

**MINUTES OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LETTERKENNY BUDGET MEETING,
HELD IN THE LETTERKENNY PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE ON WEDNESDAY,
26TH OCTOBER, 2016.**

***MDL408/16* MEMBERS PRESENT**

Cllr Ciaran Brogan
Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh
Cllr. Michael McBride
Cllr. James Pat McDaid
Cllr. Ian McGarvey
Cllr. Gerry McMonagle

***MDL409/16* OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Fergal Doherty, S.E.E./Area Manager, Roads & Transportation
Eunan Kelly, Area Manager, Corporate & Housing Services
Ciaran Martin, Development Officer
Garry Martin, Director of Finance, Information Systems & Emergency Services
Linda McCann, Senior Staff Officer, Corporate & Housing Services
Liam Ward, Director of Community, Enterprise & Planning Services

***MDL410/16* APOLOGIES**

Cllr. Liam Blaney
Cllr. John O'Donnell
Cllr. Mick Quinn
Cllr. Dessie Shiels

The meeting was chaired by Mayor, Cllr. James Pat McDaid.

The meeting was opened at 11.30 a.m. as scheduled and on the proposal of Cllr. Michael McBride and seconded by Cllr. Gerry McMonagle the meeting was adjourned as a mark of respect to 2.00 p.m. following the death of Jimmy Doherty, Waterworks Inspector.

The meeting reconvened at 2:00 p.m. to consider the Draft Budgetary Plan & General Municipal Allocation for the MDL for 2017.

***MDL411/16* DRAFT BUDGETARY PLAN & GENERAL MUNICIPAL ALLOCATION
2017 FOR THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LETTERKENNY**

Garry Martin referred to the report that was circulated with the agenda and stated that it was a requirement as outlined in the Local Government Reform Act 2014 for the allocation of a general municipal allocation each year as part of the annual revenue budget process. The Members were requested to adopt as is or with amendment the provisional allocation of €200,000 out of a countywide figure of €740,000 as the Strategic Development Fund Initiative for Members. This allocation was proportionate to all Members in the county.

Garry Martin acknowledged the difficulty of this process in that the Plenary Council Meeting was scheduled to consider the overall Budget on 23rd November, 2016 and stated that the Department had been made aware of and had acknowledged the challenges associated with the timing required under the current regulations for the adoption of the General Municipal Allocation and had committed to a detailed review and adjusting the process.

Cllr. McMonagle expressed disappointment that the review had not commenced as promised last year and the lack of autonomy of the Members with the budget for the MD and in developing services within the MD. Cllr. McMonagle agreed to propose to adopt the GMA as presented and asked that details were circulated on the income and funding provided to the current MD compared to the income and funding assigned to the former Letterkenny Town Council and asked that the Council look at other sources of income outside of rates and local property tax.

Cllr. Michael McBride also expressed the difficulty in considering the budget prior to the Plenary Council Budget Meeting. Cllr. McBride asked that funding was provided for LIS schemes as a priority as no funding has been available for a considerable number of years and this was a necessity in rural communities. Cllr. McBride also asked that a programme of funding is made available for footpath and public lighting in the MD.

Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh concurred with the Members on the issues they raised. Cllr. Kavanagh seconded the proposal to adopt the DFI of €200,000 and asked if there was an increase on the income from rates as a result of the uptake in the economy. Cllr. Kavanagh asked why this meeting was called a Budget Meeting when in fact the Members were only considering the DFI allocation.

Cllr. Ian McGarvey asked what the function of the MD Budget meeting was as there are no details on spending on services within the MD that were required to meet the needs of the people. Cllr. McGarvey proposed that the general municipal allocation was increased to €250,000 for Letterkenny MD due the large number of groups in the MD and the fact that the fund was ring fenced on projects prior to the Members supporting these groups. Cllr. McGarvey expressed concern on the overall development of the county due to the lack of funding received nationally.

Garry Martin informed the Members that the proposal can be amended however if the fund was increased this would be applied across the county and funding on other services would be adjusted as a result. The allocation circulated was a realistic fund that can be considered within the overall funding of the Council.

Cllr. James Pat McDaid concurred with the issues raised by the Members and stated it was an unreasonable expectation that other services would be impacted if the Members requested an increase to €250,000.

There was no seconder for Cllr. Ian McGarvey's proposal.

On the proposal of Cllr. Gerry McMonagle, seconded by Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh the Committee recommended the adoption of a provisional General Municipal Allocation 2017 in the amount of €200,000.

This concluded the business of the meeting.