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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF KENMARE TO CONSIDER AND ADOPT A DRAFT BUDGETARY PLAN FOR THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF KENMARE FOR 2020, HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, COUNTY BUILDINGS, 25TH OCTOBER, 2019.

MIONTUAIRISCÍ DE CHRUINNIÚ CHOMHALTAÍ CHEANTAR BARDASACH NEIDÍN CHUN DRÉACHT-BHUISÉAD A MHEAS, AGUS CHUN GLACADH LEIS, DO CHEANTAR BARDASACH NEIDÍN DO 2020, MAR A BHÍ I SEOMRA COMHAIRLE, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, 25U DEIREADH FOMHAR, 2019.

PRESENT/I LÁTHAIR

Councillors/Comhairleoirí

**Cllr P Connor-Scarteen
Cllr D McCarthy
Cllr. N Moriarty
Cllr. J Healy Rae
Cllr. M. Cahill
Cllr. J. F. Flynn**

In attendance/i láthair

Mr. M O'Donoghue	Delegated Executive for South and West Kerry MD
Ms. A McAllen	Head of Finance
Mr. P. Corkery	S.E.O. Finance
Ms. S Griffin	Municipal District Officer
Mr. J McCarthy	A.O Finance
Mr. P Teahan	S.E.E.
Ms. N O' Sullivan	S.E.O Community
Ms. C Fitzgerald	S.O

The meeting commenced at 10.45a.m.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. D. McCarthy took the Chair.

Ms. A. McAllen welcomed the members and thanked them for facilitating the meeting in Tralee. She proceeded to brief the members on the following document which was circulated to them in advance 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 (GMA) according to its own priorities.

As outlined in the Local Government (Financial and Audit Procedures) Regulations 2014, the Draft Budgetary Plan sets out how any General Municipal District Allocation allocated to the Municipal District will be spent. The GMA is defined under these regulations as 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 of 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 Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government (DPHLG) 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

The total allocation for the General Municipal Allocation for 2020 is €1.707m. The additional Municipal District has required a re-allocation of funding across the five Municipal Districts. As has been outlined in the recent Budget briefing and Local Property Tax meeting, this Council faces significant funding challenges, in terms of providing services to the people of Kerry and in securing matching funding from own-resources for critical projects which attract grant funding from central government.

Kerry County Council however, recognises the benefits of works carried out at Municipal District level which utilise GMA funds. As a result, it is committed to ensuring that GMA funding is directed towards projects which yield the highest possible return to each Municipal District.

As in previous years, Kerry County Council has been extremely proactive in making grant submissions through various channels, recognising that these funding streams help bring important projects to completion. Submissions have been made under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme, Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme, Designated Urban Grant Schemes and CLÁR.

In addition, specific projects have been targeted for funding under the Rural Regeneration & Development Fund (RRDF). One such project for which a submission has been made is the Cahirciveen Carnegie Community Hub, which will see the Carnegie Building, Cahersiveen being

brought back into use as a Community Hub where a diverse range of services will be provided to the town and rural hinterland.

Another application made in 2019 under RRDF is the Kerry Coastal Amenity Project, which aims to address the immediate infrastructure needs of the Blue Flag Beaches which form part of the Wild Atlantic Way in Kerry. Included are beaches in the Kenmare Municipal District (Rossbeigh, Kells, White Strand, Ballinskelligs and Derrynane), as well as the neighbouring towns and villages of Killorglin, Glenbeigh, Cahirciveen, Portmagee, Knightstown, Waterville, Sneem, Kenmare and Castlecove.

As outlined above these applications, if successful, will require funding from Kerry County Council's own resources, funding which will be delivered from the Strategic Development Fund of the Community Support Fund.

The nature of these projects and grant funding conditions often require a multi-annual allocation. However, the members will be aware that where grant applications have been successful, the multiplier effect of the own resource element has been significant and has resulted in strategic projects being undertaken, projects which might otherwise have not proceeded.

