

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

**MINUTES for MEETING**

**OF THE EASTERN AND MIDLAND  
REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**HELD ON**

**Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> October 2018**

**IN**

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

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EASTERN AND MIDLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY HELD ON 19<sup>th</sup> October 2018, COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL, DUBLIN 2.**

Cllr Paddy Bracken	Cllr David Healy
Cllr Christy Burke	Cllr Pamela Kearns
Cllr Tommy Byrne	Cllr Ivan Keatley
Cllr Mick Cahill	Cllr Dermot Lacey
Cllr Ciaran Cuffe	Cllr Colm Markey
Cllr Thomas Cullen	Cllr Pdraig McEvoy
Cllr Kieran Dennison	Cllr Martin Miley
Cllr Eamon Dooley	Cllr Derek Mitchell
Cllr Francis Duffy	Cllr Maria Murphy
Cllr Gaye Fagan	Cllr PJ Reilly
Cllr Kate Feeney	Cllr Tommy Reilly
Cllr Catherine Fitzgerald	Cllr Rob Russell
Cllr Brian Fitzgerald	Cllr Pat Vance
Cllr Eddie Fitzpatrick	Cllr Irene Winters
Cllr Mary Freehill	

**In Attendance:**

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

**Mr. Jim Conway, EMRA**

**Mr. Malachy Bradley, EMRA**

**Ms. Pauline Riordan, EMRA**

**Mr. Ronan Fallon, EMRA**

**Ms. Bernadette Quinn, EMRA**

**Mr. Ross Higgins, EMRA**

**Mr. Simon Musial, EMRA**

**Apologies received from;** Cllr L McCarthy, Cllr B McDonagh, Cllr P Hill and Cllr A Duncan.

**ITEM 1**

**Adoption of Minutes of meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

Minutes of the meeting of the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly held on the 14<sup>th</sup> September 2018 were proposed by Cllr K Dennison and seconded by Cllr PJ Reilly.

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

It was proposed by Cllr B Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr C Burke to consider the motion that the preparation of the draft RSES be deferred.

Following a debate the members AGREED that following the consideration of valid motions already submitted this motion would be considered by the Assembly.

## **ITEM 2**

### **Preparation of the draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy**

A discussion took place regarding the RSES process and how the Assembly should progress with preparing a draft, with contributions from Cllr B Fitzgerald, Cllr. M Murphy, Cllr T Reilly, Cllr PJ Reilly, Cllr P McEvoy, Cllr D Healy, Cllr T Byrne, Cllr M Cahill, Cllr K Feeny, Cllr P Vance, Cllr P Kearns, Cllr C Cuffe, Cllr K Dennison, Cllr C Markey, Cllr D Mitchell, Cllr M Freehill Cllr C Burke and Ms. Joan Martin, Designated Chief Executive.

The Assistant Director Mr. M Bradly gave a presentation on the preparation of the Draft RSES which highlighted the following; Member's Function, Format of Meeting, Overview of RSES.

This was followed by the valid motions that were received by the Director.

#### **Motion Number: 01**

##### **Submitted by Councillors: D. Healy, L. McCarthy and P. McEvoy**

Motion was proposed by Cllr D Healy and seconded by Cllr P McEvoy.

Insert on page 17:

A key challenge facing the Region, along with all other regions, is the transition to a low carbon society. For the RSES this means five primary areas of transition which are at the core of the Strategy:

- spatial development patterns which reduce transport demand and encourage low carbon transport modes;
- sustainable transport systems (people and freight);
- carbon storing and sequestering land uses;
- energy efficient buildings and industry; and
- renewable energy.

#### **Directors Response:**

The Director's Draft RSES has at its core the need to address better alignment between population growth and the location of residential and employment to create healthy and attractive places. There is also a need to transition to a low carbon society which this alignment in part addresses. The proposed amendment clarifies this need further.

#### **Directors Recommendation:**

Accept the Motion

The motion was **AGREED**

#### **Motion Number: 02**

##### **Submitted by Councillors: D. Healy, L. McCarthy and P. McEvoy**

Motion was proposed by Cllr P McEvoy and seconded by Cllr D Healy.

