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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF SOUTH AND WEST KERRY TO CONSIDER AND ADOPT A DRAFT BUDGETARY PLAN FOR THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF SOUTH AND WEST KERRY FOR 2019, HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, COUNTY BUILDINGS, 22<sup>nd</sup> OCTOBER, 2018.

MIONTUAIRISCÍ DE CHRUINIÚ CHOMHALTAÍ CHEANTAR BARDASACH CHIARRAI THAR AGUS THEAS CHUN DRÉACHT-BHUISÉAD A MHEAS, AGUS CHUN GLACADH LEIS, DO CHEANTAR BARDASACH CHIARRAÍ THAR AGUS THEAS DO 2019, MAR A BHÍ I SEOMRA COMHAIRLE, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, 22U DEIREADH FOMHAR, 2018.

#### PRESENT/I LÁTHAIR

##### Councillors/Comhairleoirí

Cllr P Connor-Scarteen  
Cllr D McCarthy  
Cllr. N Moriarty  
Cllr D Quigg  
Cllr. S Fitzgerald  
Cllr. J Healy Rae

##### Absent

Cllr. M O' Shea  
Cllr M Cahill  
Cllr J F Flynn

##### In attendance/i láthair

Mr. M O'Donoghue	Delegated Executive for South and West Kerry MD
Mr. B. Conway	Meetings Administrator
Ms. A McAllen	Head of Finance
Mr. P. Corkery	S.E.O. Finance
Ms. S Griffin	Municipal District Officer
Mr. J McCarthy	A.O Finance
Mr. P Teahan	S.E.E.
Ms. N O' Sullivan	S.E.O Community & Enterprise
Ms. C Fitzgerald	A.S.O

The meeting commenced at 2.00pm

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. N. Moriarty took the Chair.

Ms. A. McAllen welcomed the members and thanked them for facilitating the meeting in Tralee. She proceeded to brief the members on the following document which was forwarded to them in advance of the meeting.

## 1. Background

Section 102 (4A)(a) of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended by the Local Government Reform Act, 2014) provides that the Chief Executive shall consult the Municipal District Members for each Municipal District in the local authority's functional area in the preparation of a draft local authority budget and, for that purpose, a draft budgetary plan for the Municipal District shall be prepared under the direction of the Chief Executive and submitted for consideration by the Members of each Municipal District. The purpose of a draft budgetary plan is to provide each Municipal District with an opportunity to allocate its portion of the General Municipal Allocation (GMA) according to its own priorities.

As outlined in the Local Government (Financial and Audit Procedures) Regulations 2014, the Draft Budgetary Plan sets out how any General Municipal District Allocation allocated to the Municipal District will be spent. The GMA is defined under these regulations as 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 a GMA is dependent on the total level of income available to it and the non-discretionary costs that must be met as a first call on that income, including at Municipal District level. The Chief Executive must consider the resource needs of the local authority in determining the overall level of the GMA. The GMA is also considered in context of the Budget Strategy discussion with the CPG and other Budget Strategy decisions. The estimate of the non-discretionary costs of the authority must also be taken into account.

Consideration of the main, strategic non-discretionary expenditure of the Council will form part of the Statutory Budget Meeting to take place in November.

Guidance issued from Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government (DPHLG) provides that the total amount of GMA provided must be allocated by the Chief Executive to each Municipal District in a manner that is fair and equitable. The Chief Executive must consider the resource needs; where appropriate, the population, and should make an allocation that is

transparent, just, not arbitrary, and provides a minimum level of discretionary allocation to all districts.

## 2. Guiding Principles & General Municipal District Allocation

The total allocation for the General Municipal Allocation for 2019 is €1.707m across the four Municipal Districts in the County. Maintaining this significant allocation at previous years' levels has been extremely challenging, in the context of the substantial shortfall that exists. Overall balancing of Budget 2019 will require both reconfiguration of Budgets across the services and will require the General Municipal District Allocation to be targeted to yield the highest return achievable to each Municipal District.

