

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MONTHLY MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ADARE-RATHKEALE HELD IN ÁRAS SEÁN FINN, NEW LINE ROAD, RATHKEALE, CO. LIMERICK AND ONLINE ON TUESDAY, 12TH NOVEMBER, 2024 AT 9.30 A.M.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:

Councillor A. Teskey, An Cathaoirleach.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors Collins, Hartigan, Keary, O'Donoghue and Ward.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Director, Rural, Community, Culture and Tourism Development (Mr. S. Duclot), Meetings Administrator (Ms. K. Butler), Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing (Mr. G. O'Connor), Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing (Mr. J. O'Keeffe), Director, Finance, Economic Development, Digital Services and ICT (Mr. M. White), Financial Accountant, Finance Department (Mr. P. Murnane), Management Accountant, Finance Department (Ms. I. Griffin), Senior Executive Officer, Strategy and Non LA Housing Construction (Ms. S. Newell), Senior Engineer, LA Housing Construction and Maintenance (Mr. B. Kidney), Clerical Officer (Ms. L. Lenihan).

At the outset of the Meeting, the Cathaoirleach welcomed Matthew White, Director of Finance, Economic Development, Digital Services and ICT to the Meeting and wished him well in his new role with Limerick City and County Council.

1. Adoption of Minutes

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale held on 9th July, 2024.

Proposed by Councillor Keary;
Seconded by Councillor O'Donoghue;
And Resolved:

"That the draft Minutes, as circulated, be taken as read, adopted and signed".

2. Declaration of Interest

The Meetings Administrator stated that, in line with Part 15 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended, and the Code of Conduct, she was inviting those present to notify the Cathaoirleach of any declaration of interest in any item due for discussion at the Meeting.

No such interests were declared.

3. **Support Services Directorate**

Draft Budgetary Plan 2025 – General Municipal Allocation

Circulated, report dated 31st October, 2024 from the Mayor of Limerick which sets out the background to the General Municipal Allocation (GMA), along with details of the Draft Budgetary Plan 2025 for the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale in the total sum of €280,800.

The Financial Accountant outlined the figures as set out in the report and informed Members that the Draft Budgetary Plan 2025 for the Municipal District, which had been discussed at a Workshop prior to the Meeting, if approved by Members, would go on for inclusion in the main budget for the Council.

The Financial Accountant also informed Members that a total of €1,652,500 had been allocated to the General Municipal Allocation for 2025, an increase of €189,000 on the 2024 General Municipal Allocation of which €280,800 had been allocated to the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale, an increase of €10,800 on the 2024 allocation.

The proposed Draft Budgetary Plan 2025 was outlined as follows:

Svc	General Municipal Allocation -2025	Adare Rathkeale Municipal District
B04	Local Roads	105,000
D05	Special Projects (Tourism Development Recreation and Amenity)	155,800
F04	Community Initiatives	20,000
Total	General Municipal Allocation	280,800

The Financial Accountant outlined that Section 102 (4) of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended) provides that it is a reserved function of the Members of a Municipal District to adopt the Draft Budgetary Plan with or without amendment. If the Members of a Municipal District do not adopt a Draft Budgetary Plan the Mayor may take account of the Draft Budgetary Plan as presented to Members of that Municipal District without amendment.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale would forfeit the increase to the 2025 General Municipal Allocation to allow for Limerick City and County Council 2025 commercial rates to be retained at 2024 levels and encouraged the Municipal Districts and the Metropolitan District to follow suit. It was further agreed that the amount of €270,000 be moved to Category D05 Tourism Development Recreation & Amenity.

Proposed by Councillor Teskey;
 Seconded by Councillor Hartigan;
 And Resolved:

“That the General Municipal Allocation for the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale of Limerick for 2025, is hereby adopted subject to the amendment that the allocation remain at €270,000 in order to retain commercial rates at 2024 levels and the total allocation of €270,000 be allocated to Service D05 – Tourism Development Recreation & Amenity, in accordance with Section 102 (4) of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended)”.

4. Standing Orders (Item deferred from Meeting of the Adare-Rathkeale Municipal District held on 9th July, 2024)

Circulated, copy of draft Standing Orders for the Adare-Rathkeale Municipal District for consideration and adoption.

Following discussion, Councillor O’Donoghue sought clarification on Standing Order No. 13 which states 5 Members are needed to request a Special Meeting when it was 3 Members previously. The Meetings Administrator confirmed this was an administrative error and Corporate Services had been advised to amend same to reflect this.

