

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

MINUTES for MEETING

**OF THE EASTERN AND MIDLAND
REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**

HELD ON

Friday, 12th April 2024

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EASTERN AND MIDLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY HELD ON
12th APRIL 2024.**

Cllr Emma Blain	Cllr Janet Horner
Cllr Emma Coffey	Cllr Vincent Jackson
Cllr Caroline Dwane Stanley	Cllr Conor Keelan
Cllr Kate Feeney	Cllr Dermot Lacey
Cllr Catherine Fitzgerald	Cllr Brigid Manton
Cllr Eddie Fitzpatrick	Cllr Pdraig McEvoy
Cllr Jim Gildea	Cllr Declan Meenagh
Cllr Alison Gilliland	Cllr Aisling Moran
Cllr David Gilroy	Cllr Justin Moylan
Cllr Lyn Hagin Meade	Cllr Peter O'Brien
Cllr David Healy	Cllr Robert Power
Cllr Deirdre Heney	Cllr Gerry Walsh

Apologies received from:

None

In Attendance:

Cllr Denis O Callaghan, Cathaoirleach of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council

**Ms. Clare Bannon, EMRA
Ms. Anne-Marie Wood Wolfe, EMRA
Mr. Pdraig O'Shea, EMRA
Dr. Owen Douglas, EMRA
Ms. Laure Antoniotti, EMRA
Mr. Terry Connolly, EMRA
Ms. Katarzyna Kaczmarek, EMRA
Dr. Karl Murphy, EMRA
Ms. Ruth Kilcullen, EMRA
Mr. Simon Musial, EMRA
Ms. Geraldine Kenny, EMRA
Ms. Sarah Campbell, EMRA
Ms. Helena Stromberg, EMRA
Mr. Rory O'Sullivan, EMRA
Ms. Kiara Abbey, EMRA
Mr. Tadhg Browne, IREO**

Apologies received from Joan Martin, Louth CE

The Cathaoirleach of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, Cllr Denis O'Callaghan welcomed the EMRA Members to the council chamber of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council.

ITEM 1

Adoption of Minutes of meeting held on 8th March 2024.

Minutes of the meeting of the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly held on the 8th of March 2024 were proposed by Cllr D Lacey and seconded by Cllr J Gildea.

The minutes were **APPROVED**.

ITEM 2

Planning items

- i. Submission on Variation No. 2 to the Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027

The Submission was circulated prior to the meeting and was presented by Ms. Anne-Marie Wood Wolfe, EMRA.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr C Keelan, Cllr E Coffey and Cllr D Gilroy.

The Submission was proposed by Cllr E Coffey and seconded by Cllr P Mc Evoy.

This was **APPROVED**.

- ii. Submissions on the draft Westmeath LECP

The Submission was circulated prior to the meeting and was presented by Ms. Anne-Marie Wood Wolfe.

The Submission was proposed by Cllr D Lacey and seconded by Cllr P Mc Evoy.

This was **APPROVED**.

- iii. Submission on the draft Offaly LECP

The Submission was circulated prior to the meeting and was presented by Ms. Anne-Marie Wood Wolfe.

The Submission was proposed by Cllr E Fitzpatrick and seconded by Cllr L Hagin Meade.

This was **APPROVED**.

- iv. Submission on the draft Kildare LECP

The Submission was circulated prior to the meeting and was presented by Ms. Anne-Marie Wood Wolfe (EMRA).

The Submission was proposed by Cllr R Power and seconded by Cllr P Mc Evoy.

This was **APPROVED**.

ITEM 3

Unaudited 2023 AFS

The acting Director, Ms C Bannon presented the unaudited AFS 2023 to the Members.

This was **NOTED**.

ITEM 4

Programme of Works 2024 – Q1 update

Ms C Bannon updated the Members on the work and activities the EMRA undertook for Quarter 1 of 2024.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr P Mc Evoy.

This was **NOTED**.

ITEM 5

Presentation on the implementation of the EU Just Transition Fund Programme

Mr Terence Connolly (EMRA) presented an update on the implementation of the EU Just Transition Fund Programme. His presentation included the following topics: the EU Just Transition Fund for Ireland Progress Update, the Single Specific Objective, Where are the Territories, Snapshot of Priority 1- JOBS, Generating employment by diversifying the local economy, Snapshot of Priority 2 – BOGS Restoration of degraded peatlands and regeneration of industrial heritage assets, Snapshot of Priority 3- WHEELS Smart and sustainable mobility options, State of play of funding calls and funding commitments, Calls Currently Open, Communications Update, and useful links for updates.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr R Power, Cllr L Hagin Meade, Cllr D Healy, Cllr A Gilliland, Cllr C Keelan, Cllr P Mc Evoy, Cllr K Feeney and Cllr J Moylan.

Cllr McEvoy expressed his concern that EU priorities may shift away from green ambitions in the future budget cycle and suggested that the Assembly works with its two counterparts to develop and carry a common message regarding the future of EU policy and what its priorities should be. This was seconded by Cllr K Feeney.

ITEM 6

Correspondence

None

ITEM 7

Any other business

- The Association of Irish Regions has been invited to attend and contribute to a public hearing on the topic of "The Future of Local Democracy" Thursday, 25th April 2024. Cllr D Lacey will be making a presentation in his own capacity and it was agreed Cllr P McEvoy would make a presentation on behalf of AIR. A copy of the draft presentation will be circulated to the Members prior to the event and Members who wish to make suggestions to be included in the presentation should contact Cllr P McEvoy.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr P McEvoy, Cllr D Lacey, Cllr D Heney, Cllr D Meenagh and Cllr D Gilroy.

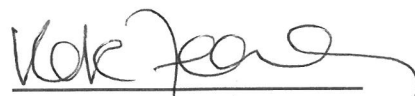
- The three Regional Assembly Cathaoirligh jointly signed a letter to the Editor which was published in the Irish Times, in relation to the Planning and Development Bill 2023.
- A question was raised in relation to the possibility for Members to attend Mc Gill Summer School this year, this will be discussed under AOB at the next EMRA meeting.

ITEM 8

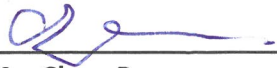
Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly will be held on Friday 10th of May 2024 at 11:00am.

Signed:



Cllr Kate Feeney
Cathaoirleach EMRA



Ms. Clare Bannon
EMRA



Date: 12 / 7 / 24