

**MIONTUAIRISCÍ CRUINNITHE BHUISÉID COMHAIRLE CHONTAE
CHIARRAÍ, A THIONÓLADH IN IONAD OIDHREACHTA AGUS CULTÚRTHA
SCAIRTEACH AN GHLINNE DÉ LUAIN, 15 NOLLAIG 2008 A CUIREADH AR
ATHLÓ.**

**MINUTES OF THE ADJOURNED BUDGET MEETING OF KERRY COUNTY
COUNCIL HELD IN THE SCARTAGLIN CULTURAL AND HERITAGE CENTRE
ON MONDAY 15TH DECEMBER, 2008.**

PRESENT/I LÁTHAIR

Councillors/Comhairleoirí

R. Beasley	J. Brassil	T. Buckley
M Cahill	M. Connor-Scarteen	B. Cronin
T. Ferris	T. Fitzgerald	T. Fleming
N. Foley	M. Gleeson	D. Healy-Rae
M. Healy-Rae	D. Kiely	P. Leahy
P. McCarthy	A. McEllistrim	C. Miller
T. O'Brien	B. O'Connell	J. O'Connor
P. O'Donoghue	M. O'Shea	L. Purtill
J. Sheahan		

Absent:

S. Fitzgerald B. MacGearailt

IN ATTENDANCE/I LÁTHAIR

Mr. T. Curran, County Manager	Mr. J. O'Connor, Head of Finance
Mr. M. McMahon, Dir. of Planning	Mr. J.D. Flynn, Dir. Of Corp. Services
Mr. C. O'Sullivan, Dir. of Roads	Ms. A. Haugh, Dir. of Environment
Mr. J. Breen, Dir. of Hsg. Comm&Ent.	Mr. O. Ring, Dir. of Water Services
Ms. A. McAllen, Fin. Mgmt. Account.	Ms. K. Moriarty, A/SEO Finance
Mr. G. O'Brien, A/SEO Corp. Affairs	Mr. L. Brosnan, AO Environment
Mr. P. O'Shea A/SEO Finance	Mr. P. Corkery, Press Officer
Ms. B. Reidy, SSO Corp. Affairs	Ms. D. Griffin, SO Corp. Affairs
Ms. M. Galvin, CO Corp. Affairs	Ms. O. O'Shea, CO Corp. Affairs

The Meeting commenced at 10.45 am.

The Mayor, Cllr. T. Fleming took the Chair.

At the outset Mayor T. Fleming welcomed councillors and members of the Press to the December meeting in Scartaglin. He also welcomed the Principal of Scartaglin National School, Máire Ní Brosnacháin and Ms. A. O'Mahony and the pupils of the 5th and 6th class to the meeting. It is a historic occasion to have a full council meeting held in Scartaglin and the students will get a flavour of what

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happens at council meetings. The Mayor called on the County Manager, to address the meeting.

Mr. T. Curran, County Manager, informed members that at the adjourned Budget Meeting members adjourned adoption of a balanced Budget with a revenue expenditure of €142m put before the Council. At the time members outlined a number of issues of concern to them. At the original Budget Meeting held on the 5th December he had outlined the fact that this is one of the most difficult Budgets yet to be considered by the Council with a 6.2% reduction in the Local Government Fund Grant which amount to €1.8m. There is a 3% cut in payroll and Management are trying to achieve the minimum impact on services and employees. Management felt that any reduction in services would strike at the social heart of the county. The balanced Revenue Budget of €142m has been achieved through the maintenance of as many of our core services as possible and with a proposed rate increase of 2.6%. It was felt that this was a reasonable increase as the current rate of inflation is in excess of 4%. An increase in water charges is also proposed in accordance with Government policy. Throughout the budget debate members sought and received details of the various Divisions and they also sought increases in services.

