

Assembly Meeting - Minutes

14th February 2025, 12.00pm

Assembly House, Waterford



Tionól Réigiúnach
an Deiscirt

Southern Regional
Assembly

Presiding: Leas Cathaoirleach Murnane.

Present: Cllr Dan Boyle, Cllr. Pip Breen, Cllr. Clare Colleran Molloy, Cllr. Deirdre Kelly, Cllr. Mairin McGrath, Mayor John Moran, Cllr. Norma Moriarty, Cllr. Barbara Anne Murphy, Cllr. Tony O'Brien, Cllr. Niall O'Callaghan, Cllr. Bobby O'Connell, Cllr. Peggy Ryan, Cllr. John Sheahan, Cllr Bill Slattery, Cllr. Michael Smith, Cllr. Oliver Walsh, Cllr Ben Ward

Present on MS Teams: Cllr. Michael Collins, Cllr. Gillian Coughlan, Cllr. Fergal Dennehy, Cllr. Kieran McCarthy, Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, Cllr. Sheila O'Callaghan, Cllr. Thomas Phelan, Cllr. Terry Shannon.

Apologies: Cllr. John Brennan.

Officials Present: David Kelly, Kevin Lynch, Enda Hogan, Eoin O'Connor, Ronan O'Brien, Ian Ludlow, Lisa Moran, Dennis Cotter, Oonagh Messette,

Officials Present on MS Teams: Áine Whelan, Colm Walsh, Claire Breen, Breda Curran, Brigh Ryan, Elayne McDonnell, Karen Coughlan, Kevin Twomey, Maria Murphy, Mary Molloy, Michael Buckley, Sarah Davoren, Marie Harnett, Samantha Richardson, Omer Sunguroglu.

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

The Members adopted the minutes of the meeting held on 10th January 2025, proposed by Cllr. Oliver Walsh and seconded by Cllr. John Sheehan.

2. Matters Arising

No matters arising.

3. Election of Cathaoirleach of the Southern Regional Assembly.

Following the election of Senator Garret Kelleher to Seanad Eireann, nominations were sought for a new Cathaoirleach of the Assembly. Cllr. Ken Murnane was nominated by Cllr. Pip Breen and seconded by Cllr. John Sheehan as Cathaoirleach. There were no other nominations and Cllr. Murnane was deemed to be elected.

Cllr. John Sheehan was Nominated by Cllr. Bill Slattery and seconded by Cllr. Pip Breen as Leas Cathaoirleach.

Senator Garret Kelleher attended the meeting to thank the Assembly Members and Executive for their support during his term and indicated that he would support the Assembly at Seanad level at every opportunity.

4. Ireland's State of the Environment Report 2024 – Andy Fanning, EPA.

Andy Fanning, Programme Manager with the EPA gave a detailed presentation on the State of the Environment Report for 2024.

The conclusions of the report state that Delivering a national policy position on the environment; Driving policy implementation; Transforming our systems; Scaling up investment in infrastructure; and Protecting the Environment to protect our health are



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the five critical activities required for Government, semi-state bodies and Local Authorities.

Following much discussion, Mr Fanning again reiterated that this report would inform national and regional current and future policy and alignment between all is necessary.

5. Report on Kerry LECP – for discussion and approval

This item was deferred to a later meeting.

6. Update on the Smart and Sustainable Mobility Accelerator Programme

Eoin O'Connor gave an update on the Smart and Sustainable Mobility Accelerator Programme, with the aims of the programme to increase knowledge, skills, and understanding of sustainable and smart mobility at local and regional levels. The presentation also covered information on upcoming workshops designed for Elected Councillors.

7. Regional Planning Update – NPF Submission

Assistant Director Kevin Lynch gave an update on the uptake of recommendations made to the NPF submission by the Assembly Members. Following much discussion, and on the proposal by Mayor Moran, it was agreed that the Assembly will write to An Taoiseach highlighting the concerns and inviting him to address the Assembly.

8. Update on Corporate Plan

Ian Ludlow gave an update on the draft Corporate Plan and reminded Members to make any comments or submissions by the 21st of February. Mr Ludlow reminded Members that the final Corporate Plan must be adopted at the March Assembly Meeting.

9. Any Other Business

Cllr. Dan Boyle requested an update on the possibility of the National Rail Review being added to the agenda in the near future. The Director responded that this is still a work in progress.

Cllr. Clare Colleran Molloy encouraged the three Assemblies build in the success of the recent Association of Irish Regions Training event and suggested that a joint Assembly Meeting of the three Assemblies be scheduled. The Director indicated that this has been done previously and will work with the other Assemblies on this.

The Director highlighted the Assembly's current job opportunity under the heading of WAM (Willing, Able, Mentoring) whereby graduates with disabilities receive a paid and mentored work placement.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Cllr. Breen indicated that the Wexford Councillors would not be in a position to attend the next Assembly Meeting scheduled for the 14th March. The Executive agreed to review the date, if possible.



Signed: _____

Date: _____

Cllr. Ken Murnane.
Cathaoirleach



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AGENDA

1. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting held on 10th January 2025
2. Matters Arising
3. Election of Cathaoirleach of the Southern Regional Assembly
4. Ireland's State of the Environment Report 2024 – Andy Fanning, EPA
5. Report on Kerry LECP – for discussion and approval
6. Update on the Smart and Sustainable Mobility Accelerator Programme
7. Regional Planning Update – NPF Submission
8. Update on Corporate Plan
9. Any Other Business
10. Date of Next Meeting



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