

Assembly Meeting - Minutes

09th January 2026, 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. Alan Coleman, Cllr. Joe Kavanagh, Cllr. Deirdre Kelly, Cllr. Mairín McGrath, Cllr. Ken Murnane, Cllr. Barbara Anne Murphy, Cllr. Bridín Murphy, Cllr. Tony O'Brien, Cllr. Niall O'Callaghan, Cllr. Thomas Phelan, Cllr. Bill Slattery, Cllr. Michael Smith. Cllr. Oliver Walsh.

Remote Attendance: Cllr. Pip Breen, Cllr. Clare Colleran Molloy, Cllr. Michael Collins, Cllr Gillian Coughlan, Cllr. Frankie Daly, Jim D'Arcy, Cllr. Kay Dawson, Cllr. Fergal Dennehy, Cllr. Kieran McCarthy, Mayor John Moran, Cllr. Norma Moriarty, Cllr. Sheila O'Callaghan, Cllr. Bobby O'Connell, Cllr. Peggy Ryan, Cllr. Terry Shannon.

Apologies: Cllr. John Sheahan, Cllr. Ben Ward.

Officials Present: David Kelly, Cormac Laphorne, Kevin Lynch, Enda Hogan, Ian Ludlow, Oonagh Messette, Gary Burke, Marie Harnett, Elizabeth Howard, Denis Cotter, Omer Sunguroglu, Clare Breen, Laoise Doyle.

Remote Attendance: Naomi Flood, Rhiannon Carey Bates, Michael Buckley, Mary Molloy, Adam Hearne, Anna Sellars, Lisa Slater, Elayne McDonnell, Yvonne Cooney, Sarah Davoren, Eoin O'Connor,

1. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting held on 12th December 2025

The Members adopted the minutes of the meeting held on 12th December 2025, proposed by Cllr. Oliver Walsh and seconded by Cllr. Barbara Anne Murphy.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. EirGrid Strategic Framework for Southern Region Presentation

Leah Kenny and Fay Lagan from EirGrid delivered a presentation on the Strategic Framework of Grid Development for the Southern Region. The presentation provided an overview of Ireland's electricity grid structure, outlining the respective roles of EirGrid and ESB, statutory requirements, and the benefits of grid reinforcement. It also explained the purpose of the framework and its links to key projects within the Southern Regional Assembly.

Following the presentation, a subsequent question-and-answer session covered a wide range of topics, including community engagement, project timelines,



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compliance with EU grid regulations, long-term planning, opportunities for the local grid, capacity constraints, weather resilience, ongoing investment, infrastructure upgrades, and community development funding.

Fay Lagan invited Assembly Members to visit one of the project sites. The Cathaoirleach thanked Leah and Fay for the Presentation.

4. Update on S3ADAPT Project

Oonagh Messette, EU Project Officer, delivered a presentation on the S3ADAPT project, which focuses on integrating smart specialisation strategies into climate change adaptation policy. During the presentation, Oonagh outlined the purpose of S3ADAPT, its core objectives, key activities, policy reporting requirements, timelines, expected impacts and deliverables, as well as partnerships, key stakeholders, and links to the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES).

Following the presentation, a Q&A session took place where Members expressed their appreciation, shared their interest, and asked questions on knowledge sharing, practical implications, and potential benefits. The Cathaoirleach concluded by thanking Oonagh for her informative presentation.

5. Discussion on remote attendance and public attendance at Assembly Meetings

The Cathaoirleach raised the issue of holding a vote on Assembly Annual Meeting attendance options. With the agreement of the Assembly Members and the Director, it was decided that both public attendance and remote attendance at the Annual meeting be addressed as two separate items in the February meeting.

6. Regional Planning Update

The Director provided a brief Regional Planning Update speaking about the planning and development act amendment bill and RSES review timelines.

7. Any Other Business

There was no other business to discuss.

8. Date of Next Meeting

13th February 2026 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 12th December 2025
2. Matters Arising
3. EirGrid Strategic Framework for Southern Region
4. Update on S3ADAPT Project
5. Discussion on remote attendance and public attendance at Assembly meetings
6. Regional Planning Update
7. Any Other Business
8. Date of Next Meeting



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