

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

MINUTES for MEETING

**OF THE EASTERN AND MIDLAND
REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**

HELD ON

Friday, 10th October 2025

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EASTERN AND MIDLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY HELD ON THE 10TH OF OCTOBER 2025.

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| Cllr Mike Bray | Cllr Patsy Glennon |
| Cllr Danny Byrne | Cllr David Healy |
| Cllr Mick Cahill | Cllr Deirdre Heney |
| Cllr Fiona Connelly | Cllr Feljin Jose |
| Cllr Avril Cronin | Cllr Rachel Kerley |
| Cllr JP Durkan | Cllr Dermot Lacey |
| Cllr Caroline Dwane Stanley | Cllr Pádraig Mc Evoy |
| Cllr Neil Feighery | Cllr Tony Murphy |
| Cllr Catherine Fitzgerald | Cllr Garry Murtagh |
| Cllr Eddie Fitzpatrick | Cllr Sean O'Brien |
| Cllr Declan Flanagan | Cllr Oisín O'Connor |
| Cllr Joe Fox | Cllr Aengus O'Rourke |
| Cllr Niall Gaffney | Cllr Paul Ross |
| Cllr David Gilroy | Cllr Joanna Tuffy |

Apologies received from: Cllr Kevin Duffy

In Attendance:

Ms Clare Bannon, EMRA
Ms Bernie Roe, EMRA
Ms Anne-Marie Wood Wolfe, EMRA
Mr Bernard Kenealy, EMRA
Ms Teresa Lennon, IREO
Ms Katarzyna Kaczmarek, EMRA
Ms Laure Antoniotti, 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

Mr Kieran Kehoe, CE Meath CoCo

ITEM 1

Adoption of Minutes of meeting held on the 12th of September 2025.

Minutes of the meeting of the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly held on the 12th of September 2025 were proposed by Cllr D Lacey and seconded by Cllr P Mc Evoy

The minutes were **APPROVED**.

Item 2

Update on the work of the Irish Regions European Office (IREO)

Ms Teresa Lennon, Head of IREO gave the members a presentation on an update on the work of the Irish Regions European Office. The following topics were discussed: an overview of The Irish Regions European Office - who we are, what we do and where we are going, Current Activities, the Irish Delegation to the EU Committee of the Regions - Irish CoR Delegation 2025 - 2030, EU Policy landscape and what does this mean for Regional Assemblies, the EU Budget 2028-2034 (MFF), , and IREO staff contact details.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr JP Durkan, Cllr M Cahill, Cllr D Heney, Cllr D Lacey, Cllr J Fox, Cllr P Mc Evoy, Cllr O O'Connor, Cllr J Tuffy, Cllr D Gilroy, Cllr D Healy and Ms T Lennon.

Item 3

Planning items

Ms Anne-Marie Wood Wolfe gave the members a brief outline on the following planning items:

i. Proposed Variation No. 2 to the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr P Mc Evoy, Cllr O O'Connor, and Ms C Bannon.

This was proposed by Cllr P Mc Evoy and seconded by Cllr P Glennon

This was **APPROVED**.

ii. National Territory Mapping for Renewable Electricity – Public Consultation

A discussion followed with Cllr P Mc Evoy, Cllr M Bray, Ms A Wood Wolfe and Ms T O Reilly.

This was proposed by Cllr P Mc Evoy and seconded by Cllr D Lacey.

This was **APPROVED**.

ITEM 4

Adoption of the EMRA 2026 budget – Ms Clare Bannon presented the Draft EMRA budget 2026. The 2026 budget represents an 8.26% increase on last year's allocation and reflects continued investment in essential services and financial management of evolving national and European priorities. The budget includes preparation for Ireland's EU Presidency and the RSES. Savings previously achieved are being reinvested to fund a report by the OECD and to modernise some of our IT and software systems. In line with legislative requirements, the Draft Budget was circulated to the designated Chief executive Mr Kieran Kehoe prior to the meeting, and to all the EMRA CEs in September.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr T Tuffy, Cllr M Bray, Cllr P Mc Evoy, Cllr D Lacey, Cllr JP Durkan, Cllr O O'Connor, Cllr M Cahill, Cllr D Healy, Ms C Bannon and Mr K Kehoe.

