

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

MINUTES for MEETING

**OF THE EASTERN AND MIDLAND
REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**

HELD ON

Friday, 12th September 2025

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EASTERN AND MIDLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY HELD ON THE 12TH OF September 2025.

Cllr Mike Bray	Cllr Deirdre Heney
Cllr Danny Byrne	Cllr Feljin Jose
Cllr Mick Cahill	Cllr Rachel Kerley
Cllr Fiona Connelly	Cllr Dermot Lacey
Cllr Avril Cronin	Cllr Aoibheann Mahon
Cllr Kevin Duffy	Cllr Pádraig Mc Evoy
Cllr JP Durkan	Cllr David McManus
Cllr Caroline Dwane Stanley	Cllr Justin Moylan
Cllr Catherine Fitzgerald	Cllr Garry Murtagh
Cllr Eddie Fitzpatrick	Cllr Sean O'Brien
Cllr Declan Flanagan	Cllr Oisín O'Connor
Cllr Joe Fox	Cllr Tom O'Leary
Cllr Niall Gaffney	Cllr Gerry O'Neill
Cllr David Gilroy	Cllr Robert Power
Cllr Patsy Glennon	Cllr Paul Ross
Cllr David Healy	Cllr Joanna Tuffy

Apologies received from: Cllr Tony Murphy

In Attendance:

Ms Clare Bannon, EMRA
Ms Bernie Roe, EMRA
Ms Anne-Marie Wood Wolfe, EMRA
Mr Bernard Kenealy, EMRA
Dr Owen Douglas, EMRA
Ms Teresa O Reilly, EMRA
Ms Geraldine Kenny, EMRA
Mr Ross Higgins, EMRA
Ms Cara Farrell, EMRA
Ms Sarah Campbell, EMRA

Kieran Kehoe CE Meath CoCo

ITEM 1

Adoption of Minutes of meeting held on the 11th of July 2025.

Minutes of the meeting of the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly held on the 11th of July 2025 were proposed by Cllr D Byrne and seconded by Cllr M Cahill

The minutes were **APPROVED**.

ITEM 2

Planning items

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

- i. Draft EMRA Submission on Proposed Variation No. 1 to the South Dublin County Council County Development Plan 2022-2028

Cllr D Healy proposed an amendment to the members which was sent prior to the meeting, this was also proposed by Cllr P Mc Evoy and seconded by Cllr M Cahill.

“The Assembly commends the proactive approach taken by the Council in identifying priority, secondary, and strategic permeability routes to support walking and cycling within Clondalkin. In particular, the Assembly welcomes Policy Objectives SM4 to SM5, which seek to enhance local community connectivity through the delivery of safe, accessible, and well-designed pedestrian and cycle links and require all new developments, including large framework sites, to develop strategic permeability routes to integrate high-quality pedestrian and cycle links to surrounding areas.

The Assembly supports the draft Framework’s emphasis on improving permeability for walking and cycling and note that this approach is fully consistent with the RSES’s Guiding Principles for the Integration of Land Use and Transport, which state that, where possible, developments shall provide for filtered permeability to prioritise walking, cycling and public transport, in line with the 10-minute settlement concept and healthy, vibrant place-making.”

The Draft EMRA Submission on Proposed Variation No. 1 to the South Dublin County Council County Development Plan 2022-2028 was approved with the amendment.

This was **AGREED and APPROVED**.

- ii. Draft EMRA Submission on Proposed Variation No. 6 to the Dublin City Council County Development Plan 2022-2028
- iii. Draft EMRA Submission on Proposed Variation No. 7 to the Dublin City Council County Development Plan 2022-2028
- iv. Draft EMRA Submission on Proposed Variation No. 8 to the Dublin City Council County Development Plan 2022-2028

The Draft EMRA Submission on Proposed Variation No. 6, No. 7 and No. 8 to the Dublin City Council County Development Plan 2022-2028 were proposed by Cllr D Byrne and seconded by Cllr F Connelly.

Variations No. 6, No. 7, and No. 8 were APPROVED

- v. EMRA Submission in relation to Proposed Variation No.1 of the Westmeath County Development Plan 2021-2027

This was NOTED

- vi. EMRA Submission in relation to Proposed Variation No. 3 of the Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027

This was NOTED

ITEM 3

Local Democracy Taskforce consultation EMRA submission

Ms C Bannon provided the members with an overview of the Assembly's submission to The Local Democracy Taskforce consultation. The submission covered a number of topics including: sustained and structured support for Councillors, changes to support increased use of councillor powers, funding reform, functions and strengthening reserved functions, engagement with central and local government, the multiplicity of regional bodies, making the role of the councillor more attractive, allowance rates for regional assembly members, legislative and structural reform, capacity building

and professional development, and ethical frameworks. Ms C Bannon thanked the members for their contributions to the submission.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr M Cahill, Cllr S O'Brien, Cllr P McEvoy, Cllr J Fox, Cllr J Moylan, and Ms C Bannon.

