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MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TRALEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, TRALEE ON MONDAY 29TH MARCH 2016.

MIONTUAIRISCÍ NA CRUINNITHE SPEISIALTA DE CHEANTAR BARDASACH THRÁ LÍ A THIONÓLADH I SEOMRA NA COMHAIRLE, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, TRÁ LÍ, AR AN LUAN 29 MÁRTA 2016.

PRESENT/I LÁTHAIR

Councillors/Comhairleoirí

P. Daly	N. Foley	T. McEllistrim
T. Ferris	S. Locke	T. O'Brien
G. Spring	P. McCarthy	J. Finucane

In attendance/i láthair

Mr. C. O'Sullivan	Delegated Executive for the MD of Tralee
Mr. B Reidy	Meetings Administrator
Mr. F Hartnett	SEE
Mr D Doyle	A/SE
Mr. C. Lynch	EE
Mr. J. Fitzgerald	EE
Ms. B Conway	AO
Ms. S Broderick	SO

The meeting commenced at 10.35a.m.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. T McEllistrim took the Chair.

16.03.29.01: Schedule of Municipal District Works Plan for 2016 for the Tralee Municipal District, having regard to the provisions under Section 58 of the Local Government Reform Act, 2014 and guidelines issued by the Department of Environment Community and Local Government (Circular LG 27/2014).

Mr. C O'Sullivan acknowledged the work of Mr. D Doyle, F Hartnett, C Lynch, J Fitzgerald and the staff of the Operations, Health & Safety Department in preparing the Schedule of Municipal District Works Plan for the Tralee Municipal District.

He said that the document before the members is the Schedule of Municipal District Works Plan for 2016 for the Tralee Municipal District and does not include any capital projects. Capital projects will be addressed at a Special meeting of the Full Council to consider the Operations Department Service Delivery Plan incorporating the Roads Programme which will be held on 11th April 2016.

He then outlined the main provisions in the report which had been circulated to the members.

Chúig/To: Méara T. McEllistrim
Gach ball de Cheantar Bardasach Thrá Lí

RE: Schedule of Municipal District Works Plan – Tralee Municipal District

A Chomhairleoir, a chara,

The Schedule of Municipal District Works (SMDW) Plan, for the Tralee Municipal District has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of Section 58 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014, and having regard to guidelines issued by the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government (Circular LG 27/2014).

Section 58 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 inserts a new Section 103A in the Local Government Act, 2001, providing that, following the adoption of the annual budget, a schedule of proposed works of maintenance and repair to be carried out during the financial year in each municipal district shall be prepared, for adoption by the municipal district members.

It is, in effect, a plan of maintenance and repair works that prioritizes and apportions the use, within the municipal district, of the funding provided in the 2016 Budget, which was adopted by Council on the 9th November, 2015, for particular purposes.

The main elements of the provisions under the above legislation are as follows:-

- The preparation and adoption of the SMDW Plan is a mandatory requirement,
- The SMDW is to be prepared as soon as may be following the adoption of the annual budget, for consideration and adoption by resolution, with or without amendment, by the municipal district members.
- If not adopted by the municipal district members, the SMDW reverts to the full council for the elected members consideration and adoption, with or without amendment.

The legislation provides that the Minister may make regulations outlining the manner, format, conditions, requirements and timescale for the preparation, consideration and adoption of the SMDW Plan. Pending the possible making of regulations, interim guidelines have been issued by the Department, in Circular LG 27/2014, on the preparation, consideration and adoption of the SMDW plan.

These guidelines have been carefully considered in the preparation of this plan, as well as the specific requirements of circulars issued by Government Departments associated with the allocation of specific grants.

It is formulated on the basis of the amount of funding provided for maintenance and repair in Kerry County Council's annual budget, in respect of each relevant service division (e.g. housing, roads, amenities, street cleaning, drainage work, burial ground

maintenance, etc.), subject to any variations arising subsequent to adoption of the budget, for example, in relation to funding levels from State grants.

The schedule is prepared within the levels of funding available, and on the basis of identified needs and priorities throughout the local authority area and taking due account of requirements in relation to standards and frequency of maintenance work. This is informed by details of relevant requirements which were considered in the formulation of the Council's overall budget as well the pattern of works and expenditure in previous years, and a review of the 2015 Plan. The adoption of the SMDW per se cannot involve a revision of the adopted budget.

Maximising value for money, overall effectiveness, and return from investment is a key objective underpinning the prioritization of works and allocating available funding within each municipal district, along with the need to ensure appropriate balance in the allocation of resources as between urban and rural areas in the district.

Works to be executed under the GMA are not provided for in the SMDW, as these are discretionary works to be decided by the elected members. However, it is open to the municipal district members to apply GMA funding to supplement maintenance and repair funding otherwise available in the overall budget. In particular this has been identified as a potential source of funding for improvement works to private roads on exceptional hardship and emergency grounds.

A report on the outcomes of the inaugural plan, adopted in 2015, are presented in Appendix 3, which has assisted in guiding the development of this year's SMDW Plan. The report shows that the vast majority of the targets set for our Housing, Roads, Public Lighting services and maintenance of amenity facilities were achieved, notwithstanding the particular challenges presented with the severe weather events in the last quarter of 2015. Of the 40 targets specified, 36 of these were met or exceeded. The severe weather in late 2015 impacted on the completion of some works.

Tralee achieved Clean to European Norms in the IBAL results and the targeted effort in Tralee supported the local community in retaining the Gold Medal in 2015.

I am cognizant in developing this SMDW Plan that it should be flexible enough to allow for possible emergencies or re-allocation of funding from scheduled works, that cannot for some reason, proceed. Any such re-allocation of funding should, as always, be within the overall budgetary framework, and will be notified to members. This will be done as part of the Operations Directorate report to you at the Municipal District meetings.

The annual Service Delivery Plan, for the Operations Directorate to be prepared in accordance with Section 134A of the 2001 Act, shall be informed by proposals for the SMDW and this will be presented to Council in April. The Service Delivery Plan will identify all other works to be delivered by the Operations Directorate, having regard to the provisions made in the adopted Budget and commitments given to the members.

The interim guidelines also prescribe conditions and requirements which shall apply in relation to any amendments to the SMDW plan and the procedures to be followed where the municipal district members decide not to adopt the plan or propose to make an amendment to the plan, which would result in the total expenditure in respect of works included in the schedule in respect of a particular service division exceeding that envisaged in the schedule as prepared by me. These are set out in detail in Section 5 of Circular LG 27/2014.

I wish as Chief Executive to pay tribute to the hard work and dedication of all the staff, particularly in the Tralee Municipal District, for their commitment in delivering these essential services in 2015.

I wish to thank the Senior Management and all the staff of the Operations Directorate in preparing this plan. I recommend the Plan for adoption.

Moira Murrell
Chief Executive – Kerry County Council

SCHEDULE OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WORKS PLAN **Tralee Municipal District**

This Plan has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of Section 58 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014, and having regard to guidelines issued by the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government (Circular LG 27/2014).

It is, in effect, a plan of maintenance and repair works that prioritizes and apportions the use, within the municipal district, of the funding provided in the 2016 Budget, which was adopted by Council on the 9th November 2015, for particular purposes.

