

Minutes of Meeting of West Clare Municipal District to consider Draft Budgetary Plan held on the 24th October, 2017 at 1.30pm. in Conference Room , Vandeleur Walled Garden, Kilrush

Cathaoirleach sa Cathair:

Cllr. M. Hillery.

I Láthair:

Cllr. B. Chambers, Cllr. G. Keating, Cllr. P.J. Kelly, Cllr.I. Lynch, Cllr. C. Curtin.

Apologies:

Cllr. B. Chambers ,Cllr. R. Nagle,

Officials present:

Mr. P. Dowling, Chief Executive,

Mr. L. Cleary, Area Co-Ordinator & A/Director of Service,

Ms. Caroline O' Connor, Accountant

Mr. J. Corry, Administrative Officer & Meetings Administrator.

1. Draft Budgetary Plan for 2016

At the outset of the meeting Cllr. Hillery welcomed the Chief Executive, P. Dowling to the meeting & invited him to say a few words re the Budget.

P. Dowling said he was delighted to be present in Kilrush & congratulated the Scatterly Island committee on winning the EDEN award for 2017. He added that this award was very positive for the area & would further raise its profile. Regarding the Budget process he indicated that the Budget Meeting of Clare Co Council would be taking place on 11th November next. He added that the Local Property Tax rate had been maintained the same as for the previous year & he added that it was proposed to conclude the process of Rates Harmonisation with the former Town Council towns of Ennis & Kilrush in 2018. He added that the Budget reflected an increase in payroll for 2018 to that budgeted for 2017, as a result of recruitment to help restore staffing levels & also allowing for pay restoration of staff , as agreed nationally. He added that it was very important to have a clear strategy re Economic Development & towards that end he proposed to recruit 4 Rural Development Officers at Staff Officer grade, that would be assigned to the Municipal Districts. He assured the members that the Rural Development Strategy would significantly benefit the West Clare MD area. He added that Clare Co Council were in a positive financial position for the first time in many years. He added that it was proposed to keep the level of GMA at the same level as agreed for 2017 i.e. €276,700.

C. O' Connor added that the Budgetary Plan was a single line item referring to Miscellaneous Services. She further clarified that the Budgetary Plan needed to be adopted by each MD before the Full Council considered the Budget.

Cllr. Lynch queried as to how staff performance was being monitored & P. Dowling indicated that the management of staff was an executive function & that it was done through the PMDS system. Cllr. Lynch also raised concerns regarding the fact that Rates Harmonisation was being budgeted to be completed in 2018.

Cllr. Keating stressed that more funding was required for roads. P. Dowling indicated that Clare Co Council had punched above their weight in terms of LIS funding secured recently & that we would continue to seek additional funding. He added that the National Planning Framework was presently being prepared & that it was providing for significantly more capital being invested in roads. He added that local Authorities were reliant on national road grants for roads funding.

J Corry clarified that the SMDW would outline in detail the roads funding available to each MD area. He added that once the Budget was adopted by the Full Council and road grant allocations had been made available that the Schedule of Municipal District Works would be prepared and presented to each MD to decide on the specific projects that they wanted undertaken in each MD area. He added that due recognition would be made of the length of road network, housing services etc as part of the Budget of the Full Council & the preparation of Schedule of Municipal District Works.

Cllr. Kelly suggested that there needed to be a greater level of consultation on the Budget & GMA process. Cllr Lynch agreed. P. Dowling assured the members that Clare Co Council were in full compliance with the consultative process which was a statutory process.

Cllr. Keating proposed that the GMA allocated for the West Clare MD be agreed & this was seconded by Cllr. Chambers & agreed.

The meeting then concluded

Signed :

Cllr. M. Hillery
Cathaoirleach

Signed :

J. Corry
Meetings Administrator

Dated this the 5th day of December 2017.