

**MINUTES OF STATUTORY BUDGET MEETING
OF GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
HELD REMOTELY ON 25th OCTOBER 2024**

Members Present: Cllr. John Sheamuis Ó Fearraigh (Cathaoirleach)
Cllr. Micheal McClafferty
Cllr. Denis McGee
Cllr. Anthony Molloy
Cllr. Brian Carr
Cllr. Michéal Cholm MacGiolla Easbuig

Officials Present: Richard Gibson – Head of Finance
Michael McGarvey – A/Director of Water & Environment
Michael Rowsome – A/Housing & Corporate Area Manager
Mary Boyle – A/Senior Staff Officer, Housing |& Corporate Services
Róise Ní Laifeartaigh - Aistriúchán Comhuaineach

Apologies: Brendan McFadden, Area Manager, Roads & Transportation

GMD /24

Draft Budgetary Plan for Municipal District of Glenties 2025

The Head of Finance discussed the 2025 Draft Budgetary Plan for the Municipal District and notified the Committee as follows;

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Local Government Reform Act 2014 and associated regulations require the allocation of a General Municipal Allocation (GMA) to each Municipal District as part of the annual revenue budget process.
- 1.2 In respect of 2024, a preliminary allocation of €120,000 was made for the Glenties Municipal District, with a figure of €150,000 subsequently being adopted at the 2024 plenary budget in December 2023. The Schedules of

Municipal District Works, which provide considerable additional detail in respect of the programme of works in each MD, were presented to Elected Members in March 2024.

- 1.3 The rationale behind this approach is that it is not practicable to allocate a global and final figure as part of the General Municipal Allocation prior to the final and full plenary budget being adopted, as it is only then that it is known with certainty what degree of capacity exists within the Council's resources to allocate such funding.

2.0 2025 General Municipal Allocation

- 2.1 Discussions with the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage have outlined the challenges associated with the timing required under the current regulations regarding the allocation of the GMA. The Department has been made aware of the challenges associated with this.
- 2.2 However, the current approach is a statutory requirement of local government legislation and there will be no change to this approach in advance of the budget processes concluding for 2025.
- 2.3 On that basis it is now proposed to allocate an amount equivalent to €25,000 per member, at this juncture, to the General Municipal Allocation. The final and conclusive decision will be made as part of the plenary budget meeting in December 2024, at which point in time the members can conclude and determine the final amount to be made available to the General Municipal Allocations. This could, if the members wished, affirm the allocation proportionate to the number of members in respect of each of the individual Municipal Districts or suggest an alternative allocation methodology.

3.0 Budgetary process challenges

The Director of Finance updated the Committee in relation to ongoing challenges during the preparation of the 2025 Budget arising from;

- 1) Eradication of spending power due to the inflationary environment
- 2) Uncertainty regarding rates buoyancy and outstanding grant allocations
- 3) WRC wage agreement
- 4) Local Government funding model

4.0 Councillors

In response to concerns expressed by members regarding

- (i) Is the status of the minor infrastructure fund the Director of Service advised that protection of members funding schemes is a priority
- (ii) Impact of a potential rates increase on businesses the Director of Service advised that a substantial number of businesses receive more in grants than they pay in rates and that the council will always work with the commercial sector.

5.0 Recommendation

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig proposed rejection of the draft Municipal District Budget and highlighted concerns regarding the absence of consideration of the following issues;

- Additional staff requirements in Housing and Marine services and an end to outsourcing of work programmes
- Lack of infrastructural development in respect of roads, piers and footpaths

- Necessity to recruit Tenant Liaison Officers, Occupational Therapists and Social Workers

GMD / 24 On the proposal of Cllr. Molloy, seconded by Cllr. Mc Clafferty, the Municipal District Committee of Glenties in line with the requirements of the Local Government Reform Act 2014, and associated regulations, adopted the Draft Budgetary Municipal District Plan 2025 and General Municipal Allocation in the sum of €150,000 at this time.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING