



Northern & Western Regional Assembly

MINUTES OF THE NORTHERN & WESTERN REGIONAL ASSEMBLY MEETING HELD ON 21ST FEBRUARY 2020 IN THE ASSEMBLY CHAMBER AT 11.00 AM

Present:

Cllr Declan Bree	Cllr John Caulfield	Cllr Donal Gilroy	Cllr Christy Hyland
Cllr Donal Lyons	Cllr David Maxwell	Cllr Jimmy McClearn	Cllr Enda McGloin
Cllr Patrick McGowan	Cllr Brian McKenna	Cllr Jack Murray	Cllr John Naughten
Cllr Joe Sheridan	Cllr Justin Warnock	Cllr Enda Stenson	Cllr Orla Leyden

Apologies:

Cllr Tim Broderick	Cllr David Collins	Cllr Craig Lovett	Cllr Frank McBrearty
Cllr Declan McDonnell	Cllr Jarlath Munnelly	Cllr Sean Smith	

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. Marie Moriarty

Cllr Declan McDonnell was unable to be in attendance at today's meeting, therefore, Cllr John Naughten **PRESIDED**.

1. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting of Northern & Western Regional Assembly held on 24th January, 2020

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 24th January, 2020 be adopted”.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Planning and Economic Development

- **Public Consultation on a Review of Sustainable Mobility Policy – Presentation by DTTAS**
- **DHPLG Draft Wind Energy Guidelines – 19th February, 2020**

Mr. Denis Kelly welcomed Carol O'Reilly to today's meeting. The Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport launched a public consultation in November 2019 (to run to January 2020 and further extended to 28 February) to review Ireland's sustainable mobility policy. The review work arises from a commitment in the Programme for a Partnership Government to review public transport policy to ensure services are sustainable into the future and are meeting economic needs.

The public consultation is designed to give stakeholders and the general public the opportunity to reflect on the information in the papers, share their views and to contribute to the development of a Sustainable Mobility Policy Statement.

Ms. O'Reilly gave a very detailed presentation under the following key headings:

- ❖ Existing Policy Framework
- ❖ Review Timelines
- ❖ DTTAS publications to date
- ❖ Statistics
 - How we travel
 - How we travel across the country
 - Why we travel
- ❖ Accessibility
- ❖ Climate Change
- ❖ Land use and Congestion
- ❖ Public Transport in Rural Areas
- ❖ Next Steps
 - Evaluation of submissions
 - Policy Development

Cllr. Naughten thanked Ms. O'Reilly for her presentation and the following matters were discussed in detail:

- ❖ Importance of working with Local Authorities in developing sustainable policy
- ❖ Park and Ride services
- ❖ Proper integration of transport systems
- ❖ Local Link Services
- ❖ Reliability of services in certain areas
- ❖ Costs of Insurance - running Local Area Pilot Schemes
- ❖ School transport congestion – behavioural change – Greenways adjacent to schools
- ❖ Importance of looking at local policy as opposed to national policy
- ❖ Bus Shelters – need to review the population requirement by NTA
- ❖ Improvement of parking at Railway Stations

Members commented on the deadline of 28th February, 2020 and asked if it would be possible to seek a further extension on this deadline from the Department to allow for their respective +Local Authorities to make a submission. Ms. O'Reilly agreed to discuss this

matter with the Department and advised that she would be in contact with NWRA management in the new few days.

▪ **DHPLG Draft Wind Energy Guidelines – 19th February, 2020**

Public Consultation on the revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines

The Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government invited submissions on the revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines by the 19th February, 2020. A copy of the submission made by the Northern and Western Regional Assembly was circulated to members in advance of today's meeting and if any other comments were to be made, they would be further submitted to the Department.

Mr. Frank Flanagan gave a brief presentation on the proposed changes to the current guidelines:

- ❖ Landscape Character Assessment
- ❖ EIA Guidance Grid Connection/Corridor Approach.
- ❖ Community Report
- ❖ Mandatory Setbacks - Sensitive Locations & Roads
- ❖ Noise Monitoring Proposals
- ❖ Wind Energy Strategies

Concern was raised by members and discussion took place in relation to:

- the lack of consultation at community level and the lack of resources for communities to engage the services of consultants in order to make a submission.
- Community Benefit Funds/Dividends need to be more specific to the actual affected area
- Decommissioning plans need to be addressed and a uniformed approach taken
- More enhanced role for Local Authorities in noise monitoring
- Landslides
- Explore the possibility of locating turbines close to motorways as is the policy in other European countries
- Automatic shadow flicker control mechanisms
- Grid connections
- Development Plan requirements regarding renewable energy
- A regional breakdown of energy production from renewable energy sources

It was agreed to update the original submission which was transmitted to meet the deadline to the Dept on 19th February, 2020.

4. Conferences/Training

Mr. David Minton informed the meeting that no correspondence had been received in relation to forthcoming conferences/training, however, if members had a particular conference/workshop in mind, they could contact the Human Resources section and discuss same.

5. Correspondence

Correspondence received from Dept of An Taoiseach was noted.

6. Any other Business

Mr. Minton informed the meeting that the Corporate Plan for the next 5 years was before today's Assembly meeting and thanked all who had made submissions/comments on same. He emphasised the importance of this plan especially in light of the current proposed national programme review and thus ensuring the Managing Authority role is sustained.

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

Date: _____