

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

MINUTES for MEETING

**OF THE EASTERN AND MIDLAND
REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**

HELD ON

Friday, 09th February 2024

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EASTERN AND MIDLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY HELD ON
9TH FEBRUARY 2024.**

Cllr Aoife Breslin	Cllr Brigid Manton
Cllr Fintan Brett	Cllr Padraig McEvoy
Cllr Emma Coffey	Cllr Paddy Meade
Cllr Laura Donaghy	Cllr Declan Meenagh
Cllr Kate Feeney	Cllr Aisling Moran
Cllr Eddie Fitzpatrick	Cllr Justin Moylan
Cllr Jim Gildea	Cllr Colm Murray
Cllr Lyn Hagin Meade	Cllr Peter O'Brien
Cllr Deirdre Heney	Cllr Caroline O'Reilly
Cllr Janet Horner	Cllr Aengus O'Rourke
Cllr Vincent Jackson	Cllr Danny Owens
Cllr Pamela Kearns	Cllr Gerry Walsh
Cllr Dermot Lacey	

Apologies received from: Cllr D Healy, Cllr J Browne, and Cllr C Keelan.

In Attendance:

Ms. Joan Martin, CE, Louth County Council

Ms. Clare Bannon, EMRA

Ms. Bernie Roe, EMRA

Ms. Laure Antoniotti, EMRA

Mr. Simon Musial, EMRA

Mr. Ross Higgins, EMRA

Ms. Geraldine Kenny, EMRA

Ms. Sarah Campbell, EMRA

Dr. Karl Murphy, EMRA

Dr. Owen Douglas, EMRA

Ms. Helena Stromberg, EMRA

Ms. Eugenia Thompson, EMRA

Mr. Padraig O'Shea, EMRA

Mr. Rory O'Sullivan, EMRA

Ms. Kiara Abbey, EMRA

Ms. Breda Maher, CARO

Ms. Yvonne Cannon, CARO

Ms. Rose Power, Southern Regional Assembly

ITEM 1

Adoption of Minutes of meeting held on 12th January 2024.

Minutes of the meeting of the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly held on the 12th of January 2024 were proposed by Cllr P McEvoy and seconded by Cllr J Gildea.

The minutes were **APPROVED**.

ITEM 2

Presentation by the Eastern and Midland Region and Dublin CAROs (Climate Action Regional Office)

Presentation given by Ms Breda Maher (Eastern and Midland CARO) and Ms Yvonne Cannon (Dublin CARO) covering the following topics: Climate Change: context for Local Government; National Climate Policy and Role of Local Government; Climate Action Regional Offices (CARO); Climate Action: Evolving National Policy; Climate Governance: Within the Local Government Sector; Projects; Adaptation: Local Authority Climate Change Adaptation Strategies; Adaptation focused projects; Capacity Building: Local Authority Climate Action Training Programme, Local Government Strategy on Climate Action; Local Authority Climate Action Plans; Mitigation: Reimagining Transport in Local Government, LA own emissions: Pathfinder support – Buildings; Promoting Community Climate Action; Economic Opportunities arising from Climate Action; Creative Climate Action; Moving Forward.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr P McEvoy, Cllr J Horner, Cllr D Meenagh, Cllr J Gildea, Cllr J Moylan and Cllr K Feeney.

ITEM 3

Presentation of the ERDF-funded THRIVE (Town Centre First Heritage Revival Scheme) call

Ms Rose Power from the Southern Regional Assembly gave a presentation on the ERDF-funded THRIVE call, covering the Southern and Eastern and Midland regions and managed by the Southern Regional Assembly.

Topics included a presentation of the objectives of the call; the call launch date: 8th February 2024 and budget of €90 million; a presentation of Strand 1 plans and project development measures between €40k to €200k; a presentation of Strand 2 Ready to go capital works for projects between €2m to €7m; the definition of heritage buildings under THRIVE; a definition of the new European Bauhaus (NEB) concept; a list of the Southern, Eastern and Midland Designated Settlements and the next steps including closing dates: Strand 1 on 5th April 2024 and Strand 2 on 3rd May 2024. Online training will be provided to local authorities and in person workshop on suitable development will be available for Strand 2 applicants in early April.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr K Feeney, Cllr D Meenagh, Cllr B Manton.

A question was raised by An Cathaoirleach regarding the definition and eligibility criteria for the Dublin local authorities. R Power indicated that she will check and revert. The Director C Bannon indicated that Members will receive a clarification on this point as soon as possible.

ITEM 4

Planning items

- i. Submission on Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown LECP 2023-2028

Mr P O'Shea presented the Submission on Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown LECP 2023-2028 to the Members of the Assembly.

The submission on Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown LECP 2023-2028 was proposed by Cllr J Gildea and seconded by Cllr J Moylan.

This was **APPROVED**

- ii. Submission on the Pre-Draft Strategic Issues Paper for the Athlone Joint Urban Area Plan 2024-2030
- iii. Submission on the draft Carlow-Graiguecullen Joint Urban Local Area Plan 2024-2030
- iv. Variation No. 5 to the Dublin City Development Plan 2022-2028

Items ii, iii, and iv required that the submissions had to be made before the EMRA's monthly meeting could take place. The new protocol on submissions was applied and all submissions were approved by the Cathaoirleach.

The submissions were **NOTED**.

ITEM 5

Annual Programme of Works 2024

Ms C Bannon presented to the Members the annual Programme of Works for 2024.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr D Meenagh and Cllr P McEvoy

This was **NOTED**.

ITEM 6

Correspondence

Ms C Bannon informed the Members that a response from NOAC has been received in relation to the 2021 monitoring report, a copy of the letter was circulated to the Members. NOAC

requested the assistance of the Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) to review the report and the findings will be discussed at a future meeting.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr P McEvoy, and Cllr J Gildea.

Cllr J Gildea proposed that the Assembly writes to NOAC to query the status of their response to the 2023 monitoring report.

This was **AGREED**.

ITEM 7

Any other business

The Cathaoirleach K Feeney welcomed Cllr Caroline O Reilly as a member of the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly.

Cllr P McEvoy mentioned the presentation given by Kevin Lynch at the AIR conference and suggested to invite him to present to the EMRA.

Ms C Bannon gave Members feedback on the meeting with Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Ms C Bannon and Cllr K Feeney met with the Department to discuss the funding model of the Assembly. The Department suggested that the budget meeting for the Assembly could be brought forward so that local authorities will be aware of the funding requests before they make their own budget. Funding could also be requested from Government Departments when they request the Assembly to undertake activities on their behalf. The representatives from the Department encouraged the three Regional Assemblies to have a joint approach in the matter and the directors will follow up on same.

Ms L Antoniotti informed Members that a public consultation on the future of the EU Cohesion Policy post-2027 has been launched by the Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform. EMRA has been invited to participate and will prepare a response. The online consultation will close on Sunday 18th of February, if Members have any comments, please forward to Ms Laure Antoniotti (EMRA). The link to the questionnaire will be circulated to the Members.

Ms C Bannon informed Members that Dr Owen Douglas has been appointed as Executive Planner.


Cllr K Feeney thanked Cllr D Lacey, EMRA staff and Members on their contribution at the AIR training event.


ITEM 8

Date of next meeting



The next meeting of the Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly will be held on, Friday 8th of March 2024 at 11:00am.

Signed: 
Cllr Kate Feeney
Cathaoirleach EMRA


Ms. Clare Bannon
EMRA

Date: 08/03/2024

