

Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly
Tionól Reigiúnach Oirthir agus Lár-Tíre

MINUTES MEETING

***OF THE EASTERN AND MIDLAND
REGIONAL ASSEMBLY***

HELD ON

10th February, 2017

IN

COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL, DUBLIN 2

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EASTERN AND MIDLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY HELD ON 10th February, 2017, COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL, DUBLIN 2.

Cllr. Paddy Bourke	Cllr. Ivan Keatley
Cllr. Tommy Byrne	Cllr. Dermot Lacey
Cllr. Mick Cahill	Cllr. Colm Markey
Cllr. Kieran Dennison	Cllr. Lettie McCarthy
Cllr. Eamon Dooley	Cllr. Brian McDonagh
Cllr. Catherine Fitzgerald	Cllr. Pdraig McEvoy
Cllr. Brian Fitzgerald	Cllr. Martin Miley
Cllr. Eddie Fitzpatrick	Cllr. Derek Mitchell
Cllr. Mary Freehill	Cllr. Maria Murphy
Cllr. Pat Hand	Cllr. PJ Reilly
Cllr. David Healy	Cllr. Tommy Reilly
Cllr. Paddy Hill	Cllr. Pat Vance

In Attendance:

Ms. Joan Martin Designated Chief Executive

Mr. Jim Conway, EMRA

Mr. Malachy Bradley, EMRA

Ms. Clare Bannon, EMRA

Ms. Labhaoise McKenna, EMRA

Ms. Hazel Healy, EMRA

Mr. Ross Higgins, EMRA

Apologies received from **Cllr. P Bracken, Cllr. C Burke, Cllr. J Cuffe, Cllr. K Feeney & Cllr. P Kearns.**

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr D. Lacey welcomed Cllr Derek Mitchell, Wicklow County Council newly appointed to the Regional Assembly and also noted that Cllr. Claire O'Connor was appointed at Dublin City Council's meeting held the previous evening.

A letter of thanks to Cllr Sylvester Bourke and Cllr Tom Brabazon should issue to acknowledge the contributions by the Councillors during their term on behalf of the members of the Assembly.

ITEM 1 - Adoption of Minutes of meeting held on 13th January, 2017.

Minutes of the meeting of the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly held on the 13th January 2017 were proposed by Cllr. K. Dennison and seconded by Cllr. P. Hand.

The minutes were **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED**.

ITEM 2 - Planning

i) Review of the Meath County Development Plan 2019 – 2025

A draft submission containing observations of the Assembly under the requirement of section 27A of the Planning & Development Act in relation to the review of the Meath County Development Plan was circulated to members for their consideration.

Mr. Malachy Bradley noted that the draft submission outlined the policies and objectives of the Regional Planning Guidelines and national policy and guidance that the Local Authority should take into consideration in the preparation of the Meath Draft County Development Plan.

Cllr P. McEvoy noted that in the RSES context we need to minimize transport movement.

The submission was **APPROVED**.

ii) Poolbeg West SDZ Draft Planning Scheme

A draft submission containing observations on the Poolbeg West SDZ draft planning scheme was circulated to members for their consideration.

Mr. Malachy Bradley outlined that Poolbeg West was designated a Strategic Development Zone by Cabinet in 2016, this is a key site and is considered to be of strategic importance to the state.

A discussion followed with contributions from: An Cathaoirleach Cllr. D. Lacy, Cllr. D. Mitchell; Cllr. K. Dennison and Cllr. P. McEvoy.

The report was **APPROVED**.

Mr. Malachy Bradley advised the members that Minister Simon Coveney had recently launched – the Issues and Choices for the National Planning Framework Ireland 2040 – Our Plan in Maynooth on 2nd February and there will be a series of regional events around this consultation period.

The Director, Mr. Jim Conway advised members that discussion would be developed at the upcoming SPA committee meetings which will then inform the Assemblies response to the National Planning Framework, issue and choices consultation.

Cllr. L. McCarthy and Cllr. P. Vance requested that the Chairs of each SPA committee receive an update of the committee membership and their contact details, and encouraged members to participate at each meeting were possible.

This was noted.

ITEM 3 - Programme of Works 2017

The Director presented a redeveloped Programme of Works for 2017 which sets out the work to be undertaken by the Assembly at a strategic level for the coming year. The actions in this programme can be related directly back to the EMRA Corporate Plan.

A discussion followed with contributions from: Cllr. K. Dennison, Cllr M. Cahill, Cllr E. Fitzpatrick; Cllr. B. Fitzgerald, Cllr D. Mitchell, Cllr. D. Healy; Cllr. L. McCarthy; Cllr. P. Vance; Cllr. M. Freehill; Cllr. I. Keatley and An Cathaoirleach Cllr. D. Lacey.

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. D. Lacey requested that an item on the recent launch of the 'The Action plan for Rural Development' be included on the Agenda for the next Assembly meeting.

Members also agreed that research could be undertaken by the Assembly on current environmental issues to inform future policy making.

The Programme of Works for 2017 was **AGREED**.

ITEM 4 - Committee of the Regions

Cllr M. Freehill gave an update at the meeting on behalf of the Irish Delegation and advised that an item will be included at the March meeting to discuss the implications of Brexit.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr. P. McEvoy; Cllr. B. McDonagh and Cllr. K. Dennison and An Cathaoirleach Cllr. D. Lacy who acknowledged the very important body of work undertaken by the Committee of the Regions and requested that agenda items of the next meeting including the members attending be presented at each Assembly meeting.

ITEM 5 - Correspondence

No correspondence.

ITEM 6 - Any other business

The Director confirmed that Minister Coveney will attend the Regional Launch of the National Planning Framework due to be held in Axis Theatre, Ballymun on 21st February at 2.30pm.

The Members requested that directions and parking arrangements for the rescheduled **April** meeting to be held in **Fingal County Council** on **21st April 2017** be circulated early.

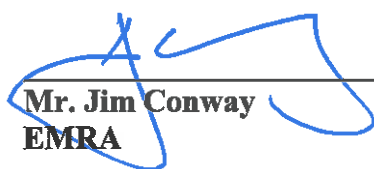
ITEM 7 - Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly is due to be held on the **10th March, 2017** in City Hall.

Signed:



Cllr. Dermot Lacey
Cathaoirleach EMRA



Mr. Jim Conway
EMRA

Date:

10/3/2017