

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

**MINUTES for MEETING**

**OF THE EASTERN AND MIDLAND  
REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**HELD ON**

**Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> July 2026**

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

|                                    |                             |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Cllr Mike Bray</b>              | <b>Cllr Feljin Jose</b>     |
| <b>Cllr Danny Byrne</b>            | <b>Cllr Rachel Kerley</b>   |
| <b>Cllr Emma Coffey</b>            | <b>Cllr John King</b>       |
| <b>Cllr Fiona Connelly</b>         | <b>Cllr Dermot Lacey</b>    |
| <b>Cllr Avril Cronin</b>           | <b>Cllr Aoibheann Mahon</b> |
| <b>Cllr Kieran Dennison</b>        | <b>Cllr Tanya Mc Donald</b> |
| <b>Cllr Kevin Duffy</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 Garry Murtagh</b>   |
| <b>Cllr Catherine Fitzgerald</b>   | <b>Cllr Sean O'Brien</b>    |
| <b>Cllr Eddie Fitzpatrick</b>      | <b>Cllr Oisín O'Connor</b>  |
| <b>Cllr Declan Flanagan</b>        | <b>Cllr Tom O'Leary</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 Patsy Glennon</b>          | <b>Cllr Robert Power</b>    |
| <b>Cllr David Healy</b>            | <b>Cllr Paul Ross</b>       |
| <b>Cllr Deirdre Heney</b>          | <b>Cllr Joanna Tuffy</b>    |

**Apologies received: Cllr Mick Cahill**

**In Attendance:**

**Mr. Kieran Kehoe, CE Meath CoCo**

**Ms. Clare Bannon, EMRA**

**Mr. Bernard Kenealy, EMRA**

**Ms. Bernie Roe, EMRA**

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

**Ms Laure Antoniotti, EMRA**

**Ms. Geraldine Kenny, EMRA**

**Mr. Ross Higgins, EMRA**

**Ms. Cara Farrell, EMRA**

**Visitors:**

**Mr. Miquel Vidal Bover (OECD)**

## **ITEM 1**

### **Election of An Cathaoirleach**

The outgoing Cathaoirleach, Cllr David Healy, thanked the Members and staff of the Assembly for their support during his year as Cathaoirleach. He invited nominations for the position of Cathaoirleach of the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly for the forthcoming year to July 2027.

Cllr Deirdre Heney, Cllr Pádraig McEvoy, Cllr Dermot Lacey, Cllr Avril Cronin, Cllr JP Durkan, Cllr Catherine Fitzgerald, Cllr Neil Feighery and Cllr Joe Fox thanked Cllr David Healy for his term as Cathaoirleach.

Cllr Robert Power proposed Cllr Patsy Glennon for the position of Cathaoirleach. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Deirdre Heney.

With no other nominations received, Cllr Patsy Glennon was elected Cathaoirleach of the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly. Cllr Patsy Glennon thanked the Members for their support and said that he looked forward to working with the Assembly.

This was **AGREED**.

## **ITEM 2**

### **Election of Leas-Chathaoirleach**

An Cathaoirleach, Patsy Glennon, invited nominations for the position of Leas-Chathaoirleach. Cllr Dermot Lacey proposed Cllr Joanna Tuffy, and the nomination was seconded by Cllr Pádraig Mc Evoy. As no other nominations were received, Cllr Joanna Tuffy was elected Leas-Chathaoirleach of the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly.

This was **AGREED**.

## **ITEM 3**

### **Adoption of Minutes of meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> of June 2026**

Minutes of the meeting of the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly held on the 12<sup>th</sup> of June 2026 were proposed by Cllr J Fox and seconded by Cllr D Healy.

The minutes were **APPROVED**.

## **ITEM 4**

**Strengthening Ireland's Regions: Towards a Stronger Multi-level Governance System for Improved National Performance Presentation.**

Mr Miquel Vidal Bover, Policy Analyst and Counsellor at the OECD Regional Development and Multi-level Governance Division, delivered a presentation on the study commissioned by the three Regional Assemblies examining Ireland's multi-level governance system.

The presentation addressed the changing context facing OECD regions, territorial inequalities, structural transitions, Ireland's governance framework, international comparisons of sub-national expenditure and investment, governance gaps identified through the study, and the next steps in the preparation of the OECD report.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr P McEvoy, Cllr D Heney, Cllr D Lacey, Cllr S O'Brien, Cllr N Gaffney, Cllr N Feighery, Cllr R Power, Cllr J Tuffy, Cllr JP Durkan and Cllr P Glennon.

