

LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ADARE-RATHKEALE
MEETING TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, 21ST APRIL, 2015

16th April 2015

To: The Cathaoirleach and Each Member of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale

Re: Draft Schedule of Municipal District Works - (SMDW)

Dear Councillor,

I wish to refer to previous discussions regarding the requirement to prepare a Schedule of Municipal District Works

Section 58 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 inserts a new section 103A in the Local Government Act 2001 providing that, following the adoption of the annual budget, a schedule of proposed works of maintenance and repair to be carried out during the financial year in each municipal district shall be prepared, for adoption by the municipal district members.

The SMDW is, in effect, a plan of works that prioritises and apportions the use, within each municipal district, of funding provided in the overall local authority revenue budget for particular purposes

The SMDW in respect of the Municipal District should be formulated on the basis of the amount of funding provided for maintenance and repair in the annual budget of in respect of each relevant service division (e.g. housing, roads, amenities, street cleaning, drainage work, burial ground maintenance, etc.

Classification of items in the budget should largely determine what works and related expenditure are included in the SMDW but insofar as it may be necessary to make judgments in particular instances, it is considered that the term "maintenance" can include not only maintenance of the physical condition or fabric of items, but also more operational type matters such as grass cutting or tree pruning.

Within the level of funding available, details of the SMDW should be prepared on the basis of identified needs (taking account of relevant factors, for example, in the case of housing, age profile of stock) and priorities throughout the local authority area and taking due account of requirements in relation to standards and frequency of

maintenance work. This should be informed by details of relevant requirements which were considered in the formulation of the overall local authority budget. It will also be relevant to have regard to the pattern of works and expenditure in previous years.

It is emphasised that adoption of the SMDW per se cannot involve revision of the adopted budget.

It is essential to maximise return on investment by avoiding dilution of expenditure which could result from spreading allocations too thinly across the Municipal District each year. This could be minimised by taking a multi-annual approach where possible in the preparation of the SMDW.

Maximising value for money, overall effectiveness, and return from investment should also be a key objective in prioritising works and allocating available funding within each municipal district, along with the need to ensure appropriate balance in the allocation of resources as between urban and rural areas in the district.

Apportionment of funding on a thematic basis within the district over the life of the Council could help to this end. For example, specific housing estate(s) in one location could be prioritised for refurbishment in year one, with a commitment to undertake works in another area in subsequent years. Similarly, where an overall local authority maintenance programme is drawn up for a particular purpose (say windows and doors in local authority dwellings) which might need to extend over a number of years, the required works would be reflected in relevant annual SMDWs.

Any maintenance type functions, for example, grass cutting, planting or other maintenance of open spaces, that are carried out by means of specific purpose grants for such purposes to community groups such as tidy towns committees can be provided for, as appropriate, through the SMDW.

The GMA, which is a budgetary element providing funding for discretionary expenditure at municipal district level to be decided by the elected members in respect of each municipal district, is separate from the “strategic” budgetary funding for maintenance and repair, the utilisation of which is to be determined in the SMDW.

The Draft Schedule of Municipal District Works for the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale is set out at appendix 1 attached.

The approval of the Members is sought for the Draft Schedule as presented.

**Tom Gilligan,
Head of Finance.**

**SCHEDULE OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WORKS FOR THE
ADARE RATHKEALE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

Work Category - Roads	€
Restoration Improvement (RI) -Road Reconstruction	€1,207,270
Restoration Maintenance (RM) -Surface Dressing	€343,851
General Maintenance (GM)	€728,720
Tar Patching (TP)	€298,965
Structures (STR)	€124,000
General Municipal Allocation (GMA)	€50,000
Low Cost Safety Improvement Works (LCSI)	€40,500
General Maintenance of National Roads-N21/N69	€247,513
Total Defined MD spending	€3,040,819

