

**Minutes of the Shannon Municipal District Meeting to consider the Draft Budgetary Plan held on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> October, 2018 at 9.45am at the office of the Municipal District, Town Hall, Shannon, Co. Clare.**

**Present:** Councillors Gerard Flynn (Cathaoirleach), P.J. Ryan, Pat McMahon, Cathal Crowe, John Crowe.

Liam Conneally Director of Service, Aidan O'Rourke Senior Executive Engineer, Caroline O'Connor Management Accountant, Patricia O'Neill, Staff Officer.

**1. Consideration of the Draft Budget – General Municipal Allocation (GMA) for Shannon Municipal District.**

Cllr. Gerard Flynn opened the meeting and welcomed all present. He extended congratulation to Aidan O'Rourke on his recent promotion to Senior Executive Engineer in the Shannon MD. Cllr. Flynn also thanked Caroline O'Connor for attending the meeting to address the Members of the Shannon MD.

Cllr. Flynn referred to the Chief Executive's correspondence and the budget strategy discussions with the Corporate Policy Group in balancing the 2019 budget. It is proposed to cut the GMA allocation for 2019 by €300,000 across the 4 Municipal Districts of Clare County Council with each MD shouldering this reduction by €75,000 each. The proposed GMA for the Shannon MD for 2019 is €189,100. Cllr. Flynn stated that the outstanding money in the GMA must be spent within the coming months on works within the Shannon MD.

Caroline O'Connor outlined the level of engagement in the budget process which commenced in June 2018, whereby it was sought initially to reduce the deficit of €2.3 million. As it was agreed not to increase the LPT for 2019 each directorate was requested to identify areas of potential savings.

Ms. O'Connor briefed the Elected Members on the areas where savings were identified and taking all in to consideration this has bridged the gap in the deficit to €600,000, with €300,000 to come from the Municipal Districts.

Cllr. Cathal Crowe stated that he would question the CPG structure nationally and the flow of information from the CPG involved in the budget process.

A general discussion took place on the budget process and proposed GMA for the Shannon MD with the Elected Members thanking Ms. O'Connor for outlining the budget process that had taken place.

Ms. O'Connor stated that the Chief Executive has emphasised that priority must be given to spending the GMA balance coming forward on works that will be carried out within the next 6 months in the Shannon MD.

Liam Conneally addressed the meeting and thanked Caroline and the Finance team for their work in the budget process. He stated that there was significantly more engagement this year than previous years on the budget process with CPG meetings and meetings with Directorates. He stated that the challenges facing the Council include significant legal fees, and in balancing the 2019 budget

consideration had to be given to maintaining the exiting level of services while addressing cost pressures and reduced income. He also reiterated the Chief Executives comments on the prioritisation of works and on using the balance of the GMA on these works while ensuring that the Council staff is fully employed and if necessary to outsource some works.

Ms. O'Connor stated that a budget briefing will take place on 6<sup>th</sup> November and the budget will go before the full Council Meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2018.

The GMA for the Shannon Municipal District for 2019 of €189,100 was proposed by Cllr. P.J. Ryan and seconded by Cllr. Cathal Crowe and was agreed by all.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Cllr. Gerard Flynn,  
Cathaoirleach.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting Administrator

Dated: November, 2018.