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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TRALEE TO CONSIDER AND ADOPT A DRAFT BUDGETARY PLAN FOR THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TRALEE FOR 2016 HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER ÁRAS AN CHONTAE TRALEE ON MONDAY 23rd OCTOBER, 2015.

MIONTUAIRISCÍ DE CHRUINNIÚ CHOMHALTAÍ CHEANTAR BARDASACH THRÁ LÍ CHUN DRÉACHT-BHUISÉAD A MHEAS, AGUS CHUN GLACADH LEIS, DO CHEANTAR BARDASACH THRÁ LÍ DO 2016, MAR A BHÍ I SEOMRA NA COMHAIRLE, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, TRÁ LÍ, DÉ HAOINE AN 23 DEIREADH FÓMHAIR 2015.

PRESENT/I LÁTHAIR

Councillors/Comhairleoirí

T Ferris	N Foley
J Finucane	T McEllistrim
G Spring	P McCarthy

Absent

Cllr. P Daly
Cllr. S Locke
Cllr. T O'Brien

In attendance/i láthair

Mr. C O'Sullivan	Delegated Executive for the MD of Tralee
Mr. G O'Brien	Meetings Administrator
Ms. A McAllen	Head of Finance
Mr. J McCarthy	AO Finance
Ms. J Foley	MD Officer
Mr. M O'Leary	SEO
Ms. C Brosnan	SO
Mr. R Tangney	ASO
Ms. N O'Connor	CO
Ms. K Tobin	CO
Ms. G Cotter	CO
Mr. F Hartnett	SEE
Ms. S Broderick	SO

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. P Daly, S Locke and T O'Brien.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. T McEllistrim took the Chair.

The meeting commenced at 11.15am

Tralee Ambulance Centre

Cllr. J Finucane informed the meeting that the Ambulance Centre in Tralee has had to be vacated due to a major oil leak and the Ambulance Service may have to look for an alternative site. He asked that Kerry County Council would co-operate with the National Ambulance Service in identifying a suitable site and in addressing the environmental issue that has arisen as a result of the oil leak.

15.10.23.01 Draft Budgetary Plan for the Municipal District of Tralee for 2016.

Mr. C O'Sullivan Delegated Executive for the Tralee Municipal District read the following report 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

In its consideration of the Budget Strategy for 2016 in September 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 the 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 – Tralee Municipal District

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

Total General Municipal Allocation for Tralee Municipal District for 2016, this is composed of :	€502,000
Councillor Specific Municipal District Operations Fund	" 261,000
Municipal District Discretionary Amenity/Recreation/Community Support Fund	" 241,000

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 Tralee Municipal District for 2016 of " 502,000. 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.

Mise le meas,
Moira Murrell
Chief Executive

Cllr. J Finucane welcomed that the Councillor Specific Municipal District Operations Fund had been maintained at " 29,000 per Councillor.

With regard to the Municipal District Discretionary Amenity/Recreation/Community Support Fund, he said that community groups are the fabric of our society and our county and many have benefited greatly from this funding. He PROPOSED that the Draft Budgetary Plan for the Municipal District of Tralee for 2016 be adopted.

Cllr. P McCarthy SECONDED the proposal.

Cllr. N Foley said that while she welcomed that the Councillor Specific Municipal District Operations Fund had been maintained at " 29,000, Tralee is the capital town of the county and this allocation has not increased since the amalgamation of Tralee Town Council with Kerry County Council. Central Government should acknowledge the geographical spread of the Municipal District of Tralee and the associated additional costs.

She said that the Municipal District Discretionary Amenity/Recreation/Community Support Fund has been massively successful and very important to community groups. She referred to the decrease of " 12,000 in the allocation for the Tralee MD and said that while she understood the motivation of management in acknowledging the peripherality of two of the Municipal Districts, it was her duty to express her disappointment on behalf the Tralee MD. She acknowledged the huge amount of work, expertise and commitment of the Chief Executive along with management and staff of the Finance Department in the preparation of Kerry County Council's Budget 2016.

Cllr. T Ferris said that community groups have always got funding for festivals and events. She referred to the total General Municipal Allocation for Tralee Municipal District for 2016 of " 502,000 and PROPOSED that " 100,000 be allocated to the Municipal District Discretionary Amenity/Recreation/Community Support Fund and the remaining " 402,000 be used for the purchase of four houses in Tralee with a view to addressing the Social Housing crisis.

Cllr. P McCarthy said that there is a structure in place and the Chief Executive has to work within the budget of Kerry County Council. Kerry County Council is one of the few Local Authorities that is not in debt and it is important to be responsible financially.

