

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

***MINUTES MEETING***

***OF THE EASTERN AND MIDLAND  
REGIONAL ASSEMBLY***

***HELD ON***

***FRIDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2016***

***IN***

***COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL, DUBLIN***

**MINUTES OF EASTERN AND MIDLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY HELD ON 15<sup>th</sup> January  
2016 COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL, DUBLIN.**

<b>Cllr. Paddy Bracken</b>	<b>Cllr. Mary Freehill</b>
<b>Cllr. Christy Burke</b>	<b>Cllr. David Healy</b>
<b>Cllr. Tommy Byrne</b>	<b>Cllr. Gerry Horkan</b>
<b>Cllr. Mick Cahill</b>	<b>Cllr. Dermot Lacey</b>
<b>Cllr. Thomas Cullen</b>	<b>Cllr. Lettie McCarthy</b>
<b>Cllr. Kieran Dennison</b>	<b>Cllr. Brian McDonagh</b>
<b>Cllr. Francis Duffy</b>	<b>Cllr. Pdraig McEvoy</b>
<b>Cllr. Andrew Duncan</b>	<b>Cllr. Seamus McGrattan</b>
<b>Cllr. Kate Feeney</b>	<b>Cllr. Maria Murphy</b>
<b>Cllr. Catherine Fitzgerald</b>	<b>Cllr. PJ Reilly</b>
<b>Cllr. Brian Fitzgerald</b>	<b>Cllr. Tommy Reilly</b>
<b>Cllr. Eddie Fitzpatrick</b>	<b>Cllr. Pat Vance</b>

**In Attendance:**

Ms. Joan Martin, Designated Manager EMRA

Mr. Jim Conway, EMRA

Mr. Malachy Bradley, EMRA

Ms. Labhaoise McKenna, EMRA

Ms. Susan Mahon, EMRA

Mr. Ross Higgins, EMRA

Apologies received from Cllrs; S. Bourke, Brabazon, Kearns, Markey, O'Loughlin,

An Cathaoirleach opened the meeting expressing a vote of sympathy to the family of Walter Foley. He extended his sympathies to Walter's wife, mother, father and family and expressed his shock at this tragic loss. Contributions were made from Cllrs. Horkan, Lacey, Healy, Burke, Cullen, Murphy and Freehill. All contributions expressed sympathies to Walter's family and colleagues and recalled the genuine, honest, good nature of Walter. The Director Mr. Jim Conway passed on thanks from Shelagh, Walter's wife for their support and we has been inundated with calls and messages of support from our own assembly and the other two assemblies. The Director described Walter's achievements professionally, his value as a colleague and conveyed the high regard with which he held.

Cllr T Cullen also asked that the Members extend their sympathies to the family of Cllr. Kavanagh, Wicklow County Council.

**ITEM 1**

**Adoption of Minutes held on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2015**

Minutes of meeting of the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly held on the 11<sup>th</sup> December 2015 (with amendments) were proposed by Councillor Gerry Horkan and seconded by Councillor Dermot Lacey. The Minutes were **APPROVED** and **ADOPTED**.

Cllr Fitzpatrick proposed that a letter be sent to the Minister of Environment, Community and Local Government to take into consideration the emerging preferred route in light of the recent flooding issues and consider the option of a lake in the midlands.

This was **AGREED**.

## **ITEM 2**

### **Planning**

#### **a. Draft Transport Strategy for Greater Dublin Area 2016-2035**

Mr. Malachy Bradley outlined that 153 submissions were made during the consultation period and the draft document previously on consultation has been revised. Mr. Bradley stated that the Strategy submitted to the Assembly is consistent with Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area. The following Councillors contributed to the discussion Cllrs D. Healy, K. Dennison, D. Lacey, M. Freehill, G. Horkan, L. McCarthy, P. McEvoy and Cathaoirleach P. Vance. After the discussion it was agreed that EMRA should include with the notice the following comments:

- i. In the context of CLIP1 of the RPGs which requires "the integration of climate change considerations, based on best scientific evidence, into all policy areas relevant to them", the Assembly is concerned that the Strategy does not acknowledge the enactment of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 which requires public bodies including the National Transport Authority and the Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly to have regard to the furtherance of the national transition objective and the objective of mitigating greenhouse gas emissions, and expresses its concern at the increase in greenhouse gas emissions which is envisaged to occur over the period of the strategy.
- ii. The Authority is requested to engage with the executive of Wicklow County Council to address their concerns over the projected employment levels for the County and how they are served by transport infrastructure.

The notice was **APPROVED**.

#### **b. Draft Variation No. 3 of the Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019**

Mr. Malachy Bradley outlined the draft variation No. 3 of the Meath County Development Plan which addressed the economic development policies for county Meath. The following Councillors contributed to the discussion Cllrs; B. Fitzgerald, M. Murphy, T. Byrne, T. Reilly, P.J. Reilly, P. McEvoy, G. Horkan, K. Feeney, M. Cahill, D. Lacey, L. McCarthy, C. Fitzgerald, A. Duncan, D. Healy and P. Bracken. Members agreed that it be recognised that the Assembly members from Meath County Council are not supportive of this submission and the members of the Assembly recognize that all the members of Meath County Council supported the proposed draft variation as placed on display.

It was decided a roll call vote be taken and on division the voting resulted as follows:

For Directors Report: 11 (eleven)

Against Directors Report: 8 (eight)

**For Directors Report:** Cllr.s K. Dennison, F. Duffy, K. Feeney, M. Freehill, D. Healy, G. Horkan, D. Lacey, L. McCarthy, B. McDonagh, P. McEvoy, P. Vance.

**Against Directors Report:** Cllr.s P. Bracken, M. Cahill, C. Fitzgerald, B. Fitzgerald, E. Fitzpatrick, M. Murphy, P.J. Reilly, T. Reilly.

**Abstained:** Cllr.s A. Duncan, G. Fagan. Cllr T. Byrne left the meeting to abstain for voting for professional reasons.

The report was **APPROVED**.

#### **ITEM 4**

##### **Programme of Works Q4 update**

The fourth quarter update on the Programme of Works was circulated to members. The Director outlined the activities of the Assembly including meetings with Department of Environment, Community and Local Government, Committee of the Regions, Regional Action Plan for Jobs and international presentation. Following discussion the report was **NOTED** and **AGREED**.

#### **ITEM 5**

##### **Committee of the Regions**

Cllr. Freehill informed that a report was sent to Department Environment, Community and Local Government.

#### **ITEM 6**

##### **Correspondence**

The correspondence was **NOTED**.

#### **ITEM 7**

##### **Any Other Business**

Cllr. Freehill raised the issue of locked doors when meetings are in progress. Not all Members have access to facilities. The Director will examine how this can be resolved.

Cllr. B. Fitzgerald proposed that the February meeting be brought forward to 5<sup>th</sup> February 2016 to facilitate member's attendance at AILG event. It was **AGREED**.

Cllr. Lacey proposed that the time of the meeting be changed to 11.30am. It was **AGREED**.

The Director outlined upcoming briefing document on the National Planning Framework and Strategic Planning Areas. He outlined the designation of NUTS II process and that the CSO are recognising the new Regional Assemblies.

The Director also informed Members of Eurostat training that will take place in the afternoon of the 11<sup>th</sup> March directly after the Assembly meeting.

**ITEM 10**

**Date of Next Meeting**

The Next meeting of the Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly is due to be held on, 5<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at 11.30am

**Signed:**



**Cllr. Pat Vance**  
**Cathaoirleach EMRA**



**Mr. Jim Conway**  
**EMRA**

**Date:**

5-2-16