

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

MINUTES for MEETING

**OF THE EASTERN AND MIDLAND
REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**

HELD ON

Friday, 10th November 2023

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EASTERN AND MIDLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY HELD ON 10th NOVEMBER 2023, COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL, DUBLIN 2.

Cllr Daryl Barron	Cllr Deirdre Heney
Cllr Emma Blain	Cllr Vincent Jackson
Cllr Aoife Breslin	Cllr Pamela Kearns
Cllr Fintan Brett	Cllr Dermot Lacey
Cllr John Browne	Cllr Brigid Manton
Cllr Eamon Dooley	Cllr Padraig Mc Evoy
Cllr Caroline Dwane Stanley	Cllr Paddy Meade
Cllr Kate Feeney	Cllr Declan Meenagh
Cllr Catherine Fitzgerald	Cllr Aisling Moran
Cllr Eddie Fitzpatrick	Cllr Colm Murray
Cllr Tom Fortune	Cllr Peter O'Brien
Cllr Jim Gildea	Cllr Aengus O'Rourke
Cllr Alison Gilliland	Cllr Danny Owens
Cllr David Gilroy	Cllr Robert Power
Cllr Lyn Hagin Meade	Cllr Una Power
Cllr David Healy	Cllr Gerry Walsh

Apologies: Cllr Avril Cronin and Cllr Janet Horner

Attendance:

Ms. Joan Martin, CEO, Louth County Council

Ms. Clare Bannon, EMRA

Ms. Bernie Roe, EMRA

Ms. Anne-Marie Wood Wolfe, EMRA

Ms. Laure Antoniotti, EMRA

Ms. Eugenia Thompson, EMRA

Mr. Padraig O'Shea, EMRA

Mr. Terence Connolly, EMRA

Dr. Karl Murphy, EMRA

Dr. Owen Douglas, EMRA

Ms. Helena Stromberg, EMRA

Mr. Simon Musial, EMRA

Mr. Ross Higgins, EMRA

Ms. Geraldine Kenny, EMRA

Ms. Sarah Campbell, EMRA

Mr. Rory O'Sullivan, EMRA

Ms. Kiara Abbey, EMRA

ITEM 1

Adoption of Minutes of meeting held on 13th October 2023

Minutes of meeting of the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly held on the 13th of October 2023 were proposed by Cllr P Meade and seconded by Cllr D Meenagh.

The minutes were **APPROVED**.

ITEM 2

Planning items

The Assistant Director, Ms AM Wood Wolfe gave an outline of the following submissions.

- i) Submission – Draft Longford LECP

Proposed by Cllr P Mc Evoy and seconded by Cllr C Murray.

This was **APPROVED**

- ii) Submission – on Variation No.2 to the Dublin City Development Plan 2022-2028

This was **NOTED**

- iii) Submission – on Variation No.3 to the Dublin City Development Plan 2022-2028

This was **NOTED**

A discussion followed in relation to Variation 2 and Variation 3 to the Dublin City Development plan 2022 -2028 with contributions from Cllr A Gilliland, Cllr D Heney and Ms C Bannon, Director of EMRA.

- iv) Submission – on issues Paper to Uisce Éireann’s Water Services Strategic Plan 2050

This was **NOTED**

- v) Submission – on issues Paper to review of National Planning Framework

This was **NOTED**

Cllr P Mc Evoy indicated that he coordinated with the group representatives and the planning team with regard to a proposed addendum to the NPF Submission. This was circulated to the members. A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr D

Lacey, Cllr D Heney, Ms AM Wood Wolfe, Cllr D Healy, Cllr J Gildea, Cllr P Mc Evoy, Cllr T Fortune, Cllr D Meenagh and Ms C Bannon.

Cllr K Feeney asked the members if they will approve the supplementary submission proposed by Cllr P Mc Evoy, this was seconded by Cllr D Healy. Ms C Bannon advised the members this would be submitted as a supplement to the original submission but given that the time period for receipt of submissions had passed, could not confirm if it would be accepted.

This was **AGREED**

Ms C Bannon discussed the submission timeframes with the members which does not always allow for submissions to be brought to the full Assembly at Assembly meetings. Special meetings could be called if required, especially in light of the upcoming publication of the revision of the draft of the National Planning Framework.

Cllr D Meenagh asked that all members are made aware when a document is received which it is intended to make a submission on.

An Cathaoirleach Cllr K Feeney proposed that the question of a revised mechanism for members to contribute to submissions where timeframes do not allow for the submission to come before the Assembly meeting, be put to the group leaders for their consideration.

This was **AGREED**

ITEM 3

Adoption of the 2024 Budget

Ms Clare Bannon provided the Members with an outline of the 2024 budget. It was indicated to Members that the increase in the expenditure is due to two issues. The first relates to increased payroll costs associated with the payment of a pension and roles to be filled in 2024: 3 executive planners, 1 Economist and Policy Analyst to be covered in full by EMRA, and 1 Finance Officer. Secondly that €300,000 from the Assembly's reserve was used in last year's budget which reduced the cost for Local Authorities.

