

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

MINUTES MEETING

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

HELD ON

9th December 2016

IN

COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL, DUBLIN 2

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EASTERN AND MIDLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY HELD ON 9th DECEMBER, 2016, COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL, DUBLIN 2.

Cllr. Paddy Bourke	Cllr. Eddie Fitzpatrick
Cllr. Sylvester Bourke	Cllr. Mary Freehill
Cllr. Paddy Bracken	Cllr. Pat Hand
Cllr. Christy Burke	Cllr. David Healy
Cllr. Mick Cahill	Cllr. Paddy Hill
Cllr. Thomas Cullen	Cllr. Dermot Lacey
Cllr. Kieran Dennison	Cllr. Lettie McCarthy
Cllr. Eamon Dooley	Cllr. Brian McDonagh
Cllr. Francis Duffy	Cllr. Pdraig McEvoy
Cllr. Andrew Duncan	Cllr. Maria Murphy
Cllr. Gaye Fagan	Cllr. PJ Reilly
Cllr. Enda Fanning	Cllr. Tommy Reilly
Cllr. Catherine Fitzgerald	Cllr. Pat Vance
Cllr. Brian Fitzgerald	

In Attendance:

Ms. Joan Martin Designated Chief Executive

Mr. Jim Conway, EMRA

Mr. Malachy Bradley, EMRA

Ms. Clare Bannon, EMRA

Ms. Hazel Healy, EMRA

Mr. Ross Higgins, EMRA

Apologies received from **Cllr. Tom Brabazon**

ITEM 1

Adoption of Minutes of meeting held on 11th November 2016.

Minutes of meeting of the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly held on the 11th November 2016 were proposed by Cllr. Pat Vance and seconded by Cllr. PJ Reilly.

The minutes were **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED**.

ITEM 2

Planning

Mr. Malachy Bradly presented an update to the members on the **Final Options Appraisal Report for the Eastern and Midlands Water Supply**

The final option is abstraction from Parteen Basin, treatment at Birdhill and treated water piped to Peamount reservoir. At this stage of the project Irish Water have identified the final option, are appraising the public and have prepared a scoping report for the Environmental assessment. In this regard the Regional Planning Guidelines for the Midlands and the Greater Dublin Area support the project.

A discussion took place, and contributions were made by Cllr. D. Healy, Cllr. T. Cullen, Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, Cllr. P Vance, Cllr. P. Burke, Cllr. K. Dennison and An. Cathaoirleach D. Lacey. The Regional Assembly request that all the constituent local authorities within the Eastern and Midland Region are consulted by Irish Water with regard to this project. The Assembly also request that all options are assessed under climate change considerations including implications for greenhouse gas emissions.

The submission was **AGREED**.

ITEM 3

Programme of Works update Q2 and Q3

The Director presented an update of the Programme of Works for quarters two and three to the Members.

It sets out the progress of the Assembly under the following headings:

- Administration of the Regional Assembly
- Implementation of Regional Planning Guidelines
- Preparation of Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies
- Co-ordination between RPGS/RSES and LECPS
- Engaging with the National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC)
- Engaging with the Department of Environment Community and Local Government on the preparation of the National Planning Framework
- Participation by Regional Assembly in projects
- EU Affairs
- Participation on EU Programmes
- Operational issues

Cllr. Kate Feeney was nominated as a replacement for Cllr. Gerry Horkan as alternate for **Southern & Eastern Regional Operational Programme Monitoring Committee – Dublin**. The appointment was proposed by Cllr. P. Vance and seconded by Cllr. M. Cahill.

A discussion followed regarding Solar Renewable Energy and the lack of a national strategy, contributions were made by Cllr. P Bourke; Cllr. S. Bourke; Cllr. B. McDonagh; Cllr. D. Healy and An. Cathaoirleach D. Lacey.

ITEM 4

Amendment to Annual Financial Statement 2015

The Director presented to the Assembly the amendment to the Annual Financial Statement 2015 reflecting the treatment of accrued and deferred income following the completion of the Local Government Audit.

The Director will write to the Minister requesting a policy on a form of Audit for Regional Assemblies.

The amendment was **AGREED**.

ITEM 5

Schedule of meetings for 2017

The schedule of meetings for 2017 were **Agreed**.

ITEM 6

Correspondence

None

ITEM 7

Any other business

Cllr. M. Freehill gave an update on the Committee of Regions.

Cllr. P. McEvoy and Cllr. D. Healy proposed the following motion:

“That this Assembly write to Minister Simon Coveney and the Select Committee on Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government, chaired by Deputy Maria Bailey T.D. To express its concerns with regard to proposed legislation to decide on planning applications of 100+ units at An Bord Pleanála given:

- The lack of evidence that moving applications for 100+ units to An Bord Pleanála will speed up housing delivery.
- The proposed legislation also has implications for further erosion of planning functions from Local Authorities.
- It creates a piecemeal nationalised / centralised planning system.

- It places an over-emphasis on the provision of numbers of housing units rather than on place-making and delivery of sustainable communities and,
- It reduces public participation in the planning process.

Furthermore to take account of the fact that Municipal District Committees have limited resources to properly consider the technical nature of planning files and this may provide a false sense of comfort to the public in terms of decisions making.”

A discussion followed with contributions from: Cllr. D. Healy; Cllr. P. Vance; An. Cathaoirleach D. Lacey; Cllr. M. Freehill; Cllr. L. McCarthy; Cllr. B. McDonagh; Cllr. M. Murphy; Cllr. B. Fitzgerald.

The motion was **AGREED**, the Director will write to the Minister.

Agreement for Cllr. Wards attendance at upcoming conference in Louth.

An Cathaoirleach thanked the Members, designated Chief Executive, Staff and all who contributed to the work of the Assembly and wished everyone seasonal good wishes.

ITEM 8

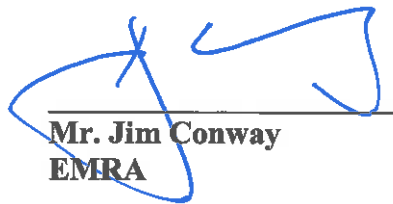
Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly will be held on, Friday 13th January 2017 at 11am in City Hall, Dublin 2.

Signed:



Cllr. Dermot Lacey
Cathaoirleach EMRA



Mr. Jim Conway
EMRA

Date:

13/1/17

