

Minutes of the Municipal District of Tuam Budget meeting held
on 01st November 2021

**MINUTES OF THE BUDGET MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TUAM HELD
AT**

THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, PROSPECT HILL, GALWAY

ON 1st November 2021 at 2pm

CATHAOIRLEACH:	Cllr. C. Keaveney (Leas-Cathaoirleach)
I LÁTHAIR FREISIN	Cllr. Andrew Reddington, Cllr. Karey McHugh Farag, Cllr. M Hoade, Cllr. J Sheridan
AS LÁTHAIR	<i>Cllr. D Killilea (Cathaoirleach), Cllr. Peter Roche</i>
BAILL OIFIGIGH:	Mr. Ger Mullarkey, Head of Finance, Mr. Derek Pender, D.O.S. Infrastructure and Operations, Mr. Paul Connolly, Executive Engineer, Ms. S. Naughton, S.O. Tuam MD, Ms. Eibhlin Curran, Meetings Administrator, Ms. A. Ruane, C.O., Mr. M. McGovern, Management Accountant

MDT210047

To consider and adopt (with or without amendment) under Section 58 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 a Draft Budgetary Plan 2022 for the Municipal District of Tuam, as prepared under the Direction of the Chief Executive

Cllr Keaveney welcomed everyone to the meeting. Cllr Keaveney invited Mr. Mullarkey to present the Budget.

Mr. Mullarkey outlined that there are two main sources of income, LPT and Commercial Rates and noted that the members voted not to vary the LPT for 2022. He also noted that there is no indication of additional government funding for 2022. He said that work is continuing on the preparation of the draft budget for the Plenary Meeting scheduled for the 29th November 2021 and noted that there was currently a shortfall of approximately €4.5m between the expenditure submissions made by the directors and the available income.

- Cllr. Hoade described the Budget presented as bleak. She is concerned that there is very little flexibility in areas affected by shortfalls. She asked about public conveniences and the amount of money available to Tuam municipal district. She reiterated that this Council is not adequately funded.
- Cllr. Sheridan queried how the current deficit of €4.5m was spread across the districts. He noted that there was a shortage of staff in the municipal district. He stated that it would be difficult to ratify the figures as presented. He raised concerns at the reduction in roads funding.

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- Cllr. Reddington referred to the pressure upon members to raise the LPT in the context increasing potential income and the impact of not doing so can now be seen in the budget presented. He noted that given the governments commitment under the Climate Action Plan, he was disappointed that there doesn't seem to be any key initiative included in the budget such as increasing the no. of E.V. charging points across the County and questioned if match funding would need to be budgeted for same. He stated that Galway County Council is underfunded and stated that he would find it hard to support the budget.
- Cllr. McHugh thanked Mr. Mullarkey, Head of Finance, for the difficult task of putting together the budget and suggested that future presentations of budgets might include reference to the budgets of the other municipal districts. Cllr. McHugh also asked about the €10m loan that was approved for housing maintenance and question why it was reflected in the Municipal Budget. Cllr. McHugh also noted there appeared to be no budget for the swimming pool (F0303). She asked if there is any income from recycling (E0201) Cllr McHugh asked about the ability for GCC to co-fund EV charge points (25%). Cllr McHugh requested clarification on the €20k for public convenience.
- Cllr Keaveney queried the funding of the leisure centers and also sought clarification on the funding allocated to public conveniences (C0401).

In response to points raised Mr. Mullarkey indicated that for public conveniences the APC is gone. He noted that the €4.5M shortfall between the available funding and the expenditure requests from directors was spread across all directorates. He indicated that the budget process is ongoing with meetings with the chief executive and the executive team. Mr. Mullarkey acknowledged the shortfall in funding from Central Government and that a long-term solution needs to be found. In answer to Cllr McHugh in relation to Swim facilities (F0303) he advised that the provision for funding the leisure centers was in subservice F0103 and would be included in the full budget. He advised the loan repayments on the housing loan were not reflected in the municipal district budget. He noted that there was a small income on recycling activities, but that can fluctuate depending on the price of glass. He also noted that the overall funding for roads had increased with increases in some sub services and decreases in others, but that county wide roads funding had increased by just over €1M.

Mr. Pender stated that he will return to the members in relation to E Charging and confirmed that €20k budget for public conveniences would be used for the provision of water services within the Tuam MD area.

Cllr. Keaveney thanks the staff of the finance unit and asked the member for a proposal to accept/reject the Draft Budgetary Plan 2022 for the Municipal District of Tuam, as prepared under the Direction of the Chief Executive.

On the **proposal** of Cllr. Hoade, **seconded** by Cllr. Sheridan, the Draft Budgetary Plan 2022 for the Municipal District of Tuam was **Rejected** unanimously by the members.

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Approved by:



Date: 21/2/22

Cllr. D. Killilea, Cathaoirleach