Mr. Curran advised members that if the Budget is to be adopted he needed further direction from members on how services can be maintained without increasing charges. Each 1% reduction in the proposed increase in rates requires a €180,000 reduction in expenditure. If members do not want any increase in rates they must identify how expenditure can be reduced by €480,000. If members agree to a rate increase of 1.5% they will need to identify cuts in expenditure of €190,000. A 2% increase in rates will result in expenditure cuts of €108,000, therefore members must identify how these savings can be achieved if we are to work within the Budget presented. A 1.9% increase in rates would result in an expenditure cut of €126,000 while a 1.8% increase in rates will mean a cut in expenditure of €140,000. These are the options now open to members and he needed some direction from them in relation to the increase in rates that would be acceptable and what level of services will be provided as a result of any reduction in the proposed increase. Mr. Curran informed the meeting that his job as County Manager is to present a balanced Budget and he had done this in accordance with the Local Government Act 2001. Members must now adopt, amend or reject the Budget as presented.

Cllr. B. O'Connell said that members were aware that the onus is on them to adopt the Budget and they understood how difficult it was for the Head of Finance to arrive at a balanced budget with the lack of resources. All members have difficulty with the Budget and this is as a result of the reduction of 6% in the grant from the Local Government Fund. It is as a result of the incompetence of the Government and the fiscal recklessness they embarked upon that we now find ourselves in this position. The onus now falls on the rate payers of the county to pick up the shortfall with just 12% of the population paying rates,

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commercial water charges etc. Management did a tremendous job in putting this Budget together and members would do what they could in an effort to adopt a Budget.

Cllr. M. O'Shea said that he found it difficult to believe that management could not find savings of €140,000 out of an overall budget of €142m since the last Budget meeting. At the last Budget meeting the Head of Finance mentioned the introduction of stealth charges in 2009 and the new charge based on 'water in, water out' is a source of concern to many business people. He asked what this charge would be for 2009 and added that he was totally opposed to this system.

Cllr. D. Healy-Rae said that it was the duty of members to try to adopt a Budget. Unfortunately there are very difficult financial constraints at this time with just 13.5% of the people of the county paying rates and the onus falls on them to meet the shortfall. If members adopt a rate he would be calling on the Head of Finance not to reduce the funding available for street cleaning. Traditionally street cleaning and public lighting are the only services rate payers felt they got for their rates and he insisted that the street cleaning service is maintained. He expressed concern regarding the proposed increase in the water connection charge. Earlier in 2008 members were asked to increase development levies under the guise that treatment plants needed to be upgraded. Now members are being informed that these works will have to wait as the funding is not available. He asked why Kerry County Council was at a loss of €140,000 as this amount is paid to Limerick County Council for managing the Regional Waste Management Office. He suggested that this fee should no longer be paid and he asked that any fees paid by Kerry hauliers to Limerick County Council for licenses would be refunded to Kerry County Council. He added that Kerry County Council must carry a cost of €20,000 towards the processing of Higher Education Grant applications and this sum should be refunded by the Department of Education.

Cllr. T. Ferris said that at the last Budget meeting she expressed concern regarding the 3% reduction in payroll costs that must be achieved but unfortunately members have no control over that. Last year she supported the Budget on condition that a water softener would be installed in the Fenit and Ardfert area but this did not happen. She was being asked to support an increase in commercial rates yet no water softener or sewerage treatment plant was provided in Fenit. There is an ongoing dispute in Fenit regarding a right of way. Cllr. Ferris added that she had not been given clarification on the funding for Ardfert playground yet councillors are being asked to approve an increase in rates on the businesses in this area. These commercial customers feel they are not getting a fair deal. She added that if she got assurances from management regarding the provision of a water softener for the Fenit and Ardfert area she would reconsider her position. She put her trust in management on this issue last year but her trust was not earned. In conclusion she said that her difficulty was not with the proposed increase but how and where it would be spent.

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Cllr. M. Gleeson said that he made a submission on the Reform of Local Government to Minister Dempsey and it was one of the most disappointing documents and we are now paying the price for it in relation to the funding of local authorities. He expressed his disappointment that the majority group in the Council announced at 5.40pm at the adjourned Budget Meeting that they would not agree the Budget. The present level of recycling facilities in the county should be retained and he had campaigned for a long time to have these facilities provided. It was the joy of his life to visit them and the benefits are enormous and we must do everything possible to ensure that they remain available in their present format. He was concerned that the Head of Finance had indicated that these facilities would be reviewed in 2009. If it is intended to upgrade them he would welcome this. If however Mr. O'Connor was contemplating any changes to reduce the services at these facilities in 2009 he would not vote in favour of it.

