



## **2. Minutes & Matters arising from the meeting of 28<sup>th</sup> September 2022.**

The draft minutes of the 28<sup>th</sup> September:

**APPROVED:** Minutes of the meeting of the 28<sup>th</sup> September 2022 were approved as an accurate reflection of

**PROPOSED:** Councillor Canning

**SECONDED:** Councillor McMonagle

## **3. Correspondence from Previous Meeting**

Members noted the correspondence to and from An Taoiseach regarding ERNACT following the last meeting.

Councillor O'Reilly declared he was Chairman of the ERNACT board.

## **4. North West Partnership Strategic Governance Issues**

### **(a) Update from Strategic Growth Partnership Meeting**

The Strategic Business Manager provided members with an update on the North West Strategic Growth Partnership meeting which was held on the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022 in Burt, Co. Donegal.

Those in attendance reflected on a successful meeting which highlighted the key strategic issues affecting the North West City Region and the good attendance from officials from central government departments North and South.

Members briefly discussed the next steps for the Harvard Commission and the need to further collaboration on planning issues in the border areas. It was suggested that there was a need for a planning forum which would include Elected Members and lead planners to consider issues arising such as waste water infrastructure and social housing. Members were advised that a previous £700,000 funding bid had been presented to the group to enable this activity but it didn't fit within the scope of the Shared Island Fund requirements. It was agreed that the planning leads in both Councils would consider options for this.

Reference was also made to the designation of the region as an EU lagging region and the significant funding received by the North West Regional Assembly. It was agreed that further information would be sought on the implications of the fund for the North West Partnership.

### **(b) NW22/22 Financial Monitoring Report & Risk Register**

The Senior Project Officer sought approval of the Financial Monitoring Report and Register of Decisions as at December 2022. The Senior Project Officer informed members that approximately £4.3m had been committed from the first phase of the NWDF, with actual expenditure of £3.89m. She added that the total fund from The Executive and the Irish Government has now been fully committed.

Members adopted the Financial Monitoring Report and Register of Decisions to December 2023.

**PROPOSED:** Councillor Canning  
**SECONDED:** Councillor McMonagle

### **(c) Update on Shared Island Funding Projects**

Mr Garry Martin, Director of Economic Development, Emergency Services and Information Systems, Donegal County Council updated Members on progress of the Shared Island Funding Projects. He advised that project managers had been appointed for the Regulation Technology, Sli Colmcille and Decarbonisation projects. He advised that procurement process would commence to secure consultants to complete the feasibility studies, business cases and economic appraisals.

Councillor Reilly requested that officers share the proposed route for the Colmcille trail with Members. He outlined a preference that it linked with St Columb's Park. Mr Martin agreed that it would be shared with both Council committees.

The Chief Executive of Donegal referred to the challenge to deliver these funded projects within the timelines. He added that a range of other collaborative projects also needed to be ready if there was another funding call.

## **5. Economic Growth and Investment**

### **(a) Report on NSMC Economic Growth & Investment Workshop**

Members were updated on the recently held North South Ministerial Council Thematic Discussion on Economic Growth and Investment.

### **(b) Presentation from Economic Leads from Council at NWSGP**

The Director of Emergency Services provided Members with a presentation which was delivered at the North West Strategic Growth Partnership which highlighted the economic needs of the North West City Region, the infrastructural deficit and the need for enabling strategic investment to connect and grow the region.

Mr Martin also updated Members on an Invest NW event which was held in the EPIC centre in Dublin in partnership with Invest NI and the IDA, a joint energy conference

with the Letterkenny and Londonderry Chambers of Commerce and a manufacturing and engineering collaborative network event which was supported by Inter Trade Ireland.

**(6) Physical and Environmental Development**

**(a) A5 Western Corridor (consultation on supplementary information)**

Members noted the ongoing consultation on the A5WTC and were updated that both Councils were submitting a consultation response reinforcing their support for the A5WTC scheme as a strategic project in the North West Strategic Growth Plan.

**(a) NW23/22 Proposed Asphalt Plant at Burnfoot, Co Donegal**

Members considered correspondence from An Bord Pleanála and expressed regret that it did not recognise the integrated nature of the North West City Region.

**(8) AOB**

Members raised community concerns about the emerging issues and risks associated with the Riverine Project. The Chief Executive of Donegal County Council outlined a commitment to the delivery of the entirety of the project. He referred to planning board delays and construction and inflation costs. Members were assured that there is ongoing engagement with the relevant stakeholders to enable the project to be delivered in full.

Members also discussed the shared vision the North West Regional Development Group had with the A5 Working Group. It was suggested that Elected Members should consider nominating the same members to the A5 group and the North West Regional Development Group at Annual Meetings to ensure ongoing feedback and collaboration.