



Minutes of Naas Municipal District Budgetary Plan Meeting held at 10.00am On Teams, Monday 26 October 2023

Members Present: Councillor B Clear (Mayor), A Breen, F Brett, S Moore

Apologies: Councillor B Quinn, C Kelly, E Sammon

Officials Present: Ms F Millane (Financial Accountant), Mr D Reel (District Engineer), Ms M Richardson (Meetings Administrator) and Ms J Fogarty (Meetings Secretary) and others.

NS01/1023

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.

NS02/1023

Draft Budgetary Plan 2023

Ms. Millane informed the members that Section 58 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 required that a draft budgetary plan for the municipal district 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 contained the discretionary funding which was made available to municipal district members.

The total provision allocation for the General Municipal Allocation for 2024 was €18,136,919, of which €5,680,122 was based on the retained LPT as voted for by members in September.

The total provisional General Municipal Allocation for the Naas Municipal District was €3,329,122.



Ms Millane stated that the Annual Budget Meeting was now set for 20 November, with a Teams briefing on the 13 November. She advised there had been no new valuations received in 2023 and that she had been advised that there would be some buoyancy.

On that basis, she had taken the opportunity to do some rebalancing of the Municipal District General Municipal Allocation which would be brought to Municipal Districts over the next couple of weeks.

Ms F Millane stated the following:

- Playgrounds maintenance allocation would increase from €7.5k to €8k and gyms/skateparks allocations would increase from €3.5k to €4k.
- Residents' association grants had been amended to reflect the 'per acre' grant in Naas.
- Tidy Towns were being budgeted based on population category with all towns and villages moving to the 'highest' amount per category in line with Naas.
- Parks and Landscaping had been increased overall and the split was as advised by the Senior Parks Officer
- Public Realm Maintenance Teams were being set up in each Municipal District consisting initially of a small team of three staff reporting to the Area Engineer.

Councillor Clear stated that Naas was now a larger urban town, and this element needed to be taken into account. It had moved into a new category and was now fifth in the country. He enquired would the new public realm maintenance team be involved with street cleaning.

Ms F Millane advised that she was not aware that Naas had moved into a new category and would check this with the Environment Section and would make the relevant adjustments if warranted. Regarding the street cleaning she advised her understanding was that the new team would be involved in maintaining Public Realm



spaces. She stated that the team would be reporting to the area engineer. She said the first year each Municipal District would be assigned the same resources but this would be reviewed.

The members raised the following points:

- Kildare County Council had been previously informed that Naas had moved into a higher population bracket.
- There was no recognition from Kildare County Council of the outstanding works of Naas Tidy Towns.
- Naas inherited the Tidy Towns allocation from Naas Town Council and queried how much has Kildare County Council increased the allocation for Naas by since 2014?
- Kildare Newbridge received a larger allocation and that Naas did not get a fair share for their Tidy Towns or their Residents Associations.
- Naas Town was a big contributor to Kildare County Council's exchequer.
- On the basis of population Naas should have ten members but were limited by the 40 members for the county.
- Naas was the County Town.
- The item on Public Realm Maintenance Team should have been discussed at the Naas Municipal District meeting.
- Flag poles should be erected at the entrance to the town.

Ms F Millane stated that she did not have the full amount of LPT that was collected as revenue collected this and did not disclose the amount. She said Kildare County Council was the only local authority to give such a high level of control to members. She said that Celbridge had a higher property level than Naas and that Kildare-Newbridge also had a higher population than Naas. She reiterated that if Naas had moved to higher category she would be happy to adjust the allocation accordingly and that the budget was set on a county wide basis.



Councillor Moore stated that he felt Naas was underrepresented. He said there should be no separation now from Urban to Rural with a population of 30k.

Councillor Brett stated that he was delighted to see Tidy Towns being the same across the board and was glad it was not being cut. He said there should be an increase of 30-40% as it was well worth the investment. He said that the LPT allocations needed to be discussed at the next Municipal District meeting.

Ms F Millane advised the members that it was a reserved function of the members to adopt the draft budget plan with or without amendments and that the Chief Executive may take account of the draft budgetary plan, as presented to the members of that municipal district, without amendment if they did not adopt the draft budgetary plan.

Councillor Moore suggested the Tidy Towns allocation be increased from €22k to €28k. He stated that Naas were only a few points behind the overall winners and the extra money could help other projects.

Ms F Millane advised that the budget needed to be balanced so to increase any allocation would involve also decreasing another allocation by the same amount.

Councillor Brett suggested that the members could use €6k from their own LPT allocation to increase the Tidy Town's money from €22k to €28k and this could be discussed further at the next Municipal District Meeting.

Resolved: on the proposal of Councillor Brett, seconded by Councillor Breen and agreed by all members present that the Naas Municipal District Draft Budgetary Plan for 2024 be adopted without amendment.

The meeting concluded.