

LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF NEWCASTLE WEST
MEETING TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY,3rd MARCH 2021

22nd February 2021

To: The Chairman and Each Member of the Municipal District of Newcastle West
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 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 judgements 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 Newcastlewest is set out at appendix 1 attached.

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

**Gordon Daly,
Director of Services.**

Appendix 1

NEWCASTLE WEST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT Road Works Scheme 2021	
Work Category	€
Restoration Improvement (RI) -Road Reconstruction	€2,308,887
Restoration Maintenance (RM) –Surface Dressing	€452,977
Supplementary Restoration Maintenance (SRM – Surface Dressing	€322,903
Drainage Grant	€200,000
General Maintenance (GM)	€819,711
General Maintenance Safety	€91,079
Tar Patching (TP)	€429,116
Low Cost Safety Improvement Works (LCSI)	€90,000
General Municipal Allocation (GMA)	€270,000
Bridge Rehabilitation	€100,000
N21 Abbeyfeale to Mount Mahon Pavement Strengthening	€750,000
N21 Newcastle West Pavement	€100,000
N21 Abbeyfeale Relief Road	€500,000
N21 Newcastle West Relief Road	€500,000
Sustainable Travel Measures Grant (Active Travel)	€1,200,000
Total Defined MD Spending	€8,134,673

- Winter Maintenance (WM) €558,954 Total City & County.
- Community Involvement Schemes (CIS) – Limerick City & County Council are currently identifying schemes that will be included in the 2021 programme. An allocation of €316,000 has been made to Limerick City and County.
- Local Improvement Schemes (LIS) – The Department for Rural and Community Development (DRCD) introduced ring fenced funding for LIS in 2020. The 2021 allocation for Limerick City and County Council has not yet been received.
- Public Lighting € 2,460,000 Total City & County.

- Former National Road Grant – €400,000 has been made available for the upkeep of declassified national roads.
- TII Capital Maintenance Works 2021 for national roads across Limerick City and County
 - Awaiting TII funding allocation / instruction.

Regional Roads Road Reconstruction Allocation € 490,000			
Road No.	Description	Length (m)	Total Cost €
R521	Station Road, Newcastle West	300	€100,000
R522	Liscarroll road Dromcolliher	1000	€325,000
R515	Church road, Dromcolliher	10	€15,000
R515	Pike road, Dromcolliher	200	€50,000
Total		1,510	€490,000

Local Roads Road Reconstruction Allocation € 1,818,887			
Road No.	Description	Length (m)	Total Cost €
L1340	Churchtown, Newcastle West	700	€250,000
L7099	Gortalassa, Feenagh	930	€75,000
L70671	Port upper, Abbeyfeale	1400	€100,000
L7068	Port upper, Abbeyfeale	1300	€100,000
L7064	Healys Forge to Cotters, Abbeyfeale	1900	€150,000
L1323	Knocknadiha junction, Tournafulla	34	€50,000
L1324	Tournafulla Village	37	€20,000
L7051	Kilkinlea Upper Abbeyfeale	1000	€60,000
L70421	Caherbeg, Mountcollins	1500	€90,000
L6081	Knocknagornagh, Athea	1000	€100,000

L1318	Raheenagh to Ambrose's Cross	1000	€100,000
L6041	Ballinruane, Kilmeedy	2300	€100,000
L1231	Tullyleague, Glin	629	€50,000
L7041	Secconglas, Mountcollins	950	€75,000
L13211	Cleanglass, Tournfulla	2251	€120,000
L1319	Kantoher, Raheenagh	1120	€93,887
L7036	Glenquinn South, Tournafulla	500	€50,000
L7044	Mountcollins towards Craig	1000	€85,000
L70601	Ballaghbehy North, Abbeyfeale	600	€50,000
L7030	Ballintober, Raheenagh	2400	€100,000
Total		22551	€1,818,887

