

## Assembly Meeting - Minutes

08 May 2026, 12.00pm

Assembly House, Waterford



Tionól Réigiúnach  
an Deiscirt

Southern Regional  
Assembly

**Presiding:** Cathaoirleach Cllr Andrew McGuinness

A record of attendance was taken by means of roll call.

**Members Present:** Cllr Anthony Barry, Cllr Dan Boyle, Cllr Joe Hannigan, Cllr Joe Kavanagh, Mayor John Moran, Cllr Barbara Anne Murphy, Cllr Bridín Murphy, Cllr Tony O'Brien, Cllr Sheila O'Callaghan, Cllr Thomas Phelan, Cllr Bill Slattery, Cllr Oliver Walsh, Cllr Ben Ward.

**Remote Attendance:** Cllr Pip Breen, Cllr John Brennan, Cllr Clare Colleran Molly, Cllr Michael Collins, Cllr Jim D'Arcy, Cllr Deirdre Kelly, Cllr Kieran McCarthy, Cllr Máirín McGrath, Cllr Norma Moriarty, Cllr Ken Murnane, Cllr Niall O'Callaghan, Cllr Bobby O'Connell, Cllr Peggy Ryan, Cllr Terry Shannon, Cllr John Sheahan.

**Officials Present:** David Kelly, Cormac Laphorne, Kevin Lynch, Enda Hogan, Ronan O'Brien, Ian Ludlow, Lisa Slater, Omer Sunguroglu, Maria Murphy

**Remote Attendance:** Lorraine Barron, Michael Buckley, Denis Cotter, Elayne McDonnell, Eoin O'Connor, Brigh Ryan, Claire Breen, Catherine Connaughton, Oonagh Messette, Breda Curran, Sarah Davoren.

Following the roll call, the Cathaoirleach proposed a vote of sympathy for the family of former Member and Cathaoirleach of the Assembly, Cllr Joe Carroll. Members expressed their shock and sorrow on the passing of Cllr Carroll, commending his leadership, strong character, and dedication to local and regional government.

The Assembly meeting was adjourned for a period as a mark of respect. A formal letter, offering the condolences of the Southern Regional Assembly, is to be issued.

### 1. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting held on 10 April 2026

The Members adopted the minutes of the meeting held on 10 April 2026, proposed by Cllr Barbara Anne Murphy and seconded by Cllr Ben Ward.

### 2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

### 3. Developing Walking and Cycling Index: Southern Region review - NTA

Aoife Mannion, Active Travel programme manager with the National Transport Authority, delivered a detailed presentation on the 2025 Walking and Cycling Index, highlighting the importance of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy as a long-term direction for sustainable mobility in the southern region.

A question-and-answer session followed the presentation, during which several Assembly Members raised questions on topics including active travel funding, urban/rural divide, safety, maintenance, and Members' roles at planning stages.



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#### **4. Update on the Smart and Sustainable Mobility Accelerator Programme**

Eoin O'Connor, Executive Planner with the Assembly, briefed the Members on the Smart and Sustainable Mobility Accelerator Pilot, which aimed to increase knowledge and skills on sustainable mobility options.

A brief discussion followed the presentation, with Members providing feedback on the pilot, as well as suggestions for future initiatives.

#### **5. Regional Planning Update**

Assistant Director Kevin Lynch updated the members on the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy review process, outlining progress to date on public consultations and media campaigns. Kevin also proposed a Members workshop for 10 June 2026 to discuss how the Strategy might take shape.

#### **6. Call to Action on Circular Construction – for discussion and decision**

Assembly Director, David Kelly, updated the Members on the Call to Action on Circular Construction, requesting a decision on whether the Assembly would commit to becoming a signatory to the call.

Following a discussion, Members agreed to defer signing, with the option to review it again at a later date.

The Cathaoirleach proposed to extend the meeting to 2.15pm. This was agreed.

#### **7. Proposed Amendment to the Standing Orders: provision for emergency motions**

Senior Staff Officer, Ian Ludlow, presented a proposed amendment to Standing Orders to facilitate provision for emergency motions. This had been requested by Members at the April 2026 meeting of the Assembly.

The amendment was proposed by Cathaoirleach Cllr Andrew McGuinness and seconded by Cllr Thomas Phelan.

#### **8. Update on Europe Day Activities**

The Assembly's Communications Officer, Lisa Slater, provided an update to Members on Europe Day events, including primary school magazines, school visits, and a national photograph competition.

#### **9. Any Other Business**

The Cathaoirleach confirmed that the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage has approved a term extension for Director David Kelly.

#### **10. Date of Next Meeting**

12 June 2026 at noon, at Assembly House, Waterford.



Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Cllr. Andrew McGuinness**  
**Cathaoirleach**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



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## Meeting Agenda

8<sup>th</sup> May 2026

1. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2026
2. Matters Arising
3. Walking and Cycling Index: Southern Region review - NTA
4. Update on the Smart and Sustainable Mobility Accelerator Programme
5. Regional Planning Update
6. Call to Action on Circular Construction – for discussion and decision
7. Proposed Amendment to the Standing Orders: provision for emergency motions
8. Update on Europe Day activities
9. Any Other Business
10. Date of Next Meeting



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