

# COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

## GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

### Ceantar Bardasach Bhaile Átha an Ri

### MUNICIPAL District of Athenry

Meeting of the Budget Meeting of the Municipal District of Athenry , held in the Council Chamber, Aras an Chontae, on Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2020 at 10am.

#### I LATHAIR:

BAILL: Cllr. D. Collins  
Cllr. J. Charity  
Cllr. L. Carroll  
Cllr. A. Dolan  
Cllr. S. Herterich Quinn.

Apologies; Cllr G. Cronnelly.

OIFIGIGH: Mr G. Mullarkey, Director of Service  
Mr D. Mitchell, Senior Engineer,  
Ms M Jordan, Administrative Officer  
Ms M. Earls, Clerical Officer

Cllr David Collins chaired the meeting and welcomed the elected members, officials and the Media to the Budget Meeting 2020.

#### **Item No 1: 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**

Mr Mullarkey gave a summary of the budgetary position. He explained that the Council incurred expenditure across many services. These services were part funded by way of Government Grants and income from goods and services. This left a balance referred to as net expenditure which had to be funded. He then outlined that the only two sources of funding available to the Council were Local Property Tax (LPT) and Commercial Rates. He noted that at the September meeting the Councillors had elected not to vary the LPT, in addition he outlined that the CPG had requested that the draft budget should not reflect an increase in Commercial Rates. He noted that at this point in time there was no indication of any additional funding being made available from Central Government. He also noted that the report presented to the September meeting had indicated that there was an estimated excess of expenditure over the projected income. Given that the LPT and Commercial rates were not being increased he stated that in order to produce a balanced budget, reductions in expenditure would be required. He explained that the draft budget before the members

reflected that approach. He also explained that the Roads Grants for budget 2021 would reflect the actual allocations received in 2020 and that this represents an increase over the amounts budgeted for in 2020. The actual roads grants for 2021 would be notified in February 2021 and would be reflected in the schedule of municipal district works and road programme for 2021.

Mr Mullarkey also confirmed that on the advice of the Corporate Policy Group (CPG) the proposed additional funding of €1 Million had not been reflected as part of the MD budgets and would be considered further by the CPG

Mr Mullarkey also confirmed that the budget heading F0301, Parks Pitches and open spaces referred to the maintenance of Renville Park and should have been reflected in the Loughrea MD with the change in boundaries.

The Chairman, Cllr Collins, opened the discussion to the floor.

In general Councillors expressed satisfaction at the increase in roads funding but expressed disappointment at the reduction in the discretionary headings such as maintenance of housing units, economic development and the area of community grants.

Mr. Mullarkey advised that to produce a balanced budget, cuts needed to be made in the areas of discretionary expenditure as noted. He stated that if additional funding was to be made available then these would be the first areas where funding would be restored.

Cllr Dolan proposed to transfer an amount of €7,500 from Service E0601 to service F0401 and it was seconded by Cllr Herterich Quinn.

As all of the Members did not agree with the proposed amendment of Cllr. Dolan and Herterich Quinn, the Cathaoirleach called for a vote on the proposal.

The Result of the Vote was as follows:

For: Cllrs. Dolan, Herterich Quinn (2 no.)

Against: Cllr. Charity, Carroll, Collins ( 3 no.)

Cllr Charity proposed an amount of €7,310 be transferred from service A0101 to service F0401 and the proposal was seconded by Cllr Carroll.

As all of the Members did not agree with the proposed amendment of Cllr. Charity and Cllr Carroll, the Cathaoirleach called for a vote on the proposal.

The Result of the Vote was as follows:

For: Cllr. Charity, Carroll, Collins ( 3 no.)

Against: Cllrs. Dolan, Herterich Quinn (2 no.)

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr Collins, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Carroll, the Members **AGREED** to adopt the Budgetary Plan for the Municipal District of Athenry, with the following amendment, to transfer an amount of €7,500 from Service A0101 to service F0401, as prepared under the direction of the Chief Executive.

Chairman Collins thanked everybody for their work and contribution to the meeting.

**CRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN**

**Approved by:**

*Gáel Connoll*  
**CATHAOIRLEACH**  
Date: 2/3/21