Regional Roads Surface Dressing Allocation € 304,000			
Road No.	Description	Length (m)	Total Cost €
R522	Feohanagh towards Dromcolligher	4500	€119,000
R524	Ballygiltenan Glin	2500	€65,000
R523	Athea Gaa	950	€35,000
R515	Ashford - Broadford road	1000	€35,000
R520	Bruff Line Snows Cross	1500	€50,000
Total		10450	€304,000

Local Roads Surface Dressing Allocation € 149,000			
Road No.	Description	Length (m)	Total Cost €
L70421	Caherbeg, Mountcollins	1000	€14,000
L7092	Dromstransa, Abbeyfeale	1350	€20,000
L7033	Glenmore, Strand	1300	€20,000
L7034	Ballykenny, Strand	1900	€28,000
L7081	Glenstar, Ardagh	3000	€47,000
L6106	Caher, Glin	1300	€20,000
Total		9850	€149,000

Supplementary Restoration Maintenance Local Roads Surface Dressing Allocation € 323,000			
Road No.	Description	Length (m)	Total Cost €
L1231	Tullyleague, Glin	1600	€25,000
L1319	Kantoher, Raheenagh	470	€10,000
L7099	Gortlassa, Feenagh	1000	€15,000
L1315	Monagea	1500	€25,000
L13272	Port, Abbeyfeale	2400	€30,000
L7036	Glenquinn, Tournafulla	1000	€15,000
L1306	Cloonpasteen, Culhanes Cross towards Kilmeedy	3500	€72,000
L1224	Knockauuagin, CarrigKerry	1000	€26,000
L6097	Cloonlahard West, Glin	1500	€30,000
L1318	Kileedy , Raheenagh	2000	€30,000
L1326	Lower Mountcollins	3100	€45,000
Total		19070	€323,000

Drainage Works Allocation € 200,000			
Road No.	Description	Length (m)	Total Cost €
	Newcastle West, Gortboy Lane	150	€30,000
L7091	Abbeyfeale, Dromstransa	300	€30,000
	Abbeyfeale st Ita Terrace upgrade existing pipes	500	€115,000
R521 / R522	Newcastle West Churchtown and Dromcollogher	200	€25,000
Total		1150	€200,000

General Municipal Allocation Works Allocation € 95,000			
Road No.	Description	Length (m)	Total Cost €
	Castlemahon Graveyard, Bend Removal		€25,000
	Newcastle West , Gortboy Lane, Ramps		€35,000
	R520/L1303 Arddrine Castlemahon cross junction improvements		€15,000
	L1214 Dores Cross BallyKennedy, Junction Improvements		€20,000
Total		0	€95,000

Bridges Allocation € 100,000			
Road No.	Description	Length (m)	Total Cost €
L7035	Moanleana, Castlemahon		€70,000
L70582	Meenylane, Templeglantine		€30,000
Total		0	€ 100,000

Low Cost Safety Improvement Schemes (LCSI) Allocation € 90,000			
Road No.	Description	Length (m)	Total Cost €
R524	Coolwest, Athea		€30,000
L7058	Ballaghbehy, Abbeyfeale		€60,000
Total		0	€90,000

Active Travel Measures Allocation € 1,200,000			
Road No.	Description	Length (m)	Total Cost €
	Demesne Newcastle West		€450,000
	Pedestrian Crossing & Footpath station Road		€50,000
	Pedestrian crossing Sheehans Road		€35,000
	Glin Village Pedestrian Improvements Works		€300,000
	Athea Village Pedestrian connection works		€65,000
	Abbeyfeale Pedestrian connection works		€50,000
	Ardagh Village Improvement works		€100,000
	Pedestrian Improvements Various Locations		€150,000
Total		0	€1,200,000

Brief summary of the above Work Categories and Allocations for the Newcastle West

Municipal District:

Restoration Improvement (RI) €2,308,887

This is a specific allocation under the Restoration Improvement Grant (RI). This grant is for the road strengthening programme and caters for surface restoration, pavement overlay works and complete road rehabilitation works where existing pavements are structurally defective.

