

**Minutes of Budget Meeting of Leitrim County Council held in the Council Chamber, Áras an Chontae, Carrick on Shannon, Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2018.**

**Members Present** Councillor Armstrong McGuire, Finola  
Councillor Barry, Brendan  
Councillor Bohan, Mary  
Councillor Dolan, Frank  
Councillor Dolan, Gerry  
Councillor Fallon, Padraig  
Councillor Ellis, Caillian  
Councillor Guckian, Des  
Councillor Guckian, Sinead  
Councillor Gurn, Felim  
Councillor Logan, Seadhna  
Councillor McCartin, John  
Councillor McDermott, Sean  
Councillor O'Rourke, Paddy  
Councillor Warnock, Justin

And Councillor Sean McGowan, Cathaoirleach presiding

**Apologies:** Councillor Mulvey, Caroline  
Councillor Stenson, Enda

**Officials Present:** Mr Lar Power, Chief Executive  
Mr. Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Economic  
Development, Planning and Transportation  
Ms. Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing and Community, Corporate  
Services, Culture and Emergency Services  
Mr. Vincent Dwyer, Head of Finance, Water Services & Environment  
Ms Una Wynne, Financial Management Accountant  
Mr. Shay O'Connor, Senior Engineer  
Mr Francis Gaffney, A/Senior Engineer  
Mr. Bernard Greene, Senior Planner  
Mr Justin Fannon, Senior Executive Officer  
Ms Sinead Flynn, Administrative Officer  
Mr. Kieran Brett, Meetings Administrator  
Ms Susan Barry, A/Senior Staff Officer  
Ms Carmel Doherty, Staff Officer  
Ms Eilish McGovern, A/Staff Officer  
Ms. Kathleen McGovern Ellis, Assistant Staff Officer  
Ms Patricia Holohan, Assistant Staff Officer

At the outset of the meeting Cathaoirleach, Councillor Sean McGowan welcomed the funding of €2.9 million which had been announced for Carrick-on-Shannon for the Urban Regeneration Project.

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Sean McGowan congratulated the following:-

- King & Moffatt Electrical on the opening of their European Headquarters in Carrick-on-Shannon recently.
- Lough Rinn International Rowing and Canoe Course Project which was awarded 1st Prize for the Local Authority Initiative Award at the Engineers Ireland Excellence Awards recently.
- Carrick-on-Shannon Town on winning 2nd place in Ireland's Friendliest Place 2019.
- Comhairle na nÓg Liatroma on winning Community Wellbeing Initiative Holistic Category at the IPB Pride of Place Awards in Cork City recently.
- Ms Dereval Rooney on winning the Leitrim Sports Star Award 2018 and all the winners at Leitrim Sports Awards. Councillor McGowan paid tribute to all the nominees for the Leitrim Sports Awards 2018 and wished them all well in their sporting careers.

Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire also welcomed the announcement of €2.9 million for Carrick-on-Shannon Rural Regeneration Project and paid tribute to Mr Lar Power and the Council for their efforts in this regard.

She encouraged the business people to consider these projects which will be going on public display. She acknowledged that the work to be undertaken will cause some upset to the community and will result in on-street car parking spaces being lost but it is important that this work is undertaken to improve the town of Carrick-on-Shannon and make it more vibrant.

**18/185**

**26/11/2018 Consideration of Draft Budget for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019**

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Sean McGowan invited the Chief Executive to give an overview of the Draft Budget for 2019 as presented to the Members.

Mr. Lar Power, Chief Executive referred to the Draft Budget for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2019 and to his report dated 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2018 as circulated to each Member. A copy of the Budget document as circulated to the Members appears as **Appendix 1** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book.

Mr. Power advised that the Draft Budget has been prepared to maximise the best use of resources for the year ahead and in accordance with the key principles of continuing to promote the economic development of the county and to make Leitrim the best place to work, live and invest, to improve and protect the living environment and to maximise organisational capacity within the resources available.

