

Present:

Cllr. Declan Bree	Cllr. Tim Broderick	Cllr. Jimmy McClearn
Cllr. Donal Lyons	Cllr. Donal Gilroy	Cllr. Jack Murray
Cllr. Orla Leyden	Cllr. Enda Stenson	Cllr. Joe Sheridan
Cllr. John Naughten	Cllr. Patrick McGowan	Cllr. Enda McGloin
Cllr. David Maxwell	Cllr. Frank McBrearty	Cllr. David Collins
Cllr. Brian McKenna	Cllr. Niall McNelis	Cllr. Justin Warnock

Mr Brendan McGrath (Chief Executive Galway City Council)

Cllr. Christy Hyland **PRESIDED**

Apologies: Cllr. Sean Smith, Cllr. John Caulfield, Cllr. Michael Crowe, Cllr. Craig Lovett, Cllr. Jarlath Munnely, Cllr. Declan McDonnell.

Officials: Northern & Western Regional Assembly:

Mr David Minton (Director)
Mr Denis Kelly (Assistant Director & Senior Planner)
Mr Gerry Doyle (Assistant Director)
Ms Briege Shannon (Senior Staff Officer, HR & Corporate)
Mr Conall McGettigan (Senior Executive Planner)
Mr Frank Flanagan (Senior Executive Planner)
Ms Catriona Meehan (Clerical Officer)

- 1) Adoption of the Draft Supplementary Standing Orders regulating the proceedings of the Assembly when holding remote meetings**
Proposed: Cllr. Donal Lyons
Seconded: Cllr. Enda Stenson
Resolved:
"That the Draft Supplementary Standing Orders regulating the proceedings of the Assembly when holding remote meetings be adopted for the holding of this meeting."
- 2) Adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Northern & Western Regional Assembly held on the 18th February 2022 (circulated):**
Proposed by: Cllr. Donal Lyons
Seconded by: Cllr. Enda Stenson
Resolved:
"That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Northern & Western Regional Assembly held on 18th February 2022 be adopted".
- 3) Matters Arising**
There were no matters arising
- 4) a) Presentation on the new European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) – Appendix 1**
Mr Gerry Doyle, Assistant Director, presented an update regarding the development of the new Draft ERDF Programme 2021-27. He detailed the context and strategic objectives of the fund. Mr Doyle stated that the programme was not as yet approved but would keep members updated as it develops.

b) Nomination to 2021-2027 Regional Programme Monitoring Group

Mr Doyle stated that an extra seat had been approved for the 2021-27 Programme Monitoring Committee than which applied to the 2014-20 Programme. He sought nominations from the Members for the four positions now approved for the new Programme.

It was unanimously agreed that Cllr. Orla Leyden, Cllr. Donal Lyons, Cllr. Jimmy McClearn and Cllr. Patrick McGowan would be the nominations to the new 2021-27 Programme Monitoring Committee.

5) Planning and Economic Development

a) Planning Reports

i. Draft Galway City Development Plan 2023 – 2029 (Report Circulated)

Mr Frank Flanagan gave a detailed presentation (see Appendix 2) of the report in respect of the Draft Plan that had issued to Members with the Meeting Agenda. He confirmed that it was generally very consistent with the RSES and he outlined the small number of recommendations and observations, as set out in the report.

Cllr. Donal Lyons asked that it be noted that the Housing Strategic Policy Committee were in consultation with the Global Traveller Movement to establishing traveller specific accommodation and that this was addressed through their specific housing needs being accommodated within housing schemes, which provides for a more integrated approach to Traveller housing needs.

Following discussion, Mr Denis Kelly (Assistant Director) and Frank Flanagan (Senior Executive Planner) suggested that Members may consider removal of Observation No.1 and associated text.

Proposed: Cllr. Donal Lyons

Seconded: Cllr. David Maxwell

Resolved that

'Members agree to make a submission to Galway City Development Plan as set out in the report, subject to the omission of Observation No.1 and associated text.'

ii. Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022 – 2028: FURTHER MATERIAL ALTERATIONS (4.18)(Report Circulated)

Mr Denis Kelly outlined the extent of the proposed further Material Amendment as set out in the circulated report.

Proposed: Cllr. David Maxwell

Seconded: Cllr. Donal Lyons

Resolved that

'Members agree to make a submission to the Further Material Alterations to Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028' as set out in the report.

iii. Draft Ballinasloe Local Area Plan 2022 – 2028: Proposed Material Alterations (Report circulated)

Mr Denis Kelly briefly outlined that a report had been circulated in respect of the proposed Material Alterations.

Proposed: Cllr. David Maxwell

Seconded: Cllr Brian McKenna

Resolved that

'Members agree to make a submission to the proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Ballinasloe Local Area Plan 2022-2028' as set out in the report.

iv. Draft Cavan County Development Plan 2022 – 2028 – Material Amendments (Presentation at Appendix 3)

Mr Denis Kelly advised that the Assembly was notified of the proposed material Amendments on 5th of March 2022 and the closing date for receipt of submissions is 07 April 2022. Accordingly, there was insufficient time to finalise a report for circulation, but he had a draft report prepared. He proceeded to give a presentation (See Appendix 3) based on it.

