

**DÚICHE DHÚN GARBHÁN / LIOS MHÓR
DUNGARVAN AND LISMORE BUDGET GMA MEETING**

**HELD ON 8TH NOVEMBER 2021 BY MS Teams AND IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC
OFFICES, DUNGARVAN at 2.30pm.**

PRESENT:

Cllr. Tom Cronin, Cathaoirleach
Cllr. Declan Doocey
Cllr. John Pratt
Cllr. Seamus O'Donnell
Cllr. Thomas Phelan
Cllr. James Tobin
Cllr. Conor McGuinness
Cllr. Damien Geoghegan
Cllr. Thomas Phelan

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. M. Walsh, Chief Executive
Mr. B. Pollard, Head of Finance
Mr. K. Kehoe, Director of Services, Corporate, Culture, HR and IS
Mr. D. Murphy, Financial Accountant
Ms. H. Dunphy, Meetings Administrator

Roll call for attendance carried out by meetings administrator

Michael Walsh, Chief Executive acknowledged it has been another difficult year outlining additional energy costs of €400k which will impact on roads and housing maintenance and considering all issues in preparation for the upcoming budget. He noted the frustration in the budget process in having the district meetings prior to the budget meeting which is incorrect and is because of changes to the Local Government Acts and in having decision on the Local Property Tax before main budget. Noted that discretionary spend is very small, district members can vary the annual charges and use the opportunity to outline priorities for the forthcoming budget.

B. Pollard, HoF, outlined the spilt regarding the discretionary costs as per document circulated and noted income from parking reduced due to impact of Covid.

Cllr. Geoghegan proposed that parking charges remain as is along with free 90 minutes parking in Scanlon's Yard and agrees with CE as regards the process of budget. Suggested meeting as a district after the overall budget is agreed. Seconded by Cllr. Cronin.

Cllr. Tobin noted while have 25% of the population the district has a far greater road network and requested detail on the road network for the district in comparison to the other districts. Requested the figures in preparation for the passing of the plenary budget.

Cllr. McGuinness agreed with issues regarding the budgetary process noting it seems to be a box ticking exercise. Need to have conversation regarding parking permit provision at district level, need to progress housing maintenance issues and addressing issues for housing tenants. Agreed with need to get breakdown on the km for maintenance of roads in district and need to look again at footpath improvement at local level.

Cllr. Nugent agreed with Cllr. McGuinness regarding the parking permit position, particularly for businesses. Enquired about subventions regarding Covid and if there will be additional income from central government to assist with this.

Cllr. Phelan enquired if this budget can this be passed on % splits as presented and then revisit after plenary budget. Queried the discretionary spend amount across 3 districts and what % of overall budget this comprises of. Enquired if the €188K is the gross or net cost from parking, C0141 for operation or maintenance of public conveniences and questioned if this caters for full provision of public convenience in Dungarvan. Notes other local authorities provide free parking and asked for this to be looked at and supports need to have workshop to look at district level car parking.

B. Pollard, HoF, outlined that have received a lot of support in relation to rates, doesn't expect a deficit in 2021 due to receipt of waiver. The figures as presented relates to 2020 expenditure, in relation to €1.6m and % of budget book is 4-5%. The €188k is the income achieved in Dungarvan in 2020 which is significantly less than a normal year.

M. Walsh, CE, noted amount of funding is small within the overall budget of €126m for 2021, a lot of budget is money in and money out where receive government grants that are then expended on so neutral in budget terms. Vast amount of money received in roads only goes to rural areas and have retained the spilt that was there before the two authorities were amalgamated in 2014 and roads funding follows the km of roads, and this district is doing well in this context. Can come back to discuss the overall budgetary provision noting importance in district spend as within the Annual Service Plan, how money is spent is part of this process which commences after approval of the budget. Parking permits can be discussed and suggested a workshop to consider, policy issue in terms of parking permits and parking needs to be available for people trading in the town and best way to ensure this is via a charging regime. Need to have a balance to ensure parking is available, availability in Scanlon's Yard provides a good balance. Dungarvan in terms of smarter travel has had significant investment in last number of years. Outlined that have no confirmation of receipt of Covid supports in 2022 and justification is difficult at the present and hope that there will a return to a level of normality for 2022.

Cllr. Tobin enquired where the Active Travel grant is reflected in the budget.

M. Walsh, CE outlined applications need to be made for the Active Travel grants and are based on schemes that are being designed, have approval for 11 staff in this area and will draw down money accordingly. Staff costs covered by the NTA.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated _____