Comhairle Contae
Ros Comáin
Roscommon
County Council

MINUTES OF ROSCOMMON Municipal District **MEETING HELD IN THE LOUGHNANEANE SUITE - ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, ROSCOMMON ON THURSDAY**, 15th October, 2026 **AT 2.30** pm

PRESENT: Councillor Marty McDermott **PRESIDED**

MEMBERS: Cllr M.Holland, Cllr R. Conboy and Cllr P. Fitzmaurice.

OFFICIALS: Chris Flynn, Director of Services
Breeda Burke, Staff Officer
Tom McDermott, Roscommon Municipal District Co-ordinator
Sean Mullarkey, Director of Finance
Cáit O'Grady, Financial Management Accountant
Mark Keaveney, Director of Services

APOLOGIES: Cllr N. Dineen

61.26 DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST (SECTION 177 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 AS AMENDED)

There were no declarations of interest from the Members.

62.26 TO CONSIDER THE DRAFT BUDGET FOR THE ROSCOMMON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 2027

Sean Mullarkey introduced the draft budget and 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 plans for municipal districts refer only to discretionary funding available to each Municipal District, as discussions on strategic and non-discretionary expenditure of the Council form part of the plenary draft budget process. The plenary budget meeting is scheduled to be held on 18th November, 2026.

The total General Municipal Allocation (GMA) for 2027 is €3,303,510 with Roscommon MD receiving €1,202,840.

Local Property Tax (LPT) Variation

The decision taken at the Plenary meeting on the 23rd of September, 2024 to vary the LPT basic rate upwards by 15% for two years allowed for the following items to be included in the GMA for 2027 -

- €295,000 of Community & Enterprise funding for distribution by members
- €212,200 for street cleaning

- €22,500 towards emergency works at graveyards
- €125,000 for major repair works at graveyards
- €99,000 for graveyard grants
- €102,000 to assist Tidy Town's programmes
- Town Team funding of €12,500 for each of the six town teams

Rationale for Allocating Funds
In considering the draft budgetary plans for the municipal districts as attached, the following was considered:

1. The needs and the 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 model used in 2026 for apportioning roads expenditure (33.3% Population, 33.3% Km Road, 33.3% Condition) has once again been applied in 2027.

There is a budget allocation in 2027 of €85,000 relating to the River Suck to improve drainage and amenities. This allocation is split between the Athlone and Roscommon Municipal Districts.

The purpose of the draft budgetary plan meeting 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 2027, 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 to be adopted in accordance with section 103(9).

General Municipal Allocation (GMA) and Municipal District Draft Budgetary Plans
Local Authorities have limited capacity in relation to discretionary type expenditure with the majority of costs being non-discretionary in nature and being reflected in the Plenary Council Budget as opposed to the municipal districts' draft budget plans.
When the Plenary Council budget has been finalised and formally adopted a schedule of municipal district works will be prepared and submitted to each municipal district.

The members welcomed the draft budget and acknowledged the contribution of the Local Property Taxpayers in the delivery of essential services. The following matters were discussed by the members:

- Works on the River Suck, including the possibility of members making recommendations in respect of proposed works
- The problem of cleaning and keeping footpaths free of debris
- On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Fitzmaurice
  SECONDED by Councillor Holland
  It was **AGREED** to allocate €2,000 from Castlerea Open Spaces funding and create a new job code

for Somers Park in Castlerea

- A request that provision be made for speed ramps in villages, with €20,000 to be allocated annually within the budget
- The increase in the CCTV budget including clarification as to whether the additional funding relates to maintenance or upgrade works
  On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Conboy
  SECONDED by Cllr. Brennan
  It was **AGREED** by all the members that phase two of the CCTV scheme be suggested for consideration under the Town & Village Scheme which is currently open for applications
- The increase in funding for cemeteries, which was welcomed by the members
- Clarification regarding the scope of works covered under the taking in charge budget
- Members sought clarification as to whether the street cleaning allocation applies to all areas within the municipal district or whether it is confined to the public realm areas.
- The difficulties experienced by Tidy Towns Groups in disposing of grass cuttings and leaves were highlighted and
  On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Conboy
  SECONDED by Councillor Holland
  It was **AGREED** by all the members that collections will take place in Portrun, Ballintubber and Cloontuskert during the summer months.

Tom McDermott, Sean Mullarkey and Mark Keaveney responded to the matters raised:

- As regards the funding for ramps, it was noted that applications have been submitted for three low-cost safety schemes for the villages concerned. Sean Mullarkey advised that consideration of additional funding is a matter for discussion at the plenary budget meeting as funding would need to be identified from within the overall budget.
- The CCTV budget provision is intended for ongoing maintenance of the existing system and the replacement of cameras where required and any extension of the CCTV network would require separate funding. Mark Keaveney advised that the process for providing CCTV has changed substantially due to recent legislation and recommended liaising with the Assets Department to progress the matter further.
- The taking in charge budget is provided to cover advertising costs and Planning have prepared a programme of works.
- Public realm maintenance is not included within the street cleaning budget allocation. This matter will also be dealt with as part of the main budget discussions at the plenary meeting.
- Mark Keaveney agreed to engage with the Roads Department and the Environment Department regarding the possibility of facilitating grass collections during the summer months and to report back to Cllr. Conboy.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Fitzmaurice
SECONDED by Councillor Holland
It was **AGREED** by all the members to adopt the Roscommon Municipal District Budget for 2027 with the reallocation of €2,000 from Open Spaces in Castlerea to Somers Park, Castlerea.

63.26 A.O.B.

CIVIC RECEPTIONS

Request from Cllr. Conboy

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Conboy

SECONDED by Cllr. Fitzmaurice
It was **AGREED** by all the members that Roscommon County Council honour Roscommon Special Olympics Club Swimming Team of Anne Marie Donnelly, Shaun Mullen, Brían Óg McGarvey, and Sorcha Hegarty who achieved a gold medal in the 4x50m relay and Brian Og for his individual silver medal at the Special Olympics European Swimming Open.

Request from Cllr. Conboy & Cllr. Brennan
On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Conboy & Cllr. Brennan
SECONDED by Cllr. Holland
It was **AGREED** by all the members that Roscommon County Council honour Rachel O'Grady, Fourmilehouse who achieved 1st Place in the Junior Loy Digging at the National Ploughing Championships 2026.

Request from Cllr. Conboy
On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Conboy
SECONDED by Cllr. Holland
It was **AGREED** by all the members that Roscommon County Council honour Cyrille Bikoi, Ballinaheglish, winner of the U83 Junior Irish Powerlifting Championships and represented Ireland at the World Championships

Request from Cllr. Fitzmaurice
On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Fitzmaurice
SECONDED by Cllr. Conboy
It was **AGREED** by all the members that Roscommon County Council honour Roscommon Masters over 40's Men's Gaelic Football Team who won the All-Ireland Shield.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

The foregoing Minutes are
Confirmed and Signed:

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Meetings Administrator

_____
Cathaoirleach

_____
Countersigned