Winter Maintenance (WM)	€400,000 Total City and County
Community Involvement Schemes (CIS)	€180,000 Total City and County
Local Improvement Schemes (LIS)	€181,500 Total City and County
Public Lighting	€2,525,401 Total City and County

ADARE RATHKEALE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Road Works Scheme 2015

Regional Roads

Surface Dressing

Budget = €53,101

Road No.	Description	Length (m)	Total Cost (€)
R519	Nevilles Cross towards Adare	1000	€30,000
R521	Grouse Lodge	350	€12,252
R515	Tullovin Croom	360	€10,849
Total		1710	€53,101

<p style="text-align: center;">Regional Roads Road Reconstruction Budget = €228,316</p>			
Road No.	Description	Length (m)	Total Cost (€)
R521	Grouse Lodge	350	€51,500
R519	Nevilles Cross towards Adare	1000	€111,784
R516	Ballintaw Meanus	515	€65,032
	Total	2000	€228,316
<p style="text-align: center;">Local Roads Surface Dressing Budget = €290,750</p>			
Road No.	Description	Length (m)	Total Cost (€)
	Surface dress (including preparatory works)		
L1232	Tullyglass scenic route to junction of R524	1150	€32,450
L1230	Culhanes Cross	950	€27,550
L1236	Miltown towards Askeaton	1700	€46,295
L6027	Ballyea Rd Croagh	600	€14,400
L6035	Woodstock Rd	600	€9,000
L1243	Ardnaveigh rd both sides of Rathkeale Bypass / N21	600	€14,400
L6005	Ballyengland/Ballynort rd from jct at N69 to Ballynort Jct	1500	€33,502
L60151	Seanie Barrys Rd	400	€9,600
L6059	Cooltomin to Newbridge	1000	€25,000
L8016	Ballymacstradeen, Mainister	1500	€33,750
L1418	Ballygrennan, Croom	1150	€20,733
L5086	Ballybricken Church Road	1100	€24,070
	Total	12250	€290,750

Local Roads Road Reconstruction Budget = €978,954			
Road No.	Description	Length (m)	Total Cost (€)
L6095	Tinakillin Ballyhahill	1000	€77,000
L6089	Mohernagh Moyreen	1000	€77,000
L6006	Mornane rd Nth end	1000	€70,000
L8024	Clonshire Link Rd off N21	1000	€70,000
L1423	Seven Sisters Clorane	1000	€81,000
L8022	Dreightrasna Beabus	1000	€42,000
L1420	Caherass Jct L14201 Adare	1000	€70,000
L1216	Mountbrown Ballingarry	1000	€76,096
L6065	Old Cappagh Bottlehill	1000	€77,000
L1226	Gortadroma Knockdown	1200	€90,000
L8059	Killonahan Crecora	700	€53,200
L1408	Fearoe Crecora	855	€64,980
L1408	Ballycahane Lower Shanaclogh	485	€46,169
L1147	Ballyneety to Friarstown	600	€42,250
L5079	Carnane to Arywee	600	€42,259
Total		13440	€978,954

Bridge Rehabilitation Works-Structures (STR) Allocation = €124,000			
Road No.	Description		Total Cost (€)
L1239	Ballyegna, Ardagh		€50,000
R518	Nantinan, Rathkeale		€40,000
R521	Duncaha, Shanagolden		€34,000
Total			€124,000
Low Cost Safety Improvement Schemes (LCSI) Allocation = €40,500			
Road No.	Description		Total Cost (€)
L519	Lisamoate, Ballingarry		€15,000
R518/L6021	Graigeen, Askeaton		€25,500
Total			€40,500

Brief summary of the above Work Categories and Allocations for the Adare-Rathkeale Municipal District:

Restoration Improvement (RI) €1,207,270

This is a specific allocation under the Restoration Improvement Grant (RI). Many roads have deteriorated to such an extent that they require resurfacing, reshaping and strengthening to enable them to cater for the heavy vehicles and to prevent water lodging.

