

Assembly Meeting - Minutes

10 July 2026, 12.00pm

Assembly House, Waterford



Tionól Réigiúnach
an Deiscirt

Southern Regional
Assembly

Presiding: Cathaoirleach Cllr Bobby O'Connell

Present: Cllr Anthony Barry, Cllr Dan Boyle, Cllr Pip Breen, Cllr John Brennan, Cllr Gillian Coughlan, Cllr Jim D'Arcy, Cllr Kay Dawson, Cllr Fergal Dennehy, Cllr Deirdre Kelly, Cllr Mairín McGrath, Cllr Andrew McGuinness, Cllr Barbara Anne Murphy, Cllr Tony O'Brien, Cllr Niall O'Callaghan, Cllr Thomas Phelan, Cllr Peggy Ryan, Cllr John Sheahan, Cllr Bill Slattery, Cllr Michael Smith, Cllr Oliver Walsh.

Apologies: Cllr Clare Colleran Molloy, Cllr Joe Kavanagh, Cllr Kieran McCarthy, Cllr Norma Moriarty, Cllr Ken Murnane, Cllr Bridín Murphy, Cllr Sheila O'Callaghan, Cllr Terry Shannon, Mayor John Moran.

Officials Present: David Kelly, Cormac Laphorne, Enda Hogan, Brigh Ryan, Pádraig O'Shea, Marie Harnett, Ronan O'Brien, Ian Ludlow, Catherine Cullimore, Denis Cotter, Jack Shine, Maria Murphy.

1. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting held on 12 June 2026

The Members adopted the minutes of the meeting held on 12 June 2026, proposed by Cllr Barbara Anne Murphy and seconded by Cllr John Brennan.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Directors Report on the Pre-Draft Consultation for the RSES Review

Brigh Ryan, Regional Planning Officer with the Assembly, delivered an overview of the Directors Report on the Pre-Draft Consultation for the RSES Review. The presentation included details on the issues raised as part of the pre-draft, public consultation process for the RSES review. It also outlined details of the public events and briefings undertaken, as well as the expected timeframe for the RSES review process.

A brief discussion followed, during which Members discussed the challenges around Planning rules, public consultations, and the Housing Activation Office.

4. Planning and Development (Amendment) Bill 2026

Assembly Director David Kelly gave a short overview of the Planning and Development (Amendment) Bill 2026, outlining strategic priorities and key dates, including the RSES completion date.

5. Communication on Regional Enterprise Plans



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Director David Kelly briefly updated Members on the review of Regional Enterprise Plans, carried out by Indecon Consultants on behalf of the Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment highlighting recommendations from the report in particular that the future REP's will be fully integrated into the RSES.

6. Amendment to Standing Orders: Meeting Recordings – for decision

Ian Ludlow, Senior Staff Officer with the Assembly presented a draft amendment to the Standing orders to facilitate a previous request from Members to record and publish Assembly meetings.

Members raised concerns about the use of AI to potentially manipulate recordings, however it was agreed to retain original recordings for future reference if required.

The Amendment was proposed by Cllr Niall O'Callaghan and seconded by Cllr Pip Breen.

7. Any Other Business

Ian Ludlow reminded Members about the upcoming Climate Transition Towards 2050 event to be hosted by the Assembly in September.

Several Members complimented the recent EU Presidency event in Brussels, particularly commending the variety of regional stalls and produce.

Cllr Peggy Ryan thanked outgoing Cathaoirleach Andrew McGuinness for his support during the last term.

10. Date of Next Meeting

11 September 2026 at noon, at Assembly House, Waterford.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Cllr Bobby O'Connell
Cathaoirleach



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Meeting Agenda

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2. Matters Arising
3. Directors Report on the Pre-Draft Consultation for the RSES Review
4. Planning and Development (Amendment) Bill 2026
5. Communication on Regional Enterprise Plans
6. Amendment to Standing Orders: Meeting Recordings – for decision
7. Any Other Business
8. Date of Next Meeting



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