

Assembly Meeting - Minutes

12 June 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 Pip Breen, Cllr John Brennan, Cllr Joe Hannigan, Cllr Joe Kavanagh, Cllr Deirdre Kelly, Mayor John Moran, Cllr Ken Murnane, Cllr Barbara Anne Murphy, Cllr Bridín Murphy, Cllr Peggy Ryan, Cllr Bill Slattery, Cllr Michael Smith, Cllr Oliver Walsh, Cllr Ben Ward.

Remote Attendance: Cllr Alan Coleman, Cllr Gillian Coughlan, Cllr Frankie Daly, Cllr Jim D'Arcy, Cllr Kay Dawson, Cllr Kieran McCarthy, Cllr Norma Moriarty, Cllr Tony O'Brien, Cllr Niall O'Callaghan, Cllr Shelia O'Callaghan, Cllr Bobby O'Connell, Cllr Thomas Phelan, Cllr Terry Shannon, Cllr John Sheahan.

Officials Present: David Kelly, Padraig O'Shea, Michael Buckley, Ian Ludlow, Oonagh Messette, Áine Whelan, Jack Shine, Omer Sunguroglu, Suzanne Linehan

Remote Attendance: Kevin Lynch, Cormac Laphorne, Dominic Walsh, Sarah Davoren, Claire Breen, Denis Cotter, Naomi Flood, Elayne McDonnell, Marie Harnett, Samantha Richardson, Brigh Ryan, Edel Hunt, Maria Murphy, Anna Sellars, Lorraine Barron, Dr. Daragh O'Leary

1. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting held on 8 May 2026

The Members adopted the minutes of the meeting held on 8 May 2026, proposed by Cllr Barbara Anne Murphy and seconded by Cllr Oliver Walsh.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Update on Economic Analysis - ARUP

Padraig O'Shea, Regional Planning Officer with the Assembly, introduced Suzanne Linehan from ARUP's Finance and Economic Team, and Dr. Daragh O'Leary, Economics Lecturer at UCC. They delivered a joint presentation on the Economic Report for the Southern Region. Suzanne Linehan outlined the project objectives and key themes, while Dr. Daragh O'Leary presented the preliminary findings. Suzanne Linehan concluded the presentation by detailing the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and challenges facing the Southern Region's economy.

A question-and-answer session followed the presentation, during which several Assembly Members raised questions on topics including the regional connectivity, the region's current reliance on Foreign Direct Investment, and strategies for attracting more foreign visitors. Additional discussion centred on aligning the report's findings with the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy and the economic opportunities and threats introduced by AI.



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4. Update on SMOOTY Project

Oonagh Messette, EU Projects Officer with the Assembly, presented on the SMOOTY Project (Sustainable Mobility Strategies in Low-Density Areas). Oonagh detailed the project's core goals, timelines, activity to date, and relevant good practices, while also outlining its projected impact on the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy.

A brief discussion followed, during which Members discussed the need for improved public transport and better-regulated rural bus stops, while highly commending the ongoing work of Local Link.

5. Annual Financial Statements 2025 for adoption

Assembly Director David Kelly presented the Annual Financial Statements 2025 to the Members for adoption. The Director thanked Cormac Laphtorne, Michael Buckley and Adam Hearne on the finance team for preparing the statements.

The Annual Financial Statements 2025 was proposed by Cathaoirleach Cllr Andrew McGuinness and seconded by Cllr Joe Kavanagh.

6. Annual Report 2025 for adoption

Ian Ludlow, Senior Staff Officer with the Assembly presented the Annual Report 2025 to the Members for adoption.

The Annual Report 2025 was proposed by Cllr Kieran McCarthy and seconded by Cllr John Brennan.

7. Regional Planning Update

Assistant Director Kevin Lynch provided a regional planning update to the Members. The briefing covered the conclusion of the consultation period for the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy and then the progress on the process.

8. Any Other Business

Director David Kelly provided a staff update to the Assembly. The Director extended his sincere thanks to Áine Whelan, EU Projects Officer at the Assembly, for her commitment, hard work and dedication ahead of her upcoming departure from the Assembly. The Director officially welcomed Jack Shine, Assistant Staff Officer to the team.

Director David Kelly notified the Assembly that an FOI request had been received regarding Member expenses for 2025.

10. Date of Next Meeting

10 July 2026 at noon, at Assembly House, Waterford.



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Signed: _____

Date: _____

Cllr. Andrew McGuinness
Cathaoirleach



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Meeting Agenda

12 June 2026

1. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting held on 8 May 2026
2. Matters Arising
3. Update on Economic Analysis
4. Update on SMOOTY Project
5. Annual Financial Statements 2025 for adoption
6. Annual Report 2025 for adoption
7. Regional Planning Update
8. Any Other Business
9. Date of Next Meeting



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