



Clár / Meeting Agenda

Members Discretionary Fund	30,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	30,000	35,000	200,000
Housing Estates / Footpaths	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	300,000
Litter Control Initiatives	6,500	6,500	6,500	6,500	6,500	6,500	39,000
Environmental Initiatives	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500	27,000
Community Grants	12,500	12,500	12,500	23,000	12,500	12,500	85,500
Community Facilities (Pride of Place)	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	30,000
Arts, Festivals, Festive Decoration & MD Renewal	10,000	10,000	10,000	20,000	10,000	10,000	70,000
Total	118,500	123,500	123,500	144,000	118,500	123,500	751,500

The challenges posed by the budget process were acknowledged, particularly in the current year, and these challenges were referenced in the cover letter that was circulated with the draft budgetary plan. As it stands, the budget is not yet balanced and an amount of uncertainty still surrounds the level and stability of income for 2021.

Whilst it is currently assumed that the rates income will remain the same in 2021 as for 2020, the rates waiver scheme provided by central government this year was outlined. Whilst some rates are still due, the collection of this remains a challenge as many businesses remain closed. The level of vacancies will increase, as will the bad debt provision, and this will present a cost to the council in 2021. The main budget, to be presented on 30th November, includes no reduction in funding for front facing services. A number of small additional provisions have been made for areas such as housing and transportation. The cuts to the budget have focused on corporate areas, such as corporate buildings, finance, HR, print and stationary, etc. Uncertainty remains as to whether central government funding will be made available to cover reduced income arising from goods & services and COVID related costs. If additional supports for 2021 become available, these will be fed into the overall budget.

With regard to discretionary expenditure, it is currently proposed that the funding for the Municipal District Allocation Scheme, which was increased in 2020, be reduced to contribute towards a balanced budget.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Commended the executive on managing to maintain front facing services and acknowledged the difficulty in achieving a balanced budget.
- Queried what income was arising from the vacant sites levy, with many tranches of zoned land remaining inactive for many years.



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- Expressed unanimous opposition to the proposal to reduce the MD Allocation Scheme, due to its importance to community groups, particularly now as they are unable to fund raise, and the value it adds within the community.

It was unanimously agreed, that having considered the Draft Budgetary Plan for Navan Municipal District, to note the plan with a view to reconsidering the overall budgetary position at the main council meeting on 30th November, when further information on available supports may have become available.

2 To discuss the rate of refund to owners of vacant premises.

It was unanimously agreed, on the proposal of **Councillor Edward Fennessy** and seconded by **Councillor Yemi Adenuga**, that given the current uncertainty around rates income, to leave the rate at 100%.

3 Other

There was no other business.

The Mayor and councillors thanked the Chief Executive, Head of Finance and Director of Service.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

An Meára