Restoration Maintenance (RM) €343,851

This is a specific allocation under the Restoration Maintenance Grant (RM). A large proportion of the condition of non-national roads is due to lack of proper and regular maintenance such as overlays and surface dressing. This allocation will extend the life of the pavement and delay the development of potholes, thus protecting the investment in roads. At the current level of funding the overlay and surface dressing life cycles for non national roads is up to 1:40 years.

General Maintenance €728,720

General maintenance covers a wide range of works such as verges and drainage, cleaning water channels, street cleaning, opening inlets, signage, elimination of localised flooding, junction maintenance, dealing with accidents, oil spillages, storms, emergencies and general repairs to roads and footpaths.

Tar Patching (TP) €298,965

Regular tar patching is necessary to prevent the deterioration of the road surface and substructure and in the interest of road safety.

Structures (STR) €124,000

Details of the funding made available for structures in the District is provided. The 2015 approved schemes are provided.

Low Cost Safety Improvement Works (LCSI) €40,500

The 2015 allocation provides funding to enable low cost safety improvement works on non-national roads to be carried out. The criteria for approval and grant allocation are based on accident data along with inspection of sites and discussions between the local authority and the Regional Road Safety Engineer.

Parking Management (PM) €0

This includes for disc parking operation, wages, traffic fines management system, communication equipment.

General Municipal Allocation (GMA) €50,000

This allocation will be agreed at Municipal District level.

Items for which expenditure is provided on a City and County at large basis

Public Lighting (PL) €2,525,401

This covers the operation, repair and maintenance of Public Lighting. The supply of energy is purchased through the National Procurement Service (NPS). The repair, replacement and maintenance of public lights are tendered separately. The above figure pertains to the whole City and County area.

Road Safety: Engineering, Promotion, Education (RS) €628,518

This includes for school wardens, road safety plan, road safety education and training. The above figure pertains to the whole City and County area.

Winter Maintenance (WM) €400,000

This provision is for the treatment of roads in severe weather in accordance with the Winter Service Plan and pertains to the whole City and County area.

Community Involvement schemes (CIS) €180,000

No grant will be forthcoming in 2015 but local authorities can set aside up to 7.5% of the RI and RM grants for CIS schemes. It is proposed to allocate the same funding as 2014. Circular RW3/2015 sets out the details of the Community Involvement Scheme. The above figure pertains to the whole City and County area.

Local Improvement Schemes (LIS) €181,500

The 2015 Road Grants allow for the allocation of up to 15% of the Discretionary Grant to be allocated to Local Improvement Schemes on private roads. An increased local contribution of 20% is now required for participating communities. Given the general pressure that exists on resources for the maintenance and upkeep of the public road system it is proposed to maintain the same allocation as 2014. The above figure pertains to the whole City and County area.

Overheads (OH) €1,247,009

This includes for insurances (EL/PL), Health and Safety training and equipment, sick pay, holiday pay, legal costs, office expenses, etc. The above figure pertains to the whole City and County area.

Home and Social Development

The Limerick City & County Council was created in June 2014 with the resultant creation of new Districts. As a result 2015 is the baseline for data for the new organisation. Where possible data was extrapolated from 2014 but as the systems did not record it in District format an element of estimation is required. Other Housing Services, for example, assessments, allocations, rent collection, estate management and homeless services are not broken down per district and are serviced centrally.

There are **527** no of Council housing units within the Adare/Rathkeale District. In 2014 we received **1329** no of repair requests for the area. Approximately 72% of all repair requests in 2014 were closed within the year.

Housing repairs are carried out based on need and budgetary constraints. Repairs are categorised into emergency, urgent and routine. Examples of each are listed below:

Emergency Repairs

- Fire
- Flood including significant leaks or flooding from water or heating pipes
- No electricity
- No gas
- No water
- No hot water
- No heating
- Blocked flue to open fire or boiler
- Blocked or leaking foul drains
- Unsafe access path or step

Urgent repairs

- Faulty sockets or switches
- Faulty storage heaters
- Faulty door entry system
- Partial loss of water supply
- Loose or detached banister or hand rail
- Unsafe timber flooring or stair treads
- Storm damage

Routine Repairs

- All other items of joinery, electrical, plumbing and plaster work.

