

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

***MINUTES MEETING***

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

***HELD ON***

***FRIDAY 16th JANUARY, 2015***

***IN***

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

**MINUTES OF EASTERN AND MIDLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY HELD  
ON 16 JANUARY 2015 IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL, DUBLIN.**

<b>Cllr. Paddy Bourke</b>	<b>Cllr. Paddy Hill</b>
<b>Cllr. Sylvester Bourke</b>	<b>Cllr. Gerry Horkan</b>
<b>Cllr. Paddy Bracken</b>	<b>Cllr. Pamela Kearns</b>
<b>Cllr. Christy Burke</b>	<b>Cllr. Ivan Keatley</b>
<b>Cllr. Mick Cahill</b>	<b>Cllr. Dermot Lacey</b>
<b>Cllr. Thomas Cullen</b>	<b>Cllr. Colm Markey</b>
<b>Cllr. Kieran Dennison</b>	<b>Cllr. Lettie McCarthy</b>
<b>Cllr. Eamon Dooley</b>	<b>Cllr. Brian McDonagh</b>
<b>Cllr. Francis Duffy</b>	<b>Cllr. Pdraig McEvoy</b>
<b>Cllr. Andrew Duncan</b>	<b>Cllr. Seamas McGrattan</b>
<b>Cllr. Catherine Fitzgerald</b>	<b>Cllr. Maria Murphy</b>
<b>Cllr. Brian Fitzgerald</b>	<b>Cllr. Fiona O'Loughlin</b>
<b>Cllr. Eddie Fitzpatrick</b>	<b>Cllr. PJ Reilly</b>
<b>Cllr. Mary Freehill</b>	<b>Cllr. Tommy Reilly</b>
<b>Cllr. Sean Haughey</b>	<b>Cllr. Neale Richmond</b>
<b>Cllr. David Healy</b>	<b>Cllr. Pat Vance</b>

**Other Councillors present:**

Cllr. Mannix Flynn

**In Attendance:**

Mr. Daniel McLoughlin, Designated Chief Executive EMRA

Mr. Jim Conway, EMRA

Mr. Malachy Bradley, EMRA

Mr. Pat Lonergan, EMRA

Ms. Sandra Bolton, EMRA

**ITEM 1**

**Introduction**

The Designated Chief Executive for the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly, Mr Daniel McLoughlin opened the meeting by welcoming everybody to the first meeting of the Eastern and Midland Regional Authority. He introduced the staff of the new Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly present at the meeting. Each Member of the Assembly then introduced themselves.

**ITEM 2**

**Election of Cathaoirleach**

Mr Jim Conway asked for nominations for the post of Cathaoirleach.

It was proposed by Cllr. S. Haughey, seconded by Cllr. F. O'Loughlin "That Cllr. Gerry Horkan be elected Cathaoirleach".

It was then proposed by Cllr. K. Dennison, seconded by Cllr. I. Keatley "That Cllr. Neale Richmond be elected Cathaoirleach".

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

FOR CLLR. Horkan 21 Twenty One

FOR CLLR. Richmond 08 Eight

**For Cllr. Horkan:** Cllr.s, Bracken, Cahill, Dooley, Duffy, C. Fitzgerald, B. Fitzgerald, Fitzpatrick, Freehill, Haughey, Healy, Hill, Horkan, Kearns, Lacey, McCarthy, McDonagh, McEvoy, O’Loughlin, PJ Reilly, T Reilly, Vance.

**For Cllr. Richmond:** Cllr.s, P Bourke, S. Bourke, Dennison, Duncan, Keatley, Markey, Murphy, Richmond.

**Abstentions:** Cllrs, C. Burke, S. McGrattan.

It was then declared that Cllr. Gerry Horkan to be elected Cathaoirleach.

An Cathaoirleach of Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly, Cllr. Gerry Horkan, assumed the chair and thanked the Members for electing him.