Mr Lar Power outlined that the Budget for 2019 will support the progression of the following key development objectives:

- Maximising economic development
- Ensuring the primacy of towns and villages
- Maximising the potential of tourism
- Nurturing and enabling people and communities
- Developing the organisational culture

The key development objectives are built upon the following aspirations for County Leitrim:

- Placing enabling – The creation and sustaining of jobs and the building of sustainable communities throughout County Leitrim at the core of our business.
- Continue to develop the form, function and finances of Leitrim County Council
- Enable the communities of County Leitrim to do it for themselves
- Work from the centre out in every town and village settlement in County Leitrim
- Continue to develop the “Leitrim Destination” and create its sub destinations
- Enable Leitrim to be distinctive
- Concentrate on presentation of the County
- Concentrate on creating a vibrancy/experience in our Towns and Villages
- Concentrate on outcomes rather than outputs
- Endeavour to secure the outcome of exceeding Customer Expectations across the entire County of Leitrim

Mr Lar Power stated that the 2019 Budget provides for an amendment to the vacancy write-off scheme, he had originally proposed a 50% rates charge on vacant properties but added that councillors had been very vocal on their feelings on this calling for a 25% to be put in place instead. Leitrim County Council will grant a maximum write off equivalent to 75% of commercial rates invoiced during 2019. Currently there are 1090 commercial properties in the county and 170 of these are currently vacant. Mr Power outlined that the purpose of this scheme is to change the culture as it is not feasible to leave properties idle until the economy improves. Mr Power pointed out that this is not a money making exercise but rather it is about finding a new approach to achieve vibrancy in our Towns and Villages. Mr Power outlined that Leitrim County Council is also bringing in a new incentive scheme aimed at encouraging the use of existing vacant properties for craft artists/artisan business. Mr Power outlined that owners of vacant commercial properties have a number of options

- Secure a tenant
- Apply for change of use of the premises
- Seek to have the property de-listed as a commercial property
- Opt to put properties up for sale

Mr Power thanked the Members for their robust discussions and their collective view in this regard.

Mr Power welcomed the announcement of €2.9 million funding for Carrick-on-Shannon under the Rural Regeneration scheme. He outlined this was a huge investment for Carrick-on-Shannon and he acknowledged Mr Bernard Greene, Senior Planner and the entire team of Leitrim County Council.

Mr. Power then invited Mr. Vincent Dwyer, Head of Finance to give a detailed presentation on Budget 2019. Mr. Dwyer gave a detailed overview of the budgetary process and the structure of the Budget document. A copy of the presentation as delivered, and as circulated to the Members, appears as **Appendix 2** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book.

It was agreed that Mr. Dwyer would proceed to give an overview of each individual Division and that questions arising would then be addressed after each Division.

### **Division A - Housing and Building**

Mr. Vincent Dwyer gave an overview of the provisions in Division A – Housing & Building.

The following items were raised:

- Councillor Paddy O'Rourke sought clarification on the NPPR charge.
- Councillor Sean McDermott queried if there is sufficient funds to cover the housing grants payments for 2018
- Councillor Justin Warnock sought an update on Housing Estate Management.
- Councillor Padraig Fallon sought clarification on the supports that are available for people in housing crisis/homelessness.
- Councillor Sean McGowan referred to the potential use of The Shannon Key West Hotel in Roosky, County Leitrim as an accommodation centre for persons in the International Protection Process. Councillor McGowan noted that this was the wrong place for such a facility as there are no services available.
- Councillor Seadhna Logan queried if funding has been made available for the direct provision centre at Rooskey.
- Councillor Brendan Barry queried if there will be additional outdoor staff taken on and he sought update on the Energy Efficiency works.
- Councillor Sinead Guckian noted that she had asked Leitrim County Council to pay Management fees in the past and she queried if there is a provision in the budget to cover these costs.

In response to Councillor O'Rourke Mr Vincent Dwyer responded as follows:

- The Non Principal Private Residence charge is no longer charged since 2013, but any outstanding liabilities and payments still remain payable.

In response to the queries raised Ms. Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing and Community, Corporate Services, Culture and Emergency Services responded as follows:

- There is adequate provision for the housing grants payments and it is the aim of Leitrim County Council to draw down the full allocation each year.
- Housing Estate Management grants are paid to Residents Associations and Management Groups. She acknowledged that there are a number of housing estates in need of painting, this will be reviewed.

