

MINUTES OF STATUTORY BUDGET MEETING HELD IN ARAS AN  
CHONTAE, PORTLAOISE, ON THE 19<sup>TH</sup> OF DECEMBER 2007 AT 11.00  
A.M.

<b><u>PRESENT:</u></b>	Councillor	John Moran	In the Chair
	Councillors	William Aird Paddy Bracken James Deegan James Daly Thomas Jacob Michael Lalor Michael Moloney Dick Miller Brendan Phelan Michael Rice Mary Sweeney	John Bonham Ray Cribbin Geraldine Delaney John Joe Fennelly Catherine Fitzgerald Laurence Kavanagh Seamus McDonald Paul Mitchell Martin Phelan Brian Stanley
<b><u>APOLOGIES:</u></b>	Councillors	Jerry Lodge Dave Goodwin	John D. Turley

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Messers Peter Carey, County Manager, Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance, John Daly, Director of Services, Gerry Gibson, Director of Services, Declan Byrne, Director of Services, Ms. Anna Marie Delaney, Director of Services, Ms. Carmel McNicholl, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Affairs, Ms. Julie Bergin, Financial/Management Accountant & Ms. Michelle McCormack, Executive Secretary, Corporate Affairs.

**156. BUDGET 2008**

The County Manager referred the Members to the draft budget 2008 which had been prepared and circulated. He outlined the process that had been undertaken in relation to the preparation of the draft budget and he referred to the meeting held in committee on the 14<sup>th</sup> of December 2007 when all aspects of the draft budget were discussed in great detail on a programme by programme basis.

Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance then proceeded to summarise for the Members on a programme by programme basis the Council's proposals for 2008. The Cathaoirleach thanked Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance and all his staff for the efficiency and professionalism with which the draft budget had been prepared.

Members were informed that the Local Government Fund had not yet been notified to the Council. The draft budget provided for expenditure of €73,166,000, an increase of 7.7% over that provided in 2007. It proposed a rates increase of 4%, charges of 1.14 per 1,000 litres for water and 1.26 per 1,000 litres for waste water and an increase of 10 cent in car parking charges in Portlaoise.

Particular provisions in the draft budget were queried by members. The County Manager, Head of Finance and the appropriate Directors dealt with the various issues raised.

Councillor John Bonham proposed that the budget for 2008 be adopted as presented. This proposal was seconded by Councillor James Daly.

As a result of Councillor John Bonham's proposal the following resolution was adopted:

*"That the rates set out in the budget of Laois County Council for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2008 be determined in accordance with the said budget to be the general annual rate on valuation"*

This concluded the business of the meeting.

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_  
CATHAOIRLEACH

CERTIFIED: \_\_\_\_\_  
DIRECTOR CORPORATE AFFAIRS