

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

MINUTES MEETING

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

HELD ON

FRIDAY 10th JULY, 2015

IN

COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL, DUBLIN

**MINUTES OF EASTERN AND MIDLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY HELD
ON 10 JULY 2015 IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL, DUBLIN.**

Cllr. Sylvester Bourke	Cllr. Paddy Hill
Cllr. Paddy Bracken	Cllr. Gerry Horkan
Cllr. Tommy Byrne	Cllr. Pamela Kearns
Cllr. Mick Cahill	Cllr. Ivan Keatley
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. Fiona O'Loughlin
Cllr. Catherine Fitzgerald	Cllr. PJ Reilly
Cllr. Brian Fitzgerald	Cllr. Tommy Reilly
Cllr. Eddie Fitzpatrick	Cllr. Pat Vance
Cllr. Mary Freehill	

In Attendance:

Ms Joan Martin, Designated Chief Executive EMRA
Mr. Jim Conway, EMRA
Mr. Malachy Bradley, EMRA
Mr. Pat Lonergan, EMRA

Apologies received from Cllr Sean Haughey and Cllr Kate Feeney.

The Cathaoirleach opened the meeting by welcoming the new Designated Chief Executive to the EMRA, Joan Martin. Ms Martin is the current Chief Executive in Louth County Council.

The outgoing Cathaoirleach Cllr Gerry Horkan thanked all the members of the Assembly for their assistance and cooperation since January 2015.

ITEM 1

Election of Cathaoirleach & Leas Cathaoirleach

Councillor Fiona O'Loughlin, proposed that Councillor Pat Vance be elected Cathaoirleach for the coming year and this proposal was seconded by Councillor Tommy Reilly.

Councillor Kieran Dennison proposed that Councillor Maria Murphy be elected Cathaoirleach for the coming year and this proposal was seconded by Councillor Andrew Duncan.

The matter was put to a roll call which resulted as follows:

For Councillor P. Vance: Councillors: P. Bracken, T. Byrne, M. Cahill, E. Dooley, F. Duffy, C. Fitzgerald, B. Fitzgerald, E. Fitzpatrick, M. Freehill, P. Hill, G. Horkan, P. Kearns, D. Lacey, L. McCarthy, B. McDonagh, P. McEvoy, F. O'Loughlin, PJ Reilly, T Reilly, P Vance.

= 20

For Councillor M. Murphy: Councillors: S Bourke, T Cullen, K. Dennison, A Duncan, G Fagan, I Keatley, M Murphy. = 7

Councillor Pat Vance was deemed elected as Cathaoirleach for the coming year.

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

Election of Leas Cathaoirleach

The Cathaoirleach Councillor Pat Vance asked for nominations for the post of Leas Cathaoirleach.

Councillor Eddie Fitzpatrick, proposed that Councillor Fiona O'Loughlin be elected Leas-Cathaoirleach for the coming year and this proposal was seconded by Councillor Gerry Horkan.

Councillor Maria Murphy proposed that Councillor Kieran Dennison be elected Leas-Cathaoirleach for the coming year and this proposal was seconded by Councillor Andrew Duncan.

For Councillor F O'Loughlin : Councillors: P. Bracken, T. Byrne, M. Cahill, E. Dooley, F. Duffy, G Fagan, C. Fitzgerald, B. Fitzgerald, E. Fitzpatrick, M. Freehill, P. Hill, G. Horkan, P. Kearns, D. Lacey, L. McCarthy, B. McDonagh, P. McEvoy, F. O'Loughlin, PJ Reilly, T Reilly, P Vance. = 21

For Councillor K. Dennison: Councillors: S Bourke, T Cullen, K. Dennison, A Duncan, I Keatley, M Murphy. = 6

The Cathaoirleach then declared Cllr. Fiona O'Loughlin elected as Leas Cathaoirleach.

ITEM 2

Adoption of Minutes

Minutes of meeting of the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly held on the 12th June 2015 were proposed by Councillor Gerry Horkan and seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Minutes were **APPROVED** and **ADOPTED**.

ITEM 3

Presentation by National Transport Authority

- Presentation by Anne Graham

Ms Anne O'Dwyer introduced the role and functions of the National Transport Authority. The presentation covered the following topics:

- National Trends in Travel
- The Challenges and Solutions
- Travel Management
- Rural Transport
- Draft Transport strategy for the Greater Dublin Area
- Integrated Implementation Plan 2013-2018

Following the presentation, the following issues arising from the report were raised by the following members, Councillors E Fitzpatrick, L McCarthy, F O'Loughlin, G Horkan, P McEvoy, F Duffy, D Lacey, C Fitzgerald, K Dennison, T. Byrne, B. McDonagh, M. Murphy, S Bourke, I Keatley, M Freehill, and P Vance.

The contributions raised questions and concerns around the following transportation topics, rural transportation options, bus shelters, rail ticket pricing in commuter belts, suitable bicycle parking in the city centre, M50 tolling, car parking in rail stations, the Metro North recommendation, planning densities around transport hubs and the design of cycle lanes. Anne O Dwyer and Hugh Creegan from NTA addressed all the issues raised from the members on the above topics.

The Cathaoirleach thanked the representatives from the NTA for their presentation.

ITEM 4 – Planning items

Eirgrid North-South Interconnection Development

A draft submission was circulated to the Members with regard to the proposed development by Eirgrid of a North-South Interconnection. Mr. Bradley presented an outline of the draft submission and informed the members that the submission was being made to An Bord Pleanála under the Strategic Infrastructure Development Application Process. The submission was being recommended to the members as this development proposal is supported in RPG policy.

There followed a discussion on the submission with contributions from Cllrs Keatly, McEvoy, C. Fitzgerald, B. Fitzgerald, M. Murphy. Following this discussion it was AGREED to insert the following into the submission to reflect the members concerns on the development proposals as they stand.

“In this regard the relevant policy document – The Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area (which includes Meath) supports the principle of a North-South Electricity supply Interconnection. However the Members of the Regional Assembly have significant concerns with the proposals as presented. The impact of the proposed pylons on health, agriculture, one off housing and landscape; and the lack of proposals to underground the lines are issues that the Members state should be taken into consideration upon assessment of these proposals by An Bord Pleanála.”

ITEM 5

Committee of the Regions

Councillor Mary Freehill gave an update at the meeting on behalf of the Irish Delegation, on the current work programme of the Committee of the Regions. She outlined that the Delegation will also be making a submission to the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities.

Councillor Freehill also outlined that Sarah Holden has been appointed Administrative Officer for Committee of Regions and Head of the Irish Regions Office in Brussels and she will take up her position next month.

Councillor Fiona O’Loughlin thanked the Irish CoR Support Officer John Crowley for all his work and support who recently left his post.

ITEM 6

Correspondence

No correspondence was reported to the Members.

ITEM 7

Any Other Business

It was **AGREED** that the 35th Annual MacGill Summer School in Co Donegal from Sunday, July 19 to Friday, July 24, 2015 be approved conference for members to attend.

A resolution for Annual Voluntary Contributions (AVC's) scheme to be incorporated as a voluntary deduction for EMRA staff to avail of, if they wish was **AGREED**.

ITEM 8

Date of Next Meeting

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

Signed:

Cllr. Pat Vance
Cathaoirleach EMRA

Mr. Jim Conway
EMRA

Date:
