

**Minutes of the Shannon Municipal District Meeting to consider the
Draft Budgetary Plan held on
Friday 20th October, 2017 at 11.00am at the offices of the Municipal
District, Town Hall, Shannon, Co. Clare**

Present: Councillors Mike McKee (Cathaoirleach), Gerard Flynn, PJ Ryan.

Liam Conneally Director of Service, Eugene O'Shea Senior Executive Engineer, Caroline O'Connor Management Accountant, Deirdre Ryan Meeting Administrator.

Apologies: Councillors Cathal Crowe, John Crowe, Pat McMahon.

1. Consideration of the Draft Budget – General Municipal Allocation (GMA) for Shannon Municipal District

Cllr. Mike McKee opened the meeting and welcomed all present and thanked Caroline O'Connor for attending. He referred to the Chief Executive's correspondence outlining the proposals for General Municipal Allocation (GMA) funding for the district for 2018 in the sum of €264,100. He opened it up to the floor for proposals.

It was proposed to amend the method of allocation of the GMA for 2018 as follows:

- €120k in total to be set aside and to be divided equally amongst the six MD Members for discretionary funding. This funding would be spent on capital projects selected by the individual Member in consultation with the Senior Executive Engineer and all projects then agreed by the MD. This would enhance the Members autonomy in allocating the GMA. It was also proposed the MD might match the funding, in a partnership approach.
- €40k to be set aside for Community Grants for 2018 with the qualifying terms and conditions to be amended. Possibly look at a reduced number of projects with a more significant amount of funding.
- The balance of €104,100 to be allocated to projects as identified by the Senior Executive Engineer and his team.

Liam Conneally supported the Members proposals but advised that the terms and conditions of the Grant Scheme would need to be agreed at another meeting. He also advised that discretionary projects selection would be required to meet the standards of good governance and advised that the list of proposed projects be brought before the MD meeting for approval. At this stage he could not guarantee matched funding support from the MD.

Eugene O'Shea requested the Members identify their proposed capital projects as soon as possible in order to incorporate them in the Annual Plan of Works for the Municipal District.

He reiterated the Director's advice that he could not guarantee that he would have resources to support matched funding as requested by the Members.

The Members agreed to hold a special meeting in December to confirm the terms and conditions for the Community Grant Scheme 2018.

The GMA and allocations were proposed by Cllr Gerard Flynn and seconded by Cllr PJ Ryan and agreed by all.

AOB

1. LOW COST TRAFFIC CALMING PILOT SCHEMES 2017 - Pursuant to Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act 1994, Clare County Council proposes to install the following traffic calming measures at - L-3320, Bothar na Rinne, Shannon, Co Clare.

The Members welcomed this initiative and congratulated the Council for being selected under this new national pilot scheme. As this is a new approach to traffic calming with no ramps being used they recommended the MD staff consult with the residents in the area to advise them of the changes.

The proposed traffic calming measures were then proposed by Cllr Gerard Flynn and seconded by Cllr Mike McKee and agreed by all.

2. Cllr Mike McKee commended the Council for their work with regard to the recent storm Ophelia. He also paid tribute to the Gardai, Emergency Services, Order of Malta. However he was not satisfied with the response in assisting the homeless in Ennis during the storm as he felt it was a last minute response.

Cllr. PJ Ryan commended the Roads and Water Services Staff in the District for clearing all the debris left after the storm, in record time. He said the use of the council emergency contact number gave great comfort to the public.

Cllr Gerard Flynn commended the establishment of the Emergency Group in the command centre at Council HQ but questioned why Emergency Response Personnel were not deployed earlier to deal with issues on the ground.

Liam Conneally thanked the Members for their response. He explained that there was continuous communication between the command centre at Council HQ, the key emergency personnel and all other relevant agencies. Emergency staff were ready to be deployed from noon Monday at all stations and the evolving situation was being closely monitored.

He also advised that the rough sleepers in Ennis were assisted by St. Vincent de Paul at Laurel Lodge and anyone that wished to be accommodated during the storm was however a number of rough sleepers made the decision not to take up this offer. He also spoke about the work of the new Homeless Action Team and a new transitional family-hub that is in the process of being acquired in Ennis. He said addressing the homeless issue is a priority for the Social Development Directorate and Clare County Council.

3. The Members requested Irish Water be advised to ensure they have adequate back-up power at the District's Water and Waste Water Treatment Plants in the event of another emergency where there may be a power cut.
4. The Members requested the Council's Corporate Services Department is written to requesting an urgent assessment of the integrity of the flood banks in Shannon.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Cathaoirleach

14th November 2017

Meetings Administrator

14th November 2017