

Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly
Tionól Reigiúnach Oirthir agus Lár-Tíre

MINUTES for MEETING

**OF THE EASTERN AND MIDLAND
REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**

HELD ON

Friday, 13th June 2025

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EASTERN AND MIDLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY HELD ON 13th OF JUNE 2025.

Cllr Mike Bray	Cllr Deirdre Heney
Cllr Danny Byrne	Cllr Feljin Jose
Cllr Mick Cahill	Cllr Rachel Kerley
Cllr Avril Cronin	Cllr Dermot Lacey
Cllr Kevin Duffy	Cllr Aoibheann Mahon
Cllr JP Durkan	Cllr Pádraig Mc Evoy
Cllr Caroline Dwane Stanley	Cllr Justin Moylan
Cllr Neil Feighery	Cllr Garry Murtagh
Cllr Catherine Fitzgerald	Cllr Sean O'Brien
Cllr Eddie Fitzpatrick	Cllr Oisín O'Connor
Cllr Joe Fox	Cllr Robert Power
Cllr Patsy Glennon	Cllr Paul Ross
Cllr David Healy	Cllr Joanna Tuffy

Apologies received from:

Cllr D Flanagan, Cllr F Connelly

In Attendance:

Ms Clare Bannon, EMRA

Ms Bernie Roe, EMRA

Ms Anne-Marie Wood Wolfe, EMRA

Ms Laure Antoniotti, EMRA

Dr Owen Douglas, EMRA

Mr Simon Musial, EMRA

Ms Geraldine Kenny, EMRA

Mr Ross Higgins, EMRA

Ms Sarah Campbell, EMRA

Kieran Kehoe CE Meath CoCo

The Cathaoirleach on behalf of the EMRA members paid respects to Cllr Declan Flanagan on the passing of his father Michael Flanagan. She welcomed Cllr Fiona Connelly of Dublin City Council, who was appointed to EMRA, replacing Cllr Dermot Lacey who resigned from the Assembly as the DCC nominee but remains on the Assembly as a CoR member.

ITEM 1

Adoption of Minutes of meeting held on 9th of May 2025.

Minutes of the meeting of the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly held on the 9th of May 2025 were proposed by Cllr J Fox and seconded by Cllr P Ross.

Cllr P Evoy proposed to write to Deputy Barry Ward TD after the engagement he had with Members at the EMRA meeting on the 9th of May in relation to EU Affairs and Management of EU Funds to request the opportunity for EMRA Members to address the Members of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on EU affairs, to discuss the role given to EMRA in the management of European funding and coordinating EU Affairs within the Region. This was seconded by Cllr M Cahill.
This was **AGREED**.

Cllr D Lacey proposed to write to Fáilte Ireland in relation to their presentation at the last meeting asking for their plans regarding the availability of parking spaces for camper vans.
This was **AGREED**.

The minutes were **APPROVED**.

ITEM 2

Presentation of the 15-Minute City: A Pathway for Delivering Vibrant Urban Neighbourhoods in the Dublin Region

Mr O Douglas gave the Members a presentation on the 15-Minute City: A Pathway for Delivering Vibrant Urban Neighbourhoods in the Dublin Region. A copy of the document was circulated prior to the meeting and hard copies were available to the Members at the meeting. The following topics were discussed: an introduction to the 15-Minute City, National Policy and guidance, Regional Policy and guidance, National planning development, National Sustainable Mobility Policy, City and County Development Plans, Pilot Projects, Good Practice Case Studies and Initiatives, European and National Funding and Resources for the 15-Minute City.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr O O'Connor, Cllr J Fox, Cllr R Power, Cllr D Healy, Cllr J Tuffy, Cllr P Ross, Cllr J Moylan, Cllr M Cahill, Cllr P Mc Evoy, Cllr C Fitzgerald, Cllr P Glennon, Cllr D Heney, Cllr A Cronin, Mr O Douglas and Ms AM Wood Wolfe.