General Municipal Allocation- Kenmare Municipal District

The General Municipal Allocation for Kenmare Municipal District for 2020 is proposed:

Community Support Fund Kenmare MD	Amount of Funding	Potential Yield
Strategic Development Fund (RRDF, Town & Village Renewal, LEADER, Outdoor Recreation)	€53,000	€212,000
Community Support /Community Initiatives	€47,509	
Municipal District Development Fund	€100,509	
Councillor Specific Municipal District Operations Fund	€174,000	
Total General Municipal Allocation Kenmare MD	€274,509	
Overall Investment to Kenmare Municipal District	€486,509	

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

1) Councillor Specific Municipal District Operations Fund

The Councillor Specific Municipal District Operations Fund forms part of the Municipal District Allocation. For 2020, Councillors' allocations have been set at €29,000 per Council Member. In 2019, the Councillors Specific Municipal District Operations Funds were used to fund priority works and, in that context, a similar strategic approach is recommended for Budget 2020, and will be further discussed with the Members.

2) General Municipal Allocation - Strategic Development Fund

Grant Schemes	Project Description	Grant
Town & Village Renewal	Skellig CRI Project 2018 Scheme: Delivery of higher education, research and innovation in the form of a satellite university campus based in Caherciveen	€100,000
	Killorglin Chamber Alliance - Killorglin Town Centre Project- 2018 Scheme	€64,000
	Kenmare Tidy Towns/Kenmare Marketing & Events Group - Street Trading Development Project - Phase Two- 2018 Scheme	€76,000
Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme	Linking the Monks Trail with the Bolus Loop Walk	€5,600
	Strickeen	€103,798
	Extension of The Emlagh Loop Walk & Brochure for the Promotion of The Monks Trail.	€6,000
	Top of the Coom looped walk- maintenance & promotion	€1,600
	Promotion & Development of up to date mapboard inserts for the Kerry Way.	€19,600
Community Enhancement Scheme	11 Age Friendly & Community Enhancement Projects	€27,093
Clár	10 Clár Projects in Kenmare Municipal District	€192,376
	Killorglin Playground- Disability Extension	€31,500
Men's Shed Projects	4 Mens Sheds Project	€6,671
LEADER	Waterville Playground Extension	€45,000
Economic/Tourism	WIFI4EU -Funding for public Wi-Fi in Killorglin Town Centre	€30,000
	Mobile Observatory	€600,000
RRDF	Valentia Cable Station	€1,270,000
Total Grant		€2,579,238
Estimated Project Value		€3,281,888

The Community Support Fund (CSF) is entering its sixth 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 various national initiatives, including Rural Regeneration & Development Fund (RRDF), Town & Village Renewal Scheme (TVR), CLÁR (Measures 1-4), and the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme. The Community Support Fund has enabled Kerry County Council in part, to draw down grants to the value of **€2.58m** in the Kenmare Municipal District to fund in part these strategic projects.

A significant challenge facing this Council and the Local Community, given the current substantial shortfall, 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 2020 CSF for the Kenmare Municipal District, Kerry County Council has sought to maximise the opportunities provided by these alternative sources of funding and maintain the overall allocation to the Strategic Development Fund at a similar level to 2019, thereby optimising the multiplier effect of ring-fencing a portion of funding as matching funding for these National Grant schemes. The allocation reflects the changes to the Municipal District boundaries due to the addition of a fifth Municipal District.

An allocation of **€53,000** has been provided under the “**Strategic Development Fund**” subdivision of the CSF, which has the potential to yield at least €212,000 of additional critical investment into the Kenmare Municipal District.

A number of grant applications submitted by Kerry County Council during 2019 are currently under review by grant aiding bodies. These, if successful, will require own resource funding from the 2020 Municipal District Strategic Development Fund.

