

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

MINUTES for MEETING

**OF THE EASTERN AND MIDLAND
REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**

HELD ON

Friday, 11th October 2024

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EASTERN AND MIDLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY HELD ON 11TH OF OCTOBER 2024.

Cllr Emma Blain	Cllr David Healy
Cllr Mike Bray	Cllr Deirdre Heney
Cllr Danny Byrne	Cllr Feljin Jose
Cllr Mick Cahill	Cllr Dermot Lacey
Cllr Eimear Carbone Mangan	Cllr Micheál MacDonncha
Cllr Avril Cronin	Cllr Pádraig McEvoy
Cllr Caroline Dwane Stanley	Cllr Justin Moylan
Cllr Catherine Fitzgerald	Cllr Shane Moynihan
Cllr Eddie Fitzpatrick	Cllr Garry Murtagh
Cllr Declan Flanagan	Cllr Oisín O Connor
Cllr Joe Fox	Cllr Tom O Leary
Cllr Niall Gaffney	Cllr Robert Power
Cllr David Gilroy	Cllr Paul Ross
Cllr Patsy Glennon	Cllr Joanna Tuffy

Apologies received from: None

In Attendance:

Mr. Kieran Kehoe, CE, Meath County Council

Ms. Clare Bannon, EMRA

Ms. Bernie Roe, EMRA

Ms. Anne-Marie Wood Wolfe, EMRA

Ms. Katarzyna Kaczmarek EMRA

Mr. Simon Musial, EMRA

Mr. Ross Higgins, EMRA

Ms. Geraldine Kenny, EMRA

Dr. Karl Murphy, EMRA

Dr. Owen Douglas, EMRA

Mr. Pádraig O Shea, EMRA

Ms. Shane O Donnell, EMRA

Mr. Pádraig O'Shea, EMRA

Ms. Helena Stromberg, EMRA

Ms. Ruth Kilcullen, EMRA

Ms. Kiara Abbey, EMRA

Ms. Teresa Lennon, IREO

Mr. Tadhg Browne, IREO

The Cathaoirleach held a minute's silence for former Minister Mary O'Rourke (RIP), mother of EMRA member Cllr Aengus O'Rourke, and Cllr John Naughten (RIP), member of AIR and NWRA.

ITEM 1

Adoption of Minutes of meeting held on 13th of September 2024.

Minutes of the meeting of the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly held on the 13th of September 2024 were proposed by Cllr D Lacey and seconded by Cllr J Fox.

The minutes were **APPROVED**.

ITEM 2

Presentation of the upcoming THRIVE call for proposals.

Ms Rose Power of the Southern Regional Assembly gave the members a presentation on the upcoming THRIVE call for proposals and funding opportunities.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr D Lacey, Cllr M Bray, Cllr R Power, Cllr G Murtagh and Ms R Power.

ITEM 3

Planning Items

i. Draft EMRA submission on the draft Longford LAP 2025-2031

Ms Anne-Marie Wood Wolfe gave the members a brief outline of the draft EMRA submission on the draft Longford LAP 2025-2031.

Two proposed amendments to the submission were requested by Cllr P Ross and Cllr M Cahill. The proposed amendments were circulated to the members prior to the meeting.

Proposed Amendment to Chapter 14

Chapter 14 of the Draft LAP should make reference to the importance of the M4 corridor to Longford town having regard to the RSES recognising the importance of maintaining, improving and protecting the strategic function of the key transport corridors in alignment with RPO 8.10 and Table 8.4 (Road Projects for the Region).

Reason: In the interest of consistency with the RSES.

Proposed Amendment to Chapter 6

Residential Sustainability and Placemaking

Chapter 6 of the Draft LAP should be enhanced by promoting an appropriate housing mix of suitable levels of private, social and affordable housing types in accordance with the Longford Key Town Requirements contained in the RSES, namely "Central to this is the requirement to provide high quality housing products that meet a variety of housing needs, including those required by employees of existing and potential industry and enterprises within the town".

Reason: In the interest of consistency with the RSES

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr P Ross, Cllr M Cahill and Cllr G Murtagh.

The submission was **AGREED** by the members with the inclusion of the two amendments.

ITEM 4

Adoption of the Assembly 2025 budget

Ms Clare Bannon presented the Draft EMRA budget 2025. The budget increase of 9.69% for 2025 is mainly a result of increased payroll costs and consultancy costs associated with the preparation of the RSES.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr D Lacey, Cllr P Mc Evoy, Cllr D Heney, Mr K Kehoe and Ms C Bannon.

The 2025 budget was proposed by Cllr D Lacey and seconded by Cllr P Mc Evoy. This was **APPROVED** and **AGREED**.

Cllr D Lacey asked if any progress was made on the reform of the funding structure for regional assemblies. Ms C Bannon indicated that no further update had been received from the Department.

ITEM 5

Programme of Works – Quarter 3 update

Ms Clare Bannon provided the members with a summary of the Programme of Works for Quarter 3. A new mandate of the assembly started in July following local elections, with a new Cathaoirleach Catherine Fitzgerald and Leas Chathaoirleach David Healy elected. A number of planning submissions were made in the quarter, including to the Draft First Revision of the National Planning Framework, the draft National Transport Demand Strategy, the Draft Maynooth LAP 2025-2031, the Draft Dundalk LAP 2024-2030, and the Draft Dublin City LECP 2024-2029. Further updates were given on the preparation of a joint position paper on the Future of Cohesion Policy, and the announcement of a number of successful projects as part of the EU JTF

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr P Mc Evoy, Cllr D Lacey, Mr O Douglas and Ms B Roe.

Cllr P McEvoy requested that future presentations on topics including the NPF, the Planning and Development Bill, or from the EPA on SEA, would be beneficial and helpful to members. Ms C Bannon indicated that the executive would try to arrange these over the coming months.

ITEM 6

Correspondence

None

ITEM 7

Any other business

Cllr M Cahill proposed that the CEs be invited to Brussels to raise the profile of the Assembly. Ms C Bannon will raise this with Mr K Kehoe and revert to the members at the next meeting.

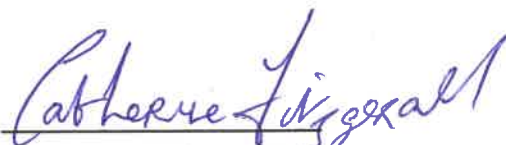
ITEM 8

Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly will be held on, **Friday the 8th of November 2024 at 11.00am.**

Cllr D Lacey informed the Assembly that Dublin City councillors will be at an event in Belfast and may not be in attendance at the next meeting.

Signed:



Cllr Catherine Fitzgerald
Cathaoirleach EMRA



Ms. Clare Bannon
EMRA

Date:

08/11/2024

