

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE

**MINUTES OF DRAFT BUDGETARY PLAN MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL BUILDING, PROSPECT HILL ON TUESDAY,
31ST MARCH 2026 AT 10.45 A.M.**

CATHAOIRLEACH

Cllr. P. Keaveney

LATHAIR FREISIN:

Cllrs. D. Connolly, M. Connolly, D. Geraghty, A. Harney, E. Parsons

Oifigigh:

Mr. D. Mitchell Director of Service, Mr. U. Finn Director of Services, Mr. P. Batty Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. P. McLynn, Executive Engineer, Mr. C. Harley, Ms. G. Byrne Administrative Officer, Ms. A. Monaghan Staff Officer, Ms. S. Horan Meetings Administrator, Mr. T. Prendergast Senior Engineer, Mr. E. Monaghan Technician

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

MDB25064

Mr. Finn and Mr Batty welcomed the group and presented the Draft Budgetary Plan for the Ballinasloe Municipal District for 2026. They noted an increase in funding this year which was much welcomed for the region. The members thanked Mr. Finn, the Finance Team and the Roads section for their presentation.

The following matters were raised:

- **Cllr. A. Harney** queried whether the L-74383 road at Eastwell, which was indicated on the map for proposed works, was included in the programme. Mr. Batty advised that this road had been listed in error and had since been moved to the reserve list. He stated that should additional funding become available, it would be considered for works.
- **Mr. M. Connolly** queried whether traffic calming measures at Menlough / Mountbellew could remain on the agenda. He noted that requests for works at this location had been made on several occasions and stated that it should remain a priority for road improvement works.
- **Cllr. D. Connolly** thanked the teams for the work carried out during the year. He queried recent tenders and asked whether recent global events and increases in diesel prices would impact project costings. It was also noted that staff shortages and restricted budgets had been highlighted with Oireachtas members and that a number of roads were still awaiting improvements. It was hoped they may be able to provide additional support.
- **Cllr. E. Parsons** thanked the teams for their work during the year. She also seconded the request for works to be carried out at Menlough crossing and highlighted the need for improvements at the Cappatagle junction. Ms Parson also welcomed the news that funding was being approved for the Creagh junction.
- **Cllr. P. Keaveney** thanked the teams for the work carried out during the year. He stated that the increase of €0.5 million for the Ballinasloe Municipal District was modest and expressed disappointment in this. He noted that funding allocations required further examination, as there did not appear to be any specific provision for the repair and maintenance of existing footpaths or for the construction of new footpaths. He acknowledged that while additional works were required, he hoped that further funding could be allocated to support projects that had been deferred.

Mr. U. Finn made the following comments:

He noted the importance of the funding and the additional road strengthening that could be delivered through the allocation of the announced funding, in particular across the following funding streams:

- Regional and Local Road Grants
- Protection and Renewal Grants
- New Roads and Road Improvement Grants
- Council Funding for Regional and Local Roads
- Active Travel Design Schemes Grants

Mr. Batty made the following comments:

Mr. Batty thanked Galway County Council staff for their work in compiling the presentation and the Draft Budgetary Plan. He advised that a number of tenders were currently in progress in respect of the outlined programmes of works.

He confirmed that a contractor had been appointed for the overlay / inlay tender, with Roadstone selected, and that works would proceed accordingly.

Mr. Batty noted that there was a good geographical spread of roads included in the Restorative Improvement Works Programme. He referred members to the maps provided, which outlined the locations and nature of the proposed works.

He also highlighted the use of road recycling techniques for reconstruction works and outlined the associated benefits, including cost savings and positive environmental impacts.

Mr. P. Batty advised that €1.3 million had been allocated for surface works. These works would apply to roads currently in good condition and were identified in orange on the maps. He confirmed that this allocation did not apply to roads deemed to be in poor condition.

He noted that Aughrim would benefit from overlay works under the programme. He further advised that safety improvement works would be carried out at a number of locations, including Claregalway, Suck (East) Bridge, Belview Bridge, and Ahascragh Bridge, as well as traffic calming measures in Creggs.

Mr. Batty also confirmed that Creagh Junction would receive improvement works and that consultants had been appointed in this regard.

Mr. Harley made the following comments:

Mr. C. Harley noted the increasing costs being experienced due to ongoing instability in the Middle East. He expressed the hope that central government would provide additional funding to assist local authorities during these challenging times.

Mr. C. Harley advised that he was currently reviewing staff shortages across all Municipal Districts, with a view to ensuring that appropriate staffing levels were in place. He further noted that consultants had been appointed and funded by Galway County Council for works at Mountbellew and that a preliminary report had been received, which he described as positive. He also advised that three projects had already commenced and had benefited from an early start, having previously received approval from Mr. Troy.

The draft Roads Programme and Schedule of works for 2026 was proposed by Cllr. D. Geraghty and seconded by Cllr. M. Connolly, agreed by all that the Draft Budgetary Plan and schedule of works for the Municipal District of Ballinasloe as prepared under the direction of the Chief Executive be adopted.

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN

Cathaoirleach:



Date:

15/4/2026