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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 2017 HELD IN ÁRAS AN PHIARSAIGH, LISTOWEL ON MONDAY 24th OCTOBER 2016.

MIONTUAIRISCÍ DE CHRUINNIÚ CHOMHALTAÍ CHEANTAR BARDASACH LIOS TUATHAIL CHUN DRÉACHT-BHUISÉAD A MHEAS, AGUS CHUN GLACADH LEIS, DO CHEANTAR BARDASACH LIOS TUATHAIL DO 2017, MAR A BHÍ I ÁRAS AN PHIARSAIGH, LIOS TUATHAIL, AR AN 24^ú DEIREADH FÓMHAIR 2016.

PRESENT/I LÁTHAIR

Councillors/Comhairleoirí

**Cllr. R. Beasley
Cllr. M. Kennelly
Cllr. J Lucid
Cllr. J. Moloney
Cllr. D. Nolan
Cllr. L Purtill
Cllr. A. Thornton**

In attendance/i láthair

Ms. J McCarthy	Delegated Executive for the MD of Listowel
Ms. J Foley	Meetings Administrator
Ms. A McAllen	Head of Finance
Mr. J McCarthy	AO Finance
Ms. K Lynch	SEO Finance
Mr. A Smith	SO
Ms. S Broderick	SO

The meeting commenced at 10.10pm

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. J Moloney took the Chair.

16.10.24.01 Draft Budgetary Plan for the Municipal District of Listowel for 2017

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 DOHPCLG 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

In its consideration of the Budget Strategy for 2017 in September the decision of Council to retain the Local Property Tax rate for 2017 has enabled the retention of the overall General Municipal Allocation and makes a significant positive contribution to the overall budgetary position.

The total allocation for the General Municipal Allocation for 2017 is " 1.707mn across the four Municipal Districts in the County. This is a very significant allocation based on the overall Budget and the level of discretionary expenditure available to the Council. The division will be targeted to yield the highest return to each Municipal District.

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 existing financial resources which will be realigned to prioritise key actions of the Local and Economic Community Plan, Tourism Strategy and Action Plan for Jobs.

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

○ **Councillor Specific Municipal District Operations Fund**

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 2017. 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.

○ **General Municipal Allocation – Rural and Village Development**

The Community Support Fund (CSF) is entering its third year of operation and to date has provided a valuable contribution to economic and social activities throughout the County. Funding under a variety of schemes has become available through national initiatives, including;

- Town & Village Renewal Scheme (TVR)
- REDZ . Rural Economic Development Zones (REDZ)
- Rural Recreation Fund (RRF)
- Recreational Tourism Projects
- LEADER
- Designated Urban Centre Grant Scheme
- Fáilte Ireland Grant Scheme

A challenge that faces the Council and the Local Community is the provision of matching funding that is required as part of the grant application assessment in relation to the majority of the above grant schemes.

- In framing the 2017 CSF for the Listowel Municipal District, Kerry County Council has sought to maximise the opportunities provided by alternative sources of funding, by optimising the multiplier effect of ring-fencing a portion of funding as matching funding for these National Grant schemes. The opportunity to leverage investment by maximising the potential of the Town and Village renewal scheme and the REDZ scheme, in particular, has potential to add substantial value to the Listowel Municipal District, as these schemes are rurally targeted. This is evidenced by the high allocation proposed of "50,000 under the %Rural and Village Development+ subdivision of the CSF, which has the potential to yield "200,000 of additional critical investment into the Listowel Municipal District.
- During the 2016 period to date, Kerry County Council in association with the local community and local development sector is delivering a number of schemes in the Listowel Municipal District under Town and Village Renewal and REDZ Schemes (Rural Economic Development Zones). Some of these schemes will be finalised in the 2017 period and include the following projects:

- Great Southern Trail North Kerry Gateway (TVR)
- Advance demolition of the Neo Data site and preparation of development plan (TVR)
- Taste of Kerry Programme (REDZ)
- Retail Development Programme to be delivered in Listowel

