

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

MINUTES for MEETING

**OF THE EASTERN AND MIDLAND
REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**

HELD ON

Friday, 08th September 2023

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EASTERN AND MIDLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY HELD ON 8th SEPTEMBER 2023, COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL, DUBLIN 2.

Cllr. Daryl Barron	Cllr. Lyn Hagin Meade
Cllr. Emma Blain	Cllr. Vincent Jackson
Cllr. Fintan Brett	Cllr. Dermot Lacey
Cllr. John Browne	Cllr. Brigid Manton
Cllr. Avril Cronin	Cllr. Pdraig Mc Evoy
Cllr. Laura Donaghy	Cllr. Paddy Meade
Cllr. Eamon Dooley	Cllr. Declan Meenagh
Cllr. Caroline Dwane Stanley	Cllr. Peter O'Brien
Cllr. Kate Feeney	Cllr. Damien O'Reilly
Cllr. Catherine Fitzgerald	Cllr. Aengus O'Rourke
Cllr. Eddie Fitzpatrick	Cllr. Danny Owens
Cllr. Jim Gildea	Cllr. Robert Power
Cllr. David Gilroy	Cllr. Gerry Walsh

Apologies received from; Cllr M Hanafin.

In Attendance:

Ms. Joan Martin, CEO, Louth County Council

Ms. Clare Bannon, EMRA

Ms. Bernie Roe, EMRA

Ms. Teresa Lennon, IREO

Ms. Anne-Marie Wood Wolfe, EMRA

Ms. Eugenia Thompson, EMRA

Mr. Pdraig O'Shea, EMRA

Mr. Terence Connolly, EMRA

Dr. Owen Douglas, EMRA

Dr. Karl Murphy, EMRA

Ms. Ruth Kilcullen, EMRA

Mr. Simon Musial, EMRA

Mr. Tadhg Browne, IREO

Mr. Ross Higgins, EMRA

Ms. Geraldine Kenny, EMRA

Ms. Sarah Campbell, EMRA

Mr. Rory O'Sullivan, EMRA

Ms. Kiara Abbey, EMRA

ITEM 1

Adoption of Minutes of meeting held on 14th July 2023

Minutes of meeting of the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly held on the 14th of July 2023 were proposed by Cllr E Fitzpatrick and seconded by Cllr D Lacey.

The minutes were **APPROVED**.

Cllr D Lacey asked for an update in relation to the **Monitoring of the application of the European Charter of Local Self-Government in Ireland** from the last meeting. The Director, Ms Clare Bannon advised that EMRA are awaiting the official publication of the document and will issue a letter to the Department, as per the request at the July meeting, once the document is officially published.

ITEM 2

Local Economic and Community Plans (LECP) - The Role of the Regional Assembly – Presentation by Ms Eugenia Thomson.

Ms Anne-Marie Wood Wolfe, Assistant Director of EMRA introduced Ms Eugenia Thompson, Senior Executive Planner. Ms Thompson gave a presentation on Local and Economic plans, including what is a LECP and what it consists of, the role of the Regional Assembly, statutory requirements of the Regional Assembly, LECP Guidelines 2021, the LECP process, LECP stages, LECP stakeholder interactions, content of the LECP, UN sustainable development goals (SDGs), RSES 3 key principles and 16 regional strategic objectives (RSOs), policy framework hierarchy – economic, and the next steps.

An Cathaoirleach Kate Feeney thanked Ms E Thompson for her presentation.

A discussion took place regarding the LECP and the role of the Regional Assembly with contributions made by Cllr K Feeney, Cllr D Lacey, Cllr P O'Brien, Cllr P Mc Evoy, Cllr J Gildea, Cllr D Gilroy, Ms E Thompson, Ms A Wood Wolfe and Ms C Bannon.

ITEM 3

Planning items

i) Wicklow Town – Rathnew Local Area Plan 2024-2030.

The Assistant Director, Ms A Wood-Wolfe gave an outline of the submission to the pre-draft public consultation of the Wicklow Town - Rathnew Local Area Plan (LAP) 2024 including the growth strategy, settlement strategy, local area plan, transport

and land use, economic development, water servicing, green infrastructure, flood risk management, SEA/AA and conclusion.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr G Walsh.