Time Scales for Carrying Out Repairs

The aim is to carry out repairs within the following timescales:

Category of Repair	Timescale
Emergency	1 to 3 working days
Urgent	Within 7 working days
Routine	Within 6 working weeks

Pre letting Repairs

Vacancies: In 2014 there were 42 no of allocations to casual vacancies (including transfers)

Should a tenant wish to surrender their property, they have an obligation to provide notice to Limerick City & County Council (4 weeks) of their intention to vacate. On foot of this notice, we will carry out an inspection of the dwelling where all necessary repair works are identified. If there are no repairs required, the property will immediately be subject to relet procedures. A gas safety check will be carried out on any property that has a gas heating system, before the new tenant moves in, and an electrical safety check will be carried out to all vacant properties.

The cost of making good a vacant house varies considerable depending on the age of the house, the condition the tenant has left it in and current letting standards.

A budgetary provision for maintenance and pre lettings for 2015 has been made as follows:

Maintenance:	€140,390
Pre Lettings:	€89,441

The following Traveller specific accommodation is situated within the District:

- Rathkeale Halting Site

A budgetary provision of **€11,689** has been made for Site Maintenance and Repair.

PRIVATE HOUSING GRANTS

The following private house grants are available from the Council:

HAGS- Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme:

Available to assist in the carrying out of works which are reasonably necessary for the purposes of rendering a house more suitable for the accommodation of a person with a disability who has enduring physical, sensory, mental health or intellectual impairments. The types of works available include the provision of access ramps, downstairs toilet facilities, stair-lifts, accessible showers, adaptations to facilitate wheelchair access, extensions and any other works deemed necessary. Applicable to works costing in excess of €6,000.00.

MAGS- Mobility Aids Grant Scheme:

Available to cover works to address mobility problems, primarily associated with ageing. The type of works available include: grab rails, access ramps, level access showers, and stair-lifts. Applicable to works not in excess of €6,000.00.

HOPS- Housing Aid Older People:

Available to assist older people living in poor conditions to have necessary repairs of improvements carried out. The types of works available under the scheme include: re-roofing, re-wiring, and the provision of central heating (where none exists) and the replacement of windows & doors.

The Council is required to provide 20% towards the costs of such grants with the DECLG meeting 80%. A similar provision to 2014 has been provided in 2015. Assuming DECLG approval to maximise the Council's provision, the overall spend on private house grants for 2015 is estimated as follows:

Revenue Budget Provision for Adare/Rathkeale District 2015	€70,800
Estimated Overall District Spend for Adare/Rathkeale District 2015	€354,000

Environment

The Environment Department covers a broad area of activity including waste, litter, pollution, veterinary services, parks, playgrounds and cemeteries.

The proposed schedule of works for the Adare Rathkeale District for 2015 may be summarised as set out here under.

Waste Management

The Council will expend approximately €800,000 in the operation and after care costs of Gortadroma landfill. The Council will continue to hire and maintain the Gas Engine to convert landfill gas at Gortadroma to electricity for sale to the grid.

Waste Regulation, Monitoring and Enforcement Expenditure

The Council will expend €100,000 in relation to developing policy, planning, enforcement against illegal waste, the issue of authorisations under the Waste management act and the inspections and monitoring of the those authorisations. The Environmental Department will carry out approximately 100 inspections in support of these activities in 2015.

Waste Management Planning

The Environmental Department will carry out works including the support and development of regional waste policy documents and supports including a contribution to the development of the regional waste management Plan.

