

**Minutes of the Ennis Municipal District Budget Meeting
held on Thursday 9th November 2023, at 3:00pm,
in the Council Chamber, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.**

Present:

Councillors: P. Daly, J. Flynn, C. Colleran-Molloy, P. Murphy, M. Howard, A. Norton, T. O'Callaghan

Officials: Pat Dowling, Chief Executive, Carmel Kirby, Director of Service, Leonore O'Neill, Senior Executive Officer, Noeleen Fitzgerald, Head of Finance, Patrick Tiernan, A/Senior Executive Engineer, Niamh O'Connor, Administrative Officer and Lily McInerney, Staff Officer (minutes)

Cllr. Pat Daly opened the meeting, welcoming all Members, Chief Executive, Director of Finance and staff. He outlined the statutory basis for this budgetary meeting. He then invited the Director of Finance to brief the meeting.

Noeleen Fitzgerald, Director of Finance, addressed the meeting and outlined its purpose - to consider the proposed General Municipal Budget Allocation (GMA) for 2024 for the Municipal District of Ennis. A total of 5 meetings had been convened with the Corporate Policy Group towards the formulation of the draft budget.

- the Council budget meeting will take place on Thursday 30th November at 3:00pm, in advance of which a briefing to full Council will take place on 15th and 22nd November.
- The GMA allocation formed a key part of Budget 2024 deliberations, with the intention that GMA for 2024 will be increased by €364,000, from €1,008,000 in 2023, to €1,372,000 for 2024. The value is then split evenly between each elected member in the Municipal Districts. Thus, the Ennis M.D. allocation for 2024 is €343,000, subject to approval of full Council in November.

Noeleen outlined the main areas influencing the draft budget deliberations.

A positive for 2024 is the retention within Clare of the full Local Property Tax allocation of €11m a portion of which in previous years was used to assist other counties with a lower LPT income.

Chief Executive, Pat Dowling, addressed the meeting, outlining the current challenges being faced by the local authority in setting its budget for the next year. He highlighted the primary difficulty continues to be rising inflation, which renders the delivery of services more costly than in previous years. He continued that these are the constraints that the Council must adhere to in continuing to maintain services. He stated that it was imperative to maintain the GMA allowance of 2023 adding that it was very positive to be in a position to increase the 2024 allocation.

The adoption of the budget allocation for Ennis M.D. for 2024 was proposed by Cllr Pat Daly, seconded by Cllr. Clare Colleran-Molloy and agreed by all Members.

Mayor Pat Daly thanked the Chief Executive, Director of Finance and all Members.

The Meeting ended at 3:12pm.

Pat Daly MLC
Cllr. P. Daly
Mayor of Ennis

Niamh O'Connor
Meetings Administrator

05/12/23
Date