Restoration Maintenance (RM) € 452,977

This is a specific allocation under the Restoration Maintenance Grant (RM) for Surface Dressing Works only. This allocation will extend the life of the pavement and delay the development of potholes, thus protecting the investment in roads.

Supplementary Restoration Maintenance (SRM) €322,903

This is a specific allocation in 2021 under the Supplementary Restoration Maintenance Grant (SRM) for surface dressing works only. This allocation will extend the life of the pavement and delay the development of potholes, thus protecting the investment in roads.

Drainage Grant €200,000

This grant may be used for the alleviation of road drainage problems either through new works or remedial measures. Four main schemes have been identified and minor works planned at a number of sites in the Newcastle West District in 2021.

General Maintenance € 819,711

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.

General Maintenance Safety **€91,079**

A proportion of the general maintenance allocation is allocated to general maintenance safety. General maintenance safety funding will be used to cover a wide range of works such as road markings, road studs, road signs and general upkeep of roads in the city and county which will improve road safety

Tar Patching (TP) **€429,116**

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

Bridge Rehabilitation - Structures (STR) **€100,000**

The 2021 allocation provides funding to enable improvement works on bridge structures on regional and local roads. A specific grant allocation is made to Limerick City and County Council to undertake works on a defined list of structures. There are two schemes under this heading in the district for 2021. The schemes are Meenylene, Templeglantine and Moanleena, Castlemahon.

Low Cost Safety Improvement Works (LCSI) **€90,000**

The 2021 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. There are two schemes in the Newcastlewest District for 2021.

General Municipal Allocation (GMA) **€270,000**

This allocation has been agreed at Municipal District level.

Parking Management (PM) **€41,500**

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

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

Public Lighting (PL) € 2,460,000

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) €622,594

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

General Maintenance of National Roads €268,920

General maintenance of National Roads covers a wide range of works for which this allocation will be used. €268,920 is the allocation for Limerick City & County for 2021. Improvement works locations to be agreed with Transport Infrastructure Ireland.

Capital Maintenance TII Roads € TBC

Capital maintenance of National Roads is used for pavement schemes with a values between €50,000 and €200,000. Applications are made through the pavement defects survey app.

Awaiting TII funding allocation / instruction.

Winter Maintenance (WM) € 558,954

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

Community Improvement schemes (CIS) €316,000

A Grant of €316,000 has been allocated to Limerick City and County Council. Limerick City and County Council is currently identifying schemes to be undertaken in 2021.

Local Improvement Schemes (LIS) € TBC

The Department for Rural and Community Development (DRCD) introduced ring-fenced funding for LIS in 2020 and proposes to continue to operate this scheme in 2021. The 2021 allocation for Limerick City & County Council has not yet been received.

Overheads (OH)**€1,874,552**

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.

Former National Road Grant (FNR)**€400,000**

Arising from the 2018 regional road pavement condition survey findings, the Department introduced a grant in 2019 to assist local authorities with the rehabilitation of sections of former national roads with a poor condition rating.

Work Category – Social Development

Housing Maintenance

Limerick City & County Council (LCCC) manages an expanding social housing portfolio, which currently amounts to 5,545 properties (Jan 2021). The range of properties is extensive, which is emphasised by the fact that over half the Council’s housing stock was built before 1985.

64% of the entire housing stock is located within the Metropolitan District. The remaining 34% of housing stock is located between the Newcastle West (12%), Adare-Rathkeale (10%) and Cappamore-Kilmallock (14%) Districts.

In each municipal district area, we have small but effective direct labour crew who respond to the needs of our tenants. All requests are added to the Customer Relationship Management System (Sugar) and assigned to the area maintenance team for action.

