

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Ceantar Bardasach Chonamara

Municipal District of Conamara

**Minutes of the Municipal District of Conamara Budget Meeting held on Friday
18th October, 2024 at 10.00am in the Council Chamber.**

I LATHAIR:

CATHAORILEACH: Cllr. T. Welby

BAILL: Comh T. Ó Curraion, Comh Mac An Iomaire, Cllr.
S. Walsh, Cllr. E. Mannion, Cllr. G. King.
Cllr M. Leainde, Cllr. Thomas

OIFIGH: U. Finn, DOS, I. Martyn, A.O. Meetings
Administrator, Katie OConnor, HOF, Áine Fenton,
M. Duddy

R. Lowe, T. Prendergast. N. O'Conaola, S. Casey
N. Rabbitte

Apologies: Cllr. M. Lee

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 Connemara as prepared under the direction of the Chief Executive.

Cllr. King proposed a vote of sympathy to Cllr. Lee on the passing of his brother-in law Pat Gavin which was seconded by Comh Mac An Iomaire and agreed by the members.

Cllr. Mannion wished to extend her sympathies to the family of Cllr. John Naughton.

Cllr. Welby, Cathaoirleach welcomed Katie O Connor, Head of Finance.

Ms. O'Connor advised the members of the draft budget plan for the Connemara Municipal District for 2025 showing an indicative expenditure of €9,787,877 which is an increase on the 2024 expenditure. Advising that for budget 2025 some increased expenditure in roads and housing maintenance expenditure was anticipated.

Ms. O'Connor outlined that in June 2024, the Minister advised that the 2025 Local Property Tax allocation for Galway County was 20,309,071 pending any decision to locally vary the basic rate). In preparing the draft budgetary plan, it was noted that account has been taken of the decision taken at the Council Meeting held on 23rd September 2024 to increase the local property tax rate by 15% for five years. This will result in an increase in LPT of 2,370,963 for 2025.

Included in the General Municipal Allocation is a proportion of the local property tax allocation to each Municipal District determined by the number of councillors in each MD which has been set aside for projects such as Local Authority Infrastructure Projects. This is a great opportunity for each MD to focus on larger scale projects.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. King **SECONDED** by Comh Mac An Iomaire the members agreed to adopt the Budgetary Plan 2025 for the Municipal District of Connemara as prepared under the direction of the Chief Executive.

Cllr. Mannion expressed concern regarding the Housing Maintenance in Clifden and paid parking and cost of machines.

Comh. Mac An Iomaire highlighted the requirement for maintenance of graveyards in Connemara South.

Comh. Ó Curraoin expressed concern regarding funding for Hedge Trimming.

He expressed concern that the side roads were very dangerous due to overgrown hedges.

Cllr. Welby agreed that the hedge-cutting was a serious issue and county wide policy was necessary.

Ms. O'Connor replied that Housing Maintenance Budget has not changed for the Connemara Area in the coming year.

She advised that it is only possible to see the expenditure from the Paid Parking and cost of machine etc. and not the small net profit.

The increased LPT on the 23rd Sept it was agreed that 15% close to a third will go to the MD's. The additional €800,000 to be split between the MDs, with €185,000 going to Connemara.

Any remaining funds could go to the capital account if the money is not spent within the year.

Only one operating Graveyard in Carna, funds needed for this.

Ms. Lowe informed that funding for hedge cutting comes from the National Roads Maintenance, RRM, LRM and general maintenance code and there was no specific fund for Hedge cutting.

A large amount of funding comes out of the general maintenance code for emergency work. However, she appreciated that there was more to be done regarding Hedge Cutting.

Cllr. Mannion mentioned that grants for Hedge Cutting may be the solution to the problem. Clare and Cork County Councils have a pilot scheme where grants are given to landowners and asked it might be considered.

Cllr. King enquired if the TII have responsibility to fund the N59 and was this included in the national routes.

Comh. Mac An Iomaire expressed his concern with the condition of the overgrowth of hedges on the local roads such as Rossaveal, Carraroe, Casla and Leitir Mór.

Cllr. Welby thanked Ms. O'Connor, Head of Finance for the draft budget presentation and welcomed the increased funding.

Signed: h Welby
Date: 8/11/2024

