

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

MINUTES for MEETING

**OF THE EASTERN AND MIDLAND
REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**

HELD ON

Friday, 17th January 2025

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EASTERN AND MIDLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY HELD ON 17TH OF JANUARY 2025.

Cllr Mike Bray	Cllr Patsy Glennon
Cllr Mick Cahill	Cllr David Healy
Cllr Eimear Carbone Mangan	Cllr Deirdre Heney
Cllr Avril Cronin	Cllr Rory Hogan
Cllr Kevin Duffy	Cllr Feljin Jose
Cllr Caroline Dwane Stanley	Cllr Dermot Lacey
Cllr Catherine Fitzgerald	Cllr Pádraig Mc Evoy
Cllr Eddie Fitzpatrick	Cllr Justin Moylan
Cllr Declan Flanagan	Cllr Sean O'Brien
Cllr Joe Fox	Cllr Gerry O'Neill
Cllr Niall Gaffney	Cllr Robert Power
Cllr David Gilroy	Cllr Joanna Tuffy

Apologies received from: Mr K Kehoe (CE of Meath County Council)

In Attendance:

Ms. Clare Bannon, EMRA
Ms. Bernie Roe, EMRA
Ms. Laure Antoniotti, EMRA
Mr. Simon Musial, EMRA
Ms. Katarzyna Kaczmarek, EMRA
Ms. Ruth Kilcullen, EMRA
Ms. Helena Stromberg, EMRA
Mr. Ross Higgins, EMRA
Ms. Geraldine Kenny, EMRA
Dr. Owen Douglas, EMRA
Dr. Karl Murphy, EMRA
Mr. Rory O Sullivan, EMRA
Ms. Kiara Abbey, EMRA
Ms. Sarah Campbell, EMRA
Ms. Cara Farrell, EMRA
Ms. Teresa Lennon, IREO
Mr. Tadhg Browne, IREO

Mr. Andy Fanning, Environmental Protection Agency
Mr. Enda Hogan, Southern Regional Assembly
Ms. Catherine Connaughton, Southern Regional Assembly

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Cllr Sean O'Brien from Offaly County Council, who was nominated to the EMRA to replace Cllr Tony Mc Cormack.

ITEM 1

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

Minutes of the meeting of the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly held on the 13th of December 2024 were proposed by Cllr J Fox and seconded by Cllr P Mc Evoy.

The minutes were **APPROVED**.

ITEM 2

Presentation by the EPA on the State of the Environment Report 2024

Mr Andy Fanning, Office of Radiation Protection and Environmental Monitoring, EPA gave the Members a presentation on the State of the Environment Report 2024. Topics discussed included a snapshot of a changing country and a presentation of each chapter of the report covering themes such as air, Environmental Noise, Climate Change, Ireland's Climate Change Assessment synthesis report, Land, Land use review, Soil, Soil health, Nature, Water, the Marine Environment, Environment and Agriculture, Environment and Transport, Environment and Energy, Environment and Industry, Environment and Health and Wellbeing, Circular Economy and Waste, Environmental Policy, Implementation and Performance, and conclusions.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr D Lacey, Cllr M Cahill, Cllr D Healy, Cllr D Gilroy, Cllr P Mc Evoy, Cllr E Fitzpatrick, and Cllr C Fitzgerald.

ITEM 3

Presentation of the THRIVE call for proposals.

Mr E Hogan, Assistant Director of the SRA, gave the Members details on the new call for the ERDF funded THRIVE scheme available to local authorities. The presentation covered the following points: THRIVE recap - the Town Centre First Heritage Revival Scheme; Update on THRIVE Strand 1; Update on THRIVE Strand 2 Call 1; THRIVE Strand 2 Call 2 – call open on the 16th January 2025 and closing 15th April 2025; Southern, Eastern and Midland Designated Settlements, Ways you can assist, Examples shown from St Finians's Seminary Study Hall, Navan, Mallow Town Hall, Gorey Market House and Tir na nOg, Waterford City.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr N Gaffney, Cllr D Lacey, Cllr M Cahill, and Cllr C Fitzgerald.

ITEM 4

Programme of Works 2024 Q4 update

Ms C Bannon, gave the Members an update on the Programme of works 2024 quarter 4. Highlights included that the ORIGINN project hosted a webinar for Bioeconomy week, an URBACT National Campus was held in Balbriggan and an EUI capacity building event was held in Limerick. The EUJTF launched a number of projects including the Midlands REP Project launched by Minister E Ryan, and the EMRA Cathaoirleach C Fitzgerald. The early preventive systems audit began, and CPR annual

review meeting was held in Dublin and received positive feedback. The IREO worked to ensure the new CoR Members for 2025-2030 were agreed by the Government and organised the visit for five NWRA Chief Executives to Brussels to meet Irish MEPs, and the Irish Permanent representation. Several planning submissions were made on local area plans and the planning team delivered a training session on the functions and role of regional assemblies at the National Training Centre. Work continues in relation to the preparation of the Regional Renewable Energy Strategy and the Assembly participated in discussions with the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr P McEvoy and Cllr D Healy.

ITEM 5

Correspondence

None

ITEM 6

Any other business

Ms C Bannon gave the Members updates on the following items:

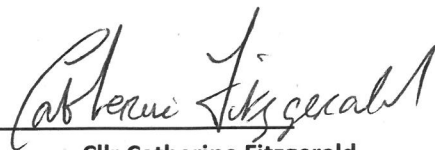
1. AIR training event –a reminder was given to the Members to register for the AIR training event and share within their local authorities. This year event will be hosted by the EMRA, the dates are 5th to 6th of February 2025 in the Radisson Blu, Athlone.
2. Corporate plan workshop for Members – An in-person workshop will be held on 24th January 2025 at 10.00am in City Hall, Dame Street.
3. ORIGINN Webinar – will be held online on Tuesday the 21st of January 2025 at 9.00am to 11.15am, this will be the 3rd ORIGINN Webinar on “Social Innovation”. The webinar will include a presentation by Siobhan Cronogue from Longford PPN and Tara Farrell from Longford Women’s Link on how the Longford LECP is supporting social innovation in the County. There will be presentations of Good Practices in social innovation from each of our ORIGINN project partners as well.

ITEM 7

Date of next meeting

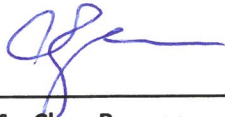
The next meeting of the Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly will be held on, **Friday the 14th of February 2025 at 11.00am.**

Signed:



Cllr Catherine Fitzgerald

Cathaoirleach EMRA



Ms. Clare Bannon
EMRA

Date:

14 / 2 / 25 -



