

MINUTES OF ROSCOMMON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COURTHOUSE, ROSCOMMON ON MONDAY THE 6th OCTOBER, 2014. AT 11.30 A.M.

PRESENT: Councillor Pascal Fitzmaurice, Cathaoirleach **PRESIDED**

MEMBERS: M. Creaton, D. Connolly, N. Dineen, O. Leyden, K. Shanagher,

OFFICIALS: Martin Lydon, Head of Finance and Planning.
John O'Rourke, A/Director of Services.
Fiona ni Chuinn, Meetings Administrator.

09.14. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

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

It was **AGREED** to adopt the Minutes of the Meeting held on 28.7.2014.

10.14. MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS – DRAFT BUDGET 2015:

Martin Lydon, Head of Finance & Planning informed the members that 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. The Draft Budgetary Plan for the Municipal District is 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 prescribed by regulations made by the Minister.”

The Draft Budgetary Plan refers to discretionary funding only but includes grant funding that is allocated to the Municipal District. In producing the Draft Budgetary Plan the following was considered:

1. The needs of, and the resources available or likely to be made available to the Local Authority
2. Resource needs of each Municipal District, including where appropriate, kilometres of roads and the number of houses

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

The meeting of Municipal District Members to consider the Draft Budgetary Plan must conclude no later than 21 days prior to the Local Authority Budget Meeting. **There is no provision for the adjournment of this meeting.**

He continued that, following the adoption of the Local Authority Budget, a schedule of proposed works of maintenance and repairs to be carried out during 2015 in each Municipal District will be prepared under the direction of the Chief Executive, having regard to the availability of resources.

The Schedule of Municipal District Works will 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).

The General Municipal Allocation (the total for the three Municipal Districts) totals €13,854,300. This amount contains €12,578,000 which is in relation to Road Transport and Safety, with the balance of €1,276,300 distributed to Housing and Building, Public Conveniences, Property Management, Maintenance of Burial Grounds, Open Spaces and Land Drainage.

The local roads contribution is €1,262,700 (this figure was €1,187,700 in 2014) from the Roads Transport and Safety amount, with €75,000 made available for hedge trimming and grass cutting and a further €60,000 allocated for lighting in estates not yet taken in charge, for which a new policy is required.

The remainder of the roads funding is grant funded and is in line with what was agreed and approved by members in the 2014 road works scheme and so is not transferable. However, as in previous years members will have an active role in deciding where work should be undertaken when the 2015 road works scheme is being adopted.

The General Municipal Allocation for Roscommon is €4,771,600

It should be noted that in allocating the budgets, members need to be cognisant of the fact that staff costs will need to be met. So, if for example costs are transferred from housing to roads, the staff costs and resources would also need to transfer.

Members raised the following issues:

- Clarification requested on Swimming Pools budget.
- Requested new engineering maps with new road number quoted thereon
- Need for a clear Plan for improvements in Roscommon town and need to make provision for a town budget.
- Need to look at getting additional outdoor staff.
- Will vacant rates issue be dealt with at Municipal District or plenary?
- Queried if there was any funding for the bridge at Ballinagard Road.
- Where are town needs mapped out in the budget.
- Queried if Roscommon County Council would be in a position to tender for Shared Services once the new civic headquarters were completed.

Councillor Fitzmaurice stated that he was opposed to a rates cut and suggested that in lieu of a rates cut that specific funding in the region of €200,000 be made available for town centre enhancement around the county.

Martin Lydon and John O'Rourke responded to the issues raised –

- Vacant rates can be dealt with at Municipal District meetings.
- Division of funding was based on kilometres of road in each Municipal District.
- The overall constraints of the Budget will come into play at the Municipal District budget.
- There is no town budget.
- Roscommon County Council will certainly be looking to bring Shared Services to Roscommon once the new headquarters is completed.

It was **PROPOSED** by Councillor Leyden

SECONDED by Councillor Fitzmaurice

That Roscommon County Council allocate funding for the regeneration of Roscommon Town.

Councillor Leyden raised the issue of traffic management in the town and that it was necessary to revisit the Traffic Management Plan for the Town. A new pedestrian crossing is needed to cater for the 450 pupils attending the Convent of Mercy School in Roscommon. The opening of the new Civic Offices in 2015 could compound traffic issues in the vicinity of the Convent of Mercy primary school and the Sacred Heart Church. The Council should consider revising the road layout to bring the road away from the school and through the public car park at the Church.

John O'Rourke, Acting Director of Services responded that he would examine the issues raised by Councillor Leyden but that her views were not supported by a traffic survey carried out in the area some time ago. He confirmed that no additional works will be carried out that may add to the cost of the Civic Headquarters.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Connolly

SECONDED by Councillor Creaton

It was **AGREED** to adopt the Roscommon Municipal District Draft Budget 2015, as circulated.

11.14. ROADS ACT, 1993, SECTION 11 & ROADS REGULATIONS 1994, PART 2 – DECLARATION OF PUBLIC ROADS –

- **Road serving housing development at House No's 21A – 26A “Cashel Park”, Arm Td., Castlerea, Co. Roscommon (6 dwellings).**

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Creaton

SECONDED by Councillor Connolly

It was **AGREED** that the road serving housing development at House No's 21A – 26A “Cashel Park”, Arm Td, Castlerea, Co. Roscommon (6 dwellings) be declared a public road.

12.14. ADOPTION OF DRAFT MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS STANDING ORDERS - 2014 – 2019:

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

It was **AGREED** to adopt the Draft Municipal Districts Standing Orders – 2014 – 2019 as circulated.

14.14. VOTES OF CONTRATULATIONS were extended to:

Michael Glavey's GAA Club on winning the Junior A football championship.

St. Croan's GAA Club on winning the intermediate football championship.

Eire Og Ladies on winning the county title.

St. Croans Ladies on winning the County title.

Daire Feeley who represented Ireland at the Cycle event in Spain.

15.14. A.O.B.

Open Drain on Roadside at Ballyleague Village:

Councillor Leyden raised the issue of an open drain on the road side at Ballyleague village and requested that remedial work be carried out at this location. There is a need for a grid or a barrier to be put in place so as to ensure that another accident does not occur at this location.

Members queried the fact that most of the rivers and drains in the county are totally overgrown and are likely to cause flooding in wet conditions. Is it possible to have a programme of works drawn up by the Area Office and seek a funding allocation for same?

John O'Rourke confirmed that he will bring the matter to the attention of the Area Engineer.

New Structures.

Members queried what the time frame was for the outdoor staff within the new staff structures.

John O'Rourke, Acting Director of Services, informed the members that it is hoped to have the new staff structures in place by the 1st January, 2015 and members will be made aware of this prior to the next Municipal District Meeting. Engineers will be attending Municipal Districts meetings after the 1st January, 2015.

Signage:

Councillor Shanagher informed the members that the position of signage on the Moher Road (L 6099) is dangerous as it blocks the view of people coming out at the junction.

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

It was **AGREED** that Roscommon County Council contact the NRA regarding the signage on the Moher Road (L 6099) and request that the sight lines be improved at this location.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Leyden
SECONDED by Councillor Shanagher
It was **AGREED** that Roscommon County Council issue a letter to the NRA for funding to support the Ballyleague Residents Association.

Fairymount Cemetery:

Councillor Creaton informed the meeting that there are new owners at Fairymount Cemetery and requested that Pat Murtagh be informed.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

The foregoing Minutes are
Confirmed and Signed:

Meetings Administrator

Cathaoirleach

Countersigned