

**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, 14th October, 2025.**

I LATHAIR:

BAILL: Cllr. C. Keane (Cathaoirleach)
Cllr. T. Grealish
Cllr. S. Broderick,
Cllr D. Collins,
Cllr. P. Feeney

OIFIGIGH: Mr. L. Hanrahan, DoS
Ms. K. O'Connor, HoF,
Ms. A. Fenton, Management Accountant.
Mr. M. McGovern, Financial Accountant.
Mr T. Prendergast, Senior Engineer.
Ms. M. Jordan, A.O.

LEITHSCÉALTA: Cllr. J. Charity
Cllr. M. McNamara

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 Athenry as prepared under the direction of the Chief Executive. AMD 73

The Cathaoirleach welcomed everyone to the budget meeting for the Athenry MD.

Ms. O'Connor presented the budget as follows:

She said that in accordance with Section 58 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014, she advised the members of the draft budgetary plan for the Athenry Municipal District (MD) for 2025 showing an indicative expenditure of €5,133,246 which is an increase on the updated 2025 expenditure. For budget 2026 she said that she anticipated some

increased expenditure in roads and housing maintenance expenditure and specific projects as outlined by the MDs. Galway County Council were advised in July 2025 that the 2026 Local Property Tax allocation is €21,609,071 (pending any decision to locally vary the basic rate). In preparing the draft budgetary plan the decision taken at the Council Meeting held on 23 September 2024 to increase the local property tax rate by 15% for five years has been taken into account. This will result in an increase in the LPT from €22,680,034 to €24,190,909.

Ms O'Connor outlined the stages of the budget process as follows:

- (1) Decision on the Local Property Tax
- (2) Consideration of the draft Municipal District Budgetary Plan
- (3) Consideration of the Draft overall Budget for Galway County Council

Ms O'Connor highlighted that the overall process is made more difficult as the full budgetary information is not available when undertaking the first two steps. The information available in mid-September in advance of the LPT decision indicated a deficit gap between Income and Expenditure of €11m but this is without the benefit of detailed budget requirements from each Business Unit and without certainty on a range of issues that are known will change, or are likely to change, but where the quantum has not yet been determined. There are a number of significant items that have not yet been determined including whether or at what level there will be Government financial support for Local Authorities in 2026, what level of provision needs to be made for bad debts and increased appeals in the rates on commercial properties due to the Revaluation completed in 2023, the impact on the funding gap relating to the retained fire fighters, the impact on the stranded costs relating to Uisce Eireann and the what impact will be felt in other areas of income that may reduce as a result of any decrease in economic activity or increase in the rate of unemployment. She said that as in prior years, we are still finalising the Councils Budget for 2026 and the estimation of expenditure and income are as accurate as they can be at this point in the process. As we develop the programme-by-programme expenditure and income the figures will inevitably change, and we need to work on increasing income to balance the present budget. The draft budgetary plan is intended to set out how General Municipal Allocation (GMA) allocated to the municipal district will be spent. The General Municipal Allocation is defined as the discretionary funding which is made available to the municipal members for allocation in the draft plan. Included in the GMA is a proportion of the local property tax allocation to each MD, determined by the number of councillors in each MD, which has been set aside for projects such as Local Authority Infrastructure Projects, voted by the elected members or Community Capital Projects, based on a formal expression of interest competition and again voted on by the elected members of the MD and to be noted at Plenary. This is a great opportunity for each MD to focus on larger scale projects and use these additional finances as a leverage to raise match funding for projects of scale.

The legislative requirement is that following consideration of the draft budgetary plan the municipal district members shall by resolution adopt the draft budgetary plan with or without amendment. The Chief Executive shall take account of any budgetary plan

adopted but if the members do not adopt a budgetary plan the Chief Executive may take account of the draft budgetary plan as presented.

Ms. O'Connor requested the members to consider by resolution the draft budgetary plan to adopt with or without amendment.

The Members made the following comments:

- The Members welcomed the increase of €400,000 on last year's budget.
- The Athenry MD has the largest volume of traffic but only receives €1.7m from the total budget for €17.2m.
- In Code E0802 there is a reduction in litter control initiative

Ms O'Connor responded to queries raised as follows:

- The roads funding code B0301 is allocated on roads as a percentage of regional road per kilometre.
- The figure in the draft budgetary plan is an estimate and funding will be available at a future date under the roads programme.
- The figure for litter control was divided between the MDs

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Collins **SECONDED** by Cllr. Broderick the members agreed to adopt without amendments, 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.

The next meeting of the Athenry MD will take place on Tuesday 11th November 2025,

CRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN

Approved by:


CATHAOIRLEACH

Date: 11/11/2025