Cllr. R. Beasley said that the dilemma members now find themselves in is as a result of the 6% reduction in the allocation from the Local Government Fund. This is the worst recession since the foundation of the State and the economic problems of today are as a result of the actions of the banks. He believed that people who undertook mortgages for 100% of the value of their property did not realize that the loan had to be paid back. Traditional seaside resorts are dying for a long time and if some form of rates relief was introduced for them he would consider voting for the Budget. 50% of B&B's, hotels and small shops will not survive the recessions and he called on the Head of Finance to provide some rates relief for them. He requested that the income from the €200 levy would be ring fenced for seaside resorts.

Cllr. J. Brassil said that there was no point in rehashing the Budget as it was already discussed in great detail at the two previous Budget meetings. The Head of Finance answered all queries raised by members and members must now strike a rate. Members are looking for services to be increased and for additional money to be spent. He asked how members could not but strike a rate that allows this to be delivered. Management asked for direction on how the Budget can be agreed. It is not possible to affect savings of €460,000 which would result in no increase in rates. Income from planning fees has been reduced in the Budget presented but despite the present economic climate he anticipated that the income from these fees could be €30,000 to €40,000 greater than provided for. Cllr. Brassil then referred to the allocation of €70,000 for public lighting and said that many councillors allocate funding from Councillors Allocations for public lights and as a result this allocation could be reduced by €15,000. He added that €20,000 to €30,000 could be deducted from the Environmental Services budget without affecting the service provided. He believed that the tenders for materials and plant would be less than what is provided for them. The Council should negotiate with all suppliers with a view to affecting savings of €80,000 to €100,000. Taking all these measures into account savings of €140,000 could be achieved and this would allow for a 1.8% increase in rates and he believed that members would be satisfied with this. He wanted the Budget to continue to

support Tidy Towns, Kerry Life Education and playgrounds. He requested clarification on funding for Ardfert playground. Cllr. Brassil stated that in achieving a balanced budget members must be conscious of the current economic climate and also be respectful of rate payers. In conclusion he PROPOSED a 1.8% increase in rates for 2009.

Cllr. J. O'Connor said that the Fine Gael members met over the last few days and went through the Budget in detail. They would support the Budget but as Cllr. O'Connell said funding from central Government was very disappointing. He referred to the €200 levy and called on all Oireachtas members from the county to propose an amendment to the legislation to ensure that the income from the levy would remain in the county. He believed that a sum of €1.5m could be raised from this levy. A recent Kerry Enterprise Board meeting marked the first time that a project was not approved for grant aid as they could not guarantee funding. He called for a relaxation of planning in rural areas and said if more planning was granted it would increase the level of income from planning fees. He called on the Director of Planning to take this into consideration. He asked that the provision for public lighting would be maintained and not reduced. He allocated funding for a number of lights in Killorglin and there are a number of areas in Mid Kerry where there is insufficient public lighting. Fine Gael would be prepared to support the Budget provided it is fair and equitable. Cllr. O'Connor then referred to water charges and said that he is involved in the farming community and many farmers have sunk wells because they cannot afford water charges. The members of Fine Gael could not live with a 2.8% increase in rates. He called on the Mayor to lead a deputation to meet with the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government with a view to insisting that the €200 levy would be retained in Kerry.

Cllr. M. Connor-Scarteen asked if the Council would be introducing water charges of €200 per house following the Local Elections. He added that small businesses are being harassed by the Rates Office who are threatening to take them to court for non payment of rates. It is unfair to ask or to expect rate payers to meet the shortfall in the Budget. He anticipated that the income from the €200 levy would be €3.6m but at present it is uncertain how much of this will be returned to the county. If the Minister provided €2m for the Cork/Swansea Ferry it would be in operation for the 2009 tourism season.

