

14 September 2017

Cathaoirleach and Members of Westmeath County Council

Re: Local Improvement Schemes

Dear Cathaoirleach and Members,

The Council is in receipt of correspondence dated 24 August 2017 from the Department of Rural and Community Development indicating that a local improvement scheme may be implemented in the current year subject to

- a) the level of demand
- b) the level of resources available, and
- c) the capacity of the local authorities to complete the scheme by the end of 2017

All local authorities were invited to submit a listing of eligible projects before 15 September 2017, which the Council is satisfied it can complete in the current year and for which there is certainty of local contribution.

As you know, the local contribution is an integral part of the local improvement scheme and that the current scheme operated by the Council requires a local contribution of 40%. However, the scheme that is the subject of this correspondence requires a local contribution of 10% for roads with up to and including five residences and 15% for those with six or more residences.

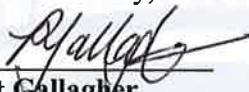
It was too late in the year for the Council to advertise for expressions of interest in new projects. However, the Council has a list of qualifying LIS schemes that we have been working through during 2016 and 2017. The attached list outlines progress to date and remaining projects.

Given the time available, contact was made with all of the remaining schemes on the attached list that are yet to be commenced and the residents' representatives were asked to confirm that the local contribution of 10% or 15% as the case may be, would be available in the current year, were the Council to be put in funds to carry out the scheme. All of the representatives contacted indicated that they would and these have been put forward to the Department for funding. If a positive decision is forthcoming from the Department, these schemes will be carried out this year.

The Department also indicated that a number of private roads that lead to important community amenities may be included but these should not take up more than 25% of the value of the overall request. In this context, the Council requested funding of €33,000 towards resurfacing works on the access road to Belvedere House, Gardens and Park. The Council also requested €34,000 towards the surfacing of the access to the Greenway at Tully, Athlone and €33,000 towards resurfacing works on the access road to Lilliput.

There is no indication that the scheme will continue into 2018.

Yours sincerely,



Pat Gallagher
Chief Executive