Interim Guidelines - application

The legislation provides that the Minister may make regulations outlining the manner, format, conditions, requirements and timescale for the preparation, consideration and adoption of the SMDW Plan. Pending the possible making of regulations, interim guidelines have been issued by the Department, in Circular LG 27/2014, on the preparation, consideration and adoption of the SMDW, which have been considered in the making of this Plan.

The following Government grant allocations have been considered in the preparation of the Plan (copy attached)

- An Roinn Iompair Turasóireachta agus Spóirt (Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport) **Circular RW 1/2016** (dated 26th January 2016) . 2016 Regional and Local Road Grant Allocations
- An Roinn Iompair Turasóireachta agus Spóirt (Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport) **Circular RW 8/2016** (dated 18th February 2016) . Severe Weather Allocations

- An tÚdarás um Bóithre Náisiúnta (National Roads Authority) - 2016 National Roads Allocations (dated 22nd December 2015) *(for maintenance works only)*
Specific Issues considered as part of the preparation of this Plan

Works in this directorate primarily include all housing improvement works and maintenance, road improvement works, maintenance and repairs due to the impact of the severe weather events in late 2015, environmental works, street cleaning, maintenance of parks and open spaces, public conveniences, graveyards etc. The plan is prepared having regard to the provisions made in the 2016 Budget adopted by Kerry County Council, the road grant allocations from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (including the additional funding for Storm Weather damage) and the TII, as well as the review of the 2015 plan.

In presenting the Budget to Council for adoption on the 9th November 2015, a commitment was given to maintaining the provision of the highest level of services. In presenting this plan for your consideration and adoption, I have set out our commitment in providing this level of service for each relevant service division (housing, roads, public lighting etc.), including targets on which we will measure and report on performance at the end of each quarter.

Housing

In general, the Council is responsible for repairs to the exterior of the house, while the tenant is responsible for the maintenance of the interior. The responsibility of tenants is clearly explained to them prior to the signing of the tenancy agreement, and the Tenants Handbook, which is given to each tenant, also clearly sets out their responsibilities in detail. The allocation for the Tralee Municipal District will provide for the cost of maintaining these assets, maintenance of housing estates, labour costs for our maintenance repair crews, purchase of materials, hire of plant and payments to contractors for specialist services.

The performance targets specified in the plan reflect our commitment to our tenants as set out in their tenancy agreement. The Council acknowledges the need to ensure a prompt turnover of vacant properties and where the cost of the repair works are less than "10,000, we are committed to repairing such properties within a maximum 3 month time frame. However, for some voids, particularly older stock, and regrettably in some situations where the property is severely damaged, the costs of returning the property to a satisfactory letting condition require substantially greater funding. These are assessed by the Housing Directorate for potential funding from other sources. Standards of workmanship were developed through the Community Support / Quality of Life Directorate for the return of voids, to optimize the use of grants from the Department and ensure consistency across all municipal districts, in 2015, which are now applied to all such properties. This budget is managed centrally as it is contingent on where vacancies can arise in a given year.

Works to houses under central government funded programmes, such as the energy efficiency program last year, will be presented to Council separately, if and when details of any such scheme is announced, and are not considered as part of this plan. In 2015 Kerry County Council carried out "104,038 of energy efficiency improvements to 69 houses in the Tralee Municipal District.

Roads

The substantive element of the Operations Directorate will be the maintenance of National, Regional and Local roads, as well as the Urban Roads in the Tralee Municipal District.

The Council depends on national government for the greater part of its funding to carry out improvements to the road network. Following the damage caused by the severe weather events in late 2015, the Council carried out a full assessment of the extent of the damage caused, in consultation with the members, and made an application for exceptional funding to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport. We received an allocation of " 4 million towards the cost of repairs . details of which are included in this Plan.

Kerry County Council received a total maintenance allocation of " 1,445,546 from the TII for the upkeep of the national road network. This is an increase of " 43,664 (3.1%) on the 2015 allocation.

Separate allocations are provided, by the TII, for specific improvement works on the national road network and the operation of the national road design office. Full details of the level of funding available are still awaited but schemes identified for improvement works, under these TII programmes are not considered as maintenance and repair works. The schemes are capital works, which are determined by the TII, in consultation with the Council, and based on independent national road condition surveys. Accordingly, these schemes are not considered as part of the SMDW Plan, but will be considered in detail when the Operations Directorate Service Delivery Plan is presented to Council in April.

However, some consideration is given in the development of this plan for each municipal district, where such improvement works on the national road network require a substantial level of input with our own resources, and having regard to the most effective use of these resources. The performance targets identified in the Plan are in accordance with protocols agreed with the TII.

A grant allocation of " 12,916,783 was received from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport for the maintenance and improvement of the local and regional (non-national) road network, as follows:-

Grant	2016 allocation	2015 allocation	Change
<i>Discretionary Grant</i>	€3,375,935	€3,343,504	+ €32,431 (+ 1.0%)
<i>Restoration Maintenance Grant</i>	€1,953,557	€1,953,557	No Change
<i>Restoration Improvement Grant</i>	€6,940,339	€6,940,339 (€1,125,450)	No Change
<i>Additional funding</i>			
<i>Low Cost Safety Works</i>	€278,000	€209,248	+ €68,752 (+ 32.9%)
<i>Training</i>	€79,000	€79,000	No Change
<i>Specific Improvement Grants</i>	€50,000	€21,000	+ €29,000 (+138%)
<i>Bridge Rehabilitation</i>	€239,952	€227,558	+ €12,394 (+5.4%)
Total	€12,916,783	€12,774,206	+€142,577 (+1.1%)

In 2015 an additional allocation of " 1,125,450 was received from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport under the Restoration Improvement Programme. The adoption of the 2016 . 2018 Multi Annual Road Restoration Programme by Council

at the February meeting, provides for improvement works in the urban and rural areas. The Restoration Improvement Programme continues to be the main focus of the regional and local roads programme.

The Restoration Maintenance Programme is strictly targeted at surface dressing roads and in particular at protecting those roads which were improved under a former restoration improvement programme. The Department applies strict limits on the surface dressing costs that can be charged for schemes identified under this programme.

Details of the specific projects to be funded under the above programmes, have been identified, having regard to the directions and guidance given by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, in the circulars and are attached to this Plan. The performance targets identified have regard to the overall work programme of the Operations directorate and the efficient and effective use of resources.

The Discretionary Maintenance Grant of " 3,375,935 is used for the maintenance of the non-national road network in the county, which includes winter maintenance, routine maintenance, footpath repairs, bridge maintenance, drainage works etc.

In the Budget adopted by Council last November, a sum of " 4,236,500 is provided from our own resources towards the maintenance and upkeep of the non-national road network. This includes an allocation of " 957,000 towards the Councillor Specific Municipal District Operations Fund, which will be administered in accordance with the policy adopted by Council on the 16th February 2015. It also includes support towards the Restoration Improvement, Restoration Maintenance and Discretionary Maintenance Programmes for the county.

The funding for Low Cost Safety Works and Bridge Rehabilitation Works is based on assessments carried out at various locations and selected by the Department, in consultation with the Council, having regard to national assessment criteria.