Cllr P Mc Evoy proposed that the submission is shared with the AILG and that we write to AILG in order to progress collaboration with them where appropriate.

This was seconded by Cllr M Cahill, Cllr J Fox and Cllr O Brien

This was AGREED

ITEM 4

Planning Updates relating to the RSES Review Process.

Ms Teresa O'Reilly gave the members a presentation on the planning updates relating to the RSES Review Process, the following topics were discussed, Changes to National Planning Legislation & Policy, Planning & Development Act 2024 and the Amendment Act 2025, RSES links to Other Policies/Plans, RSES guiding public and private investment, Framework for Development Plans & Local Economic and Community Plans Preparing a new RSES, NPF (First Revision) – Key Drivers, Signposts for RSES, Population table, Housing Growth Requirement, National Economic Policy, Preparing a New RSES, New RSES & Steps, What will the RSES contain, Measures which support the NPF, PDA 2024 – What the RSES must contain, Integration of Environmental Assessments, SPAs and Issues Paper, Our Region - What are the Issues?, and the Strategic Planning Area Meetings & Issues Paper.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr O O'Connor, Cllr JP Durkan, Cllr J Moylan, Cllr M Cahill, Cllr S O'Brien, Cllr P Mc Evoy, Cllr J Fox, Cllr D Lacey, Cllr J Tuffy, Cllr E Fitzpatrick, Cllr D Heney, Cllr P Glennon, Cllr D Healy, Ms T O Reilly, Mr K Kehoe and Ms C Bannon.

A copy of the presentation slides will be circulated to the members after the meeting.

ITEM 5

Correspondence

Ms C Bannon gave the members details on the following correspondence:

Kildare County Council Notice of Motion and EMRA response received 15th July 2025

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr P Mc Evoy.

This was NOTED

Longford County Council Notice of Motion and EMRA response

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr M Cahill, Cllr P Ross, Cllr G Murtagh and Ms C Bannon.

This was NOTED.

ITEM 6

Any other business

- i. Councillor Reports for MacGill Summer School 2025 from Cllr D Lacey, Cllr P Ross, Cllr M Cahill, Cllr D Byrne, and Cllr N Feighery were circulated to the members prior to the meeting.

This was NOTED

- ii. Reminder provided of the upcoming SPA Committee meetings. The dates are as follows:

Midland SPA meeting – 15th September 11.30am-1.00pm

Eastern SPA meeting – 15th September 2.30pm-4.00pm

Dublin/MASP SPA meeting – 22nd September 2.30pm-4.00pm

Members were informed that a Chair will need to be nominated at the beginning of each SPA meeting. Cllr P Ross advised that members of Kildare and Longford County Councils may be late or not in attendance due to Presidential candidate selections. It was agreed that the members not in attendance can forward any comments to the EMRA planning Team, within one week of the SPA Committee Meeting. These will be taken into consideration in the preparation of the Issues Paper.

- iii. The Regional Development Monitor, the Smart and Sustainable Mobility Accelerator and THRIVE have been shortlisted for awards at the IPI Planning Awards 2025, which are being held on 25th September.


- iv. Association of Irish Regions (AIR)- Members were informed of the upcoming AIR meeting. It was indicated that 2 full EMRA members are unable to attend, and an email will therefore issue to the alternate members to see if they are available to attend.
- v. Cllr J Tuffy requested an update on the EMRA budget and when will the Chief Executives for the Local authorities receive the request for EMRA funding. Ms C Bannon outlined that the EMRA Budget for 2026 will be before the members for their consideration at the next Assembly meeting in October. Ms C Bannon informed members that the Statutory period for holding the budget is November, however to accommodate local authorities in their own budget preparations, approval was sought to hold the Regional Assembly Budget meeting in October. Ms C Bannon advised that In line with correspondence previously issued, draft figures will be sent to each local authority before the end of September. Mr K Kehoe advised that the issue was discussed with other Chief Executives during their study visit to Brussels this year.

ITEM 7

Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly is due to be held on **10th of October 2025** at 11:00am.

Signed:



Cllr David Healy
Cathaoirleach EMRA



Ms. Clare Bannon
EMRA

Date:

