



# Northern & Western Regional Assembly

## MINUTES OF THE NORTHERN & WESTERN REGIONAL ASSEMBLY MEETING HELD ON 15<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2019 IN THE ASSEMBLY CHAMBER AT 11.00 AM

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### **Present:**

Cllr Declan Bree	Cllr David Maxwell	Cllr Gerry Murray
Cllr Tim Broderick	Cllr Frank McBrearty	Cllr Jack Murray
Cllr Donal Gilroy	Cllr Jimmy McClearn	Cllr John Naughten
Cllr Christy Hyland	Cllr Brian McKenna	Cllr Joe Sheridan
Cllr Donal Lyons	Cllr Jarlath Munnely	Cllr Enda Stenson
Cllr Orla Leyden	Cllr Niall McNelis	Cllr Craig Lovett
	Cllr Justin Warnock	

Cllr Declan McDonnell **PRESIDED**

### **Apologies:**

Mr. Seamus Neely, Designated Chief Executive,  
Cllr Patrick McGowan, Cllr Sean Smith, Cllr Enda McGloin, Cllr John Caulfield,  
Cllr David Collins.

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

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

### **1. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting of Northern & Western Regional Assembly held 25<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

**Proposed by:** Cllr Jimmy McClearn

**Seconded by:** Cllr Enda Stenson

### **Resolved:**

*“That the minutes of the meeting of the Northern & Western Regional Assembly held on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2019 be adopted.”*

## **2. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

## **3 Corporate Plan**

David Minton gave an update on the Corporate plan. A draft template of the Assembly's core objectives was circulated to members. The intention is to build the Corporate Plan around sustainability; focusing on two key pillars - Smarter and Greener. We hope to have the plan finalized in late February or early March. A workshop will be hosted with nominated members to conclude the draft process.

David Minton also mentioned new innovations like the European Engagement Hub in response to the public consultation and ongoing engagement with members.

In addition he noted the NWRA hosted a soft launch of the Region in Transition report last week and are taking feedback from members, wider constituent local authorities and other stakeholders on this. We have scheduled a meeting with our MEP's here in HQ on January 10<sup>th</sup> and we hope to schedule a meeting in Dublin later in January with our Oireachtas members. We are seeking a policy responsive relating to positive discrimination for our Region. It was agreed that all members would attend, and conference money would be used to cover the cost.

## **4. Planning and Economic Development**

### **RSES Update**

Mr. Denis Kelly informed the meeting that the Material Alterations had been discussed at recent SPA meetings and that a further SPA meeting would be held for the West region as there were some issues relating to the west Region that would benefit from further discussion. He advised that all submissions which were received would be made available to the Assembly members on the website as soon as they are GDPR compliant – Members would be advised by email and a password would be provided to enable access to the documentation. The following proposed Material Alterations were discussed in greater detail:

**MA9 SDZ – Ireland West Airport – Knock:** Members considered that the Strategic Development Zone at Ireland West Airport Knock is a significant opportunity for the region. Three new Regional Planning Objectives to be inserted to support its value in economic development into the future. Members felt that more emphasis should be placed on the fact that there would be significantly less of a carbon footprint in the region as a result of the airport.

**MA18:** Noted

**MA19:** Noted

**MA 20:** Members were advised that over forty submissions were received in relation to this Proposed Material Amendment. Members discussed the importance of the extension of the

Western Rail Corridor and its future relevance to Knock Airport and connectivity to and within the region - the WRC was a strategic piece of infrastructure that should not be compromised.

**Conall McGettigan then gave a presentation in respect of the following Material Alterations:**

**MA 10 Replace RPO's 24 – 26:** Members were advised that the proposed amendments were generally supported, and the concerns in relation to Habitat Protection, and BioDiversity were already well covered in MA3, where Protection of our Natural Heritage was an over-riding objective.

**MA 11 Replace RPO 31 with RPO 39:** Members were taken through this replacement RPO & advised that the destination towns of Carrick on Shannon, Roscommon & Athlone relate to Irelands Hidden Heartlands. A query arose in respect of Monaghan Town not being mentioned. Conall McGettigan confirmed that Monaghan is within Irelands Ancient East and there are other RPO's, which relate to Monaghan within Irelands Ancient East.

**MA12:** The Members were advised that as part of the Fáilte Ireland Initiative under Irelands Hidden Heartlands, a Tourism Masterplan was being progressed for the Shannon Region & this was being supported through the RSES.

**MA 13:** The Members were advised there was no Bio-Refining Capacity in a large section of our Region, and this Policy was to enable this to potentially be addressed.

**MA14:** Killybegs/Galway as Tier1 ports and clarification of views of DAFM was discussed.

**MA 15:** Members were advised this was a new RPO to reflect Climate Action being undertaken across all Local Authorities, having regard to the All of Government Climate Action Plan, and Mitigation Plan.

**MA16 National Park/National Recreational Area:** Members considered and accepted that there may be merit in supporting collaboration with stakeholders of the value of National Park/National Recreational Areas.

**MA 17:** Members queried if this RPO would have an implication for MA20 and were advised that it had different aims and this Objective relates to projects across large tracts of land owned by the State / Semi State Companies.

**MA 21:** Support RPO but not 5G.

**MA 22:** Support the provision of 3rd level education in Roscommon, Leitrim, Cavan and Monaghan

**MA 23:** Acknowledged that objective seeks to reflect provision for housing of vulnerable and aging population.

**MA 24-27:** Noted

## **Planning Matters**

Denis Kelly advised that notice of Proposed Variation No. 1 of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025 had been received. This proposed variation will provide for the inclusion within the development plan of Policy NRP 7 which states:-

*“To protect the selected route of the N2 upgrade road scheme between Ardee and Castleblayney and the selected route between Clontibret and the border with Northern Ireland, and to prohibit development that could prejudice their future delivery.”*

The reason for the proposed variation is to ensure that development will not prejudice the improvements proposed to the N2 National Road.

**Proposed by:** Cllr Brian McKenna

**Seconded by:** Cllr David Maxwell

It was AGREED that the NWRA make a submission of support.

## **5. Nominations to Regional Drugs Task Force**

The following members were elected onto the Drugs Task Force committee:

### **Cllr Tim Broderick - Co Galway**

Nominated by Cllr Mc Clearn & seconded by Cllr McDonnell

### **Cllr Orla Leyden - Co Roscommon**

Nominated by Cllr Naughton & seconded by Cllr Stenson

### **Cllr Christy Hyland - Co Mayo**

Nominated by Cllr Stenson & seconded by Cllr Gilroy

### **Cllr Niall McNelis - Galway City**

Nominated by Cllr Hyland & seconded by Cllr Mc Clearn

## **6. Conference/Training**

The Assembly is hosting an EU Studies Programme. This course will provide information on funding streams. Attendees will be in a position to bring back the knowledge of these streams and also opportunities that will be available in the future.

## **7. Correspondence**

No correspondence to note.

**8. Any other Business**

Next SPA (West) meeting Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at 3.00pm

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cathaoirleach**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_