➤ *Community Involvement Scheme (CIS)*

No separate grant allocation has been made by the Department for funding the Community Involvement Scheme in 2016, following the completion of the pilot programme in 2014. However, the Department circular permits local authorities to use some of the funding from the Restoration Improvement and Restoration Maintenance Grant, up to a maximum of 7.5% of the total funding available, towards CIS\$. The scheme is confined to local tertiary roads. These are minor roads which would not feature on the Council's multi-annual restoration programme.

In 2015, 5 schemes were completed with the local communities contributing 15% of the cost of the works. Given the benefits of this scheme in supporting local communities on improving their local road, it is proposed to make a provision of " 130,000 to fund further schemes in 2016. This scheme will be administered on a countywide basis.

The Community Involvement Scheme was initiated in 1994. In 2008, the Council introduced a scheme to surface dress a number of older roads which had previously been improved under this scheme. A sum of " 100,000 is also being provided for this

purpose in 2016 and this will also be administered on a countywide basis. An assessment of the roads to be surface dressed under this programme is on-going and details of any roads to be funded in the Tralee Municipal District will be brought to the members.

➤ **Local Improvement Scheme (LIS)**

This scheme is for the improvement of private roads, with a local contribution of 20% required under the terms and conditions of the scheme. Despite representations to the Department, no specific funding has been provided for this scheme in 2016.

In 2015, the Council made a provision of "100,000 from the Discretionary Maintenance Fund, which allowed for 6 schemes to be completed. However, 1 of the top 7 schemes on the 2015 priority list did not proceed, as the applicants were unable to comply with the terms and conditions of the scheme, either in getting approval from all landowners or securing the local contribution. There are 129 current applications on the LIS Priority list.

Given that there has only been a very marginal increase in the overall funding for the maintenance and improvement of the non-national public road network, the substantive reduction in previous years, it is difficult to maintain the funding for the LIS scheme from existing resources. However, having regard to the wishes of the members, a sum of "100,000, is to be provided from the Discretionary Maintenance Fund, and this will be administered on a countywide basis. Based on the current priority list this will allow for approximately 5 schemes in 2016.

Given the low level of schemes that can be funded, it was not possible in recent years to address exceptional applications received on hardship and emergency grounds. However, having regard to representations made by members on funding such improvement works, the Council adopted a scheme in October 2012 for such cases, with the council contribution being funded from County Councillors' allocations. This scheme allowed for a local contribution of between 5% and 25% taking into consideration the condition of the road, the number of beneficiaries and the level of hardship identified on medical grounds. It is acknowledged that such exceptional cases can occasionally arise and the members may wish to consider such applications for funding under the Councillor Specific Municipal District Operations Fund.

Facilities

The Council provides a range of facilities, including public lighting, car parking and public conveniences, which require regular maintenance and repair.

The maintenance and repair of public lighting is carried out by private contractors, under contract to the council. These contracts are managed centrally and there are particular performance targets specified in the contract.

The funding provided for the maintenance of car parking facilities in the town includes for the cleaning of our car parks as well as the maintenance of pay and display machines in these facilities and on-street.

The funding provided for public conveniences ensures that these facilities are maintained to a clean standard, commensurate with the level of usage by the public.

Environmental Operations

This funding is for street cleaning, maintenance of burial grounds, maintenance of outdoor leisure areas, playgrounds and beaches, as well as the Tralee Flood Relief Scheme. The performance targets specified in the Plan are commensurate with the level of service that can be provided having regard to the resources available.

However, as a tourist county it is acknowledged that factors such as exceptional weather conditions or local festivals, can result in increased numbers of visitors to many of these facilities and some flexibility is provided to ensure a cleaning service appropriate to any exceptional increase in usage.

Conclusion

The attached tables set out all of the maintenance and repair works to be provided in the Tralee Municipal District, including the budget allocations, the level of service to be provided and the targets on which our performance will be monitored.

TRALEE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT					
2016 SCHEDULE OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WORKS					
DIVISIONAL SERVICE	SERVICE	BUDGET ALLOCATION	LEVEL OF SERVICE	TARGET	PERFORMANCE
HOUSING	Responsive maintenance of 1,430 houses, 11 community buildings	" 585,049	Maintenance to the standards in accordance with the Tenants Letting Agreement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 95% of routine works to be completed within 4 weeks. 100% emergency works to be completed within 3 working days 	
	Repair vacant houses for reletting	Funding centrally managed by Housing Department	Repairs will be carried out within 3 months from date of receiving keys, for works costing less than " 10,000	95% of works complete and house available for letting within 3 months following approval from Housing.	
ROADS	National Primary Maintenance	" 91,128	42km NP Roads maintained in accordance with NRA protocols. Category A repairs completed within 3 days and Category B repairs completed within 26 weeks	<p><u>Category A:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% of pothole and drainage repairs on national primary routes complete within 3 days of being identified on carriageway. <p><u>Category B:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All other repairs complete within 6 months subject to 	

				NRA funding and approval.	
DIVISIONAL SERVICE	SERVICE	BUDGET ALLOCATION	LEVEL OF SERVICE	TARGET	PERFORMANCE
ROADS	National Secondary Maintenance	" 62,471	48km NS Roads maintained. Category A repairs completed within 3 days and Category B repairs completed within 26 weeks.	<u>Category A:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% of pothole and drainage repairs on national secondary routes complete within 3 days of being identified on carriageway. <u>Category B:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All other repairs complete within 6 months subject to NRA funding and approval. 	
	Winter Maintenance	" 67,500	116km of NP, NS and Regional roads treated in accordance with the Winter Service Plan.	100% of Priority 1 and 2 routes identified; to be treated when icy conditions are predicted on the Vaisala system.	
	Safety Improvement Works	" 40,000	R919: Killerisk, Tralee	Safety improvement works completed by Qtr. 4	
	Roads to be maintained under the Restoration Maintenance Programme - see Appendix 1	Grant =" 282,647 OR <u>31,314</u> Total =" 313,961	Surface improvements of 13.83km . listed in Appendix 1	30% completed by Qtr. 2 95% completed by Qtr. 3 100% completed by Qtr. 4	

		OR = Own Resources			
	Roads to be improved under the Restoration Improvement Programme - see Appendix 1	Grant = " 915,194 Town Grant = " 230,000 OR = " <u>22,061</u> Total = " 1,167,255 OR = Own Resources	12.85km improved . listed in Appendix 1	30% completed by Qtr. 2 95% completed by Qtr. 3 100% completed by Qtr. 4	
DIVISIONAL SERVICE	SERVICE	BUDGET ALLOCATION	LEVEL OF SERVICE	TARGET	PERFORMANCE
ROADS	Works to be carried out under the Discretionary Maintenance Programme	In the electoral division of Tralee Urban:- OR = " 487,528 in the electoral division of Tralee Rural:- Grant = " 438,716 OR = " <u>64,070</u> Total = " 502,786 Total Discretionary Funding = " 990,314	General maintenance of 725km of regional and local roads and footpaths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All potholes on primary urban roads repaired within 2 working days and within one week for all other roads in urban areas. All potholes on regional and local primary roads repaired within 4 weeks. Response to serious flooding where risk of flooding to dwellings on public roads within one working day. 100km of drainage network inspected 	
	Maintenance of		Routine inspections,	Inspected 4 times per year.	

