

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

MINUTES for SPECIAL MEETING

**OF THE EASTERN AND MIDLAND
REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**

HELD ON

WEDNESDAY, 4th SEPTEMBER 2024

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF EASTERN AND MIDLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY
HELD ON 4TH SEPTEMBER 2024 HELD ONLINE.**

In Attendance:

Cllr Emma Blain	Cllr Deirdre Heney
Cllr Mike Bray	Cllr Feljin Jose
Cllr Aoife Breslin	Cllr Dermot Lacey
Cllr Danny Byrne	Cllr Micheál Mac Donncha
Cllr Mick Cahill	Cllr Pádraig Mc Evoy
Cllr Kevin Duffy	Cllr David Mc Manus
Cllr Caroline Dwane Stanley	Cllr Justin Moylan
Cllr Catherine Fitzgerald	Cllr Shane Moynihan
Cllr Eddie Fitzpatrick	Cllr Garry Murtagh
Cllr Declan Flanagan	Cllr Oisín O Connor
Cllr Joe Fox	Cllr Tom O Leary
Cllr Niall Gaffney	Cllr Aengus O Rourke
Cllr David Gilroy	Cllr Robert Power
Cllr David Healy	Cllr Joanne Tuffy

Apologies received from: Cllr Paula Butterly

In Attendance:

Ms. Clare Bannon, EMRA
Ms. Bernie Roe, EMRA
Ms. Anne-Marie Wood Wolfe, EMRA
Mr. Pádraig O'Shea, EMRA
Dr. Owen Douglas, EMRA
Mr. Shane O Donnell, EMRA
Ms. Katarzyna Kaczmarek, EMRA
Mr. Simon Musial, EMRA
Ms. Geraldine Kenny, EMRA
Mr. Ross Higgins, EMRA
Ms. Ruth Kilcullen, EMRA
Dr. Karl Murphy, EMRA
Ms. Cara Farrell, EMRA
Ms. Teresa Lennon, IREO
Mr. Tadhg Browne, IREO

Apologies received from: Mr. Kieran Kehoe, Designated CE

Leas-Chathaoirleach, Cllr D Healy, chaired the meeting due to technical difficulties that the Cathaoirleach was experiencing.

This was **AGREED**.

ITEM 1

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

Minutes of the meeting of the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly held on the 12th of July 2024 were proposed by Cllr D Lacey and seconded by Cllr D Flanagan.

The minutes were **APPROVED**.

ITEM 2

Planning items - Draft EMRA submission on the draft First Revision to the National Planning Framework

Ms Anne-Marie Wood-Wolfe gave a brief introduction on the draft First Revision to the National Planning Framework. A Special EMRA Members meeting was called to discuss the draft EMRA submission to the Draft First Revision to the NPF. The final date for lodgement of the submission is Thursday the 12th of September.

Dr Owen Douglas gave the members a presentation on the draft EMRA submission to the First Revision of the National Planning Framework. The topics discussed were Drivers for the Revision, Draft First Revision, Outline of DRAFT Submission, Overall Approach of the Submission, Correction to Recommendations 4 e) and 4 f), Recommendations and Observations, and High-Level Issues.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr T O'Leary, Cllr D Lacey, Cllr D Heney, Cllr D Gilroy, Cllr J Moylan, Cllr J Tuffy, Cllr M Mac Donncha, Cllr M Cahill, Cllr O O'Connor, Cllr D Healy, Ms C Bannon, Ms A Wood-Wolfe, and Dr O Douglas.

Proposed amendments from Cllr P Mc Evoy, Cllr D Healy, Cllr J Tuffy and Ms T Lennon were circulated to the members. Cllr D Healy outlines the amendments to the members on behalf of Cllr P Mc Evoy.

A discussion followed in relations to the amendments with contributions from Cllr J Moylan, Cllr D Lacey, Cllr M Cahill, Cllr O O'Connor, Cllr P Mc Evoy, Cllr D Healy, and Cllr D Heney, and Ms C Bannon.

Proposed Amendment #1 page 9.

