



# Southern Regional Assembly

8<sup>th</sup> September 2023, 12:00pm  
Assembly House, Waterford and via MS Teams

## Minutes

**Presiding:** Cllr. Terry Shannon, Cathaoirleach.

**Present:** Cllr. Dan Boyle, Cllr. Pip Breen, Cllr. Joe Carroll, Cllr. Gillian Coughlan, Cllr. Garret Kelleher, Cllr. Ken Murnane and Cllr. Oliver Walsh.

**Remote Attendance via MS Teams:** Cllr. Siobhan Ambrose, Cllr. Robert Beasley, Cllr. Maura Bell, Cllr. John Brennan, Cllr. Noel Coonan, Cllr. Séamus Cosáí Fitzgerald, Cllr. Tom Cronin, Cllr. Conor D McGuinness, Cllr. Frankie Daly, Cllr. Deirdre Forde, Cllr. PJ Kelly, Cllr. Thomas Kinsella, Cllr. Kieran McCarthy, Cllr. Gerard Murphy, Cllr. Michael Murphy, Cllr. Deirdre O'Brien, Cllr. Alan O'Callaghan, Cllr. Sheila O'Callaghan, Cllr. Sean O'Connor, Cllr. Michael O'Meara, Cllr. Michael O'Shea, Cllr. Thomas Phelan and Cllr. John Sheahan.

**Apologies:** Cllr. Andrew McGuinness.

**Officials Present:** David Kelly, Kevin Lynch, Enda Hogan, Karen Coughlan, Marie Harnett, Oonagh Messette and Omer Sunguroglu.

**Officials Remote Attendance via MS Teams:** Brigh Ryan, Michael Buckley, Rose Power, Eoin O'Connor, Sarah Davoren, Áine Whelan, Eve Hayden, Edel Hunt, Elayne McDonnell and Yvonne Cooney.

**External Presenters Present:** Mairéad Conlon - Regional Water Resources Strategy Lead for Uisce Éireann.

**External Attendees Present:** Emma El Sahn - Corporate Affairs Manager for Uisce Éireann and Victoria Quigley - Drainage Area Plans Specialist for Uisce Éireann.

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

### 1. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2023

The Members adopted the minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> July, proposed by Cllr. Beasley and seconded by Cllr. Breen.

### 2. Matters Arising

Cllr. Carroll called for a change to the standing orders to re-introduce the stipulation that Assembly Meetings be held in person only. This call was echoed by the Cathaoirleach, Cllr. O'Shea, Cllr. Beasley, Cllr. Sheila O'Callaghan and Cllr. Gerard Murphy.

David Kelly, Director, responded by saying that how the meetings are run is a matter for the Southern Regional Assembly however it must respect the flexibility to allow for remote and hybrid meetings as set out in the Minister's Direction. In conjunction with the Cathaoirleach, a proposal will be developed for the next meeting.

### **3. Draft Regional Water Resources Zone South-East – Mairéad Conlon, Uisce Éireann**

Mairéad Conlon, Regional Water Resources Strategy Lead for Uisce Éireann gave a presentation on the Draft Regional Water Resources Strategy. The presentation was circulated to members after the meeting.

A discussion followed with topics raised by Cllr. Kinsella, Cllr. Boyle, Cllr. Murnane and Cllr. Coughlan. Topics raised included:

- Acknowledgment of risk factors such as extraction sustainability, quality and resilience of water sources,
- EPA's role in determining and issuing Water Extraction Licenses,
- Progress of reduction of leakage rates nationally and increasing dataset understanding to allow better assessment,
- Understanding where future development is occurring and prioritising these areas for future water infrastructure upgrades,
- Use of Scottish Water comparative methods key to learning lessons.

At the conclusion of the discussion, David Kelly said that the Assembly will be making a submission to the Regional Water Resources Plan – South-East and that this will be submitted in early October.

### **4. Report on Local Economic & Community Plans (LECPs)**

Reports were presented on Draft LECPs for Wexford & Carlow which had been submitted to the Regional Assembly under Section 44 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014. The Act provides that every LECP shall be consistent with the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) as well as the relevant City/County Development Plan. It also states that the local authority shall submit a draft of the economic and community elements of the LECP to the Regional Assembly, who shall adopt a statement on the draft for consideration by the elected council of that local authority and by the LECP Committee. The Regional Assembly are satisfied that both LECP accorded with the Act in overall terms subject to strengthening including reference to key RSES objectives including:

- Wexford: Reference RSES Objectives, Key Towns, New Ross, MASPS, Learning Region, Eastern Corridor.
- Carlow: Carlow as a Key Town, Learning Region, RSES Economic Strategy, Smart Southern Region.

It was recommended that statements on both LECPs issue as included in the reports.

- Wexford LECP was proposed by Cllr. Breen and seconded by Cllr. Walsh.
- Carlow LECP was proposed by Cllr. Murnane and seconded by Cllr. Kinsella.

### **5. SRA Branding refresh – for information**

David Kelly, Director, provided an overview of the new brand guidelines and logo for the Southern Regional Assembly

The new logo will be launched on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September and will be in use from that date.

### **6. Any Other Business**

- Enda Hogan gave an update on the ETC Network, where he announced there will be ETC Network Lunchtime Information Sessions running until the end of the year. These sessions will be of interest to anyone involved in applying for or managing EU projects, in particular Interreg or other ETC projects. Details of the event are available on the Assembly website at <http://www.southernassembly.ie/etc-network/etc-network-upcoming-events>

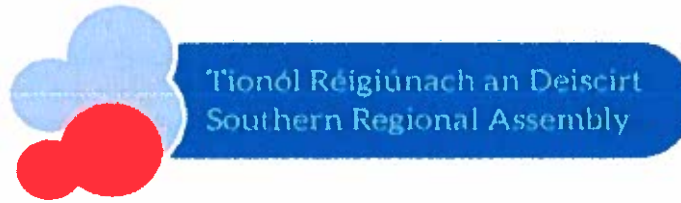
- Kevin Lynch informed members that at the next Assembly Meeting he would provide a report on the workshop held with the members in June, an update on the RSES implementation programme which will include a number of new items e.g., preparation for the next RSES, SEA (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Monitoring including work with the other Regional Assemblies. In addition, a non-statutory submission will be made regarding Tipperary LAPs Clonmel, Thurles and Nenagh.
- Cllr. Kelleher requested that an effort be made to have external speakers give their presentation from the Assembly Chamber rather than on-line.
- Cllr. Boyle mentioned that the All-Island Rail Review has been published and that it would benefit the Assembly if a discussion on its publication was held.
- Cllr. Coughlan queried if a report or discussion on the guidelines and policies on Anaerobic Digestors could be made.
- Cllr. Kelly wanted to draw attention to National Secondary Roads and the prohibition of building houses alongside them.
- David Kelly said he will circulate a report on the NPF review.
- David Kelly welcomed two new members of staff. Oonagh Messette was welcomed back to the Assembly into Corporate Affairs after secondment to Wexford County Council and Eoin O'Connor - Executive Planner.

#### 7. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> September in-person and online.

Signed: Terry Shannon  
 Cllr. Terry Shannon  
 Cathaoirleach

Date: 12/10/23.



# AGENDA

## 8<sup>th</sup> September 2023

1. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting held on 14th July 2023
2. Matters Arising
3. Draft Regional Water Resources Zone South-East – Mairéad Conlon, Uisce Eireann
4. Report on LECP's:
  - a. Carlow
  - b. Wexford
5. SRA Branding refresh – for information
6. Any Other Business
7. Date of Next Meeting