

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF
SLIGO HELD ON MONDAY 12TH NOVEMBER 2018
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
Councillor Seamus Kilgannon
Councillor Sinead Maguire
Councillor Chris MacManus
Councillor Gino O'Boyle
Councillor Rosaleen O'Grady (Mayor)

APOLOGIES: Councillor Thomas Healy
Councillor Tom MacSharry

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 Rosaleen O'Grady presided and welcomed those present to the meeting. She then handed proceedings over to the Head of Finance, Ms. Marie Whelan.

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

Ms. Marie Whelan outlined the statutory nature of the meeting and explained that the budgetary plan followed the same format as in previous years containing items of discretionary expenditure which apply to both Municipal Districts which may be considered on a County-wide basis in addition to items which are specific to each district.

Ms. Whelan informed Members that there is an overall increase of €463,000 on the previous year, €350,000 of which relates to Housing Grants, €60,000 to Local Roads and €53,000 to Recreation and Amenity.

In conclusion, Ms. Whelan advised that further work is required to balance the budget in the coming weeks as the 2019 Local Elections have to be provided for as well as trying to cater for all demands.

Division B – Roads Transport & Safety

Mr. Tom Kilfeather, Director of Services informed Members that the aforementioned €60,000 increase in the Roads budget on 2018 comes from the Council's own resources but advised that it is still the lowest in the country due to the Council's financial difficulties. It is envisaged that CLÁR and Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) funding will be available again in 2019 and Mr. Kilfeather stated that when details of funding from Transport Infrastructure Ireland and Dept. of Transport, Tourism and Sport are known in Q1 2019, the roads programme will then be developed and brought before Members.

Division D – Development Management

Ms. Dorothy Clarke, Director of Services advised Members that there is no increase in the budget figure of €224,000 on last year. Contributions are still being made to Ireland West Airport Knock, Sligo Airport and Sligo Tourism who will benefit from an additional €20,000 which previously had been assigned to a Fáilte Ireland Wild Atlantic Way North of Galway campaign but which was not sought for 2019.

Division F – Recreation and Amenity

Under this division, Ms. Clarke outlined the various contributions made to the Hawks Well Theatre, Rhode Island Offices, WRAP Fund, Eurovelo project etc. plus a €30,000 contribution to the development of a fast landing space at the Embankment building on Rockwood Parade.

Ms. Clarke advised of the receipt of €60,000 in funding from Fáilte Ireland towards a feasibility study for Stephen Street Cultural Plaza which must be matched by Sligo County Council. €30,000 of which was provided for in the 2018 budget with the balance of €30,000 included in the 2019 budget.

In reply to a query from Councillor Seamus Kilgannon regarding an increase on the 2018 contribution to Sligo Genealogy Centre, Ms. Clarke advised that provision was not made for same in 2019 but suggested that the Community Enhancement Programme funded by the Dept. of Rural and Community Development may be a suitable option for funding for the Centre.

In conclusion, the Chief Executive, Mr. Ciarán Hayes advised that despite the Executive being aware of the various demands sought, it is obliged to produce a balanced budget.

Following a brief discussion, the Draft Budgetary Plan was agreed by Members.

The meeting concluded at 10.40 a.m.

_____ **Date** _____
Cathaoirleach

_____ **Date** _____
Meetings Administrator