

These Minutes are edited for Data Protection purposes because in effect putting them on the Internet is publishing them. An unedited paper copy is available on request.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LISTOWEL TO CONSIDER AND ADOPT A DRAFT BUDGETARY PLAN FOR THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LISTOWEL FOR 2016 HELD IN ÁRAS AN PHIARSAIGH, LISTOWEL ON TUESDAY 20th OCTOBER 2015

MIONTUAIRISCÍ DE CHRUINNIÚ CHOMHALTAÍ CHEANTAR BARDASACH LIOS TUATHAIL CHUN DRÉACHT-BHUISÉAD A MHEAS, AGUS CHUN GLACADH LEIS, DO CHEANTAR BARDASACH LIOS TUATHAIL DO 2016, MAR A BHÍ I ÁRAS AN PHIARSAIGH, LIOS TUATHAIL, AR AN 20ú DEIREADH FÓMHAIR 2015

PRESENT/I LÁTHAIR

Councillors/Comhairleoirí

**Cllr. R. Beasley
Cllr. J. Brassil
Cllr. M. Kennelly
Cllr. J. Moloney
Cllr. D. Nolan
Cllr. A. Thornton**

Absent

Cllr. L. Purtill

In attendance/i láthair

Ms. J McCarthy	Delegated Executive for the MD of Listowel
Mr. G O'Brien	Meetings Administrator
Ms. A McAllen	Head of Finance
Mr. J McCarthy	AO Finance
Ms. S Sheridan	SSO Finance
Ms. J Foley	MD Officer
Mr. J Sheehan	SEE
Mr. A Smith	SO
Ms. S Broderick	SO

An apology for absence was received by the Meetings Administrator from Cllr. L. Purtill in advance of the meeting.

The meeting commenced at 2.30pm

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. J. Moloney took the Chair.

15.10.20.01.01 Draft Budgetary Plan for the Municipal District of Listowel for 2016.

Ms. J McCarthy, Delegated Executive for the MD of Listowel read the following report from the Chief Executive into the record of the meeting:

1. Background

Section 102 (4A)(a) of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended by the Local Government Reform Act 2014) provides that 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 Members of each Municipal District. The purpose of a draft budgetary plan is to provide each Municipal District with an opportunity to allocate its portion of the General Municipal Allocation according to its own priorities.

The Draft Budgetary Plan sets out how any General Municipal District Allocation (GMA) allocated to the Municipal District will be spent. The definition of the GMA is provided for in the Local Government (Financial and Audit Procedures) Regulations, 2014, and is the name given to the discretionary funding which is made available to municipal district members for allocation in the draft budgetary plan. The amount an authority can provide by way of a GMA is dependent on the total level of income available to it and the non-discretionary costs that must be met as a first call on that income, including at municipal district level. The Chief Executive must consider the resource needs of the local authority in determining the overall level of the GMA. The GMA is also considered in context of the Budget Strategy discussion with the CPG and other Budget Strategy decisions. The estimate of the non-discretionary costs of the authority must also be taken into account.

Consideration on the main, strategic non-discretionary expenditure of the Council will form part of the Statutory Budget Meeting to take place in November.

Guidance issued from DOECLG provides that the total amount of GMA provided must be allocated by the Chief Executive to each municipal district in a manner that is fair and equitable. The Chief Executive must consider the resource needs; where appropriate, the population; and should make an allocation that is transparent, just, not arbitrary, and provides a minimum level of discretionary allocation to all districts.

2. Guiding Principles – General Municipal District Allocation

Consideration of the Budget Strategy for 2016 and the decision of Council to retain Local Property Tax for 2016 has enabled the retention of the overall General Municipal Allocation.

The total allocation for the General Municipal Allocation for 2016 is " 1.7mn across the four Municipal Districts in the County. This is a very significant

allocation based on our overall Budget and the level of discretionary expenditure available to the Council.

It must be noted that there are no additional resources available to the Council for the General Municipal Allocation and accordingly the allocation is made from our existing Budgets.