In keeping with this objective, this Council has made submissions under the Rural Regeneration & Development Fund (RRDF) to progress a number of strategic projects in the South & West Municipal District area, as well as advancing projects under other schemes such as the Town & Village Renewal Scheme, Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme, Designated Urban Grant Schemes, CLÁR etc. These grant applications require an Own Resource financial commitment which, for the purposes of framing Budget 2019, if successful, necessitate funding from the Strategic Development Fund of the Community Support Fund.

This funding commitment will require an increase in the Strategic Development Fund element of the General Municipal Allocation in 2019 to provide additional discretionary co-funding to meet future and committed grant allocations received. The nature of these grant schemes will require a multi-annual allocation.

### General Municipal Allocation- South and West Municipal District

The General Municipal Allocation for South and West Municipal District for 2019 is proposed:

<b>Community Support Fund South and West MD</b>	<b>Amount of Funding</b>	<b>Potential Yield</b>
Strategic Development Fund (RRDF, Town & Village Renewal, LEADER, Outdoor Recreation)	€80,000	€320,000
Community Support / Community Initiatives	€55,000	
<b>Municipal District Development Fund</b>	<b>€135,000</b>	

<b>Councillor Specific Municipal District Operations Fund</b>	<b>€261,000</b>	
<b>Total General Municipal Allocation South and West</b>	<b>€396,000</b>	
<b>Overall Investment to South and West Municipal District</b>	<b>€716,000</b>	

The following guiding principles have been applied in determining the level of General Municipal Allocation:

**1) Councillor Specific Municipal District Operations Fund**

The Councillor Specific Municipal District Operations Fund forms part of the Municipal District Allocation. For 2019, Councillors' allocations have been maintained at €29,000 per Council Member. In 2018, the Councillors Specific Municipal District Operations Funds were used to provide a number of larger strategic schemes across Municipal Areas, and in that context, for Budget 2019, a similar strategic approach will be required.

**2) General Municipal Allocation - Strategic Development Fund**

The Community Support Fund (CSF) is entering its fifth year of operation and to date has provided a valuable contribution to economic and social activities throughout the County. Funding under a variety of schemes has become available through various national initiatives, including the Rural Regeneration & Development Fund (RRDF), Town & Village Renewal Scheme (TVR), CLÁR (Measures 1-4), and an Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme. A significant challenge facing the Council and the Local Community, given the current substantial shortfall, is the provision of matching funding that is required as part of the grant application assessment in relation to the majority of the above grant schemes.

In framing the 2019 CSF for the South and West Municipal District, Kerry County Council has sought to maximise the opportunities provided by these alternative sources of funding, increasing the allocation to the Strategic Development Fund to optimise the multiplier effect of ring-fencing a portion of funding as matching funding for these National Grant schemes.

This will require an increased allocation to €80,000 under the "Strategic Development Fund" subdivision of the CSF, which has the potential to yield at least €320,000 of additional critical investment into the South and West Municipal District.

Current grant applications for the South and West Municipal District to the Enterprise Ireland Regional Development Fund and the RRDF for