- Funding for Refugee Resettlement Programme has been expended - this was a specific one year programme.
- Funding for homeless is channelled through the North West Regional Homeless Forum.
- Not aware to date of any funding from the Department of Justice and Equality for the direct provision centre in Rooskey.
- An application has been made for the Energy Efficiency works – a small number of houses are eligible for this work.
- Provision has been made for additional housing staffing resources across the county.
- Management Fees arise from time to time and these are included in the budget.

### **Division B - Road Transport & Safety**

Mr. Vincent Dwyer, Head of Finance gave an overview of the provisions in Division B – Road Transport and Safety. He outlined that the final budget in relation to Roads will not be known until the allocations are made in early 2019.

The following items were raised:

- Councillor Mary Bohan queried how much money is being paid by developers particularly Forestry companies for local roads. Councillor Bohan referred to a motion at the last Manorhamilton Municipal District meeting where this was discussed. Councillor Bohan proposed that some part of a meeting be allocated to discuss this issue in order to put some structure on it and she called for monitoring to be put in place in this regard.
- Councillor Sinead Guckian sought an update on the Carrick-on-Shannon By-pass.
- Councillor Justin Warnock noted that the R280 needs serious work and this work needs to be undertaken in 2019. There is a need for the traffic to flow from the North of the County to the South of the county.
- Councillor Pdraig Fallon supported Councillor Bohan and Councillor Warnock's proposals and expressed his disappointment that there is no funding available for public lighting. Councillor Fallon proposed that a submission be made to the Department to make funding available for public lighting as not every community group is able to raise funding for public lighting.
- Councillor Felim Gurn sought an update in relation to the Local Improvement Scheme.
- Councillor Mary Bohan proposed that a special case be made to seek a special allocation for footpaths. Councillor Bohan insisted that Leitrim County Council should not be looking for Community groups to fund footpaths.

Councillor Mary Bohan referred to Windmill Park Housing Estate, Drumkeeein which is located along the R280. She noted that residents from this estate can't walk on this road at night and there is a responsibility on the Local Authority to ensure footpaths are in place as

this road is the main artery throughout the county. Councillor Sean McGowan supported this.

- Councillor Padraig Fallon proposed that the Local Authority should be seeking funding for Town & Village enhancement. Councillor Sean McDermott noted that there is no logic in this as some towns and villages are falling behind as they won't be able to match funds.

In response to the queries raised Ms. Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning and Transportation responded as follows:

- A new Public Safety Scheme which has lesser requirements for community groups is available nationally – will discuss requirements with Elected Member in question.
- Further discussions on the Local Improvement Scheme will take place.
- Footpaths will be considered further when the 2019 Roads Allocation is known and the new Multi Annual Roads Scheme is put in place.
- Will review match funding requirements when the 2019 Roads Allocation is known and try and reduce burden on Community groups and issue clarity.

Mr. Shay O'Connor, Senior Engineer responded as follows:-

- Forestry work not included in this budget and he noted request to have a discussion at further date in this regard.
- Roscommon Regional Design Office will seek approval from the TII to engage a consultant on the Carrick-on-Shannon Bypass as environment and planning laws have changed since the Bypass was suspended in 2007/2008.
- No specific grant available for R280.

### **Division C - Water Services**

Mr. Vincent Dwyer, Head of Finance gave an overview of the provisions in Division C – Water Services.

The following items were raised:

- Councillor Mary Bohan sought clarification on the Water Services Level Agreement and the costs that can be recouped for Group Water Schemes.
- Councillor Justin Warnock sought an update on the Edenville Group Water Scheme.
- Councillor Padraig Fallon sought an update on the water extension to Kinlough Community Centre.
- Councillor Sean McGowan proposed that funding be sought for sewerage works in Bornacoola.

- Councillor Sinead Guckian supported Councillor Sean McGowan's proposal and proposed that a letter issue to the Minister inviting the Minister to address the Elected members on this issue as it is a very important environmental issue. Councillor Sean McGowan supported this.
- Councillor Frank Dolan sought an update on Moneyduff GWS.
- Councillor Mary Bohan sought an update on staff concerns in relation to their Pension Entitlements that have been transferred from the Local Authority to Irish Water.

