

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

**MINUTES for MEETING**

**OF THE EASTERN AND MIDLAND  
REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**HELD ON**

**Friday, 08<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EASTERN AND MIDLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY HELD ON  
8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024.**

Cllr Emma Blain	Cllr Janet Horner
Cllr Fintan Brett	Cllr Vincent Jackson
Cllr John Browne	Cllr Pamela Kearns
Cllr Avril Cronin	Cllr Conor Keelan
Cllr Laura Donaghy	Cllr Dermot Lacey
Cllr Caroline Dwane Stanley	Cllr Brigid Manton
Cllr Kate Feeney	Cllr Pdraig McEvoy
Cllr Catherine Fitzgerald	Cllr Paddy Meade
Cllr Eddie Fitzpatrick	Cllr Declan Meenagh
Cllr Jim Gildea	Cllr Justin Moylan
Cllr Alison Gilliland	Cllr Caroline O'Reilly
Cllr David Gilroy	Cllr Aengus O'Rourke
Cllr Lyn Hagin Meade	Cllr Danny Owens
Cllr David Healy	Cllr Robert Power
Cllr Deirdre Heney	Cllr Gerry Walsh

Apologies received from:

In Attendance:

Ms. Joan Martin, CE, Louth County Council

Ms. Clare Bannon, EMRA

Mr. Pdraig O'Shea, EMRA

Ms. Laure Antoniotti, EMRA

Ms. Ruth Kilcullen, EMRA

Ms. Katarzyna Kaczmarek, EMRA

Mr. Simon Musial, EMRA

Mr. Ross Higgins, EMRA

Ms. Geraldine Kenny, EMRA

Ms. Sarah Campbell, EMRA

Dr. Karl Murphy, EMRA

Dr. Owen Douglas, EMRA

Ms. Helena Stromberg, EMRA

Mr. Terry Connolly, EMRA

Mr. Rory O'Sullivan, EMRA

Ms. Teresa Lennon, EMRA

Mr. Tadhg Browne, EMRA

Mr. Kevin Lynch, Southern Regional Assembly

## **ITEM 1**

### **Adoption of Minutes of meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024.**

Minutes of the meeting of the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly held on the 9<sup>th</sup> of February 2024 were proposed by Cllr D Healy and seconded by Cllr D Lacey.

The minutes were **APPROVED**.

## **ITEM 2**

### **Presentation on Regional Change; Potential and Opportunities**

Presentation given by Mr Kevin Lynch, SRA covering the following topics: The Challenge; The Regions, Three Regions, One NPF; Progress: Substantial policy alignment, Significant investment, Development of initiatives Regional Assemblies; Projected and Actual Growth (2016 –22) in Metropolitan Areas; Regional Split of Investment; Population Growth 2016 -2022; Overall Challenges; Regional Assembly Challenges; Overarching Recommendations; Short Term Measures/Democratic Process,

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr C Keelan, Cllr D Lacey, Cllr P Mc Evoy, Cllr G Walsh, Cllr F Brett, Cllr R Power, Cllr D Heney, Cllr D Gilroy, Cllr D Healy, Cllr D Meenagh, Cllr J Gildea and Cllr K Feeney.

Cllr McEvoy suggested that a second version of this report could be worked on jointly by the three Assemblies. Cllr Feeney suggested that this could be discussed by the AIR members and asked Cllr D Lacey, as chair of the AIR, to include this on the next AIR agenda. Cllr Lacey agreed and asked the Director C Bannon to add this as an item on the next meeting agenda.

## **ITEM 3**

### **Presentation of the ORIGINN project**

Presentation given by Ms Ruth Kilcullen, EMRA covering the following topics: What is ORIGINN?; Challenges: What will ORIGINN deliver?; Key RSES objectives to be supported through ORIGINN; Themes in focus; Project so far; Good practices in digitalisation, Output of the Next2Met project: Regional Digitalisation roadmap; Next Steps for ORIGINN's Digitalisation Activities; This semester – Green Economy.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr E Fitzpatrick, Cllr D Gilroy, Cllr P Mc Evoy, Cllr G Walsh, Cllr C Keelan and Cllr K Feeney.

## **ITEM 4**

### **Planning items**

- i. Submission on Strategic Issues Paper for Drogheda Joint Local Area Plan – for approval

The Submission on Strategic Issues Paper for Drogheda Joint Local Area Plan was circulated prior to the meeting and was taken as read.

Cllr P Mc Evoy proposed an amendment to the submission on the Strategic Issues Paper for Drogheda Joint Local Area Plan, the text was circulated to the members.

Mr P O'Shea, EMRA read the proposed amended text:

Draft Amendments to the Pre-Draft Public Consultation Strategic Issues Paper for the Drogheda Joint Local Area Plan (February 2024)

### 3.8 Transport

“The RSES supports the preparation of a Local Transport Plan (LTP) for Drogheda, prepared jointly by Louth and Meath County Councils and in collaboration with the relevant transport. This aligns with Section 8.3 and RPOs 4.11 and 8.6 of the RSES. The guidance provided in the RSES in relation to Local Transport Plans also suggests that Local Link Offices (Transport Coordination Units) should be consulted in the development of LTPs. **As part of the LTP and JLAP, the Local Authorities may give consideration to a transport orientated development approach.** The policies, objectives and measures which emerge from the LTP are required to be incorporated into the relevant statutory land use plans pertaining to each settlement. **In addition, it should be noted that the draft All-Island Strategic Rail Review (“the Review”) aims to decarbonize the island's transport systems, promote sustainable connectivity, enhance regional accessibility, and support balanced development by focusing on the rail network's potential. Where relevant the LTP may give consideration to the strategic options that are proposed for Drogheda in the draft Review, or any finalised version of same.”**

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr C Keelan, Cllr McEvoy and Cllr D Lacey. The submission on the Strategic Issues Paper for Drogheda Joint Local Area Plan with amendment was proposed by Cllr P Mc Evoy and seconded by Cllr D Healy.

This was **APPROVED**.

- ii. Submissions on the draft National Adaptation Framework 2024 was circulated and taken as read.

This was **NOTED**.

## **ITEM 5**

### **Correspondence**

Recent correspondence will be circulated to members after the meeting.

**ITEM 6**

**Any other business**

Ms Clare Bannon, EMRA welcomed Ms Katarzyna Kaczmarek to the role of Finance Officer with EMRA.

**ITEM 7**

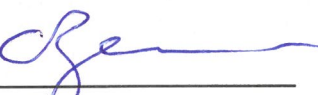
**Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly will be held on Friday 12th of April 2024 at 11:00am in County Hall Dún Laoghaire.

Signed:



Cllr Kate Feeney  
Cathaoirleach EMRA



Ms. Clare Bannon  
EMRA

Date:

12/04/2024



