

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

MINUTES for MEETING

**OF THE EASTERN AND MIDLAND
REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**

HELD ON

Friday, 08th April 2022

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EASTERN AND MIDLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY HELD ON 08th APRIL 2022.

Cllr Daryl Barron	Cllr Deirdre Heney
Cllr Emma Blain	Cllr Janet Horner
Cllr Aoife Breslin	Cllr Vincent Jackson
Cllr Fintan Brett	Cllr Pamela Kearns
Cllr Laura Donaghy	Cllr Dermot Lacey
Cllr Eamon Dooley	Cllr Brigid Manton
Cllr Caroline Dwane Stanley	Cllr Tony McCormack
Cllr Kate Feeney	Cllr Padraig McEvoy
Cllr Brian Fitzgerald	Cllr Paddy Meade
Cllr Catherine Fitzgerald	Cllr Aisling Moran
Cllr Eddie Fitzpatrick	Cllr Peter O'Brien
Cllr Mary Freehill	Cllr Damien O'Reilly
Cllr Jim Gildea	Cllr Aengus O'Rourke
Cllr Alison Gilliland	Cllr Robert Power
Cllr Mary Hanafin	Cllr Gerry Walsh
Cllr David Healy	

Apologies received: Cllr John Browne

In Attendance:

Ms. Joan Martin, CEO, Louth County Council

Mr. Jim Conway, EMRA

Ms. Laure Antoniotti, EMRA

Ms. Clare Bannon, EMRA

Mr. Ross Higgins, EMRA

Mr. Alan Lambe, EMRA

Ms. Geraldine Kenny, EMRA

Ms. Sarah Campbell, EMRA

Dr. Mike Brennan, EMRA

Dr. Owen Douglas, EMRA

Ms. Helena Stromberg, EMRA

Dr. Travis O'Doherty, EMRA

Ms. Deirdre Whitfield, Wicklow County Council

Ms. Ann Marie Maher, Laois County Council

Ms. Aoife Sheridan, Fingal County Council

ITEM 1

Adoption of Minutes of meeting held on 11th March 2022

Minutes of the meeting of the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly held on the 11th March 2022 were proposed by Cllr D Lacey and seconded by Cllr K Feeney.

The minutes were **APPROVED**.

ITEM 2

Planning Items

i) Draft Fingal County Development Plan 2023-2029

The Assistant Director, Ms C Bannon presented the submission for the Draft Fingal County Development Plan 2023-2029.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr D Healy, Cllr D Lacey, Cllr B Manton, Cllr D Heney, Cllr B Manton, Cllr K Feeney, Mr J Conway, Cllr G Walsh and Cllr B Fitzgerald.

Additional and amended wording to the submission was proposed by Cllr David Healy and agreed.

The Draft Fingal County Development Plan 2023-2029 was proposed by Cllr K Feeney and seconded by Cllr P Meade.

This was **APPROVED**.

ITEM 3

Presentation on the URBACT IV programme and NPTI towns

Dr M Brennan of the EMRA gave the members a presentation on URBACT IV programme and NPTI towns covering topics such as: URBACT – what is it?, URBACT – who can take part?, URBACT – How does it work?, National Practice Transfer Initiative – What is it?, National Practice Transfer Initiative – EMRA towns involvement and URBACT IV – New opportunities for Irish towns and cities.

Ms. Ann Marie Sheridan from Laois County Council, Ms. Deirdre Whitfield from Wicklow County Council and Ms Aoife Sheridan from Fingal County Council gave insight into how the programme was deployed in each of their respective areas and the impact it has shown.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr M Freehill, Cllr P McEvoy, Cllr J Horner, Cllr J Gildea, Cllr G Walsh and Ms L Antoniotti.

This was **NOTED**.

ITEM 4

PoW 2022 Q1 update

The Director Mr J Conway gave the members an update on the programme of works for 2022 quarter 1.

This was **NOTED**.

ITEM 5

Adoption of draft audited AFS 2020

The Director Mr J Conway presented the audited AFS for 2020 to the members. The audited 2020 AFS was proposed by Cllr D Lacey and seconded by Cllr C Fitzgerald.

This was **AGREED**.

ITEM 6

Draft unaudited AFS 2021

The Director Mr J Conway presented the unaudited AFS for 2021 to the members.

This was **NOTED**.

ITEM 7

Motion in the name of Cllr Damien O'Reilly

Cllr D O'Reilly raised a motion with the member that stated:

"That the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly begins the process of updating the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy documents in preparation for the publication of the upcoming census population figures"

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Brian Fitzgerald and debated with contributions from Cllr D O'Reilly, Mr J Conway, Ms C Bannon, Cllr B Fitzgerald, Cllr K Feeney, Cllr B Manton, Cllr D Lacey, Cllr P O'Brien, Cllr G Walsh and Cllr D Heney. Cllr. O'Reilly decided that the motion be deferred.

The motion was **DEFERRED**.

ITEM 8

Correspondence

Response from TII on the funding for the N11/M11 major project.

The Director, Mr J Conway informed the members on correspondence from the TII.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr J Gildea, Cllr D Healy and Cllr G Walsh. Cllr Gildea asked that the Regional Assembly writes back to TII to ask them to seek Government funding for the "preferred options" for the N11/M1 upgrade.

This was **AGREED**.

The disagreement of Cllr D Healy and P McEvoy was noted.

ITEM 9

Any other business

Cllr P Meade raised the holding of meetings in other locations around the region. The Director reminded members that per the Assembly establishment order in so far as practicable, the headquarters of the regional assembly shall be the location for all meetings.

Discussion followed with contributions from Cllr D Healy, Cllr K Feeney and Cllr J Gildea.

The Director informed the members that Michael Brennan & Nicci Nolan were successful in obtaining new positions and would be leaving the EMRA. Both were thanked for their contributions and quality work while at the EMRA.

The members were informed of the upcoming study trip to Brussels and that the members of the EU subcommittee as well as the Cathaoirleach would represent the EMRA.

This was **AGREED**

ITEM 10

Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly is to be held on, **Friday 13th May 2022**.

Signed:



Cllr. Deirdre Heney
Cathaoirleach EMRA



Date: 13th May 2022

Mr. Jim Conway
EMRA