### **ITEM 3**

#### **Election of Leas Cathaoirleach**

The Cathaoirleach Cllr. Gerry Horkan asked for nominations for the post of Leas Cathaoirleach.

It was proposed by Cllr. P.J. Reilly, seconded by Cllr. P. Hill  
“That Cllr. Mick Cahill be elected Leas Cathaoirleach”.

It was then proposed by Cllr. C. Markey, seconded by Cllr. K. Dennison  
“That Cllr. Maria Murphy be elected Leas Cathaoirleach”.

The Cathaoirleach then instructed that a roll call vote be taken and on a division the voting resulted as follows:

FOR CLLR. Cahill 18 Eighteen

FOR CLLR. Murphy 10 Ten

**For Cllr. Cahill:** Cllrs, Bracken, Cahill, Dooley, C. Fitzgerald, B. Fitzgerald, Fitzpatrick, Freehill, Haughey, Hill, Horkan, Kearns, Lacey, McCarthy, McDonagh, O’Loughlin, PJ Reilly, T Reilly, Vance.

**For Cllr. Murphy:** Cllrs, S Bourke, Dennison, Duffy, Duncan, Healy, Keatley, Markey, McEvoy, Murphy, Richmond.

**Abstentions:** Cllrs, P. Bourke, C. Burke, S. McGrattan.

The Cathaoirleach then declared Cllr. Mick Cahill to be elected Leas Cathaoirleach.

### **ITEM 4**

#### **Adoption of Standing Orders**

The set of Standing Orders, which had been circulated was considered.

The adoption of the Standing Orders for the new Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly was proposed by Cllr. P Vance and seconded by Cllr. P. Bracken.

The adoption of the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly Standing Orders was agreed.

## **ITEM 5**

### **Roles and Functions of the Regional Assemblies**

#### **- Presentation by Mr Jim Conway**

Mr Jim Conway introduced the presentation and outlined the context of the new Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly (EMRA).

The new Assembly was set up in accordance with the provisions of the Establishment Order SI 573 of 2014.

The principal functions of the new Assembly include:

- To co-ordinate, promote or support strategic planning and sustainable development of the regions
- To promote effectiveness in local government and public services in the region, in conjunction with the National Oversight & Audit Commission
- To manage Regional Operational Programmes under the Partnership Agreement as well as monitoring and making proposals in relation to the general impact in their regions of all EU programmes of assistance from the EU.
- To prepare and oversee the implementation of the Regional Planning Guidelines, to be replaced by new Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies, and providing statutory observations on local authority development plans and variations

A discussion took place regarding the functions of the new Assembly with contributions from Cllrs. P. Bourke, C. Burke, F. O'Loughlin, M. Freehill, and B. Fitzgerald. The Cllrs enquired about the 2015 budget for the new Assembly, the functions of the new Assembly, the venue and the meeting logistics for future meetings.

Mr Conway addressed the issues raised by the Members and explained that a Budget will be presented to the Members upon receipt of details on Members allowances and expenses being available from the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government. Mr Conway also confirmed that the designated Chief Executive recently communicated with each of the twelve constituent Local Authority Chief Executives, requesting their contribution towards 50% of current estimated running costs of the Assembly for 2015.

Mr Conway also confirmed that name cards will be available for the next and for future Assembly meetings.

Following discussion it was agreed that all future Assembly meetings will begin at 11am and the venue will be the Dublin City Council Chamber, City Hall, Dublin 2. It was agreed to amend the Standing Orders to reflect the change in start time for the meetings.

It was agreed to vary the Agenda at this point to deal with Item No 6 & 7 together.

## **ITEM 6**

### **Planning and Economic Role of the Regional Assembly**

#### **- Presentation by Mr Malachy Bradley RPG Officer**

Mr Malachy Bradley introduced the presentation and outlined the Planning and Economic role of the Regional Assembly.