In addition to these projects a number of amenity and development projects have been identified in the Listowel Municipal District as part of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP), LEADER Strategy and the Kerry Tourism Strategy, all of which provide a blueprint for economic and social development and investment in the County. Many of these projects will require significant investment from Kerry County Council and external funding sources, where elements of these projects could be delivered through a co-funding arrangement with the CSF. Some of these projects for Listowel include:-

- Ballybunion Beach Facility
- Heritage Town Proposals
- Public Realm Enhancements . Listowel Town
- Adventure Tourism Feasibility Study - Beaches
- Ballyduff Village Enhancement Scheme
- Tarbert Amenity Area
- Tarbert eTown Examination

General Municipal District Allocation - Community Support/Community Initiatives

This element of the fund will support community initiatives of the Listowel Municipal District in line with the CSF guidelines agreed with Members in 2016. The amount allocated to this area is " 63,000.

General Municipal District Allocation – Town Development Projects

It is important that the former Town Council Development funds are maintained and they are budgeted towards project based delivery for Listowel. " 20,000 has been allocated to this area.

3. General Municipal Allocation– Listowel Municipal District

The General Municipal Allocation for Listowel Municipal District for 2017 is as follows:

Community Support Fund Listowel MD	Amount of Funding	Potential Yield
Rural & Village Development (Town & Village Renewal, REDZ, LEADER)	" 50,000	" 200,000

Community Support /Community Initiatives	" 63,000	
Town Development Projects	" 20,000	
Municipal District Development Fund	€133,000	€200,000
Councillor Specific Municipal District Operations Fund	€203,000	
Total General Municipal Allocation Listowel	€336,000	
Overall Investment to Listowel Municipal District	€536,000	

4. Conclusion

This Draft Budgetary Plan sets out the General Municipal Allocation for 2017 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 2017. 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 2017, 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 2017 of " 336,000. This fund represents a meaningful discretionary fund for allocation by Members in accordance with the priorities of the District, optimises grant opportunities and provides maximum flexibility to meet the operation and economic and community development needs of the area for the coming year with a projected investment of " 536,000 to the Listowel Municipal District Area.

*Mise le meas,
Moirá Murrell
Chief Executive*

Ms. A McAllen said that she was aware that the members of the Municipal District of Listowel had felt that the allocation received last year had not been fair in comparison with that received by the other Municipal Districts.

The Municipal District Development Fund for the Listowel MD for 2017 is " 133,000 which is an increase of " 3,000 on the Community Support Fund for 2016. In framing the 2017 Community Support Fund for the Listowel Municipal District, Ms. McAllen said that the Council has sought to maximise the opportunities provided by alternative sources of funding by optimising the multiplier effect of ring fencing a portion of funding as matching funding which is required in relation to the majority of National Grant Schemes. The proposed allocation of " 50,000 under the %Rural and Village Development+ subdivision of the Community Support Fund is ring fenced for the Municipal District of Listowel and has the potential to yield " 200,000 of additional investment into the Listowel Municipal District.

An allocation of " 20,000 has been made towards project based delivery for Listowel town and this funding could be used towards the cost of Christmas and festival lighting.

" 63,000 has been allocated for the support of community initiatives in line with the Community Support Fund guidelines agreed with the members in 2016.

The Councillor Specific Municipal District Operations Fund has been maintained at " 29,000 per Council member for 2017.

The overall General Municipal District Allocation for the Listowel Municipal District for 2017 is " 336,000 and the overall potential investment in the MD is " 536,000.

Cllr. J Moloney asked if the Rural and Village Development allocation for the other Municipal Districts is available.

Ms. McAllen said that meetings to consider and adopt the Draft Budgetary Plan for the other MDs had not yet taken place therefore she was not in a position to divulge the allocations made.

