

**Minutes of Special Meeting of Leitrim County Council held in Aras An Chontae, Carrick-on-Shannon on Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2019**

**Members Present:** Councillor Armstrong–McGuire, Finola  
Councillor Barry, Brendan  
Councillor Bohan, Mary  
Councillor Dolan, Frank  
Councillor Dolan, Gerry  
Councillor Ellis, Caillian  
Councillor Fallon, Pádraig  
Councillor Farrell, Paddy  
Councillor Guckian, Des  
Councillor Gurn, Felim  
Councillor McDermott, Sean  
Councillor Mulligan, Thomas  
Councillor O'Rourke, Paddy  
Councillor Stenson, Enda  
Councillor Reynolds, Flynn, Ita  
Councillor Warnock, Justin  
  
Councillor McGloin, Enda  
Cathaoirleach presiding

**Apologies:** Councillor McGowan, Sean

**Officials Present:** Mr Lar Power, Chief Executive  
Mr. Joseph Gilhooly, Deputy Chief Executive, Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning and Infrastructural Services  
Ms. Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing, Corporate Services, Community and Cultural Services  
Mr. Vincent Dwyer, Head of Finance, Water, Environment, Climate Action and Emergency Services  
Mr Bernard Greene, Senior Planner  
Mr Michael Hand, Financial Management Accountant  
Mr Kieran Brett, Meetings Administrator  
Ms. Kathleen McGovern Ellis, Assistant Staff Officer

**19/168**  
**23/09/2019**     **Setting of the Local Adjustment Factor for Local Property Tax Rates for 2020**

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Enda McGloin invited the Chief Executive to give an overview on the setting of the Local Adjustment Factor for the Local Property Tax Rates in Leitrim for 2020.

Mr. Lar Power, Chief Executive outlined to the Members that Leitrim County Council has a very ambitious vision to develop a 6 year capital investment programme of over €276m throughout the County across tourism development, regeneration and development of town centres, job creation, community development, office enhancement, environmental protection and infrastructure development. This Capital Investment programme will allow County Leitrim to be increasingly recognised as a place of choice in which to live, to work, to visit and to invest, and equip the County in maintaining its attractiveness and competitive edge in the context of the pace of development across many areas of the country. The funding of the proposed investment plan will on the variety of national funding opportunities through Project Ireland 2040. However, matching funding at local level, is a critical factor in securing financial allocations as is maintaining the excellent financial position of the Council.

Mr. Power outlined a 15% Local Property Tax adjustment is proposed which will raise €320,000. He further outlined that the impact for 99% of households will be less than €1 per week, 60% of households would incur an increase of 26c per week and a further 35% of households would incur an increase of 65c per week under the proposal.

This update was noted by the members and the following comments were made:

Councillor Paddy O'Rourke sought a guarantee that the funds received by increasing the LPT would be ring fenced for new projects and will only be spent on these projects.

Mr Lar Power, Chief Executive gave a commitment that the €320,000 raised through the 15% adjustment in the Local Property Tax will be allocated to projects under the capital investment programme as detailed to the Members.

Councillor Des Guckian opposed the 15% increase in the Local Property Tax highlighting the increasing cost of living and proposed that funding be sought from Central Government.

Councillor Gerry Dolan opposed the increase stating this was another burden on properties.

Councillor Padraig Fallon opposed the increase in the Local Property Tax and outlined his views that it should be abolished and the whole tax system should be reformed.

Councillor Justin Warnock outlined that while he agreed with the sentiment expressed he outlined his view that in order for County Leitrim to progress it is important that it is developed and the proposed outlined will help to improve the County.

Councillor Enda Stenson said that there needs to be investment in Leitrim citing the need for Tourism and Sporting facilities to be improved in the County.

Councillor Mary Bohan paid tribute to the Executive and the quality of projects and the amount of funding sourced. Councillor Mary Bohan said that the schemes are all dependent on National Funding allocations. Cllr Bohan referred to community groups having to raise funding for footpaths, lack of funding available to deal with the long list on the Local Improvement Scheme, the issue of zero discharge and the building of one off rural houses which is ongoing for the last 10 years.

Councillor Brendan Barry opposed the increase and referred to the Community Involvement Schemes whereby the community have to come up with part funding to improve public roads.

**Proposed by Councillor Enda McGloin seconded by Felim Gurn AND RESOLVED:**

“That the basic rate of Local Property Tax should stand varied upwards by 15% for the year 2020 in respect of relevant residential properties situated in County Leitrim”.

**Proposed by Councillor Mary Bohan seconded by Padraig Fallon AND RESOLVED:**

“That the basic rate of Local Property Tax should not be varied upwards by 15% for the year 2020 in respect of relevant residential properties situated in County Leitrim”.

Mr Kieran Brett, Meetings Administrator outlined that as there was a counter proposal, a vote would have to be taken. The result of the poll taken was as follows:

**That the basic rate of Local Property Tax should not be varied upwards by 15% for the year 2020 in respect of relevant residential properties situated in County Leitrim**

<b>Against</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Armstrong-McGuire, Finola	Barry, Brendan		McGowan, Sean
Dolan, Frank	Bohan, Mary		
Ellis, Caillian	Dolan, Gerry		
Farrell, Paddy	Fallon, Pdraig		
Gurn, Felim	Guckian, Des		
McDermott, Sean			
McGloin, Enda			
Mulligan, Thomas			
O'Rourke, Paddy			
Stenson, Enda			
Reynolds, Flynn, Ita			
Warnock, Justin			
<b>12</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

Mr Brett outlined that as there was one member absent there was a total of 17 votes; with 12 votes against and 5 votes in favour of the counter-proposal. He outlined accordingly, that the counter-proposal was defeated and the original proposal is carried:

**Proposed by Councillor Enda McGloin seconded by Felim Gurn AND RESOLVED;**

“That the basic rate of Local Property Tax should stand varied upwards by 15% for the year 2020 in respect of relevant residential properties situated in County Leitrim”.

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Enda McGloin thanked the Chief Executive, Mr. Lar Power, Management Team, Mr. Vincent Dwyer, Head of Finance and the Members of the Finance Team for all their work in preparation for the meeting.

This concluded the business of the meeting at 2.15p.m.

**Signed:**

**Cllr Enda McGloin  
Cathaoirleach**

**Kieran Brett  
Meetings Administrator**

**Dated: 4<sup>th</sup> November 2019**