Mr. Vincent Dwyer, Head of Finance responded as follows:-

- Service Level Agreement in place between Leitrim County Council and Irish Water up to 2025. All costs associated with Group Water Schemes are recovered by Leitrim County Council from Irish Water.
- NLRWSS gone to DBO contract operation expected in early 2019. Contractor will operate plant for 6-12 months to ensure all issues are sorted, after which it will revert to the Council to operate.
- National discussions are ongoing between Government and Irish Water in regard to Pension Entitlements for staff who have transferred from the Local Authority to Irish Water.
- The fire hydrant at Kinlough Community Centre should be covered under the conditions of the Fire Safety Certificate.

Mr. Shay O'Connor, Senior Engineer responded as follows:-

- Edenville Group Water Scheme remains on the list but there is no allocation of funding available for the Scheme. Funding maybe forthcoming next year.
- 13-14 Group Water Schemes were not successful for funding last time and funding for these Schemes will be re-applied for.

#### **Division D - Development Management**

Mr. Vincent Dwyer, Head of Finance gave an overview of the provisions in Division D – Development Management.

The following items were raised:

- Councillor Brendan Barry proposed that Leitrim Tourism Network should be allocated funding from the Tourism budget, if Leitrim want to get value 24/7, 365 days per year from the people who are working at the “coal face” and putting in an extra drive in promoting Leitrim. Councillor Barry paid tribute to the staff of Leitrim County Council who do their best in this regard.
- Councillor Mary Bohan supported Councillor Barry and noted that Leitrim Tourism Network promotes Leitrim and has Tourism practitioners who understand Tourism very well and are

very successful. Leitrim Tourism Network have contacted the Members seeking funding in this regard.

- Councillor Bohan supported that Leitrim Tourism Network get some funding.
- Councillor Mary Bohan welcomed the funding for the Urban and Village Renewal Scheme.
- Councillor Felim Gurn expressed his concerns that there is no funding for Leitrim Tourism Network. Cllr Gurn noted Leitrim Tourism Alliance has not met since last year. Councillor Gurn proposed that €10,000 be allocated to Leitrim Tourism Network.
- Councillor Paddy O'Rourke supported Councillor Gurn's proposal. Councillor O'Rourke welcomed Ms Sarah Malone to the role of Heritage Officer with Leitrim County Council.
- Councillor Des Guckian sought clarification on the Conservation Grants and how much the Department of Heritage will be funding. He said he was aware of old houses that are in need of repair.
- Councillor Sean McDermott acknowledged the great work of Leitrim Tourism Network who work at the "coal face of tourism in the county". Councillor Sean McDermott noted that there needs to be strategic co-operation and a lot of the work is done on a voluntary basis.
- Councillor Padraig Fallon outlined that he is a Director of the group and he paid tribute to the amount of work the group do and he pointed out that €10,000 would make a big difference this equates to 0.027% of the overall budget less the 2% of Tourism budget. Councillor Padraig Fallon expressed his disappointment that Leitrim County Council cannot find this funding to support Tourism.
- Councillor Justin Warnock insisted Tourism needs all stakeholders to get together to promote same. He noted the budget for heritage was very small.
- Councillor Sinead Guckian supported Councillor Des Guckian comments in regard to conservation grants and concurred with the Members comments for the need to improve communications in the Tourism industry.
- Councillor Sinead Guckian queried as to when the County Development Plan review will commence.
- Councillor Frank Dolan supported the call for support for Leitrim Tourism Network. Councillor Dolan noted that huge resources are put in from counties for tourism and the tourism figures are down slightly.
- Councillor Gerry Dolan supported the Members comments in regard to Leitrim Tourism Network. Councillor Gerry Dolan called for all organisations promoting Leitrim to meet with the Executive in this regard.
- Councillor Seadhna Logan supported the members and welcomed the increase in funding for the Local Enterprise Office and called for LEO to engage with the owners of vacant commercial units to drive investment into these vacant premises.
- Councillor Sean McGowan supported the members and outlined that discussions should take place in regard to town twinning.



Councillor Mary Bohan noted it was proposed to have 4 quarterly meetings of Leitrim Growth Tourism Alliance and she queried as to why no meetings have taken place over the last year. Councillor Bohan paid tribute to the work of Leitrim Growth Tourism Alliance. Councillor Mary Bohan proposed that the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of Leitrim Growth Tourism Alliance take place in January 2019. Structures need to be put in place and an amount of funding needs to be ring fenced.

