

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE

MINUTES OF DRAFT BUDGETARY PLAN MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMER, CIVIC OFFICES, BALLINASLOE ON WEDNESDAY, 8th NOVEMBER 2023 AT 2.00 p.m.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. D. Geraghty

I LATHAIR FREISIN:

Baill: Cllrs. D. Connolly, M. Connolly, P. Keaveney and E. Parsons

Oifigh: Mr. L. Hanrahan Director of Service, Ms. K. O'Connor Head of Finance, Ms. A. Fenton, Financial Accountant, Ms. R. Lowe Senior Engineer, Mr. D. Troy Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. P. McLynn, Executive Engineer, Ms. A. Monaghan Staff Officer, Ms. A. Spelman 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

MDB23048

Ms. O'Connor presented the Draft Budgetary Plan for the Ballinasloe Municipal District for 2024.

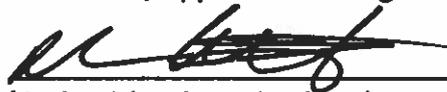
Cllr. Parsons asked for clarification as to whether an increase would be provided for maintenance of Creagh Graveyard following the extension of the Graveyard. Cllr. Parsons asked whether additional monies would be provided for the taking in charge of housing estates. Cllr. Parsons asked if additional monies would be provided for services following the increase of population due to Ukrainian Response initiatives. Cllr. Parsons expressed disappointment that there were no discretionary monies for elected representatives such as a General Municipal Allowance. Cllr. D. Connolly asked how much additional work would be done with the extra €800,000 per Municipal District. Cllr. D. Connolly queried the reduction in funding provided for bridges. Cllr. D. Connolly asked whether the same level of service would be provided for Parks and Open Spaces in 2024. Cllr. P. Keaveney welcomed the additional €800,000 per MD. Cllr. Geraghty queried the funding available for Winter Maintenance and the need to salt link towns. Cllr. Geraghty asked whether the increase in population in Ballinasloe and other towns would put pressure on services. Cllr. Parsons asked whether sufficient monies were available for clean ups. Cllr. Parsons asked if funding was available for preparing Traffic Management Plans.

Mr. Hanrahan welcomed Ms. O'Connor to her news role and welcomed the additional €800,000 available to the Municipal District. Mr. Hanrahan advised that the Municipal District Budget forms only one part of the Budget and that there was significant expenditure outside of the MD Budget including staffing costs and funding from other sources including other Department Funding for specific housing projects, environmental projects. etc. With regard the Ukrainian Response, Mr. Hanrahan advised that funding was provided by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth direct to the Council and via grants to Local Community Groups. In response to Cllrs. Parson and Geraghty, Mr. Hanrahan advised that there were less Ukrainian and International Protection Applicants in the Ballinasloe Municipal District than the other Municipal Districts in the County. Mr. Hanrahan advised that additional staffing would be provided to the Municipal Districts and that additional ex Irish Water Staff would be redeployed locally. In response to Mr. Keaveney, Ms. Lowe advised that she revert with details on the proportion of which are Irish Water Staff now coming back into employment of Galway County Council. Ms. O'Connor advised that the budget brought before the members was in draft form until the members come to an agreement. She advised that there are unknowns with regard exactly how much money was to be received via government grants for roads as the Roads Grants are not announced formally until February 2024. In response to Cllr. Parsons, Ms. Fenton advised that the budget is allocated between Municipal Districts as set down in legislation. Cllr. M. Connolly stated that while the additional monies were welcome, the funding provided to Galway County Council via the equalization fund was not sufficient. Cllrs. Geraghty and D. Connolly welcomed the additional funding and the promise of extra outdoor staff to be provided.

It was proposed by Cllr. Keaveney, seconded by Cllr. Geraghty that the Draft Budgetary Plan for the Municipal District of Ballinasloe as prepared under the direction of the Chief Executive be adopted. This was agreed.

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN

Submitted, Approved and Signed



(Cathaoirleach to sign here)

13-12-2023

(Date)