

Municipal District of Dundalk 2023 Budgetary Plan Meeting

Minutes of the Municipal District of Dundalk meeting hosted in The Council Chamber County Hall, Dundalk on Monday 17th October 2022 at 9.00a.m.

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Councillor Kevin Meenan

Members: Councillor(s): Marianne Butler, Emma Coffey, Conor Keelan, Sean Kelly, Andrea McKeivitt, Liam Reilly, Antóin Watters, Maeve Yore.

Apologies: Councillor(s): Edel Corrigan, Maria Doyle, John Reilly, Tomás Sharkey.

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. 94/22

Budgetary Plan 2023

An Cathaoirleach, Councillor Kevin Meenan, 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.

Separately they had an option to increase local charges, which were mainly made up of Pay-Parking and advised that a 10cent increase in pay parking would net an extra €85k.

The Chief Executive cautioned Members that she hadn't ruled out the possibility of increasing pay parking herself in the Budget so any increase made by Members would be an additional increase. Members were further advised that it was hoped to be able to match the 2022 Discretionary Allowance of €75k but that would remain to be seen.

The Chief Executive invited Members to raise any issues particular to their area that they might want addressed in the Budget, and told that the draft overall proposed budget would issue to them in or around the 10th November.

It was **proposed by Cllr Liam Reilly** to accept the initial draft budget of €60,000 with allocations to be decided in 2023, **seconded by Cllr Andrea McKeivitt** and agreed.

Cllr Yore requested a breakdown of pay parking in Drogheda versus Dundalk which was given, and that progress be made on St. Nicholas Quarter and Dundalk Athletics Track in 2023.

Cllr Keelan asked if it was proposed that the same sum issue to each Municipal District and was advised that the Executive were not getting involved in any argument on same as it was a matter for the members.

There being no other business, the meeting concluded.

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

Date: 1st Nov 2022

Cathaoirleach: Kevin Moran

Meeting Administrator: Celia Jweeney