

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE

MINUTES OF DRAFT BUDGETARY PLAN MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES, BALLINASLOE ON WEDNESDAY, 16th OCTOBER 2024 AT 1.30 p.m.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. M. Connolly

I LATHAIR FREISIN:

Baill: Cllrs. D. Connolly, D. Geraghty, A. Harney, P. Keaveney, E. Parsons

Oifigigh: Mr. J. Carroll Director of Service, Ms. K. O'Connor Head of Finance, Ms. A. Fenton Financial Accountant, Mr. M. McGovern Management Accountant, Ms. R. Lowe Senior Engineer, Mr. D. Troy Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. P. McLynn, Executive Engineer, Ms. A. Monaghan Staff Officer, Ms. M. McGann Meetings Administrator.

TO CONSIDER AND ADOPT (WITH OR WITHOUT AMENDMENT) UNDER SECTION 58 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM ACT 2014 A DRAFT BUDGETARY PLAN FOR THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE, AS PREPARED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

MDB24051

Ms. O'Connor presented the Draft Budgetary Plan for the Ballinasloe Municipal District for 2025. Ms. O'Connor advised that the 15% LPT increase amounts to €2,370,973, of which one third is to be split amongst the 39 members of Galway County Council and then multiplied by number of members in each Municipal District. Ms. O'Connor advised that the figure for the Ballinasloe Municipal District is indicated under sub service D0905 – Economic Development and Promotion. The members thanked Ms. O'Connor and the Finance Team for their presentation.

In response to Cllr. Connolly, Ms. O'Connor advised that it was intended that the LPT money would be allocated towards big capital projects or to go towards match funding for big projects. In response to Cllr. Geraghty, Ms. O'Connor advised that it would be necessary for the Municipal District as a group to agree on a list of projects for the Ballinasloe Municipal District and to bring this agreed list forward to the Plenary Meeting for approval. In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Ms. O'Connor advised that discussions had taken place about how the LPT money would be allocated and this involved negotiations, exchanges of idea and how best to utilize the money for the benefit of the public. Ms. O'Connor advised that these discussions were then put into effect following the decision taken at the Council Meeting held on the 23rd of September 2024 to increase the LPT by 15% for the next five years. In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Ms. O'Connor confirmed that the Notice of Motion monies allocated to each member was separate to the LPT monies and that the procedures in place for Notice of Motion monies was to be retained. Ms. O'Carroll confirmed to all the

members that it was up to each individual Municipal District to decide on their own priorities, and she advised that it was intended that each Municipal District would use the funding to go towards tangible projects. Cllr. M. Connolly stated that historically all the members of Ballinasloe Municipal District have worked together for the benefit of the district, and he was sure that this would continue to be the case with regard the choosing of appropriate projects. Cllr. Geraghty asked for further clarity on funding provided by the equalization fund. Cllr. Geraghty and D. Connolly expressed disappointment with road funding and stated that road projects in 2024 had to be cut short due to cost increases and that this could happen again in 2025. In response to Cllr. Parsons, Ms. O'Connor advised that the format used by the Finance Department in the preparation of the Draft Budgetary Plan is based on Department Circulars on the preparation of the General Municipal Allocation (GMA's) for MD's and it only provided for specific sub services codes and expenditure figures only. In response to Cllr. Parsons and Geraghty, Ms. O'Connor advised that she would request income and expenditure figures for car parking in Ballinasloe, to be provided to the members. In response to Cllr. Parsons in relation to Creagh Cemetery, Ms. O'Connor advised that capital expenditure is not provided for in the Draft Budgetary Plan. In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Ms. O'Connor advised that there will be an overall increase in housing Maintenance in 2025. In response to Cllr. Parsons, Ms. O'Connor advised that the Sub Service for Heritage Operations does not include for Aughrim Interpretive Centre.

Ms. Lowe provided an update on funding for the Roads sub service codes. In response to Cllrs. D. Connolly and Keaveney, Ms. Lowe advised that repairs to footpaths can be carried out under general maintenance funding. In response to Cllr. Keaveney, Ms. Lowe advised that the policy in place for provision of footpaths within speed limits zones was taken for safety reasons. Ms. Lowe advised that she would raise the issue of footpath funding with the NTA. Cllr. Harney stated that increasing funding on footpaths would be beneficial to Galway County Council as the number of insurance claims with regard falls on footpaths would reduce.

It was proposed by Cllr. Keaveney, seconded by Cllr. Harney that the Draft Budgetary Plan for the Municipal District of Ballinasloe as prepared under the direction of the Chief Executive be adopted. This was not agreed.

A roll call vote taken on the proposal resulted as follows:

For: Cllrs. M. Connolly, P. Keaveney, E. Parsons, A. Harney (4)

Against: Cllrs. D. Connolly, D. Geraghty (2)

The Draft Budgetary Plan for the Municipal District of Ballinasloe was adopted.

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN

Signed: Michael Connolly

Dated: 20/11/2024