

2nd October, 2014.

To/ **The Mayor and each Member of the Metropolitan District of Limerick**

The Local Government Reform Act 2014 deals with various issues in relation to Municipal Districts. One of the main items dealt with in the Act includes the General Municipal Allocation (GMA) which is the discretionary funding which is made available to municipal district members contained in the draft budgetary plan. Once the local authority has adopted its budget for 2015, a schedule of proposed works of maintenance and repair to be carried out will be prepared for each municipal district. Once finalised this schedule of works will also be considered by the Members.

The Act requires that the Chief Executive, in determining the resources to be made available to each municipal district in the draft budgetary plan, shall have regard to;

- (i) The needs of and the resources available or likely to be available to the local authority and
- (ii) Resource needs of each municipal district including, where feasible, the population of each municipal district.

The Act further provides that the draft budgetary plan shall set out the General Municipal Allocation and shall be considered by the municipal district at a meeting which concludes no later than 21 days prior to the local authority budget meeting.

The Act further provides that the municipal district Members shall, by resolution, adopt the draft budgetary plan with or without amendment and that the Chief Executive shall take account of any budgetary plan adopted by the district Members.

As at the 30th September the Council resolved to reduce the base rate for the Local Property Tax by 3% for 2015. The overall objective, in compiling the 2015 budget, is to ensure a satisfactory level of service for the citizen. As you are aware, Limerick City and County Council's budget is made up of a high volume of non discretionary expenditure. The starting point for the consideration of the GMA allocations included reviewing the levels of discretionary allocations in 2014 budget.

Section 102 (4A) (c) and (d) provide that it is a reserved function of the Members of a municipal district to adopt the draft budgetary plan with or without amendment.

For 2015 the main, strategic, non-discretionary expenditure of Limerick City and County Council will form part of the main local authority budget. Included in this is expenditure on Housing Maintenance, Roads Grants and own funding, libraries, fire services and all staff costs associated with the municipal districts.

The total provisional allocation for General Municipal Allocation for 2015 is €1,500,000. As part of the allocation it is proposed that a figure will be provided in each district for special projects. These projects must specify a minimum spend of €50,000 each and it is envisaged that this spend will be for projects of a specific and strategic nature. The total amount allocated for special projects in each of the municipal districts is €100,000 with €150,000 to be provided for the metropolitan area. Please be advised that funds stated below form part of the overall allocation of the budget spend similar to previous years.

**Tom Gilligan,
Head of Finance.**

**METROPOLITAN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT DRAFT BUDGETARY
PLAN 2015**

	€
	Municipal District
General Municipal Allocation	640,000
Increase/decrease in other charges	-
Total (A)	640,000
To finance Gross Revenue Expenditure Details of Proposed Expenditure	Municipal District proposed expenditure
B06 Traffic Management	110,000
D05 Tourism Development	170,000
F03 Parks, Pitches, Playgrounds	190,000
F04 Community Initiatives	20,000
Special Projects	150,000
Relevant Gross Expenditure (B=A)	640,000

