



Kildare County Council

**Submission on the Local
Government Funding (Baseline)
Review**

Table of Contents

	Page
Kildare County Council Submission	1 – 8
Table 1 Population & Budgets	9
Table 2 Housing Analysis	10
Table 3 Commuting	11
Table 4 Local Property Tax	12
Table 5 Rates	13
Appendix I Correspondence between Members of Kildare County Council and Minister Coveney re Local Property Tax retention	

Overview/Context

From 2000 to 2007, a Needs and Resources model was used for funding Local Government, and from 2008 to 2014, General Purpose Grant allocations were largely based on the pattern of allocations over the previous years. It should be noted that the Needs and Resources model, upon which the baseline for Kildare is based, resulted in significantly higher allocations to Kildare each year under the equalisation element of the fund. This problem has and will continue to grow whilst the population and needs of the county increase.

Local Property Tax, from 2015, replaced the GPG model, whereby local retention of LPT began.

However, LPT generated in Kildare is reduced by 20% towards an equalisation fund, and is further reduced to allow for 'self funding' – ie LPT is being used in Kildare to fund expenditure that was previously grant aided from Central Government.

Recommendations on indicators

Local Government Funding indicators should be capable of reflecting changing needs of Local Authorities. Baseline models of funding only benefit local authorities with reducing or static populations. Growing counties, such as Kildare need ever increasing funding in order to maintain basic minimum levels of services and resources. For example, Kildare's population has increased from 134,992 per census 1996 to 222,504 per census 2016 – an increase of 87,512 or 64.8% in 20 years. The current County Development Plan forecasts a population in 2023 as 253,552, a further increase of 31,048 (14%).

Kildare County Council recommends that any indicators chosen should:

- Be based on relative need – different local authorities should be able to provide similar levels of service, even if locally they choose to focus on different areas;
- Be clear and transparent – councils and public should be able to understand funding allocations;
- Be sustainable – funding cannot be purely based on prior year allocations;- it needs to be able to respond to current and future demand;
- Be current – it must use the most up-to-date data available;
- Be simple to implement – the number of indicators should be as low as possible, and should be clearly defined so that there can't be local variation in understanding what exactly is being looked for.

Suggested indicators

Kildare would agree that the key themes for indicators should be:

- Population, this may be the most important predictor of costs as the whole ethos of a local authority is focussed on the provision of services to its local population;
- Determination of the cost of providing services and how it varies in urban or rural areas – this may also be linked to economies of scale for any non-national framework expenditure;
- Physical characteristics such as size/area, the physical environment and population density;

- Disadvantaged areas – it should be acknowledged that disadvantaged areas need additional funding in order to try to balance social advantages throughout the country.
- Income generating capacity should be acknowledged, however, local authorities should not be penalised if they are successful at creating a positive economic environment that attracts businesses.

Population Indicators

Table 1 shows the 31 local authorities by population per the 2016 census. It is worth noting from the table that Kildare, whilst it has the 5th highest population, only has an expenditure of €685 per head of population (28th out of 31). The national average is €1,007 per head of population.

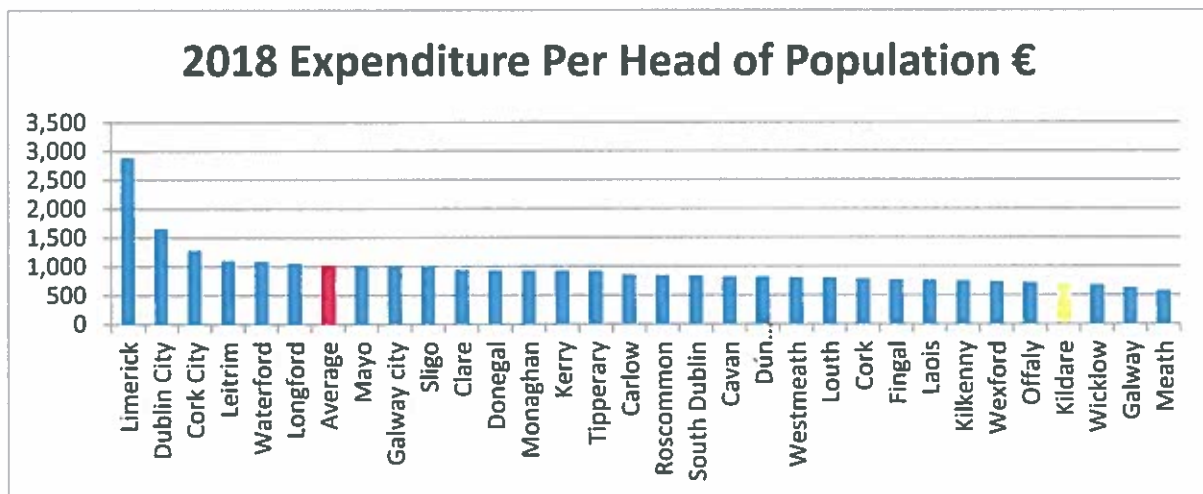


Figure 1: 2018 Expenditure per head of population – Source DoHPLG/CSO – see Table 1 Population & Budgets attached

As a result of the under-resourcing of the county, Kildare, per NOAC’s 2016 returns, is 30th out of 31 local authorities for the number of staff (WTE) per head of population which directly affects service provision. There is a WTE in Kildare for every 262 residents in the county – the national average is 177 residents per WTE.