He advised that a submission was previously made by the Assembly to the draft Plan on the 27 July 2021, in which there were 5 Recommendations and 21 observations. He gave a detailed account of how each had been considered by Cavan County Council, Material Amendments that arose and an opinion on how they should be considered by the Assembly. He then provided a detailed account of other Material Amendments of regional significance and how they should be considered. He concluded by recapping on the recommendations that arose:

1. **MA 7:** The terminology to describe Virginia as a “Place of Strategic Potential” should also be incorporated into the Settlement Hierarchy terminology to give it full effect.
2. **MA16:** The proposed wording of Objective CNR 02 needs to be further amended to reflect the intention to prepare an LTP.
3. **MA 15:** In addition to maintaining a record on Compact / Town Centre Growth, an undertaking should be given that Residential Completions within its Settlement Hierarchy shall be recorded, as this is a key statistical component to enable the Local Authority to chart progress in respect of achieving compact growth across its main Towns.
4. **MA 24 and MA 19:** These proposed amendments are welcome and Policy VMP01 should be amended to be consistent with the text in respect of timelines for completion of the Masterplans (i.e. prior to lodgement as part of any planning application).
5. **MA 16, 18, 23, 29, 32, 36, and 40:** The wording should be amended to firstly confirm the commitment is to prepare the LTPs and, secondly, that it shall commence within the timeframes specified in each.
6. **MA. MA 25:** The allocation of lands for employment uses and support services is to be welcomed as it seeks to address the significant issue identified in the RSES - commuting out of the town and county.
7. **MA11:** The population growth rate of 32% for Virginia is not likely be realistic or achievable and should be set below that of Cavan Town. The WWTP has capacity issues, and it is important that it can cater for new employment and support services necessary to address commuting out of the town and county. Upgrading of the capacity of the WWTP will be a priority and population targets should be cognisant that it is not scheduled to be completed until 2024.

Proposed: Cllr. Brian McKenna

Seconded: Cllr. Christy Hyland

Resolved:

‘Members agree to make a submission to the proposed Material Amendments to the Draft Cavan County Development Plan 2022-2028’ as presented’

b) Oireachtas Briefing Update

Mr David Minton, Director, referred to the previous meeting where members had requested an Oireachtas briefing to discuss information that had been presented by Mr John Daly in previous meetings. He informed members that there were discussions ongoing to set up this briefing. He added that the week of 26th-28th of April could be targeted. Mr Minton stated that the target for this briefing was senior Oireachtas members, representatives from the Dáil and the Seanad and hopefully either the Tánaiste or Taoiseach. Mr Minton urged members to inform their own executives to ensure that the senior representatives from the Oireachtas, especially Tánaiste or Taoiseach would be in attendance on the day.

Members emphasized the importance of the delegation being representative of the Assembly across parties and geographical areas.

Mr Minton agreed that the hope was that the delegation would be representative he stated that members would be kept up to date on developments.

6) Correspondence

Response to Motion raised at February's Assembly meeting.

Mr Gerry Doyle noted the letter from the Dept of Public Expenditure and Reform which had been received by the Assembly in response to the Motion raised at the February Assembly meeting.

Cllr. Donal Gilroy stated that the response received did not answer the point raised, he suggested that perhaps the Assembly could reword or rephrase the motion explaining it in more detail if needed and resubmit it.

7) Any Other Business

Cllr. Frank McBrearty asked that it be noted that he did not attend the February Monthly meeting because he was suspended by Donegal County Council.

Members enquired about the holding of the Assembly meeting in the context of increasing Covid19 cases. The possibility of hosting blended meetings was raised, it was added that members who are close contacts or have tested positive should be able to attend remotely. It was stated that even without Covid 19 the Assembly should leading the way to embrace blended meetings. Some Members raised concerns about whether online meetings would be permitted in legal terms going forward.

Mr Minton stated that he believed meetings should be either remote or physical, adding the blended meetings can be problematic. He clarified that he would seek advice regarding the holding of remote meetings into the future and would need some time to investigate this.

Proposed by: Cllr Joe Sheridan

Seconded by: Cllr David Maxwell

Resolved:

'That given the rising number of Covid cases the Draft Supplementary Standing Orders regulating the proceedings of the Assembly when holding remote meetings be adopted for the holding of the April and May monthly meetings'

Proposed: Cllr. Donal Lyons

Seconded: Cllr. Christy Hyland

The well wishes were unanimously extended to Cllr. Declan McDonnell

The next meeting of the Assembly will be held remotely on Friday 22nd of April 2022

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____ (Cathaoirleach)

Date: _____