Appendix 1 Manorhamilton Municipal District Meeting 17th October 2016

COMHAIRLE CHONTAEO LIATROMA
LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL

Áras An Chontae
Carrick on Shannon

17th October 2016

Cathaoirleach agus Gach Ball,
COMHAIRLE CHONTAEO LIATROMA.

Re: Budget 2017 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 2017 as it relates to the General Municipal Allocation (GMA). This item will be considered at the forthcoming Municipal District meetings.

Report on the Budgetary Process for 2017

There are a number of elements to the Budgetary Process in 2017 and the following outlines what these processes are:

(i) Discussion with the CPG

At the CPG meeting in September 2016 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 the September Council Meeting, Members resolved not to vary the LPT for the year 2017. The impact of this decision is that the LPT allocation, including the equalisation Fund for 2017 will be €8,956,315.

(iii) Agree Municipal Allocations – Draft Budgetary Plan

The General Municipal Allocations is the name given 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 meeting, although input in this regard from the Municipal District Meeting will be taken into account.

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 2016). The prescribed period for the municipal districts to consider the draft budgetary plan is between 12th October and 18th November 2016 and the prescribed period for the Council meeting to approve the Local Authority budget is between 1st November and 30th November 2016, this date has been provisionally set for the 28th November 2016.
This will allow the members to approve the detailed aspects of the 2017 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 2017 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.

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 early 2017. The full roads programme which will include the local authority contribution to local roads will be discussed and agreed by the members in early 2017 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.

4.1 Community Tourism and Arts Grants
A total budget of €15,000 is proposed for allocation to the GMA. It is recommended that a 2017 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.

4.2 Floral Pride
A total budget of €9,000 is proposed for allocation to the GMA. It is therefore recommended that a 2017 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.

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.

5.1 Adopt a road
A total budget of €5,000 is proposed for allocation to the GMA. It is recommended that a 2017 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.

6.0 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 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 2017 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.

Mise le meas,

[Signature]

Frank Curran
Chief Executive
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