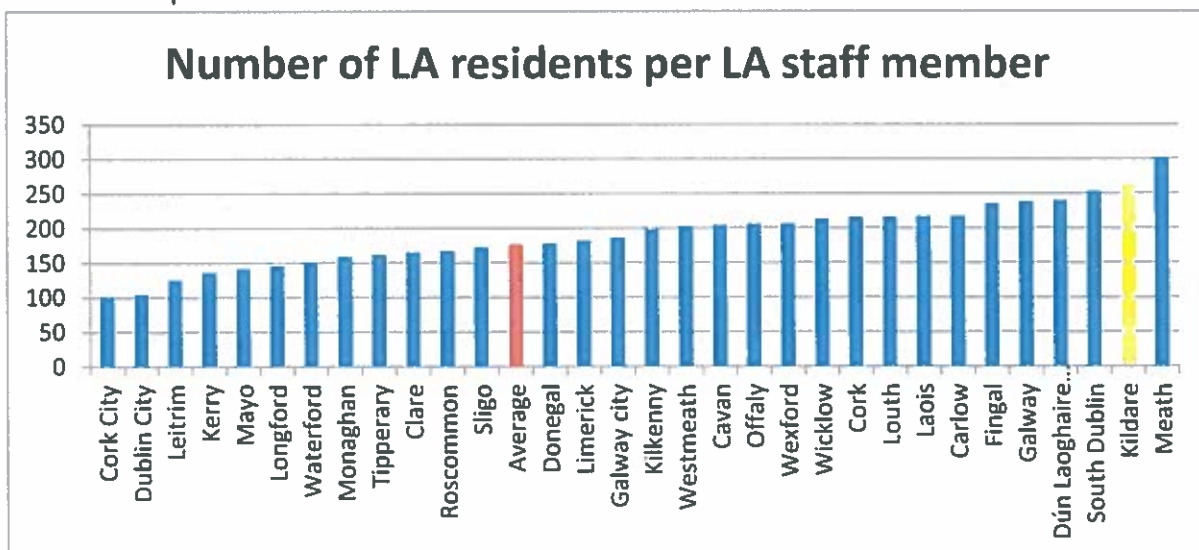


Figure 2: Number of residents per Whole Time Equivalent (WTE) staff in LAs – Source NOAC 2016 – see Table 1 Population & Budgets attached

The age profile of the population is also a key indicator in predicting services and service levels needed by the local authority over the foreseeable future.

Kildare has a rapidly growing population. Over a 20 year period (1996-2016) Kildare experienced a 64.8% increase in its population base (source: CSO 2016). Specifically Kildare has a particularly young population – 36.6% are in the 0-24 age bracket, which is the highest rate in the country. Given the size and the significance of Kildare’s existing population cohorts in this 0-24 range, it is evident that the county’s population has not yet peaked and that there will be an increased demand for children and young people’s services over the next decade. In this regard the local authority has responsibility for services such as libraries, playgrounds, leisure facilities, which will require frontloading and ongoing maintenance.

The 65 and over cohort of population has increased by 32% since the 2011 census and per the 2016 census is now nearly 10% of Kildare population. This in turn will result in a demand for older people services such as housing adaptation grants, transport links etc.

Recommended Indicators:

- Population size – most recent census to apply
- Population age profile – most recent census to apply – weighting to apply based on age profile/demands on services
- LA resources per head of population
- Number of housing adaptation grants (incl valid applications not approved due to lack of resources)

Cost of provision of services

Kildare, unlike many local authorities, has a distinct north/south, urban/rural divide. Costs, but especially the cost and availability of housing are a serious concern.

Since 2011, social rented housing (local authority and voluntary body rented) in Kildare has increased by 17.6% (783), considerably higher than the rate of growth in the State (11.1%). The rate of direct provision social rented housing in Kildare is 6%, which is considerably lower than the State (9.4%) and the Eastern & Midlands Region (9.7%) averages (source: AIRO census 2016 profile – housing). Given the population profile, this percentage is going to continue to increase at a rapid rate over the foreseeable future. Increased numbers of social housing units has a clear link to the amount to be budgeted for housing maintenance and related costs.

In addition, Kildare has the 3rd highest number of private rented households supported by State intervention funding (source – AIRO census 2016 profile- housing). Per the 2016 census, there were 1,193 HAP tenancies in Kildare, 717 linked to RAS and 2,308 recipients of Rent Supplement. Many of these are on Kildare’s housing list and may need to transfer as units become available.

As per the table below, Kildare has the 8th largest number of housing units in the State, and has the 9th highest number of social housing provision (combined LA, voluntary agencies, HAP, RAS, Rent Supplement).

