

**Minutes of Budget Meeting of the Killaloe Municipal District held on Wednesday, 31st
October, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. in the Board Room, Aras Chontae an Chlair.**

In attendance: Cllr. Joe Cooney
Cllr. Pat Hayes
Cllr. Michael Begley
Cllr. Pat Burke
Cllr. Tony O'Brien
Cllr. Alan O'Callaghan

Officials: Ms. Anne Haugh, Area Co-Ordinator
Mr. Kieran O'Donnell, Meetings Administrator
Ms. Caroline O'Connor, Management Accountant

Apologies: Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Pat Burke chaired the meeting.

Caroline O'Connor, Management Accountant advised the members that the purpose of the meeting was to consider the General Municipal Allocation, which is the discretionary funding being made available to municipal district members in the draft budgetary plan. She explained that the Local Government Reform Act 2014 provides that the municipal district members shall by resolution adopt the draft budgetary plan and that the Chief Executive shall take account of any budgetary plan adopted by the municipal district members. She referred to the letter from the Chief Executive dated 22nd October, 2018 which had been circulated with the Agenda advising the members that the total proposed General Municipal Allocation (G.M.A.) for 2019 was €182,800. This represented a reduction in allocation of €75,000 from the 2018 allocation.

Ms. O'Connor outlined in detail the steps that had been taken in order that a balanced draft budget could be presented to the members. Early drafts had shown a €2.3 million deficit and an increase in Local Property Tax had been sought. Based on the decision taken by the members not to increase the Local Property Tax, the figures had been re-examined and decreases in expenditure were sought across all directorates. The most recent figures were showing a deficit of €600k and the proposal now being put to the members was that all Municipal Districts were being asked to accept a €75k cut in their G.M.A. allocation and the remaining €300k would be found following a further review of expenditure in all other areas.

The members expressed their disappointment with the need to cut the G.M.A. allocation. They felt that this decision had arisen as the local authority were obliged to send Local Property Tax income back into a central fund to help fund other local authorities, some of whom were in a stronger financial position than Clare County Council. All the members agreed that this funding model needs to be re-examined at a national level.

Ms. O'Connor advised the members that although the Council had a substantial budget, there was very little discretionary expenditure in certain areas e.g. Payroll Costs and Loan Charges. There were a limited number of areas that could be examined to identify savings and all these areas directly impacted the provision of services at a local level e.g. housing and roads maintenance.

She also advised the members of the decision by Shannon Municipal District to accept the revised G.M.A. allocation at their budget meeting and the decision of West Clare Municipal District not to accept the proposed reduction. She outlined that the overall Draft Budget that will be presented to the members in the coming weeks would not be impacted by the decision of the West Clare Municipal District and that it would be the decision of the full membership of the Council to either accept or reject the entire Budget.

The members outlined some concern that projects previously approved under G.M.A. allocations had not been completed.

Anne Haugh, Director of Services advised that the Council were prepared to give a commitment that all outstanding works would be completed as early as possible in the New Year.

On the basis of a commitment that all outstanding works under previous G.M.A. allocations would be completed by the end of April 2019 and that this cut of G.M.A. would be for 1 year only, the following resolution was proposed by Cllr. M. Begley and seconded by Cllr. J. Cooney and adopted by the members:-

“That pursuant to Section 102 (4A) of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended by Section 58 (e) of the Local Government Reform Act 2014, the Draft Budgetary Plan 2019 dated the 22nd October, 2018 as presented by the Chief Executive is hereby adopted.”

The meeting then concluded.

Kieran O'Donnell
Meetings Administrator

1st November, 2018.