

Assembly Meeting - Minutes

12th December 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. Pip Breen, Cllr. Kay Dawson, Cllr. Joe Kavanagh, Cllr. Deirdre Kelly, Cllr. Mairín McGrath, Mayor John Moran, Cllr. Barbara Anne Murphy, Cllr. Tony O'Brien, Cllr. Sheila O'Callaghan, Cllr. Oliver Walsh, Cllr. Ben Ward.

Remote Attendance: Cllr. John Brennan, Cllr. Alan Coleman, Cllr. Clare Colleran Molloy, Cllr. Gillian Coughlan, Cllr. Frankie Daly, Cllr. Jim D'Arcy, Cllr. Fergal Dennehy, Cllr. Kieran McCarthy, Cllr. Norma Moriarty, Cllr. Ken Murnane, Cllr. Niall O'Callaghan, Cllr. Bobby O'Connell, Cllr. Thomas Phelan, 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, Dominic Walsh, Ronan O'Brien, Naomi Flood, Marie Harnett, Sarah Davoren, Ian Ludlow, Breda Curran, Elizabeth Howard, Oonagh Messette, Lisa Slater, Rhiannon Carey Bates, Samantha Richardson, Omer Sunguroglu, Gary Burke, Laoise Doyle.

Remote Attendance: Michael Buckley, Mary Molloy, Anna Sellars, Kevin Twomey, Rose Power, Colm Walsh, Elayne McDonnell, Moira Walsh, Sean Kirwan, Roisin Slattery, Clare Breen.

1. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting held on 14th November 2025

The Members adopted the minutes of the meeting held on 14th November 2025, proposed by Cllr. Oliver Walsh and seconded by Barbara-Anne Murphy.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Presentation and Update on Tonn Nua Windfarm – ESB

Moira Walsh and Sean Kirwan (ESB Ireland) delivered a presentation on the current status of the Tonn Nua Windfarm project. Moira provided an overview of the project, outlining ESB's strategy, the key stages of development, projected expenditure, and the main targets and deliverables.

Following the presentation, the Cathaoirleach and Assembly Members expressed their thanks to Moira Walsh and Sean Kirwan for their update. A question-and-answer session followed, during which Assembly Members raised queries on several topics, including infrastructure requirements, opportunities for managing excess energy,



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Arna chomhchistiú ag
an Aontas Eorpach

Co-funded by the
European Union



Tionól Réigiúnach
an Deiscirt

Southern Regional
Assembly

energy pricing, community funding, supply chain designation, technology certification, impacts on local ports, and benchmarking data analysis.

4. Update on ERDF Regional Programme

Enda Hogan, Assistant Director, delivered a presentation on the Southern, Eastern, and Midland Regional Programme 2021–2027. The presentation focused on key aspects of the Mid-Term Review, including regulatory requirements and recent changes, submission deadlines, expenditure levels, current projects, performance to date, funding allocations, and the approval process.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Enda Hogan for his presentation. A subsequent discussion took place, during which Assembly Members raised questions regarding available funding, applicability of the scheme across the region and general approach to affordable housing.

5. Update on RSES Review

The Director provided an update on the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES), highlighting proposed changes under proposed amendments to the Planning & Development Act 2024, to expedite 10 year County & City Development Plans, by removing the need for the full revision of the RSES.

Following this update, the Director and Assistant Director Kevin Lynch addressed questions from Assembly Members on topics including the definition and role of Key Towns.

Kevin Lynch also provided an update to Members on the 'Our Rural Future' consultation and hosting of the ESPON seminar in Cork City Hall in November 2026.

6. Meeting Schedule for 2026

The proposed meeting schedule was agreed.

7. Any Other Business

The Director shared details of the AIR Training Seminar which will be held in Buncrana, Co. Donegal in February 2026.

The Director also welcomed Elizabeth Howard as the newest member of the Southern Regional Assembly staff team.

8. Date of Next Meeting

09th January 2026 at noon, at Assembly House, Waterford.

Signed: _____

Cllr. Andrew McGuinness
Cathaoirleach

Date: _____



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Arna chomhchistiú ag
an Aontas Eorpach

Co-funded by the
European Union



**Tionól Réigiúnach
an Deiscirt**

**Southern Regional
Assembly**



**Tionól Réigiúnach
an Deiscirt**

**Southern Regional
Assembly**

AGENDA

1. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting held on 14th November 2025
2. Matters Arising
3. Update on Tonn Nua Windfarm – ESB
4. Update on ERDF Regional Programme
5. Update on RSES Review
6. Meeting Schedule 2026
7. Any Other Business
8. Date of Next Meeting



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Arna chomhchistiú ag
an Aontas Eorpach

Co-funded by the
European Union



**Tionól Réigiúnach
an Deiscirt**
**Southern Regional
Assembly**