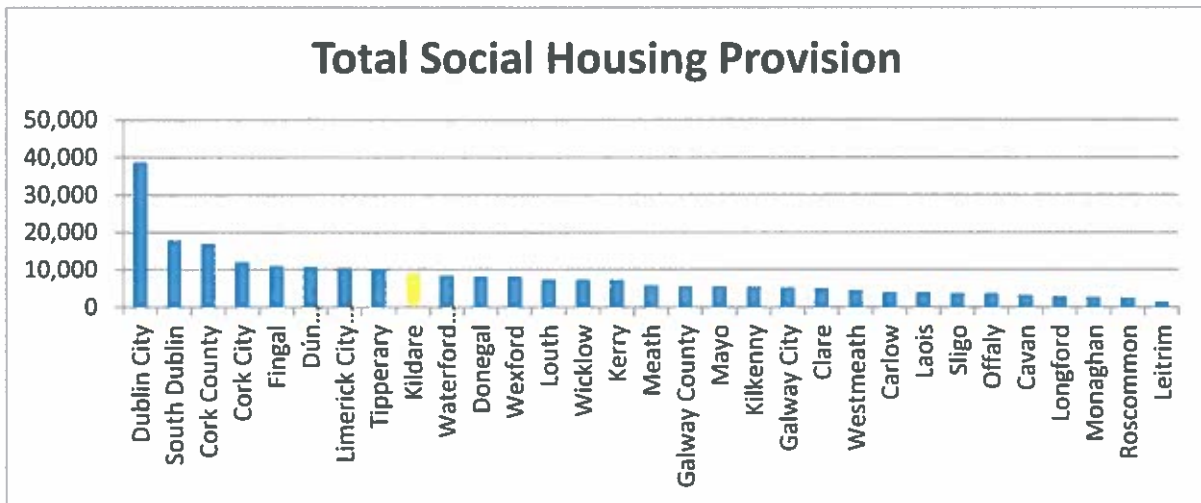


Figure 3: Social Housing Provision by LA – Source AIRO, DSP, CSO – see Table 2 Housing Analysis attached

Traditionally, patterns of growth have been uneven throughout the county, with north-eastern parts of the county experiencing higher rates of growth than other areas – driven by its proximity to the Greater Dublin Area commuter belt. The cost of units in these areas is also influenced by proximity to Dublin. In fact, outside of the Dublin Authorities and Wicklow, Kildare (per Daft) has the highest average cost per unit and the highest average rent.

Whilst Kildare adheres to public procurement frameworks, there is a significant difference in costs of contractors between the Greater Dublin area and more rural local authorities. This needs to be reflected in the funding provided.

Recommended Indicators:

- Number of social housing units, combined with number of persons availing of social housing initiatives incl HAP, RAS, Rent Supplement
- Priority maintenance - a higher weighting for old stock (eg 20 years+) and stock that is purchased from an owner/occupier .
- Weighting on costs of provision of key services (generally) – this could be based on the cost of housing units in a particular region of the country as this would be reflective of local maintenance/construction costs (for example the costs in the Greater Dublin Area vs those in a more rural area such as Mayo).
- Number of libraries
- Number of LA leisure facilities (pools, gyms, community centres, etc)
- Number of LA playgrounds / skate parks / adult gyms

Physical Characteristics

Kildare has a geographically varied population density. Kildare is the 8th most densely populated county in the State – however approximately 72% of the county’s population live on 5% of the county’s total land area, with the northeast of the county having the highest population densities. Kildare’s population density is overall 131.3 persons per square kilometre, whilst Leixlip/Celbridge MD has a density figure of 702.9 persons per square kilometre.

Densely populated areas have a higher requirement for essential services such as footpaths, public lighting, traffic lights, fire services etc.

Kildare is a commuting county, with 2,528 km of roads to maintain. However, the level of traffic is higher than average as it includes the main road arteries connecting Dublin to all other cities within the State.

Over 43k people commute through Kildare roads on their way to work in the Dublin Local Authorities. 33% of all jobs in Kildare are filled by persons living outside the county, whilst 39.1% of Kildare workers commute outside the county to their place of work (source – AIRO census 2016 socio-economic profile). See Table 3 (Commuting) attached.

County Kildare Public Roads Schedule	
Motorway	128 km
National Primary	12 km
National Secondary	17 km
Regional	482 km
Local Roads (Total)	1,889 km
Total	2,528 km

Figure 4: County Kildare Public Roads

Recommended Indicators:

- Kilometres of roads that the LA is directly responsible for
- Road usage, which is affected by population density and ‘through’ commuting
- Number of public lights funded by the LA
- Number of fire stations

Disadvantaged Areas

Whilst Kildare is relatively an affluent county, it also includes the Athy area which is recognised as a RAPID/Interreg area. In addition, there are pockets of deprivation within towns / counties that need to be considered when looking at targeted funding.

Higher levels of funding per head of population are required in this socio-economic category in order to stimulate growth and improve outlooks. Unemployment rates (per the CSO), and deprivation rates,(per Pobal), would be key objective indicators in this category.

Recommended Indicators:

- Unemployment rate by electoral division
- Pobal / AIRO deprivation index by electoral division

Income Generating Capacity

Income generating capacity should be acknowledged, however, local authorities should not be penalised if they are successful at creating a positive economic environment that attracts businesses.

However, the relative Annual Rate of Valuation, for a given region, should be taken account of, as those with a higher ARV within their region are, despite political pressures and consequences, increasing local taxes in order to provide essential services. If there was a more equitable and transparent allocation of centrally distributed grants and LPT combined with Rates, the expenditure per head of population should be comparable between authorities.