The following guiding principles have been applied in determining the level of General Municipal Allocation:

- Councillor Specific Municipal District Operations Fund forms part of the Municipal District Allocation. Councillors allocations have been maintained at "29,000 per Council Member for 2016. This will continue to be a Discretionary Fund for allocation by Members in a flexible manner according to their own priorities across all areas of work operations within the Municipal District, as outlined in the scheme agreed in 2015.
- In addition, a total Municipal District Fund of "750,000 will be made available from the Council's Budget across the four Municipal District Areas. It is intended that the current Municipal District Fund Scheme will be further reviewed and developed in conjunction with the relevant Strategic Policy Committee, which will provide guidance on the allocation of funding in both these areas and will provide meaningful discretion to the Municipal Districts in its allocation.
- It is anticipated that the experience gained through the introductory year will provide guidance for further development of the scheme. For example, consideration of allocation of funding throughout the Municipal Districts for 2016 may include areas such as LEADER Co-funding, Tidy Towns Funding, Municipal District Town & Village Enhancement, Events and Festivals, etc.
- As discussed during the recent Council Meeting and at CPG an assessment of the Municipal District Fund Allocation for each Municipal District for 2016 has necessitated an adjustment to acknowledge the peripherality of two of the Municipal Districts in particular.

It is vital, however, that overall income levels to the county ensure that these guiding principles are successful, as the General Municipal District Allocation is defined as discretionary expenditure within the Budget.

3. General Municipal Allocation – Listowel Municipal District

The General Municipal Allocation for Listowel Municipal District for 2016 is as follows:

Total General Municipal Allocation for Listowel Municipal District for 2016, this is composed of :	€333,000
Councillor Specific Municipal District Operations Fund	" 203,000

Municipal District Discretionary Amenity/Recreation/Community Support Fund	" 130,000

4. Conclusion

This Draft Budgetary Plan sets out the General Municipal Allocation for 2016 and the principles governing its proposed application. This Plan must be considered by Members at a Meeting of the Municipal District Members, and in accordance with Regulations, this Meeting must conclude no later than 10 days prior to the local authority budget meeting. There is no provision for the adjournment of this meeting. Following consideration of the Draft Budgetary Plan the Municipal District Members shall by resolution adopt the Draft Budgetary Plan, with or without amendment. The making of amendments is a reserved function.

The Chief Executive shall take account of any budgetary plan adopted by the Municipal District Members in preparing the Draft Local Authority Budget for 2016. If the members of any Municipal District do not adopt a draft budgetary plan, the Chief Executive may take account of the draft budgetary plan as presented to members of that Municipal District, without amendment.

Following adoption of the Council Budget for 2016, a Schedule of Proposed Works of Maintenance and Repair to be carried out during the financial year in each Municipal District is prepared as soon as possible under the direction of the Chief Executive, having regard to available resources. The draft budgetary plans of the Municipal Districts do not include the main strategic non-discretionary expenditure of the Local Authority, the spending of which will be prioritised by the Members as part of the development of a schedule of municipal district works after the budget has been adopted.

The Schedule of Municipal District Works shall be considered by the Municipal District Members concerned and be adopted by resolution, with or without amendment by it. In making an amendment the Municipal District Members shall have due regard to the Council budget adopted.

I recommend adoption of the General Municipal Allocation for Listowel Municipal District for 2016 of " 333,000. This fund represents a meaningful discretionary fund for allocation by Members in accordance with the priorities of the District and provides maximum flexibility to meet the operation and community/recreation/amenity needs of the area for the coming year+.

Ms. J McCarthy advised that there is an increase of " 12,000 in the General Municipal Allocation for Listowel Municipal District for 2016.

Cllr. J Brassil asked if an increase in funding from the Local Property Tax (LPT) through e.g. extra properties being liable for the tax, would result in additional funding for community groups given that Municipal District

Discretionary Amenity/Recreation/Community Support Fund is derived from the LPT.

Ms. A McAllen said that it would be a Government decision to re-allocate any increase in funding from the Local Property Tax (LPT).

Cllr. J Brassil requested that a breakdown of the 2015 allocation of " 118,000 allocated for the Municipal District Discretionary Amenity/Recreation/Community Support Fund for the Listowel MD be provided, in particular the funding allocated towards projects in Listowel Town V Listowel rural areas, as he felt that the allocation had been very fair to Listowel Town in 2015 and all commitments made had been maintained.

Cllr. A Thornton agreed with Cllr. J Brassil and said that she too felt that that the allocation of funding in 2015 had focused more on Listowel town than on Listowel rural areas.

Cllr. D Nolan said that apart from funding for Christmas lighting for Listowel town, all groups that applied for funding last year had been accommodated.