Add the text in bold:

RPO 4.1: In preparing Core Strategies for development plans, Local Authorities shall determine the hierarchy of settlements in accordance with the hierarchy, guiding principles and typology of settlements in the draft RSES, within the population projections set out in the National Planning Framework to ensure that towns grow at a sustainable and appropriate level, by setting out a rationale for land proposed to be zoned for residential, employment and mixed-use development across the Region.

**Local Authorities, in analysing land for urban development, shall model the predicted impact of the potential use on modal split and transport greenhouse gas emissions and shall proceed with the zoning where the predicted modal split and greenhouse gas emissions resulting from the development are consistent with national and regional policy. All references in this Strategy to development, including to specific possible development sites, are subject to this assessment.**

**Directors Response:**

The Director's draft is committed to the Region becoming a low-carbon region and to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, through settlement and travel patterns, energy use, waste and protection of green infrastructure.

The principle of assessing the level of transport demand and greenhouse gas emissions from proposed development is an aspiration that the Regional Assembly can progress to achieving with our stakeholders. The method to model and assess proposals in this fashion has not yet been determined, and we are scoping this exercise with the relevant stakeholders and state agencies. It would be impractical to place a requirement on local authorities in the preparation of core strategies to apply an assessment where we cannot determine the scope of that assessment.

RPO's 7.28 and 7.29 are to progress the ability of local authorities to assess transport and GHG impacts on development and land use in the region.

**RPO 7.28:** Within 1 year of the adoption of the RSES, the EMRA shall seek with other stakeholders to carry out an assessment of transport emissions in the Region to identify GHG forecasting and to analyse the emissions impacts of development in the Region.

**RPO 7.29:** Within one year of the publication of the RSES, the Climate Action Regional Office's shall compile a greenhouse gas emissions inventory for the Region to allow for planning of strategic mitigation action through a Regional Decarbonisation Plan. The Climate Action Regional Office's shall track the success of the Plan through annual inventories completed each year. Annual reporting of the inventories and critical analysis of the proposed measures will be undertaken to track progress within the Region and to track progress with national targets on a regional basis.

**Directors Recommendation:**

Amend Motion to insert the following text under 'Support transition to a low carbon, circular & climate resilient Region'

In order to ensure that future development in the region will be transitioned to a low carbon usage there is a need to be able to assess the level of transport demand and greenhouse gas emissions. For Local Authorities, in analysing land for urban development, there is a need to inform the decision making at core strategy stage by the ability to assess the predicted impact of the potential land use on modal split and transport greenhouse gas emissions. The Assembly will progress this method of assessment with key stakeholders and transport agencies to provide a robust method of assessment.

The Directors recommendation was **AGREED**

**Motion Number: 03**

**Submitted by Councillors: D. Healy, L. McCarthy and P. McEvoy**

Motion was proposed by Cllr D Healy and seconded by Cllr P McEvoy.

Add the text in bold:

RPO 8.8: The RSES supports appraisal and or delivery of the road projects set out in Table 8.4 subject to the outcome of appropriate environmental assessment and the planning process, **when it can be demonstrated by modelling that the project will lead to an improvement in modal split and a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.**

**Directors Response:**

The Director's draft is committed to the Region becoming a low-carbon region and to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, through settlement and travel patterns, energy use, waste and protection of green infrastructure.

The principle of assessing the level of transport demand and greenhouse gas emissions from proposed development is an aspiration that the Regional Assembly can progress to achieving with our stakeholders. The method to model and assess proposals in this fashion has not yet been determined, and we are scoping this exercise with the relevant stakeholders and state agencies.

Some of the projects listed under RPO 8.8 are approved under the National Development Plan 2018-2027 or are in the existing capital plans, and therefore have already been through a consent process. In some instances there may be improvement in GHG emissions where the new road improves traffic flows and the increased efficiency reduces emissions but in the majority of cases a road is intended to facilitate increased traffic projections and this is not going to result in a reduction in GHG emissions. There may be some local benefits in terms of removing traffic from town centres, such as bypasses and this could free up space for cycle and walk ways and improve mode share.

The transport objectives underpinning the Director's draft RSES are based on two complementary elements with the overarching goal of prioritising sustainable transport modes in order to achieve improvements in air quality, reduction in CO2 emissions and noise reduction.

