

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

MINUTES MEETING

**OF THE EASTERN AND MIDLAND
REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**

HELD ON

Friday, 10th November 2017

IN

**COUNCIL CHAMBER,
CITY HALL,
DUBLIN 2**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EASTERN AND MIDLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY HELD ON 20th October 2017, COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL, DUBLIN 2.

Cllr. Paddy Bracken	Cllr. Paddy Hill
Cllr. Christy Burke	Cllr. Pamela Kearns
Cllr. Tommy Byrne	Cllr. Ivan Keatley
Cllr. Mick Cahill	Cllr. Dermot Lacey
Cllr. Thomas Cullen	Cllr. Colm Markey
Cllr. Kieran Dennison	Cllr. Lettie McCarthy
Cllr. Andrew Duncan	Cllr. Brian McDonagh
Cllr. Gaye Fagan	Cllr. Padraig McEvoy
Cllr. Catherine Fitzgerald	Cllr. Derek Mitchell
Cllr. Brian Fitzgerald	Cllr. Maria Murphy
Cllr. Eddie Fitzpatrick	Cllr. Claire O'Connor
Cllr. Mary Freehill	Cllr. PJ Reilly
Cllr. Mary Hanafin	Cllr. Tommy Reilly
Cllr. Pat Hand	Cllr. Pat Vance
Cllr. David Healy	

In Attendance:

Ms. Joan Martin, Designated Chief Executive, Louth County Council

Mr. Jim Conway, EMRA

Mr. Malachy Bradly, EMRA

Ms. Pauline Riordan, EMRA

Mr. Michael Brennan, EMRA

Ms. Laure Antoniotti, EMRA

Ms. Hazel Healy, EMRA

Mr. Richard Kenneally, EMRA

Apologies received from: Cllr. Barry Ward

ITEM 1

Adoption of Minutes of meeting held on 20th October 2017

Minutes of the meeting of the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly held on the 20th October 2017 were proposed by Cllr. D Lacey and seconded by Cllr. P. Hill.

The minutes were **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED**.

ITEM 2

URBACT – Good Practices

An Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Colm Downey, Department Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government; Mayor Robert Power, Naas District Council and Ms. Lorraine O'Connor, Regeneration Officer, Longford County Council. Each delivered a presentation giving an introduction

to Urbact as a programme, a short history, input by the Department, Irish participation and projects to date. An Cathaoirleach thanked each speaker for their presentations. A discussion took place afterwards with contributions from, Cllr. P. McEvoy, Cllr. M. Cahill, Cllr. D. Lacey Cllr. M. Hanafin Cllr. L. McCarthy Cllr P. Kearns and Cllr. M Freehill.

ITEM 3

Planning items

Initial Public Consultation and Issues Paper on the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midland Region.

Mr. Malachy Bradley presented the issues paper on the RSES to inform the initial public consultation, which will commence in the next week. The presentation explained the RSES process, the structure of the Issues Paper around four key themes, the 10 key questions that we are using to frame this consultation period that will inform submissions and the details of the public consultation, including how submissions can be made.

A discussion took place afterwards with contributions from, Cllr. B. McDonagh, Cllr. D. Healy, Cllr. M. Murphy, Cllr. T. Cullen, Cllr. D. Mitchell, Cllr. M. Freehill, Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, Cllr. P. McEvoy, Cllr. D. Lacey, Cllr. C. O'Connor, Cllr. P. Kearns and Cllr. K. Dennison.

The Issues paper was **NOTED**.

An Cathaoirleach made a special mention of thanks to his fellow members, the Director, Assistant Director and staff of EMRA for their attendance and participation at the special meeting held in Granard County Longford on 27th October last.

ITEM 5

Future of Europe

Mr Gerry Kiely, Head of The European Commission Representation in Ireland delivered a presentation to the members on the future of Europe post 2020 and post Brexit. A discussion took place afterwards with contributions from, Cllr. P. Kearns, Cllr. D. Lacey, Cllr. M. Hanafin, Cllr. M. Murray, Cllr. K. Dennison and Cllr. C. Markey.

The proposal to invite Mr. Kiely to return at a later date to deliver a further presentation on the up to date situation relating to Brexit to the members was **AGREED**.

ITEM 4

Draft Budget 2018

Mr. Jim Conway presented the draft budget 2018 to the members, it was noted that the proposed increase in expenditure is attributable to the additional staff costs associated with pay restoration and pay increases as agreed at national level. Provision has also been made for costs associated with the RSES process.

A discussion took place with contributions from Cllr. P. McEvoy and Cllr. P. Vance. It was agreed to write to the Department to request that any additional spending required to deliver the RSES be made available by direct funding from the Department.

The Draft Budget 2018 was proposed by Cllr. P. Vance and seconded by Cllr. K. Dennison.

The draft Budget 2018 was **AGREED**.

ITEM 6

Correspondence - None.

ITEM 7

Any other business

The members requested to include time on the Agenda of the next meeting in order to discuss **Time Management of Speakers**.

ITEM 8

Date of next meeting


It was proposed to bring forward the date of the next meeting to 1st December 2017 in view of the impending Rail Strikes, the proposal was **AGREED**.

The next meeting of the Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly will be held on, **Friday 1st December, 2017 in Dublin City Council Chamber, City Hall, Dame Street, Dublin 2.**

Signed:



Cllr. PJ Reilly
Cathaoirleach EMRA



Mr. Jim Conway
EMRA

Date: 4/12/2017