

Assembly Meeting - Minutes

09th May 2025, 12.00pm

Assembly House, Waterford



Tionól Réigiúnach
an Deiscirt

Southern Regional
Assembly

Presiding: Cathaoirleach Ken Murnane.

Present: Cllr. Anthony Barry, Cllr. Pip Breen, Cllr. Alan Coleman, Cllr. Clare Colleran Molloy, Cllr. Gillian Coughlan, Cllr. Kay Dawson, Cllr. Fergal Dennehy, Cllr. Joe Hannigan, Cllr. Joe Kavanagh, Cllr. Deirdre Kelly, Cllr. Máirín McGrath, Mayor John Moran, Cllr. Norma Moriaty, Cllr. Barbara-Anne Murphy, Cllr. Tony O'Brien, Cllr. Niall O'Callaghan, Cllr. Sheila O'Callaghan, Cllr. Bobby O'Connell, Cllr. Peggy Ryan, Cllr. Terry Shannon, Cllr. Bill Slattery, Cllr. Michael Smith, Cllr. Oliver Walsh, Cllr. Ben Ward.

Apologies: Cllr. Dan Boyle, Cllr. John Brennan, Cllr. Michael Collins, Cllr. Thomas Phelan.

Officials Present: David Kelly, Enda Hogan, Sharon Murray, Ian Ludlow, Dominic Walsh, Padraig O'Shea, Michael Buckley, Eve Hayden, Edel Hunt, Elayne McDonnell, Colm Walsh, Mary Molloy, Rose Power, Ronan O'Brien, Eoin O'Connor, Pauline Twomey, Catherine Connaughton, Gary Burke, Oonagh Messette, Johanna Kavanagh, Marie Harnett, Dennis Cotter, Lisa Moran, Omer Sunguroglu.

1. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting held on 11th April 2025

The Members adopted the minutes of the meeting held on 11th April 2025, proposed by Cllr. Barbara-Anne Murphy and seconded by Cllr. Oliver Walsh.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. John Cummins T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

Cathaoirleach Cllr. Ken Murnane welcomed Minister John Cummins to the Assembly House. He noted the approval in both Houses of the Oireachtas of the First Revision to the National Planning Framework and highlighted the importance of the review of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy which will begin soon. The Cathaoirleach then invited the Minister to address the Assembly.

Minister Cummins introduced and formally launched the Assembly's new Corporate Plan 2025-2029, commending the content and ambitious goals outlined in the plan. The Minister then spoke on the Assembly's role in shaping balanced regional growth and Ireland's deep connection with the European Union, highlighting how Ireland's membership of the EU has driven regional development.

The Minister also commented on the challenges faced in the Southern Region, including rapid population growth, delivery of housing, and climate action.

The Director thanked the Minister for his time and also stressed the important role the Regional Assembly plays in terms of the RSES and the new regional renewable energy strategies. He also asked the Minister to give consideration to including the regional



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level as part of the Task Force on Local Democracy. The Minister confirmed that taskforce will be established during the summer.

Cllr. Michael Smith requested that the Minister be invited to attend a future meeting of the Assembly.

4. Annual Financial Statements

The Director commended the Annual Financial Statements for 2024 for adoption, with Cllr. Niall O'Callaghan proposing and Cllr. Deirdre Kelly seconding.

5. Report on Kerry Local Economic and Community Plan

Eoin O'Connor, Regional Planning Officer presented the report on the Kerry County Council LECP recommending amendments as set out in the Assembly's statement. The report was adopted on the proposal by Cllr. Norma Moriarty and seconded by Cllr. Fergal Dennehy.

6. Any Other Business

- The Director indicated to the Members that the Assembly would write to Minister Cummins to thank him for his attendance and to invite him again to a future Assembly meeting.
- The Director reminded the Members that the Assembly was hosting a Europe Day event in the Tower Hotel. He invited Members to attend and to visit the exhibitions stands showcasing the role of the Assembly in respect of EU programmes, EU projects and leadership in regional governance.
- Eoin O'Connor reminded the Members about the upcoming Smart and Sustainable Mobility Accelerator Training Programme training event in Athlone.
- Members emphasised the need for greater publicity and awareness of the positive role of the EU and also the need for more resources and expertise at local level to access funding opportunities.
- Cathaoirleach Cllr Ken Murnane thanked Mayor John Moran for the invitation to attend the inaugural Mayor's Ball in Limerick and commended the event.
- Members thanked the Assembly for organising a successful study trip to Brussels for Members and hoped that there would be further trips considered in the future.
- The Director welcomed two new staff members to the Assembly – Johanna Kavanagh and Gary Burke, who have joined the Corporate team, and also



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wished Karen Coughlan well in her new role and who is leaving the Assembly after 17 years of service.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting was confirmed for 13th June at noon.

Signed: _____

Cllr. Ken Murnane.
Cathaoirleach

Date: _____



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AGENDA

1. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting held on 11th April 2025
2. Matters Arising
3. John Cummins T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
4. Annual Financial Statements
5. Report on Kerry Local Economic and Community Plan
6. Any Other Business
7. Date of Next Meeting



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