

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

**MINUTES for MEETING**

**OF THE EASTERN AND MIDLAND  
REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**HELD ON**

**Friday, 10th April 2026**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EASTERN AND MIDLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY HELD ON THE 10<sup>TH</sup> OF APRIL 2026.**

<b>Cllr Mike Bray</b>	<b>Cllr Feljin Jose</b>
<b>Cllr Danny Byrne</b>	<b>Cllr Rachel Kerley</b>
<b>Cllr Mick Cahill</b>	<b>Cllr Dermot Lacey</b>
<b>Cllr Fiona Connolly</b>	<b>Cllr Aoibheann Mahon</b>
<b>Cllr Avril Cronin</b>	<b>Cllr Tanya Mc Donald</b>
<b>Cllr Kieran Dennison</b>	<b>Cllr Pádraig Mc Evoy</b>
<b>Cllr JP Durkan</b>	<b>Cllr David Mc Manus</b>
<b>Cllr Caroline Dwane Stanley</b>	<b>Cllr Justin Moylan</b>
<b>Cllr Neil Feighery</b>	<b>Cllr Tony Murphy</b>
<b>Cllr Catherine Fitzgerald</b>	<b>Cllr Garry Murtagh</b>
<b>Cllr Eddie Fitzpatrick</b>	<b>Cllr Sean O Brien</b>
<b>Cllr Declan Flanagan</b>	<b>Cllr Oisín O'Connor</b>
<b>Cllr Joe Fox</b>	<b>Cllr Gerry O'Neill</b>
<b>Cllr Niall Gaffney</b>	<b>Cllr Aengus O'Rourke</b>
<b>Cllr David Gilroy</b>	<b>Cllr Robert Power</b>
<b>Cllr Patsy Glennon</b>	<b>Cllr Paul Ross</b>
<b>Cllr David Healy</b>	<b>Cllr Joanna Tuffy</b>
<b>Cllr Deirdre Heney</b>	

**Apologies received: Mr Kieran Kehoe, CE Meath County Council**

**In Attendance:**

**Ms. Clare Bannon, EMRA**

**Ms. Anne-Marie Wood Wolfe, EMRA**

**Mr. Bernard Kenealy, EMRA**

**Dr. Owen Douglas, EMRA**

**Ms. Teresa O Reilly, EMRA**

**Ms. Enya Fogarty, EMRA**

**Ms. Laure Antoniotti, EMRA**

**Ms. Helena Stromberg, EMRA**

**Ms. Geraldine Kenny, EMRA**

**Mr. Ross Higgins, EMRA**

## **ITEM 1**

### **Adoption of Minutes of meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> of March 2026**

Minutes of the meeting of the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly held on the 13<sup>th</sup> of March 2026 were proposed by Cllr D Lacey and seconded by Cllr P Mc Evoy

The minutes were **APPROVED**.

## **ITEM 2**

### **Planning Items**

#### **i. Update on RSES Review**

Dr O. Douglas delivered an update to the Members on the review of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES), outlining the overall review process and Members' engagement to date, including the work of the SPA Committees, the Issues Paper workshop, and the adoption of the Strategic Issues Paper by the Assembly. The update also covered the Pre-Draft Public Consultation, which commenced in late March, the circulation of consultation material to statutory and non-statutory bodies, Strategic Environmental Assessment scoping, and ongoing engagement with Local Authorities and other stakeholders, as well as the forthcoming stages of the review process.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr D Lacey, Cllr M Cahill, Cllr J Tully, Dr O Douglas, Ms C Bannon, Cllr P Mc Evoy, Cllr D Heney, and Cllr D Healy.

The presentation was **NOTED**.

## **ITEM 3**

### **Programme of Works 2026 – Q1 update**

Ms C. Bannon provided the Members with an update on the Programme of Works for Quarter 1 of 2026, outlining progress on a range of activities including the AIR training seminar held in Buncrana, preparations for the OECD project, Strengthening Ireland's Regions: Towards a Stronger Multi-Level Governance System for Improved National Performance, ongoing work in relation to the review of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy, and the implementation of EU-funded programmes, including the START action under the Just Transition Fund.

Updates were also provided on EMRA's role as National Contact Point for URBACT and the European Urban Initiative, the delivery of an information day held in March, continued engagement through IREO, and progress on the ORIGINN project.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr D Heney, Cllr J Tully, Cllr M Cahill, Cllr P Mc Evoy, Cllr JP Durkan, Ms C Bannon and Ms T Lennon.

The update was **NOTED**.

#### **ITEM 4**

##### **Unaudited 2025 Annual Financial Statement (AFS)**

Ms C. Bannon provided an update to the Members on the unaudited 2025 Annual Financial Statement of the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly. The statement had been circulated to the members prior to the meeting.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr J Tuffy, Cllr P Mc Evoy, Cllr M Cahill, Cllr S O'Brien, Cllr D Lacey, Cllr D Heney, Cllr P Ross, Cllr JP Durkan, and Cllr G Murtagh.

The report was **NOTED**.

#### **ITEM 5**

##### **A presentation on Smart and Sustainable Mobility Accelerator (SSMA)**

Ms E. Fogarty delivered a presentation to the Members on the Smart and Sustainable Mobility Accelerator (SSMA), outlining the programme as a national Pathfinder Project under the National Sustainable Mobility Policy, delivered between May 2023 and December 2025 as a comprehensive training and capacity-building initiative for Local Authorities and key stakeholders. The presentation highlighted the objectives and scope of the programme, its workshop-based and multi-track delivery model, and key themes emerging from the programme in supporting the implementation of smart and sustainable mobility at local and regional level. The legacy of the programme was also outlined, including the continued availability of training materials, tools and case studies through the Sustainable Mobility Academy platform to support ongoing learning and knowledge sharing. It was noted that the findings of the programme will inform policy considerations as part of the review of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr J Tuffy, Cllr P Mc Evoy, Cllr D Heney, Cllr D Lacey, Cllr O'Connor, and Cllr D Healy.

The presentation was **NOTED**.

## **ITEM 6**

### **Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

## **ITEM 7 – Any Other Business**

### **i. Europe Day Events and Activities**

Ms H. Stromberg informed the Members that Europe Day will take place on 9th May 2026. She outlined planned activities, including media and communications initiatives, engagement with schools, and participation in Europe Day events at European level. Event details will be circulated to the members after the meeting.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr M Cahill

The presentation was **NOTED**.

### **ii. OECD Report**

Ms C. Bannon provided an update to the Members on the OECD project Strengthening Ireland's Regions towards a Stronger Multi-Level Governance, outlining recent engagement undertaken with a range of national, regional and local stakeholders and the next stages of the work programme, including further engagement planned during May or June. It was noted that the OECD will present its findings to stakeholders on completion of the project.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr J Tuffy

The presentation was **NOTED**.

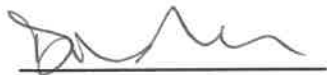
### **iii. Housing Taskforce Presentation - Housing Advisory Board Recommendations to the European Commission**

Cllr D. Lacey enquired whether the Assembly had received a response from Mr Eamon Ryan, Chair of the Housing Advisory Board, in relation to a presentation to the Assembly on the Board's recommendations to the European Commission. Ms C. Bannon advised a response was received and that Mr. Ryan would present to the Assembly at the next Assembly meeting in May.

## **ITEM 8 - Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly is due to be held on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 11:00am.

Signed:



**Cllr David Healy**

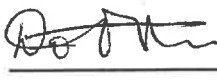
**Cathaoirleach EMRA**



**Ms. Clare Bannon**

**EMRA**

Date:

 8th May 2026