Mr Lar Power, Chief Executive responded as follows:

- Mr Power stated that all stakeholders in the sector in Leitrim need to come together to create a meaningful Tourism Forum with which Leitrim County Council will work in a collaborative manner. Mr Power confirmed that a public meeting will be held to take on board the views of all stakeholders, and tourism operators in the Tourism industry in the county.

Mr Lar Power advised that money can be allocated through grants and money can be availed of for brochures. Mr Power committed to holding quarterly meetings of Leitrim Growth Tourism Alliance and which will have a structure representing all.

At this point the meeting adjourned for 40 minutes for refreshments.

On resumption of the meeting it was proposed by Councillor Felim Gurn that from January 2019 €10,000 be ring fenced for Tourism under the Tourism Budget to be made available for an open call for applicants. Councillor Mary Bohan supported this. This was agreed by the Members.

Councillor Pdraig Fallon proposed that the Local Authority or agency acting on behalf of Leitrim Growth Tourism Alliance would not be applying for this €10,000.

Councillor Felim Gurn proposed that the Open Call be for duration of 2 to 3 weeks and a decision pending this.

Councillor Justin Warnock noted that a lot of work needs to be undertaken in regard to Heritage and Members need to be kept up to date on this.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly responded as follows:

- Agreed to this proposal and advised Members that a paper will be prepared for the next SPC meeting on the criteria for the "Open Call".
- The review of the County Development Plan will commence in May 2019. Significant resources are required and have been planned for this for the next 2 to 3 years in the budget.

- The establishment of a Heritage Forum was approved at the September Council meeting and the names for the Heritage Forum will be brought before the January Council meeting for approval.
- Leitrim County Council engage with Leitrim Tourism Network which was set up by Leitrim Development Company. Mr Gilhooly said he was mindful of the tourism strategy and that tourism is a very significant industry in the county which is incorporated into the Economic Development Plan. Leitrim County Council continue to invest in the promotion of County Leitrim as a tourism destination in collaboration with key partners such as Waterways Ireland, Failte Ireland and Inland Fisheries Ireland. Leitrim County Council work collectively and fairly with all organisations. Leitrim County Council have not indicated a subsidy in the budget for any individual organisation and it would be premature to support any one network. Leitrim County Council work with all voluntary organisations and private networks on an “equal footing”. The Tourism organisation is very fragmented in this county.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly responded to Councillor Des Guckian as follows

- Confirming that the €92,000 for Conservation Grants -100% is funded by the Government and people who apply for this scheme have to provide match funding of 25% to 50%

### **Division E - Environmental Services**

Mr. Vincent Dwyer, Head of Finance gave an overview of the provisions in Division E – Environmental Services and he invited any questions from the Members. The following items were raised:

- Councillor Mary Bohan noted there was no allocation in the budget for the relocation or extension of the Bring Bank Centre in Drumkeerin. Councillor Bohan said the issue of Bring Bank Centre Operations was raised at a Manorhamilton Municipal District Meeting, Members were advised that no funding was available for the relocation or upgrading of the facility in Drumkeerin but funding would be sought. Councillor Bohan reiterated that the Bring Bank Centre in Drumkeerin was not a suitable site.
- Councillor Brendan Barry sought clarification on the Landfill Aftercare costs figure.
- Councillor Brendan Barry sought an update on the Litter Control Initiatives.
- Councillor Paddy O'Rourke sought clarification on the Maintenance and Upkeep of Burial Grounds.
- Councillor Justin Warnock queried if there was enough money invested in Fire Fighters and Fire Stations as 1/5 of the County is planted in forestry.
- Councillor Pdraig Fallon noted the expenses incurred by this Local Authority for illegal dumping and tip dumping on the sides of our roads. Councillor Fallon proposed that more funds need to be allocated to this area as it is under resourced.
- Councillor Des Guckian sought a breakdown on the Operation of the Fire Brigade Service.
- Councillor Felim Gurn queried as to who is responsible for footpaths in graveyards owned by Leitrim County Council. Councillor Felim Gurn outlined that he is receiving

representations from the public who have family members buried in local graveyards and the Church are saying they don't own the graveyards. Councillor Gurn acknowledged the help from Loughlin House and proposed that Leitrim County Council should avail of schemes to help do carry out work in graveyards and a Plan should be put in place for Maintenance of graveyards.

