

Minutes of Meeting of West Clare Municipal District to consider Draft Budgetary Plan held on the 4th November, 2019 at 2pm. in Board Room, Aras Contae an Chlair, Ennis, Co. Clare

Cathaoirleach sa Cathair:

Cllr. J.Garrihy,

I Láthair:

Cllr. G. Keating, Cllr. P.J. Kelly, Cllr. C. Curtin, Cllr. I. Lynch, Cllr. S. Talty, Cllr. J.Killeen,
Cllr. R. Garvey.

As Láthair:

Cllr. B. Chambers, Cllr. C. Murphy,

Officials present:

Mr. P. Dowling, Chief Executive.

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

Ms. N. Fitzgerald, A/Head of Finance.

Ms. T. Rynne, Financial Accountant.

Mr. J. O'Malley, A/Senior Executive Engineer ,West Clare Municipal District

Mr. M. Lahiffe, A/Senior Executive Engineer ,West Clare Municipal District

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

1. Draft Budgetary Plan for 2020

At the outset of the meeting Cllr. J. Garrihy welcomed the Chief Executive and A/ Head of Finance to the meeting & invited them to say a few words on the Budgetary Plan.

N. Fitzgerald acknowledged that this was the first time some of the newly elected Members would have attended a Budgetary Plan meeting so she outlined the background to the Municipal Districts being formed following the abolition of Town Councils with the Local Government Reform Act 2014. She indicated that as a result of increasing the LPT by 15% that this resulted in an additional €1.5m being available to Clare Co Council. She further added that €500k of this additional income would be allocated to the GMA fund across the 4 MDs bringing the total GMA allocation to €1.273m countywide. She confirmed that a decision had been taken to divide the GMA per MD area based on the number of elected Members in that District and that based on this approach that the West Clare MD would be allocated €409k which was an increase from the allocation of €201k for 2019 and €276k for 2018.

P. Dowling further clarified that the purpose of the Budgetary Plan meeting was to adopt the GMA allocation and that specific funding for roads maintenance and improvement, housing

maintenance etc would be done as part of the consideration of the SMDW by the MDs in early 2020. He added that it was welcome to see an increase in the GMA allocation as it benefitted many projects in local communities that would not otherwise qualify for funding from the Local Authority.

Following further queries from Elected Members regarding the purpose of the meeting it was highlighted by P. Dowling that the purpose of the Meeting was to adopt the GMA only and that the Budget for the Full Council would be considered at the Budget meeting on 22nd November. He further explained that the detailed expenditure to be incurred in each MD would be considered as part of the preparation of the SMDW.

Cllr. Kelly queried when the necessary Budgetary Plan meeting would take place in accordance with the legislation.

N. Fitzgerald clarified that this was that meeting and that the GMA allocations had been discussed at a number of CPG meetings at which all MDs were represented as well as following meetings with Members groupings etc. She also confirmed that a Workshop had been facilitated for the Members.

The GMA allocation for the West Clare MD was proposed by Cllr. Keating and seconded by Cllr. Talty and agreed.

It was agreed that the Members would come back to J. Corry with details of their projects to be funded by GMA early in 2020 and that he would facilitate an application process for drawing down the grant.

The members thanked the executive staff in the MDs and L. Cleary for their efficiency in managing projects .

The meeting then concluded

Signed :

Cllr. B. Chambers
Cathaoirleach

Signed :

J. Corry
Meetings Administrator

Dated this the 14th day of January 2020.