The Priorities and Guiding Principles for Integration of Land Use and Transport set out in the Director's draft are to apply to statutory land use plans and could be enhanced to reflect the intention of this motion.

**Directors Recommendation:**

Amend motion to include the following guiding principle page 153;

The predicted impact of the potential land use and transport infrastructure on modal split and transport greenhouse gas emissions should be assessed to deliver on national and regional targets.

The Directors recommendation was **AGREED**

**Motion Number: 04**

**Submitted by Councillor: P. Vance**

Motion was proposed by Cllr P Vance and seconded by Cllr I Winters.

Table 5.1 - Remove LUAS Extension as a short term Enabling Infrastructure for the development of Bray Golf Club.

**Directors Response:**

It is recognised that the delivery of the LUAS Green Line to Bray is a long term proposal and it should not be included as enabling infrastructure for short term development.

**Directors Recommendation:**

Accept the Motion

The motion was **AGREED**

**Motion Number: 05**

**Submitted by Councillor: P. Vance**

Motion was proposed by Cllr P Vance and seconded by Cllr D Mitchell.

Table 5.1 - Insert the following Row

Corridor	Residential	Employment/Mixed Use	Phasing/Enabling Infrastructure
North-South Corridor (DART)	Fassaroe Phase 1	New mixed use residential, employment and recreational use at Fassaroe, west of Bray	Short Term  Bus links, Distributor Roads, N11 Pedestrian and cycle bridge

**Directors Response:**

It is recognised that the delivery of the LUAS Green Line to Bray is a long term proposal and it should not be included as enabling infrastructure for short term development.

**Directors Recommendation:**

Amend the Phasing / Enabling Infrastructure for Bray Fassaroe to;

**Short Term**

Bus links, Distributor Roads, N11 Pedestrian and cycle bridge

**Long Term**

LUAS extension to Bray

The Directors recommendation was **AGREED**

**Motion Number: 06**

**Submitted by Councillor: P. Vance**

Motion was proposed by Cllr P Vance and seconded by Cllr I Winters.

RPO 8.14 - Replace with ' Support the improvement and protection of the Ten-T network to strengthen access routes to Ireland's ports, including investment in the ongoing development of the N11/M11 to improve connectivity to Rosslare and improvements to the Dublin-Wexford Rail line.

**Directors Response:**

Dublin Rosslare Europort is part of the Ten-T Comprehensive Network and is supported in the Chapter 8.5 on International Connectivity.

**Directors Recommendation:**

Accept Motion

The motion was **AGREED**

**Motion Number: 07**

**Submitted by Councillor: P. Vance**

Motion was proposed by Cllr P Vance and seconded by Cllr D Mitchell.

Include Creative Industries/Film in the list of 'Sectoral opportunities to Dublin and Eastern SPAs' (Page 99)

**Directors Response:**

The list of sectoral opportunities has been based on information from RAPJs, LECPs, localised enterprise strategies and other stakeholders with regards to the presence of strong sectors in their localities and considering sectoral growth trends. This list is not exhaustive and should not be viewed as a limitation.

**Directors Recommendation:**

Accept Motion

The motion was **AGREED**

**Motion Number: 08**

**Submitted by Councillor: P. Vance**

Motion was proposed by Cllr P Vance and seconded by Cllr I Winters.

Include the N81 Tallaght to Hollywood scheme under 'Significant Regional Road Schemes' (Page 157)

**Amended by Councillor. T Cullen to include;**

Linkage roads from Baltinglass and Dunlavin to N9 from N81.

**Directors Response:**

The N81 Tallaght to Hollywood scheme is not included in the National Development Plan 2018-2027, nor is it included in the current capital scheme for Transport Infrastructure Ireland. It is a long term proposal that has not completed a consent process or environmental assessment.

**Directors Recommendation:**

Reject Motion

The Directors recommendation was **REJECTED** and the motion as proposed was **AGREED**

**Motion Number: 09**

**Submitted by Councillor: P. Vance**

Motion was proposed by Cllr P Vance and seconded by Cllr D Mitchell.

