

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

Ceantar Bardasach Bhaile Átha an Rí

Municipal District of Athenry

**Minutes of the Budget Meeting of the Municipal District of Athenry held in
Aras an Chontae, on Tuesday 8th November, 2022**

I LATHAIR:

BAILL: Cllr. L. Carroll (Cathaoirleach)
Cllr. J. Cuddy,
Cllr. S. Herterich Quinn
Cllr. A. Dolan
Cllr G. Cronnelly
Cllr. D. Collins
Cllr. J. Charity

OIFIGIGH: Ms A. Fenton, A/ Head of Finance
Mr D. Pender A. DoS
Mr A. Farrell, A/DoS
Ms Rachel Lowe, Senior Engineer,
Mr. S. Whelan, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. P. Gavin, Executive Engineer
Ms. M. Jordan, Administrative Officer
Ms. G. Cooley, Asst. Staff Officer

To consider & adopt (with or without amendment) under Section 58 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 a Draft Budgetary Plan for the Municipal District of Athenry as prepared under the direction of the Chief Executive.

ADM 138

The Cathaoirleach welcomed MS Fenton A/Head of Finance to the meeting.

Ms Fenton explained that the budget for the Athenry MD for 2023 was €3.8m which is a decrease of €74,000 on last years budget. She said that the Local Property Tax allocation for 2023 is €14,517,890 and the decision of the Council not to vary this rate has been taken into account in preparing the budgets. This Municipal District meeting covers the second stage in the budgetary process whereby consideration of the draft MD budgetary Plan is brought to each MD district. Ms Fenton also explained that there is currently a €5m shortfall in the overall budget for the Council.

The Members expressed their dissatisfaction with the budget and made the following comments

- The funding position of Galway County Council has not been addressed as was promised by Government last year. The Council increased rates in last year's budget on the basis that the funding shortfall would be addressed. Galway County is one of the busiest counties but is third from the bottom in the per capita funding.
- It was acknowledged that the Chief Executive and the Members have been in contact with the Department in relation to the funding shortfall.
- There is not enough funding to maintain the busy network of roads in the Athenry/Oranmore area and these roads contain the highest volume of traffic in the county. There is also a high rate of property tax paid in the area.

The shortfall in funding was acknowledged by the Head of Finance and the Executive.

Mr Pender and Ms Lowe outlined applications made for extra funding for the Athenry MD area for roads, CIS Schemes and bridges.


In response to a query on the LPT Ms Fenton said that Galway County Council do not receive the breakdown per MD area.

In response to a query on the Parks and pitches allocation, Ms Fenton clarified that the amount in last years budget for Athenry MD related to Renville Park which is in the Loughrea MD. This has been rectified in the Budgetary plan this year.

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr Charity, SECONDED by Cllr Cronnelly it was agreed to reject the Draft Budgetary Plan for the Municipal District of Athenry as prepared under the direction of the Chief Executive. This was unanimously agreed.

CRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN

Approved by:


CATHAOIRLEACH

Date: 10/1/2023