Cllr. T. Fitzgerald said that at the last two Budget meetings members had discussed the Budget in great detail. He appreciated the difficulty in providing funding for the water softener for Ardfert and Fenit but he hoped there could be a reduction in the proposed increase of 2.6% in rates. However, this would be dependant on funding from central Government. He said members were dependant on the Head of Finance to guide them on how savings could be achieved. Cllr. Brassil had outlined how savings could be achieved. He said we are now in a very competitive environment and it should be possible to achieve savings through negotiations with suppliers. Now that the price of oil has

reduced he hoped that the ESB would not increase the price of electricity. He added that some savings could be achieved under the heading Central Management charge and this could be in the region of €100,000. He referred to the allocation of €140,000 for the Limerick Waste Management Office and said that some of this work should be done in Kerry and this would achieve further savings. He asked the Head of Finance where savings could be achieved. He supported the call by other members that the income from the €200 levy would be retained in the county. Kerry County Council provides the services for these houses and it would only be reasonable that this income would remain in the county. He called on the Head of Finance to match a cut in the proposed increase in rates with the least impact on services. Members must be conscious that jobs could be lost based on their decisions and they must be conscious of the ability of customers to pay the charges imposed.

Cllr. P. O'Donoghue said that Fianna Fáil members had entered into the debate on the Budget when all the Divisions were discussed. The reality is that small businesses are on their knees and it is incumbent on members to seek ways to stimulate the economy. Members took the view that businesses find it almost impossible to borrow money and members have never shirked their responsibilities. It is incumbent on Management to look at achieving savings. A 2.6% increase in rates is unreasonable and his party understood that Management had taken the views of all members on board at the last Budget meeting and he was disappointed that Management did not present any proposals on how savings could be achieved. Management are now putting it to members that they must increase charges or reduce services. A saving of €195,000 is miniscule in the overall budget. He referred to the allocation for the Regional Waste Management Office of €140,000 and said that he could not understand what this charge was for as the Regional Waste Management Plan was adopted a number of years ago. He referred to the €90,000 in the Budget for rent etc. including rent for the Ashe Memorial Hall and said that savings could be achieved in this area. He said that he had every confidence in the skills of Management to negotiate with suppliers with a view to affecting savings for machinery hire and materials. A reduction of 0.25% for these services would be sufficient to allow a reduction in the proposed increase in rates. He added that planning is overly strict in Kerry and more planning permissions should be granted. By granting planning permission the local economy will be stimulated. In conclusion Cllr. O'Donoghue said that a rate increase of 1.5% would be reasonable.

Cllr. T. O'Brien said that Cllr. Brassil had put forward a proposal on how savings can be achieved resulting in a reduction in the proposed increase in rates and he requested a response from the Head of Finance to these proposals.

Cllr. D. Kiely said that councillors made some very good proposals on how savings can be achieved, in particular, in relation to plant hire and materials. Kerry is in a unique position in that it has a large number of holiday homes and the proposed levy of €200 would result in a substantial income and this should be retained in the county. The Planning Department must be more lenient in relation to one off rural houses and he believed that it was a disgrace that these planning applicants are not treated fairly. Out of a budget of €142m it should be possible to achieve savings to allow a rate increase of 1.5 to 1.8%. That would be a reasonable increase and his party would be willing to support such an increase. He concurred with the sentiments expressed by Cllr. Beasley in relation to seaside resorts.

Cllr. N. Foley said that many schools are in dire financial straits and no one is better placed to balance a budget than the principals of schools. She said that members support teachers in their campaign against the recently announced cuts in funding for schools. The difficulties members find themselves in are replicated throughout local authorities. Tralee Town Council has agreed a rate increase of 1.5% and members would be satisfied with a similar increase in the county. A number of recommendations were put forward which would achieve savings but members are mindful of the fact that they do not want a cut in services. It will not be possible to achieve a saving of €140,000 to €195,000 unless members and management work together. She asked management if it would be possible to give effect to the proposals made by councillors. In conclusion Cllr. Foley said that all members are anxious to strike a rate.

Cllr. M. Cahill referred to the €200 levy and said that the Fianna Fáil group had suggested that contact should be made with the Minister with a view to ensuring that income from this levy is retained in the county. Kerry has more holiday homes than any other county and for this reason it is important that the income is retained in the county. In relation to the Budget it is important that essential services are retained. In conclusion Cllr. Cahill SECONDED Cllr. J. Brassil's proposal of a 1.8% increase in rates.

Cllr. T. Fleming said that a number of reasonable proposals were put forward by members. The issue of energy costs and oil costs must also be taken into account as the cost of oil is reducing. In 2008 members also had to adopt a difficult enough budget at that time and all members played their part. He hoped there would be a similar conclusion to the 2009 Budget. He called on the County Manager and the Head of Finance to comment on the proposals made by members.

Mr. T. Curran, County Manager, said that it was never his intention to create a difficulty with members in this difficult decision. He added that savings can be achieved but at a cost. Members want to provide a service while at the same time reducing the proposed rate increase. In relation to plant hire and materials the vast majority of that expenditure is paid to small businesses in the county and

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if the amounts paid to them are reduced it will have an adverse impact on them. He said that he believed that it would be possible to achieve savings of €140,000 with the minimum impact and he asked the Head of Finance to consider this. His difficulty was that he was not given a clear direction by members. Savings could be achieved through a reduction in the support for Tidy Towns, the Library Book Fund etc. but these would not be very palatable for members but they would ensure that the core services were maintained. He said that he would like to work with members to allow reasonable charges to be adopted.

Mr. J. O'Connor, Head of Finance said that a reduction of 0.8% in the rate multiplier would bring the rate increase to 1.8% and this would require a reduction in expenditure of €140,800. A number of proposals were made by members and some members asked for guidance. A large allocation has been made for operational costs and this is spent on big and small purchases and a substantial part of this is spent on roads. If a saving of €100,000 is achieved from this allocation it can only be done by reducing the Local Roads Maintenance allocation by €100,000 and members do not want that. This does not mean that additional value for money will not be sought. He was taking it that it was not the wishes of members that the Local Roads Maintenance allocation would be reduced by €100,000. He said that he had built on what members had proposed and there were four areas where savings could be achieved as follows:-

- Planning Fees – he carried out a thorough evaluation of fees and while there is a reasonable demand for single rural houses income is limited. However, he believed that a sum of €21,000 could be added onto the projected income.
- Savings of €10,000 could be affected from the Environmental Management budget.
- The provision for Public Lighting Improvements could be reduced by €10,000.
- When the Budget for 2008 was being adopted it was anticipated that an amenity/environmental grant allocation would be received for which we would need a commitment of €100,000 from own resources. However, we did not receive the grant aid expected and the allocation of €100,000 could be carried forward to 2009 at this stage in support of any grant aid forthcoming in 2009.

The total savings achieved would be €140,800 and this would allow for a rate increase of 1.8%.

Cllr. J. Brassil PROPOSED that the savings outlined by Mr. O'Connor would be agreed by members.

Cllr. M. Connor-Scarteen asked the County Manager if he intended to introduce a charge of €200 per house for water charges following the Local Elections.

In response Mr. Curran said that he did not have the authority to do this.

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Cllr. T. Ferris said that a sum of €31,000 is still outstanding for Ardfert playground and she asked if provision is made in the Budget for the payment of this sum.

In response Mr. J. O'Connor, Head of Finance said that this would be a capital payment and he would be dealing with it in the context of development levies.

Cllr. J. Brassil asked Mr. O'Connor if he would guarantee that the Council would provide the outstanding finance for Ardfert playground.

In response Mr. J. O'Connor said that the Council would guarantee this funding.

Cllr. M. Gleeson asked if it was implicit that there would be no charge for recycling at Transfer Stations in 2009.

Mr. J. O'Connor, Head of Finance said that the practices at Transfer Stations would be reviewed in 2009 and any changes would be brought forward in the Budget for 2010.

Cllr. D. Healy-Rae said that he would be very concerned if there was any proposal to cut the Roads Budget as it would affect the employment of staff.

Mr. J. O'Connor, Head of Finance advised members that Kerry is one of the last local authorities to move to a system of charging for 'water in – water out'. Kerry's charges are exceptionally modest at 83cent per cubic meter and this is the lowest in the country. He disagreed that it was a stealth charge and said that it is very much up front and users can control their usage.

Cllr. M. O'Shea said this is penalizing rate payers and he asked what the charge would be for a hotel.