Litter Team

The Litter Team is actively involved in enforcing the provisions of the Litter Pollution Act, the Waste Management Act, and Bye Laws for Household and Commercial

Waste. This team carries out daily patrols, monitors high risk areas and responds to complaints received regarding the following;

instances of littering, dumping, waste which is not presented for collection in a satisfactory manner, illegal signage, graffiti, abandoned cars, illegal storage of waste and littering.

The Litter Team issues fines under the Litter Pollution Act and Bye Laws for Household and Commercial Waste. It is estimated that approx 40 litter fines will be issued in 2015 in respect of the Adare Rathkeale Municipal district.

The Litter Team issues questionnaires to householders and owners of commercial premises to establish if they have a refuse collection service in place and serves notices if no response is received. This team also serves notices/directions under both the Litter Pollution Act and Waste Management Act on householders and landowners requiring them to keep their property free of litter/waste.

It is estimated that approx 10 notices/directions under the Waste Management Act and Litter Pollution Act will issue in Adare Rathkeale Municipal District in 2015.

The Litter Team initiates court proceedings for non payment of fines and non-compliance with notices/directions and will take approx 5 court proceedings in 2015 in the Adare-Rathkeale Municipal District.

There are two Environmental Control Officers/Inspectors based in the Adare Rathkeale Municipal district and the approximate cost of this service is €90,000.

Horse Control

Limerick City & County Council seized 413 stray horses in 2014, of which 21 were reclaimed by their owners. Approximately 8% of these horses were seized in the Adare Rathkeale Municipal District.

The 2015 budget annual budget adopted by the Council in relation to Animal Welfare Services is €617,000. It is forecast that in excess of 30 horses will be seized in the Adare Rathkeale Municipal Area in 2015 at an approximate cost of €49,000. It is

also forecast that the number of these seized animals likely to be reclaimed will be minimal.

Dog Control

The Dog Warden Service dealt with a total of 705 stray and unwanted dogs during 2014, of which approximately 150, or 22% originated in the Adare Rathkeale Municipal Area. Of these 705 dogs, 25 were reclaimed and 349 re-homed. Regrettably, it was necessary to put 329 dogs to sleep. It is forecast that the Dog Warden Service will impound approximately 150 dogs in the Adare Rathkeale Municipal Area in 2015, at an approximate cost of €47,000.

Cemeteries

There are approx. 250 cemeteries in Limerick. There are approx 50 cemeteries in Adare Rathkeale Municipal District. The cemeteries budget for general maintenance works for the Adare Rathkeale Municipal District is €25,000. The Council relies on burial ground committees and FAS/TUS/RSS schemes to carry out grass cutting and maintenance works in cemeteries. The Council allocates burial ground grants to burial ground committees. It is estimated that approx. 40 such grants will be provided in the area at a cost of €15,000.

Pollution Control Team: Discharge Licensing.

From 1st January 2014, Irish Water became the statutory body for the administration of licences to discharge to the public sewers. The Pollution Control Team works in partnership with Irish Water in this regard and a service level agreement is in place.

The Pollution Control Team carried out 111 onsite discharge licence inspections to sewers throughout the City & County in 2014, and anticipates a similar level of activity in 2015. Based on 2014 levels of activity, it is likely that 25 inspections will be carried out in the Adare Rathkeale Municipal District in 2015.

Discharge to sewer licences are inspected on rotation, with emphasis being put on recently granted licences in order to ensure the adoption of best practices.

The total number of inspections of water licences for 2014 was 125. This included 105 administrative desktop inspections and 20 onsite visits. The Pollution Control Team plans to carry out 8 onsite visits in the Adare Rathkeale Municipal District in 2015.

Discharge licensing inspections are carried out on a county wide basis. The cost of the inspection, and of any sample which the Council takes as part of that inspection, is borne by the licence holder. This charge is invoiced in the year following the year of audit. Charges are set by way of a condition of each individual licence.

Pollution Control Team: Air Pollution.

The Pollution Control Team is responsible for the enforcement of the requirements of the Air Pollution Act 1987 and related Regulations.