Cllr. J Moloney said that while he acknowledged the development of the Great Southern Trail he was concerned that there were no specific projects in North Kerry that could be funded through the Rural and Village Development allocation. He said that three festivals were held in Listowel last year and only " 28,000 was received by the groups concerned. The provision of Christmas lighting will cost far in excess of the " 20,000 allocated for town development projects. He acknowledged that there is no provision for the adjournment of this meeting and said that he was disappointed that Listowel has been allocated less than 20% of the total GMA for the county.

Cllr. M Kennelly queried the allocation for the Community Support Fund for 2017.

Ms. A McAllen said that " 130,000 was allocated for the Community Support Fund (CSF) 2016. For 2017 there is an increase of " 3,000, bringing the Municipal District Development Fund to " 133,000. A commitment has been given that a strategic approach will be taken to the allocation of this funding as funding under a variety of schemes has become available through national initiatives including: Town & Village Renewal Scheme (TVR), Rural Economic Development Zone (REDZ), LEADER, Rural Recreation Fund (RRF), Recreational Tourism Projects, Designated Urban Centre Grant Scheme, Fáilte Ireland Grant Scheme.

Ms. McAllen said that when the CSF was set up, LEADER funding was not available for community groups. This is now becoming available again and it may be beneficial for some community groups to apply for LEADER funding and there may also be other funding opportunities through REDZ and RRF.

Cllr. M Kennelly said that he was concerned that the " 20,000 allocation for town development would not cover the cost of the provision of Christmas lighting in the town.

Ms. J McCarthy said that a commitment was made by Listowel Town Council that the Christmas and festival lighting would be provided by the local authority. As this is a huge expense for the MD and value for money will have to be a priority, public procurement for the provision of this lighting will be considered in 2017.

Cllr. D Nolan said that the CSF for 2017 is very little when the Rural & Village Development Fund and the allocation for town development projects is deducted. She said that she was concerned that small community groups may lose out as they may not qualify for LEADER funding and also may not get an allocation from the CSF. She referred to Writers Week and said that this is a world famous headline festival and should be funded from a specific source by Kerry County Council.

Ms. J McCarthy said that Writers Week also receives funding from the Arts Council.

Cllr. L Purtill referred to the Town and Village Renewal Scheme and said that he hoped that the condition of the pavements on the streets in Ballylongford will be addressed. He added that Ballylongford has great potential to attract visitors to North Kerry as Carrigafoyle Castle and Lislaughtin Abbey are located in the area. The opening times for Carrigafoyle Castle should be extended and additional seating and car parking provided. He referred to the Tarbert eTown examination project and said that he hoped that this project can be delivered through co-funding with the Community Support Fund.

Cllr. R Beasley asked when work would commence on the public toilets at the Castle Green. He referred to Ballybunion Beach Facility and asked if an update was available on the development of a facility for the promotion of water sports.

Ms. J McCarthy said that a design for the public toilets is being finalised and the planning process will commence in the near future. A facility for the promotion of water sports is proposed in the action plan for the Tourism Strategy.

Cllr. R Beasley asked for an update on the proposed Village Enhancement Scheme for Ballyduff.

Ms. J McCarthy said that the preparation of a design for Ballyduff village is being examined. Mr. A. Smith Municipal District Officer is working with the community in Ballyduff and also in Tarbert with regard to the eTown project.

Mr. A Smith said that community groups in many of the villages in North Kerry have very good ideas for their villages that need to be developed.

Ms. J McCarthy said that Kerry County Council is in contact with the Office of Public Works (OPW) regarding Carrigafoyle Castle and she hoped that progress would be made.

Cathaoirleach A Thornton said that the members of the Municipal District of Listowel must endeavour as a unit to seek additional funding for the upgrade of the roads in the area. She also asked if the " 20,000 town development funding would be spent on the provision of Christmas and festival lighting.

Ms. J McCarthy said that the provision of Christmas and festival lighting was paid for from the Community Support Fund last year and will have to be funded with the " 20, 000 for town development projects with any additional cost coming from the " 63,000 for community initiatives in 2017. Other former Town Councils also have legacy issues which have to be honoured.

