

**Minutes of the Municipal District of Castlecomer Budget Meeting held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at 11.00am in The Council Chamber, County Hall, John Street, Kilkenny with quorum in attendance**

**In the chair:** Cllr Michael McCarthy

**Present:** Cllrs John Brennan and Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick

**Via MS Teams:** Cllrs Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Michael Delaney and Denis Hynes

**In attendance:** Mr Martin Prendiville, Mr Philippe Beubry, Ms Anne Maria Walsh and Ms Nancy Byrne

**1. Budget 2021 – General Municipal Allocation for the Municipal District of Castlecomer**

Mr Martin Prendiville outlined the statutory process under the Local Government Reform Act 2014, which prescribes the requirement to adopt a budget for the Municipal District. Mr Prendiville advised the members that the preparation of a detailed budget for 2021 is currently underway and total estimated budget expenditure for 2021 is €90m. He outlined a number of significant funding challenges to address, in particular the impact of COVID 19 on the Council's income streams for 2021 with an estimated loss of income of €4.2m and details of Government compensation awaited.

The proposed General Municipal Allocation for the Castlecomer MD is as follows:-

1. Discretionary Road Budget €800,000
2. Discretionary General Budget €50,000

Mr Prendiville confirmed that the inclusion of the €62,500 under the 2021 Discretionary General Budget allocation is dependent on Government subvention. Mr Prendiville also advised that it will be necessary to pause expenditure at the beginning of 2021 for a number of months subject to clarification from Government on income support.

The draft budget plan with clarification that the €62,500 would be protected and would form part of the 2021 Discretionary General Budget subject to Government subvention was proposed by Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh and agreed.

**2. Any Other Business - Revised Standing Orders**

Ms Anne Maria Walsh presented Supplementary Standing Orders regulating the proceedings of the Council in holding remote meetings as circulated in advance of the meeting.

In her presentation she gave an overview to the Members on the following:

- Purpose of the Supplementary Standing Orders to allow for remote meetings of Kilkenny County Council and its sub-committees in light of the designation of the Local Authority in the Civil Law and Criminal Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020 (Section 29) (Local Authorities) (Designation) Order 2020 (SI No 445 of 2020).
- Remote Meetings.
- Management of Remote Meetings.
- Meetings Procedures.
- Voting
- Leaving a Remote Meeting
- Declaration of Interests
- Attendance of Public & Media at a Remote Meeting (Section 45(3) Local Government Act 2001-2014)

- Meetings in Committee

Ms Anne Maria Walsh also presented suggested amendments to Standing Orders regulating the proceedings of the Council as circulated in advance of the meeting under the following items:

- Item 6 - Place of Meeting and Address of Principal Offices
- Item 13A - Declaration of Interests
- Item 15 - Notices of Motion
- Item 50 - Attendance of Public and Media
- Item 52 – Members of the public and media shall be seated and shall maintain silence and observe any directions given by the Chair or by any Council employee in attendance.

Ms Walsh advised that she will be suggesting to the Plenary that the Supplementary Standing Orders & Amendments as circulated be adopted and that she would propose amending Standing Orders for the Castlecomer Municipal District accordingly.

Members thanked Ms Walsh for her presentation and raised the following queries /questions / observations:

- Connectivity problems – availability of a room in Co Hall to accommodate remote meetings
- Attendance of Public & Media
- Live streaming & recording the proceedings
- Clarification on when a review of the Supplementary Standing Orders can take place

It was:                    Proposed by: Cllr John Brennan  
                                  Seconder by: Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick

And agreed

That the Supplementary Standing Orders and Amendments to Standing Orders as presented to the meeting be and are hereby adopted.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_