

MINUTES OF ATHLONE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING HELD IN THE LOUGHNANEANE SUITE, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, ROSCOMMON ON MONDAY THE 17TH OCTOBER, 2016 AT 9.30A.M. TO DISCUSS THE GENERAL MUNICIPAL ALLOCATION AND DRAFT BUDGETARY PLANS FOR 2017.

PRESENT: Councillor Ivan Connaughton, Cathaoirleach **PRESIDED**

MEMBERS: P. Kilduff, L. Fallon, T. Ward, J. Keogh, J. Naughten

OFFICIALS: Majella Hunt, Director of Services
Diarmuid MacDonncha, Senior Executive Engineer
Derek Caldbeck, A/Head of Finance & Planning

Derek Caldbeck, A/Head of Finance informed members that this is the third year of the Municipal District and advised all the budget process for 2017 is now underway. He explained that the draft budgetary plans for Municipal Districts refer only to discretionary funding available to each Municipal District as discussions on the main, non-discretionary expenditure is part of the plenary draft budget process. He informed members that the purpose of the draft budgetary meeting is to give members an opportunity to allocate General Municipal Allocation according to Municipal District priorities. A detailed breakdown of each element of the Draft Budgetary Plan 2017 for the **Athlone MD Area** was presented, highlighting the following:

- Total General Municipal Allocation for 2017 is €2,462,100 to be distributed as follows:
 - **Athlone €625.3k**
 - Boyle €927.3k
 - Roscommon €909.5k
- The Local Roads General Maintenance Works contribution is €315,600 and was calculated using a formula of 75% km of road and 25% population, as per discussions with the Corporate Policy Group.
- Proposed additional new funding of €80k in respect of;
 - Economic Development (€60k)
 - Taking in Charge of Roads (€20k)
- Development Management figure of €161k includes Town Team Funding.
- Housing and courthouse maintenance cost now provided at Plenary Council level.

The members noted the following:

- Unequal apportionment between MD areas, Boyle MD getting €927k, Athlone €625k.
- Fund of equal apportionment for MD would receive €837k.
- Need to review allocations based on km of roads and population on a 50/50 split.
- Athlone is a thriving area and needs further investment to maintain services.
- Query on 20k allocation to taking in charge of roads.
- Setting a precedent for MD's to maintain roads.
- Breakdown of allocation of 72k for recreational amenities
- Athlone MD budget is approximately one third less which is a significant disadvantage.
- Road network is in very poor condition; need to take some measures to address this.
- Land Drainage figure of 25k needs to be trebled.
- Need for proper maintenance programme for all rivers and drains.
- Taking in charge of roads should be responsibility of RCC from development charges.
- Vast difference across the municipal districts for the maintenance of burial grounds.
- Welcome increase in Town Team allocations.
- Current land drainage allocation is only token.

There was a full discussion on Taking in Charge of Roads with some members of the opinion that this should not be the responsibility of Municipal Districts. Many roads are in a state of disrepair and measures need to be taken to address this. Some members queried how many Kilometers of road given it's equal distribution of funds between MD's. Members felt that there were no costs associated with taking a road in charge given that criteria provides for a road to be in perfect condition.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Ward

SECONDED by Councillor Keogh

It was **AGREED** to allocate €20k to Taking in Charge of Roads with details of which roads to be agreed by members at a later date.

Mr. Derek Caldbeck, A/Head of Finance responded to the issues raised:

- In relation to apportionment the principle of 75/25 was agreed by CPG and Plenary.
- Based on last year's figures a 50/50 split would mean an increase of 30k for Athlone MD.
- Allocation for land drainage in Athlone Area has been at this level for long time.
- 72k is for maintenance of facilities.
- Varying numbers of cemeteries in each MD and full time caretaker.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Ward

SECONDED by Councillor Naughten

It was **AGREED** to adopt the Municipal District budget, as presented.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Naughten

SECONDED by Councillor Ward

It was **AGREED** that committee refer back to CPG for discussion in advance of the 2018 draft budget.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Connaughton

SECONDED by Councillor Kilduff

It was **AGREED** to hold a meeting in February 2017 to go through budget process for 2018.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

The foregoing Minutes are
Confirmed and Signed:



Meetings Administrator

Cathaoirleach

Countersigned