

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

MINUTES for MEETING

**OF THE EASTERN AND MIDLAND
REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**

HELD ON

Friday, 12th July 2024

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EASTERN AND MIDLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY HELD ON 12TH JULY 2024 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER DUN-LAOGHAIRE RATHDOWN COUNTY COUNCIL.

In Attendance:

Clr Emma Blain	Clr Deirdre Heney
Clr Aoife Breslin	Clr Rory Hogan
Clr Paula Butterly	Clr Feljin Jose
Clr Danny Byrne	Clr Dermot Lacey
Clr Mick Cahill	Clr Tony Mc Cormack
Clr Eimear Carbone Mangan	Clr Pádraig Mc Evoy
Clr Emma Coffey	Clr Justin Moylan
Clr Avril Cronin	Clr Shane Moynihan
Clr Kevin Duffy	Clr Garry Murtagh
Clr Caroline Dwane Stanley	Clr Oisín O Connor
Clr Catherine Fitzgerald	Clr Tom O Leary
Clr Eddie Fitzpatrick	Clr Gerry O Neill
Clr Declan Flanagan	Clr Aengus O Rourke
Clr Joe Fox	Clr Robert Power
Clr David Gilroy	Clr Paul Ross
Clr Patsy Glennon	Clr Joanna Tuffy
Clr David Healy	

Apologies received from:

Clr Niall Gaffney, Clr Mike Bray and Clr Mícheál Mac Donncha

In Attendance:

Ms. Joan Martin, CE, Louth County Council

Ms. Clare Bannon, EMRA

Ms. Anne-Marie Wood Wolfe, EMRA

Ms. Bernie Roe, EMRA

Mr. Pádraig O'Shea, EMRA

Dr. Owen Douglas, EMRA

Ms. Laure Antoniotti, EMRA

Ms. Katarzyna Kaczmarek, EMRA

Mr. Simon Musial, EMRA

Dr. Karl Murphy, EMRA

Ms. Helena Stromberg, EMRA

Mr. Shane O'Donnell, EMRA

Mr. Rory O'Sullivan, EMRA

Ms. Teresa Lennon, IREO

Mr. Tadhg Browne, IREO

Mr. Ross Higgins, EMRA

Ms. Geraldine Kenny, EMRA

Ms. Sarah Campbell, EMRA

Ms. Kiara Abbey, EMRA

ITEM 1

Election of Cathaoirleach

Ms C Bannon, Acting Director of the EMRA, invited nominations for Cathaoirleach of the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly for the forthcoming year to July 2025.

Cllr E Fitzpatrick proposed Cllr C Fitzgerald, this was seconded by Cllr Tony Mc Cormack.

Cllr C Fitzgerald was elected An Cathaoirleach for the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly with no other nominations received.

This was **AGREED**.

ITEM 2

Election of Leás-Chathaoirleach

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr C Fitzgerald opened the floor for nominations for Leás Chathaoirleach.

Cllr P Mc Evoy proposed Cllr D Healy, this was seconded by Cllr D Heney. Cllr D Healy was elected as Leás-Chathaoirleach for the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly with no other nominations received.

This was **AGREED**.

ITEM 3

Adoption of Minutes of meeting held on 10th of May 2024.

Minutes of the meeting of the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly held on the 10th of May 2024 were proposed by Cllr P Mc Evoy and seconded by Cllr D Lacey.

The minutes were **APPROVED**.

ITEM 4

Presentation- The Regional Assembly: An Overview and Introduction for Assembly Members. Presented by Clare Bannon and Simon Musial.

Ms C Bannon, Acting Director of the EMRA, gave the members a presentation on The Regional Assembly that covered: the Background, the Regional Profile, Who and What we are?, The Wider Context of the Regional Tier, Legal Framework: Functions and Powers, Performance of Functions, In Practice, Planning and Economic Development, EU Affairs, EU Just Transition Fund, IREO and CoR, Corporate, Finance and HR, and their recent highlights, Elected Members, Management and Staff, and what is upcoming. Mr S Musial provided details on Member Payments including Types of Payments, Annual Allowance, Conference Allowance, Other T&S Claims, Cathaoirleach's Allowance, and T&S Rates.

A copy of the presentation will be circulated to members after the meeting. A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr D Heney, Cllr P Mc Evoy, Cllr D Flanagan, Cllr J Tuffy, Cllr D Gilroy, C Bannon and S Musial.

