

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COBH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT, HELD AT CARRIG HOUSE, COBH, ON WEDNESDAY 1ST NOVEMBER, 2017, TO CONSIDER THE DRAFT BUDGETARY PLAN FOR THE COBH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Present - Councillors P. O’Sullivan, A. Barry, G. Keohane, D. Ó’Cadhla, K. McCarthy, C. Rasmussen and S. Sheppard.

Officials Present:

Mr. S. O’Callaghan, Senior Executive Officer, Cork County Council
Mr. P. Lynch, Municipal District Officer

1. DRAFT BUDGET PLAN

S. O’Callaghan referred to the Draft Budgetary Plan which had been circulated to the Members and stated that the Plan sets out the level of funding which is expected to be assigned to the Municipal District in respect of the services that come within the remit of the Municipal District. The Draft Plan includes the amount to be allocated to the Municipal District as the General Municipal Allocation which is discretionary funding that can be applied, at the discretion of Members, to supplement the funding provided for any of the services in the Draft Plan which had been circulated.

The meeting of the Municipal District is part of the statutory Budget process, with final decisions in relation to the Budget to be made at the statutory Annual Budget meeting of Cork County Council. The Chief Executive was required to consider the views of the Municipal District members when preparing the final Draft Budget which would be presented to full Council at the statutory budget meeting.

Cllr. Ó’Cadhla asked for clarification of the powers that the Municipal District members had at the meeting. S. O’Callaghan stated that the members could adopt or reject the Draft Budgetary Plan or they could amend the Plan by reallocating part or all of the General Municipal Allocation to other Council services for the Municipal District.

Cllr. Keohane stated that he understood that the level of funding in the General Municipal allocation was dependant on the decision taken by the members in relation to the level of Local Property Tax levied within the County. S. O’Callaghan stated that as a result of the decisions taken by the members in relation to the LPT, a fund of €62,500 per Municipal District had been created for Village Enhancement projects. P. Lynch stated that he would be coming to the members in the New Year with a proposal that the Village Enhancement fund for 2018 be spent in Carrignavar and would be meeting shortly with Carrignavar Community Council to discuss this issue.

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that there was some confusion in relation to how the funding for the various Municipal Districts was calculated. S. O’Callaghan stated that the County Council looked at a number of issues, including the level of funding previously made available in former Town Councils for community and voluntary groups. A number of members stated

that there appeared to be discrepancies between the level of funding being made available in the Municipal Districts and that the Cobh Municipal District did not appear to be getting similar funding to other Municipal Districts

Cllr. O'Sullivan stated that the rates collected within the Cobh Municipal District appears to be far higher than the level of investment within the Municipal District and stated that if even 1% of the rates collected within the Municipal District was made available for projects within that Municipal District it would make a huge difference to the level of Municipal District and Roads Department services. Cllr. Barry, in support, stated that given the level of income generated in places like Little Island and Carrigtwohill by Cork County Council, those communities should see an improvement in the level of service.

Cllr. Ó'Cadhlá asked about the funding for the Five Foot Way Camper Van facility. P. Lynch stated that when the members of the Municipal District had adopted Bye Laws providing for the introduction of charges for use of the facility, they had insisted that any income generated would be ringfenced for investment in the area.

A number of members expressed dissatisfaction with the way that the Municipal Districts budgets were allocated and asked for details of how this was calculated. S. O'Callaghan stated that members should raise this matter directly with the Corporate Policy Group if they had concerns. On the proposal of Cllr. Ó'Cadhlá, seconded by Cllr. McCarthy, members agreed to seek a meeting with the Head of Finance to discuss this issue.

It was agreed on the proposal of Cllr. Sheppard, seconded by Cllr. Ó'Cadhlá that the Draft Budgetary Plan be rejected.

This concluded the business of the meeting

Cathaoirleach

Municipal District Officer