Per Table 5 (Rates – attached) Kildare is ranked 7th in the gross amount of rates generated each year. However, given the number of people who commute out of the county, this generates €266 per head of population towards the provision of services, which is 11th on the national table. This is a direct result of Kildare having a large commuting population, as Kildare is effectively a dormitory county (ie residential) rather than having a high rates base.

Recommended Indicators:

- Expenditure per head of population, based on current year's budget / previous year's AFS
- Annual Rate of Valuation per Local Authority

LPT Retention

Since 2015, all authorities' minimum provisional LPT allocations have been linked to the former General Purpose Grant (GPG) 2014 baseline level. The Government has also committed to continue with retention of 80% of all Local Property Receipts within the local authority area where the tax is raised. The remaining 20% of the tax collected nationally is re-distributed on an equalised basis to local authorities, within the context of the annual allocations of LPT to ensure that all authorities receive, at a minimum, an amount equal to the LPT baseline.

In January 2017, Kildare County Council members formally wrote to the Minister requesting that the full 80% be retained by Kildare as the self-funding element of LPT was previously subvented through central funds and was not part of the General Purposes Grant.

Whilst Kildare's LPT is higher than the original GPG 2014 allocation, the 2018 LPT retained per head of population, despite the relatively high property values, amounts to €72 per head of population (24th out of 31) as compared to the national average of €88. If Kildare were to receive the average per head of population it would increase the retained LPT by €3,560,064.

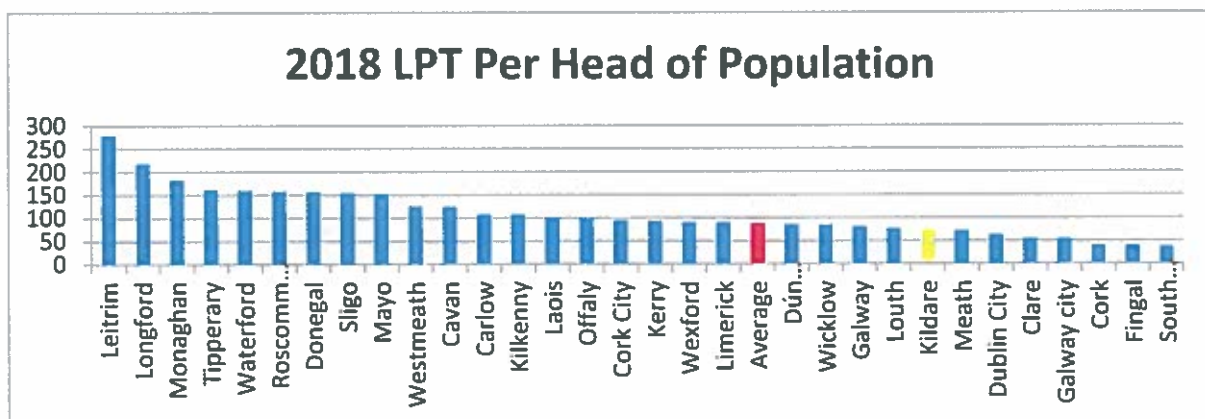


Figure 5: 2018 LPT per head of population, by Local Authority – Source DaHPLG, CSO – see Table 1 Population & Budgets attached

Some local authorities have increased their LPT rates in order to get more income while others have decreased their LPT rates see Table 4 (LPT attached).

Recommended Indicators:

- Variation on the Annual LPT Rate per Local Authority (LAs should retain 100% of any variation over the base rate – equalisation should only be on the base rate of LPT)

Conclusion

Kildare is a rapidly growing county which has currently the 5th highest population in the country but expenditure per head of population for 2018 is €685 which is the 4th lowest in the country (Table 1). Effectively this means the residents of Kildare are not getting the same level of services from their local authority as residents in other counties.

The staff numbers in Kildare County Council is the second lowest in the country per head of population (Table 1). Once again this means that the residents of Kildare are not getting the same services from their local authority as residents in other counties.

Kildare residents pay over €21m in LPT which is the 6th highest in the country (Table 4), however Kildare County Council only receives €72 LPT income per head of population which is the 7th lowest amount in the country. Kildare residents are therefore not benefitting to the same level, from the LPT that they have paid, as residents in other LAs – LPT was designed as a locally generated tax to provide local services.

Kildare is a commuting county where a significant element of its workforce is employed in business in other local authority areas. These LA's benefit from the rates generated by these employers, while Kildare needs to provide the infrastructure, both physical and social/community for this population.

In order to have balance and equity throughout the local authorities in the provision of services, the needs of the local authority together with the resources available, both through locally generated income or through central government sources, need to be reviewed. Any future indicators to be used in ensuring fair and transparent funding need to be:

- Relevant
- Objective
- Distinct
- Stable
- Future proof
- Simple to implement
- Transparent both in the basis of assessment and in any weightings applied (eg on population / property values/etc)



