



# Northern & Western Regional Assembly

**MINUTES OF THE NORTHERN & WESTERN REGIONAL ASSEMBLY MEETING  
HELD ON 26<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2019 IN THE  
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER AT 10.30 AM**

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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 Jerry Lundy	Cllr Justin Warnock	Cllr Niall McNelis
Cllr Nigel Dineen	Cllr Enda Stenson	Mr. Seamus Neely
Cllr Richard Finn		

Cllr Seamus Coyle **PRESIDED**

**Apologies:**

Cllr. John Caulfield	Cllr Jack Murray	Cllr Joe Murphy
Cllr Pearce Flannery	Cllr Frank McBrearty	Cllr Sean Smith
Cllr Jackie Crowe		

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

Mr David Minton (Director)  
Mr Denis Kelly (Assistant Director & Senior Planner)  
Mr Frank Flanagan (Senior Executive Planner)  
Mr Conall McGettigan (Senior Executive Planner)  
Mr Patrick Devine (Staff Officer)  
Ms Brenda Finn (Clerical Officer)

**1. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting of Northern & Western Regional Assembly held  
12<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

**Proposed by:** Cllr Seamus Kilgannon

**Seconded by:** Cllr Jerry Lundy

**Resolved:**

*"That the minutes of the meeting of the Northern & Western Regional Assembly held on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2019 be adopted."*

The following points were raised:

Cllr O'Domhnaill – Questioned how rigid the time frame is and has the proper length of consultation been had, specifically on chapter - rural and urban places. Also, what is the rural housing policy that the RSES is hoping to adopt?

Cllr McNelis – Stated that he received a text from his Chief Executive stating that he had not seen the Directors Report and was unable to offer his opinion today.

Cllr Connolly – Are we satisfied that in relation to water services that all rural areas will be serviced?

Cllr O'Domhnaill – As the draft can only be adopted once and when in place it stands for 12 years, should we go back to officials in our area to look at it again? Is it within the Act to put it out to further consultation if material changes need to be made?

Cllr Kilgannon – Thanked the staff for all the hard work that has been put into the document. He confirmed that members clearly stated at all the meetings that they were happy with the timeframe. Four weeks today is the election, so he stated his support of Cllr O'Brien in his suggestion that we adopt today. Cllr Kilgannon is confident it will serve this Region well in the future.

Cllr Gerry Murray – Expressed his support that we adopt the Draft today. He wished to thank the Assembly, stating that it was the most open and transparent consultation process he had ever seen. This draft is well and truly fit and ready to be sent to public consultation.

Cllr Dineen – Asked if this was adopted today, can there be amendments put in. He acknowledged the trojan work the Assembly has put in but stated that we need to get it right.

Cllr Hoade – Stated it is unfortunate with the timing of the elections. Asked if submissions be accepted to proposed changes if it is adopted today?

Cllr Stenson – Praised all the work the Assembly has put into this document. There was a lot of work and involvement put into this by members.

Cllr Henry – Complemented the Assembly staff. As we have been working on this for over a year now, therefore he stated his support in the call to put proposed changes out to public. He reminded Members that the town plans and county development plans are on hold as they have to await the RSES.

Mr Kelly replied to the points raised as follows:

The timelines and consultation process were outlined at the start and reiterated that all material amendments would be subject to consultation as prescribed. He informed the meeting that subject to environmental assessments being carried out he expected that the Assembly would be in a position to commence the next round of consultation at the beginning of June but that in any event it would not commence before the May elections. The finalisation of the RSES could happen in July or it could run into September depending on the amount of work arising. He also told the meeting that the NWRA were at a similar position in the process to the SRA and slightly behind EMRA. He advised that the Draft RSES as previously pointed out did not deal with rural housing in any great detail as it is felt

recommended within the report and in addition clarified that the proposed RPO at No.8, Page 15 should be read as a proposed material amendment in the same way as that of No.5 of the Addendum Report. He identified that RPO 'c' in page 54 is also recommended as a Material Amendment.

The following points were raised by the members as Mr Kelly brought the Members through the report:

- Cllr Warnock expressed his concerns regarding forestry plantation in Leitrim stating that it is companies that are planting and not farmers.
- Cllr McNelis questioned with regards to Galway harbour why the following needs to be included "subject to environmental and visual considerations, as well as transport and economic viability requirements"
- Cllr McClearn asked if we are to take it that the TII are leaving the door open to come back and toll the roads? He would prefer if this was excluded.

Mr. Kelly responded to queries and advised that the environmental sensitivities of our ports and coastal areas is a significant consideration and that the wording regarding the ports was recommended.

**Proposed by:** Cllr Jimmy McClearn

**Seconded by:** Cllr Mary Hoade

**Resolved:**

*"that the phrase 'including through the management of travel demand' be excluded from recommendation 2 page 73 of Directors report"*

**Proposed by:** Cllr Seamus O'Domhnaill

**Seconded by:** Cllr Patsy O'Brien

**Resolved:**

*"Comprehensive Maps of the Ten T routes across the Region are included in the Final document"*

**Proposed by:** Cllr Niall McNelis

**Seconded by:** Cllr Jimmy McClearn

**Resolved:**

*"that RPO62 be amended to say Galway Port be upgraded to Tier1 status"*

**Proposed by:** Cllr Seamus O'Domhnaill

**Seconded by:** Cllr Niall McNelis

**Resolved:**

*"that RPO62 be amended to also say Killybegs be upgraded to Tier1 status"*

Cllr Dermot Connolly raised his concerns regarding Rossaveal port not being mentioned. Conall Mc Gettigan responded noting that in RPO 57 Rossaveal is mentioned.

Cllr O'Domhnaill requested that 'Letterkenny bypass' be changed to Bunagee link' on page 74 of the report.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: Paul W. Donnell  
Cathaoirleach

Date: 26/7/19.