



## **Minutes of Naas Municipal District Draft Budgetary Plan Meeting held on Tuesday 22 October 2024 at 10.00am in the Council Chamber, Áras Chill Dara.**

**Members Present:** Councillor S Moore (Deputy Mayor), Councillors A Breen, G Dunne, C Kelly, E Sammon

**Online:** Councillor F Brett (Mayor)

**Apologies:** Councillor B Clear

**Officials Present:** Ms E Hanlon (Head of Finance), Mr E Ryan (District Manager), Mr B Leonard (Administrative Officer), Ms M Richardson (Meetings Administrator) and Ms A Dykes (Meetings Secretary) and others.

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As the Mayor was not in attendance at the start of the meeting the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Moore took the Chair.

### **NS01/1024**

#### **Declaration of Interests**

There were no declarations from the members of pecuniary or beneficial interests under Section 177 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended.

### **NS02/1024**

#### **Draft Budgetary Plan 2025**

A Report was previously circulated to the members with an update on the Naas Draft Budget plan 2025.

Ms Hanlon informed the members that in accordance with Section 58 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 requires that a draft budgetary plan for the municipal district to be prepared under the direction of the chief executive and submitted for consideration by the municipal district members for each municipal district. This draft budgetary plan contains the discretionary funding which is made available to municipal district members The Act requires



that the Chief Executive, in determining the resources to be made available to each municipal district in the draft budgetary plan shall have regard to:

- The needs and resources available or likely to be available to the local authority and
- Resource needs of each municipal district

The Act provides that the draft budgetary plan shall set out the GMA and shall be considered at a meeting within the prescribed period, but no later than 10 days prior to the local authority budget meeting. The Act also provides that it is a reserved function of the Members of a municipal district to adopt the draft budgetary plan either with or without amendment. If the Members of a municipal district do not adopt a draft budgetary plan the Chief Executive may take account of the draft budgetary plan, as presented to the Members of that municipal district, without amendment. The total provision allocation for the General Municipal Allocation for 2025 is €20,788,655, of which €5,085,749 is based on the retained LPT as voted for by Members in September. The total provisional General Municipal Allocation for the Naas Municipal District is €3,609,957 (€3,329,122 in 2024)

The members raised the following:

- Community grants had been at a standstill for last few years
- An increase in grants was needed as it seemed the members were subsidising the rest from LPT.
- Was the former Naas Town Council balance in this budget or how was it being filtered out
- Could the one skip a year to resident associations be reintroduced as it would eliminate rubbish being dumped. It was a great service to the communities in the past.
- Why was there a cost for sponsored litter bins?
- Residents' associations had no increase in funding but there were now 90 new estates with the exact same funding in the Naas Municipal District
- Residents' association grants were only covering the cutting of grass. Could this be brought in house to free up the money for other up-keep of the estates
- Festival grants had received same over the last 15 years with this money going on Christmas lights which was forcing the use of LPT for extras.
- There was an increase in street cleaning costs, was this for extra staff or for more streets?
- There was a commitment last year to review the Residence Association Grants.



- Subsidising of grants should stop and the LPT funds used for big projects.
- There was a need to get smart on what could be delivered to the municipal district area and to spend in areas where it was needed most such as Residents' Association top ups and towards community and festival grants where the extra funding would make a difference. There was no point in setting aside monies for projects which would not be completed.
- The members needed to work with other sections similar to roads to deliver finished projects.
- The population of Naas had risen significantly and should now be in a different bracket for funding for tidy towns, could this be investigated.

Ms E Hanlon provided the following replies

- Street cleaning budget increased to cover extra payroll costs
- Naas Town Council funds were not part of this and were possibly being held for Capital Funding but would be ringfenced for Naas
- Sponsored bins still incurred costs for emptying
- Residents' Association Grants were for open space maintenance.
- The whole county was underfunded and resources were limited. Could possibly increase commercial rates to increase the budget. LPT was a council fund for use in the Municipal District at the members discretion.
- The members had €1.4 million to use at their discretion. It could be used to contribute to Capital Projects and others. Members could use some LPT to build up funds in a capital account and apply for 20% match funding.

The District Manager informed the members that the level of discretion members had in Kildare was greater than other Local Authorities.

Councillor Moore requested that Ms E Hanlon revert to the members regarding Naas Town Council funds and Tidy Towns Grants.

**Resolved:** On the proposal of Councillor Sammon, seconded by Councillor Kelly and agreed by all members that the draft budget be approved.

The meeting concluded.