

**MINUTES OF STATUTORY BUDGET MEETING HELD IN ARAS AN
CHONTAE, PORTLAOISE, ON THE 17th OF DECEMBER 2010 AT 11.00
A.M.**

PRESENT:

| | | |
|-------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Councillor | James Deegan | In the Chair |
| Councillors | Rotimi Adebari | William Aird |
| | John Bonham | Pat Bowe |
| | Paddy Bracken | Ben Brennan |
| | Ray Cribbin | James Daly |
| | John Joe Fennelly | Catherine Fitzgerald |
| | Padraig Fleming | David Goodwin |
| | John King | Michael Lalor |
| | Jerry Lodge | Seamus McDonald |
| | Paul Mitchell | John Moran |
| | Tom Mulhall | Kathleen O' Brien |
| | Martin Phelan | Brian Stanley |
| | Mary Sweeney | |

APOLOGIES: Councillors Brendan Phelan

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 J Bergin, Financial Management Accountant & Ms. Michelle McCormack, Executive Secretary, Corporate Affairs.

140. BUDGET 2011

The County Manager referred the Members to the Draft Budget 2011 which had been prepared and circulated. He outlined the process that had been undertaken in relation to the preparation of the draft budget. He advised that the draft budget had been prepared in an extremely difficult and very challenging economic environment. He then referred to the meeting held In-Committee on the 13th of December 2010 when all aspects of the draft budget were discussed in great detail.

Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance then proceeded to summarise for the Members on a division by division basis the Council's proposals for 2011.

He indicated that the reduction in the Local Government Fund of approximately €1.68 million (10% reduction on 2010) presented a major challenge to the Council in meeting their costs and ensuring that quality services are provided in 2011. In addition, there are further reduced income resources available to the Council across a range of headings, particularly in the Roads, Water Services and Development Management Divisions. He further advised that this was one of the most difficult budgets to prepare for many years.

The draft budget provides for revenue spending of €66,524,000. The estimated income is €40,732,500 leaving a net expenditure of €25,791,500 to be financed from the Local Government Fund of €15,143,000 (including the pension levy) commercial rates of €10,024,000 and an amount of €624,500 transferred from capital.

The Members collectively and individually complemented all the staff involved in the preparation of the budget for 2011. After a lengthy discussion, on the proposal of Councillor John Moran seconded by Councillor Michael Lalor the Annual Budget for 2011 was unanimously adopted as presented.

The County Manager thanked Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance, Ms. Julie Bergin, Financial/Management Accountant, the Directors of Service and all staff for the efficiency and professionalism with which the draft budget had been prepared. The County Manager welcomed the support of the elected Members and acknowledged the flexibility of staff during 2010.

141. PROGRAMME OF CAPITAL WORKS FOR 2011, 2012 and 2013

The members were circulated with the indicative list of the likely capital projects to be undertaken over the next three years and this was unanimously agreed, on the proposition of Councillor Mary Sweeney seconded by Councillor Kathleen O' Brien.

142. CIVIC RECEPTION

On the proposition of Councillor Mary Sweeney seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan, the members unanimously agreed to accord a Civic Reception to honour the Under-23 Cross Country Team who recently won a European Gold Medal at the 2010 European Cross Country Championships in Portugal. It was agreed that this be scheduled for a date in January 2011.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

SIGNED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

CERTIFIED: _____
**DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
CORPORATE AFFAIRS**