Peter Carey
Chief Executive

22nd June 2018

**Kildare County Council
Local Government Funding (Baseline) Review
Table 1 - Population & Budgets**

Local Authority	Budget 2018 (DoHPLG) €	Budget	Population CSO 2016	Population	Expenditure Per Head of Population €	Exp per head	LA Whole Time Equivalent Staff No's per NOAC 2016	WTE Per Head of Population	WTE per Pop
Leitrim	34,999,065	31	32,044	31	1,092	4	256	125	3
Longford	42,870,510	30	40,873	30	1,049	6	281	146	6
Monaghan	56,878,969	26	61,386	28	927	12	387	159	8
Tipperary	146,592,032	10	159,553	10	919	14	983	162	9
Waterford	125,883,687	13	116,176	19	1,084	5	769	151	7
Roscommon	54,457,900	28	64,544	27	844	16	385	168	11
Donegal	148,795,554	9	159,192	11	935	11	893	178	13
Sligo	64,381,986	23	65,535	26	982	9	381	172	12
Mayo	130,821,019	12	130,507	15	1,002	7	924	141	5
Westmeath	71,209,031	22	88,770	21	802	20	438	202	17
Cavan	62,011,753	25	76,176	25	814	18	372	205	18
Carlow	49,004,951	29	56,932	29	861	15	262	217	25
Kilkenny	74,150,500	21	99,232	20	747	25	502	198	16
Laois	63,900,000	24	84,697	22	754	24	391	217	24
Offaly	55,940,856	27	77,961	24	718	27	378	206	19
Cork City	160,241,400	7	125,657	17	1,275	3	1,241	101	1
Kerry	136,708,419	11	147,707	13	926	13	1,081	137	4
Wexford	109,522,119	17	149,722	12	732	26	724	207	20
Limerick	561,322,552	2	194,899	8	2,880	1	1,068	182	14
Dun Laoghaire Rathdown	176,814,300	6	218,018	6	811	19	908	240	28
Wicklow	95,698,436	19	142,425	14	672	29	669	213	21
Galway	112,267,030	14	179,390	9	626	30	751	239	27
Louth	103,224,472	18	128,884	16	801	21	597	216	23
Kildare	152,442,441	8	222,504	5	685	28	849	262	30
Meath	110,753,400	16	195,044	7	568	31	646	302	31
Dublin City	917,411,628	1	554,554	1	1,654	2	5,290	105	2
Clare	111,271,181	15	118,817	18	936	10	719	165	10
Galway city	78,176,575	20	78,668	23	994	8	421	187	15
Cork	326,060,990	3	417,211	2	782	22	1,933	216	22
Fingal	227,269,800	5	296,020	3	768	23	1,257	235	26
South Dublin	232,431,300	4	278,767	4	834	17	1,102	253	29
	4,793,513,856		4,761,865		1,007		26,858	177	

* Ranking in italics

**Kildare County Council
Local Government Funding (Baseline) Review
Table 2: Housing Analysis**

Housing Stock and Vacancy Rate 2016 by County and City.

Local Authority	Total	No Houses		LA Houses		No LA Houses		HAP (Q2 2017 CSO)	Rent		RAS (2016 CSO)	Units supplied by Voluntary Assoc	Total Social Housing Provision	Soc Hsg Prov																
		1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8					9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Dublin City	240,553	1		24,654	1						8,726	3,274	38,610	1																
South Dublin	98,387	4		9,727	2			1,866		3,569	1,194	1,783	2																	
Cork County	173,735	2		8,894	3			2,327		3,400	1,243	16,841	3																	
Cork City	55,760	16		8,130	4			1,402		1,091	618	12,131	4																	
Fingal	104,851	3		5,697	7					3,803	727	10,988	5																	
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	86,962	5		4,606	11			1,660		3,154	761	10,728	6																	
Limerick City and County	82,112	7		5,803	5			1,928		896	761	10,510	7																	
Tipperary	69,106	12		5,719	6			1,516		846	723	10,014	8																	
Kildare	80,158	8		4,497	13			1,193		2,308	717	9,457	9																	
Waterford City and County	52,491	18		5,087	9			1,440		550	662	8,493	10																	
Donegal	83,931	6		5,133	8			1,681		383	439	8,178	11																	
Wexford	68,206	13		4,961	10			231		1,871	364	8,151	12																	
Louth	51,399	19		4,248	15			1,669		784	582	7,432	13																	
Wicklow	54,986	17		4,588	12			176		1,792	203	7,300	14																	
Kerry	74,094	10		4,373	14			216		1,411	350	7,254	15																	
Meath	70,649	11		3,244	16			907		922	301	5,826	16																	
Galway County	78,207	9		2,759	19			596		1,595	319	5,634	17																	
Mayo	65,921	14		2,598	22			680		998	398	5,567	18																	
Kilkenny	39,226	20		2,938	17			864		299	422	5,411	19																	
Galway City	33,847	22		2,903	18			697		690	447	5,176	20																	
Clare	55,779	15		2,703	20			1,261		358	289	5,032	21																	
Westmeath	36,890	21		2,404	23			161		1,222	141	4,503	22																	
Carlow	23,274	29		2,115	27			576		492	294	4,033	23																	
Laois	32,794	24		2,601	21					821	321	3,973	24																	
Sligo	32,764	25		2,272	24			370		273	285	3,803	25																	
Offaly	30,740	27		2,206	25			504		538	251	3,646	26																	
Cavan	33,585	23		2,169	26			65		377	133	3,295	27																	
Longford	18,591	30		2,031	28			63		376	167	2,856	28																	
Monaghan	25,311	28		1,692	29			397		173	164	2,659	29																	
Roscommon	31,285	26		1,493	30			534		534	86	2,541	30																	
Leitrim	18,051	31		933	31			51		269	70	1,442	31																	
	2,003,645			143,178				24,497			20,306	16,765	249,267																	