Total requests for Housing Maintenance during 2020 was 13,703, with 10% of all cases received in the NCW area. Please note that the response maintenance requests that can be actioned during Covid Level 5 guidance is restricted to emergency works.

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 and please refer to the Tenant’s Handbook for additional details

Emergency Repairs (within 24 Hours)

Fire	Water Leaks	No Electricity	No Mains Water
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Urgent Repairs (within 1-5 Days)

Blocked Flue in Open Fire	Blocked Foul Drains	No Hot Water	No Heating
Faulty Sockets	Faulty Switches	Faulty Heater	Storage Faulty Door Entry System
Banister or Hand Rail Loose or Detached	Storm Damage	Partial Loss of Water Supply	Unsafe Floor Boards or Stair Treads

Routine Repairs (within 1-6 Weeks)

Other Works	Electrical	Other Joinery Works	Plaster Works	Other Works	Plumbing
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BUDGET Allocation 2021

Newcastle West Municipal District 658 Properties (12% of housing stock)

Works Budget (non-pay)	2021
Maintenance	€ 186,079
Re-lettings	€ 101,280
	€ 287,359

Housing Maintenance - Planned Works

Heating Servicing – city and countywide

In 2021, a budget of €101,078 has been allocated to ensure that heating systems countywide are working effectively and safely. This is an important area and ensures that the Council maintain heating system guarantees, some that currently run for 10 years, which represents a long-term savings to the Council.

Planned Maintenance / Heating Systems Replacement – city and countywide

Many of our tenants have heating systems that are outdated and highly inefficient by current standards. €375,000 (2020: €387,000) has been allocated for the replacement of heating systems and other works of a planned nature on a countywide basis. The scheme operates on a priority needs basis.

Voids/Re-lettings – city and countywide

Voids and Re-lettings continue to be undertaken in each municipal district area as vacancies arise. Each Housing Area Engineer and Area Foreman manages these refurbishment works. The units are delivered via a mix of direct labour crews and contractors, to ensure units are returned to Allocations section in an efficient manner.

A total of 109 void units in two tranches were completed in 2020, which resulted in funding allocations of €1.531m from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DoHLGH).

No department circular or allocation for Voids 2021 has been received to-date.

Thermal Upgrade Project – city and countywide

Approval was received in August 2019 for a thermal upgrade project for 120 units across Limerick City and County Council. 20 units in each electoral area have been refurbished during 2020 (with final works being completed in Q1 2021). Area Engineers and Housing Foremen recommended the units. This scheme was part funded by the DoHLGH, the European Regional Development Fund and LCCC.

While no Department circular has been received for a 2021 thermal upgrade as yet, the DoHLGH has notified LCCC of an allocation of €1.3m. Therefore a smaller scale thermal upgrade scheme will be progress to tender in the near future. Significant internal knowledge and experience has been accrued from the 2020 scheme, and this will be leveraged to deliver this new scheme in a more efficient manner.

Private Housing Grants

The following private housing grants are available again in 2021

Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme – HAGS

Mobility Aids Grants Scheme – MAGS

Housing Aid Older People – HOPS

These grant circular has not yet been received for 2021, however, it is expected that the amounts will be similar to those in 2020. The total 2020 revenue grant allocation for Limerick City and County Council was €2,975,778. The Council is required to provide 20% towards the cost of such grants with the DoHPLG meeting 80%.

Parks and Landscaping

The Council manages nineteen parks and amenities throughout the City and County. The Parks & Landscaping Team 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. Grass cutting takes place between March and October with cuts on a two weekly cycle. During the Autumn and Winter period, works are concentrated on tree pruning and planned and responsive works.

The 2021 allocation for Parks and Landscaping for the Newcastle West Municipal District is €30,000. A separate budget of €47,000 is provided for the grass cutting contract, providing up to 15 cuts on 34 hectares. Areas are being identified in the grass cutting contract that could be left to grow as wildflower meadows. Areas in the Demesne have been identified and are included as an action to comply with the requirements of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan.