Cllr. J Finucane referred to the proposal made by Cllr. T Ferris and said that to use this discretionary funding for the purchase of housing would be subventing the Government. He said that 80 to 85 people are loosing their homes in Kerry every month. Every Councillor wants to see at least 300 housing units being provided in the Tralee MD. He would not subvent Central Government as this would be of no benefit to anyone and he wanted to ensure that this discretionary funding is used for the benefit of the community. He reiterated his proposal that the Draft Bugetary Plan for the Municipal District of Tralee for 2016 be adopted as presented.

Cllr. T Ferris said that in April 2015, " 62m was allocated to Kerry County Council for the provision of social housing. Only approximately " 6m - " 7m has gone towards the purchase of houses as a considerable amount of money is being paid in rent to private landlords. She reiterated her proposal that " 100,000 of the GMA be allocated to the Municipal District Discretionary Amenity/Recreation/Community Support Fund and the remaining " 402,000 be used for the purchase of four houses specifically in the Tralee Municipal District.

Cllr. J Finucane said that this discretionary funding was specifically set aside to support rural community groups.

Cllr. G Spring apologised to the Cathaoirleach for being late for the meeting. He referred to the reduction of " 12,000 in the allocation for the Tralee Municipal District and asked what the allocations were in respect of the other three Municipal Districts.

Ms. A McAllen said that the Draft Budgetary Plan 2016 meeting for the Municipal District of South & West Kerry had not yet taken place therefore she could not indicate the allocation to that Municipal District. She advised that Killarney MD had received an allocation of " 247,000 and Listowel had received an allocation of " 130,000.

As there are county wide benefits from the Rose of Tralee festival, the allocation for that event is included in the overall budget for Kerry County Council. This is a considerable gain for Tralee Municipal District.

Cllr. N Foley asked why Killarney Municipal District has been allocated " 247,000 while Tralee has been allocated only " 241,000.

Ms. A McAllen said that like Tralee Killarney has considerable commitments which are linked to the former Killarney Town Council.

Cllr. N Foley said that the Tralee is the capital town of the county.

Ms. McAllen said that the inclusion of the Rose of Tralee festival in the overall budget of Kerry County Council has resulted in the Tralee Municipal District having more discretionary funding.

Cathaoirleach T McEllistrim said that while he acknowledged that this may be more appropriate for the Full Council Budget meeting, he said that he would like to support the businesses in Tralee by reducing parking charges to encourage and promote business. In addition to the proposal to have free parking from 1.00pm each day

from 5th December to 5th January, he also sought the introduction of free parking after 4.30pm all year round.

Mr. O'Sullivan said that free parking as suggested by Cllr. McEllistrim would have a cost implication for the Council. This would need to be considered in the context of the overall budget.

Cllr. J Finucane PROPOSED that we the members of the Municipal District of Tralee resolve to adopt the Draft Budgetary Plan for the Municipal District of Tralee for 2016 as presented.

Cllr. P McCarthy SECONDED the proposal.

A vote was taken which resulted as follows:

For: Cllrs. N Foley, J Finucane, T McEllistrim, G Spring, P McCarthy, **(5)**

Against: Cllr. T Ferris **(1)**

Absent: **(3)**

Not Voting: **(0)**

The Cathaoirleach declared the proposal to be carried.

Visit of Mayor of Derry

Mr. G O'Brien referred to the visit to Kerry County Council by the Mayor of Derry Cllr. Elisha McCallion which had been cancelled for Friday 30th October and advised that he would revert to the members when he is informed of a revised date for the visit.

Notice of Motion –October Meeting of Full Council

Cllr. T Ferris referred to the following Notice of Motion from Cllr. S Locke which was included on the agenda for the October meeting of the Full Council.

That this Council will erect two glass panels incorporating the names of men who died in World War 1. One panel to be dedicated to the members of the Royal Munster Fusiliers and the second panel to members of other regiments to be located at the back of the existing monument in Ballymullen, Tralee.

Cllr. T Ferris said that Cllr. P Daly and herself had understood that that this motion would be referred to a meeting of the Tralee Municipal District for consideration by the members as it is MD specific and no debate had taken place at the October meeting of the Full Council.

Mr. C O'Sullivan referred to the response to the Notice of Motion and said that at the Planning Briefing members were advised that any such proposal needs to be put before the members at a Tralee MD meeting, for consideration

Cllr. T Ferris said the issues which are Municipal District specific should not come before the members of the Full Council. The funding for this project would be provided from Tralee Municipal District funding therefore the matter should be discussed at a meeting of the members of the Tralee Municipal District.

Cllr. N Foley said that the Notice of Motion had been seconded by a Councillor from outside of the Tralee Municipal District at the meeting of the Full Council.

The meeting concluded at 12.00 noon

Mayor of the Municipal District of Tralee