*Not all LA's had introduced HAP by Q2 2017

**Rent Supplement, per DSP - 19,252 Dublin, 4,491 Cork and 2,285 Galway - no split by LA - for the purpose of these calculations they have been split pro-rata to total no. of units

***Ranking in italics

**Kildare County Council
Local Government Funding (Baseline) Review
Table 3 - Commuting**

Resident County	Commuting to Dublin Local Authority						Employed Workforce	Dublin Commuters
	Dublin City	Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	Fingal	South Dublin	Total	Dublin Commuters		
Carlow	682	161	128	534	1,505	21,973	6.85%	
Kildare	15,481	2,810	3,324	10,593	32,208	95,947	33.57%	
Kilkenny	665	128	112	320	1,225	41,363	2.96%	
Laois	1,680	323	286	990	3,279	33,541	9.78%	
Longford	311	72	69	110	562	15,172	3.70%	
Offaly	1,047	165	223	503	1,938	30,287	6.40%	
Westmeath	1,567	223	453	613	2,856	35,289	8.09%	
Total	21,433	3,882	4,595	13,663	43,573	273,572	15.93%	

**Kildare County Council
Local Government Funding (Baseline) Review
Table 4 - LPT**

Local Authority	2017		2018		2018	2018	2018	2016	2016	2016	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018
	(Variation from 2014 rate)	(Variation from 2014 rate)	(Variation from 2014 rate)	LPT Yield											
Leitrim	Nil	Nil	Nil	2,128,450	30	32,044	31	8,956,315	25	280	1				
Longford	Down 3%	Up 5%	Up 5%	2,111,760	31	40,873	30	8,906,648	26	218	2				
Monaghan	Nil	Nil	Nil	3,806,264	29	61,386	28	11,238,572	17	183	3				
Tipperary	Nil	Up 10%	Up 10%	11,829,104	13	159,553	10	25,951,602	2	163	4				
Waterford	Nil	Up 2.5%	Up 2.5%	9,301,806	19	116,176	19	18,678,971	5	161	5				
Roscommon	Nil	Nil	Nil	3,986,880	27	64,544	27	10,216,232	20	158	6				
Donegal	Nil	Nil	Nil	10,914,717	15	159,192	11	25,119,850	3	158	7				
Sligo	Nil	Nil	Nil	5,244,734	23	65,535	26	10,202,627	21	156	8				
Mayo	Nil	Nil	Nil	10,404,457	16	130,507	15	19,812,344	4	152	9				
Westmeath	Nil	Nil	Nil	6,390,965	22	88,770	21	11,205,507	18	126	10				
Cavan	Nil	Nil	Nil	4,424,490	26	76,176	25	9,480,501	24	124	11				
Carlow	Nil	Nil	Nil	3,970,186	28	56,932	29	6,138,657	30	108	12				
Kilkenny	Nil	Nil	Nil	7,448,935	21	99,232	20	10,673,913	19	108	13				
Laois	Nil	Up 10%	Up 10%	4,928,222	24	84,697	22	8,558,877	27	101	14				
Offaly	Nil	Nil	Nil	4,917,960	25	77,961	24	7,656,288	28	98	15				
Cork City	Nil	Nil	Nil	11,060,582	14	125,657	17	11,927,355	15	95	16				
Kerry	Nil	Up 5%	Up 5%	14,081,933	11	147,707	13	13,776,761	12	93	17				
Wexford	Up 5%	Up 10%	Up 10%	12,185,174	12	149,722	12	13,547,506	13	90	18				
Limerick	Up 10%	Up 7.5%	Up 7.5%	15,685,975	9	194,899	8	17,554,464	7	90	19				
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	Down 15%	Down 15%	Down 15%	51,824,546	2	218,018	6	18,635,828	6	85	20				
Wicklow	Nil	Nil	Nil	17,121,937	8	142,425	14	11,971,634	14	84	21				
Galway	Up 10%	Nil	Nil	14,569,385	10	179,390	9	14,517,890	10	81	22				
Louth	Nil	Nil	Nil	9,513,139	18	128,884	16	9,866,198	23	77	23				
Kildare	Nil	Nil	Nil	21,619,227	6	222,504	5	16,079,635	9	72	24				
Meath	Nil	Nil	Nil	17,489,767	7	195,044	7	13,991,814	11	72	25				
Dublin City	Down 15%	Down 15%	Down 15%	79,789,578	1	554,554	1	35,053,508	1	63	26				
Clare	Nil	Nil	Nil	10,079,424	17	118,817	18	6,451,268	29	54	27				
Galway city	Nil	Nil	Nil	8,161,180	20	78,668	23	4,231,959	31	54	28				
Cork	Nil	Nil	Nil	40,842,506	3	417,211	2	16,571,259	8	40	29				
Fingal	Down 15%	Down 10%	Down 10%	38,220,794	4	296,020	3	11,343,433	16	38	30				
South Dublin	Down 15%	Down 15%	Down 15%	31,509,341	5	278,767	4	10,158,131	22	36	31				
				485,563,418		4,761,865		418,475,547		88					

