

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE

MINUTES OF DRAFT BUDGETARY PLAN MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBER, ARAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL, GALWAY ON WEDNESDAY, 3rd November 2021 AT 2.00 p.m.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. D. Connolly

I LATHAIR FREISIN:

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

Oifigigh: Mr. L. Hanrahan, Director of Services; Mr. Ger Mullarkey, Head of Finance; Mr. D. Mitchell, Senior Engineer; Mr. M. McGovern, Management Accountant, Mr. Fergal Fahey, Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. P. McLynn, Assistant Engineer; Ms. A. Monaghan, Staff Officer; Ms. Maria Earls, Clerical Officer; Mr. Alan Woods, Clerical Officer; Mr. E. Moloney, Meetings Administrator.

Leithscéal : Cllr. T. Broderick

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 Ballinasloe, as prepared under the direction of the Chief Executive **MDB 21110**

Cllr. D. Connolly welcomed everyone to the meeting & invited Mr. Mullarkey to present the Budget.

Mr. Mullarkey outlined that there are two main sources of income, LPT and Commercial Rates & noted that the members voted not to vary the LPT for 2022. Further he said expenditure reductions are necessary as there is no indication of additional government support/funding forthcoming for 2022 and we have increasing demands on expenditure.

Mr. Mullarkey stated that a balanced budget will be reflected on 29th November 2021 and that he is currently working with the chief executive and the Executive Team to achieve that goal.

Cllr. M. Connolly spoke about the rising costs of materials and labour which is already a struggle for maintenance of the roads. He mentioned that in 2022 the amounts for works would be less and therefore it will be a worrying time with regards to what works will suffer as a result of this lack of funding. He also stated that Galway County Council is not getting its' fair share of funding in comparison to other counties.

Cllr. D. Geraghty also spoke about the lack of funding and rising costs. He stated that less works would be carried out on roads and other projects and that outdoor staff levels are under-resourced. He stated that an increase in the funding will be necessary. Cllr. Geraghty stated

that a strong message should be sent to the Government seeking more funds for Galway County Council.

Cllr. Dr. Parsons thanked the work of the Finance team who presented the Budget details, but she stated that she is not going to support this Budget. She stated that at a time when a new County Development Plan and Local Area Plan were being prepared there was a need for more funds so the objectives of those plans could be advanced and the budget as presented left no headroom and was empty and pointless exercise. She felt that presenting budgets of this type should be discontinued and proposed the following motion :

“I wish to put forward a proposal that the Ballinasloe M.D. does not in future get presented with a Draft Municipal Budget until such time as Galway County Council can present the Municipal Council of Ballinasloe with a General Municipal Allocation.”

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Geraghty.

Cllrs. D. Connolly, M. Connolly and P. Keaveney were not in favour of the motion but were also rejecting the budget as presented and made the point that more government funding support was urgently needed.

A vote was taken on the Cllr. Dr. Parson’s motion and it was defeated with Cllrs. D. Connolly, M. Connolly and P. Keaveney voting against the motion and Cllrs. Dr. Parsons and Geraghty voting in favour of the motion.

In voting against the motion the members felt that while the motion was understood and had merit, it was important that the budgetary figures be presented even if the process was flawed.

In response to points raised Mr. Mullarkey indicated that the budget process is ongoing with further meetings with the chief executive and executive team over the next two weeks. Mr. Mullarkey acknowledged the shortfall in funding from Central Government and that a long-term solution needs to be found. Mr. Mullarkey noted that funding for the Aughrim Heritage Centre is provided for under a different heading & will continue to be funded in next year’s budget.

Mr. Mitchell indicated that despite constraints every effort will be made to maintain current year’s levels of service across the roads division. He also confirmed that the Technical position appointment is with the Human Resources Department.

Mr. Hanrahan said that Staff resourcing will be discussed in detail with the human resources section including the levels of outdoor staffing. He went on to say that the Retro-fitting Housing programme in Ballinasloe will be unaffected by these Budgetary figures as it is separately state assisted. The expenditure in Sub-service A0101 is for routine call outs. Expenditure of long-term Void remediation is also funded directly by the relevant Department.

Cllr. M. Connolly stated that there was too much central control and felt that Local Government in general was being weakened and was very concerned that things like twinning which were valuable in the past were not now being funded

Cllr. D. Connolly stated that while he was not in favour of the motion, he did think it was important that budgetary figure would be presented to the Municipal District. He felt that

Municipal District and Galway County Council were being abandoned by Government and called on the Galway Oireachtas member to do more for funding in the County.

He stated that he was rejecting the budget and this was unanimously supported by the members present.

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIÚ ANSIN

Submitted, Approved and Signed



(Cathaoirleach to sign here)

8/12/2021

(Date)