In many instances, the delivery of TOD will require additional investment in public transport infrastructure and services. This is likely to variously take the form of an acceleration in current plans, the development of new proposals, or the reopening of proposals that have been put aside. The Assembly will reflect the revised NPF's emphasis on TOD in updating the RSES. Notwithstanding, the Assembly notes the need for the increased and accelerated public transport investment required to give effect to TOD to be reflected in the implementation of the National Development Plan and the Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy. The Assembly notes that the GDA Transport Strategy may need to be partly revised to reflect the additional ambition for TOD, which will be contained in the revised NPF and the revised RSES.

This was **AGREED**

Proposed Amendment #2a and #2b, page 22.

The Assembly notes the NTA's Best Practice Guide on Permeability in Existing Urban Areas (2015) and considers that the text of NPO 38 should be updated to give effect to best practice design for national and regional strategic objectives. The Assembly recommends that the text of NPO 38 should be amended to reference the term 'filtered permeability' as defined in the NTA's Best Practice Guide on Permeability in Existing Urban Areas (2015) and as referenced in Section 8.8 of the Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy 2022-2042. That is, the Assembly strongly recommends that NPO 38 should be updated to read: "Ensure the integration of safe and convenient alternatives to the car into the design of our communities, by prioritising walking and cycling accessibility, including filtered permeability, to both existing and proposed developments and integrating physical activity facilities for all ages.

The corresponding Recommendation would then be as follows:

6. a) *At Section 6.2, the Assembly considers that the text of NPO 38 should be amended to reference the term 'filtered permeability' as defined in the NTA's Best Practice Guide on Permeability in Existing Urban Areas (2015) and as referenced in Section 8.8 of the Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy 2022-2042. That is, the Assembly strongly recommends that NPO 38 should be updated to read: "Ensure the integration of safe and convenient alternatives to the car into the design of our communities, by prioritising walking and cycling accessibility, including filtered permeability, to both existing and proposed development and integrating physical activity facilities for all ages."*

Reason: In the interest of clarity and to support the effective implementation of the NPF and the RSEs.

This was **AGREED**

The dissent of Cllr J Moylan was NOTED for proposal 2.

Proposed Amendment #3, page 49.

The Assembly recommends that an additional NPO be prepared to develop an appropriate set of SEA environmental indicators to implement a coordinated approach to measuring and monitoring economic prosperity, environmental sustainability and climate action across all regions. Such an approach would take account of the Espoo Convention and give effect to the second and third recommendations of the Expert Group as set out at Section 2.1 above.

The corresponding Recommendation would then be as follows:

13. f) The Assembly considers that the approach to indicators and monitoring applied in the SEA Environmental Report is inadequate, as demonstrated by experience with NPF monitoring to date. The approach to monitoring set out in the current SEA Report will continue this trend if left unaddressed. The Assembly recommends that an additional NPO be prepared to develop an appropriate set of SEA environmental indicators to implement a coordinated approach to measuring and monitoring economic prosperity, environmental sustainability and climate action across all regions.

Reason: In the interest of clarity and to support the effective implementation of the NPF and the RSEs.

This was **AGREED**

Proposed amendment #4 'Building Stronger Regions'

In tandem with the objective of strengthening the regions the report and recommendations from the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities' Monitoring Committee on the Honouring of Obligations should be addressed, in particular the need for electoral reform to regional assemblies so that their members are elected directly by the citizens. This would also make regional government in Ireland more similar to the regional level in other European countries.

This was **AGREED**

Proposed amendment #5

It was requested that a reference to EMRA's role as secretary to the Irish Delegation to COR and the Irish Regions European Office is included in the submission.

This was **AGREED**

The Cathaoirleach thanked the Leas-Chathaoirleach for chairing the meeting due to technical difficulties, and the staff and members for their work on the amendments.

ITEM 3

Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly will be held on Friday the 13th of September 2024 at 11:00am, in the new council chamber, Dún-Laoghaire Rathdown County Council.

Signed:


Cllr. Catherine Fitzgerald
Cathaoirleach EMRA


Ms. Clare Bannon
EMRA

Date:

13/09/2024