

**Minutes of the Athy Municipal District Budget Meeting**  
**Held on Wednesday, 08 October 2014 at 10.00 a.m.**  
**in Áras Chill Dara, Naas**

**Members Present:** Councillor M. Miley (Cathaoirleach ), Councillors T. Redmond, I. Keatley, A. Breslin and M Wall

**Apologies:** Councillor M. Dalton

**Also Present:** Ms E Hanlon Head of Finance, Ms F Millane Financial/Management Accountant, Mr J Boland Area Manager and Ms AM Gough Corporate Secretary

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**AY01/1410**

**Introduction**

Councillor Miley welcomed Eileen Hanlon and Fiona Millane to the meeting. He extended his sympathies on behalf of the committee to Councillor Wall on the death of his mother and to all the wall family.

Ms Hanlon outlined to the members that under Circular LG11/2014 and the Local Government Reform Act 2014 there was a requirement to have a draft budget strategy meeting with each of the municipal districts. Ms Hanlon then went on to outline that the members of the Municipal District had to nominate projects on which the retained portion of the Local Property Tax was to be spent . It was entirely at the discretion of the members, but it had been recommended that projects should be around €50,000 in cost. However members could nominate projects for less than that amount. The total amount available to the members for this was €332,737

A number of Financial reports were circulated to the members.

The members asked a number of questions on how the money could be spent, Ms Hanlon confirmed that it was entirely at the discretion of the members what projects could be put forward. She advised the members that she needed to have their submissions by the 14 October for inclusion in the Annual Budget for the council. Ms Hanlon also confirmed that funding for projects could be carried out over a number of years.

**Resolved:** The members agreed to submit their proposals to the Cathaoirleach and he would forward the nominated projects to Ms Hanlon by the 14<sup>th</sup> October.

### **AY02/1410**

#### **Harmonisation of Rates**

Ms Hanlon informed the members that under the Local Government Reform Act 2014 that rates of the former Town Councils and County Councils had to be harmonised over the next 10 years. The Finance committee had recommended that this should take place over 5 years. This only affected the towns of Naas and Athy. The Act also stated that the base rate could not be increased while harmonisation was taking place. If accepted at full council this policy guaranteed that there would be no increase in base rate for the next 5 years. Ms Hanlon stated that the rate in the county was currently 68.95 and in Athy it is 56.29 where as in Naas it is 67.41, this would mean an increase of 12.66 for Athy. The members raised their concerns over the increase being brought in over the five years stating that it would be a significant burden on the businesses in Athy.

### **AY03/1410**

#### **Vacancy Relief Rate**

Ms Hanlon informed the members that the vacancy relief rate is currently 100%, however the local government reform act gives the power to the Members to vary this rate at the budget meeting. Councillor Miley proposed to keep this at 100% and this was seconded by Councillor Redmond, but Councillor Breslin stated that there were issues that need to be discussed.

The meeting concluded.