

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

**MINUTES for MEETING**

**OF THE EASTERN AND MIDLAND  
REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**HELD ON**

**Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EASTERN AND MIDLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY HELD ON 8<sup>th</sup> OF DECEMBER 2023.**

|                             |                      |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| Cllr Daryl Barron           | Cllr Janet Horner    |
| Cllr Aoife Breslin          | Cllr Vincent Jackson |
| Cllr Fintan Brett           | Cllr Dermot Lacey    |
| Cllr Avril Cronin           | Cllr Brigid Manton   |
| Cllr Laura Donaghy          | Cllr Padraig McEvoy  |
| Cllr Eamon Dooley           | Cllr Paddy Meade     |
| Cllr Caroline Dwane Stanley | Cllr Declan Meenagh  |
| Cllr Kate Feeney            | Cllr Justin Moylan   |
| Cllr Catherine Fitzgerald   | Cllr Colm Murray     |
| Cllr Eddie Fitzpatrick      | 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     |
| Cllr Deirdre Heney          |                      |

**Apologies received from: Cllr. John Browne**

**In Attendance:**

**Ms. Joan Martin, CE, Louth County Council**

**Ms. Clare Bannon, EMRA**

**Ms. Bernie Roe, EMRA**

**Ms. Laure Antoniotti, EMRA**

**Ms. Anne-Marie Wood Wolfe, EMRA**

**Mr. Simon Musial, EMRA**

**Mr. Ross Higgins, EMRA**

**Ms. Geraldine Kenny, EMRA**

**Dr. Karl Murphy, EMRA**

**Dr. Owen Douglas, EMRA**

**Ms. Ruth Kilcullen, EMRA**

**Mr. Padraig O'Shea, EMRA**

**Ms. Helena Stromberg, EMRA**

**Ms. Eugenia Thompson, EMRA**

**Mr. Padraig O'Shea, EMRA**

**Mr. Rory O'Sullivan, EMRA**

## **ITEM 1**

### **Adoption of Minutes of meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023.**

Minutes of the meeting of the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly held on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November 2023 were proposed by Cllr D Lacey and seconded by Cllr G Walsh.

The minutes were **APPROVED**.

## **ITEM 2**

### **Planning Items**

- i) Draft EMRA submission on the Laois LECP

Ms A Wood-Wolfe presented the Draft EMRA Submission on the Laois LECP.

The draft EMRA submission on the Laois LECP was proposed by Cllr D Lacey and seconded by Cllr P Mc Evoy.

This was **AGREED**.

- ii) Draft EMRA submission on the Louth LECP

Ms A Wood-Wolfe presented the Draft EMRA Submission on the Louth LECP.

The draft EMRA submission on the Louth LECP was proposed by Cllr P Mc Evoy and seconded by Cllr D Lacey.

This was **AGREED**.

- iii) EMRA submission on the Issues Paper for the Mullingar LAP 2024-2030

Ms A Wood-Wolfe presented the EMRA submission on the Issues Paper for the Mullingar LAP 2024-2030

This was **NOTED**.

- iv) EMRA submission on Variation No. 4 to the Dublin City Development Plan 2022-2028

Ms A Wood-Wolfe presented the EMRA submission on the Issues Paper for the Mullingar LAP 2024-2030

This was **NOTED**.

### **ITEM 3**

#### **Adoption of the 2024 schedule of meetings**

The 2024 schedule of meetings was circulated to the members prior to the meeting. Ms C Bannon indicated that there are a number of points to bring to the attention of the Members;

- The meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> of January will be held at the earlier time of 10.15am to facilitate a presentation of the report on the Monitoring of the application of the European Charter of Local Self-Government. (Time will be confirmed prior to the January meeting).
- Dublin City Hall, Dame Street, is not available for the meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> of April. The Council Chamber in Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council is available for this date, and the meeting will be hybrid.
- The meeting dates in June and July will be confirmed after the date for the local elections is released.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr D Lacey, Cllr K Feeney, Cllr J Gildea and Ms C Bannon. It was indicated that clarification would be sought regarding the date that Regional Assembly Members will hold office to.

The changes to the schedule were proposed by Cllr D Lacey and seconded by Cllr D Gilroy

This was **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED**.

### **ITEM 4**

#### **Letter to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform on the funding model of the Assembly**

As agreed by members at the November meeting, An Cathaoirleach K Feeney drafted a letter to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, and to the Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform in relation to the funding model of the Assembly.

The draft letters were proposed by Cllr J Gildea and seconded by Cllr D Lacey.

This was **AGREED**.

### **ITEM 5**

#### **Presentation of the European Urban Initiative**

Dr. Karl Murphy, EU Affairs Officer and the urban contact point (UCP) for EUI in Ireland gave the members a presentation on the European Urban Initiative.

