

**MINUTES OF THE LPT MEETING OF WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL HELD
ON MONDAY 9TH OCTOBER 2023, COMMENCING 2.00 P.M. AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS A. FLYNN KENNEDY CATHAOIRLEACH, T. ANNESLEY, M. BARRY, J. BEHAN, V. BLAKE, S. BOURKE, M. CORRIGAN, A. CRONIN, S. CULLEN G. DUNNE, E. DOYLE, A. FERRIS, P. FITZGERALD, T. FORTUNE, P. GLENNON, M. KAVANAGH, P. KENNEDY, P. LEONARD, J. MULLEN, D. O'BRIEN, P. O'BRIEN, R. O'CONNOR, L. SCOTT, J. SNELL, S. STOKES, E. TIMMINS AND G. WALSH (27)

APOLOGIES

CLLRS. G. MCMANUS, D. MITCHELL, M. MURPHY, G. O'NEILL AND I. WINTERS (5)

IN ATTENDANCE:

**MS. E. O'GORMAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE
MS. L. GALLAGHER, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MS. B. KILKENNY, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MS. L. EARLS, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. J. LANE, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. M. NICHOLSON, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. B. GLEESON, HEAD OF FINANCE
MS. H. PURCELL, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER/MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR
MS. D. KENNEDY, LAW AGENT
MS. H. FALLON, SENIOR ENGINEER
MS. T. O'BRIEN, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MS. J. CARROLL, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MS. L. HEALY, A/SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MS. E. O'DONOVAN, HEAD OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS
MS. E. BERMINGHAM, SENIOR EXECUTIVE PLANNER
MS. S. NUGENT, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
MR. T. HUGHES, IS PROJECT LEADER
MR. G. MURPHY, IS TECHNICAL SUPPORT OFFICER
MS. T. BYRNE, ASSISTANT STAFF OFFICER**

At the commencement of the meeting a roll call was taken. The Meetings Administrator advised of meetings etiquette for online meetings and that the press and some members of the public were also present.

Congratulations were extended to Cllr. G. Dunne on his election to the post of president of the AILG.

Votes of Sympathy

Elected Members passed a vote of sympathy to the families of the late Ms. Mary Byrne and Mr. Emmett Ivers. A minutes silence was observed for the deceased.

ITEM NO. 1

To consider the variation of the basic rate of Local Property Tax and the setting of the Local Adjustment Factor in accordance with the Finance (Local Property Tax) Act 2012 (as amended) to apply for the period as specified from the next local property tax liability date 1st November 2023.

Elected members were circulated with:

1. Report of Chief Executive dated 4th October 2023 to Members on the matters to which Wicklow County Council shall have regard to in the setting of the Local Adjustment Factor from the Chief Executive, Ms. Emer O’Gorman.

Mr. B. Gleeson, Head of Finance gave a presentation on Local Property Tax (LPT) and the setting of the Local Adjustment Factor under the following areas:

- Summary.
- 2024 Budget process.
- LPT Baseline review.
- LPT 2024 allocation.
- LPT (Local Adjustment Factor) Regulations 2014.
- Estimate of income and expenditure 2024.
- 2024 Budget adjustments.
- The financial position of Wicklow County Council.
- Financial effect on a liable person.
- Impact on Wicklow County Council revenue budget and service delivery for 2024.
- Public consultation process.
- Local Property Tax 2024 in summary. Recommendation to retain the LPT variation rate at 6%; no increase to householder LPT bills in 2024; generates €1.2m to be ring-fenced for discretionary funding to Municipal Districts; €297,000 for Bray Municipal District and €223,000 for other 4 Municipal Districts; and supports local public realm projects and community/voluntary organisations.

In concluding, Mr. Gleeson recommended that the Local Property Tax rate is maintained at 6% which will generate revenue of €1.2m to be ring-fenced for discretionary funding for the Municipal Districts, but ensures households face no increase in their Local Property Tax charge for 2024.

Elected Members made the following contributions:

- Number of projects midstream – important to have a level of discretionary spending.
- Concerns with the concept of LPT.
- Flawed system that restricts what counties like Wicklow can retain in property tax.
- Baseline needs to be addressed.
- Discretionary monies should not be allocated to general footpath maintenance.
- Increase in cost of living.
- People want to know where LPT is being spent in their local communities when they see services being reduced.
- A lot of positivity on the ground – provision of defibrillators; footpath repairs; maintenance of carparks; roads resurfaced; provision of Christmas lights.

The following proposals were put forward:

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr. S. Bourke: That the Local Property Tax be retained at the 2023 level, which is an upward variation of the baseline rate by 6% for 2024.

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Leonard and seconded by Cllr. M. Kavanagh: That the Local Property Tax remains at the baseline rate of 0%.

The proposal put forward by Cllr. P. Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr. S. Bourke:

'In accordance with the provisions of Section 20 of the Finance (Local Property Tax) Act 2012, as amended, that the basic rate of Local Property Tax should stand varied upwards by 6% for 2024 in respect of relevant residential properties situated in the administrative area of Wicklow County Council.'

This was put to a vote and following a roll call was passed by a margin of 20 votes for, 7 against and 5 not present viz:-

FOR 20	CLLRS. T. ANNESLEY, M. BARRY, V. BLAKE, S. BOURKE, M. CORRIGAN, A. CRONIN, S. CULLEN, E. DOYLE, G. DUNNE, A. FERRIS, P. FITZGERALD, A. FLYNN-KENNEDY, P. GLENNON, P. KENNEDY, J. MULLEN, P. O'BRIEN, R. O'CONNOR, S. STOKES, E. TIMMINS AND G. WALSH
AGAINST 7	CLLRS. J. BEHAN, T. FORTUNE, M. KAVANAGH, P. LEONARD, D. O'BRIEN, L. SCOTT AND J. SNELL
NOT PRESENT 5	CLLRS. G. MCMANUS, D. MITCHELL, M. MURPHY, G. O'NEILL AND I. WINTERS

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

**CLLR. TOMMY ANNESLEY
CATHAOIRLEACH
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**

**MS. HELEN PURCELL
MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**

Confirmed at meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday the 6th November 2023