

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

MINUTES for MEETING

**OF THE EASTERN AND MIDLAND
REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**

HELD ON

Friday, 11th September 2026

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EASTERN AND MIDLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY HELD ON THE 11TH OF SEPTEMBER 2026.

Cllr Mike Bray	Cllr Patsy Glennon
Cllr Danny Byrne	Cllr David Healy
Cllr Mick Cahill	Cllr Deirdre Heney
Cllr Emma Coffey	Cllr Feljin Jose
Cllr Fiona Connelly	Cllr Rachel Kerley
Cllr Avril Cronin	Cllr Dermot Lacey
Cllr Kieran Dennison	Cllr Tanya McDonald
Cllr JP Durkan	Cllr Pádraig Mc Evoy
Cllr Caroline Dwane Stanley	Cllr Justin Moylan
Cllr Neil Feighery	Cllr Sean O'Brien
Cllr Catherine Fitzgerald	Cllr Oisín O'Connor
Cllr Eddie Fitzpatrick	Cllr Tom O'Leary
Cllr Declan Flanagan	Cllr Robert Power
Cllr Joe Fox	Cllr Paul Ross
Cllr Niall Gaffney	Cllr Joanna Tuffy
Cllr David Gilroy	

Apologies received: Cllr. Aengus O'Rourke, Mr. Kieran Kehoe CE Meath County Council,

In Attendance:

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. Sarah Campbell, EMRA

Ms. Cara Farrell, EMRA

Visitors:

Mr. Alex White, Chair of the Climate Change Advisory Council

Mr. William Batt, Indecon Consultants

Mr. Henry Griffin, Indecon Consultants

ITEM 1

Adoption of Minutes of meeting held on the 10th of July 2026

Minutes of the meeting of the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly held on the 10th of July 2026 were proposed by Cllr P Ross and seconded by Cllr A Cronin.

The minutes were **APPROVED**.

ITEM 2

Planning items

- i. The Draft Submission on the Draft National Ports Policy (circulated in August)
- ii. The Draft Submission on the Draft Bioeconomy Strategy 2026-2030 (circulated in August)

Ms Anne-Marie Wood Wolfe outlined the Draft Submission on the Draft National Ports Policy and the Draft Submission on the Draft Bioeconomy Strategy 2026-2030, which had been circulated to Members in August.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr J Fox and Cllr T O'Leary.

The submissions were **NOTED**.

ITEM 3

Key messages from the CCAC's 2027 Annual Review: Our Changing Climate and Electricity.

Presentation from Mr. Alex White, Chair of the Climate Change Advisory Council

Mr Alex White, Chair of the Climate Change Advisory Council, delivered a presentation on the Council's Annual Review and key messages relating to climate change and the electricity sector. The presentation outlined the Council's statutory role in advising Government on climate action and monitoring progress towards emissions reduction targets. Members were briefed on the impacts of extreme weather events, flood resilience and climate adaptation measures, together with developments in the electricity sector, including renewable energy generation, grid capacity challenges and infrastructure investment requirements. Recommendations arising from the Annual Review included strengthening grid infrastructure, supporting renewable energy development and enhancing community resilience.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr D Lacey, Cllr M Bray, Cllr J Tuffy, Cllr D Healy, Cllr J Moylan, Cllr J Fox, Cllr P McEvoy, Cllr D Heney, Cllr JP Durkan, Cllr T O'Leary, Cllr P Glennon and Mr White.

The presentation was **NOTED**.

ITEM 4

Presentation from Mr. William Batt, Indecon Consultants, on the Regional Economic Report

Mr William Batt and Mr Henry Griffin of Indecon International Economic Consultants delivered a presentation on the Regional Economic Report and its contribution to the review of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy. Members were provided with an overview of the economic profile of the Region, including population growth, labour market performance, enterprise activity, productivity and economic resilience. The presentation highlighted the Region's role as a key driver of national economic growth, while identifying a number of challenges relating to housing supply, infrastructure capacity, skills shortages, energy provision and balanced regional development. Members were also briefed on emerging recommendations to support future competitiveness, strengthen regional resilience and inform the preparation of the revised RSES.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr P McEvoy.

The presentation was **NOTED**.

ITEM 5

Update on the Planning and Development Amendment Act 2026 (July 2026) - relevant to RSES review process Anne-Marie Wood Wolfe

Ms Anne-Marie Wood Wolfe delivered an update on the Planning and Development Amendment Act 2026 and its implications for the review of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy. Members were advised of a number of legislative changes affecting the preparation of Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies, including revised statutory timelines, updated procedural requirements and amendments to the designation of Key Towns. The presentation outlined the implications of the new legislative framework for the ongoing RSES review process and the work programme required to progress the preparation of a revised Strategy. Members were also advised of the proposed timeline for the review and the opportunities for Member engagement throughout the process.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr D Lacey, Cllr P Ross and Cllr J Tuffy.

The update was **NOTED**.

ITEM 6

Correspondence

- i. An invitation was received from Bord na Móna for Members and the Executive to undertake a fact-finding visit to Mountlucas Wind Farm, County Offaly, and to receive a briefing on Bord na Móna's role in supporting Ireland's energy security and regional development objectives.

Mr Bernard Kenealy advised Members that EMRA had contacted Bord na Móna to identify suitable dates for the visit. Once confirmed, the proposed dates would be circulated to Members for consideration.

The correspondence was **NOTED**.

ITEM 7

Any Other Business

- i. Mac Gill Summer School Reports received from Cllr D Lacey, Cllr D Byrne, Cllr P Ross, Cllr N Feighery, Cllr J Fox, Cllr Dennison and Cllr JP Durkan
- ii. The Cathaoirleach welcomed Cllr M Cahill back to the assembly.
- iii. Cllr P Ross was elected as the AIR Cathaoirleach, at the last AIR meeting, he will hold the position until next September.
- iv. Cllr JP Durkan proposed a minute's silence in memory of 9/11 attacks, on its 25th anniversary, this was agreed. A minute's silence was held.

ITEM 8

Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly is due to be held on 9th of October 2026 at 11:00am.

Signed:



Cllr Patsy Glennon
Cathaoirleach EMRA



Ms. Clare Bannon
Director EMRA

Date:

09/10/2026.

