

**DÚICHE DHÚN GARBHÁN / LIOS MHÓR  
DUNGARVAN AND LISMORE BUDGET GMA MEETING**

**HELD ON 5<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2020 BY ZOOM CALL AND IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC  
OFFICES, DUNGARVAN at 2.30pm.**

**PRESENT:**

Cllr. James Tobin, Cathaoirleach
Cllr. Declan Doocey
Cllr. John Pratt
Cllr. Seamus O'Donnell
Cllr. Thomas Phelan
Cllr. Tom Cronin
Cllr. Conor D. McGuinness
Cllr. Damien Geoghegan

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mr. M. Walsh, Chief Executive  
Mr. B. Pollard, Head of Finance  
Mr. K. Kehoe, Director of Services, Corporate, Culture, HR and IS  
Mr. D. Murphy, Financial Accountant  
Ms. H. Dunphy, Meetings Administrator

Chief Executive acknowledged that it has been a difficult year, acknowledging that it is the first time that council meetings held in an online forum because of the new legislation. Main council income sources have all been threatened, sectors such as tourism, hospitality, retail and small businesses have all suffered because of the pandemic. Conducting a budget process currently is difficult due to the constraints of not knowing clearly the national position but is positive that confirmation will be received from the Department in coming weeks. Acknowledged the phenomenal support in the €900m national rate waiver scheme, along with compensation for the losses incurred in the current year outlining that this is a statement from government that they are seeking to support local government to maintain vital services on the ground. Outlined that the scope for increasing public charges is very limited within the current climate and would not be recommending it.

B. Pollard, HoF outlined the details of the discretionary spend for the district.

Cllr. Geoghegan outlined that it is unsatisfactory to have this meeting before the main budget is dealt with, he proposed that parking charges remain the same, as it is not the time to make any changes.

Cllr. D. McGuinness seconded Cllr. Geoghegan's proposal agreeing that the scope is not there to increase parking charges considering the current economic climate. Noted a decrease in overall expenditure along with decrease in percentage of total discretionary spend of 4% for the Dungarvan Lismore District. Enquired about the shortfall of the Irish Water rate issue and asked if there has been discussion at national level to reduce the deficit. Asked that request for a cross party delegation meeting is progressed with the Minister. Requested that a portion of the roads budget is ring-fenced for footpaths as a priority in order to improve the quality of footpaths across the district. Noted that council tenants are receiving correspondence regarding the new

rent scheme that will result in increase in rents for tenants. Expectation on part of council tenants for greater investment and priority for investment in maintenance and requested provision of funding for it.

Cathaoirleach requested confirmation that proposal for no increase in parking charges is approved by the members, agreed by all.

Cllr. Pratt outlined the requirement to have funding ring fenced for footpaths and noted his difficulty in agreeing on the budget if not provided for.

Cllr. Phelan enquired if the parking figure is a projection and based on past performance; if there are levels of detail behind the information as presented and asked if there is a document to provide this detail. Supports the need to have a specific budget for footpaths maintenance and improvement.

B. Pollard, HoF noted that the function of the district meetings is primarily to identify the discretionary spend by region and based on 2019 figures and reviewed the methodology used to provide the figures to ensure they reflect the need for the specific spend. Parking charges based on 2019 actuals as 2020 figures not a good representation on expectations for 2021.

Chief Executive informed the members that the meeting regarding Irish Water rates is being progressed by the Mayor, currently no official response and outlined that it does have a bearing on the budget. Acknowledged the need for a programme for footpaths, currently no confirmation of how this will be delivered as no additional resources currently available and will have regard for it prior to the formation of the budget.

Cllr. Phelan requested if there is a further breakdown on the figures as presented.

B. Pollard, HoF will forward additional details to the members.

Cllr. Nugent enquired as to the percentage of the business rates collected in 2020.

B. Pollard, HoF noted that anticipate a reduction of approximate €9m on previous year.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Cathaoirleach**

**Dated** \_\_\_\_\_