



MID-EAST REGIONAL AUTHORITY

ÚDARÁS RÉIGIÚNACH AN MHEÁNOIRTHIR

MINUTES

OF THE MID-EAST REGIONAL AUTHORITY

HELD ON

THURSDAY 12 MARCH 2009

IN

COUNTY HALL, NAVAN

MINUTE NO. 08.09 – 15.09



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MID-EAST REGIONAL
AUTHORITY HELD ON THURSDAY 12 MARCH 2009 IN COUNCIL
CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, NAVAN AT 6.00 P.M.**

Present:

Cllr. Tommy Reilly, Cathaoirleach

Cllr. Pat Black

Cllr. Sylvester Bourke

Cllr. Jimmy Fegan

Cllr. Brian Fitzgerald

Cllr. Tom Fortune

Cllr. Rainsford Hendy

Cllr. George Jones

Cllr. Conal Kavanagh

Cllr. Kathleen Kelleher

Cllr. Michael Lynch

Cllr. James Mangan

Cllr. Martin Miley

Cllr. Micheál Nolan

Cllr. John Ryan

In attendance:

Mr. Tom Dowling, Meath County Council, Designated Manager.

Mr. John Byrne, Director MERA

Vote of Condolence – Mrs. Nuala Byrne, R.I.P.

In opening the meeting, An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Tommy Reilly, informed the Members of the recent death of the mother of John Byrne, Director, Mrs. Nuala Byrne, R.I.P. The Members then stood in a minute's silence in her memory.

MINUTE NO. 08.09

Minutes of Meeting of the Mid-East Regional Authority held on 12 February 2009

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Mid-East Regional Authority held on 12 February 2009 were proposed by Cllr. James Mangan and seconded by Cllr. Rainsford Hendy, and agreed.

MINUTE NO. 09.09

Matters Arising.

No matters arose from the Minutes.

MINUTE NO. 10.09

Update on Regional Planning Guidelines Review Process

The following report, which had been circulated with the agenda, was considered by the Members.

“Following the Joint Meeting of the two Regional Authorities in January to progress the Review Process, the Issues Paper was available for Public Consultation from 2 February 2009 up until the end of March 2009.

Presentations on the Regional Planning Guidelines Review Process were given to the three Councils, including the Strategic Policy Committees and County Development Boards. Suggestions were raised by various Members that the Review Process should be made more visible at Local level, and it was recommended that Update Reports be given to the County Councils at their monthly meetings.

In January 2009, the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government published National Population Projections and Regional Population Targets for 2010 to 2022, and this is attached for information.

Regional Authorities will be asked to incorporate their targets into the Regional Planning Guidelines Review Process. The Regional targets will be allocated between the Counties and will be used as a basis for the Review of County Development Plans.

Resulting from the time needed for Public Consultation and the subsequent consideration of Submissions by the Technical Working Group and the Regional Planning Guidelines Steering Committee, the next Joint Meeting of the Dublin and Mid-East Regional Authorities has been scheduled for Tuesday 21 April 2009 at 6.00 p.m. in Aras Chill Dara, Naas, Co. Kildare.”

Also circulated with the agenda was the National Population Projections and Regional Population Targets 2010 to 2022, which was prepared by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in January 2009.

The Director gave the Members an update briefing on the presentations, which had been given to the Strategic Policy Committees and the County Councils and the County Development Boards in the Region.

Following a discussion, the Members agreed that in advance of the next Joint Meeting with the Dublin Regional Authority on April 21 next, that the Mid-East Regional Authority would meet at 5.00 p.m. to receive an update briefing from the Director in advance of the formal Joint Meeting.

MINUTE NO. 11.09

INTERREG 4B – Update on Senior Enterprise Initiative

The following Update Report, which had been circulated with the agenda was considered by the Members and noted.

“The Mid-East Region is Lead Partner in an initiative of European Regions entitled “Senior Enterprise” which aims to harness the resources, skills and experience of persons over 50 into a positive driver of entrepreneurship and growth. An application was made to the Interreg 4B Programme for grant assistance towards the expected overall costs of €2 million for the project. The application was considered in early December 2008 and was referred back to the Partnership for strengthening and expansion to include other interested Countries.

The original application was well received as its objectives and approach addressed the economic and social challenges of an ageing population. The revised application is currently being finalised with a view to submitting it for consideration under the next Interreg round, which closes on 17 April next.

The objective of the initiative remains the same – to increase the proportion of older people engaging with enterprise through a variety of means suitable to their skills, means and risk profile. The revised proposal is being coordinated by the Mid-East Regional Authority and may include up to 8 partners from across 5 Countries in North West Europe. The resubmitted application will include new partners whose expertise

and knowledge in the area of entrepreneurship and engagement with enterprise in the older age groups will greatly improve the opportunity for transnational learning.

The Work Packages have been increased from 3 to 4 and each will now have the champions in the form of Thematic Leaders, drawing on the expertise and experience already existing among the partners:

- **Work Package 1** relates to Senior Enterprise as a whole and is focused on raising awareness of the many ways in which older people can engage with enterprise. It will also encompass the Senior Enterprise Association, a local, national and transnational network for those interested in such engagement. Thematic leader: Mid-East Regional Authority, Ireland.
- **Work Package 2** relates to entrepreneurship by older people starting new businesses themselves or in partnership with a younger individual. Thematic Leader: North Rhine Westphalia
- **Work Package 3** relates to an investment by an older individual in a business started by someone else. This investment may range from a hand-off informal investment, to the investment of time and money (SMART) money) through to the full acquisition of the business. Thematic Leader: North West Development Agency, UK.
- **Work Package 4** is focused on an older individual tapping into their accumulated skills, experience and contact base to support the development and growth of an enterprise started by another through advice including support for innovation. Thematic Leader: PRIME, a UK based charity focused on supporting entrepreneurship in the older age groups.

It is intended that the initiative will be designed and developed in the second half of 2009, implemented through a variety of initiatives over the next three years, before being evaluated in the first half of 2013. At that time the intention is to have the initiative fully tested, ready for transfer to other regions and posed to attract further funding”

MINUTE NO. 12.09

Statement of Accounts for Financial Year Ended 31 December 2008

The Statement of Account for Financial Year Ended 31 December 2008, which had been circulated with the agenda, was considered by the Members, and on the proposal of Cllr. George Jones, seconded by Cllr. Conal Kavanagh, the Statement of Accounts was approved.

MINUTE NO. 13.09

Nomination to Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurance AGM

It was agreed to nominate Cllr. John Ryan to the Annual General Meeting of the Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Company Limited.

MINUTE NO. 14.09

Correspondence/Conferences.

Under this heading, the Director brought to the attention of the Members the Conference being organised by the Border, Midland and Western Regional Assembly scheduled for 7 April 2009 in Roscommon town. The rota will be No. 4, Cathaoirleach, 1FF and 1FG and names are to be submitted to the office as soon as possible.

MINUTE NO. 15.09

Any Other Business

No matters arose under this heading.

Signed:

Cllr. Tommy Reilly
Cathaoirleach

Mr. John Byrne
Director

Date:
