

Municipal District of Dundalk 2022 Budgetary Plan Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Dundalk 2022 Budgetary Plan Meeting held in The Council Chamber, County Hall, Dundalk on Monday 18th October 2021 at 9.30a.m.

In attendance:

Leas Cathaoirleach: Councillor K. Meenan

Members: Councillors: M. Butler, E. Coffey, C. Keelan, L. Reilly, J. Reilly, T. Sharkey, A. Watters, M. Yore

Apologies: Councillors: E. Corrigan, M. Doyle, S. Kelly, A. McKevitt

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

Minute No. 102/21

Budgetary Plan 2022

An Leas Cathaoirleach, Councillor Kevin Meenan, commenced the meeting.

The Chief Executive briefed Members on Draft Budgetary Plan and the Municipal District of Dundalk Budgetary Plan for 2022. Members were informed of loss of income from pay-parking of circa €1m which was probably not recoupable from the Department, payroll increases due to national pay agreements, with the grant funding from the Department remaining at €9.8m as per preceding years.

Members were advised that District Allocations were proposed at €75,000 for each District.

Members were informed by the Head of Finance they had an option to increase or decrease local charges, which were made up of Pay-Parking and Sport Centre Charges, but cautioned any decrease would come out of the general Municipal District allocation.

Dundalk Members contended that allocations should be population based and that they should therefore get a higher proportion of Members Allocations than other MD's. Reference was made to 'Putting People First' and the alleged stated requirement in legislation of the Chief Executive to have regard to the population of the Municipal District when drafting budgets and distributing allocations. A request for legal advice was sought in relation to this. The Chief Executive advised Members that she was satisfied that she had fully complied with her legal obligation but that legal confirmation could be sought thereafter. She was aware that the council voted on this issue last year and she was satisfied that she was following the wishes of the council which was not to change the process.

Municipal Allocations only took up a very small part of the overall budget proposal. The ultimate decision on how to distribute the allocations would be made by Councillors at the November County Council meeting.

Members were advised they were not deciding on the exact allocation at this meeting but agreeing to the Draft Budgetary Plan and overall Municipal District Budgetary Plan.

The Budgetary Plan was:

Proposed by: Cllr. Marianne Butler
Seconded by: Cllr. Tomás Sharkey
And agreed by the members

Head of Finance, Bernie Woods reminded Members they also need to agree whether to increase/decrease or leave Local Charges at the same level. Members were advised they were not deciding on how to spend local charges at this meeting.

Local Charges to remain the same was:

Proposed by: Cllr. Emma Coffey
Seconded by: Cllr. Marianne Butler
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: _____