

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

MINUTES

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

HELD ON

FRIDAY 12th June 2015

IN

TULLAMORE COURT HOTEL, TULLAMORE, CO. OFFALY

MINUTES OF EASTERN AND MIDLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY HELD ON 12TH JUNE 2015 IN TULLAMORE COURT HOTEL, TULLAMORE, CO. OFFALY

Cllr. Sylvester Bourke	Cllr. Mary Freehill
Cllr. Paddy Bracken	Cllr. David Healy
Cllr. Tommy Byrne	Cllr. Gerry Horkan
Cllr. Mick Cahill	Cllr. Pamela Kearns
Cllr. Thomas Cullen	Cllr. Ivan Keatley
Cllr. Kieran Dennison	Cllr. Dermot Lacey
Cllr. Eamon Dooley	Cllr. Lettie McCarthy
Cllr. Francis Duffy	Cllr. Brian McDonagh
Cllr. Gaye Fagan	Cllr. Padraig McEvoy
Cllr. Kate Feeney	Cllr. Maria Murphy
Cllr. Catherine Fitzgerald	Cllr. Fiona O'Loughlin
Cllr. Brian Fitzgerald	Cllr. PJ Reilly
Cllr. Eddie Fitzpatrick	Cllr. Pat Vance

In Attendance:

Mr Daniel McLoughlin, Designated Chief Executive EMRA
Mr Jim Conway, EMRA
Mr Malachy Bradley, EMRA
Ms Labhaoise McKenna, EMRA
Mr Pat Lonergan, EMRA

Apologies for inability to attend were received from Lord Mayor C. Burke, Cllrs. P. Bourke, A. Duncan, S. Haughey, C. King, C. Markey S. McGrattan, T. Reilly and N. Richmond

An Cathaoirleach Cllr. Gerry Horkan presided.

ITEM 1

Adoption of Minutes

Minutes of meeting of the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly held on the 24th April 2015 were **APPROVED** and **ADOPTED**.

ITEM 2

Enterprise Ireland

- Presentation by Mick Broughan

Mick Broughan introduced the presentation and outlined the context in relation to the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly.

Mr Broughan outlined:

- Regional Development Plan
- Strategic Pillars
- Agritech

- iLonfar Projects
- The experience economy

A discussion took place on the role of Enterprise Ireland expanding with contributions from Cllrs. Cullen, Fitzpatrick, Fitzgerald, Lacey, McEvoy, Feeney, Cahill, Dooley, Freehill and P.J Reilly.

Mr Broughan responded to questions and the various queries raised.

The Cathaoirleach Cllr. Gerry Horkan thanked Mr Broughan for his presentation and the presentation was noted.

ITEM 3

Committee of the Regions Update

The Director updated the Members on the Committee of the Regions (CoR). Head of Delegation, Cllr Freehill gave an update from the last plenary meeting. She thanked Mr Ronan Gingles for his work and preparations with the plenary. There were two opinions submitted by the delegation. One on Fairtrade and second on Quality of Life. Cllr Freehill stated that Commission President Juncker, addressed the COR and he emphasised that there will be no change in the freedom of movement. Cllr Feeney added the next plenary is in July and the main topic under discussion for that plenary will be a regional approach to migration.

ITEM 4

Corporate Plan Update

The Director Mr. Jim Conway informed the Assembly that the first meeting of the Corporate Plan sub-group took place earlier that morning of 12th June. The group discussed the main topics that should be included in the corporate plan and these topics were agreed. It was also agreed that both Cllr Healy and Cllr Fitzpatrick will be included in the sub-group and they will be invited also to the next meeting.

ITEM 5

Correspondence

No correspondence was circulated to the meeting.

ITEM 6

Any other business

The Cathaoirleach outlined two resolutions to the meeting. First resolution, was to amend the current number of signatories on the EMRA banking accounts. Second, that a business online banking be established for EMRA and that signatories be agreed for the online banking process. Cllr Murphy proposed both resolutions and seconded by Cllr Lacey. Both resolutions were agreed.

Cllr Byrne, asked that the Assembly discuss the issue of Local Authority rates in the region and he outlined that an incentive was necessary for businesses in towns in the region. The Cathaoirleach outlined that amending Local Authority Rates was not a function of the EMRA.

Cllr Freehill proposed that the Assembly write to the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government (DECLG) and request a meeting between the EMRA and the Minister and Secretary General of the DCELG. The correspondence is to express disappointment at the lack of clarity from the Department as to the specific role of Members in the EMRA. Cllr. C Fitzgerald seconded this proposal. The proposal was agreed.

The Designated Chief Executive, Mr Daniel McLoughlin thanked the Assembly during his time involved and he wished the Assembly well into the future. The Cathaoirleach Cllr. Horkan thanked Mr McLoughlin for his work in assisting the Assembly during his time as designated Chief Executive.

Cathaoirleach Cllr. Horkan also thanked the staff for the work done to date in the Assembly.

Mr Jim Conway, Director made a corporate vision presentation, which had been made at the training earlier to the members. The presentation outlined the corporate vision for the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly.

ITEM 11

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly will be held on Friday 10th July 2015 at 11.00am in Dublin City Council Chamber, Dame Street, Dublin 2.

Signed: _____

Cllr. Gerry Horkan
Cathaoirleach EMRA

Mr. Jim Conway
EMRA

Date: _____