The presentation was **NOTED**

## **Item 5**

### **Planning items**

#### **i. Director's report on the pre-draft public consultation of the review of the RSES**

The final document was circulated to Members in advance of the meeting. Ms A Wood Wolfe outlined the Director's Report on the pre-draft public consultation stage of the review of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES). The report provided a summary of the submissions received during the public consultation process, the key issues raised under each thematic area, and the proposed next steps in the preparation of the revised RSES.

An amended version of the Director's Report, incorporating amendments submitted by Cllr D Healy, Cllr O O'Connor, Cllr P McEvoy, Cllr F Jose and Cllr J Fox, was circulated to Members in advance of the meeting.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr P Ross, Cllr E Coffey, Cllr J Moylan, Cllr P McEvoy, Cllr O O'Connor, Cllr J Fox, Cllr D Healy, Cllr J Tuffy and Ms A Wood Wolfe.

The amended Director's Report was **AGREED**

#### **ii. EMRA submission on the preparation of the National Excellence Planning Framework**

Ms. A Wood Wolfe outlined the proposed EMRA submission on the preparation of the National Excellence Planning Framework, the submissions were proposed Cllr P Mc Evoy and seconded Cllr D Healy.

This was **AGREED**

## **ITEM 6**

### **Programme of Works – Q2 2026 update**

Mr Bernard Kenealy gave the members an outline of the Programme of Works for Q2 2026.

Highlights included progress on the review of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy, implementation of the EU Just Transition Fund Programme, preparations for Ireland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union, activities undertaken by the Irish Regions European Office, adoption of the Assembly's 2025 Annual Report, completion of the Strategic Workforce Plan review, and ongoing work in relation to governance, financial management and organisational capacity.

This was **NOTED**

## **Item 7**

### **Nomination to the Association of Irish Regions (AIR) and alternate to Peace Plus PMC**

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr P Glennon, advised Members that the Cathaoirleach, Leas-Chathaoirleach and former Cathaoirleach are full members of the Association of Irish Regions (AIR). He invited nominations for the remaining two full member positions and the alternate positions.

Cllr A Cronin proposed Cllr P Ross as a full member of AIR, which was seconded by Cllr N Feighery.

Cllr J Tuffy proposed Cllr D Lacey as a full member of AIR, which was seconded by Cllr P McEvoy.

It was agreed that Cllr D Heney, Cllr A Cronin and Cllr P McEvoy would continue as AIR alternates.

This was **AGREED**

Cllr Emma Coffey would maintain her place as full member of Peace Plus. The Cathaoirleach Cllr P Glennon opened the floor for a Peace Plus alternate. Cllr Joe Fox was proposed by Cllr N Feighery and seconded by Cllr A Cronin.

This was **AGREED**

## **ITEM 8**

### **Correspondence**

- i. **Letter from the Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment (DETE) - REPs  
Future Approach**

The letter was circulated to Members in advance of the meeting.

Ms C Bannon outlined the Department's proposed future approach to the Regional Enterprise Plans (REPs). Members were advised that the future approach would involve greater integration between the REPs and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSES), with the Regional Assemblies assuming a lead role in their development and implementation.

A discussion followed Cllr P Mc Evoy and Ms C Bannon.

This was **NOTED**

## **ITEM 9**

### **Any Other Business**

#### **i. EU Presidency Welcome Reception Event – Brussels**

Cllr P Glennon advised the members the EU Welcome reception was held in Brussels on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July and thanked the staff for the organisation of the travel arrangements and the programme.

#### **ii. Member's Active Travel trip – Utrecht**

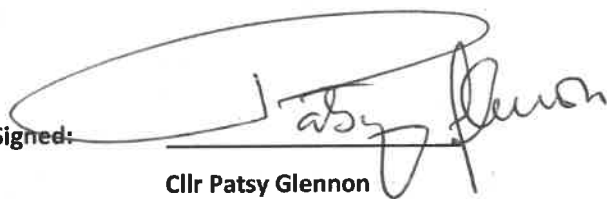
Ms C Bannon advised Members that information had been circulated to those participating in the Active Travel Study Visit. Further details would be issued in the coming weeks.

## **ITEM 10**

### **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly is due to be held on 11th of September 2026 at 11:00am.

Signed:



**Cllr Patsy Glennon**  
**Cathaoirleach EMRA**



**Ms. Clare Bannon**  
**Director EMRA**

Date:

11/09/2026