At the request of the Cathaoirleach Mr. Dalton presented the Finance Report following which discussion ensued as follows:

Referring to the number of appeals before the Tribunal following Revaluation, the Cathaoirleach asked if there was anything that could be done to speed up the process. Mr. Dalton agreed that the process was very slow and could take many years but that he was not aware of anything that a local authority could do to impact the process other than drawing attention to it as was being done today.

Cllr. Dollard requested an update on the Tenant Purchase Scheme and Mr. Dalton informed him that 2 houses had been sold under the current scheme in 2018. Cllr. Dollard also stated that any review of Differential Rents should be brought before the Housing SPC and Mr. Dalton replied that a Rent Review was an executive function but that the Members would be fully briefed on the 2019 Review in advance of the 2020 budget meeting. In relation to the site at Blackhall recently purchased by the Council, Cllr. Dollard enquired as to the cost and Mr. Dalton informed the Members that the site was purchased for €2m plus VAT.

Cllr. Hogan enquired as to what was the single largest potential impact arising from the Valuation Tribunal process. Mr Dalton stated that he didn’t wish to get into individual cases but was happy to provide Cllr. Hogan and any other Member additional analysis if it would help.

Cllr. Hogan asked where funding would come from to cover the negative impact on services arising from the results of appeals to the Valuation Tribunal. Mr. Dalton advised that the impact which had materialised to date was manageable but if significant losses were incurred then the Members would have to make a decision to either reduce expenditure for budget 2020 or spread the loss through a Rates increase. Mr. Dalton further stated that rates income arising from new properties in 2020 would also help.

In relation to Differential Rents Cllr. Hogan enquired about the number of households on maximum rent and Mr. Dalton replied that this number had reduced significantly from 93 in February to 19 currently, with further reduction expected in the coming weeks.
Referring to the reduction in paid parking income, Cllr. Hogan asked if road works in the towns of Athlone and Mullingar had impacted. Mr. Dalton advised that this was an area for the Municipal Districts to examine and that he would work with them in this regard.

The detail of the 15 projects submitted for CLÁR funding was requested and Martin Murray agreed to provide this to Members as soon as possible.

Cllr. Hogan enquired as to whether the Council was meeting its Housing targets as set by the Department. Mr Dalton confirmed that the Council was meeting its targets in overall terms albeit not within each category.

Cllr. Penrose queried the reduction in income from Planning Fees and Mr. Dalton stated that this was due to lack of activity in this area. He further confirmed that there were 11 fees of greater than €1,000 generating €37,861 of the €56,216 income to date.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

________________________  ______________________
Cathaoirleach                      Date