

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE

MINUTES OF DRAFT BUDGETARY PLAN 2018 MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBER, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL, GALWAY ON WEDNESDAY 25th OCTOBER, 2017 AT 2.00 p.m.

CATHAOIRLEACH:

Cllr. A. Donohue

I LATHAIR FREISIN:

Baill:

Cllrs. T. Broderick, D. Burke, M. Connolly, D. Connolly.

Oifigigh:

Mr. Ger Mullarkey, Head of Finance; Mr. Michael Timmins, A/Director of Service; Mr. A. Farrell, A/Director of Service, Mr. D. Mitchell, Senior Engineer, Mr. A. Headd, A/Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. F. McEvoy, Executive Engineer, Mr. P. McLynn, A/Assistant Engineer, Ms. A. Gardiner, Meetings Administrator, Ms. A. Monaghan, Staff Officer; Ms. Nuala Heffernan, Administrative Officer.

Cllr. Donohue advised that there was one item on the Agenda: "To consider & adopt (with or without amendment) under Section 58 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 a Draft Budgetary Plan 2018 for the Municipal District of Ballinasloe, as prepared under the direction of the Chief Executive". (Report attached)

Mr. Mullarkey referred to the significant discussions which had taken place to date in relation to the budgetary process including discussions on the Local Property Tax. He outlined that as a result of the decision not to maintain the adopted 10% increase in LPT that there would be a shortfall of funding of €1.45M in 2018 and that the draft General Municipal Allocations for 2018 had reduced significantly. Cllr. Donohue opened the discussion to the floor.

Issues that were discussed:

*Noted that Amenity Budgets had decreased by around €150,000 for the county compared to last year.

*The Allocation to Parks, Pitches and Open Spaces reduced significantly from €125,000 to €95,000 where the Council will no longer be able to provide cutting grass in parks etc., This 30,000 cut to the maintenance of estates in Ballinasloe will have knock on effect on housing estates and other open areas as grass cutting will be dropped.

*Roads budget significantly reduced from 38.9m in 2008 to 18.6m in 2018 and these cuts will effect pot hole maintenance, hedge cutting, cleaning of towns and villages.

*Cllr Michael Connolly told the meeting that every county in the region was faring out financially much better than Galway and wanted to know the reason for this. He stated that the local TDs were not doing enough to support their own county.

* There is no money for Traffic Management even though we have a statutory obligation for provision of this service and this is not acceptable.

*Equalisation Fund – MD should get their fair share of this fund and therefore cannot pass this budget.

On the proposal of Cllr M. Connolly which was seconded by Cllr. Burke it was agreed to reject the Draft Budgetary Plan 2018 for the Municipal District of Ballinasloe as prepared under the direction of the Chief Executive.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the next Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe would take place on Wednesday, 15th November, 2017 at 2.00 p.m. in the Municipal District of Ballinasloe Offices.

Meeting concluded at 3.15pm.

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN

Submitted, Approved and Signed



(Cathaoirleach to sign here)

15/11/17

(Date)