

Assembly Meeting - Minutes

13th June 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. Joe Kavanagh, Cllr Deirdre Kelly, Cllr Máirín McGrath, Mayor John Moran, Cllr Tony O'Brien, Cllr. Niall O'Callaghan, Cllr Sheila O'Callaghan, Cllr Peggy Ryan, Cllr Oliver Walsh.

Present on MS Teams: Cllr Dan Boyle, Cllr John Brennan, Cllr Clare Colleran Molloy, Cllr Michael Collins, Cllr Frankie Daly, Cllr Jim D'Arcy, Cllr Kay Dawson, Cllr Fergal Dennehy, Cllr Kieran McCarthy, Cllr Norma Moriarty, Cllr Bobby O'Connell, Cllr Thomas Phelan, Cllr Peggy Ryan, Cllr Terry Shannon, Cllr John Sheahan.

Apologies: Cllr. Barbra Anne Murphy, Cllr. Bill Slattery, Cllr. Ben Ward,

Officials Present: David Kelly, Kevin Lynch, Cormac Lapthorne, Kevin Twomey, Sharon Murray, Dominic Walsh, Rhiannon Carey Bates, Gary Burke, Oonagh Messette, Dennis Cotter, Omer Sunguroglu, Anna Sellars, Ronan O'Brien.

Officials Present on MS Teams; Enda Hogan, Breda Curran, Claire Breen, Colm Walsh, Elayne McDonnell, Lisa Moran, Maria Murphy, Mary Molloy, Michael Buckley, Samantha Richardson, Yvonne Cooney.

Following the role call, the Cathaoirleach welcomed two new members of Staff for the Southern Regional Assembly, namely Mr. Cormac Lapthorne as the Assistant Director for Corporate Affairs, HR, Finance and IT and Ms Anna Sellars as Economic Policy Analyst. The Cathaoirleach also welcomed a new Member Cllr. Joe Kavanagh from Cork City Council.

1. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting held on 9th May 2025

The Members adopted the minutes of the meeting held on 9th May 2025, proposed by Cllr. Michael Collins and seconded by Cllr. Terry Shannon.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Submission to NDP Review

As part of the review of the NDP Minister for Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform, Jack Chambers launched a public consultation to gather views on how investment should be prioritised for the upcoming review of the National Development Plan for 2026 to 2035.

Kevin Twomey provided a detailed presentation on the draft SRA submission which highlighted a number of key priorities for investment to enable the Region to fulfil its potential and objectives. The overarching recommendation of the Southern Regional Assembly is that the Revised National Development Plan should be strengthened significantly to address the current lack of alignment between the objective for Regional Parity and the structural and funding model required to achieve it.



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Following a wide-ranging discussion with input from many Members, the submission was agreed by Members. However, Members have an opportunity to provide further written input before the submission is finalised in advance of the deadline on June 26th. The Director also indicated that the submission will be circulated to all Oireachtas Members in the region once the document is submitted and that a briefing is being held with Local Authorities and other stakeholders in the Region.

4. RSES Review Preparation

Kevin Lynch provided an overview of the process for the statutory requirement for the Review of Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy which must commence within 6 months of the publication of the Revised NPF, i.e. by the end of Oct 2025.

Denis Cotter followed with a detailed presentation on the Consultation process required for this review emphasising it will take an inclusive approach in the consultations and engagements with stakeholders.

5. Submission to Kilkenny CDP Variation

Assistant Director Kevin Lynch presented the Variation. The draft observations were proposed by Cllr. Niall O'Callaghan and seconded by Cllr. Oliver Walsh.

6. Annual Report 2024 – for adoption

The Director David Kelly gave an overview of the draft Annual Report and commended it to the Members for adoption. On the proposal of Cllr. Niall O'Callaghan and seconded by Cllr. Joe Kavanagh, the Annual Report was adopted.

7. Proposal for Joint meeting of three Regional Assemblies

In consultation with the other two Regional Assemblies, it is proposed that a Joint Assembly Meeting would be held in November 2025. This would most likely take place in a central location and Members were asked to consider if this would be instead of their usual November Meeting or in addition to the Meeting as this would determine the venue and the time required. It is the intention of the Joint Assemblies to invite a Minister to speak to the attendants.

8. Any Other Business

The Director, David Kelly requested the approval and sanction from the Assembly Members to engage with the ongoing alliance with other European Regions with input to the Cohesion Policy review. Approval by Cllr. Pip Breen and seconded by Cllr. Máirín McGrath.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next Ordinary meeting of the Assembly will be the 11th July 2025. The Annual Meeting of the Assembly coincides with this date and will be held prior to the Assembly Meeting.



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Signed: _____

Cllr. Ken Murnane.
Cathaoirleach

Date: _____



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AGENDA

1. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting held on 9th May 2025
2. Matters Arising
3. Submission to NDP Review
4. RSES Review Preparation
5. Submission to Kilkenny CDP Variation
6. Annual Report 2024 – for adoption
7. Proposal for Joint meeting of three Regional Assemblies
8. Any Other Business
9. Date of Next Meeting



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