Grant Schemes	Project Description	Grant
<b>Town &amp; Village Renewal</b>	Skellig CRI Project 2017 Scheme: Delivery of higher education, research and innovation in the form of a satellite university campus based in Caherciveen, create a sustainable model and social enterprise to address rural depopulation issues, to enhance the socio-economic fabric of the community	€80,000
	Skellig CRI Project: 2018 Scheme	100,000
	MOLTEIC - Dingle Creativity and Innovation Hub: Preparation and launch of the Hub, develop hub systems and documentation, development of the home working initiatives with the IDA, development of key relations with various companies	€56,000
	Killorglin - Branding & Marketing Project- 2017 Scheme	€64,480
	Killorglin Chamber Alliance - Killorglin Town Centre Project- 2018 Scheme	€64,000
	Kenmare Tidy Towns/Kenmare Marketing & Events Group - Street Trading Development Project - Phase One- 2017 Scheme	€24,100
	Kenmare Tidy Towns/Kenmare Marketing & Events Group - Street Trading Development Project - Phase Two- 2018 Scheme	€76,000
	SneemEc- To complete & refurbish works to the Old Sneem Enterprise Centre, which will serve as a hub working facility for those companies who will be willing to offer employment opportunities to suitable candidates.	€45,720
	Milltown Community & Chamber Alliance- Replacement of Community Hall.	€78,400
	<b>Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme</b>	MacGillycuddy Reeks Access Road
Daniel O'Connell Heritage Trail		€10,000
Doorus Nature Trail		€8,651
Kerry Dark Sky Reserve Solar Trail		€9,319
Caragh Lake Amenity Development		€100,000
Milltown Heritage Trail		€100,000
Extension of the Emlagh Loop Walk and Brochure for the Promotion of the Monks Trail		€6,000
Linking the Monks Trail with the Bolus Loop Walk		€5,600
Inch Boardwalk		€20,000
Top of the Coom Looped Walk		€1,600
Glenbeigh Promotion		€640
Keel Uphill Downhill Loop and Caher Marsh Loop		€2,000
Oysterbed Sneem-Amenity Area		€15,000
Clogher Strand Amenity Area		€15,200

<b>Community Enhancement Scheme</b>	18 Age Friendly/ Community Enhancement Projects	€37,836
<b>Clár Measure 1</b>	Portmagee Astro Tourism Project- Replace existing sodium and neon public lights with energy efficient and dark sky compliant LED lights.	€34,188
<b>Men's Shed Projects</b>	5 Men's Shed Projects	€8,821
<b>Other Grants</b>	Sunhill Amenity Trail	€25,000

the Living Iveragh Labs Project - Caherciveen, Net Factory Site - Kenmare and the Milltown Public Realm Area Development, along with the development of a Masterplan for the sustainable development of the Kenmare Peninsula Lands will require €53,000 matching funding from this fund. In addition, in relation to the grant applications for the programme of undergrounding of services in coastal towns, along with the development of Dingle Boatyard and Green Street projects, these will require an Own Resource provision of at minimum €80,000.

During 2018 period to date, the following grant aided co-funded projects are being advanced and demonstrate the value of the multiplier effect of ringfenced strategic funding:

**The CSF Strategic Fund allocation to support these projects currently being advanced in the South and West Municipal District is estimated at €60,000 and will yield projects to the value of €860,000.**

### **3) General Municipal District Allocation - Community Support/Community Initiatives**

This element of the fund will support community initiatives in the South and West Municipal District in line with the CSF guidelines agreed with Members in 2018. The amount allocated to this area is €55,000.

## **3. Conclusion**

This Draft Budgetary Plan sets out the General Municipal Allocation for 2019 and the principles governing its proposed application. This Plan must be considered by Members at a Meeting of the Municipal District Members, and in accordance with Regulations, this Meeting must conclude no later than 10 days prior to the local authority budget meeting. There is no provision for the adjournment of this meeting. Following consideration of the Draft Budgetary Plan, the Municipal District Members shall by resolution adopt the Draft Budgetary Plan, with or without amendment. The making of amendments is a reserved function.

The Chief Executive shall take account of any budgetary plan adopted by the Municipal District Members in preparing the Draft Local Authority Budget for 2019. 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 Members of that Municipal District, without amendment.

Following adoption of the Council Budget for 2019, a Schedule of Proposed Works of Maintenance and Repair to be carried out during the financial year in each Municipal District is prepared as soon as possible under the direction of the Chief Executive, having regard to available resources. The draft budgetary plans of the Municipal Districts do not include 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 Budget has been adopted. The Schedule of Municipal District Works shall be considered by the Municipal District Members concerned and be adopted by resolution, with or without amendment by it. In making an amendment the Municipal District Members shall have due regard to the Council Budget adopted.

I recommend adoption of the General Municipal Allocation for South & West Municipal District for 2019 of €396,000. This fund represents a meaningful discretionary fund for allocation by Members in accordance with the priorities of the District, optimises grant opportunities and provides maximum flexibility to meet the operation and economic and community development needs of the area for the coming year with a projected investment of €716,000 to the South & West Municipal District Area.