	Flood Relief Systems		cleaning & testing of Tralee Flood relief infrastructure incl. pump houses, manholes, culverts, grates. Castlecounness storm pump maintained.		
	Repair works to be carried out under the Severe Weather Allocation . see Appendix 2	" 523,500	Repair works of regional and local roads	All works completed and funding drawn down by end November 2016	
DIVISIONAL SERVICE	SERVICE	BUDGET ALLOCATION	LEVEL OF SERVICE	TARGET	PERFORMANCE
PUBLIC LIGHTING	Approximately 4,000 lights maintained	Budget managed centrally	Routine repair works carried out within 12 working days of complaint	95% of lights repaired for routine works.	
MAINTENANCE & MANAGEMENT OF CAR PARKS	Maintenance and Management of 9 public car parks	" 97,672	Public car parks maintained with 1,090 spaces and 18 pay & display machines at :- <i>St. Johns; Garveys; Abbey; Tannery; Balloonagh; Slatts; Dom O'Donnell; Brandon; Parklands.</i>	All faults repaired within 15 working days.	

			On street parking at 35 locations with 763 spaces and 47 pay & display machines.		
MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCES	Maintain 3 public conveniences	Funding centrally managed by the Community Services and Engagement Services Section	Banna & Fenit cleaned once a day from March to October. Tralee cleaned 3 times a day.	Maintained to a clean standard commensurate with the level of service. Minor repair works to Denny Street, Tralee. Upgrading works to Banna Beach.	
DIVISIONAL SERVICE	SERVICE	BUDGET ALLOCATION	LEVEL OF SERVICE	TARGET	PERFORMANCE
STREET CLEANING	Clean Tralee Town Centre	" 652,000	Once daily & twice daily in June, July & August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achieve % clean to European Norms+in IBAL results. Reach or exceed cleanliness marks in 2015 in Tidy Towns Competition. 	
	Ardfert, Fenit, Spa		Cleaned monthly		
	Clean approach roads and housing estates		Weekly		
	Bottle Bank Maintenance		Daily at Garveys & twice weekly at Sports Complex		
	Industrial Estates		Street cleaning & gully cleaning of Monavalley & Clash Ind. Est. weekly		
MAINTENANCE OF BURIAL	Maintain 18 Burial Grounds	Funding centrally managed by the	Abbeydorney; Annagh New; Annagh Old;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Burial Grounds maintained. 	

GROUNDS		Community Services and Engagement Services Section	Arabella; Ardfert (Sackville); Ardfert Cathedral; Ballyseedy; Brosna; Churchill New; Churchill Old; Clogherbrien; Clogher; O'Braonainn; Rath; St. Johns; Kilgobban(Camp Old); Camp; Knockane, Knockgoshel.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 grass cuts April to September. • Footpaths provided where required (Clogher and Abbeydorney) • Response to Graveyard committees within one month of requests for works. Members will be informed of proposed works at Municipal District meetings. • Provision of a lawn cemetery in Rath, Tralee. • Drainage works in Camp. 	
DIVISIONAL SERVICE	SERVICE	BUDGET ALLOCATION	LEVEL OF SERVICE	TARGET	PERFORMANCE
MAINTENANCE OF OUTDOOR LEISURE AREAS	Maintain 13 large amenity areas. Maintenance of Ballycarty Roundabout and By-Pass Roundabouts and the Fountain at Dan Spring Road.	" 703,417	Grass-cutting, gardeners and one caretaker. Pearse Park; Town Park (28 acres including playground); Christ the King; Camp Park; Castlemaine Road; Blennerville Bird Watch; Charlie Kerins; Spa Road Estate; Kerins Park Pitch;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grass cut every 3 weeks between April and October. 9 cuts per year. • 6,200 roses maintained in 90 flower beds and trees pruned in estates and public roads as required. 	

			Monavalley; Ardfert; Fenit; Ballyseedy Wood; Bracker O'Regan Road.		
	Maintain 7 dedicated walkways		<p>Tralee to Mounthawk Amenity Trail; River Lee;; Edward St to Rock St; Ashe St to Brewery Road;</p> <p>Fenit (path to diving board); Lock Gates to Cockleshell Road; Canal Walk</p>	<p>Swept twice weekly with mini sweeper.</p> <p>Cleaned 4 times per year</p>	
	Canal maintenance		Lock gates maintained	Lock gates inspected once a month.	
DIVISIONAL SERVICE	SERVICE	BUDGET ALLOCATION	LEVEL OF SERVICE	TARGET	PERFORMANCE
PLAYGROUNDS	Inspection and maintenance of 2 playgrounds in Ardfert & Fenit	" 5,000	<p>Inspected weekly.</p> <p>Playground equipment will be repaired within one month.</p> <p>Broken equipment will be repaired within 20 working days.</p>	Cleaned weekly and inspected monthly.	

BEACH CLEANING	Maintain 4 beaches	" 40,379	Fenit and Banna Blue Flag beaches cleaned twice weekly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Banna: Bins emptied daily from May to September. • Fenit: Bins emptied twice weekly 	
			Derrymore and Camp cleaned twice weekly during peak season	Maintain to a clean standard.	
COUNCILLOR SPECIFIC MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OPERATIONS FUND	Manage the Councillor Specific Municipal District Operations Fund	" 261,000	Agreed funded works carried out.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed breakdown of cost to be provided. • Members notified at least one week in advance of works commencing. • Works completed by end of Qtr. 4. 	

Appendix 2			
Tralee Municipal District 2016 - Severe Weather Allocation			
Road Number	Road Description	Length (m)	Est Cost €
R558	Oysterhall, Fenit Rd.	400	50,000
R558	Oysterhall, Fenit Rd.	300	36,000
R558	Spa Village	400	22,000
L-10581	Carrahane - Banna	1,150	92,000
L-6548	Caherleaheen, Tralee	600	19,000
L-10636	Flemby, Tralee	350	31,500
L-6516	Clahane, Tralee	550	49,500
L-2018	Farmers Bridge, Tralee	300	33,000
L-1034	Ardrahan, Ardfert	900	22,000
L-6518	Kielduff - Maugha	1,500	29,000
L-6508	Leith East	500	19,000
L-10591	Tursillagh	300	24,000
L-6525	Knockbrack, K/nagoshel	1,100	17,000
L-2015	Drommadamore	2,300	13,000
L-6537	Kilmaniheen East	1,250	11,000
L-10709	Kilmaniheen West	2,450	12,500
L6513	Kearney's Road	100	15,000
L6511	Gurrane	100	10,000
L6511	Gurrane	250	18,000
	Total	14,800	523,500

TRALEE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT					
APPENDIX 3 - 2015 SCHEDULE OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WORKS					
DIVISIONAL SERVICE	SERVICE	BUDGET ALLOCATION	LEVEL OF SERVICE	TARGET	PERFORMANCE Q4 2015
HOUSING	Responsive maintenance of 1,430 houses, 11 community buildings and 13 demountables	488,744	Maintenance to the standards in accordance with the Tenants Letting Agreement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 95% of routine works to be completed within 4 weeks. 100% emergency works to be completed within 3 working days 	1280 routine repairs . 100% 269 emergency repairs . 100%
	Repair vacant houses for reletting	Funding centrally managed by Housing Department	Repairs will be carried out within 3 months from date of receiving keys, for works costing less than " 10,000	95% of works complete and house available for letting within 3 months	Repairs to 39 Vacant Houses returned within time allocated . 100%
	Estate Maintenance	44,030	10 cuts per year April to October in local authority housing estates	95% of estates maintained	100% achieved
ROADS	National Primary Maintenance	112,724	42km NP Roads maintained in accordance with NRA protocols. Category A repairs completed within 3 days and Category B repairs completed within 26 weeks	<u>Category A:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% of pothole and drainage repairs on national primary routes complete within 3 days of being identified on carriageway. <u>Category B:</u>	None identified All defects identified during inspections using

