

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

MINUTES for MEETING

**OF THE EASTERN AND MIDLAND
REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**

HELD ON

Friday, 8th November 2024

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EASTERN AND MIDLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY HELD ON 8th OF NOVEMBER 2024.

Cllr Mike Bray	Cllr Patsy Glennon
Cllr Danny Byrne	Cllr David Healy
Cllr Mick Cahill	Cllr Feljin Jose
Cllr Avril Cronin	Cllr Pádraig McEvoy
Cllr Kevin Duffy	Cllr Justin Moylan
Cllr Caroline Dwane Stanley	Cllr Garry Murtagh
Cllr Catherine Fitzgerald	Cllr Oisín O'Connor
Cllr Declan Flanagan	Cllr Aengus O'Rourke
Cllr Joe Fox	Cllr Robert Power
Cllr Niall Gaffney	Cllr Paul Ross
Cllr David Gilroy	Cllr Joanna Tuffy

Apologies received from: Cllr D Lacey

In Attendance:

Mr. Kieran Kehoe, CE, Meath County Council

Ms. Clare Bannon, EMRA

Ms. Bernie Roe, EMRA

Ms. Anne-Marie Wood Wolfe, EMRA

Ms. Laure Antoniotti, EMRA

Ms. Katarzyna Kaczmarek EMRA

Mr. Simon Musial, EMRA

Mr. Ross Higgins, EMRA

Ms. Geraldine Kenny, EMRA

Dr. Karl Murphy, EMRA

Dr. Owen Douglas, EMRA

Mr. Pádraig O Shea, EMRA

Ms. Shane O Donnell, EMRA

Ms. Helena Stromberg, EMRA

Mr. Rory O Sullivan, EMRA

Ms. Ruth Kilcullen, EMRA

Ms. Sarah Campbell, EMRA

Ms. Cara Farrell, EMRA

Ms. Teresa Lennon, IREO

Mr. Tadhg Browne, IREO

Mr, Brendan O Sullivan, University City Cork

The Cathaoirleach welcomed two new members to the EMRA, Cllr Caroyln Moore from Dublin City Council and Cllr Barry Saul from Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, following their appointment to the Irish delegation to the Committee of the Regions.

ITEM 1

Adoption of Minutes of meeting held on 11th of October 2024.

Minutes of the meeting of the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly held on the 11th of October 2024 were proposed by Cllr P Mc Evoy and seconded by Cllr M Cahill.

The minutes were **APPROVED**.

ITEM 2

Presentation of the First Revision of the National Planning Framework: Challenges for Regional Assemblies.

Mr Brendan O’Sullivan, Director and Senior Lecturer of University City Cork, gave the members a presentation on the First Revision of the National Planning Framework. Topics discussed included Challenges for Regional Assemblies, Framing some of challenges for the Assembly that have emerged from the 1st Revision to the NPF, First Revision of the National Planning Framework, Sample headline objectives in the NPF Review: Population, location of development, onshore wind energy projects, How can we balance all of these, planning at regional scale, sustainable development, Report of the Expert Group: Key Principles, Spatial Coherence, Implementation, monitoring, governance, and additional considerations, Metropolitan Area Plan for our capital city region, National policy objective 75: On-shore Wind Energy, understanding the scale of change, and how can the regional assembly make brave decisions.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr P McEvoy, Cllr J Moylan, Cllr J Tuffy, Cllr M Cahill, Cllr P Glennon, Cllr C Fitzgerald, D Healy, Cllr P Ross, Mr K Kehoe and Mr B O Sullivan.

ITEM 3

Planning Items

Ms Anne-Marie Wood Wolfe gave the members an outline of the following:

- i. **Draft EMRA submission to the Wicklow Town-Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025**

Ms Anne-Marie Wood Wolfe presented the Submission on the Wicklow Town-Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025 to the Members of the Assembly.

The Submission was proposed by Cllr P Glennon and seconded by Cllr A Cronin.

This was **APPROVED**.

- ii. **Draft EMRA submission to Variation No. 2 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028**
- iii. **Draft EMRA submission to Variation No. 3 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028**

Ms Anne-Marie Wood Wolfe presented the Submissions to Variation No. 2 and Variation No. 3 of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

The Submissions were proposed by Cllr P Glennon and seconded by Cllr A Cronin.

This was **APPROVED**.

- iv. **Draft EMRA submission to Variation No. 3 to the Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027**

Ms Anne-Marie Wood Wolfe presented Variation No. 3 to the Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027.

The Submission was proposed by Cllr P Mc Evoy and seconded by Cllr R Power.

This was **APPROVED**.

- v. **Draft EMRA submission to Variation No. 1 to the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029**

Ms Anne-Marie Wood Wolfe presented Variation No. 1 to the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029.

The Submission was proposed by Cllr P Mc Evoy and seconded by Cllr R Power.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr P Mc Evoy.

This was **APPROVED**.

ITEM 4

Preparation of the Corporate Plan 2024-2029

Ms Laure Antoniotti gave the members a presentation on the Preparation of the Corporate Plan 2024-2029, the Assembly's strategic framework for action over the next five years, outlining the definition, the timeline which is within 9 months from the appointment of the members -March 2025, the process, key requirements, and organisation of consultations with the Members, staff, stakeholders and the public. It was outlined that a specific session for members would be held in January 2025.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr P Mc Evoy.

ITEM 5

Presentation on the ORIGINN project

Due to time constraints the Cathaoirleach proposed to move the ORIGINN presentation to next meeting on the 13th of December.

This was **AGREED**.

ITEM 6

Nominations to AIR

Ms. C Bannon outlined that EMRA has five positions on the Association of Irish Regions and that one vacancy remains arising from the position of the previous Cathaoirleach Kate Feeney, as she is no longer a member of the EMRA.

Cllr R Power nominated Cllr M Cahill, this was seconded by Cllr J Moylan. Cllr M Cahill was elected as the nomination to the AIR.

This was **AGREED**.

ITEM 7

Schedule of meetings 2025

Ms C Bannon gave the members a brief outline of the schedule of meetings for 2025, a discussion following with contributions from Cllr R Power.

This was **AGREED**

ITEM 8

Summaries by Members of conferences/seminars attended

Reports provided by Cllr D Gilroy and Cllr J Tuffy who attended ENCORE, in Brussels.

This was **NOTED**

ITEM 9

Correspondence

Ms. C. Bannon outlines that a letter was received from the Minister of State for Local Government and Planning, Alan Dillon, to An Cathaoirleach C. Fitzgerald, regarding the Strategy for the Irish Regions European Office in Brussels and proposed EU support service in Ireland. The funding provision has not been prioritised as part of the 2025 budget.

A discussion followed with contributions form Cllr M Cahill, Cllr P Mc Evoy, and Cllr C Fitzgerald.

ITEM 10

Any other business

Cllr M Cahill asked if a decision was made regarding the previous proposal that the CEs of the EMRA undertake a trip to Brussels. Mr K Kehoe supports the decision and recommended the executive goes as a group.

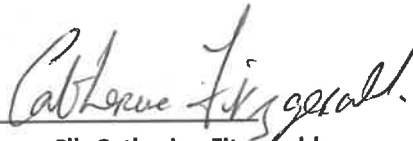
Mr Pdraig O'Shea is leaving his role as Senior Executive Planner, and the assembly thanked him for his work during his role in the EMRA.

ITEM 11

Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly will be held on, **Friday the 13th of December 2024 at 11.00am.**

Signed:



Cllr Catherine Fitzgerald
Cathaoirleach EMRA



Ms. Clare Bannon
EMRA

Date:

13th Dec 2024