Proposed by Councillor Keary;
 Seconded by Councillor Teskey;
 And Resolved:

“That, the approval of the Municipal District be and is hereby given to the making of Standing Orders for Meetings of the Adare-Rathkeale Municipal District, in accordance with the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended), with the following amendments:-

- Members requested Standing Orders be amended to allow for the Cathaoirleach of the relevant Municipal District preside at any civic event in the event the Mayor is unable to attend. The Meetings Administrator agreed to refer this request to Corporate Services and Governance for response.
- The Meetings of the Full Council should revert from bi-monthly to monthly Meetings.

5. Housing Directorate

Social Housing Delivery

Circulated, report of the Housing Strategy & Non-LA Housing Construction Directorate dated 2nd October, 2024 setting out details in relation to the Social Housing Delivery for the Adare-Rathkeale Municipal District.

The Senior Engineer, LA Housing Construction and Maintenance updated Members on the social housing progress in the Adare-Rathkeale Municipal District to date.

Discussion ensued in relation to housing voids in the District and Members asked that they be presented on a case by case basis for future social housing density reporting.

Members were also alarmed at the 10% reduction of the percentage build target being met as at 2nd October, 2024. The Senior Executive Officer, Strategy and Non LA Housing Construction advised targets change due to circumstance beyond their control and the report as presented is the accurate reflection of figures at the present time. She also added the proposed social housing development for Adare has been pushed to 2027, which also reflects the percentage target figure that will be met by the end of 2026.

Councillor Teskey requested a formal update on the fire damaged property at Coolanoran, Ardagh as well as the Council owned properties at Gortadroma and Askeaton.

6. Part 8 Procedure – 11 Lismakeera, Askeaton, Co. Limerick (Item deferred from Meeting of the Adare-Rathkeale Municipal District held on 8th October, 2024)

Councillor Teskey requested, going forward, all Part 8 Procedures be brought to Members prior to the item going on the Agenda for the Municipal District Meeting.

This item was noted by Members.

7. Roads, Traffic and Cleansing

District Engineers Report

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing dated 12th November, 2024 outlining details of proposed works, projects and future projects planned for the District.

Following discussion the following issues were raised by Members:

- Councillor Teskey requested a Meeting take place with An Garda Síochána to discuss the advertised road closure for Rathkeale along with policing issues in the District during the Christmas period.
- Councillor Collins requested an observation be submitted on behalf of Members in relation to the road closure, requesting the road would be made accessible from 07:00 to 21:30 daily for the period of the closure.
- Councillor O'Donoghue asked if funds are being allocated to the R511 from the 2025 roads budget. The Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing advised

significant monies had been provided for repairs on the R511 in previous years and this road was not included in the 2025 road construction schedule.

8. Request to receive Deputation from Askeaton Civic Trust, Tourist Office and Genealogy Centre

Councillor Teskey proposed the District receive a Deputation from Askeaton Civic Trust, Tourist Office and Genealogy Centre at the December Monthly Meeting and also proposed the Meeting be held in Askeaton Civic Trust Offices. This was seconded by Councillor Ward.

Councillor O'Donoghue proposed the December Meeting to receive this Deputation be held in the Rathkeale Municipal District office.

As there was no seconder to Councillor O'Donoghue's proposal it was agreed to hold the December Monthly Meeting in Askeaton Civic Trust Offices.

9. General Municipal Allocation (GMA)

It was noted that no new allocations under the General Municipal Allocation (GMA) were currently proposed.

10. Correspondence

Councillor Hartigan requested the reply to his query in relation to the Foynes to Limerick Road (Including Adare Bypass) received from Tim Fitzgerald, Senior Engineer, Mid West National Road Design Office be read into the record of the Meeting and referred to three landowners who have made numerous attempts to further progress their land take with the Mid West National Road Design Office and who have not received a reply to date. The Meetings Administrator agreed to Liaise with the Senior Engineer, Mid West National Road Design Office and revert to Members.

11. A.O.B

- Councillor O'Donoghue referred to drinking water supply issues currently being experienced by house owners in Croom, Co. Limerick. Following discussion the Cathaoirleach requested a meeting be agreed with Uisce Éireann to discuss this matter.
- The Meetings Administrator advised Members the Director, Regeneration, Sports and Recreation has requested a Private Workshop be convened with Members to discuss Askeaton swimming pool refurbishment. The Cathaoirleach agreed to convene this workshop following the Garda Policing Workshop at a date to be agreed.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____