrne, Kevin Callan, Bernie Conlon, Edel Corrigan, Tom Cunningham, Emma Cutlip, Michelle Hall, Conor Keelan Sean Kelly, Pearse McGeough, Paddy McQuillan, Kevin Meenan, Dolores Minogue, Robert Nash, Declan Power, John Reilly, Liam Reilly, John Sheridan, Pio Smith, Jim Tenanty, Eileen Tully, Antoin Watters, Maeve Yore

### **Apologies:**

Councillors: Emma Coffey, Andrea McKevitt, Tomás Sharkey

### **Officials:**

### **Present;**

Chief Executive - Joan Martin,  
Directors of Services – Joe McGuinness, Ger Murphy, David Jones, Eamon Woulfe (acting)  
Head of Finance – Bernie Woods,  
Senior Executive Officer – Brian Lynch  
Financial Accountant – Róisín McAuley  
Meetings Administrator – Gráinne Tuomey.

## Minute No. 200/23

### Draft Budget 2024

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr Paula Butterly invited the Chief Executive to address Members and Joan Martin advised that this was the best budget for 10 years, this being the first without vast land legacy loans affecting expenditure and followed an equalisation of rates which allowed for the possibility of increasing income. Members were advised of an extensive capital programme of €254million, and planned Budget expenditure of €171.7million.

Members were informed of and welcomed an increase to the Municipal District Budget Discretionary Allocation from €100m to €113m per district.

Bernie Woods then briefed Members on the budget, and including an option to transfer Conference Monies of up to €700 per Elected Members to the allocations code.

Some discussion took place around items in the budget document and all queries raised were responded to by the Executive. Most Members commended the budget as set before them with some describing it as a very balanced budget and very positive.

Adoption of the Budget was:

**Proposed by:** Cllr Kevin Callan

**Seconded by:** Cllr Jim Tenanty

And voted on by Members as follows:

Councillor	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Marianne Butler	1			
Paula Butterly	1			
James Byrne	1			
Joanna Byrne		1		
Kevin Callan	1			
Emma Coffey				1
Bernie Conlon	1			
Edel Corrigan		1		
Tom Cunningham		1		
Emma Cutlip	1			
Michelle Hall	1			
Conor Keelan		1		
Sean Kelly	1			
Pearse McGeough		1		
Andrea McKevitt				1
Paddy McQuillan	1			
Kevin Meenan		1		

Dolores Minogue	1			
Robert Nash	1			
Declan Power	1			
John Reilly	1			
Liam Reilly	1			
Tomás Sharkey				1
John Sheridan	1			
Pio Smith	1			
Jim Tenanty	1			
Eileen Tully	1			
Antóin Watters		1		
Maeve Yore	1			
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**And the Budget 2024 was adopted.**

Individual forms which had been handed to Members in order that they sign their individual preference in moving up to €700 each from their Conference allowance to allocations, came back totalling €16,150 to move from H0904 (conference code) to F0401 (councillor allocations). The Head of Finance Bernie Woods advised Members that only those present could choose to transfer the funds and those not present would not be afforded the option.

Cllr Liam Reilly **proposed** the transfer of unused Conference Monies to Community Grant Allocations. This was **seconded** by Cllr Maeve Yore and resolved.

There being no other business the meeting concluded.

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

Date:

18 Dec 2023

Cathaoirleach:

Paula Battersby

Meeting Administrator:

Chris Quinlan