

**DRAFT MINUTES OF ATHLONE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN THE LOUGHNANEANE SUITE, ARAS AN CHONTAE, ROSCOMMON, ON WEDNESDAY, 16TH OCTOBER, 2019 AT 2.00 PM**

- PRESENT:** Councillor Tony Ward      **PRESIDED**
- MEMBERS:** Cllr D. Kilduff, Cllr I. Connaughton, Cllr J. Keogh and Cllr J. Naughten.
- OFFICIALS:** Liam Bergin, Director of Services  
Martin Lydon, Director of Services  
Diarmuid MacDonnacha, Athlone Municipal District Co-ordinator  
Paul Browne, Executive Engineer  
Michelle Carney, Staff Officer
- Apologies:** Cllr L. Fallon

**61.19 TO CONSIDER THE DRAFT BUDGET FOR ATHLONE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 2020**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the Members to the meeting.

Martin Lydon 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 purpose of a Draft Budgetary Plan is to provide each Municipal District an opportunity to allocate its proportion of the General Municipal Allocation (GMA) 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 2020 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).

In producing the Draft Budgetary Plan, the following was considered:

1. The needs and resources available or likely to be made available to the Council
2. The resource needs of each Municipal District, including where appropriate condition survey, population, location of facilities, etc.

The Corporate Policy Group considered the basis for apportionment of Roads expenditure and decided on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2019 to change the criteria for apportionment in 2020. It will be based on a model of 33.3% population, 33.3% km of road and 33.3% road condition.

The Athlone GMA for 2020 is €754,721. The following will be included in the budget for 2020 -

- €85,000 Municipal District Fund for each MD is reinstated for 2020. A new governance model and scheme for allocating the funds will be produced;
- €150,000 has been included overall for street cleaning with Athlone MD receiving €44,788;
- An overall figure of €120,000 has been allocated to roads at the request of the members;

- €12,000 additional funding has been allocated across the 3 areas to assist in the Tidy Towns Programme and combat illegal dumping

The members commented on the draft budget as follows –

- Disappointment was expressed regarding the distribution of funds for Roads, Transport and Safety Service Division, that the overall figure for the Roads element should be divided equally between the three Municipal Districts;
- Consideration must be given to the introduction of a Service Level Agreement for Street Cleaning with Westmeath County Council save costs;
- Cllrs. Suggested that they work together with the Engineers with regard to the condition of the roads with regard to the surveying of the roads.
- Staff in the Athlone Municipal needs to be acknowledged and recognised for the work they have achieved with such a reduced budget for Athlone Municipal District;
- The issue regarding staffing levels in the Athlone Municipal District office needs to be addressed;
- The requirement to source additional money to fund services was highlighted at the CPG and that is why the members approved an increase of 15% in the Local Property Tax for 2020.

Martin Lydon clarified that adjustments can be made to the plan today provided that it is within the Athlone Municipal District Discretionary Budget and not from the other two Municipal Districts. This draft budget has to be either accepted or rejected today.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Connaughton

**SECONDED** by Cllr. Kilduff

From a unanimous agreement from a previous Municipal District meeting it was agreed that there should be an equal distribution of funds for the Roads element. That this Budget should be put to the full Plenary to modify the apportionment basis for roads expenditure.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Keogh

**SECONDED** by Cllr. Naughten

It was **UNANIMOUSLY AGREED** to adopt the Athlone Municipal District Budget as presented.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Connaughton

**SECONDED** by Cllr. Ward

It was **UNANIMOUSLY AGREED** that if any additional funding become available that these funds are distributed to South Roscommon.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

The foregoing Minutes are  
Confirmed and Signed:



Meetings Administrator

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Cathaoirleach

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Countersigned