EMRA was recently appointed Urban Contact Point (UCP) for the European Urban Initiative (EUI), following nomination by DHLGH, and re-appointment as National URBACT Point (NUP) through to 2027. The presentation covered details on the background of URBACT and the EUI, Innovative actions, specific objectives, EUI supports EU projects, financial support, beneficiaries, implementation period, thematic - call 1 New European Bauhaus and call 2 - greening cities, sustainable tourism, harnessing talent in shrinking cities, next call dates Call 3 - May 2024, Call 4 - Spring 2025, capacity building, target EU cities of all sizes, EUI capacity building menu, Capacity building Events, city-to-city exchanges, peer reviews, eligibility, knowledge capitalisation objectives, communication objectives, the Urban agenda for the EU and what it is, the scope better regulation, funding and knowledge, partnership composition, UAEU thematic partnerships, UAEU and UCPs, to facilitate linkage between national activities and the Urban Agenda for the EU (UAEU), Functions of UCPs, UCP (EUI) & NUP (URBACT) coordination, and next steps.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr D Lacey, Cllr D Heney, Cllr P Mc Evoy, Dr K Murphy, Cllr E Fitzpatrick, Cllr G Walsh, Cllr D Gilroy, Cllr D Meenagh, Cllr J Horner, Cllr J Gildea, Cllr B Manton, and Ms C Bannon.

## **ITEM 6**

### **Report on the ENCORE 2023 conference**

Ms L Antoniotti, Cllr J Gildea, Cllr G Walsh and Cllr D Gilroy gave the members a report on the ENCORE 2023 conference. ENCORE celebrated its 30th anniversary this year. The conference was held in Arnhem on 28<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023. The conference focused on 3 key messages, the need for regions to be ambassadors for environmental themes and to challenge one another to always do better, actions are louder than words using the example of the financial sector which could become a catalyst for circularity, and the circular economy is a fundamental tool to address the crisis. The conference focused on topics including climate events, land use, energy use, renewables, planning, Youthcore, policy changes, circular economy, regeneration projects, and business models.

Two students from DCU attended the Youthcore conference. As part of their role, they shared their experiences with other young delegates from other European regions to develop a common message of what future they want for their regions, under biodiversity, circular economy, climate action and presented to a panel of experts.

The members attended site visits to a company that specialised in sustainable clothing in the fashion quarter.

Cllr G Walsh signed the declaration on behalf of An Cathaoirleach K Feeney.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr D Heney, Cllr P Mc Evoy and Cllr B Manton. An Cathaoirleach K Feeney thanked the members Cllr J Gildea, Cllr G Walsh and Cllr D Gilroy for attending the conference and signing the declaration.

## **ITEM 7**

### **Correspondence**

None

## **ITEM 8**

### **Any other business**

An Cathaoirleach K Feeney advised the Members on the requirement to report on conference attendance, a report should be submitted after attendance.

Ms C Bannon outlined a new protocol for members approval of submissions that are subject to a short consultation period and that are signed by the Cathaoirleach on behalf of the Assembly. The protocol was presented to group leaders and then sent to all members.

Cllr K Feeney asked if members would trial the protocol.

This was **AGREED**.

Ms C Bannon outlined that the AIR training event will be held in Limerick on the 7th- 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024, registration is now open to all councillors. The link for the AIR website and registrations will be circulated to members.

Ms C Bannon gave the members details of the ERDF Thrive Scheme, which will be launched early next year 2024. The ERDF scheme is managed by the Southern Regional Assembly. A short synopsis will be circulated to members on the ERDF Thrive scheme.

A short discussion followed with contributions from Cllr D Meenagh, Cllr G Walsh and Cllr J Gildea.

Cllr K Feeney welcomed the new member Cllr Justin Moylan, from Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council who replaced Cllr M Hanafin.

Cllr K Feeney wished Cllr Eamon Dooley well on his retirement and thanked him for his long service with EMRA, serving a term as chairperson, his work on CoR, and JTF contributions in the Midlands region and Offaly.

Cllr E Fitzpatrick, Cllr D Owens, Cllr D Heney, Cllr P Mc Evoy, Cllr J Gildea, also thanked Cllr E Dooley. Ms C Bannon, on behalf of the executive congratulated Cllr E Dooley on his retirement and thanked him for his service in EMRA and the Midland Regional Authority.

Cllr E Dooley thanked the members and staff and wished the councillors well in the next elections.

**ITEM 9**

**Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly will be held on, **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> of January 2024 at 10.15am.** (Time to be confirmed).

Signed:

Kate Feeney

**Cllr Kate Feeney  
Cathaoirleach EMRA**

Clare Bannon

**Ms. Clare Bannon  
EMRA**

Date:

12/01/2024