- Councillor Pádraig Fallon pointed out that there are significant costs involved in cleaning up these litter dumping messes and he acknowledged that this has been managed in the past.
- Councillor Sean McDermott queried if there is a priority in the case of an extension to Rossinver Graveyard as relatives have to bury family members somewhere else than they wished to.
- Councillor Brendan Barry noted a few years ago Leitrim County Council was encouraging maintenance and upkeep of Council graveyards.

Mr. Vincent Dwyer responded as follows:-

- There is no dedicated budget for Bring Bank Centre Operations. The Local Community in question should look at a new location for such a service and an Engineer will take a look at it and revert back to the Elected Member in question.
- Landfill Aftercare loan is moved from Revenue to Capital Account.
- Litter Control Initiatives are run by WERLA and are fully funded by the Department.
- €22,000 is paid to Burial Graveyard Caretakers to maintain graveyards.
- Provision is available on the Capital Account for new graveyards.
- It was acknowledged that Leitrim County Council cannot afford to be extending graveyards but Leitrim County Council assist community groups to do this work.
- 75% of the Operation of Fire Brigade Service relates to payroll for Retainer and Fire Drills training.
- Litter control is the responsibility of landowners if litter is dumped on their property.

Ms Mary Quinn responded as follows:-

- There are 5 Fire Stations in Leitrim and 3 of them are included for upgrade in the current Capital Programme. Applications are made on an annual basis for fleet replacement.
- Fire Service call out in relation to forest fires is dependent on the weather.

### **Division F - Recreation & Amenity**

Mr. Vincent Dwyer, Head of Finance gave an overview of the provisions in Division F – Recreation & Amenity and he invited any questions from the Members. The following items were raised:

- Councillor Des Guckian sought a list of the Parks, Pitches and Open Spaces this referenced to.
- Councillor Justin Warnock noted concerns of staff in the library service in regard to their jobs being replaced by machines
- Councillor Sean McDermott paid tribute to Leitrim who have many open spaces provided by Coillte which were developed over 30 years ago. Councillor McDermott pointed out that these open spaces are not being monitored or maintained and this should be reviewed.
- Councillor Mary Bohan referred to the grant for the Genealogy Service in Ballinamore that has been reduced. She paid tribute to the good service the Genealogy Service provide to many people both abroad and at home. Councillor Bohan proposed that this decrease be reinstated.
- Councillor Seadhna noted that the subvention towards the Genealogy Centre has decreased over a number of years.
- Councillor Brendan Barry queried if funding for Arts under the Creative Ireland Programme is only open to Leitrim Artists.

Ms Mary Quinn responded as follows:

- Playgrounds are inspected on weekly basis by Leitrim County Council staff and an National inspection is carried out externally once a year.
- The new National Library Strategy is to improve and enhance the services provided by the Library Service. Self Service technology has been deployed in branches and this will enhance the service.
- Creative Ireland Funding is directed towards programmes in the County

Mr Joseph Gilhooly responded as follows;

- The Genealogy Service in Ballinamore is an important service to the County and Leitrim County Council are very supportive of it.

### **Division G - Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare**

Mr. Vincent Dwyer, Head of Finance gave an overview of the provisions in Division G – Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare and he invited any questions from the Members. The following items were raised:

- Councillor Sean McDermott acknowledged that it is very regrettable that Leitrim Council can't raise funding for drainage schemes and he paid tribute to Minister Boxer Moran and welcomed the €50,000 funding in this regard.
- Councillor Justin Warnock expressed his disappointment that there was no funding for Tynte Lodge the only built heritage on the coast.
- Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire queried why the cost of the Operation of the Dog Warden Service has increased dramatically.
- Councillor Des Guckian sought clarification on the Maintenance of Land Drainage Areas

Mr Vincent Dwyer responded to Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire advising that the Dog Warden Service is in place for a number of years. This service has been tendered and this is very good value.

Mr Shay O'Connor responded to Councillor Des Guckian advising that figure included Minor Flood schemes.