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All other repairs complete within 6 months subject to NRA funding and approval. 	the NRAGEO App system were completed within the 6 month time period.
DIVISIONAL SERVICE	SERVICE	BUDGET ALLOCATION	LEVEL OF SERVICE	TARGET	PERFORMANCE
ROADS	National Secondary Maintenance	61,459	48km NS Roads maintained. Category A repairs completed within 3 days and Category B repairs completed within 26 weeks.	<u>Category A:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% of pothole and drainage repairs on national secondary routes complete within 3 days of being identified on carriageway. <u>Category B:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All other repairs complete within 6 months subject to NRA funding and approval. 	<p>All defects identified during inspection using NRAGEO App were closed out within 3 days.</p> <p>All defects identified during inspection using NRAGEO App were completed within the 26 week time period.</p>
	Winter Maintenance	67,500	116km of NP, NS and Regional roads treated in accordance with the Winter Service Plan.	100% of Priority 1 and 2 routes identified; to be treated when icy conditions are predicted on the Vaisala system.	100% of Priority 1 & Priority 2 routes treated.
	Roads to be maintained under the Restoration Maintenance Programme - see	Grant = 235,006 = OR = <u>31,314</u> = Total	Surface improvements of 11.3km . listed in Appendix A	30% completed by Qtr. 2 95% completed by Qtr. 3 100% completed by Qtr. 4	100% complete

	Appendix A	266,320 OR = Own Resources			
	Roads to be improved under the Restoration Improvement Programme - see Appendix A	Grant = 856,952 Town Grant = 250,949 OR = <u>17,266</u> Total = 1,125,167 OR = Own Resources	10.8km improved . listed in Appendix A	30% completed by Qtr. 2 95% completed by Qtr. 3 100% completed by Qtr. 4	100% complete
DIVISIONAL SERVICE	SERVICE	BUDGET ALLOCATION	LEVEL OF SERVICE	TARGET	PERFORMANCE
ROADS	Works to be carried out under the Discretionary Maintenance Programme	In the electoral division of Tralee Urban:- OR = 487,528 in the electoral division of Tralee Rural:- Grant = 438,716 OR = <u>64,070</u> Total = 502,786 Total Discretionary Funding = 990,314	General maintenance of 725km of regional and local roads and footpaths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All potholes on primary urban roads repaired within 2 working days and within one week for all other roads in urban areas. All potholes on regional and local primary roads repaired within 4 weeks. Response to serious flooding where risk of flooding to dwellings on public roads within one working day. 	<p>All potholes are dealt with upon receipt of notification within 2 days.</p> <p>All potholes are dealt with upon receipt of notification within 4 weeks.</p> <p>Immediate response to all flooding where serious risk to dwellings</p>

	Maintenance of Flood Relief Systems		Routine inspections, cleaning & testing of Tralee Flood relief infrastructure incl. pump houses, manholes, culverts, grates. Castlecourtess storm pump maintained.	Inspected 6 times per year.	Inspected 4 times in 2015. 100% Achieved
DIVISIONAL SERVICE	SERVICE	BUDGET ALLOCATION	LEVEL OF SERVICE	TARGET	PERFORMANCE
PUBLIC LIGHTING	Approximately 4,000 lights maintained	Budget managed centrally	Routine repair works carried out within 12 working days of complaint	95% of lights repaired for routine works.	95% of lights repaired
	Lighting improvement programme	30,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of new poles on Ballyard Road opposite entrance to Aquadome. Upgrading of lights on R878 Upper Oakpark Road (Derrylea to Forge Cross). Upgrading and 	100% of improvement programme undertaken by Qtr. 4	Not complete. Works complete. Works complete.

			provision of additional lights on R878 Forge Cross to Alderwood Road.		
MAINTENANCE & MANAGEMENT OF CAR PARKS	Maintenance and Management of 9 public car parks	95,320	Public car parks maintained with 1,090 spaces and 18 pay & display machines at :- <i>St. Johns; Garveys; Abbey; Tannery; Balloonagh; Slatts; Dom O'Donnell; Brandon; Parklands.</i> On street parking at 35 locations with 763 spaces and 47 pay & display machines.	All faults repaired within 15 working days.	Faults notified and repairs carried out within 7 days.
DIVISIONAL SERVICE	SERVICE	BUDGET ALLOCATION	LEVEL OF SERVICE	TARGET	PERFORMANCE
MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCES	Maintain 3 public conveniences	Funding centrally managed by the Community Services and Engagement Services Section	Banna & Fenit cleaned once a day from March to October. Tralee cleaned 3 times a day.	Maintained to a clean standard commensurate with the level of service.	Public conveniences cleaned to specified target
STREET CLEANING	Clean Tralee Town Centre	669,741	Once daily & twice daily in June, July & August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achieve %Clean to European Norms+in IBAL results. Reach or exceed cleanliness marks in 	100% - Clean to European Norms Retained Gold Medal and
	Ardfert, Fenit, Spa		Cleaned monthly		
	Clean approach roads and housing estates		Weekly		

	Bottle Bank Maintenance		Daily at Garveys & twice weekly at Sports Complex	2014 in Tidy Towns Competition.	increased marks on 2014 results.
	Industrial Estates		Street cleaning & gully cleaning of Monavalley & Clash Ind. Est. weekly		
MAINTENANCE OF BURIAL GROUNDS	Maintain 17 Burial Grounds	Funding centrally managed by the Community Services and Engagement Services Section	Abbeydorney; Annagh New; Annagh Old; Arabella; Ardfert (Sackville); Ardfert Cathedral; Ballyseedy; Churchill New; Churchill Old; Clogherbrien; Clogher; O'Braonainn; Rath; St. Johns; Kilgobban(Camp Old); Camp; Knockane, Knockgoshel.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Burial Grounds maintained. 15 grass cuts April to September. Footpaths provided where required. Response to Graveyard committees within one month of requests for works. Members will be informed of proposed works at Municipal District meetings. 	Target achieved 15 grass cuts 30m of footpaths provided in Brosna Achieved
DIVISIONAL SERVICE	SERVICE	BUDGET ALLOCATION	LEVEL OF SERVICE	TARGET	PERFORMANCE
MAINTENANCE OF OUTDOOR LEISURE AREAS	Maintain 13 large amenity areas. Maintenance of Ballycarty Roundabout and By-Pass Roundabouts and the Fountain at Dan Spring Road.	681,869	Grass-cutting, gardeners and one caretaker. Pearse Park; Town Park (28 acres including playground); Christ the King; Camp Park; Castlemaine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grass cut every 3 weeks between April and October. 9 cuts per year. 6,200 roses maintained in 90 flower beds and trees pruned in estates and 	100% achieved 100% achieved

