

MINUTES OF LOUGHREA MUNICIPAL DISTRICT BUDGET MEETING FOR GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL
HELD AT ARAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL, GALWAY ON MONDAY THE 1ST NOVEMBER 2021 AT
10AM

CLÁR

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 Loughrea, as prepared under the direction of the Chief Executive (Report attached)

I LÁTHAIR:

BAILL:

1. Cllr. Geraldine Donohue (Cathaoirleach)
2. Cllr. Gerry Finnerty
3. Cllr. Shane Curley
4. Cllr. Martina Kinnane
5. Cllr. PJ Murphy
6. Cllr. Jimmy McClearn
7. Cllr. Joe Byrne
8. Cllr Ivan Canning

AS LÁTHAIR:

Cllr Michael "Moegie" Maher

OIFIGIHH:

Ger Mullarkey, Head of Finance
Michael McGovern, Management Accountant
Maria Finn, Administrative Officer
Eileen Ruane, DOS Environment, Climate, Fire, HR & ICT
Damien Mitchell, Senior Engineer Roads & Transportation
Gerard Haugh, Senior Executive Engineer, Loughrea
Grainne Quirke, Staff Officer, Loughrea MD Office
Chris Monaghan, Clerical Officer

Cllr Geraldine Donohue chaired the meeting and welcomed the elected members, officials and the Media to the Budget Meeting 2021. Cllr Donohue noted the documentation that had issued and opened the meeting to the floor.

Specifically, reductions in the following budget areas were raised by the Elected Members.

- **The Reduction in the Operation of Street Cleaning** budget (E0601)- deemed to be unfair when examined on a per capita basis and compared across other municipal districts. It was highlighted that this issue had been raised in the previous year, and that the proposed level of funding was inadequate.

- The reduction in the **Operation and Maintenance of Public Conveniences** budget (C0401) €30,000 was queried.
- The reduction in the **Parks, Pitches & Open Spaces** budget (F0301) was also highlighted as an area of concern.
- The **Reduction in the Maintenance of LA Housing Units** budget (A0101) was raised as a concern of the members

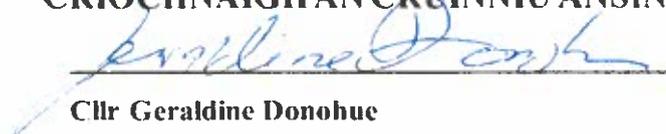
Members expressed concern at the lack of funding being provided by central Government. The Elected Members all agreed that they could not support the budget, as to do so would be doing a disservice to their electorate. They also expressed concern about Council staffing shortages and the negative effect this was having on services.

Mr. Mullarkey noted the concerns raised and agreed that the Council was severely underfunded. In relation to the concerns raised over the level of street cleaning funding he noted that the existence of former town councils in other municipal districts impacted on the allocations. He also noted that the proposed reduction in C0401 related to the contract on the automated public convenience having expired in 2021. In relation to housing maintenance he explained that refurbishment of voids had a separate funding stream and that the budget provided in A0101 was generally for electrical and plumbing maintenance rather than replacement of windows and doors. Mr. Mullarkey noted that he was continuing to work with the chief executive and the executive team with a view to bringing a balanced draft budget before the members for the plenary budget meeting scheduled for November 29 2021.

Cllr Byrne proposed that the MUNICIPAL DISTRICT BUDGET be REJECTED, and this was Seconded by Cllr Curley, and agreed unanimously

CRÍOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNÍÚ ANSIN.

Approved by:



Cllr Geraldine Donohue

Cathaoirleach

Municipal District of Loughrea