ITEM 3

Planning items

Ms Anne-Marie Wood Wolfe gave the Members an outline of the following:

i. Draft EMRA submission on the to the proposed Variation No. 4 to the Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027

The Submission was proposed by Cllr J Fox and seconded by Cllr P Mc Evoy.

This was **APPROVED**.

ii. Draft EMRA submission to the proposed Variation No. 4 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

The Submission was proposed by Cllr P Glennon and seconded by Cllr A Cronin.

This was **APPROVED**.

ITEM 4

Update on the RSES review process

Ms A Wood Wolfe gave the Members an update on the RSES review process, including an outline of the timeline: preparation of the RSES issue papers (8 weeks), Public Consultation of issues paper (8 weeks), Preparation of Draft RSES, Public consultation of Draft RESE (10 weeks), Public Consultation of Material amendments (6 weeks) and Publication of RSES.

Consultation will take place with local authorities, the Minister, OPR, MARA, NTA, other Regional Assemblies, Ministers and public bodies as appropriate. The SPA committee meetings will be commenced in September; invitation emails will be sent to Members in due course. The notice of intention will be published before the end of October.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr O O'Connor, Cllr J Tuffy, Cllr D Healy, Cllr P Mc Evoy, Ms C Bannon and Ms AM Wood Wolfe.

ITEM 5

Adoption of the Annual Report 2024

A copy of the Draft Annual Report 2024 was circulated to the Members prior to the meeting. Ms C Bannon presented the 2024 annual report and highlights to the Members. These included a new Assembly established after the local elections, the AIR event held in Limerick, the EU Summit of Region and Cities in Mons, EMRA hosting ORGINN partners in the Midlands, EUI New European Bauhaus event, the 30th anniversary of the CoR, the EMRA website and logo rebranding, 13 calls for proposals launched and 70 operations selected under the EUJTF and 28 planning submissions made.

The 2024 Annual report was proposed by Cllr O O'Connor and seconded by Cllr P Mc Evoy.

This was **APPROVED**.

ITEM 6

Update on the Members' study visit to Brussels

Ms C Bannon introduced Cllr R Power, who gave the Assembly a report on behalf of the Members that attended the Brussels site visit. A copy of the report was circulated to the Members prior to the meeting.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr R Power, Cllr J Fox, Cllr D Byrne, Cllr J Tuffy, Cllr M Cahill, Cllr C Fitzgerald and Ms C Bannon.

Item 7

Correspondence

None

ITEM 8

Any other business

i. Local Democracy Taskforce

Ms C Bannon outlined details on the Local Democracy Taskforce. The terms of reference did not reference the Regional Assemblies in the Local Democracy Taskforce report, Ms C Bannon informed Members that a letter will be sent to the Department by the Association of Irish Regions.

This was **AGREED**.

ii. Joint Special meeting of Regional Assembly Members in November

Ms C Bannon advised the Members that a Joint Special meeting of the three Regional Assemblies is to be held in November. Date and agenda to follow.

iii. ENCORE conference

Ms L Antoniotti gave the Members details of the next ENCORE conference, which is held every two years. It will be held on 23-25th of September in Sweden. An ENCORE declaration is being drafted and will be signed at the conference. Any Members wishing to attend should contact EMRA.

iv. EURegions4Cohesion letter

Ms L Antoniotti informed Members that EMRA has been invited to sign a letter prepared by the EURegions4Cohesion coalition. The letter is to be addressed to European Commission Ursula Von Der Leyen to express concerns regarding the future of Cohesion policy and ask for separate regulations and budget to be kept for the policy post-2027.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr P McEvoy and Cllr J Fox.

This was **AGREED**.

v. Mac Gill Summer School

Cllr D Lacey sought approval for the Mac Gill Summer School in July and requested for the information be circulated to the members. This will be circulated after the meeting.

This was **APPROVED**.

ITEM 9

Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly will be held on **Friday the 11th of July 2025 at 11.00am**

Signed:



Cllr

Cathaoirleach EMRA



Ms. Clare Bannon

EMRA

Date:

