

Minutes of the adjourned Special Meeting to agree the LPT of Galway City Council held in the Council Chamber, City Hall and Online via MS Teams on Monday 14 th October 2024 at 1.00p.m.	
Presiding	Cllr. P. Keane, Mayor of the City of Galway
Present (Elected Members)	Councillors: A. Burke, A. Cheevers, J. Connolly, M. Cubbard, A. Curran, J. Forde, S. Forde, F. Fahy, C. Higgins, E. Hoare, D. Lyons, J. McDonagh, D. McDonnell, N. McNelis, T. O'Flaherty, H. Ogbu, E. Seoighthe
Present (Executive)	Mr. L. Cleary, Chief Executive Ms. P. Philbin, Director of Services Mr. P. Greene, Director of Services Ms. H. Kilroy, Director of Finance Mr. D. Pender, Director of Services Ms. L. Fanning, A/Director of Services Ms. A. Rohan, Meetings Administrator Ms. L. Hynes, Financial Management Accountant Ms. A. Kenny, Administrative Officer

Mayor P. Keane opened the meeting by welcoming all present and proposed to suspend standing orders to allow the media to film the room only. This was Seconded by Cllr. T. O'Flaherty and agreed.

1. Consideration of rate of Local Property Tax under Finance (Local Property Tax) Act 2012 (as amended)

Mayor P. Keane referred Members to agenda item 1 and invited proposals to the Local Property Tax (LPT). No proposals were submitted.

Mayor P. Keane circulated a proposed resolution to Members. This resolution was Seconded by Cllr. D. Lyons and supported by Cllrs. A. Curran, F. Fahy, E. Hoare, D. Lyons, D. McDonnell, N. McNelis, T. O'Flaherty & E. Seoighthe.

Mayor P. Keane read the Resolution to the Members and invited comments.

Cllr. J. Connolly requested that the proposal be debated before proceeding to a vote. This was agreed. A discussion followed and a number of queries were raised by Members and responded to by the Executive.

Following the discussion, Cllr. M. Cubbard proposed that no local adjustment factor be applied for 2025 to the rate of LPT for Galway City. This was Seconded by Cllr. A. Cheevers and supported by Cllr. J. Connolly. There were no further proposals or amendments.

Mayor P. Keane called for a vote in favour of Cllr. M. Cubbard's proposed amendment. Cllr. D. Lyons Proposed a roll call vote. This was Seconded by Cllr. F. Fahy & Cllr N McNelis.

The Meetings Administrator proceeded to a roll call vote.

MINUTES, CONFIRMED & SIGNED
Cllr. P. Keane
MAYOR OF GALWAY
18.11.24

Proposed By: Cllr. M. Cubbard

Seconded By: Cllr. A. Cheevers & Cllr. J. Connolly

That no local adjustment factor be applied for 2025 to the rate of LPT for Galway City.

In favour: Cllrs. A. Burke, A. Cheevers, J. Connolly, M. Cubbard, J. Forde, S. Forde, C. Higgins, J. McDonagh, H. Ogbu

Against: Cllrs. A. Curran, F. Fahy, E. Hoare, P. Keane, D. Lyons, D. McDonnell, N. McNelis, T. O'Flaherty, E. Seoighthe

Casting Vote: Mayor P. Keane, (against).

In favour: 9 Against: 10 Abstain: 0 Absent: 0 Present: 18
This motion was defeated.

As per standing order no. 62(b), where there is an equity of votes, all acts of the Council which are reserved functions or questions duly coming or arising before a meeting of the Council shall be determined by a second or casting vote of the person chairing the meeting. Mayor P. Keane, as Chairperson, exercised his right to a casting vote on this motion.

Mayor P. Keane referred Members to the proposed resolution, circulated earlier, and called for a vote.

The Meetings Administrator proceeded to a roll call vote.

Proposed By: Mayor P. Keane

Seconded By: Cllr. D. Lyons

Supported by: Cllrs. A. Curran, F. Fahy, E. Hoare, D. Lyons, D. McDonnell, N. McNelis, T. O'Flaherty & E. Seoighthe

That Galway City Council determines, in accordance of the provisions of Section 20 of the FINANCE (LOCAL PROPERTY TAX) ACT 2012 (as amended) to include the Local property Tax (Local Adjustment Factor) Regulations 2022, that the basic rate of local property tax should be varied upwards by 15 per cent with effect from the next local property tax liability date for a five year period, from 2025 to 2029 inclusive, in respect of relevant residential properties situated in the administrative area of Galway City Council and that the monies raised shall be ringfenced for expenditure in the following categories for the next five years, and any funding not expended as allocated within any given year shall be carried forward to the following year:

FUND CATEGORIES:	AMOUNT
Additional Footpath Investment and Repair Fund; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investment in footpath development and repair. The fund to be evenly divided across the three Wards following assessment by Operational executive and consultation /decision on the programme of work with Elected Members at Local Electoral Area Meetings. 	€250,000.
Additional Sports Facilities Investment Fund; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investment in sports facilities including Pitch Maintenance and Clubs. The fund to be evenly divided across the three Wards following assessment by the Sports executive. 	€90,000.
Additional Community Development Services; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Centres in the three Wards - enhanced services with extended opening hours daily and weekends (operational costs). Recruitment of three Urban Community Development Officers (<i>one per Ward under the Community Development Department</i>) to support local community groups in building volunteer capacity, animating participation in grant projects and supporting Elected Members in engagement with community volunteers. Community Participatory Budget (New Heading with Policy to be adopted by the Community Development Strategic Policy Committee within 12 months) – (€25,000) 	€497,350
Additional Arts & Tourism Investment Fund; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arts Grants (€50,000) Arts Programmes (€50,000) Festivals and Twinning Fund (€10,000) The fund to be invested following assessment by the Arts Executive. 	€110,000
Additional Local Improvement Scheme (LIS); <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To support prioritised local initiatives /projects in each Ward. This additional LIS investment to be evenly divided between Elected Members (18 x €20,000). Each Councillor to have LIS Annual Budget of €30,000 Each Local Area Committee has a governance role on overseeing LIS investment, which involves receiving proposals on the list of projects prioritised by each Elected Member and agreeing same in line with best practice. 	€360,000
Residential Estates Fund / Additional Taking in Charge (TIC) Investment Fund; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To support Residential Estates being taken in charge (€70,000) Residential Amenity Grants (€25,000) The fund to be evenly divided across the three Wards following assessment by the Operational /Planning executive and consultation /decision on the programme of work with Elected Members at Local Electoral Area Meetings. 	€95,000.
Total:	€1,402,350.

Note: The reference to "Additional" LPT funds above relies on the adoption of baseline funding for these categories as part of Budget 2025.

In favour: Cllrs. A. Curran, F. Fahy, E. Hoare, P. Keane, D. Lyons, D. McDonnell, N. McNelis, T. O'Flaherty, E. Seoigthe

Against: Cllrs. A. Burke, A. Cheevers, J. Connolly, M. Cubbard, J. Forde, S. Forde, C. Higgins, J. McDonagh, H. Ogbu

Casting Vote: Mayor P. Keane (in favour)

In favour: 10 Against: 9 Abstain: 0 Absent: 0 Present: 18
This motion was carried.

As per standing order no. 62(b), where there is an equity of votes, all acts of the Council which are reserved functions or questions duly coming or arising before

a meeting of the Council shall be determined by a second or casting vote of the person chairing the meeting. Mayor P. Keane, as Chairperson, exercised his right to a casting vote on this motion.

This concluded the business of the meeting. The meeting concluded at 14:30.