The EMRA 2026 Budget was proposed by Cllr P Mc Evoy and seconded by Cllr P Glennon.

This was **AGREED** and **APPROVED**.

ITEM 5

Programme of Works Update Q3 2025

Ms C Bannon gave the members an update on the Programme of Works Update Q3 2025 which included the Annual General Meeting of the Assembly that saw the election of Cllr David Healy as Cathaoirleach and Cllr Patsy Glennon as Leas-Chathaoirleach.

Nine planning submissions were made in the quarter including one to the Local Democracy Taskforce. Strategic Planning Area (SPA) meetings were held this quarter as well as a MASP implementation group meeting. The National Census Atlas was highly commended in the Research and Innovation category at the IPI awards.

The EU JTF continued with the launch of a second call under the bioeconomy demonstration and some completed projects were launched such as the reopening of Emily Square in Athy.

The Assembly, as National Contact point of the EUI, is currently coordinating the organisation of a capacity building event aimed at local authorities, and specifically THRIVE beneficiaries, that will be held in Q4 in Monaghan.

The IREO continued to provide support to the Irish delegation to the CoR and had organised a visit of the CoR President to Ireland which took place in October.

Dr O Douglas and Ms T O'Reilly gave the members a summary of the SPA and MASP meetings. The meetings were held on the 15th and 22nd of September, a presentation was provided on RSES implementation, issues relating to the Midland SPA/Eastern SPA/Dublin SPA/MASP and the preparation of a new RSES. Members discussed issues of relevance for the RSES review process.

Cllr P Mc Evoy asked if the SPA/MASP meeting summaries could be circulated after meeting.

This was **NOTED**.

ITEM 6

Correspondence

i. NOAC - Review of Monitoring Reports on RSES by Regional Assemblies

Ms C Bannon advised this correspondence received is in response to the Monitoring Report submitted by the Assembly to NOAC over 2 years ago, and that the staff of the Assembly would consider the content of the correspondence in preparing the new RSES.

This was **NOTED**

ii. Invitation letter to appear before the joint Oireachtas committee on EU affairs in relation to EU funds management

Ms C Bannon advised the members that the EMRA was invited to appear before the joint Oireachtas Committee on EU Affairs in relation to EU funds management. This followed on from the letter sent to Deputy Barry Ward TD, from the Assembly. Cllr D Healy and another member of EMRA will attend to address the Committee. The other two Regional Assemblies have also been invited.

This was **NOTED**

ITEM 7

Any other business

i. Councillor Reports on ENCORE conference

The Councillors report on the ENCORE conference was circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr P Ross, Cllr S O'Brien and Cllr F Jose gave the members an update on the ENCORE conference held on 23rd to the 25th of September 2025, in Gothenburg and Borås (Sweden).

ii. Letter to Minister Cummins regarding certain functions and requirements of the regional assemblies under the Planning and Development Acts

Ms C Bannon advised that the letter was sent to the Minister and was also circulated to the members as part of the meeting pack.

iii. Invitation to EUJTF event on 5th of November

Ms C Bannon asked the members to save the date for 5th of November. A discussion followed with contribution from Cllr D Lacey and Ms B Roe. The event will start at 10.00am and finish at 5.00pm, it will showcase 171 projects, and the agenda and further details to follow.

iv. Local Democratic Taskforce

Cllr P Mc Evoy requested an invitation be extended to the Local Democratic Taskforce to attend and present to a future meeting of the assembly. This was **AGREED**.

ITEM 8

Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly is due to be held on **14th of November 2025 at 11:00am**.

Signed:



Cllr David Healy
Cathaoirleach EMRA



Ms. Clare Bannon
EMRA

Date:

14/11/2025