



Drogheda Credit Union 57th AGM 9th December 2024

Questions and Answers

- 1. Is the "It Makes Sense" Loan still available to Members who have small Loans, at high interest rates, with Moneylenders? I did not find specific mention of it in the AGM Booklet. This loan, if I recall correctly, is a Joint initiative between the League of Credit Unions and the Department of Social Protection. It has a Max. amount of €2,000. I recall only once ever seeing this Loan advertised - in the Meath Coaster a number of years ago - yet it is a tremendous help to get a persons in the grip of a Money Lender, and on a Social Welfare payment, out of the viscous cycle of high Interest payments.**

Yes, this loan is still available to members. The loan is advertised in our branches through leaflets and on our website www.droghedacu.ie. The title of the loan is 'Personal Micro Credit Loan'. Members can apply in branch or online for this loan type. The Credit Union also offers a 'Debt Consolidation Loan' to its members for members looking to switch their current finance obligations to the Credit Union. Terms and conditions apply on both loan types.

- 2. Why is a single auditor proposed. Is the decision already taken as to the choice of auditor for 2025, and the rubber stamping of that decision by the members all that's sought?**

Credit Unions carry out a review of their external auditors on an annual basis. It is the responsibility of the Credit Union to complete a due diligence process in the selection of its auditor and following that process make a recommendation to its members of the selected auditor at the AGM. The decision to accept this recommendation then rests with the members. It is important to note that the external auditor is responsible for reporting to and on behalf of the members.

- 3. When will we resume with an "in person" AGM?**

Each year we review in person versus virtual AGM requirements based on the number of attendees and the costs involved. We will continue to monitor this for next year.

- 4. The AGM expenses were c. €60k in comparison to rent & rates costs of c. €66k. Although a small portion of overall expenses for the year, is there something driving the high AGM expenses resulting in the cost of a single meeting being broadly equivalent to the cost of operating the branches in their respective buildings for an entire year?**

The majority of the cost of the AGM expenses relates to the AGM postal notification issued to members prior to the AGM. This was a requirement under Credit Union legislation. This requirement was amended in 2024 and the Credit Union will no longer have to notify members by post of its AGM. This will save the Credit Union the mailing cost of circa 26,000 at a postage charge of €1.14 equating to €29,640 in postage costs alone. Also included in this expense are the costs associated with the design and print of the booklet, 26,000 enveloped and 26,000 printed letters for the AGM notification.

- 5. Q: Is Drogheda Credit Union committed to managing its costs on behalf of its members?**

Drogheda Credit Union has a very strong cost/income ratio when compared to its peer credit unions. We always review every cost and investment decision in a comprehensive way, to ensure the best value for our credit union and for our members. We are always looking at new initiatives with a view of achieving better economies of scale.

- 6. How prepared is Drogheda Credit Union for Sepa Instant?**

Regulation (EU) 2024/886, commonly referred to as the Instant Payments Regulation (IPR), entered into force in April 2024, bringing significant changes to the [SEPA Regulation](#). This new regulation introduces new mandatory requirements for instant credit transfers in euro, impacting Payment Service Providers (PSPs) located in the European Economic Area (EEA) whereby some of them already enter into force for eurozone-based PSPs (other than Payment Institutions (PIs) and Electronic Money Institutions (EMIs)) on 9 January 2025 and 9 October 2025 respectively. Drogheda Credit Union is part of a pilot programme and is currently engaged in extensive testing ahead of the deadline. The Credit Union will have SEPA Instant live and available to its members on or before the deadline date.

- 7. Does Drogheda Credit Union have further plans to give more mortgage products to its members next year?**

Drogheda Credit Union is committed to ensuring that further mortgage products will be available to our members. We are delighted with the mortgage demand received in 2024 and with the current mortgage pipeline that is in place. We are now joined along with other credit unions in a mortgage Cuso to ensure that more and better mortgage products will be available to our members in the future.



8. Why doesn't Drogheda Credit Union offer Death Benefit Insurance similar to other Credit Union's?

Drogheda Credit Union previously evaluated this option but determined that the implementation costs were disproportionately high compared to the coverage provided. As a result, a decision was made not to proceed.