

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

MINUTES for MEETING

**OF THE EASTERN AND MIDLAND
REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**

HELD ON

Friday, 13th September 2024

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EASTERN AND MIDLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY HELD
ON 13th OF SEPTEMBER 2024.**

Cllr Mike Bray	Cllr David Healy
Cllr Aoife Breslin	Cllr Deirdre Heney
Cllr Danny Byrne	Cllr Feljin Jose
Cllr Mick Cahill	Cllr Dermot Lacey
Cllr Avril Cronin	Cllr Pádraig McEvoy
Cllr Kevin Duffy	Cllr Shane Moynihan
Cllr Caroline Dwane Stanley	Cllr Garry Murtagh
Cllr Catherine Fitzgerald	Cllr Oisín O'Connor
Cllr Eddie Fitzpatrick	Cllr Tom O'Leary
Cllr Joe Fox	Cllr Aengus O'Rourke
Cllr Niall Gaffney	Cllr Robert Power
Cllr David Gilroy	Cllr Paul Ross
Cllr Patsy Glennon	Cllr Joanna Tuffy

Apologies received from: Cllr Mícheál Mac Donncha.

In Attendance:

Mr. Kieran Kehoe, CE, Meath County Council

Ms. Clare Bannon, EMRA

Ms. Bernie Roe, EMRA

Ms. Laure Antoniotti, EMRA

Ms. Anne-Marie Wood Wolfe, EMRA

Ms. Katarzyna Kaczmarek EMRA

Mr. Ross Higgins, EMRA

Ms. Geraldine Kenny, EMRA

Ms. Cara Farrell, EMRA

Dr. Karl Murphy, EMRA

Dr. Owen Douglas, EMRA

Mr. Pádraig O Shea, EMRA

Ms. Shane O Donnell, EMRA

Mr. Pádraig O'Shea, EMRA

Mr. Rory O'Sullivan, EMRA

Ms. Kiara Abbey, EMRA

Ms. Teresa Lennon, IREO

ITEM 9

Correspondence

NONE

ITEM 10

Any other business

i. **Payments to Members**

Ms Clare Bannon informed the Members that the methodology for calculating the payment of allowances to Members is under review by the Department. There will be consultation between the Minister and the Members.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr D Lacey, Cllr D Gilroy, Cllr J Tuffy. The Acting Director C Bannon indicated that she will liaise with her counterparts to discuss the next meeting of the Association of Irish Regions (AIR).

ii. **Budget meeting**

Ms Clare Bannon advised the Members the budget will be discussed at the next EMRA meeting in October. It was agreed that more time was needed for the local authorities and the date was moved from November to October, in consultation with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

iii. **EMRA participation to the ENCORE roundtable discussion and draft position paper on Biodiversity and the Nature Restoration Law**

Ms Laure Antoniotti informed the Assembly that two Members will attend the ENCORE event on the 9th of October, Cllr D Gilroy and Cllr J Tuffy. The draft resolution to be discussed at that meeting will be circulated to Members for comment after the meeting.

iv. **Update on the EU Affairs Officer Positions – IREO strategy – Ms Teresa Lennon**

Ms T Lennon gave Members an update on the suggestion made by the IREO to the Minister that EU affairs officer positions be created in Local Authorities (1 per NUTS3 region).

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr D Heney, Cllr P McEvoy, Cllr M Cahill, and Cllr D Lacey.

Cllr P McEvoy proposed to write to Ministers Carroll MacNeill and Dillon, to follow up on the status of this request. Cllr D Lacey proposed that the letter should also be forwarded to political parties. This was seconded by Cllr D Heney. Cllr M Cahill asked if this could be raised with other RAs.

This was **AGREED**.

ITEM 11

Future of Cohesion Policy Post 2027: Position Paper of the Three Regional Assemblies of Ireland

Ms Teresa Lennon, of the IREO, gave the Members details on the "Future of Cohesion Policy Post 2027: Position Paper of the Three Regional Assemblies of Ireland", that covered: an introduction, the background - Role of Regional Assemblies, Cohesion as a Fundamental Objective of the EU - Place Based Policy Making, Eligibility of all regions and Specific Focus on Territorial Disadvantage, Shared Management and the Partnership Approach, The Scope of Cohesion Policy, Implementation of Cohesion Policy, and the Conclusion - the Regional Assemblies are calling for nine key asks. T Lennon also informed Members of the upcoming Future of Cohesion policy event organised by the DPENDPR on September 26th and that the three Directors will travel to Brussels to meet the newly elected MEPs and present them the Position paper on October 2nd.

Ms Laure Antoniotti highlighted that the position paper reflects EMRA's priorities and agenda by asking for a policy for all regions, advocating for a place-based approach, asking for simplification measures and for the continuation of all INTERREG strands.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr O O'Connor and Ms T Lennon.

This was **NOTED**.