**Kildare County Council
Local Government Funding (Baseline) Review
Table 5 - Rates**

Local Authority	Audited Rates 2016 €	Audited Rates 2016	Audited Strike Off's 2016 €	Audited Strike Off 2016	Population CSO 2016	Population 2016	Audited Strike Off as % Rates 2016 €	Audited Strike Off % Rates 2016	Budgeted Rates 2018 €	Budgeted Rates 2018	Rates Per Head of Population 2018	2018 Rates per head
Louth	33,294,695	12	15,045,812	3	128,884	16	45%	1	31,916,247	15	248	14
Sligo	13,034,073	25	5,073,136	15	65,535	26	39%	2	13,478,191	26	206	19
Carlow	14,455,527	23	4,501,944	20	56,932	29	31%	3	14,617,001	24	257	13
Kildare	57,832,218	7	15,730,365	2	222,504	5	27%	4	59,154,551	7	266	11
Laois	12,602,815	27	3,376,325	23	84,697	22	27%	5	13,040,000	27	154	30
Offaly	14,962,588	22	3,897,122	22	77,961	24	26%	6	17,058,158	22	219	17
Donegal	30,729,915	16	7,821,181	7	159,192	11	25%	7	33,095,404	14	208	18
Roscommon	11,182,951	29	2,735,271	25	64,544	27	24%	8	12,017,700	29	186	26
Kerry	41,169,215	10	9,623,071	5	147,707	13	23%	9	41,224,293	10	279	10
Mayo	25,805,128	19	5,695,745	11	130,507	15	22%	10	31,515,927	16	241	15
Galway	25,675,485	20	5,410,953	12	179,390	9	21%	11	27,402,727	20	153	31
Longford	7,660,915	30	1,555,136	28	40,873	30	20%	12	8,189,420	30	200	20
Monaghan	12,527,216	28	2,494,422	26	61,386	28	20%	13	12,278,048	28	200	21
Galway city	35,053,433	11	6,901,600	10	78,668	23	20%	14	36,446,749	11	463	3
Wicklow	29,938,895	18	5,269,531	14	142,425	14	18%	15	27,630,434	19	194	24
Kilkenny	18,457,490	21	3,213,668	24	99,232	20	17%	16	19,797,000	21	200	22
Cavan	13,336,541	24	2,118,319	27	76,176	25	16%	17	14,225,401	25	187	25
Wexford	30,574,072	17	4,775,752	17	149,722	12	16%	18	35,531,041	12	237	16
Limerick	53,649,542	8	8,059,416	6	194,899	8	15%	19	54,960,700	8	282	9
Waterford	32,860,097	14	4,856,960	16	116,176	19	15%	20	30,062,188	18	259	12
Meath	33,218,074	13	4,748,833	18	195,044	7	14%	21	34,171,633	13	175	28
Tipperary	30,861,894	15	4,162,530	21	159,553	10	13%	22	31,010,285	17	194	23
Leitrim	5,177,063	31	650,485	30	32,044	31	13%	23	5,436,475	31	170	29
Cork	125,653,059	2	14,560,634	4	417,211	2	12%	24	131,721,416	2	316	8
Dublin City	342,234,446	1	33,699,776	1	554,554	1	10%	25	324,811,937	1	586	1
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	83,497,572	5	6,923,895	9	218,018	6	8%	26	82,070,800	5	376	6
Cork City	64,156,781	6	4,502,783	19	125,657	17	7%	27	66,875,000	6	532	2
Fingal	119,459,309	4	7,407,882	8	296,020	3	6%	28	120,354,400	4	407	5
Westmeath	12,957,410	26	594,751	31	88,770	21	5%	29	16,074,160	23	181	27
South Dublin	122,879,937	3	5,318,856	13	278,767	4	4%	30	121,699,400	3	437	4
Clare	42,441,664	9	1,031,383	29	118,817	18	2%	31	42,765,790	9	360	7
	1,497,340,020		201,757,537		4,761,865		13%		1,510,632,476		317	

*Ranking in italics

16 January 2017

Deputy Simon Coveney
Minister for Housing Planning Community and Local Government
Custom House
Dublin D01W6X0

RE: Local Property Tax

Dear Minister

The following motion in the name of Councillor Pender was carried at the December meeting of Kildare County Council

“That Kildare County Council expresses its opposition to the use of a self funding element of Local Property Tax (LPT) to pay for certain pre-existing Capital Loan Subsidy Schemes (CLSS) and other housing services that were previously paid for by the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government. The members resolve to write to the Minister to request that this money (€3.2m approx per year) is retained by Kildare County Council to use at its discretion to provide public services to the people of Kildare.”

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

Mary Dalton
Administrative Officer



An Roinn Tithíochta, Pleanála,
Pobail agus Rialtais Áitiúil
Department of Housing, Planning,
Community and Local Government

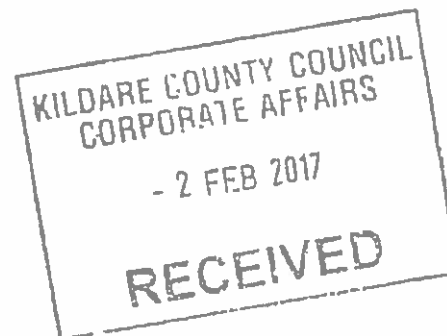
*Letter from
Councillor Peter
- Devenan Kilday*



Oifig an Aire
Office of the Minister

31st January 2017

Ms. Mary Dalton
Kildare County Council
Devoy Park
Naas
Co. Kildare



RE: REP147/SC/17

Dear Ms. Dalton,

I have been asked by Mr. Simon Coveney, T.D., Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government to respond to your letter of 16 January 2017 regarding the use of Local Property Tax (LPT).