(a) Replace 'while continuing to provide Dart services on the south Eastern line as far south as Greystones' with 'while continuing to improve DART services on the South Eastern line as far as Greystones'

(b) Replace 'provide for an appropriate level of commuter rail service in the Midlands' to 'Provide for appropriate level of commuter rail service in the Midlands and South East'

**Directors Response:**

These items are listed in Table 8.2 and are responded to (a) and (b) below

(a) The DART service is to be extended and the level of service is to be improved across the network.

(b) The rail service across the network will be appropriate to serve the demand and subject to the requirements of Irish Rail.

**Directors Recommendation:**

Accept Motion

The motion was **AGREED**

**Motion Number: 10**

**Submitted by Councillor: P. Vance**

Motion was proposed by Cllr P Vance and seconded by Cllr T Cullen.

Include the Blessington Greenway in the list of greenways under the heading 'Development of Greenways, Blueways and Peatways' (page 134)

**Directors Response:**

There is a non-exhaustive list of flagship greenways, blueways and peatways in the Region listed as significant opportunities in the region.

**Directors Recommendation:**

Accept Motion

The motion was **AGREED**

**Motion Number: 11**

**Submitted by Councillor: E. Fitzpatrick**

Motion was proposed by Cllr E Fitzpatrick and seconded by Cllr E Dooley.

Include reference to a Trauma unit in Tullamore Hospital

**Directors Response:**

Under Section 9.8

RPO 9.22: Facilitate the development of primary health care centres, hospitals, clinics, and facilities to cater for the specific needs of an ageing population in appropriate urban areas in accordance with draft RSES settlement strategy and core strategies of development plans.

This is a high level RPO that covers all the health care in the region. However the narrative in this section does not refer to Trauma units.

**Directors Recommendation:**

Amend text to include;

Gaps in the Region's healthcare infrastructure, in particular the demand and capacity for primary care, acute care and social care services need to be addressed to meet the health care needs of a growing and ageing population, **including the recommendations of the Trauma Steering Group – A Trauma System for Ireland.**

The Directors recommendation was **AGREED**

**Motion Number: 12**



**Submitted by Councillor: C. Fitzgerald and P. Bracken**

Insert

RPO xx In order to reduce the commute endured by so many from Laois / Portlaoise to North Kildare / Dublin Region it is imperative that an adequate amount of the 320,000 extra jobs to the region in its entirety are dispersed in a balanced fashion across the region and in particular to the County towns so as to bring the jobs to the people rather than the people to the jobs.

**Directors Response:**

One of the main considerations of the Director's Draft RSES is where people live and work, the strategy will address this and drives convergence of the two. There is a role for the key towns in the region to increase their economic base and the number of jobs in these towns.

It is recognised in RPO 4.23: Key Towns shall act as economic drivers and provide for strategic employment locations to improve their economic base by increasing the ratio of jobs to workers.

**Directors Recommendation:**

Reject Motion

The Directors recommendation was **AGREED** and the motion was **REJECTED**

**Motion Number: 13**

**Submitted by Councillor: C. Fitzgerald and P. Bracken**

Motion was proposed by Cllr C Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr P Bracken.

RPO xx Support job creation in Portlaoise on lands zoned for enterprise, employment and industrial use within the town of Portlaoise with particular emphasis on the Togher / Junction 17 Enterprise and employment land bank.

**Directors Response:**

Togher Inland Port National Enterprise Park is recognised an economic driver in the Key Town of Portlaoise, this can be further strengthened in the narrative.

**Directors Recommendation:**

Amend narrative on Portlaoise to include There is a need for job creation in Portlaoise on lands zoned for enterprise, employment and industrial use within the town of Portlaoise with particular emphasis on the Togher / Junction 17 Enterprise and employment land bank.

The Directors recommendation was **AGREED**

**Motion Number: 14**

**Submitted by Councillor: C. Fitzgerald and P. Bracken**

Motion was proposed by Cllr C Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr P Bracken.

RPO Xx – support the delivery of the Portlaoise Northern Orbital Route (PNOR) to facilitate necessary improvements to the National route N80

RPO xx support the delivery of the N80 Relief Route from Graiguecullen to Carlow

RPO XX Support the delivery of the N80 Mountmellick Bypass

**Directors Response:**

The N80 is an intra-regional route connecting key Towns in the Midlands and wider to the Southern Region including to the Rosslare Europort. The Director's Draft RSES supports improvements on this route.