This includes:

- The European Union (Installations and Activities using Organic Solvents) Regulations 2012 and 2014. These Regulations control the use of solvents in dry cleaners. It is anticipated that 3 inspections will take place in 2015.
- The European Union (Paints, Varnishes, Vehicle Refinishing Products and Activities) Regulations 2012 and 2014. These regulations control the use of certain solvent-based substances in car repair installations, among other activities. It is anticipated that 11 inspections will take place in 2015.
- The Air Pollution Act 1987 (Petrol Vapour Emissions Regulations) 1997. These regulations control the emission of petrol vapours at service stations and similar installations. It is anticipated that 18 inspections will be carried out in 2015.

Septic Tank Inspections

The Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012 required the registration and inspection of septic tanks and other onsite treatment systems. The EPA publishes the National Inspection Plan and based on the national priorities Limerick City & County Council identify properties to be inspected within each risk category.

Work continues in this area for 2015. Systems for inspection will be selected in accordance with the National Inspection Plan published by the EPA in February 2013. The EPA has stipulated that Limerick complete a minimum of 42 inspections by 31st December 2015. These will be carried out throughout the Metropolitan District of Limerick and the Municipal Districts at properties to be identified within each risk category. Inspections are to commence in March 2015.

It is anticipated that the majority of inspections to be carried out in 2015 will be within the Metropolitan District.

Parks, Open Spaces & Green Areas

The Environment Department carries out a wide range of functions in relation to parks and open spaces. These works include; tree pruning, grass cutting, hedge trimming and small maintenance and landscaping works. The works also include planting summer bedding and planting and placing flower towers and hanging baskets on a seasonal basis.

The Environment Department also undertakes playground maintenance, community clean ups, round about maintenance, litter picking and waste disposal etc. The Environment Department also provides grant aid to community groups.

The 2015 work programme in support of the activities as outline above will involve expenditure in amount of €128,500 (including both discretionary and nondiscretionary expenditure) in respect of Parks, Pitches and Open Spaces. €6,750 in respect of Playground Maintenance and the provision of Environment grants to Community Groups of €6,600.

Maintenance of Open Spaces Grant Scheme in Housing Developments

Limerick City & County Council will administer the maintenance of open spaces grant scheme in housing developments in 2015. There is a total budget of €61,500 to be spent across the 4 Municipal Districts. The grant is allocated on an application basis based on a number of factors including acreage of green space to be maintained, number of houses in estate and number of applications received by the Council for the scheme.

Based on the applications received in 2014 it is expected to spend the following % of the budget in the following areas.

- Metropolitan District - 50%
- Adare - Rathkeale Municipal District - 10%
- Cappamore - Kilmallock Municipal District - 20%
- Newcastle West Municipal District. - 20%

Limerick Going for Gold Environment Improvement Grant Scheme

Limerick City & County Council will administer a Limerick Going for Gold Environment Improvement Grant Scheme across all four municipal districts in 2015. €77,000 is set aside in the budget for this scheme. A matching contribution is also expected from the McManus Charitable Foundation. The grant will be allocated on the basis of applications received, considered in accordance with relevant criteria. This is the first year of this Grant scheme and all applications will be considered. The Environment Department will also operate the Limerick Going for Gold Competition and the Local Agenda 21 Environment Partnership Fund.

Anti-Litter Awareness Initiatives

The Council's Anti Litter Awareness Initiatives funds programmes such as anti dog litter campaigns, national spring clean, adverts in local media. There is a sum of €55,000 which will be allocated in 2015. A significant portion of this funding will be part of Limerick City & County Councils contribution to Team Limerick Clean Up.

Recovery and Recycling Facilities Operation

The Environment Department is responsible for the operation of 7 Bring Centres throughout the Municipal District of Adare Rathkeale. These centres accept glass, cans and textiles. The County at large, contains 47 Bring Bank sites, collecting 170 tonnes per month in glass, 9 tonnes per month in cans and 13 tonnes of textiles.