Mr. J. O'Connor said this is the law of the land and he added that where there are exceptional increases for a user that the charge would be reviewed.

Cllr. R. Beasley again referred to the €200 levy and asked that this income would be ring fenced for seaside resorts. He added that it is not yet clear if this charge will apply to mobile homes. He asked that a sum of €600,000 would be allocated for Ballybunion from the income from this levy.

In response Mr. J. O'Connor said the legislation governing this levy will be introduced by the Department of the Environment in due course.

1. Charges for Attendance of Fire Brigade at Chimney Fires – Single Domestic Dwelling Houses

Mr. J. O'Connor, Head of Finance, informed members that it was proposed that this charge would remain at €100.

Cllr. T. Fitzgerald PROPOSED that pursuant to Section 2 of the Local Government (Financial Provisions)(No. 2) Act 1983, and the County Management (Reserved Functions) Order, 1985, it is hereby RESOLVED that a charge of €100 (unchanged from 2007) shall be made in respect of the attendance of the Fire Brigade at chimney fires in single domestic dwelling houses for the period ending 31 December 2009.

Cllr. R. Beasley SECONDED this proposal.

A vote was taken which resulted as follows:

For: Cllrs. Beasley, Brassil, Buckley, Cahill, M. Connor-Scarteen, Cronin, Ferris, T. Fitzgerald, Foley, Gleeson, D. Healy-Rae, Kiely, Leahy, McCarthy, McEllistrim, Miller, O'Brien, O'Connell, O'Connor, O'Donoghue, O'Shea, Purtill, Sheahan, Fleming **(24)**

Against: None **(0)**

Not Voting: None **(0)**

The Mayor declared the proposal carried and the Council so resolving.

2. The Adoption of the Local Authority Budget for the Local Financial Year Ending 31st December 2009

Cllr. J. Brassil PROPOSED that pursuant to the provisions of the Local Government Act 2001, the Local Government (Financial Procedures and Audit) Regulations 2002 and the Local Authority Accounting Code of Practice and Accounting Regulations, the Draft Budget for the financial year ending 31.12.2009 as presented by the County Manager and as set out in Tables A and B, be and is hereby adopted subject to the amendments outlined by the Head of Finance.

Cllr. M. Cahill SECONDED this proposal.

Cllr. M. O'Shea said that he had difficulty with the proposed sewage charges and he asked how much would this charge be in 2009.

In response Mr. J. O'Connor, Head of Finance, said that the charge would be 83 cent per cubic meter of water in 2009 plus a network management charge of €88 per connection if connected to a public sewer. A cubic meter is almost 220 gallons. For some customers this charge will result in a reduction in their charge.

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A vote was taken on this proposal which resulted as follows:

For: Cllrs. Beasley, Brassil, Buckley, Cahill, Cronin, Ferris, T. Fitzgerald, Foley, Gleeson, D. Healy-Rae, Kiely, Leahy, McCarthy, McEllistrim, Miller, O'Brien, O'Connell, O'Connor, O'Donoghue, O'Shea, Purtill, Fleming **(22)**

Against: Cllrs. M. Connor-Scarteen, Sheahan **(2)**

Not Voting: None **(0)**

The Mayor declared the proposal carried and the Council so resolving.

3. Determination of the Annual Rate on Valuation for the Local Financial Year ending 31 December 2009

Cllr. J. Brassil PROPOSED that pursuant to the provisions of the Local Government Act 2001, the Local Government (Financial Procedures and Audit) Regulations 2002 and the Local Authority Accounting Code of Practice and Accounting Regulations, and in accordance with the Local Authority Budget for the Financial Year ending 31 December 2009, as adopted, the annual rate on valuation as set out in Table A hereunder be the annual rate on valuation to be levied for the said Financial Year. The Annual Rate to be levied shall be €80.35.

Cllr. C. Miller SECONDED this proposal.

