



Northern & Western Regional Assembly

MINUTES OF THE NORTHERN & WESTERN REGIONAL ASSEMBLY MEETING HELD ON 18TH JANUARY, 2019 IN THE ASSEMBLY CHAMBER AT 11.00 A M

Present:

Cllr Dermot Connolly
Cllr Nigel Dineen
Cllr Mary Hoade
Cllr Paddy Smith
Cllr Joe Murphy
Cllr Richard Finn

Cllr Seamus Coyle
Cllr Pearce Flannery
Cllr Declan McDonnell
Cllr Gerry Murray
Cllr. Patsy O'Brien
Cllr Sean Smith

Cllr Jackie Crowe
Cllr Seamus Kilgannon
Cllr Jimmy McClearn
Cllr Frank Dolan
Cllr Enda Stenson

Cllr Seamus Coyle **PRESIDED**

Apologies:

Cllr. John Caulfield
Cllr Jerry Lundy
Cllr Keith Henry

Cllr Seamus O'Domhnaill
Cllr Niall McNelis
Cllr Justin Warnock

Cllr Jack Murray
Cllr Frank McBrearty

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 Brendan Mooney (EU Programmes Executive)
Mr Patrick Devine (Staff Officer)
Ms Marie Moriarty (Clerical Officer)

1. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting of Northern & Western Regional Assembly held 7th December 2018

Proposed by: Cllr Declan McDonnell

Seconded by: Cllr Jimmy McClearn

Resolved:

“That the minutes of the meeting of the Northern & Western Regional Assembly held on 7th December 2018 be adopted.”

2. Matters Arising

In reply to queries raised by Cllr Mary Hoade, Mr. Gerry Lavelle, Programme Executive explained to the Assembly that it's the nine constituent Local Authorities that nominate members onto the Assembly. Following discussions it was:

Proposed by: Cllr Mary Hoade

Seconded by: Cllr Jimmy McClearn

Resolved:

“that the Assembly discuss at their next meeting, scheduled to take place on 22nd February 2019 how best to communicate to the constituent Local Authorities a recommendation on the importance of there being a better gender balance on the Northern and Western Regional Assembly following the Local Elections on 24th May next”

3. Planning and Economic Development – RSES Update

Mr. Denis Kelly, Assistant Director & Senior Planner, gave an update on the RSES including the following:

- ❖ NWRA consultation period closes at 5pm on 8th February, 2019
- ❖ A number of information events have been held across the region, including an AILG event which took place in Athlone the previous day and was well attended by Local Representatives
- ❖ Notification has been received from EMRA and SRA regarding their respective Draft RSES publications.
- ❖ EMRA RSES is consistent with the content and layout of the NWRA RSES and a submission was recommended by Mr Kelly to acknowledge the standard and complementarity of the RSES with that of NWRA and to confirm that intra-regional connectivity be highlighted as a key issue for this region within the RSES for the Eastern and Midlands Area.
- ❖ It was acknowledged the huge amount of work done by the NWRA in relation to the whole RSES and it was hoped that it would be possible for the current Assembly to adopt the RSES before the forthcoming local elections.
- ❖ Mr. Denis Kelly agreed to inform members at the next Assembly meeting of the number of submissions.

Members raised the following issues:

- ❖ Monaghan County Council considered that the NWRA RSES should include an objective that the North South Interconnector go underground.
- ❖ The Draft RSESs provisions in respect of the Regional Centre of Athlone should be reviewed and should reflect the approach taken for Sligo/Letterkenny Regional Centres
- ❖ The influence of the Regional Centres of Dundalk and Drogheda upon the Cavan/Monaghan sub-regional catchment should be referenced in the EMRA RSES.

Mr Kelly advised that the North South Interconnector had gone through the Planning Process and that the RSES was a strategic document that did not go into that level of detail – that was

a matter to be dealt with at project level. He advised that the additional comments made in respect of the Draft RSES for the Eastern and Midlands region would be conveyed to EMRA in the submission.

Cavan County Council – Part 8

Mr Kelly advised that Cavan County Council had consulted the NWRA in relation to a proposed new Civic Culture Library Centre at Virginia. It was agreed that the NWRA executive would liaise with the two Cavan County Council representatives regarding a submission from the NWRA prior to responding to it.

4. 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.

5. Expenses and Allowances for Regional Assembly Members

Ms Caitlín Conneely, Assistant Director informed the members that a Circular was received from the Department regarding Member's Expenses, but that clarification was requested from the Department regarding certain elements of the circular. Members would be updated once clarification was received.

6. Schedule of Meetings - 2019

Proposed by: Cllr Declan McDonnell

Seconded by: Cllr Mary Hoade

Resolved:

“that the “Schedule of Meetings 2019” as amended be adopted. *Appendix I*

However, it was also agreed that as the RSES process evolves it may be necessary to seek Members agreement to change the dates of the SPA meetings, and that the NWRA executive would liaise with each SPA Chairperson.

Proposed by: Cllr Seamus Kilgannon

Seconded by: Cllr Paddy Smith

Resolved:

“that the March Assembly meeting be held on 7th /8th March, 2019 in Derry”

7. Programme of Work y/e 31st December, 2019

Mr. David Minton gave a comprehensive overview of the Programme of Work of the Assembly for 2019. Appendix II

Proposed by: Cllr Nigel Dineen

Seconded by: Cllr Enda Stenson

Resolved:

“that the Programme of Work for the Northern & Western Regional Assembly y/e 31st December, 2019 be adopted”

8. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

9. Presentation – Mr. Angus Laverty, Public Affairs Manager, An Post

Mr. Laverty communicated apologies to the Assembly meeting for his inability to attend today’s meeting due to illness but offered to attend a forthcoming meeting.

Proposed by: Cllr Dermot Connolly

Seconded by: Cllr Jimmy Mc Cleary

Resolved:

“to issue correspondence to the Oireachtas Joint Sub-Committee regarding the dis-content felt by the Regional Assembly regarding recent Post Office closures”

10. Presentation by Mr. Ger Maguire, Manager, Mayo Abbey Training Centre

Mr. Maguire gave a very detailed presentation on Mayo Abbey Community Council which was established in 1993 and has since developed a broad range of Community projects, to include: *Appendix III*

- ❖ Community Employment Scheme – 39 individuals
- ❖ Village enhancement scheme
- ❖ Childcare facilities
- ❖ Youth facilities
- ❖ Social housing
- ❖ Adult education and Training Centre
- ❖ Transport project
- ❖ Cookery School
- ❖ Heritage Project – renovation of historical buildings and the offering of genealogy support to visitors
- ❖ Active Age project

Mr. Maguire acknowledged the support received from his Committee members/staff and Mayo County Council and informed the meeting that without this support it would not have been possible to achieve this success.

Cllr Richard Finn, Cllr Patsy O'Brien and Cllr Gerry Murray commended Mr. Maguire on the success of the Community Council but also stated that the dedication and commitment of Mr. Maguire was the driving force behind this success story.

11. Any Other Business

Proposed by: Cllr Dermott Connolly

Seconded by: Cllr Nigel Dineen

Resolved:

“that the Northern and Western Regional Assembly contact the Department of Education and Skills and request that special consideration be given to students sitting exams who experience extenuating circumstances and allow deferral of examinations”

Proposed by: Cllr Seamus Kilgannon

Seconded by: Cllr Declan McDonnell

Resolved:

“that the Northern and Western Regional Assembly contact the National Transport Authority and seek clarification on the 2019 proposals for the provision of Bus Shelters in Ireland”

This concluded the business of the meeting.

The foregoing minutes are confirmed.

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

Date: _____