**Directors Recommendation:**

Amend wording to

N80 Improvements including inter regional and intra-regional accessibility.

The Directors recommendation was **AGREED**

**Motion Number: 15**

**Submitted by Councillor: C. Fitzgerald and P. Bracken**

Motion was proposed by Cllr C Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr P Bracken.

RPO XX Support the extension of the Barrow Blueway to include Graiguecullen / Carlow to promote sustainable transport choices and as a recreational asset for the town, subject to the outcome of the planning process and environmental assessments

**Amendment by Councillor I Keatley;**

To include 'from Lowtown'

**Directors Response:**

There is a non-exhaustive list of flagship greenways, blueways and peatways in the Region listed as significant opportunities in the region.

**Directors Recommendation:**

Include the extension of the Barrow Blueway from Lowtown to Graiguecullen / Carlow in the list of greenways under the heading 'Development of Greenways, Blueways and Peatways' (page 134)

The Directors recommendation was **AGREED**

**Motion Number: 16**

**Submitted by Councillor: C. Fitzgerald and P. Bracken**

Motion was proposed by Cllr C Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr P Bracken.

There should be a table of the CFRAM schemes identified under CFRAM process as approved by OPW in order to support the future planning applications that may be made – they are mentioned under Dundalk and Drogheda but what about Mountmellick or Portarlinton, etc

**Directors Response:**

Section 7.4 Flood Risk Management was prepared in extensive consultation with OPW to ensure that the Director's Draft RSES supports the national CFRAMs programme. RPO 7.13: EMRA will work with Local Authorities, OPW and other relevant Departments and agencies to implement the recommendations of the CFRAM programme to ensure that flood risk management policies and infrastructure are progressively implemented.

**Directors Recommendation:**

To include the list of the approved CFRAMS schemes in the appendix and refer to in Section 7.4

The Directors recommendation was **AGREED**

**ITEM 4**

**A.O.B.**

That the Assembly meeting for December would be brought forward by 1 week to the 7<sup>th</sup> December.

This was **AGREED**

**ITEM 5**

**Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly is to be held on, Friday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at 12pm in City Hall, Dublin 2.

Signed:



Cllr. Eddie Fitzpatrick  
Cathaoirleach EMRA



Mr. Jim Conway  
EMRA

Date: 16/11/2018

Cllr T Cullen requested motions from the floor to be considered this was deemed out of order by An Cathaoirleach in accordance with standing orders.

### **Motion**

That the preparation of the draft RSES be deferred

Proposed by Cllr B Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr C Burke

A Vote was called on this motion

Cllr C Burke, Cllr T Byrne, Cllr M Cahill, Cllr E Dooley, Cllr C Fitzgerald, Cllr B Fitzgerald Cllr M Murphy, Cllr PJ Reilly and Cllr T Reilly voted for the motion.

Cllr P Bracken, Cllr C Cuffe, Cllr T Cullen Cllr K Dennison, Cllr F Duffy, Cllr G Fagan, Cllr K Feeney, Cllr E Fitzpatrick, Cllr M Freehill, Cllr D Healy, Cllr P Kearns, Cllr I Keatley, Cllr D Lacey, Cllr C Markey, Cllr P McEvoy, Cllr M Miley, Cllr D Mitchell, Cllr R Russell, Cllr P Vance and Cllr I Winters voted against the motion.

Total 9 for, 20 against, the motion was **REJECTED**.

### **The draft RSES to be prepared for public consultation.**

A discussion took place with contributions from Cllr PJ Reilly, Cllr I Winters, Cllr I Keatley, Cllr M Cahill, Cllr D Healy, Cllr M Miley, Cllr B Fitzgerald, Cllr P McEvoy, Cllr K Dennison and Cllr E Dooley.

In accordance with Section 24 (4) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 – 2018 the members of the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly hereby prepares the Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midland Region.

This was **AGREED**

In accordance with Section 24 (7) (c) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 – 2018, the members considered that the Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy is consistent with the Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area.

This was **AGREED**

Mr. Bradley stated that the executive will now prepare the draft RSES and associated documents for public display and requested that minor changes could be made to the text of the draft RSES to accommodate the production of a published format of the draft RSES for public consultation.

This was **AGREED**

### **ITEM 3**

None