Ms C Bannon indicated that concerns have been communicated to the Assembly that Local Authorities might not be in a position to budget for the increased required amount, and Ms C Bannon proposed that EMRA use €500,000 from its reserve to reduce the net requirement from Local Authorities.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr E Dooley, Cllr A O Rourke, Cllr D Lacey, Ms C Bannon, Cllr J Browne, Cllr R Power, Cllr D Heney, Cllr A Gilliland, Cllr D Gilroy, Cllr P Mc Evoy, Cllr P Meade, Cllr D Meenagh, Cllr G Walsh, and Cllr J Gildea.

A document was circulated by email to members detailing each individual Local Authority's contribution both with and without using the €500,000 of reserve.

Cllr D Meenagh proposed that EMRA write to the Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform, and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage regarding the funding model of the Assembly. An Cathaoirleach, Cllr K Feeney, proposed to discuss and agree the wording of this letter at the next EMRA meeting.

This was **AGREED**

Proposals and voting

Three proposals were made in relation to the budget and submitted to a vote:

1. That €500,000 be taken from the reserve as credit balance carry over, proposed by Cllr D Lacey and Cllr D Meenagh
7 for, 16 against, 1 abstain.

Votes for; Cllr A Breslin, Cllr P Kearns, Cllr D Lacey, Cllr B Manton, Cllr D Meenagh, Cllr A Moran, and Cllr P O'Brien.

Votes against; Cllr F Brett, Cllr J Browne, Cllr E Dooley, Cllr K Feeney, Cllr E Fitzpatrick, Cllr T Fortune, Cllr J Gildea, Cllr D Gilroy, Cllr L Hagin Meade, Cllr D Healy, Cllr P McEvoy, Cllr P Meade, Cllr A O'Rourke, Cllr R Power, Cllr U Power, and Cllr G Walsh.

Votes abstained; Cllr D Heney.

2. That €350,000 be taken from the reserve as credit balance carry over, proposed by Cllr J Gildea, seconded by Cllr P Meade
11 for, 16 against, 0 abstain.

Votes for; Cllr E Blain, Cllr J Gildea, Cllr D Gilroy, Cllr D Lacey, Cllr B Manton, Cllr P Meade, Cllr D Meenagh, Cllr C Murray, Cllr P O'Brien, Cllr A O'Rourke, and Cllr G Walsh.

Votes against; Cllr D Barron, Cllr J Browne, Cllr E Dooley, Cllr K Feeney, Cllr E Fitzpatrick, Cllr T Fortune, Cllr L Hagin Meade, Cllr D Healy, Cllr D Heney, Cllr V Jackson, Cllr P Kearns, Cllr P McEvoy, Cllr A Moran, Cllr D Owens, Cllr R Power, and Cllr U Power.

3. That the budget be approved without amendment, proposed By Cllr P Mc Evoy, seconded by Cllr R Power

25 for, 3 against, no abstained.

Votes for; Cllr D Barron, Cllr E Blain, Cllr A Breslin, Cllr F Brett, Cllr J Browne, Cllr E Dooley, Cllr K Feeney, Cllr E Fitzpatrick, Cllr T Fortune, Cllr J Gildea, Cllr D Gilroy, Cllr L Hagin Meade, Cllr D Healy, Cllr D Heney, Cllr V Jackson, Cllr B Manton, Cllr P McEvoy, Cllr P Meade, Cllr A Moran, Cllr P O'Brien, Cllr A O'Rourke, Cllr D Owens, Cllr R Power, Cllr U Power, and Cllr G Walsh.

Votes against; Cllr P Kearns, Cllr D Lacey, and Cllr D Meenagh.

This was **ADOPTED**

ITEM 4

Report on the ENCORE 2023 Conference

Due to the lack of remaining time, the Cathaoirleach asked if this could be moved to the agenda of the next EMRA meeting.

This was **AGREED**

ITEM 5

Presentation of the European Urban Initiative

Due to the lack of remaining time, the Cathaoirleach asked if this could be moved to the agenda of the next EMRA meeting.

This was **AGREED**

ITEM 6

Correspondence

Letter received from CCMA in relation to Spatial alignment of the CAROs and the Regional Assemblies.

Members asked that a representative from the CARO be invited at a future meeting to present on their role, work programmes and interaction with the NPF.

ITEM 7

Any other business

Ms C Bannon informed the members that the Karlovy Vary Annual Policy Dialogue Statement declaration was signed by then Cathaoirleach R Power. The document was circulated to the Members.

Cllr K Feeney indicated that she and the A/Director Ms C Bannon attended the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Housing, Local Government and Heritage to discuss

the Citizens' Assembly report on the Directly Elected Mayor of Dublin. Cllr K Feeney indicated that the four Chief Executives of the Dublin Local Authorities were also in attendance.

The Report from the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe was circulated to Members. Cllr D Lacey asked that the report be put on a future meeting agenda. Cllr D Heney asked that the Assembly's concern regarding the centralisation of power in Ireland be communicated to the relevant European Commissioner and MEPs). An Cathaoirleach indicated this will be discussed at a future Assembly meeting.

This was **NOTED**

ITEM 8

Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly is to be held on, **Friday 8th of December 2023.**

Signed:



**Cllr. Kate Feeney
Cathaoirleach EMRA**



**Ms. Clare Bannon
EMRA**

Date:

08/12/2023