In addition to the RRDF application for the Cahirciveen Carnegie Hub, applications have also been made under the Town and Village Renewal Fund for a number of projects including renovation works to the Kenmare Courthouse, as well as funding for the ongoing work being carried out by Skellig CRI.

Further applications have been made for the development of a marketing plan for the Iveragh Peninsula and the creation of a multi-user trail on the Old Kenmare Road between Derrycunihy Church and Kenmare. Again, there will be a matched-funding element required from Council resources should these applications be successful.

During 2019 period to date, the following grant aided co-funded projects are being advanced and demonstrate the value of the multiplier effect of ringfenced strategic funding:

3) General Municipal District Allocation - Community Support/Community Initiatives

This element of the fund will support community initiatives in the Kenmare Municipal District in line with the CSF guidelines agreed with Members in 2018. The amount allocated to this area is €47,509 and reflects the changes to the Municipal District Boundaries due to the addition of a fifth Municipal District.

3. Conclusion

This Draft Budgetary Plan sets out the General Municipal Allocation for 2020 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 2020. 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 2020, 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 Kenmare Municipal District for 2020 of €274,509. 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 €486,509 to the Kenmare Municipal District Area.

Mise le meas,

Moira Murrell
Chief Executive

Cllr. P. Connor-Scarteen welcomed the budget and acknowledged the level of work involved in compiling the document. He welcomed the funding towards the various projects and asked that the Roads Department would consider changing the name of the Councillor Specific Municipal District Operation Fund back to County Councillor Allocation as the current name can be confusing. He also requested that the current allocation of €29,000 would be increased. He welcomed the equal distribution of funding amongst the Municipal District, despite the removal of the Dingle area, this is still a huge Municipal District. He welcomed the funding to the various community groups within the Kenmare Municipal District and thanked the Council for assisting them in the processing of their applications and stated that it is very satisfying to see these projects come to fruition. He welcomed the application to upgrade the amenity trail on the old Kenmare road from Derrycunihy Church to Kenmare. In conclusion he again acknowledged the work of the Finance Department and said that while the councillors would welcome an increase to the Budget Allocation, he acknowledged that the staff were doing their best to balance the budget.

Cllr. J. F. Flynn welcomed the report and thanked the staff of the Finance Department for compiling the document. He stated that the part-funding has brought some terrific projects into South Kerry and it is now that the benefits can be seen. He stated that unfortunately a number of community events throughout the MD are no longer taking place due to the cost of Insurance to facilitate them. Many of these events are held to fundraise for charities and subsequently the loss of these events will put extra pressure on the Health and Community services within this area. He particularly wished to thank Ms. S Griffin for her assistance to the community groups towards the completion of the funding applications. He referred to the re-surfacing works which have been carried out on roads in this Municipal District and stated that some sections of these roads have fallen back into disrepair after a number of years and asked that a funding scheme would be introduced where the area engineers would be able to surface the small sections of road which has been affected.

Cllr. J. Healy-Rae thanked Ms. A McAllen and her staff for compiling this budget. He wished to concur with the previous comments expressed regarding the CSMDOF and asked that it would be increased to €30,000. It is one of the few funding avenues where the councillor has discretion for carrying out works. He asked that a member of the council would speak with the landowner regarding the Creamery Carpark in Kenmare and asked for an update on the funding which was allocated to the Ceann Mheara site in Kenmare. In relation to Caherciveen town, he asked that the road and footpaths would be addressed as currently they are both in very poor condition and also that the flooding in the town would be addressed. He welcomed the allocation of funding for the playground in Killorglin but stated that the traffic problem in Killorglin town must be addressed. There are a number of businesses and factories in Killorglin and a traffic management plan needs to be completed. He asked that the Council would meet with the community in Sneem regarding the leasing of the Public Toilets as this can be very problematic during the summer months when 4/5 buses are stopped there. He stated that the public are willing to refurbish the facility.