TABLE A - CALCULATION OF ANNUAL RATE ON VALUATION						
Summary by Service Division	Summary per Table A 2009					
			Estimated Net Expenditure 2009		Estimated Outturn 2008 Net Expenditure	
	Expenditure	Income				
	€	€	€	%	€	%
Gross Revenue Expenditure & Income						
Housing and Building	16,222,782	14,402,238	1,820,544	3.5%	1,161,079	2.2%
Road Transport & Safety	45,053,485	31,652,198	13,401,287	25.5%	14,498,466	27.3%
Water Services	24,819,341	15,530,240	9,289,101	17.6%	8,048,398	15.2%
Development Management	8,841,523	2,337,789	6,503,734	12.5%	7,289,709	13.8%
Environmental Services	22,058,219	11,678,647	10,379,572	19.7%	10,116,805	19.1%
Recreation and Amenity	5,884,914	685,055	5,199,859	9.9%	5,700,148	10.8%
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	13,105,951	11,813,510	1,292,440	2.5%	1,381,024	2.6%
Miscellaneous Services	5,791,785	1,149,687	4,642,098	8.8%	4,771,504	9.0%
	141,778,000	89,249,365	52,528,635	100.0%	52,967,132	100.0%
+ County Charge	0					
- County Charge		7,232,550	7,232,550			
Provision for Debit Balance	0		0			
Adjusted Gross Expenditure & Income (A)	141,778,000	96,481,915	45,296,085		52,967,132	
Financed by Other Income/Credit Balances						
Provision for Credit Balance		0	0			
Local Government Fund /General Purpose Grant		27,336,897	27,336,897			
Sub - Total (B)			27,336,897		52,967,132	
Amount of Rates to be Levied C=(A-B)			17,959,188			
Net Effective Valuation D			223,512			
General Annual Rate on Valuation C/D			80.35			

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Cllr. D. Healy-Rae requested confirmation that the Roads Maintenance budget would not be reduced.

Mr. J. O'Connor, Head of Finance confirmed that this budget was not being reduced.

Cllr. J. O'Connor SECONDED Cllr. O'Donoghue's proposal that the increase in rates would be 1.5%.

Mr. J. O'Connor, Head of Finance said that members had already adopted the Budget for 2009.

A vote was taken on Cllr. Brassil's proposal which resulted as follows:-

For: Cllrs. Beasley, Brassil, Buckley, Cahill, Cronin, Ferris, T. Fitzgerald, Foley, Gleeson, D. Healy-Rae, Kiely, Leahy, McCarthy, McEllistrim, Miller, O'Brien, O'Connell, O'Connor, O'Donoghue, O'Shea, Purtill, Sheahan Fleming **(23)**

Against: Cllr. M. Connor-Scarteen **(1)**

Not Voting: None **(0)**

The Mayor declared the proposal carried and the Council so resolving.

4. Additional Expenditure for 2008

Cllr. T. Fitzgerald PROPOSED that the additional expenditure for 2008 as set out in the Column titled "Estimated Out-Turn 2008" in the Local Authority Budget as circulated, be and is hereby approved.

Cllr. M. Cahill SECONDED this proposal.

A vote was taken on this proposal which resulted as follows:-

For: Cllrs. Beasley, Brassil, Buckley, Cahill, M. Connor-Scarteen, Cronin, Ferris, T. Fitzgerald, Foley, Gleeson, D. Healy-Rae, Kiely, Leahy, McCarthy, McEllistrim, Miller, O'Brien, O'Connell, O'Connor, O'Donoghue, O'Shea, Purtill, Sheahan Fleming **(24)**

Against: None **(0)**

Not Voting: None **(0)**

The Mayor declared the proposal carried and the Council so resolving.

5. Report on Capital Programme 2009 – 2011

Cllr. M. Gleeson PROPOSED that the County Manager's Report on the Capital Programme 2009 – 2011 as incorporated into the Report on the Budget be noted.

Cllr. B. O'Connell SECONDED this proposal and it was unanimously agreed.

Cllr. J. O'Connor PROPOSED that a deputation, lead by the Mayor, would be sought with the Department of the Environment in relation to the proposed levy of €200.

Cllr. B. Cronin SECONDED this proposal and it was agreed that a letter would be forwarded to the Minister for the Environment requesting him to meet with a deputation from Kerry County Council to discuss this matter.

The meeting concluded at 12.15pm.

Gerard O'Brien
A/SEO Corporate Affairs

Mayor of Kerry