The Wicklow Town – Rathnew Local Area Plan 2024-2030 was proposed by Cllr G Walsh and seconded by Cllr P Meade.

This was **APPROVED**.

ii) Draft Wicklow LECP

Anne-Marie Wood Wolfe gave an overview of the submission. This included detail relating to the role and function of the Regional Assembly, the legislative context, the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Eastern and Midland Region, an overview of the draft framework LECP document, an evaluation of consistency with the RSES, Recommendations and Statement of Consistency, and conclusion.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr G Walsh and Cllr A Cronin. The Wicklow LECP was proposed by Cllr G Walsh and seconded by Cllr A Cronin.

This was **APPROVED**.

iii) Draft Meath LECP

Anne-Marie Wood Wolfe gave an overview of the submission. This included detail relating to the role and function of the Regional Assembly, the legislative context, the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Eastern and Midland Region, an overview of the draft framework LECP document, an evaluation of consistency with the RSES, Recommendations and Statement of Consistency, and conclusion.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr Meade recommending two proposed amendments, Cllr D Gilroy, Cllr K Feeney, Cllr P McEvoy, Cllr P O'Brien, Ms C Bannon, Cllr D Lacey, Cllr D Meenagh.

The proposed amendments from Cllr Meade were circulated to members for their consideration.

The Meath LECP was proposed by Cllr P Meade and seconded by Cllr E Fitzpatrick with two amendments as proposed by Cllr Meade. It was agreed that the final version will be sent to An Cathaoirleach Kate Feeney for review, prior to submission and then circulated to the members.

This was **AGREED**.

iv) Uisce Éireann - Phase 2 consultation on the draft Capital Investment Plan 2025 – 2029

Anne-Marie Wood Wolfe gave an outline of the submission to Uisce Éireann's draft Capital Investment Plan 2025-2029 (CIP). This included detail on the role and function of the Regional Assembly, the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Eastern and Midland Region, ensuring spatial alignment, strategic investment priorities of the Eastern and Midland Region, water quality, conservation, biodiversity, circular economy, climate resilience, energy efficiency, future proofing, draft investment portfolio, and conclusion.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr D Lacey, Cllr P Mc Evoy, Ms C Bannon and Ms A-M Wood Wolfe

The submission was proposed by Cllr P Mc Evoy and seconded by Cllr E Fitzpatrick.

This was **AGREED**.

ITEM 4

Update on EU subcommittee meeting

Ms Clare Bannon provided the members with an update regarding the EU Subcommittee meeting held on 25th July. Following this, Ms Bannon gave the members further details relating to the ENCORE conference in Arnhem, The Netherlands, on the 28th of September 2023. It was advised that any members interested in attending are to revert before close of business on the 11th of September.

Cllr D Gilroy, Cllr E Fitzpatrick, Cllr P Meade expressed an interest.

ITEM 5

Update on the Implementation of the EU JTF programme.

Mr Terence Connolly of EMRA gave the members a presentation on the implementation of the EU JTF programme. In his presentation, Mr T Connolly provided detail relating to The EU Just Transition Fund –Single Specific Objective, the 3 main priorities of the fund, actions and schemes for each priority, outreach for planned workshops, calls open, and calls opening soon.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr E Dooley, Cllr E Fitzpatrick, Cllr B Manton, Cllr P Meade, Cllr D Meenagh and Mr T Connolly.

ITEM 6

Correspondence

NONE

ITEM 7

Any other business

Ms C Bannon welcomed and introduced two new members of staff, Ms Kiara Abbey and Ms Ruth Kilcullen.

It was indicated that EMRA was officially appointed the Urban Contact Point for the European Urban Initiative. Dr Karl Murphy will take on this role in addition to his role as contact point for the URBACT programme.

Members were reminded that the invites for MASP and SPA meetings have been issued. Members were provided with the relevant dates as follows: Dublin/MASP SPA 10th October, Eastern SPA 20th October and Midland SPA 24th of October 2023.

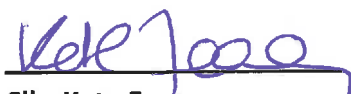
This was **NOTED**.

ITEM 8

Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly is to be held on, **Friday 13th of October 2023**.

Signed:



Cllr. Kate Feeney
Cathaoirleach EMRA



Ms. Clare Bannon

EMRA

Date: 13/10/2023

