

**GRANARD MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

**Minutes of Meeting of Granard Municipal District held in the Council Chamber on Monday, 21 October 2024 at 3:30pm**

**CATHAOIRLEACH**: Councillor Garry Murtagh

**MEMBERS PRESENT**: Councillors Turlough McGovern,

Pádraig McNamara, David Cassidy, Paraic Brady

**IN ATTENDANCE**: Ms. Barbara Heslin, Director of Services

Mr. John McKeon, Director of Services

Ms. Breege Cronin, Administrative Officer

Mr. David Coppinger, Senior Executive Engineer

Mr. Joe Gorman, Executive Engineer

Mr. Sean Savage, Senior Executive Technician

**APOLOGIES** None

**MEETINGS**

**ADMINISTRATOR**: Ms. Claire McNabola

1. **CONSIDERATION OF THE 2025 GENERAL MUNICIPAL ALLOCATION**

John McKeon, Head of Finance gave a comprehensive presentation regarding the General Municipal Allocation 2025 under the following headings and replied to queries raised –

* Budgetary Process – under Local Government Reform Act 2014
* Local Property Tax Variation – retain rates at 2024 levels from 2025 - 2029
* Source of Funding for Municipal District
* Acute Financial Challenges for 2025
* No scope to increase local income
* Lowest valued LPT base in Country, maxed at 15%
* Funding new LCC Strategic Business Plan
* Commercial Rates Increase needed
* Rolling Rent Review needed
* Largest % population increase in the state
* Downward revaluations for Utility Providers
* New service initiatives only part funded
* Inflationary Pressures
* Ever increasing demands for match funding for Capital Projects
* Uisce Éireann Standard Costs
* Fire Service Costs
* Coats for providing services for Multiple Departments
* Rent Review
* Potential Deficit for 2024
* Recruitment Costs
* General Municipal Allocation 2025 Recommendation - €110,200 (including an underspend from 2024) to be distributed as follows – Community Grants - Tidy Town Grants - Town Twinning – Special Project Grants – Christmas Lights – BCP’S
* Governance

John outlined to the Members the €10k per annum per MD increase in GMA, is one of the pillars of the Longford County Council Strategic Business Plan 2025-2029.

**Granard GMA Sub-Service Allocation 2025**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Service Division** | **Sub-Service** | **Allocation 2024** | **Suggested Allocation 2025** | **Increase/Decrease** |
| **Recreation & Amenity** | **Underspend in 2024** | **€200** | **€200** | **(€200)** |
| **Recreation & Amenity** | **Town Twinning** | **€7,000** | **€8,000** | **€1,000** |
| **Recreation & Amenity** | **Voluntary Bodies Grants** | **€44,565** | **€44,700** | **€135** |
| **Recreation & Amenity** | **Tidy Towns/Development Committees** | **€14,985** | **€15,000** | **€15** |
| **Recreation & Amenity** | **Dring Amenities** | **€2,000** | **€2,000** | **€0** |
| **Recreation & Amenity** | **Special Project Grants** | **€25,000** | **€34,000** | **€9,000** |
| **Recreation & Amenity** | **BCP** | **€1,250** | **€1,500** | **€250** |
| **Recreation & Amenity** | **Christmas Lights** | **€5,000** | **€5,000** | **€0** |
| **Grand Total** |  | **€100,000** | **€110,200** | **€10,200** |

The members thanked John for the presentation and acknowledged all the groups that received funding in 2024 and complimented these groups for the works that they did in the community. They also complemented and thanked the team in Community that administered the scheme.

The Members welcomed the additional funding in the General Municipal Allocation and discussed the suggested allocation in detail. The Members agreed that, in relation to Special Projects, each Member will be allocated €6,000 with the Cathaoirleach allocated an additional €4,000. The Members also agreed to increase the funding for Town Twinning by €1,000 with both Twinning Committees to receive €3,000 in 2025.

On the proposal of Councillor Paraic Brady, seconded by Councillor Turlough McGovern the General Municipal Allocation for 2025 was adopted.

On the proposal of Councillor Paraic Brady, seconded by Councillor Garry Murtagh the Members agreed that the minimum request from the special Projects Fund will be €1,000. This funding will be used to support community groups and be utilised as matched funding for the delivery of sustainable projects.

Councillor Paraic Brady together with the Members of Granard Municipal District wished to pay tribute to outgoing Minister Heather Humphries for all her support to Co. Longford over the years.

1. **MULTI-ANNUAL (3-YEAR) RESTORATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME**

David Coppinger outlined the 3 Year Restoration Improvement Programme. David advised The Department guidance requires that a multi-year programme for 2025, 2026 and 2027 be prepared, assuming an annual budget estimate of 100% of the Council’s initial 2024 RI Grant allocation. For the Granard MD that means an annual budget of € 2,072,959. For the purpose of preparing the plan this budget is split equally between the two depots within Granard MD, i.e., Esker and Granard Depots.

The Regional, Local Primary and Local Secondary roads have been chosen based on their Pavement Survey Condition Index (PSCI), which is a standardised system for assessing the condition of a road. The Department of Transport insist that the PSCI be used as the primary tool for selecting sites for the plan.

Roads selected in rural areas would be expected to have a PSCI rating of between 1 and 6 and those in urban areas to have a rating between 1 and 8. RI works on regional roads must account for a minimum of 15% of the total annual expenditure in the list.

David also advised that it should be noted that grants under the Restoration Maintenance (Surface Dressing) programme are not included in the 3-year plan.

On the proposal of Councillor Paraic Brady, seconded by Councillor Turlough McGovern the Multi Annual 3 Year Roads Restoration Programme was adopted.

The Members collectively thanked David, Joe Gorman, Sean Savage and the entire Roads Team for all their great work, engagement and support. They acknowledged the work of the team in maintaining the roads in the Municipal District to a very high standard.

Councillor Paraic Brady welcomed the works in Drumlish and recognised that the works may result in some traffic disruption. Councillor Turlough McGovern complemented the excellent works on the new car park in Granard.

1. **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

On the proposal of Councillor Gary Murtagh, seconded by Councillor Turlough McGovern the Members agreed that the next meeting will be held on the 16 December 2024 in Glenview, Aughnacliffe.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Claire McNabola**

**Meetings Administrator**

**Confirmed and adopted at Granard Municipal District Meeting held on the 16 December 2024.**

**Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Cathaoirleach.**