Cllr McEvoy suggested that the Assembly write to members who were not re-elected to thank them for their contribution to the work of the Assembly.

ITEM 5

Nominations to external bodies

Programme Monitoring Committee for the Partnership Agreement

This role is a function of the Cathaoirleach and the EMRA representative is therefore Cllr C Fitzgerald.

This was **NOTED**.

Programme Monitoring Committee for the Southern, Eastern and Midlands Regional Programme

Cllr E Fitzpatrick proposed Cllr P Glennon as full member and Cllr M Cahill as alternate. Cllr P Ross proposed Cllr J Fox as full member and Cllr A Cronin as alternates.

This was **AGREED**.

Programme Monitoring Committee for the EUJTF

The Programme states that the EMRA Cathaoirleach sits on the PMC. Cllr C Fitzgerald will therefore be the EMRA representative on the PMC.

This was **NOTED**.

Programme Monitoring Committee for the Peace Plus

Cllr A Cronin proposed Cllr E Coffey as full member and Cllr P Butterly as alternate. This was seconded by Cllr P Mc Evoy.

This was **AGREED**.

IPB insurance

Cllr E Fitzpatrick proposed Cllr T Mc Cormack, this was seconded by Cllr C Fitzgerald.

This was **AGREED**.

Association of Irish Regions

EMRA has five positions on the Association of Irish Regions: the Cathaoirleach Cllr C Fitzgerald, Leá Chathaoirleach Cllr D Healy, the former Cathaoirleach, and two more members.

There is now a vacancy for the previous Cathaoirleach and 2 other AIR members.

Cllr P Mc Evoy proposed Cllr D Lacey, this was seconded by Cllr D Heney. Cllr A Cronin proposed Cllr P Ross, this was seconded by Cllr D Heney.

What to do with the position held by the previous Cathaoirleach will be decided at the first AIR meeting by the members.

This was **AGREED**

ITEM 6

Planning items

i. Submission on the draft Portlaoise LAP 2024-2030 – for noting.

Ms Anne-Marie Wood Wolfe presented the Submission on the Draft Portlaoise LAP 2024-2030 to the Members of the Assembly.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr D Heney, Cllr P Mc Evoy, Cllr O O' Connor, Cllr D Gilroy and C Bannon.

This was NOTED

ITEM 7

Programme of Works Q2 update

Ms C Bannon presented to the Members the Programme of Works quarter two update.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr McEvoy, Cllr O'Connor and Cllr Gilroy.

Cllr McEvoy asked about the publication of the draft revision of the National Planning Framework for consultation. The Acting Director C Bannon replied that the draft had just been published and the consultation would close on September 12th, the day before our next meeting. The executive will liaise with the Members to prepare the Assembly's submission.

This was NOTED.

ITEM 8

Cohesion Alliance joint call - A renewed Cohesion Policy post-2027 that leaves no one behind (attached)

Ms T Lennon from the IREO gave the members details on the European Cohesion Policy and presented the call launched by the Cohesion Alliance for a renewed Cohesion Policy post-2027. Members were asked if they agreed for EMRA to become signatory to this call.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr D Heney, Cllr P Mc Evoy, Cllr O O' Connor, Ms T Lennon, Cllr Fitzpatrick, Cllr J Moylan and Ms C Bannon.

This was AGREED.

ITEM 9

Correspondence

Ms C Bannon informed the Members that two letters were received in relation to the proposed amendments to the Planning and Development Bill 2023, relating to Regional Assemblies. The

letters were from Darragh O'Brien TD to Kate Feeney and from Alan Dillon TD to Jim Gildea. The process is still ongoing and updates will be given to Members as necessary.

This was **NOTED**.

ITEM 10
Any other business

Ms C Bannon and M S Musial presented the new EMRA website to the Members. The website has been redesigned to better reflect the Assembly's activities and has just gone live.

Ms C Bannon informed the meeting that Ms Joan Martin, the Chief Executive of Louth County Council is retiring, and this will be her last attendance at the EMRA meeting. Ms Bannon and the Cathaoirleach thanked Ms Martin for her work with the EMRA over the last number of years. Ms J Martin thanked the acting Director, the Cathaoirleach, Members and staff of the EMRA.

ITEM 11
Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly will be held on Friday the 13th of September 2024 at 11:00am. The location is to be confirmed.

Signed:



Cllr. David Healy
Leas Chathaoirleach
EMRA



Ms. Clare Bannon
EMRA

Date:

13/9/2024