Re: Budget 2016 Process & General Municipal Allocations

A Chara,

In accordance with Section 102(4A)(a) of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended by the Local Government Reform Act 2014) I hereby submit for your consideration the draft Budgetary Plan 2016 as it relates to the General Municipal Allocation (GMA). This item will be considered at the forthcoming Municipal District meetings.


There are a number of elements to the Budgetary Process in 2016 and the following outlines what these processes are:

(i) Discussion with the CPG

At the CPG meeting on 7th September 2015 the Chief Executive outlined the overall financial position of the Local Authority and in a pre-budget context discussed a number of key items of budget policy and strategy including the financial consequences of any variation in the basic rate of LPT. Additionally, discussions included the process involved with the General Municipal Allocations to the Municipal Districts.

(ii) Consider the financial impact of the LPT

Under Section 20 (LPT) Act 2012, as amended a Local Authority may as a reserved function resolve to vary the LPT within its functional area by a maximum of +/- 15%. At a meeting of this Council on 7th September, the Members resolved not to vary the LPT for the year 2016. The impact of this decision is that the LPT allocation, including the equalisation Fund remains equal to the amount received in 2015 at €8,282,319.

(iii) Agree Municipal Allocations – Draft Budgetary Plan

The General Municipal Allocations is the name give to the discretionary funding which is made available to municipal district members for allocation in the draft budgetary plan. The amount an Authority can provide by way of General Municipal Allocations (GMA) is dependent on the total level of income and the non-discretionary costs that must be met as a first call on that income. The draft budgetary plan will set out how much is allocated to the Municipal District. Discussions on the main strategic, non discretionary expenditure of the Local Authority will form part of the main Local Authority budget preparation. Section 102(4A) (c) and (d) provide that it is a reserved function of the members of a municipal district to adopt the draft budgetary plan with or without amendment. Section 102 (4A) (e) provides that the Chief Executive “shall take account of any budgetary plan adopted….in preparing the Local Authority Budget.
If the members of any 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.

(iv) Preparation of Main Local Authority Budget

The preparation of the overall Local Authority Budget is not yet complete at this time (Oct 2015). The prescribed period for the municipal districts to consider the draft budgetary plan is between 15th October and 13th November 2015 and the prescribed period for the Council meeting to approve the Local Authority budget is between 2nd November and 27th November 2015, this date has been set for 23rd November 2015. This will allow the members to approve the detailed aspects of the 2016 budget which will include the main strategic, non-discretionary expenditure. However, in accordance with the requirements of the LPT Act 2012 the draft budgetary plan enclosed refers only to the discretionary funding that is being allocated to the Municipal Districts. In the context of an overall annual budget that is as yet incomplete, the allocations enclosed can only be interpreted as draft and may be subject to change. This draft budgetary plan does not replace the main strategic, non discretionary expenditure of the local authority, the spending of which will be prioritised by the members as part of the development of a schedule of municipal district works after the main budget has been adopted. In determining the allocations to each MD, consideration has been given to the resource needs, and where appropriate, the population.

PROPOSED DRAFT BUDGETARY PLAN

The following section outlines the General Municipal Allocation (GMA) and should be read in conjunction with the attached spreadsheet. The total GMA for County Leitrim for 2016 is proposed at €75,000.

The basis of allocation is identified alongside each category of spend.

1.0 Division A HOUSING AND BUILDING

The overall housing budget will form part of the main Local Authority Budget which will be presented to the members in November for adoption.

1.1 Housing Estate Management

The draft budgetary plan attached proposes a total General Municipal Allocation (GMA) of €18,000 - split across the 3 Municipal Districts. Currently €12,000 is available to Resident Associations to apply, under an existing grant scheme, for financial assistance to cover Insurance and other costs. A further €6,000 is being allocated in 2016 and it is proposed that the each MD is allocated €2,000 to be used to fund particular Local Authority estate works within the MD. Members can revise the existing scheme that relates to the €12,000.

2.0 Division B ROAD TRANSPORT AND SAFETY

The overall roads budget will form part of the main Local Authority Budget which will be presented to the members in November for adoption. The Members will determine the allocation to Local Roads from the Local Authority’s own resources as part of the budget process. The allocation of the roads grants from the Department of Transport and the NRA will not be known until February 2016. The full roads programme which will include the local authority contribution to local roads will be discussed agreed by the members in February 2016 at Municipal District level.
3.0 Division C  WATER SERVICES
The budget for water services is determined by Irish Water and is included in the Local Authority budget as matched funding.

4.0 Division D  DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT
Expenditure within this division relates to strategic county wide objectives and will be included in the main local authority budget process.

5.0 Division E  ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
Expenditure within this division relates to strategic county wide objectives and will be included in the main local authority budget process.

6.0 Division F  RECREATION AND AMENITY
While expenditure within this division relates to strategic county wide objectives and will be included in the main local authority budget process, there are categories of spend within this Division F that are being proposed for the GMA as follows:

   6.1 Floral Pride
A total budget of €9,000 is proposed for allocation to the GMA. The existing scheme is administered centrally. It is therefore recommended that a 2016 scheme for Floral Pride is drawn up and agreed by the members in order that the funds are allocated on an equitable basis both within the county and each Municipal District.

   6.2 Adopt a Road
A total budget of €5,000 is proposed for allocation to the GMA. The existing scheme is administered centrally. It is therefore recommended that a 2016 scheme for Adopt a Road is drawn up and agreed by the members in order that the funds are allocated on an equitable basis both within the county and the Municipal District.

   6.3 Amenities/ Tidy Towns
A total budget of €28,000 is proposed for allocation to the GMA. The proposed allocation is being made on the basis of the existing tiered structure or settlement hierarchy that is within the County Development Plan.
It is therefore recommended that a 2016 scheme for Amenities and Tidy Towns is drawn up and agreed by the members in order that the funds are allocated on an equitable basis both within the county and the Municipal District.

   6.4 Community Tourism and Arts Grants
A total budget of €15,000 is proposed for allocation to the GMA. Tourism and community arts grants are currently administered centrally and separately within Leitrim County Council. The attached GMA proposes that combined community tourism and arts grant scheme is drawn up and administered by each MD for allocation within the MD.
It is therefore recommended that a 2016 scheme for Community Tourism and Arts Grants is drawn up and agreed by the members in order that the funds are allocated on an equitable basis within the Municipal District. The Scheme will operate on an open call basis but a central objective will be that the scheme provides support in a balanced way across the Municipal Districts subject to projects meeting the wider criteria.

Mise le meas,

Frank Curran
Chief Executive
### LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL - GENERAL MUNICIPAL ALLOCATION 2016 DRAFT BUDGET

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#### F03 Outdoor Leisure Areas Operations

- **Floral Pride Programme**
  - General Municipal Allocation: 12,500
  - 3,500
  - 9,000 Population
  - 3,119
  - 3,080
  - 3,080
  - Adopt a road
    - General Municipal Allocation: 5,000
    - 5,000 Population
    - 1,733
    - 1,716
    - 1,551
    - Settlement
      - 12,000
      - 8,500
      - 7,600
      - 28,080
    - Amenities/ Tidy Towns
      - General Municipal Allocation: 165,000
      - 137,000
      - 28,000
      - 1,999
      - 5,148
      - 4,655
      - 35,080

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**TOTALS**

| ED | €221,800 | €146,800 | €75,000 | €28,010 | €28,464 | €21,496 |