

MINUTES OF ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING OF DONEGAL
COUNTY COUNCIL, HELD IN THE COUNTY HOUSE, LIFFORD
ON 11TH JANUARY 2008

C/01/08 MEMBERS PRESENT

Clrs. J. Boyle, Mayor, D. Alcorn, L. Blaney, A. Bonner, E. Bonner, C. Brogan, B. Byrne, F. Conaghan, G. Crawford, M.T Gallagher, J. Harte, J. Kelly, J. Kennedy, D. Larkin, N. Mc Bride, T. McDaid, M. Mc Donald, S. McEniff, I. McGarvey, D. Mc Gonagle, P. Mc Gowan, B. Mc Guinness, P. Mac Lochlainn, P. O' Dochartaigh, B. O' Neill, T. Pringle, J.J Reid, T. Slowey

C/02/08 OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. Michael McLoone, County Manager, Mr. Aidan Mc Nicholas, Head of Finance, Mr. L. Kelly, Assistant County Manager, Director of Housing, Mr. Francie Coyle, Director of Planning and Economic Development, Mr. John Mc Laughlin, Director Roads and Transportation, Mr Michael Heaney, Director Community, Culture and Enterprise, Mr. Sean Sheridan, Director Corporate Services, Mr. Peadar Mc Rory, A/Director Water, Environment and Emergency Services, Mr. Bartley Mc Glynn, Senior Executive Officer, Mr. Pheilim Crossan, Project Accountant, Ms Anne Marie Quinn, Administrative Officer, Ms Pauline Smyth, Assistant Accountant, Mr. Garry Martin, Senior Executive Officer, , Mr. Eunan Sweeney, Meetings Administrator, Ms. Anne Marie Crawford, Staff Officer, Corporate Services. Ms Donna Rodgers , Clerical Officer.

C/03/08 MAYOR'S ADDRESS

The Mayor, Clr. Boyle welcomed all in attendance and proceeded to outline the format of the proceedings. Clr. Boyle acknowledged the excellent work carried out by the Finance Directorate in the preparation of the budget material, and the contribution of the Head of Finance, Mr. Aidan Mc Nicholas to one of the most detailed budgets ever presented. Clr. Boyle advised that members were being asked today to:

1. Consider the Local Authority Revenue Budget as circulated for the Local Financial Year ending 31st December 2008, prepared by the County Manager in

accordance with Section 102 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

2. Adopt, with or without amendment, the Local Authority Budget, for the Local Financial Year ending 31st December 2008.
3. Determine, in accordance with the said Adopted Budget, the Annual rate on Valuation to be levied for the Local Financial Year ending 31st December 2008.
4. Adopt the amounts to be demanded from the Town Councils by way of a County Charge for the services of the year ended 31st December 2008.
5. Consider Report on the Indicative Capital Programme 2008-2010.

C/04/08

HEAD OF FINANCE'S PRESENTATION

The Head of Finance, Mr. Aidan Mc Nicholas, together with Mr. Bartley Mc Glynn, Senior Executive Officer, presented to the meeting a detailed account of the gross provisions for income and expenditure under each Programme Group on a Directorate by Directorate basis.

C/05/08

COUNTY MANAGER'S PRESENTATION

The County Manager acknowledged the excellent contribution of both Mr. Aidan Mc Nicholas, and Mr. Bartley Mc Glynn in the preparation of the 2008 Draft Budget.

He highlighted four major objectives to be considered within the overall Budgetary Strategy, namely:

1. Revenue Expenditure – To maintain and improve existing assets and services.
2. Capital Expenditure – To continue the Council's multi-annual capital programme to remedy deficits in the physical, economic and social infrastructure in the County.
3. To continue with the programme of reform and modernisation of Council services while reviewing spending plans to achieve savings.
4. To provide leadership for the overall development of the County and to develop the County within the national/cross-border plans for the NW region.

The County Manager informed members that approval was now being sought for a Gross Revenue Budget of €178,944,900 in 2008 and an increase of 5% in commercial rates.

Attention was also drawn to the Indicative Capital Programme, 2008-2010 and the €309,968,000 spend outlined for 2008.

- C/06/08 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING
On the proposal of Clr. Conaghan, seconded by Clr. Mc Eniff, it was resolved at 1.25pm to adjourn the meeting until 2.30pm
- C/07/08 On resumption, the Mayor invited the Party Whips to speak on behalf of their respective groupings.
Clrs. Conaghan, Slowey and Mac Lochlainn advised that their respective parties were not in a position to adopt the budgetary provisions outlined. Members stated that a 5% increase in the commercial rate, together with a 26% increase in water charges, would place a serious burden on the commercial sector.
- C/08/08 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING
Clr. Mc Eniff proposed, seconded by Clr. Mc Guinness and it was resolved that the meeting be adjourned to 2.00pm on Friday 18th January, 2008 to allow members to hold further discussions with the County Manager and the Head of Finance.