ITEM 7

Motions

Motion from Councillors D Healy, D Heney, D Lacey and P McEvoy.

That the principles set out in the attached policy statement inform and be reflected in the preparation of the Corporate Plan for the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly 2024 – 2029. (EMRA 2024-2029 Policy Statement was circulated to the members prior to the meeting.)

This will involve continuing the Assembly's established work across the following seven priority areas: Balanced Regional Development, Circular Economy, Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation, Nature Restoration, Engagement with the European Union, EU Just Transition, and Regional and Local Democracy.

The motion was proposed by Cllr P Mc Evoy and seconded by Cllr O O'Connor.

This was **AGREED**.

ITEM 8

Summaries by Members of conferences/seminars attended

Reports were received from Cllr D Lacey, Cllr D Byrne and Cllr M Cahill who were in attendance at the Mac Gill summer school.

This was **NOTED**.

ITEM 3

Presentation - Update on the EU Just Transition Fund

Ms Bernie Roe, Assistant Director of the EMRA, gave the members a presentation on the Update on the implementation of the EU Just Transition Fund, that covered: the EU Just Transition Territory, the Programme at a glance, Priority 1: Generating employment by diversifying the local economy, Priority 2 Restoration of degraded peatlands and regeneration of industrial heritage assets, Priority 3 Smart and sustainable mobility options, Key deliverables to date, Selected Projects from Failte Ireland Actions (1.1 and 2.3), Pobal Action (1.2), what is on the horizon, and ways to stay informed on progress.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr K Duffy, Cllr D Lacey, Cllr P Mc Evoy, Cllr M Bray, Cllr J Fox, Cllr M Cahill, Cllr P Ross, Cllr O O'Connor, Cllr E Fitzpatrick, Cllr D Gilroy, Mr K Kehoe, Ms B Roe and Ms C Bannon.

The presentation slides will be circulated after the meeting.

This was **NOTED**.

ITEM 4

Update on Pathfinder 27 – Target Group 2 for the Smart and Sustainable Mobility Accelerator (SSMA)

Ms Anne-Marie Wood Wolfe, Acting Assistant Director of the EMRA gave the Members an update on Pathfinder 27. Workshops for Target Group 2 (Elected Members) are to be held in quarter 1 2025.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr P McEvoy.

This was **NOTED**.

ITEM 5

EMRA Protocol for the Approval of Submissions

A brief outline was given by Ms Clare Bannon, and a discussion followed with contributions from Cllr P Mc Evoy asking for a clarification on point 3 to be included in the document.

The EMRA Protocol for the Approval of Submissions was proposed by Cllr P McEvoy and seconded by Cllr D Lacey.

An updated copy of the EMRA Protocol for the approval of submissions/observations, will be circulated to the members after the meeting.

This was **APPROVED**.

ITEM 6

The Cathaoirleach introduced Mr Kieran Kehoe, the new designated Chief Executive of the EMRA. Mr K Kehoe thanked the Cathaoirleach and looks forward to working with the members and staff of the assembly. Cllr E Fitzpatrick welcomed Mr K Kehoe.

ITEM 1

Adoption of Minutes of meeting held on 4th of September 2024.

Minutes of the meeting of the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly held on the 4th of September 2024 were proposed by Cllr J Fox and seconded by Cllr P Mc Evoy.

The minutes were **APPROVED**.

ITEM 2

Planning Items

i. Draft EMRA submission on the draft Dublin LECP 2024-2029 – for approval

Ms Anne-Marie Wood Wolfe presented the Draft EMRA Submission on the draft Dublin LECP 2024-2029.

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

This was **AGREED**.

ii. EMRA submission on the draft Maynooth Joint Local Area Plan 2025-2031

Ms Anne-Marie Wood Wolfe presented the draft Maynooth Joint Local Area Plan 2025-2031

This was **NOTED**.

iii. EMRA submission on the draft National Transport Demand Management Strategy and its draft Implementation Plan

Ms Anne-Marie Wood Wolfe presented the draft National Transport Demand Management Strategy and its draft Implementation Plan

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr D Healy.

This was **NOTED**.

iv. EMRA submission on the draft Dundalk Local Area Plan 2024-2030

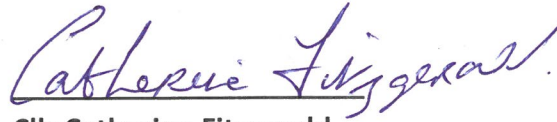
Ms Anne-Marie Wood Wolfe presented the draft Dundalk Joint Local Area Plan 2024-2030.

This was **NOTED**.

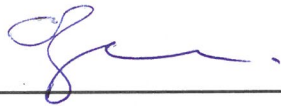
Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly will be held on, **Friday the 11th of October 2024 at 11.00am.**

Signed:



**Cllr Catherine Fitzgerald
Cathaoirleach EMRA**



**Ms. Clare Bannon
EMRA**

Date:

11/10/2024