Kildare County Council's motion opposing the use of a self-funding element of LPT to pay for certain pre-existing Capital Loan Subsidy Schemes (CLSS) and other housing services has been noted.

At the outset, it is important to note that Local Property Tax (LPT) was introduced to provide an alternative, stable and sustainable funding base for the local authority sector, providing greater levels of connection between local revenue raising and associated expenditure decisions and making the local government sector less dependent on other taxes.

For 2015 and 2016 and again for 2017, Government decided that local authorities would keep 80% of LPT collected in their areas, with the remaining 20% being re-distributed to provide equalisation funding to certain local authorities that have lower LPT bases due to the variance in property values and density across the State. By contrast, some local authorities, including Kildare County Council receive higher levels of funding from the Local Government Fund as a result of local retention of 80%.



As is the case with other similar local authorities, Kildare County Council, may use this additional income, up to a maximum of 20% of overall LPT receipts for their local authority, for their own discretionary purposes, as part of their normal budgetary process. In accordance with the Government decision, any remaining funds must then be used to self-fund certain housing functions, thereby replacing some Central Government funding.

In overall national taxation terms, Local Property Tax broadens the tax base, reducing the level of Central Government funding required by local Government, freeing up resources to redistribute or to facilitate reduced taxation elsewhere. It is a positive outcome from the policy of local retention of LPT that local authorities will be able to use LPT proceeds to pay for local services which were funded by the Central Government in the past – this facilitates further implementation of the overall objective of the local government reform programme, which is greater devolution to the local government sector, through supporting enhanced local decision making on spending priorities.

Matters relating to LPT equalisation levels and methods of allocation for future years will be reviewed as necessary and appropriate.

Yours sincerely,


PP Niamh Redmond,
Private Secretary

Comhairle Contae Chill Dara
Kildare County Council



30th March 2017

C

Deputy Simon Coveney
Minister for Housing Planning Community and Local Government
Custom House
Dublin D01W6XO

Re: Local Property Tax

Dear Minister,

I refer to the above and our previous correspondence to you dated 16th January 2017 and your reply dated 31st January 2017 (copies attached).

Your reply was circulated to the members at the February meeting of Kildare County Council however, further queries were raised and I have been asked by the members to write to you again to seek further clarification on the self funding element of Local Property Tax. The members have asked that this money (€3.2m approx a year) be retained by Kildare County Council to use *at its discretion* to provide public services to the people of Kildare and not be used to self-fund previously grant funded expenditure in the Housing area.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Karen Keane
Administrative Officer



John Timmins, Príodóla,
ní agus Rialaithe Ábhaí
ríomraí de Housing, Planning
Tearntú and Local Government

*Wilton from Cllr Butler
- Dec meeting 16/12/16
Feb meeting 11/02/17
D. Keane*

Óifig an Ábha
Office of the Minister

26 April 2017

Ms. Karen Keane
Administrative Officer
Kildare County Council
Áras Chill Dara
Devooy Park
Naas
Co. Kildare



RE: REP837/SC/17

Dear Ms. Keane,

I have been asked by Mr. Simon Coveney, T.D., Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government to respond to your further correspondence in relation to the use of Local Property Tax (LPT).

As I explained in my previous reply to Kildare County Council in January, the implementation of the Government decision regarding the self-funding of housing and roads services by some local authorities with significant property tax bases enables Government to re-direct funding to other priority areas, thereby freeing up resources for redistribution or to facilitate a reduction in taxation elsewhere. All funding issues have to be considered within the parameters of the national and fiscal budgetary situation and the competing priorities presenting themselves at the wider Government level. It is a positive outcome from the policy of local retention of LPT that local authorities are able to use LPT proceeds to pay for local services which were funded by Central Government in the past. It is important to restate that LPT was introduced as an alternative, stable and sustainable funding base for the LG sector; not necessarily additional funding, a position that has been clearly communicated since its introduction.

One of the most significant changes to the LPT allocation process for 2017 saw all local authorities' allocations increase due to a change in the treatment of how local authorities must account for Pension Related Deductions (PRD). Accordingly, LPT for Kildare County Council's own use has actually increased to €16m in 2017 from an equivalent €12.5m in 2016, on foot of this Government decision and taking local variation decisions into account. Within this €16m for the authority's own use, Kildare County Council benefits from the effect of the Government Decision, whereby an amount equivalent to 20% of the total expected LPT yield, or €4.3m, can be used for discretionary purposes in 2017, in addition to the LPT baseline of €11.75m.

It should be noted that Kildare County Council's requirement to self fund certain housing related activities has reduced from €3m to €1.2m for 2017.





The policy of self-funding is applied in a consistent manner to all local authorities in a surplus position. Monies dispersed as part of the self-funding process are being spent in Kildare on the provision of vital services, in line with overall LPT retention policies. You will appreciate that the Minister is not in a position to vary this policy in respect of any local authority at the current time.

Yours sincerely,


Raymond O'Sullivan
Secretary

