# Minutes of the Ennis Municipal District Budget Meeting

# held on Monday 9th November 2020, at 9:30am,

#  in the Council Chamber, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.

**Present:**

**Councillors:** A. Norton, M. Nestor, C. Colleran Molloy, J. Flynn, M. Howard, P. Murphy & P. Daly

**Officials:** Pat Dowling, Chief Executive, Carmel Kirby, Director of Services, Noeleen Fitzgerald, Head of Finance, Leonore O’Neill, Senior Executive Officer, Eamon O’Dea, Senior Executive Engineer, Trina Rynne, Financial Accountant, Niamh O’Connor, Administrative Officer and Gemma Culhane, Staff Officer.

*Cllr. P. Murphy welcomed everyone to the budget meeting of the Municipal District of Ennis and outlined the purpose of the budget meeting - to consider the proposed General Municipal Budget Allocation (GMA) for 2021 for the Municipal District of Ennis.*

*Pat Dowling, Chief Executive, highlighted the financial difficulties for Clare County Council this year arising from the Covid-19 pandemic and the loss of income to the Council from multiple sources. He stated that a number of areas were already reviewed in the context of the budget, including maximising the income from Local Property Tax, and exploring alternative means to raise income. He advised that Clare County Council have engaged with Senior Civil Servants within the Department and Members of the Oireachtas to outline the challenges facing the Local Authority Sector, and the unique difficulties facing Clare County Council, including the revaluation of ESB Moneypoint.*

*He advised that the intention is that the General Municipal Allocation budget for 2021 will remain at €1,273,000. Therefore, the proposed General Municipal Allocation for the Ennis Municipal District for 2021 would be €318,250.*

*The Elected Members welcomed the announcement and noted the impact that Covid-19 has had on Ennis both economically and socially. It was outlined that the GMA has the opportunity to support local community groups and charities who are struggling due to Covid-19. They also highlighted the importance of making local communities aware of the Community Support Scheme overseen by the Rural Directorate.*

*Members raised queries over the rates refund scheme for 2020. They also asked that serious consideration be given to the removal of the 100% refund on vacant properties.*

*In response to the recouping of Commercial Rates, Noeleen Fitzgerald, A/Head of Finance, advised that the Government’s July Stimulus package has now been extended to a 9 month waiver scheme. Finance have applied this credit to most businesses, except for a small number who were open and trading throughout the pandemic. She stated that under the restart grant and the stimulus package, Clare County Council will have paid out almost €15 million in physical grants to businesses within the county.*

*Pat Dowling, Chief Executive, reiterated that it was important to stress the significant uncertainty going forward in 2021 in a range of areas and therefore, it was vital to ensure the GMA remained a constant.*

*The GMA Budget for 2021 was proposed by Cllr. Johnny Flynn, seconded by Cllr. Clare Colleran Molloy. The meeting then concluded.*

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***Cllr. Paul Murphy Meetings Administrator Date***

***Mayor of Ennis***