Mise le meas,

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**Moira Murrell**  
**Chief Executive**

Cllr. D. Quigg welcomed the document and commended the staff on the number of projects that have been presented for the South & West Municipal District. However, he said he did have concerns regarding the lack of street lighting in towns within the Municipal District, especially as the winter evenings are now setting in. Where he welcomed the funding for the provision of LED lighting for the Dark Sky reserve, he said that the council also has to accommodate the ordinary tax payer who wants to be able to walk from their estate to the local shop with adequate lighting. He said that he has submitted several Notices of Motion and Questions regarding public lighting and couldn't vote for this budget until this issue is resolved.

Cllr. S. Fitzgerald welcomed the budget and in particular the funding for Green St and asked for clarification on what is included in the Green Street project. He asked if the council intend on completing a Masterplan for Dingle boatyard. He stressed that the completion of the Dingle Inner Relief road is a priority.

Cllr. D. McCarthy welcomed the budget and said that the list of projects presented is very promising for this Municipal District. He said he is hopeful that funding for the Nett Factory site would be allocated. The site could be utilised for housing or parking in Kenmare. He said that he would also like to see the introduction of youth cafes as there is nowhere for adolescents to congregate in the town.

Mr. M. O'Donoghue referred to Cllr. D. Quigg's comments regarding public lighting and stated that there is a public lighting policy in place which was compiled by the Operations, Health & Safety S.P.C. and adopted by the members at Full Council. This is a very straight forward policy which outlines the criteria for the provision of public lighting. With regard to Green St, he explained that the project includes parking and the Public Realm area. The Boat Yard has a long and chequered history, and has gone through an arbitration. An application has been made for funding for the development of a Master Plan for the area. Mr. O'Donoghue confirmed that a funding application to purchase the Ceann Mheara site has been submitted and a decision on the application is due in November.

Cllr. J. Healy-Rae welcomed the budget and asked did the South & West Municipal District receive the same level of funding as 2018.

Ms. A McAllen stated that the strategic element of the budget was increased to maximise the grant applications and confirmed that the funding allocated to the South & West Municipal District is the same as 2018.

Cllr. P. Connor-Scarteen welcomed the budget. He suggested that funding would set aside in future budgets for the provision of parking in the four main towns. He said he didn't believe that councillors should be requested to use their CSMDOF to fund any scheme. There is a number of very important projects listed in this document such as the application submitted for the purchase of the Ceann Mheara site. The Dark Sky Reserve and the Heritage trail are very important for tourism. He welcome the funding for the Men's Shed project and stated that this will have a very positive impact on the community.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the document and said that every single project is very important and has the potential to have a huge return for the community. The Skellig CRI is

one of the first of its kind in the country. In regard to the CSMDOF she stated that an increase in the allocation would have been welcomed and believed that each member should be able to decide which project they want to make a contribution towards. She referred to the retrofitting lighting project for the Dark Sky Reserve and explained that all new lighting and the replacement of existing lighting will be fitted with LED lighting.

Cllr. S. Fitzgerald PROPOSED that we the members of the Municipal District of South and West Kerry resolve to adopt the Draft Budgetary Plan for the Municipal District of South and West Kerry for 2019 as presented.

Cllr D. McCarthy SECONDED the proposal.

A vote was taken which resulted as follows:

**For:** Cllrs. P Connor-Scarteen, S Fitzgerald, J Healy-Rae, D McCarthy, N Moriarty  
Cllr. Quigg,

**Against:** (0)

**Absent:** Cllr. M O'Shea, M. Cahill, J. F. Flynn.

**Not Voting:** (0)

Ms. B Conway declared the proposal to be carried.

The meeting concluded at 2.50p.m.

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**Cllr. N. Moriarty**  
**Cathaoirleach of the**  
**Municipal District of South and West Kerry**

**Ms. Brenda Conway**  
**Meetings Administrator**