#### **Division H - Miscellaneous Services**

Mr. Vincent Dwyer, Head of Finance gave an overview of the provisions in Division H – Miscellaneous Services.

**Proposed by Councillor Councillor Sinead Guckian seconded by Councillor Sean McGowan and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:**

“That Leitrim County Council call on the Government for the Register of Electors to be available online and that the Register be linked to Personal Public Service numbers”.

**18/186**

**26/11/2018 Adoption of Draft Budget for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019**

Councillor John McCartin complimented Mr Lar Power, Chief Executive and Mr Vincent Dwyer, Head of Finance and the staff of Leitrim County Council for preparing Budget 2019 having regard to the limited finances available to the Local Authority. He proposed the adoption of the Budget as presented. This proposal was seconded by Councillor Paddy O'Rourke.

Councillor Des Guckian made a counter-proposal not to adopt Budget 2019 as presented to the Members. There was no support for Councillor Des Guckian's counter-proposal.

Councillor Sean McGowan paid tribute to the staff that prepared the budget and acknowledged the difficult decisions that have to be made because of the limited financial resources available to the local authority.

***Proposed by Councillor John McCartin, seconded by Councillor Paddy O'Rourke AND AGREED***

“That Leitrim County Council adopts for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019, the Budget set out in Tables A - F, and further resolves to determine in accordance with the said Budget the rates set out in Table A to be the annual rate on valuation to be levied for 2019 for the purposes set out in those Tables.”

**18/187**

**26/11/2018 Determination of Annual Rate on Valuation**

**Proposed by Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire seconded by Councillor Mary Bohan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED**

“That Leitrim County Council hereby determines in accordance with the Budget as proposed and adopted by the Members, the Annual Rate on Valuation to be levied for the several purposes specified in the Budget for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2019.”

**18/188**

**26/11/2018 Application of a 75% Commercial Rates Vacancy Refund**

**Proposed by Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire seconded by Councillor Paddy O'Rourke AND RESOLVED**

“That Leitrim County Council hereby approves the application of a 75% Commercial Rates Vacancy Refund for 2019 in respect of rateable vacant properties in the administrative area of Leitrim County Council specified in the Budget for the Financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019”.

Councillor Des Guckian made a counter-proposal not to approve the application of a 75% Commercial Rates Vacancy Refund for 2019 in respect of rateable vacant properties in the administrative area of Leitrim County Council as presented to the Members. There was no support for Councillor Des Guckian's counter-proposal.

**18/189**

**26/11/2018 Programme of Capital Projects for the forthcoming 3 years**

Report dated 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2018 from Mr Lar Power, Chief Executive on Leitrim County Council's Programme of Capital Projects for the forthcoming three years, in accordance with the provisions of Section 135 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended, as circulated to each Member appears as **Appendix 3** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book.

This update was noted by the members.

**18/190**

**26/11/2018 Certification**

The Cathaoirleach and the Chief Executive then signed the Statutory Certificate to the effect that at the Budget Meeting of Leitrim County Council held this 26<sup>th</sup> November 2018, the Council by resolution adopted for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019, the Budget set out in Tables (A to F) and by resolution determined in accordance with the said budget the Rates set out in

Tables (B and C) to be the annual rate on valuation to be levied and the Application of a 75% Commercial Rates Vacancy Refund for that year for the purposes set out in those tables.

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Sean McGowan thanked the Chief Executive, Mr. Lar Power, Management Team, Mr. Vincent Dwyer, Head of Finance and the Members of the Finance Team for the Budget Book as presented. He also thanked the Members for the manner in which the meeting was conducted. Councillor McGowan Cathaoirleach extended festive greetings to the Members, staff of Leitrim County Council and the public.

Mr Lar Power, Chief Executive thanked Members also extended festive greetings to everyone.

### **Vote of Congratulation**

The Members extended a vote of congratulations to the following:

- Melvin Gaels on winning the 2018 Leitrim U20 Championship.
- Theresa Doherty McGloin on winning the Irish and British Masters Cross Country Championship.

This concluded the business of the meeting at 3.40 p.m.

**SIGNED:**

**Councillor Sean McGowan  
Cathaoirleach**

**Kieran Brett  
Meetings Administrator**

**DATE: 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019**