Cathaoirleach A Thornton asked if any funding remains from the former Listowel Town Council.

Ms. A McAllen said that there is funding remaining which could be used for a capital project. This type of funding could not be used for the provision of Christmas and festival lighting.

Cllr. J Moloney said that he had understood that this money would be transferred to the Municipal District.

Cllr. M Kennelly asked for an update on the level of funding remaining in the former Listowel Town Council capital funding account.

Cathaoirleach A Thornton asked that an email be forwarded to the members advising them of the funding remaining in this account.

Cllr. J Moloney referred to the project for the advance demolition of the Neo Data site and the preparation of a development plan for the site which is to be delivered under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme and said that this matter has been going on for a considerable length of time.

Ms. A McAllen said that the funding will enable the demolition of the site and the preparation of a development plan. No funding is available for the development of the site.

Cllr. M Kennelly said that he was not happy with the progress being made on the demolition and redevelopment of the Neodata site and asked if it could be dealt with as a capital project.

Cathaoirleach A Thornton welcomed the allocation of " 50,000 with a potential yield of " 200,000 for the MD.

Cllr. D Nolan referred to the Tarbert eTown project and said that it has not been successful due to the location of a dwelling over the eTown units.

Mr. A Smith said that a number of areas in Tarbert have been upgraded.

Cllr. D Nolan asked for an update on the progress with the Heritage Plan for Listowel.

Ms. J McCarthy said that a discussion on the Heritage Plan will be included on the agenda for the next Listowel MD meeting.

Cllr. R Beasley referred to the poor condition of roads in North Kerry particularly the roads on the Wild Atlantic Way and asked that a letter issue to the Department of Transport requesting that additional funding be provided to address the unacceptable condition of the roads in North Kerry.

Cllr. M Kennelly PROPOSED that this meeting be deferred to allow the members to further consider the Draft Budgetary Plan 2017.

Cathaoirleach A Thornton said that there is no provision for the adjournment of this meeting.

Cllr. J Moloney said that as this is the first MD meeting to consider the Draft Budgetary Plan for 2017, the members of the Listowel MD are not aware of the GMA allocation for the other three Municipal Districts.

Ms. A McAllen said that the overall financial position of the Council was discussed at the Special meeting of the full Council in September and any increase or decrease in funding for any Municipal District is marginal. She said that the members will be included in discussions when projects are presented.

Ms. J McCarthy said that a challenge that faces Kerry County Council and the local community is the provision of matching funding that is required as part of the grant application assessment in relation to the majority of grant schemes that have become available through national initiatives. She said that a more strategic approach to the allocation of funding is being taken for 2017 as there

are now other funding opportunities for communities which must be maximised.

Cllr. D Nolan referred to the " 50,000 under Rural and Village Development and asked if only " 40,000 was spent could the remaining " 10,000 be reallocated to another project.

Ms. A McAllen said that it would be possible to reallocate the remaining amount as there are always projects ready and waiting for funding.

Cllr. D Nolan asked if in the future that consideration could be given to holding all the Draft Budgetary meetings for the Municipal Districts on the same day in County Buildings, Tralee.

Ms. J McCarthy said that this could be considered for 2017.

Cathaoirleach A Thornton asked that the applications for funding from the Community Support Fund be included as an item on the Agenda for future Municipal District meetings.

Cllr. L Purtill 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 2017 as presented.

Cllr. J Lucid SECONDED the proposal.

A vote was taken which resulted as follows:

For: (5) Cllrs. R Beasley, D. Nolan, J Lucid, L Purtill, A. Thornton **(5)**

Against: (2) Cllrs. M Kennelly, J Moloney.

Not Voting: (0)

The Cathaoirleach declared the proposal to be carried.

The meeting concluded at 11.30am.

Jean Foley
Meetings Administrator

Cllr. A Thornton
Cathaoirleach of Listowel
Municipal District