			Road; Blennerville Bird Watch; Charlie Kerins; Spa Road Estate; Kerins Park Pitch; Monavalley; Ardfert; Fenit; Ballyseedy Wood; Bracker O'Regan Road.	public roads as required.	4 Walkways 100% achieved
	Maintain 7 dedicated walkways		Tralee to Mounthawk Amenity Trail; River Lee; Canal Walk; Edward St to Rock St; Ashe St to Brewery Road; Fenit (path to diving board); Lock Gates to Cockleshell Road.	Swept twice weekly with mini sweeper.	3 walkways cleaned 4 times per year Grass cut on Canal Walk Lock Gates 100% Achieved. Swing Bridge damaged in recent severe weather & not operational
	Canal maintenance:		Lock gates maintenance & testing of operating mechanism systems & canal swing bridge maintenance & testing	Lock gates and swing bridge open once a month.	
DIVISIONAL SERVICE	SERVICE	BUDGET ALLOCATION	LEVEL OF SERVICE	TARGET	PERFORMANCE
PLAYGROUNDS	Inspection and maintenance of 2 playgrounds in Ardfert & Fenit	3,650	Inspected weekly. Playground equipment will be repaired within one month. Broken equipment will be repaired within 20	Cleaned and inspected weekly	3 Playgrounds maintained. Tralee cleaned daily, inspected monthly. Ardfert & Banna

			working days.		cleaned weekly, inspected monthly
BEACH CLEANING	Maintain 4 beaches	41,125	Fenit and Banna Blue Flag beaches cleaned twice weekly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Banna: Bins emptied daily from May to September. Fenit: Bins emptied twice weekly 	Bins emptied to agreed standard
			Derrymore and Camp cleaned twice weekly during peak season	Maintain to a clean standard.	Cleaned twice weekly
COUNCILLOR SPECIFIC MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OPERATIONS FUND	Manage the Councillor Specific Municipal District Operations Fund	261,000	Agreed funded works carried out.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detailed breakdown of cost to be provided. Members notified at least one week in advance of works commencing. Works completed by end of Qtr. 4. 	Cost breakdown provided Members notified 95% achieved . Some works delayed by impact of severe weather

Cllr. P McCarthy thanked Mr. C O'Sullivan and Mr. D Doyle for their report and asked if the Tralee Municipal District is adequately staffed to carry out this work. He referred to the allocation of funding by the members from Councillor Specific Municipal District Operations Fund (CSMDOF) and said it would be very helpful if a detailed costing of the works being funded is prepared.

Cllr. P Daly asked if any discretionary funding is available for the provision of public lighting in areas off main roads or areas that have been bypassed. He referred to the provision of " 100,000 from the Discretionary Maintenance Fund that will be administered for Local Improvement Schemes on a county wide basis and said that this will only allow for approximately 5 schemes to be funded in 2016 and there are a considerable number of private roads that require upgrading in the Tralee Municipal District.

Cllr. T O'Brien asked if the report on the Municipal District Works Plan for 2015 could also be provided to the members for comparison purposes.

He expressed concern regarding the non replacement of outdoor staff who have retired.

He referred to the provision of public lighting and said that he has requested that public lighting be provided on the Canal Road, Tralee, on numerous occasions and to date this work has not been carried out.

Cllr. O'Brien said that many responses to notices of motion advise that the works requested are suitable for funding through Councillor Specific Municipal District Operations Fund (CSMDOF). In his opinion some of these works should be funded by Kerry County Council.

He referred to street cleaning and said that volunteers do a huge amount of work in Tralee and it is not acceptable that the budget for street cleaning is being reduced and more work is falling to volunteers. He said that Tralee's placing in the latest Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) table is very disappointing and asked how much funding was allocated for street cleaning in 2015.

Cllr. T O'Brien referred to the footpaths in the town particularly in the Mall. He said that many are in very poor condition and asked if funding is available in 2016 for improvements to footpaths in Tralee town.

He referred to Social Housing and asked for clarification on the responsibility of the tenant and the responsibility of Kerry County Council as the landlord.

Cllr. T Ferris said that given there is a housing crisis at present the target turnover of vacant properties should be less than 3 months.

She said that the roads in the Listowel and Tralee Municipal Districts are in very poor condition and asked why premix is used for filling potholes while 5 durapatchers are parked up in the machinery yard.

Cllr. Ferris asked for clarification as to the difference between the Municipal District Works Plan and the Operations Department Service Delivery Plan and said that having spoken to staff and union representatives, if both plans are related she would not be able to support the adoption of the Municipal District Works Plan.

Cllr. S Locked thanked Mr. C O'Sullivan, Mr. F Hartnett, Mr. C Lynch and Mr. J Fitzgerald for their work in preparing the Schedule of Municipal District Works Plan and for their help and co-operation during the severe weather conditions in late 2015.

He expressed concern about lack of staff resources and said that this must be addressed as constituents have been asking why repairs to roads are not being carried out within shorter timeframes.

He referred to the provision of public lighting and said that he is aware of locations that are waiting over two years for the erection of public lights.

He referred to street cleaning and said that volunteers in Tralee carry out a considerable amount of work and it is very important that the town retains its gold medal status. The provision of CCTV and the prosecution of offenders should be considered, with a view to combating illegal dumping.

Cllr. N Foley acknowledged the work of Mr. C O'Sullivan and the staff of the Operations Health and Safety Directorate in preparing the Municipal District Works Plan 2016.

She agreed with Cllr. P Daly with regard to the provision of public lights in areas off main roads and said specific funding should be put in place for the provision of emergency public lighting in areas where it is required for health and safety reasons.

She referred to the report circulated and asked if many vacant properties are damaged to the extent that repairs cost substantially in excess of "10,000 to return to a satisfactory letting condition.

Cllr. Foley expressed concern about the condition of some of the footpaths in Tralee and said that she is aware that people have fallen on the footpaths in the town.

She referred to the provision of a lawn cemetery at Rath burial ground and asked if this project would proceed in 2016. She said that there is an issue with regard to access to the burial ground and asked if the provision of an additional access could be considered as the gates at the Ballinorig access are not always open and visitors have to walk a considerable distance to the new graves.

Cllr. Foley referred to street cleaning and acknowledged the tremendous work carried out by volunteers and by Kerry County Council. She commended Kerry County Council on the clean up carried out on the Square following the St. Patrick's Day Celebrations.

Cllr. G Spring thanked Mr. C O'Sullivan and the staff of the Operations, Health & Safety Directorate for their work in preparing the Schedule for the Municipal District Works Plan and said that he too is concerned about the reduced staff resources in the Tralee Municipal District.

He referred to the item on beach maintenance in the report circulated and asked that the emptying of litter bins on beaches be monitored closely during the summer season.

Cllr. J Finucane said that at a previous meeting he had requested that consideration be given to the setting up of a special unit with dedicated staff within Kerry County Council to focus on coastal erosion and the maintenance of water courses. The Council's application for funding for coastal erosion and flooding damage should include a request for the funding to set up such a unit.

He said that Tralee Town Park is a huge asset to the town.

There are two potential economic projects to be developed in the town ie. The Denny Site and the Fells Point Site. There is an onus on Kerry County Council to expedite the development of the Denny Site as an area with distinct facilities that will draw people into the town. He asked if funding has been received for the provision of street furniture in the town centre.

