

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Galway County Council

Ceantar Bardasach Bhaile Átha an Rí Órán Mór

Municipal District of Athenry Oranmore.

Minutes of the Budget Meeting of the Municipal District of Athenry Oranmore held in the Council Chamber, Áras an Chontae, on Tuesday 23rd October, 2018.

I LATHAIR:

BAILL: Cllr. F. Kearney (Cathaoirleach)
Cllr. G. Cronnelly
Cllr. J. Cuddy
Cllr. M. Kinane
Cllr. J. Charity

APOLOGIES: Cllr. P. Feeney and Cllr. M. Noone.

OIFIGIGH: Mr. M. Owens, A/Director of Services,
Mr. G. Mullarkey, Head of Finance,
Ms. M. Earls, Asst. Staff Officer,
Ms. G. Healy, A/Administrative Officer.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Kearney, welcomed the Elected Members, Officials and the Media to the Municipal District Budget Meeting.

He said he wished to extend his condolences to Cllr. Donal Burke on the death of his brother Liam Burke recently.

He also wished to extend his condolences Cllr. Aidan Donohue on the death of his brother Michael Donohue the previous month.

Item No. 1: To consider & adopt (with or without amendment) under Section 58 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 a Draft Budgetary Plan for the Municipal District of Athenry Oranmore, as prepared under the direction of the Chief Executive.

AOMD 1847

[Report including Draft Budgetary Plan 2019 for the Athenry Oranmore Municipal District was already circulated to each Member]

The Cathaoirleach said that this was the only Item on the Agenda and he asked Mr. Mullarkey to address the Members in relation to the Draft Budgetary Plan 2019 for the Municipal District.

Mr Mullarkey informed the Members that the main changes to the 2019 Draft Budget in comparison with 2018 related to the Services B0301 to B0406 in the Draft Budget Report which reflected increases in roads grant funding. Mr. Mullarkey stated that the road grants budgets were based on 2018 actual allocations and that the Department had indicated that this level of funding would be maintained in 2019. He also said that, in the area of street cleaning, an additional €10,000 was allocated to the Municipal District.

Cllr. Cronnelly queried if the budget reflected existing Municipal District boundaries or the revised boundary which will come into effect following the Local Elections to be held in May 2019.

Cllr. Charity requested that the draft GMA allocations for all Municipal Districts be made available to the Members.

Cllr. Kinane expressed her disappointment that there was no significant increase in funding.

Cllr. Cuddy expressed his disappointment at the level of funding for the Winter Maintenance Programme and expressed the view that the Athenry Oranmore Municipal District was not getting its fair share of funding, compared with other Municipal Districts.

Mr. Mullarkey, in reply to Cllr. Cronnelly, said that the budget was presented on the current Municipal District boundaries. He said he understood that when the Statutory Budget was adopted and the actual Road Grant allocations had been received in 2019, that the Schedule of Municipal District Works to be presented in early 2019 would reflect the revised boundaries.

He noted the comments of the Members regarding the level of roads funding but he acknowledged that the basis for distributing roads funding had been agreed by the Roads SPC.

Mr Mullarkey also noted that the Department had set the level of funding for 2014 as the base line for subsequent years and that despite much engagement with the Department and Oireachtas Members, no additional funding had been made available to Galway County Council at this point.

The Members again expressed their disappointment that the Athenry Oranmore Municipal District has the lowest level of funding and noted that the Municipal District was only getting 9% to 10% of roads funding despite the fact that it has the highest level of traffic due to its proximity to Galway City.

Mr. Mullarkey again noted that the basis of road funding had been agreed by the Roads SPC and was acknowledged as so by the Members.

Cllr. Charity said that whilst the draft budget did show an increase on 2018, it was insufficient and accordingly he made the following **PROPOSAL**: *"I propose to reject the Draft Municipal Budget for the Athenry Oranmore area"*. This proposal was **SECONDED** by Cllr. Cronnelly.

Cllrs. Kinane and Cuddy supported the Motion to reject the Draft Budget as presented.

Cllr. Gabriel Cronnelly enquired about the €200,000.00 allocation to Athenry Town and Village Renewal Scheme and he was informed by Mr. Mullarkey that this budget would be allocated under Community & Enterprise funding.

Cathaoirleach Kearney **PROPOSED** the adoption of the budget but there was **NO SECONDER** for this proposal.

As all of the Members did not agree with the proposal of Cllr. Charity, the Cathaoirleach called for a vote on the proposal.

The Result of the Vote was as follows:

For: Cllrs. Charity, Cronnelly, Cuddy, Kinane (4 no.)

Against: Cllr. Kearney (1 no.)

Absent: Cllrs. Feeney and Noone.

As a **Result of the Vote**, Cathaoirleach **DECLARED** the Motion, to **reject the Draft Municipal Budget** for the Athenry Oranmore Municipal District for 2019, **CARRIED**.

Cllr. Charity expressed the view that the Members would seek a meeting with Minister John Paul Phelan, Minister of State at the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, with special responsibility for Local Government and Electoral Reform, to discuss the funding position. The meeting to be held in Dublin or in Galway. In this regard, Cllr. Charity made the following **PROPOSAL**: *"I propose that the Meetings Administrator write to the Minister for Local Government and the Minister for Local Government & Electoral Reform, highlighting the rejection by this Municipal District of its budget and requesting a meeting between the Members and the respective Ministers in Dublin or Galway to discuss the funding mechanism for this Municipal District and Municipal District areas generally"*. This proposal was **SECONDED** by Cllr. Cronnelly, and **AGREED**.

Cllr. Cuddy made the following **PROPOSAL**: *"I propose that the proposed Municipal Budgets for all the Municipal Districts should be given to each Member of the Municipal District as early as possible"*. This proposal was **SECONDED** by Cllr. Charity, and **AGREED**.

The Cathaoirleach thanked the Members for their ongoing efforts to secure funding for the Municipal District, particularly for roads expenditure and he also thanked the Staff for their hard work taking into account the situation in terms of resources.

CRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINIÚ ANSIN.

SIGNED: Martina Kinane
CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE: 14/1/2019