

# COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

## Ceantar Bardasach Chonamara

## Municipal District of Conamara

**Minutes of the Municipal District of Conamara Budget Meeting held on Friday  
17<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 10.00am in the Council Chamber.**

### **I LATHAIR:**

**CATHAORILEACH:** Cllr. N. Thomas

**BAILL:** Comh T. Ó Curraion, Comh Mac An Iomaire, Cllr.  
S. Walsh, Cllr. A. Mc Kinstry, Comh Dáithí Ó  
Cualáin, Cllr. King.

**OIFIGH:** M. Owens, DOS, I. Martyn, A.O. Meetings  
Administrator, Katie OConnor, HOF, Áine Fenton,  
F.A, R Dooley, C.O.

**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 Connemara as prepared under the direction of the Chief Executive. CMD 21119**

Cllr. Thomas, Cathaoirleach welcomed Katie O Connor, Head of Finance.

Ms. O'Connor advised the members of the draft budget plan for the Connemara Municipal District for 2024 showing an indicative expenditure of €8,726,709 which is an increase on the 2023 expenditure. Advising that for budget 2024 some increased expenditure in roads and housing maintenance expenditure was anticipated.

Ms. O'Connor outlined that on the 8<sup>th</sup> of September 2023, the Minister advised that the 2024 Local Property Tax allocation for Galway County was to increase from €14.5m to €20.3m (pending any decision to vary the basic rate). In preparing the draft budgetary plan, it was noted that account has been taken of the decision taken at the Council Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023 not to vary the local property tax rate.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> of October 2023 Circular Fin 08/2023, the Minister advised that, as Galway County Council has not varied the basic rate of LPT for 2024, the previously advised 2024 LPT allocation of €20,309,071 will remain unchanged. This allocation includes a €5,009,789 equalisation funding in order to ensure that the allocation is at least matched to the Baseline.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Walsh **SECONDED** by Cllr. King the members agreed to adopt the Budgetary Plan 2024 for the Municipal District of Connamara as prepared under the direction of the Chief Executive.

In reply to Cllr. King, Ms. O Connor confirmed that the final allocation for 2024 will be decided on the adoption of the 2024 Budget by the Council on the 4<sup>th</sup> of December 2023.

Cllr. Walsh requested funding be provided for the improvement of the local road serving the Rugby Club in Oughterard as a consequence to a recent refusal by An Bord Pleanála of a planning application by the Oughterard Rugby Club.

Cllr. Thomas, Cllr. King and Comh Ó Curraion concurred with Cllr. Walsh that funds be allocated for improvement works to the road.

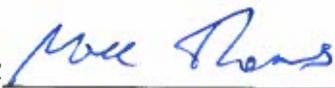
The Members outlined two possible funding streams for the necessary works ,by way of ring-fencing funding via the Draft Budgetary Plan and/or availing of a balance funding that may exist following the proposal for the development of the Coach Park in Oughterard.

Mr. Owens recommended that an estimate be prepared for the necessary works to improve the road in order to better inform a decision in the context of the consideration of the Schedule of Municipal District Works 2024 (including the Roads Programme 2024). He further outlined that details of the costs associated with the provision of coach parking in Oughterard and the balance (if any) that may remain would also be provided to inform a decision by the Members.

A request will be sent to the Roads Department to establish an estimated cost for the works required to be available.

Cllr. Thomas thanked Ms. O'Connor, Head of Finance for the draft budget presentation and welcomed the increase in allocation for housing maintenance and roads.

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Signed: 

Date: \_\_\_\_\_