

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

MINUTES MEETING

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

HELD ON

10th March, 2017

IN

COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL, DUBLIN 2

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

Cllr. Paddy Bourke	Cllr. Pat Hand
Cllr. Paddy Bracken	Cllr. David Healy
Cllr. Christy Burke	Cllr. Paddy Hill
Cllr. Mick Cahill	Cllr. Ivan Keatley
Cllr. Thomas Cullen	Cllr. Dermot Lacey
Cllr. Kieran Dennison	Cllr. Padraig McEvoy
Cllr. Eamon Dooley	Cllr. Martin Miley
Cllr. Andrew Duncan	Cllr. Claire O'Connor
Cllr. Catherine Fitzgerald	Cllr. PJ Reilly
Cllr. Eddie Fitzpatrick	Cllr. Tommy Reilly
Cllr. Mary Freehill	Cllr. Pat Vance

In Attendance:

Ms. Joan Martin Designated Chief Executive

Mr. Jim Conway, EMRA

Ms. Labhaoise McKenna, EMRA

Ms. Pauline Riordan, EMRA

Ms. Hazel Healy, EMRA

Mr. Richard Kenneally, EMRA

Mr. Ross Higgins, EMRA

Apologies received from: Cllr. L McCarty, Cllr. B McDonagh & Cllr. D Mitchell

ITEM 1 - Adoption of Minutes of meeting held on 10th February 2017.

Minutes of the meeting of the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly held on the 10th February 2017 were proposed by Cllr. T. Cullen and seconded by Cllr. C. Burke.

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

ITEM 2 - Planning

i) National Planning Framework: Ireland 2040 Our Plan Issues and Choices

Following the launch of the NPF ISSUES AND CHOICES PAPER held in Ballymun on 21st February a series of SPA workshops were held to examine the document.

The Director presented the draft submission containing observations of the Assembly. The Director thanked the members for their participation, the debate was informative as this was the first time

opportunity since the corporate plan that the assembly has been involved in such a broad overview of the entire region and to bring all the assets and challenges the region holds into focus.

The Director also thanked Mr. Malachy Bradley, Assistant Director, Ms. Pauline Riordan, Senior Executive Planner and Ms. Clare Bannon, Senior Executive Planner for their work on the submission.

A discussion followed with contributions from: An Cathaoirleach Cllr. D. Lacey; Cllr. D. Healy; Cllr. P. McEvoy; Cllr. M. Cahill and Cllr. I. Keatley.

Amendments to the submission were proposed by Cllr. T. Reilly, Cllr. D. Healy & Cllr. P. McEvoy.

The submission incorporating amendments was unanimously **AGREED**.

ii) Proposed draft variation to Laois County Development Plan 2011 – 2017

The Director presented the submission as prepared by the Assistant Director, Mr. Malachy Bradley, to the members and noted that the proposed variation is consistent with the Regional Planning Guidelines for the Midland Region 2010 – 2022.

The submission was unanimously **AGREED**.

iii) Proposed draft variation No. 2 to Westmeath County Development Plan 2014-2020

The Director made reference to the circular issued by the Department of Environment Community and Local Government Circular PL 20-13 of 20 December 2013 which commenced a review to the 2006 Wind Energy Development guidelines.

The submission notes that the Planning Authority should be cognizant of this circular.

A discussion followed with contributions from: An Cathaoirleach Cllr. D. Lacey; Cllr. A. Duncan; Cllr. I. Keatley; Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick; Cllr. K. Feeney; Cllr. P. Vance; Cllr. M. Freehill; Cllr. P. McEvoy; Cllr. D. Healy.

The Designated C. E. Joan Martin informed the members about a successful community gain scheme for overhead supply lines negotiated by the National Advisory Group for Eirgrid and the potential for similar projects.

It was agreed that the Assembly will write to the Minister identifying that there is a difficulty for the Assembly to meet its obligations at a regional level due to the lack of guidance on renewal energy and in particular wind energy. Cllr. A. Duncan to have input into the letter.

The submission was unanimously **AGREED**.

ITEM 3. Realising our Rural Potential: The Action Plan for Rural Development

The Action Plan for Rural Development was launched on Monday 23rd January 2017 by An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny TD, and the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Heather Humphreys TD in Ballymahon, Co Longford.

The Director informed the members of his intention to bring a speaker to the next meeting to give the members a full presentation on the plan.

The proposal was AGREED, invitation to issue to the Assistant Secretary for Regional Development & Rural Affairs to provide a speaker at the next Assembly meeting.

ITEM 4. Committee of the Regions update

The Director circulated a briefing document for the information of the members which details the list of opinions by Irish members.

Cllr. M. Freehill provided examples on funding opportunities undertaken in other countries on Bio Economy and also explained that as the Country has 9 of a membership of 350, Ireland are performing well with the number of discussion papers brought forward.

A discussion followed with contributions from: An Cathaoirleach Cllr. D. Lacy; Cllr. K. Feeney; Cllr. K. Dennison and Cllr. D. Healy.

Report for the next meeting to include details from the Plenary meetings scheduled to take place on the 22nd & 23rd March covering EU Food Policy & Inter Agency Health Service in Europe

ITEM 5. Correspondence

None.

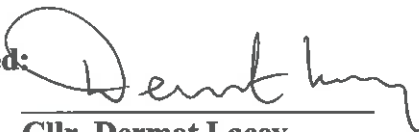
ITEM 6. Any other business

None.

ITEM 7. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly will be held on **21st April 2017** in Council Chamber, Fingal County Council, **Swords**, Co. Dublin.

Signed:



Cllr. Dermot Lacey
Cathaoirleach EMRA



Mr. Jim Conway
EMRA

Date:

21 / 4 / 2017