With regard to the provision of social housing Cllr. Finucane said that the level of refusals of offers of accommodation and the number of voids damaged to the extent that repairs cost substantially in excess of " 10,000, needs to be examined. He said that in order to drive economic recovery it is necessary to start building social housing.

Cllr. P Daly said that the two major issues for Tralee are litter on the streets and the provision of social housing. He commended the volunteers who do great work in keeping the town free of litter but specialised equipment was needed to clean the square following the St. Patricks Day celebrations. He said that the provision of housing has now been outsourced to the private sector. He agreed that many of the footpaths in the town centre are in poor condition. He said that the people of Tralee have many good ideas for the town but no progress is being made.

Cllr. P McCarthy said that while all the members appreciated the work of Mr. C O'Sullivan and the staff of the Operations, Health & Safety Directorate, there have been changes in local politics since the abolition of the town councils and not all are for the better. He referred to Cllr. T Ferris comments regarding durapatchers being parked up in the machinery yard and said that a lot of the Council's machinery is outdated. Also, it does not make sense that road surfacing materials cannot be accepted during the winter months when drivers could be employed to stockpile materials during winter and this would free up lorries and machinery to carry out the roads programme works during the rest of the year. He asked if there was adequate consultation with management before a workforce report was submitted to the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government.

Cllr. T Ferris referred to vacant properties damaged by previous tenants and costing in excess of " 10,000 to repair and said that the incidents where this happens is very low and the vast majority of tenants take pride in their houses.

Cllr. N Foley said that she had not suggested that properties were being damaged, she had merely asked for clarification on the number of properties that cost in excess of " 10,000 to return them to letting condition. She acknowledged that some voids are from older housing stock which requires considerable upgrading.

Cathaoirleach T McEllistrim thanked Mr. C O'Sullivan and the staff of the Operations, Health & Safety Directorate for their work in preparing the Schedule of Municipal District Works Plan. He asked that an update on Kilmoley Burial Ground would be prepared for the next meeting.

Mr. C O'Sullivan clarified that the plan before the members is the Schedule of Municipal District Works Plan for the Municipal District of Tralee. Works will be funded from grant allocations for maintenance and repairs. It is not a workforce plan.

Staff Levels

With regard to staff levels he said that historically staff levels have been determined by the availability of funding. There has been a significant reduction in funding since 2008 and a reduction in staff levels right across the Local Authority. The Restoration Improvement Grant has been reduced by approximately 50% since 2008. He outlined that the Council has historically taken on seasonal workers and drivers if sufficient work and funding was available and he complemented our workforce on working

always delivering the work programme on time and within budget. This model has allowed the Council to avail of additional late funding when made available by the Department. Seasonal workers and drivers will most likely be required to deliver the 2016 Work Programme as in previous years and we are currently assessing the staffing requirements for this year.

Public Lighting

Mr. C O'Sullivan said that the Public Lighting Policy will be coming before the members at the April meeting of the Full Council.

Vacant Properties

With regard to the turnaround of vacant houses, Mr. O'Sullivan said that the aim is to re-allocate vacant properties as quickly as possible but they must be repaired to a re-letting standard. In the majority of cases, houses are turned around in a shorter period and 3 months is a limit set for the staff. This matter has been reviewed in terms of value for money and in a small number of cases properties require extensive works which may take longer than 3 months.

Footpaths in Tralee

Mr. O'Sullivan said that the provision of footpaths is funded through capital funding. Significant funding has been provided for the upgrade of the Mall, Tralee and the proposal for this area will be presented to the members at the next Municipal District meeting.

Denny Site

Mr. O'Sullivan said that the transfer of the Denny Site took a considerable length of time. Funding for the demolition on the site has been received and it is hoped that demolition will be completed within the coming 12 to 18 months. Extensive public consultation and the development of a master plan for the area will follow and an application for Part VIII planning will then proceed.

Tralee Bypass

Mr. O'Sullivan said that funding for maintenance of the Tralee Bypass is provided by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and work on defects must be completed by the contractor by August 2016.

Local Improvement Schemes

Mr. O'Sullivan said that despite representations to the Department, no specific funding has been provided for Local Improvement Schemes (LIS) in 2016. Having regard to the wishes of the members "100,000 is to be provided from the Discretionary Maintenance Fund and this will be administered on a countywide basis. This will allow for approximately 5 schemes in 2016 from the current list of 126 schemes.

Machinery

Mr. O'Sullivan said that durapatchers are being used for repairing potholes on roads and a review of the Council's roadworks machinery stock will be carried out in 2016.

Kilmoyley Burial Ground

Mr. O'Sullivan said that an update report on Kilmoyley Burial Ground will be presented to the members at the Tralee Municipal District meeting on 9th May, 2016.

Rath Burial Ground

Mr. D Doyle advised the members that a plan for the provision of a lawn cemetery at Rath burial ground Tralee will be presented to the members at a Municipal District meeting in 2016. Access to the burial ground will also be considered.

Cleaning of the River Lee

Cllr. S Locke referred to the cleaning of the River Lee in Tralee and asked that this matter be addressed.

Mr. D Doyle said that a CFRAM study is being carried out and funding will be sought to address all the flooding issues in the county.

Cllr. J Finucane said that now is the time to work on the dredging of rivers. Clarification should be sought on the areas of responsibility of the Office of Public Works (OPW). He reiterated his request that a specialist unit be established in Kerry County Council to focus on flooding and watercourses and he asked that a representative of the OPW be requested to address the members at a future meeting of the Municipal District of Tralee to clarify where their responsibility lies.

Cllr. P McCarthy agreed that clarity is required and said that the OPW have taken some rivers and parts of rivers in charge and all other drainage channels are the responsibility of the riparian owners. However, Inland Fisheries Ireland does not allow the riparian owners to carry out works on rivers.

Improvements to footpaths and street cleaning in Tralee

Cllr. T O'Brien asked if funding is available for the upgrading of footpaths in Tralee town centre and if the budget for street cleaning has been increased/decreased since 2015.

Mr. D Doyle said that there is no specific funding for improvements to footpaths in Tralee as block grants are no longer received. Capital funding has been received for upgrading of the Mall.

Mr. Doyle said that the report on the Schedule of Municipal District Works for 2015 is attached to the report circulated and advised that the allocation for street cleaning for 2016 is slightly less than the allocation for 2015 as additional funding has been allocated to amenity areas and open spaces.

Cllr. T Ferris asked for an update on the amount of compensation paid out by Kerry County Council to people who have had accidents on footpaths in Tralee town.

Mr. C O'Sullivan said that he did not have that information at the moment. He undertook to examine the footpaths in the town centre and revert to the Department regarding the matter. The Mall is the area of the town with the highest footfall and funding has been made available for works to be carried out at that location.

Flooding

With regard to flooding Mr. O'Sullivan said that a flood emergency plan is in place and maintenance work on critical infrastructure is carried out. The OPW is responsible for a number of drainage channels in the county but the vast majority are the

responsibility of the riparian owners. Funding was received for cleaning parts of the River Lee but Inland Fisheries Ireland requires that the works must be carried out outside of the spawning season and the same applies to works being carried out by the riparian owners.

Cllr. S Locke said that the River Lee is considered to be a late spawning river where spawning can occur during December.

Cllr. P McCarthy said that he was aware of a farmer who was cleaning a river to alleviate flooding and was requested by representatives of Inland Fisheries Ireland to stop the work and reinstate the material removed from the river.

