



Tionól Réigiúnach
an Deiscirt

Southern Regional
Assembly

Southern Regional Assembly

8th December 2023, 12:00pm

Assembly House, Waterford and via MS Teams

Minutes

Assistant Director Kevin Lynch opened the Assembly Meeting explaining that both the Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach were unavailable. On the proposal from Cllr. Joe Carroll and seconded by Cllr. Michael O'Shea, Cllr Pip Breen agreed to chair the Assembly Meeting.

Presiding: Cllr. Pip Breen.

Present: Cllr. Robert Beasley, Cllr. Joe Carroll, Cllr. Gillian Coughlan, Cllr. Garrett Kelleher, Cllr. Sheila O'Callaghan, Cllr. Michael O'Shea.

Remote Attendance via MS Teams: Cllr. Noel Coonan, Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose, Cllr. Maura Bell, Cllr. Dan Boyle, Cllr John Brennan, Cllr. Séamus Cosáí Fitzgerald, Cllr. Tom Cronin, Cllr. Frankie Daly, Cllr. Deirdre Forde, Cllr. P.J. Kelly, Cllr. Thomas Kinsella, Cllr. Kieran McCarthy, Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, Cllr. Conor D. McGuinness, Cllr. Ken Murnane, Cllr. Gerard Murphy, Cllr. Michael Murphy, Cllr. Deirdre O'Brien, Cllr. Alan O'Callaghan, Cllr. Sean O'Connor, Cllr. Michael O'Meara, Cllr. Thomas Phelan, Cllr. Oliver Walsh.

Apologies: Cllr. Terry Shannon, Cathaoirleach

Officials Present: Kevin Lynch, Enda Hogan, Dominic Walsh, Brigh Ryan, Marie Harnett, Breda Curran, Oonagh Messette.

Officials Remote Attendance via MS Teams: David Kelly, Rose Power, Elayne McDonnell, Yvonne Cooney, Samantha Richardson.

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

1. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting held on 10th November 2023.

The Members adopted the minutes of the meeting held on 10th November, proposed by Cllr. Joe Carroll and seconded by Cllr. Michael O'Shea.

2. Matters Arising.

No matters arising.

3. Shannon Foynes Port & The Development of the Port Sector in Ireland / Southern Region.

Due to the unavailability of the arranged speaker, this item has been deferred to early 2024.

4. SEAI: Update on retrofit schemes.

The speaker, Ms Helen William, Programme Manager, gave a detailed presentation, on SEAI's "One Stop Shop" initiative but also including: Creating a Cleaner Energy Future, Home Heat Loss and Energy Use, Compare your Home Energy Upgrade Options; Free Energy Upgrade; One Stop Shop



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Service; Individual Energy Upgrades, Home Energy Upgrade Grants. One Stop Shop Service, One Stop Shop: steps for homeowner, Average costs and grants, Applications by region, OSS Applications and Completions by county (Southern).

Whilst the Members thanked Ms Williams for her presentation, many expressed the view that most of the retrofit schemes are beyond the means of a lot of people and other initiatives will be necessary. Ms Williams outlined the policy reasons for the approach taken.

5. Regional Planning Update.

Assistant Director Kevin Lynch gave a update on:

- Tipperary Material Alterations re Clonmel, Nenagh and Thurles. Draft submission to be circulated to members.
- The NPF review is underway, and a draft will be published in the new year. The Regional Assembly will make a statutory submission on this.
- The New Planning and Development Bill has been published. The Assembly will make a submission on this, and a briefing will be provided to members at the January meeting.
- Two Year Report on RSES: Statutory letters have been issued to Local Authorities and briefing workshop will be held prior to Christmas. Letters will also be issued to Public Bodies advising them of their requirements to make a submission to the Assembly on the process.

6. Meeting Schedule 2024 – for approval.

The proposed meeting schedule was approved on the Proposal of Cllr. Joe Carroll and seconded by Cllr. Garrett Kelleher.

7. Any Other Business.

- The executive is investigating an upgrade to the I.T. system for the Chamber to better accommodate remote meetings with the changing technologies.
- Whilst there may have been “drop-outs” when the roll call was being undertaken; the Teams application automatically records all those who join the meeting at any time so all Members that join the meeting will be recorded.
- Members were reminded to complete any Travel and Subsistence claims for 2023 and return same by Tuesday the 12th of December in order to receive payment before the end of the year.
- Members were reminded that the Save the Date notification for the AIR Regions to be held on the 7th & 8th of February in Focus Event has been issued to all Elected Members and all Local Authorities. Once confirmation of Guest Speakers and Panellists has been finalised the confirmed Agenda and Conference Brochure will be issued.
- Members were advised that the post of Senior Staff Officer Corporate Affairs was advertised on the 8th of December as Marie Harnett was successful in gaining the post of Administrative Officer with the Assembly. Ms. Breda Curran will be Acting Senior Staff Officer until the post has been filled. Both the Executive and Members congratulated Ms. Harnett on her success and sincerely thanked her for her unwavering assistance over the last number of years.

8. Date of Next Meeting.

The next meeting will be held in Assembly House on the 12th of January 2024.

Signed: _____

Jerry Shannon

Date: _____

12/1/2024



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Cllr. Terry Shannon
Cathaoirleach



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AGENDA

- 1 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting held on 10th November 2023
- 2 Matters Arising
- 3 Shannon Foynes Port & The Development of the Port Sector in Ireland/Southern Region:
Jerry Hallissey – Head of Business Development.
- 4 SEAI: Update on retrofit schemes Ms Helen William
- 5 Regional Planning Update
- 6 Meeting Schedule 2024 – for approval
- 7 Any Other Business
- 8 Date of Next Meeting



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