Mr Bradley outlined the following areas:

- Legislative background
- Irelands Planning System
- Regional Planning Guidelines
- Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies
- Strategic Planning Area committees
- Local Economic and Community Plans
- Future

He also outlined that in the Establishment Order 2014, the EMRA will be responsible for the three new Strategic Planning Area Committees namely Dublin, Eastern and Midland. Mr Bradley also outlined that the new Regional Assembly will also have a function in relation to a Local Economic and Community Plans in the constituent Local Authorities in accordance with legislation.

A discussion took place regarding the planning and economic functions of the new Assembly with contributions from Cllrs. McEvoy, Kearns, B.Fitzgerald, Freehill, Lacey, Cahill, Vance, Horkin, Haughey, & McCarthy. The Cllrs welcomed the new Assembly but raised issues in terms of training for Members, clarification on the Assembly functions, its relationship with constituent local authorities, consistency and relationships with other regional assemblies and also clarification on planning system hierarchy.

Mr. Bradley addressed the issues raised relating to the new Assembly, he confirmed that communications and relationship with constituent Local Authorities will be a priority in the programme of work. He addressed the need for ongoing consultation with two other adjoining Regional Assemblies to ensure consistency with the new Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies. He confirmed that training and workshops will also be provided to Members in the future.

Mr Bradley outlined that further details on the specific functions of the new Strategic Planning Areas and the functions of the Local Economic and Community Plans are currently not available to the Assembly.

### **Dublin City Council Plan Variation No. 24**

The proposed Draft Variation No. 24 of the Dublin City Development Plan 2011 – 2017, relating to the area at Belmont Avenue/Mount Eden Road & Environs, had been circulated with the Agenda.

On request from Cllr. D. Lacey, the submission was amended for a request for two properties at the junction of Mount Eden Road at Donnybrook Road to be included within the ACA boundary.

The proposed amendment and submission was agreed by the Members.

## **ITEM 7**

### **Establishment of Strategic Planning Area Committees**

A report which had been circulated with the Agenda outlined three new Strategic Planning Areas within the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly were outlined in the Establishment Order 2014, namely Dublin, Eastern and Midland.

The proposed membership of the new Strategic Planning Area committees was also outlined in the report. The members were appointed to their constituent committees as outlined in the report.

The report was noted by the Members.

## **ITEM 8**

### **Committee of the Regions**

It was noted that the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly (EMRA) was nominated by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government to act as secretariat to the Irish Delegation to the Committee of the Regions.

It is intended that a close relationship between the Assembly and the Committee of the Regions will enhance regional input into EU policy initiatives.

## **ITEM 9**

### **Approval for attendance by Members at Conferences**

No conferences for approval was reported to the Members. Noted that there was no conference allocation available to new members at the time of the meeting.

## **ITEM 10**

### **Correspondence**

No correspondence was reported to the Members.

## **ITEM 11**

### **Any Other Business**

Cllr. C. Burke proposed that the current Dublin Regional Authority chain of office be examined to identify if the new EMRA logo can be immersed into the current chain.

Cllr. Burke also requested that the possibility of webcasting future EMRA Assembly meetings be also examined. Cllr. D. Lacey, requested a report on the feasibility for webcasting of Assembly meetings. Mr Conway agreed to examine both requests and report back to the Members at the next meeting.

Cllr. L. McCarthy requested that a list of abbreviations/acronyms of all Planning terms be submitted to the Members. Mr Conway agreed that this will be furnished to the Members.

Cllr. S. Haughey requested that a presentation on the progress on the Sutton to Sandycove cycleway (S2S) be included at the next EMRA meeting. Mr Bradley outlined that a presentation on the progress of the S2S project was made to Members at the Dublin Regional Authority meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2013.

## **ITEM 12**

### **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly will be held on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2015 at 11am in Dublin City Council chamber, City Hall, Dame Street, Dublin 2.

**Signed:**

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**Cllr. Gerry Horkan**  
**Cathaoirleach EMRA**

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

**Date:**

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