

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Ceantar Bardasach Bhaile Locha Riach

Municipal District of LOUGHREA

Minutes of Budget Meeting of the Municipal District of Loughrea Held at Aras an Chontae, Prospect hill, on 25th October 2018 at 1 p.m.

I LATHAIR:

Cathaoirleach

Cllr J. Byrne

Baill:

Cllr M. Maher, Cllr M. Fahy, Cllr S. Donnellan, Cllr I. Canning.

Oifigigh:

Mr. G. Mullarkey, Head of Finance

Mr. P. Carroll, Meetings Administrator

Ms. T. Gannon, Clerical Officer

Apologies

Apologies from Cllrs Hynes, Finnerty, McClearn and Jim Cullen DOS who were unable to attend

**To consider & adopt (with or without amendment), under LMD 18055
Section 58 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 a Draft Budgetary Plan for the
Municipal District of Loughrea, as prepared under the direction of the Chief Executive.**

Mr. Mullarkey opened the meeting by saying that there was no additional funding other than significant increases in the road grants compared to the 2017 budget. In 2018 there was an increase of over 4m compared to 2017 and this will continue into 2019.

Cllr Maher questioned the allocation of €46,500 for Estate Management. He stated that the estates are not being maintained and the grass was only cut twice this year. Regarding Parks, Pitches & Open Spaces he wanted to know where the figure of €20,000 was allocated. Mr. Mullarkey confirmed that €20,000 had been allocated in the previous 2 years for Parks, Pitches and Open Spaces which to his knowledge had not been spent. Cllr. Maher said he had been informed by a senior engineer that there was no budget provision. It was agreed to follow up on this matter and to revert to Cllr. Maher. He also recommended the provision of information touch screens at the Plaza to advertise what is happening in Co Galway, as this would be a great opportunity to promote Galway as a county. He also questioned the allocation for Public Conveniences as he understood that the maintenance contract was up. Mr. Mullarkey agreed that if there was no contract in place that this money could be reallocated

Minutes of the Budget Meeting of the Municipal District of Loughrea held on 25th October 2018

Cllr Donnellan said that responsibility for parks and open spaces is being handed over to the community when it is the local authorities responsibility. He requested extra funding to maintain Public spaces in Loughrea and also questioned where is the €20,000 spent. Cllr Donnellan also said that there is poor traffic management in Loughrea and that there is only €10,000 in the budget for the county. He stated that this needs to be discussed with the local engineers.

Cllr Fahy stated that the roads are not being repaired under the Local Improvement Schemes and wanted to know what criteria is required in order to qualify for a local improvement scheme as he is aware of applications being submitted for the same scheme three times without success. Mr. Mullarkey stated that he would discuss the criteria required with Jim Cullen, Roads Director of Services.

Cllr Canning stated that Loughrea MD are not getting the proper share of funding for Estate Management and that the grass in council estates were only cut twice this year. He wants to know where is the money for this? Ger Mullarkey replied that there is no additional funding as €20,000 was made available for this and if members want to increase a heading for the draft budget they need to indicate what budget heading to take it out of.

Responding to a number of queries on the low indicative spending for 2019 for a number of services as against the total budget Mr Mullarkey indicated that the difference related mainly to payroll costs. He confirmed that there is separate provision in the draft budget for Portumna Marina.

Cllr. Byrne recommended that members list operational issues of importance contained in Budget 2019 for discussion and clarification with engineering staff at the November Municipal District meeting.

Cllr. Fahy proposed the adoption of the budget which was seconded by Cllr. Maher and agreed.

The meeting then concluded.

CHRIOGHNAIGH ON CHRUINNIÚ ANSIN

Cllr Joe Byrne
8/11/18