Mr. C O'Sullivan undertook to raise this matter with Inland Fisheries Ireland.

Schedule of Municipal District Works Plan

Cllr. T Ferris said that her question regarding the difference between the Schedule of Municipal District Works Plan and the Operations Department Workforce Plan has not yet been replied to.

Mr. C O'Sullivan clarified that the Municipal District Works Plan is not a workforce plan, it is a repair and maintenance plan and is not linked to a workforce plan. Monthly meetings are held with staff representatives through Partnership. Following the adoption of the plans by the members, discussions will be held with union representatives to agree on how the works will be delivered throughout the county. A meeting with the union representatives will take place on 19th April, 2016.

Mr. O'Sullivan reiterated that the grant aid available determines the works that will be carried out and funding has decreased considerably over the past 8 years.

Housing

Ms. B Conway said that the Tenants Handbook which outlines the responsibilities of the tenant and Kerry County Council as the landlord has been revised and updated following the amalgamation with the town councils to ensure a uniform approach for the future.

She said that the turnaround of vacant properties involves the repair and the letting process. A comprehensive review has been carried out and the process has been streamlined. The amount of furniture and fittings being removed is minimised to reduce costs. The level of refusals being received is very disappointing. Less than 200 responses were received to 945 letters offering accommodation in Shanakill, Tralee. An assessment of housing need is currently being carried out on a phased basis.

With regard to the cost of repairs being carried out prior to the re-allocation of vacant properties, she said that she is satisfied that not many properties cost in excess of " 10,000. While vandalism of properties is not a problem, the amount of refuse left in vacant houses is an issue. In the case of the transfer of a tenant from one property to another, the Housing Department insists that the houses are cleaned and all refuse removed before the transfer takes place.

Ms. Conway said that the outsourcing of social housing to private landlords is Government policy. She said that she is conscious of the number of people who are experiencing difficulties and are liaising with the homeless service and they are a priority for the Housing Department.

Cllr. T Ferris said that she was speaking on behalf of neighbours, friends and constituents. There are 5,000 applicants on the Council's housing list at present and people are desperate for housing. In an interview with the media the Director of Housing had indicated that only 14% of the applicants who had been contacted had

replied. The letters were received on 22nd March and the applicants were asked to reply by 25th March which was Good Friday and the offices were closed. Many had not received the letters on 22nd March. She felt that this is demonising the applicants concerned and Kerry County Council should be supporting people who are in the unfortunate position of not being able to house themselves. If people are refusing offers of houses it is connected to the manner in which this Local Authority deals with their applications. The applicants are delighted with the vast majority of offers made.

Ms. B Conway reiterated that 900 letters issued to applicants and less than 200 responses had been received regarding the vacant houses in Shanakill.. She said that Shanakill housing estate was one of the council's finest housing estates. The re-letting of the vacant properties had concluded very successfully. The letting of all houses is primarily a time based system.

The 14% response rate referred to by Cllr Ferris was for the Housing Need assessment-not the Shanakill properties. It was not the intention of the Housing Department to demonise any applicant and she was very anxious that the applicants who had not responded to the Housing Needs letters contact the Council as quickly as possible in order to confirm their housing need.

Cllr. T Ferris said that a time based system will not work as it does not make sense to offer a house in Ardfert to a person from Tralee who may not have any transport.

Ms. B Conway said applicants can change/extend their areas of choice if necessary. Offers are made based on the applicants's area(s) of choice as selected by themselves. However, all refusals are carefully considered to ascertain if they are reasonable/unreasonable.

Cllr. T Ferris said that there is not a high incidence of refusals of properties and asked how many of the letters were sent to the applicants concerned on 21st March, 2016.

Ms. B Conway said that she would write again to the applicants who have not responded to the letter as she was very anxious to make contact with them in order to ascertain their housing need.

Cllr. T Ferris said that some applicants may have not received the letters due to a change of address.

Ms Conway confirmed that it was the responsibility of applicants to keep the Housing Department updated with a change of address or circumstance.

Road Repairs

Mr. D Doyle said that the durapatcher is generally used for carrying out repairs to roads in rural areas and tarmacadam is used in urban areas.

Cllr. T Ferris asked how often the durapatcher is used.

Mr. C O'Sullivan said that the Council has 5 machines and 4 of them are regularly used. Some of the machines are quite old and are being reviewed in terms of cost efficiency.

Cllr. T Ferris said that the durapatchers owned by Kerry County Council were purchased at the same time as Limerick County Council purchased theirs and they are

used on the roads in Limerick on a regular basis. It is easy to see the difference between repairs that are done with premix and the repairs carried out with a durapatcher.

Cllr. P McCarthy said that road repairs carried out with a durapatcher are very effective. If the Council owns 5 machines, a machine should be assigned each Municipal District and the fifth should be used as a backup.

Footpaths on Rock Street

Cllr. J Finucane said that there are several different types of surface on the footpaths in Rock St and PROPOSED that one standard of paving would be used.

Cllr. P McCarthy PROPOSED that a letter on behalf of the members of the Municipal District of Tralee would issue to the Department of Transport to request specific funding for be made available for Local Improvement Schemes. He also PROPOSED that this matter be raised at a meeting of the full Council.

Funding for street cleaning in Tralee

Cllr. T O'Brien said that he was concerned about the reduction in funding for street cleaning in Tralee. Volunteers do a huge amount of work but if funding is reduced the volunteers will feel they are being used. It is very important that Tralee retains its Gold Medal status in the Tidy Towns Competition.

Cllr. J Finucane agreed with Cllr. O'Brien and said that reducing the funding would send out the wrong signal to volunteers.

Mr. C O'Sullivan said that the cost for the service was based on the out turn cost last year and the same level of service will be provided in 2016 as last year. Approximately " 15,000 - " 16,000 less is allocated to street cleaning and this funding is to be spent on green areas. He said that if the members so wished they could increase the street cleaning budget and reduce the budget for green areas accordingly.

Cllr. T O'Brien PROPOSED that the budget for street cleaning in Tralee for 2016 be maintained at the same level as 2015.

Cllr. P McCarthy seconded THE PROPOSAL

Cathaoirleach T McEllistrim PROPOSED that we the members of the Municipal District of Tralee hereby resolve to adopt for 2016 the Schedule of Municipal District Works Plan for the Tralee Municipal District, **as amended**, having regard to the provisions under Section 58 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 and guidelines issued by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government (Circular LG 27/2014)+

Cllr. P McCarthy SECONDED the proposal.

A vote was taken which resulted as follows:

For: Cllrs. P Daly, T Ferris, J Finucane, N Foley, S Locke, P McCarthy, T O'Brien, G Spring, T McEllistrim **(9)**

Against : None (0)

Absent: None (0)

Not Voting: None (0)

Mr. B Reidy declared the proposal CARRIED.

Best wishes to Jean Foley

Cathaoirleach T McEllistrim said that Jean Foley Tralee Municipal District Officer will be moving to take up a position in Corporate Support on 11th April, 2016. On behalf of all the members he thanked Jean for her help and co-operation and wished her well for the future.

The meeting concluded at 12.30pm.

Beth Reidy
Meetings Administrator

**Mayor of the Municipal
District of Tralee**