

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

**Minutes of the meeting  
of the**

**Eastern and Midland  
Regional Assembly**

**held on**

**Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

**in**

**Council Chamber,  
City Hall,  
Dublin 2**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EASTERN AND MIDLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY HELD ON 20<sup>th</sup> April, COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL, DUBLIN 2.**

Cllr Paddy Bourke	Cllr Mary Freehill
Cllr Paddy Bracken	Cllr Pat Hand
Cllr Christy Burke	Cllr David Healy
Cllr Mick Cahill	Cllr Pamela Kearns
Cllr Kieran Dennison	Cllr Dermot Lacey
Cllr Eamon Dooley	Cllr Colm Markey
Cllr Francis Duffy	Cllr Lettie McCarthy
Cllr Gaye Fagan	Cllr Pdraig McEvoy
Cllr Catherine Fitzgerald	Cllr Maria Murphy
Cllr Brian Fitzgerald	Cllr Claire O'Connor
Cllr Eddie Fitzpatrick	Cllr Pat Vance

**In Attendance:**

Ms. Joan Martin, Designated Chief Executive, Louth County Council

Mr. Jim Conway, EMRA

Mr. Malachy Bradley, EMRA

Ms. Labhaoise McKenna, EMRA

Mr. Ross Higgins, EMRA

Mr. Simon Musial, EMRA

**Apologies received from:** Cllr C Cuffe, Cllr PJ Reilly and Cllr T Reilly.

Leas Cathaoirleach wished to extend condolences to Cllr D Lacey on the passing of his mother. Cllr L McCarthy also wished to pass on a vote of sympathy to Cllr D Lacey

**ITEM 1**

**Adoption of Minutes of meeting held 9<sup>th</sup> March 2018.**

Minutes of the meeting of the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly held on the 09<sup>th</sup> March 2018 were proposed by Cllr. L McCarthy and seconded by Cllr. P Bracken.

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

## ITEM 2

### RSES Update

Mr. Malachy Bradley gave a presentation to the Assembly on the RSES which included a progress update on the RSES, the approach to a growth strategy for our region, including key considerations of the NPF, carrying capacity of settlements, and general approach. Aspects of the MASP (Metropolitan area strategic plan), what it can do in Dublin, the structure, and selection of strategic sites and finally the next steps for RSES. A discussion then took place with contributions from Cllr. M Cahill, Cllr P McEvoy and Cllr D Lacey.

## ITEM 3

### Planning

- i) **Westmeath County Development Plan 2020-2026 pre-draft** was proposed by Cllr M Cahill and seconded by Cllr E Dooley.

The submission was **APPROVED**.

- ii) **Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Planning Scheme for Balgaddy-Clonburriss SDZ** a discussion took place with contributions from Cllr. D Healy, Cllr P Kearns, Cllr D Lacey and Cllr M Freehill,

Cllr D Healy proposed an amendment to the draft submission as follows;

*"The RPGs are very clear about the importance of walking cycling and public transport and about the vital role of permeability in urban design for walking and cycling. These amendments seeking to require pedestrian and cycle links to go through an extra approval process separate to and additional to the SDZ would undermine the provision of good facilities for walking and cycling, reduce access to public transport and force people to use cars. The pedestrian and cycle links should be approved in the SDZ process along with all of the other aspects of the SDZ. Furthermore the statement in No 3 that the Permeability Best Practice Guide recommends that such links be subject to further planning approval separate or additional to normal planning processes is factually inaccurate. Therefore we recommend that these amendments not be made as they are not consistent with the RPGs."*

The draft submission with the proposed amendment was proposed by Cllr P Kearns and seconded by Cllr C Burke.

The submission was **APPROVED**.

- iii) **Proposed Variation No. 4 to Longford County Development Plan** was proposed by Cllr M Cahill and seconded by Cllr E Dooley.  
The submission was **APPROVED**.
  
- iv) **Proposed Variation No. 4 to Westmeath County Development Plan** was proposed by Cllr E Dooley and seconded by Cllr M Cahill.  
The submission was **APPROVED**.
  
- v) **Proposed Variation No. 2 of the Athlone Town Development Plan 2014-2020** were proposed by Cllr M Cahill and seconded by Cllr E Dooley.  
The submission was **APPROVED**.

#### **ITEM 4**

##### **Committee of the Regions Quarterly Update**

The Director gave the quarterly CoR update and how the assembly can engage in CoR matters, a discussion followed with contributions from Cllr M Freehill and Cllr P McEvoy.

##### **Item No 5**

##### **Programme of Works – Q1 Update**

The Director gave the Assembly an update on the work that the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly undertook with quarter 1 of 2018 to inform the members of the work that takes place by the staff of the Assembly and the context of why it is undertaken. A discussion followed with a contribution from Cllr M Freehill.

##### **Item 6**

##### **Correspondence**

No correspondence this quarter.

##### **Item No. 7**

##### **AOB**

Ms. L McKenna circulated a draft EU Urban funding graphic prepared in-house for feedback from the members in terms of usability and content. A discussion took place with contributions from Cllr P Kearns, Cllr P Bourke, Cllr M Freehill and Cllr. P McEvoy.


**Item No. 8**

**Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> May at 11:00am in City Hall.

**Signed:**

  
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Cllr PJ Reilly  
Cathaoirleach EMRA

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Jim Conway  
EMRA

Date: 11/5/18

