

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

MINUTES MEETING

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

HELD ON

FRIDAY 11th March 2016

IN

COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL, DUBLIN

MINUTES OF EASTERN AND MIDLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY HELD ON 11TH MARCH 2016 COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL, DUBLIN.

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|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Cllr. Paddy Bourke | Cllr. David Healy |
| Cllr. Sylvester Bourke | Cllr. Gerry Horkan |
| Cllr. Christy Burke | Cllr. Pamela Kearns |
| Cllr. Tom Brabazon | Cllr. Ivan Keatley |
| Cllr. Paddy Bracken | Cllr. Dermot Lacey |
| Cllr. Mick Cahill | Cllr. Colm Markey |
| Cllr. Thomas Cullen | Cllr. Brian McDonagh |
| Cllr. Kieran Dennison | Cllr. Lettie McCarthy |
| Cllr. Eamon Dooley | Cllr. Pdraig McEvoy |
| Cllr. Andrew Duncan | Cllr. Seamus McGrattan |
| Cllr. Eddie Fitzpatrick | Cllr. PJ Reilly |
| Cllr. Catherine Fitzgerald | Cllr. Tommy Reilly |
| Cllr. Brian Fitzgerald | Cllr. Neale Richmond |
| Cllr. Mary Freehill | Cllr. Pat Vance |

In Attendance:

Ms. Joan Martin, Designated Manager EMRA
 Mr. Jim Conway, EMRA
 Mr. Malachy Bradley, EMRA
 Ms. Labhaoise McKenna, EMRA
 Mr. Simon Wojciech Musial, EMRA
 Mr. Juan Martinez-Covarrubias, EMRA

Apologies received from Cllrs; G. Fagan, K. Feeney, M. Murphy

G Horkan asked that the Assembly congratulate and commiserate all those Assembly members who participated in the national elections. The Members include: Cllrs; F. O'Loughlin, P. Kearns, C. Burke, F. Duffy, E. Fitzpatrick and former Regional Assembly Member Cllr. S. Haughey.

The Director Mr. Jim Conway introduced two staff members Juan Luis Martinez-Covarrubias and Simon Wojciech Musial.

ITEM 1

Adoption of Minutes held on 5th February 2016

Minutes of meeting of the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly held on the 5th February 2016 were proposed by Councillor Gerry Horkan and seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Minutes were **APPROVED** and **ADOPTED**.

ITEM 2

Local Economic and Community Plans

- a. Louth County Council Local Economic and Community Plan

Louth County Council's draft statements were circulated to members for their consideration. Mr. Malachy Bradley outlined that the LECP was consistent with Section 66c of the Local Government Act 2001.

The statement on the Louth LECP was proposed by Cllr. G. Horkan.
The statement was **APPROVED**.

b. Wicklow County Council Local Economic and Community Plans

Wicklow County Council's draft LECP and statements were circulated to members for their consideration.

Mr. Malachy Bradley outlined that the LECP was consistent with Section 66c of the Local Government Act 2001.

The statement was **APPROVED** unanimously.

ITEM 3

Planning

Westmeath County Development Plan 2014-2020 Variation no.1

Submission on the Variation no.1 of the Westmeath County Development Plan 2014-2020 regarding Wind Energy was circulated to Members for their consideration.

The submission was proposed by Cllr. G. Horkan and seconded by Cllr. L. McCarthy.

The submission was **APPROVED**.

ITEM 4

Programme of Work 2016

A draft of Programme of Work was circulated to Members for consideration. Mr. Jim Conway noted the delay due to unforeseen circumstances at the Assembly office. He also gave a brief overview of the revised programme and explained how the Programme fits in with the objectives and goals set out in the Corporate Plan 2015-2020. Mr. Conway noted that work on the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies is in progress and that there is still one Local and Economic Community Plan to be delivered.

The following contributed to a discussion Cllrs. G Horkan, B. Fitzgerald, T. Cullen, D. Lacey, C. Burke, D. Healy, Cathaoirleach P.Vance, L. McCarthy and M. Cahill.

It was agreed that some areas of the text would be reworded to better reflect working arrangements. The Director suggested that with regard to housing, he would examine the issue, see how the Assembly can assist and present as an agenda item.

This was **AGREED**.

ITEM 5

Strategic Planning Area Committees

Mr. Jim Conway gave a presentation on the process of preparing the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies. He advised that first Strategic Planning Area Committees meetings would take place in June. He noted the legislative procedures regarding the preparation of the RSES, and that many of the process issues have not yet been finalised. He highlighted that the SPAs will be pivotal in the process. He outlined the 'building block approach' being taken, with the various aspects of the SPAs culminating in the overall RSES.

Mr. Jim Conway outlined the potential of structures in terms of governance - technical working groups, SPA committees, RSES Steering Group, Regional Assembly, Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies.

A discussion took place with contributions from Cllrs. D. Lacey, G. Horkan, C. Fitzgerald T. Reilly, D. Healy, S. Bourke and Cathaoirleach P. Vance.

Mr Conway confirmed that the constituent members of the SPAs would be the Assembly members on the SPAs and that any additional members would be advisory. The remuneration issue was raised. Mr. Conway reported on the remuneration circular and he advised that at the moment there is a payment in place based on attendance at the SPA meetings.

ITEM 6

Committee of the Regions update

Cllr. Richmond congratulated Cllr Fiona O'Loughlin and Cllr Maurice Quinlivan on being elected as TDs. He informed the Members that the next plenary session of Committee of the Regions will take place on the 6th and 7th of April.

Cllr M. Freehill advised that the cohesion rules are being revised. She advised of a meeting the previous week and stated she would like to get transparency at regional and local government level embedded in the review. She noted that there was no consultation with Regional Assemblies, County Councils or City Councils.

The Director advised that work is underway by the Irish Regions Office on this and there will be continued input from this Assembly on behalf of all 3 Assemblies. He will report back as necessary.

ITEM 7

Correspondence

The correspondence was **NOTED**.

ITEM 8

Eurostat training

Mr Malachy Bradley gave a summary of the Eurostat training to be held after the meeting.

Cllr C. Fitzgerald sought the details to be emailed.

Cllr P. Hill apologised that he would not be able to attend the training.

ITEM 9

Any Other Business

Cllr G. Horkan requested that a letter be issued to the national contact point for URBACT about the clash with the Eurostat training.

Cllr G. Horkan asked about a replacement for Cllr. C. King – The Director will follow up.

Cllr C. Fitzgerald requested her email be changed.

Cllr A. Duncan asked when Westmeath County Development Plan Variation no. 1 was circulated for review.

Mr. Jim Conway has requested permission to offer some reasonable level of contribution toward a research award in the memory of recently deceased EMRA's Research and Policy Officer Walter Foley. This was proposed by Cllr Lettie McCarthy and seconded by Cllr Dermot Lacey. The proposal was **AGREED**.

ITEM 10

Date of Next Meeting

The Next meeting of the Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly is due to be held on, 8th April 2016 at 11.00am

Signed:



**Cllr. Pat Vance
Cathaoirleach EMRA**



**Mr. Jim Conway
EMRA**

Date:

8/4/16

