

Municipal District of Dundalk 2021 Budgetary Plan Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Dundalk 2021 Budgetary Plan Meeting held in the Council Chamber, County Hall on Monday 19th October 2020 at 9.00 a.m.

In attendance:

Members: Councillors: M. Butler, E. Corrigan, C Keelan, S. Kelly, A. McKeivitt, K. Meenan, J. Reilly, T. Sharkey, A. Watters, M. Yore

Officials: Joan Martin, Chief Executive
Frank Pentony, Director of Services
Bernie Woods, Head of Finance
Gráinne Tuomey, Meetings Administrator

Apologies: Councillors Cllr. M. Doyle, L. Reilly, E. Coffey

Minute No. 84/20

Budgetary Plan 2021

Cllr Seán Kelly chaired the meeting in the absence of Cathaoirleach.

The Chief Executive briefed Members on Draft Budgetary Plan and the Municipal District of Dundalk Budgetary Plan for 2021. Members were advised that District Allocations had been reduced from €65,000 to €55,000, but this figure would be reviewed at AFS in March.

Members were informed that we are to receive half of the 6month income lost on rates waivers which the Council has been carrying since March. However the rates waiver has now been extended to year end.

Members were advised other Covid Expenditure and loss of income currently stands at circa €1.5million to year end and it is unknown as to whether this will be forthcoming.

The Chief Executive advised on a positive note that the Irish Public Bodies have notified the council of an insurance rebate of circa €500,000, some due to improvement works carried out by the Council, reducing a Public Liability risk and that insurance costs for 2021 will also decrease. With the rebate this is expected to net between €600,000 - €650,000 saving, so while the covid cost is significant the overall budget figures will not vary hugely from those in 2020.

A number of issues were raised by Members including:

- Litter removal done by tidy towns committees,
- Suggestion that apprentices be taken on by the Council,
- The probation service be approached to assist with cleaning works
- The tourist officer widen her scope to include Dundalk.
- Public Toilets and Litter Bin allocations

The Chief Executive addressed all issues raised, and while acknowledging work done by tidy town committees, advised that hundreds of tonnes of rubbish was removed by staff regularly.

She confirmed that staff numbers were sufficient and that the Director of Services for operations deployed staff as she saw fit.

Members raised an issue that allocations should be population based and that they should therefore get a higher proportion of Members Allocations than other MDs. Members thought there had been a resolution to this effect and requested that this be checked.

A suggestion was made by Members that a combined county allocation might lead to a more strategic spend per capita, and could perhaps be allocated to one project e.g. an annual playground scheme.

Members were advised they could make a resolution on this or the split of allocations at full council, but were also advised that there were other funding streams for playgrounds.

The Draft Budgetary Plan was proposed by Cllr. Maeve Yore seconded by Cllr. John Reilly and agreed by the members.

There being no other business, the meeting concluded.

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

Date: _____

Cathaoirleach: _____

Meeting Administrator: _____