

MINUTES OF ROSCOMMON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING HELD IN THE LOUGHNANEANE SUITE, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, ROSCOMMON ON 19TH OCTOBER, 2016 AT 2.30 P.M. TO DISCUSS THE GENERAL MUNICIPAL ALLOCATION AND DRAFT BUDGETARY PLANS FOR 2017

PRESENT: Councillor Orla Leyden, Cathaoirleach **PRESIDED**

MEMBERS: M. Creaton, D. Connolly, N. Dineen, P. Fitzmaurice, K. Shanagher

OFFICIALS: Mr. Derek Caldbeck, A/ Head of Finance, Housing, ICT & Roscommon Municipal District
Ms. Breeda Burke, Staff Officer, Roscommon Municipal District
Mr. John Mockler, Roscommon Municipal District Co-ordinator
Ms. Breege Mc Neill, A/Financial Management Accountant

Mr. Derek Caldbeck informed the members as follows:

The Local Government Act 2001 Section 102, as amended by the Local Government Reform Act 2014, provides the legislative basis for the revised budget process. It states that *“In the case of a county or city council, the Chief Executive shall consult the Municipal District Members for each Municipal District in the Local Authority’s functional area in the preparation of a Draft Local Authority Budget and, for that purpose, a Draft Budgetary Plan for the Municipal District shall be prepared under the direction of the Chief Executive and submitted for consideration by the Municipal District Members for each Municipal District in the manner and in the format that may be prescribed by regulations made by the Minister.”*

The Draft Budgetary Plan refers to discretionary funding only.

In producing the Draft Budgetary Plan the following was considered:

1. The needs and resources available or likely to be made available to the Local Authority
2. The resource needs of each Municipal District, including where appropriate km of roads, population, location of facilities, etc.

The purpose of a Draft Budgetary Plan is to provide each Municipal District an opportunity to allocate its proportion of the General Municipal Allocation according to its priorities.

Schedule of Municipal District Works and Service Delivery Plans

Section 103(A) (1) provides that, following the adoption of the Local Authority Budget, a schedule of proposed works of maintenance and repairs to be carried out during 2017 in each Municipal District shall be prepared under the direction of the Chief Executive, having regard to the availability of resources.

The Schedule of Municipal District Works shall be considered by the Municipal District Members concerned and be adopted by resolution, with or without amendment. In making an amendment, the Municipal District Members shall have due regard to the Local Authority Budget adopted in accordance with section 103(9).

General Municipal Allocation and Municipal District Draft Budgetary Plans

The General Municipal Allocation (the total for the three Municipal Districts) totals €2,462,100. The General Municipal Allocation distributed to the Roscommon Municipal District is €909,500

There is an additional new funding of €20,000 for the Roscommon Municipal District for taking in charge of roads. There is also an additional €60,000 discretionary funding for each Municipal District in addition to the €85,000 allocated for the Roscommon Municipal District Fund.

The local roads contribution overall is €1,276,900 and has been distributed using a formula of 75% km of road and 25% population. Roscommon will receive €461,300.

Councillor Leyden welcomed the new rationale for apportionment of the local roads budget for 2017 and stated that it will better reflect the higher specification required for roads in the town.

Mr. Caldbeck explained that the Athlone Municipal District want the CPG to look at the apportionment process again before the 2018 budget as they were not happy with the 2017 allocation under the new regime.

The members raised the following issues:

- Cllr. Leyden queried why Portrun was not included with the Ballyleague Public Conveniences
- Cllr. Leyden stated that Roscommon Town was understaffed and sought assurances that resources would be available to cut the grass around the town in 2017
- Cllr. Creaton queried when the recruitment process would be finalised
- Cllr. Fitzmaurice suggested that we look for new ways to make efficiencies within the current budget
- Cllr. Dineen stated that there is a need for more outdoor staff and we should be looking at replacing staff and making more use of temporary contracts
- Cllr. Leyden stressed the importance of planning ahead for the summer of 2017 as regards looking after the public spaces in Roscommon Town and indicated that the budget meeting was the correct point in time to do this.
- Cllr. Fitzmaurice suggested putting grass cutting on the agenda for the next Municipal District meeting
- All members discussed the time spent by outdoor staff in Roscommon digging graves in St. Coman's Cemetery and working at the Civic Amenity Site
- Cllr: Shanagher stated that there was over 30 acres of grass to be cut in Roscommon Town and that we need to ensure that we have a full time person to cut the grass in 2017
- Cllr. Fitzmaurice suggested that some of the additional €60,000 funding be made available to community groups for equipment so that they can cut their own grass.
- Cllr. Creaton requested that the digging of graves in St. Coman's cemetery by Local Authority Staff be looked into

Mr. John Mockler and Mr. Derek Caldbeck responded to the issues raised:

- The figure of €18,000 for the maintenance of public conveniences in 2017 includes part of the wages of a caretaker for the Ballyleague area in general
- Derek Caldbeck explained that on the basis of the figures presented one can expect the same level of service in 2017 as provided in 2016. He explained that there are Engineers in the process of coming back from Irish Water and that will mean a significant extra cost for salaries
- John Mockler stated that if all the grass is to be cut in 2017 in Roscommon Town it will need to be contracted to a third party because at the moment we are expecting to have the same level of outdoor staff in Roscommon Town as we had in the summer of 2016.
- Derek Caldbeck explained that as members they can decide to move the extra €60,000 from the Municipal District Fund into grass cutting for 2017.
- John Mockler explained that staff was also taken up with necessary works under the flooding allocation
- John Mockler stated that the bad weather during the summer was a contributing factor with the delay in cutting the grass
- John Mockler suggested putting extra money into the Tidy Estate competition to incentivise residents to keep the estate looking well

The members agreed as a Municipal District to send a letter to Mr. Cummins to stress the urgent need for staff replacement so as to ensure delivery of a good service to the public in 2017 especially in the area of grass around Roscommon Town.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Leyden
SECONDED by Councillor Dineen

It was **AGREED** to accept the Roscommon Municipal District Budget as presented and that a decision on how to spend the €60,000 additional funding be postponed until we get clarification on staffing levels from the Chief Executive.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

The foregoing Minutes are
Confirmed and Signed:

Meetings Administrator

Cathaoirleach

Countersigned