Parks

The National Transport Authority has provided funding for the Demesne as outlined in the Roads schedule. It is intended to upgrade the footpaths in the parkland of the Demesne with part of this funding allocation.

Playgrounds

There are five number playgrounds in the district. The Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale playgrounds are maintained by the Council, the playgrounds in Broadford, Raheenagh and Glin are community playgrounds. Inspections are carried out quarterly on the playgrounds and repairs carried out as required.

It is proposed to replace the fencing in the NCW playground and also replace the grassed areas with tarmacadam. This will provide a much needed upgrade to the playground. It is also proposed to replace the chainlink fencing around the basketball court in Abbeyfeale Park and also line the court.

Multi Use Games Area/Skatepark

There is a MUGA and skatepark in the Demesne which are maintained by the Council. The MUGA in Abbeyfeale is maintained by the community.

Cemeteries

There are 267 cemeteries in Limerick, approximately one third of these are used for the purchase of new burial plots. There are 47 cemeteries in the Newcastle West Municipal District including closed burial grounds.

Municipal District	No. of Burial Grounds
Metro	40
Adare/Rathkeale	78
Newcastle West	47
Cappamore/Kilmallock	102

The 2021 budget allocation for the NCW district is €43,129. This funding will be utilised to provide the following works.

St Ita's, Kilmeedy	Ancient	Newcastle West / Abbeyfeale	Footpath Repairs
St Ita's, Kilmeedy	Ancient	Newcastle West / Abbeyfeale	BG Drainage
Castlemahon	Ancient	Newcastle West / Abbeyfeale	Footpath Repairs
Kinard, Glin	Modern	Newcastle West / Abbeyfeale	Surface Water Drainage
Abbeyfeale	Modern	Newcastle West / Abbeyfeale	Storm Water Drain Re-pipe
Auglish	Modern	Newcastle West / Abbeyfeale	Water Supply from GWSS

There is an annual budget of €30,000 provided as grant aid to community groups across Limerick, who wish to develop a new burial ground. Technical assistance is provided to any community that expresses an interest.

Street Cleaning

The Street Cleaning budget for the City and County for 2021 is €976,027. This provides for a schedule of routine cleaning for specific routes in the city and county area. The budget also provides for litter bin maintenance and collection.

Recycling Facilities

Bring Banks

There are 65 no bring banks in the City and County. The 2021 budget for the operation of the bring bank contract is €136,277. The budget provides for collection and cleaning around all sites. Covid 19 has seen increased usage at a number of the sites, resulting in increased frequency of collection and also illegal dumping. The Area office provides additional cleaning at the Newcastle West site due to issues with illegal dumping.

Civic Amenity Sites

There are three Civic Amenity Sites in Limerick, Mungret, Newcastle West and Kilmallock. The three sites are operated by a Contractor. The 2021 budget for the operation of the three Civic Amenity Sites is €336,000. Covid 19 has also seen increased usage at the Civic Amenity Sites.

Other Environmental Schemes

Limerick Going for Gold Environmental Improvement Grant & Competition 2021

Limerick City & County Council again invites applications for the Limerick Going for Gold Environmental Improvement Grant & Competition 2021

This grant scheme aims to assist with Environmental Improvement works undertaken by non-profit making organisations working within Limerick City and County areas.

The Limerick Going for Gold Environmental Improvement Grant is 50% funded by the JP McManus Charitable Foundation. The Limerick Going for Gold Competition prize fund is 100% funded by JP McManus Charitable Foundation.

Grant Scheme for Maintenance of Open Spaces in Housing Developments for 2021.

Limerick City and County Council will again invite applications for the Grant Scheme for Maintenance of Open Spaces in Housing Developments for 2021. This Scheme is designed to assist residents in the maintenance of open spaces in their estates by providing funding towards grass cutting.