

Assembly Meeting - Minutes

14th November 2025, 12.00pm
Assembly House, Waterford



Tionól Réigiúnach
an Deiscirt

Southern Regional
Assembly

Presiding: Cathaoirleach Andrew McGuinness.

Present: Cllr. Anthony Barry, Cllr. Dan Boyle, Cllr. John Brennan, Cllr. Deirdre Kelly, Cllr. Barbara Anne Murphy, Cllr. Bridín Murphy, Cllr. Sheila O'Callaghan, Cllr. Thomas Phelan, Cllr. Oliver Walsh.

Remote Attendance: Cllr. Pip Breen, Cllr. Michael Collins, Cllr. Gillian Coughlan, Cllr. Jim D'Arcy, Cllr. Kay Dawson, Cllr. Fergal Dennehy, Cllr. Joe Kavanagh, Cllr. Kieran McCarthy, Cllr. Mairín McGrath, Mayor John Moran, Cllr. Tony O'Brien, Cllr. Niall O'Callaghan, Cllr. Bobby O'Connell, Cllr. Peggy Ryan, Cllr. Terry Shannon, Cllr. John Sheahan, Cllr. Bill Slattery, Cllr. Michael Smith.

Officials Present: David Kelly, Cormac Laphorne, Kevin Lynch, Enda Hogan, Ian Ludlow, Omer Sunguroglu, Gary Burke, Michael Buckley, Dominic Walsh, Clare Breen, Denis Cotter.

Remote Attendance: Rhiannon Carey Bates, Yvonne Cooney, Sarah Davoren, Naomi Flood, Eve Hayden, Adam Hearne, Elayne McDonnell, Oonagh Messette, Mary Molloy, Maria Murphy, Eoin O'Connor, Samantha Richardson.

Following the roll call, the Cathaoirleach expressed condolences on the passing of Assembly staff member Vincent Dunphy. This was accompanied by a brief reflection by the Director David Kelly on Vincent's significant contributions to the Assembly during his 17 years of dedicated service. The Cathaoirleach then invited members and Assembly Staff to observe a one-minute silence in memory of Vincent.

1. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting held on 10th October 2025

The Members adopted the minutes of the meeting held on 10th October 2025, proposed by Cllr. John Brennan and seconded by Cllr. Thomas Phelan.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Presentation on the IPCC and its influence on Global, National, Regional & Local Contexts.

Dr Una Murray, Associate Professor of Geography at the University of Galway, delivered a presentation on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and COP30 (Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change).

Following the presentation, Members commented on topics / issues including localised flooding, public transport, climate messaging, and funding. Upon conclusion



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of questions, the Cathaoirleach and the Director both commended Dr Murray for her contribution and expressed appreciation for her time and expertise.

4. Presentation on Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy Update and Economic Analysis Contract

Kevin Lynch, Assistant Director, delivered a presentation on process for the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) review, prospective timelines, consultation and the upcoming regional economic analysis.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Members commended Kevin Lynch and the planning team for their commitment to youth engagement, particularly through post primary schools. Feedback was also given on the economic aspects and infrastructure priorities within the strategy.

5. Draft 2026 Budget – For Adoption

The Director presented the proposed Annual Budget for 2026, after which he addressed questions from Members. The Director then thanked Assistant Director Corporate, HR and Finance, Cormac Laphorne, and Head Auditor, Financial Control, Michael Buckley, for their work in preparing the budget.

The Budget was then proposed by the Cathaoirleach Cllr. Andrew McGuinness and seconded by Cllr. Oliver Walsh.

6. Update on Standing Orders amendment.

The Director gave an update to Members on the request for the Annual meeting to be in person only and highlighted the Establishment Order which outlines that the Members have the authority to regulate meetings of the Assembly. The Cathaoirleach requested that the item be included on the Agenda for the January 2026 meeting for further discussion.

7. Any Other Business

Ian Ludlow informed the Assembly Members about the Southern Regional Assembly's upcoming advertising awareness campaign, which will feature an advert in each of the local authorities in the southern region.

Ian Ludlow also reminded Members to submit any outstanding expense claims for processing.

8. Date of Next Meeting



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12th December at noon, at Assembly House, Waterford.

Signed: _____

Cllr. Andrew McGuinness
Cathaoirleach

Date: _____



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AGENDA

1. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting held on 10th October 2025
2. Matters Arising
3. The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and its influence on Global, National, Regional & Local contexts: Dr Una Murray, Associate Professor, Geography, University of Galway
4. Update on:
 - Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy Review- Kevin Lynch
 - Economic Analysis Contract – Kevin Lynch
5. Draft 2026 Budget – for adoption
6. Update on Standing Orders amendment
7. Any Other Business
8. Date of Next Meeting



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