Cllr. J Brassil said that he fully supported all the work that has been carried out in the past year due to this funding but pointed out that it is necessary to be fair to both urban and rural areas.

Ms. J McCarthy acknowledged the need to give small rural towns and villages in the MD as much support as possible.

Cllr. M Kennelly asked if a group/Residents Association in a housing estate could be provided with a lawnmower for cutting the green areas through this funding.

Mr. J Sheehan said that the Councillor Specific Municipal District Operations Fund could be used to purchase equipment for Residents Associations and tidy towns groups.

Cathaoirleach J Moloney welcomed the increase of " 12,000 in the allocation for Listowel Municipal District for 2016 and asked what methodology is used for the calculation of the Municipal District Discretionary Amenity/Recreation/Community Support Fund

Ms. A McAllen said that a total allocation of " 750,000 is made available from the Council's Budget across the four Municipal District areas. In calculating the allocation for each Municipal District the Chief Executive is mindful of commitments already given, number of towns in the MD, geographical area and population to ensure a fair allocation for each Municipal District. The Municipal District Discretionary Amenity/Recreation/Community Support Fund for 2016, has been adjusted to acknowledge the peripherality of two of the Municipal Districts which have been given an increase of " 12,000 and consequently two Municipal Districts have had their allocation reduced by " 12,000

Cllr. J Brassil said that last year the two Municipal Districts which had previously included large Town Councils had been allocated more funding to address some outstanding issues following the amalgamation with Kerry County Council. While he would like to see the total allocation of " 750,000 divided evenly between the members it is necessary to acknowledge that everything does not work in isolation. He commended Kerry County Council on a job well done in 2015 and welcomed the additional funding of " 12,000 for 2016.

Cllr. D Nolan welcomed the additional " 12,000 and asked that a breakdown of the contributions made from the Municipal District Discretionary Amenity/Recreation/Community Support Fund for Listowel Municipal District for 2015, be provided.

Ms. A McAllen said that 2015 has been the first year that this funding has been made available. It has provided help to many community groups and raised the profile of Kerry County Council throughout the county. Traditionally community groups set up in towns have a stronger profile than groups in rural areas. Community groups that wish to apply for funding and need assistance with their application may contact Ms. Jean Foley MD Officer and Mr. Andy Smith Staff Officer, Community Services and Engagement who will be happy to provide help and support where required.

Ms. J McCarthy said that for the future she would like to a three year plan being prepared by groups that apply for funding. In addition the group should focus on the co-ordination of an initiative in a specific area, e.g. Ballybunion would focus on a particular initiative and Ballyheigue would concentrate on a different project. Learning from each other in the process is also very important for all involved in the community groups.

Cllr. A Thornton said that buying into a particular plan should be a requirement for community groups that are allocated funding.

Ms. J McCarthy referred to Kerry County Council's Tourism Strategy which will be launched in 2016 and the Kerry Local Economic and Community Plan which includes Economic Development and Job Creation. She said that assistance and advice will be provided to the groups, if required, by Ms. J Foley Municipal District Officer and Mr. A Smith, SO, Community Services and Engagement.

Cllr. J Brassil asked that an analysis of the funding allocated from the 2015 Municipal District Discretionary Amenity/Recreation/Community Support Fund be provided to the members. He also asked if any of the groups had got more funding than they applied for last year.

Mr. A Smith said that some groups amended their proposals and submitted revised plans and it is unlikely that any unused funding would be available.

Mr. Smith said that it would be more beneficial for an area if multiple groups applied for funding for the same community facility i.e. if a village were to apply for funding as one group

Cllr. D Nolan PROPOSED that we the members of the Municipal District of Listowel resolve to adopt the Draft Budgetary Plan for the Municipal District of Listowel for 2016 as presented.

Cllr. A Thornton SECONDED the proposal.

A vote was taken which resulted as follows:

For: Cllrs. J. Brassil, M. Kennelly, J. Moloney, D. Nolan, A. Thornton **(5)**

Absent: Cllrs. L Purtill, R Beasley **(2)**.

Against: **(0)**

Not Voting: **(0)**

The Cathaoirleach declared the proposal to be carried.

The meeting concluded at 2.55pm.

Gerard O'Brien
Gerard O'Brien
Meetings Administrator

Cllr. J Moloney
Cathaoirleach of Listowel
Municipal District