Southern Regional Assembly

08th April 2022, 15:00pm

Assembly House, Waterford and via GoToMeeting

Minutes

Presiding: Cllr. Pip Breen, Cathaoirleach

Present: Cllr. Deirdre O'Brien, Cllr. Thomas Phelan, Cllr. Dan Boyle, Cllr. Ken Murnane, Cllr. Joe Carroll,

Remote Attendance via GoToMeeting: Cllr. Michael Murphy, Cllr. PJ Kelly, Cllr. Noel Coonan, Cllr. Thomas Kinsella, Cllr. Alan O'Callaghan, Cllr. Deirdre Forde, Cllr. Kieran McCarthy, Cllr. Maura Bell, Cllr. Michael O'Meara, Cllr. Terry Shannon, Cllr R. Beasley, Cllr. John Sheahan, Cllr. John Brennan, Cllr. Noel Coonan, Cllr. Séamus Cosaí Fitzgerald, Cllr. Gillian Coughlan, Cllr. Gerard Murphy, Cllr. Sheila O'Callaghan, Cllr. Shane O'Callaghan, Cllr. Sean O'Connor, Cllr. Michael O'Shea, Cllr. Garret Kelleher, Cllr. Tom Cronin, Cllr. Terry Shannon, Cllr. Oliver Walsh.

Apologies: None.

Officials Present: David Kelly, Bryan Riney, Karen Coughlan, Marie Harnett, Maria Murphy, Alice Byrne Kelly.

Officials Remote Attendance via GoToMeeting: Kevin Lynch, Enda Hogan, Robert Fennelly, Sharon Murray, Michael Buckley, Sarah Davoren, Breda Curran, Samantha Richardson, Rose Power, Eve Hayden, Marie Harnett, Edel Hunt, Yvonne Cooney.

Presenters Present: Dr Niall Connolly, Associate Professor in Innovation & Entrepreneurship, Maynooth University. Vice-Chair All-Ireland Smart City Forum

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

1. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting held on 11th March

The Members adopted the minutes of the meeting held on 11th March 2022, proposed by Cllr. Gerard Murphy and seconded by Cllr. Oliver Walsh.

2. Matters Arising

None.

3. Presentation on a Smart Region Framework for the Southern Region

David Kelly set the context for the Smart Region Framework and the Learning Region outlining that they are both important and linked strands in the implementation of the RSES. He introduced Dr Niall Connolly, Associate Professor in Innovation & Entrepreneurship, Maynooth University, Vice-Chair All-Ireland Smart City Forum who gave a presentation (copy available) on the Smart Region Framework for the Southern Region.

A discussion followed with contributions from the Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Boyle, Cllr. Forde, Cllr. Kelly, Cllr. McCarthy and Cllr. Phelan. Key issues discussed included:

- The need for interaction between local authorities;
- Learning lessons and good practice from other countries;
- How the framework can assist local authorises in defining and implementing a "Smart Region";
- The need for the framework to be flexible enough to allow for the variances across the region.

4. Towards a Learning Region

Bryan Riney gave a presentation on "Towards a Learning Region". A discussion followed with contributions from Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Kinsella, Cllr. Kelly, Cllr. Phelan, Cllr. McCarthy, Cllr. Brennan, Cllr O' Brien, Cllr. G Murphy and Cllr. Boyle.

It was agreed that the draft paper will be circulated, and Members will have until Friday 22nd April (two weeks) to make comments and/or suggestions.

5. Adoption of Annual Financial Statements 2021

The Annual Financial Statements 2021 was adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Murnane and seconded by Cllr. Carroll.

6. Any Other Business

- SRA Statutory submissions made on the following:
  - Draft Clare Development Plan;
  - Material Amendments for Draft Waterford City & County Development Plan;
  - Material Amendments for Draft Carlow County Development Plan.

- Draft submission to material amendments for Draft Limerick City and County Development plan circulated to Members.
- Material Amendments to Draft Tipperary and Wexford Development plans published.

- Cllr. Carroll commented on the building works.
- Cllr. Murnane referred to training for members on specific regional topics. David Kelly advised that this was under consideration in the context of organising a workshop before the summer.

7. Date of Next Meeting

Friday, 13h May 2022, in-person and online.

Signed: _____   Date: _____
Cllr. Pip Breen
Cathaoirleach

AGENDA
8th April 2022

1. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting held on 8th April 2022

2. Matters Arising

3. Smart Region Framework

4. Towards a Learning Region

5. Adoption of Annual Financial Statements 2021

6. Any Other Business

7. Date of Next Meeting