Cllr. N. Moriarty welcomed the document and thanked Ms. A. McAllen and her staff for preparing the Budget Plan. She welcomed the many funding projects and referred in particular to the Skellig Croi which will have a huge input into redressing the population issue in this area. She welcomed the funding application submitted for the Carnegie building which will become a shared space. She stated that it is fantastic to see that there is joined up thinking from one budget to the next. She wished to concur with the comments expressed regarding Caherciveen town and asked that the matter would be raised with T.I.I., in conjunction with undergrounding the cables in the town. She welcomed the application for funding towards the Kerry Coastal Amenity project and stated that there is also a requirement for a public convenience in Caherdaniel which would require minimum funding.

Cllr. M. Cahill welcomed the budget and also referred to the CSMDOF allocation and stated that he could spend his allocation a number of times over. He asked that a specific budget would be introduced for flooding on private roads. He stated that the Ring of Kerry road is in a shocking condition and requested that a letter would issue to the T.I.I. requesting that a deputation from this MD would meet with them to discuss the allocation of additional funding for the road. He asked that the Council would consider the introduction of a Hop on / Hop off Bus service in the area and said that it has worked very well in other counties and believed that it would encourage more tourists into South Kerry. He asked that the Old Liebig road would be realigned as soon as possible. He referred to the construction of the South Kerry Greenway and said that he welcomed the recent adjournment to the Oral Hearing. He asked that the council would do all it could to get the project over the line and stated that many of the major objectors have withdrawn their objection.

Cllr. D. McCarthy welcomed the Budget Plan and thanked Ms. McAllen and her staff for compiling the document. He welcomed the funding to extend the playground in Killorglin and wished to thank everybody involved in the process of this application. He welcomed the funding to upgrade the

amenity trial on the old Kenmare road from Kenmare to Derrycunihy church and asked that a public amenity would be introduced at Derrycunihy Church where tourists/ walkers could use it as a changing facility. He wished to concur with the comments expressed regarding the N70 road in Caherciveen and the parking in Kenmare town.

Mr. M. O' Donoghue thanked the councillors for their positive comments and wished to acknowledge the work by Ms. A McAllen and the finance staff in compiling the Draft Budgetary plan. He also wished to thank Ms. N O' Sullivan and the staff of the Community Department and commended them on the ever-growing success of the Community Department and the Community Support Fund. He thanked Ms S. Griffin and Mr. P. Teahan and acknowledged that he was very fortunate to have them working in this MD. He referred to the CSMDOF of €29,000 and stated that the members have been very fortunate in this Municipal District that the funding hasn't been used to Co-fund projects, which has been the case in other MD's. In reference to three main towns in the Municipal District, he acknowledged that they each have their own specific demands and assured the members that they are a priority. In both Kenmare and Killorglin, he confirmed that the council is proactively trying to pursue all avenues for additional parking in the towns. He acknowledged that the visual appearance of Caherciveen is a concern. In reference to the funding allocated for the Ceann Mheara site, he confirmed that this funding was allocated specifically for this project. In reference to the members concerns regarding the increased cost of insurance to facilitate community events, Mr. M. O' Donoghue stated that these events are a key part of this community and undertook to write to the Minister for Community and Rural Affairs and the Minister for Health to express the members concerns regarding this matter.

Cllr. P. Connor-Scarteen PROPOSED that we the members of the Municipal District of Kenmare resolve to adopt the Draft Budgetary Plan for the Municipal District of Kenmare for 2020 as presented.

Cllr J. F. Flynn SECONDED the proposal.

A vote was taken which resulted as follows:

For: Cllrs. M. Cahill, P Connor-Scarteen, J. F. Flynn, J Healy-Rae, N Moriarty, D McCarthy

Against: (0)

Absent: (0)

Not Voting: (0)

The Cathaoirleach D. McCarthy declared the proposal to be carried.

The meeting concluded at 11.15a.m.

Cllr. D. McCarthy
Cathaoirleach of the
Municipal District of Kenmare

Ms. Joan McCarthy
Meetings Administrator