



# Northern & Western Regional Assembly

**MINUTES OF THE NORTHERN & WESTERN REGIONAL ASSEMBLY MEETING  
HELD ON 12<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2019 IN THE  
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER AT 11.00 A M**

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**Present:**

Cllr Keith Henry	Cllr Seamus Coyle	Cllr Dermot Connolly
Cllr Seamus O'Domhnaill	Cllr Seamus Kilgannon	Cllr. Patsy O'Brien
Cllr Mary Hoade	Cllr Declan McDonnell	Cllr Jimmy McClearn
Cllr Paddy Smith	Cllr Gerry Murray	Cllr Frank Dolan
Cllr Joe Murphy	Cllr Justin Warnock	Cllr Enda Stenson
Cllr Frank McBrearty	Cllr Jerry Lundy	

Cllr Seamus Coyle **PRESIDED**

**Apologies:**

Cllr. John Caulfield	Cllr Niall McNelis	Cllr Nigel Dineen
Cllr Pearce Flannery	Cllr Richard Finn	Cllr Jack Murray
Cllr Jackie Crowe	Cllr Sean Smith	

Mr. Seamus Neely, Designated Chief Executive

**Officials: Northern & Western Regional Assembly:**

Mr David Minton (Director)  
Mr Denis Kelly (Assistant Director)  
Ms Caitlin Conneely (Assistant Director)  
Mr Frank Flanagan (Senior Executive Planner)  
Mr Conall McGettigan (Senior Executive Planner)  
Mr Gerry Lavelle (Programme Executive)  
Ms Sharon Conway (Auditor)  
Ms Brenda Finn (Clerical Officer)

Cllr Joe Murphy queried what overall impact the projected population figures will have on Athlone. Mr. Flanagan responded by saying that it will have a big impact on Athlone but also a consequential impact on county development plans for Westmeath and Roscommon.

**Proposed by:** Cllr Joe Murphy

**Seconded by:** Cllr Seamus Kilgannon

**Resolved:**

*“that the Northern and Western Regional Assembly issue a submission to EMRA in relation to the proposed projected population figures for Athlone within the context of the proposed Material Alterations and advise that they need to be achievable and reflect those of the NWRA Draft RSES and NPF”*

Mr Conall McGettigan gave members a brief overview on the section on Letterkenny RGCSP which had taken into consideration a number of submissions, including DHPLG requiring that it be made consistent with Sligo approach. He also acknowledged opinions expressed by Members at previous meetings. Thus, the Letterkenny Regional Growth Centre shall be represented in a section with Sligo, Athlone and Key Towns. The NW City region context will be within the All cohesion section.

Conall McGettigan briefed Members in respect of Sligo and reminded Members that the proposal to include Collooney was examined in detail, however, when the population of Collooney was factored into the overall population of the RGCP Area, against the PUA population, it resulted in the overall Population within the Principal Urban Area falling below the recommended threshold as set down by the DHPLG in their guidance, as per the NPF Roadmap (2018).

Cllr Seamus Kilgannon expressed his disappointment. Mr Kelly advised that they had reviewed this again following his previous concerns and the evidence does not support its inclusion. However they will examine how best to reference Collooney within the context of Sligo.

Cllr Connolly questioned if members will know who the submissions were received from. Mr Kelly responded by saying that what was intended is that all submissions other than those that relate solely to RPO's 115 (i.e. WRC) will be made available to them via a link on the website, when necessary redactions have been made to ensure they are GDPR compliant. He advised that the other 800 submissions can be made available upon request and shall not be on the website as to do so would involve a lot of work to make them GDPR compliant collectively.

Mr Flanagan gave an overview on section 3.7, including Ballina, Castlebar and Cavan. Cllr Murray questioned if Ballina and Castlebar are classified as a key town and Mr Flanagan confirmed that they are.

Conall McGettigan briefed Members in respect of Growth Ambition 2 (Ch 5).

Cllr Connolly voiced his concerns in relation to the impact forestry has on part of the economy and the detrimental effect it has on local communities. Cllr Warnock acknowledged that both sides of the argument have to be heard but he feels like the Assembly could have done more about the effect plantation has had on the local community and environment in Leitrim.

set at 50%. Some of the expenditure included in the budget will be recoverable directly through projects and technical assistance. However, because of the lack of predictability in the timing of the receipt of operating funds and to avoid significant fluctuations in statutory demand levels arising from one off events including retirements, the Regional Assembly deems it prudent to endeavour to reduce the credit reserve from 50% to 30%.

**Proposed by:** Cllr Jimmy McClearn

**Seconded by:** Cllr Mary Hoade

**Resolved:**

*“that the accounting policy be changed in order to facilitate that the credit reserve figure be reduced from 50% to 30%”*

Cllr Kilgannon suggested that it may be advantageous for the Assembly to consider a mortgage to purchase this building rather than paying rent, particularly when it is so cheap to borrow now. Cllr Coyle assured Cllr Kilgannon that his suggestion would be considered bearing in mind the conditions of the lease agreement.

#### **Consideration of Draft Annual Report for y/e 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018.**

Mr Gerry Lavelle gave the members a detailed update on the Draft Annual Report for 2018.

**Proposed by:** Cllr Jerry Lundy

**Seconded by:** Cllr Keith Henry

**Resolved:**

*“that the Draft Annual Report for the Northern & Western Regional Assembly y/e 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018 be adopted”*

#### **5. Conferences/Training**

Gerry Lavelle advised that there were no notifications of forthcoming Conferences/Training. However, he asked that if members had an interest in attending any such event, then they were advised to contact the offices of the Assembly to discuss same.

#### **6. Correspondence**

An acknowledgement was received from Mr. Shane Ross T.D. Minister for Transport Tourism and Sport regarding his support for the development of the Connaught Rugby Sportsground. The correspondence was read to the members. It was also agreed that this correspondence would be circulated to member following the meeting.

Cllr Justin Warnock stated that Leitrim should have more prominence in the Atlantic Economic Corridor unlike the situation that developed with the Wild Atlantic Way.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

The foregoing minutes are confirmed.

Signed: Siemur Egan  
Cathaoirleach

Date: 26-04-2018-