

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF SLIGO  
HELD ON MONDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2017 AT 10.00 A.M.  
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL, QUAY STREET, SLIGO**

**COUNCILLORS PRESENT:**

- Councillor Declan Bree
- Councillor Marie Casserly
- Councillor Hubert Keaney (Mayor)
- Councillor Seamus Kilgannon
- Councillor Sinead Maguire
- Councillor Chris MacManus
- Councillor Gino O'Boyle
- Councillor Rosaleen O'Grady

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

- Mr. Ciarán Hayes, Chief Executive
- Ms. Marie Whelan, Head of Finance
- Ms. Dorothy Clarke, Director of Services
- Mr. Tom Kilfeather, Director of Services
- Ms. Clodagh Quinn, Staff Officer

**MAYOR:**

The Mayor, Councillor Hubert Keaney presided and welcomed those present to the meeting and advised that the purpose of the meeting was to consider the Draft Budgetary Plan.

**1. TO CONSIDER THE DRAFT  
BUDGETARY PLAN**

Ms. Marie Whelan outlined the statutory nature of the meeting and its purpose in allocating funds between the two Municipal Districts in terms of discretionary expenditure indicating where variances were proposed on the previous year.

**Division B – Roads Transport & Safety**

Mr. Tom Kilfeather informed the meeting that for the first time in a number of years, there was a modest increase of €70,000 in the Roads budget on the previous year. Mr. Kilfeather explained that the roads programme is dependent on funding from Transport Infrastructure Ireland and the Dept. of Transport and when details of these sources of funding are known, draft Roads Programmes will be developed with a view to going before the Members in April 2018.

**Division C – Water Services**

Mr. Tom Kilfeather advised that in this section there is only provision for public conveniences which is the same as in previous years.

**Division D – Development Management**

Ms. Dorothy Clarke advised the meeting that under Service D05 – Tourism Development and Promotion, there is a €55,000 increase for 2018 which includes provisions for the appointment of a Tourism Manager, genealogy works by Sligo Genealogy Centre and the Fáilte Ireland Wild Atlantic Way campaign north of Galway.

**Division F – Recreation and Amenity**

Regarding Service F03 – Open Spaces and Beaches, Mr. Tom Kilfeather advised that the figure is the same as in previous years.

In relation to Service F04 – Community Sport and Recreational Developments – Grants, Ms. Dorothy Clarke outlined the areas covered by this service and advised that the increase under F04 is €67,250 on 2017.

Under Service F05 – Operation of Arts Programme – Contributions & Festivals, Ms. Clarke advised that the increase of €8,000 which is being provided would assist in maintaining a full-time staff member in the Arts Department. Ms. Clarke further advised that €10,000 has been included in the budget for 2018 for the development of an Arts Plan.

In discussions regarding the increase in Service F04 – Community Sport and Recreational Development – Grants, Director of Services Ms. Dorothy Clarke outlined the provision of a €10,000 contribution to the Film Investment Fund, an action under the Action Plan for Jobs and supported by the Western Development Commission. Ms. Clarke advised the Members that the action was to promote the west and north-west of Ireland as a film location. Local Authorities were asked to contribute €20,000 but because of the Council's financial position, only half this amount could be committed to.

In reply to a query from Councillor Seamus Kilgannon regarding the division of the roads budget between the two Municipal Districts, Director of Services, Mr. Tom Kilfeather explained that although the population in Sligo Municipal District is the higher of the two districts, the number of roads in the Ballymote-Tobercurry Municipal District is greater and comprises more Class 3 roads hence their allocation for 2018 is greater.

In reply to another query from Councillor Seamus Kilgannon regarding the absence of any increase under Division A – Housing and Building, Ms. Marie Whelan, Head of Finance advised that housing maintenance is not included in the figure as it is classed as critical expenditure as opposed to discretionary. Ms. Whelan further advised that there will be an increase for 2018 in this category in the main budget.

The Mayor, Councillor Hubert Keaney welcomed the increases to the Arts Programme and in the area of Community Sport & Recreational Development Grants and then turned to the issue of the Council's financial situation in light of correspondence circulated to Members the previous week. The Chief Executive, Mr. Ciarán Hayes stated that he has sought a meeting with Mr. Paul Lemass, Assistant Secretary, Dept. of Housing, Planning & Local Government since April 2017 and has requested the previously withdrawn Local Government Fund allocation of €750,000, neither of which request has been honoured to date.

A discussion then followed regarding the Financial Plan with the Mayor stating that the issue should be kept at the top of everyone's agenda going forward.

The focus of the meeting then reverted to the Draft Budgetary Plan with Councillor Declan Bree proposing that the Draft Budgetary Plan be deferred to the full Council Budget Meeting. The Chief Executive, Mr. Ciarán Hayes reminded the Members of their reserved function to adopt the Plan with or without amendments. A vote was then called for which resulted as follows:

**FOR:** Councillor Casserly, Councillor Keaney, Councillor Kilgannon and Councillor O'Grady (4)  
**AGAINST:** Councillor Bree, Councillor MacManus and Councillor O'Boyle (3)

The Mayor deemed the motion carried.

It was then:

**Proposed by Councillor R. O'Grady**

**Seconded by Councillor S. Kilgannon**

AND AGREED

“To adopt the Draft Budgetary Plan for the Sligo Municipal District for 2018”

The Mayor thanked all present for attending.

The meeting concluded at 11.10 a.m.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Cathairleach**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Meetings Administrator**