



Tionól Réigiúnach  
an Deiscirt

Southern Regional  
Assembly

## Southern Regional Assembly

12<sup>th</sup> January 2024, 12:00pm

Assembly House, Waterford and via MS Teams

### Minutes

**Presiding:** Cllr. Terry Shannon.

**Present:** Cllr. Pip Breen, Cllr. Dan Boyle, Cllr. Michael O'Shea, Cllr. Oliver Walsh.

**Remote Attendance via MS Teams:** Cllr. Noel Coonan, Cllr Robert Beasley, Cllr. Maura Bell, Cllr. John Brennan, Cllr. Joe Carroll, Cllr. Michael Collins, Cllr. Séamus Cosáí Fitzgerald, Cllr. Tom Cronin, Cllr. Frankie Daly, Cllr. Deirdre Forde, Cllr. P.J. Kelly, Cllr. Garret Kelleher, Cllr. Thomas Kinsella, Cllr. Kieran McCarthy, Cllr. Kieran McCarthy, Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, Cllr. Conor D. McGuinness, Cllr. Gerard Murphy, Cllr. Deirdre O'Brien, Cllr. Alan O'Callaghan, Cllr. Sheila O'Callaghan, Cllr. Sean O'Connor, Cllr. Michael O'Meara,

**Apologies:** Mr. Enda Hogan, Cllr. Siobhan Ambrose, Cllr. Gillian Coughlan, Cllr Michael Murphy.

**Officials Present:** David Kelly, Kevin Lynch, Catherine Connaughton, Denis Cotter, Breda Curran, Sarah Davoren, Oonagh Messette, Mary Molloy, Eoin O'Connor, Dominic Walsh.

**Officials Remote Attendance via MS Teams:** Claire Breen, Michael Buckley, Yvonne Cooney, Karen Coughlan, Eve Hayden, Edel Hunt, Elayne McDonnell, Brigh Ryan, Omer Sunguroglu, Kevin Twomey, Rebecca Walsh, Áine Whelan,

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

**1. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2023.**

The Members adopted the minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> December, proposed by Cllr. Oliver Walsh and seconded by Cllr. Robert Beasley.

**2. Matters Arising.**

No matters arising.

**3. Upscaling a Biomethane Industry in Ireland – Policy Context - Redmond McEvoy, Assistant Principal, Climate Change and Bioenergy Policy Division, DAFM.**

Under the agenda item of "What is Anaerobic Digestion, Biomethane in the EU, Biomethane in Ireland", Irish Policy context, The scale of the Biomethane Ambition, Ireland's National Biomethane Strategy, Strategy development, Stakeholder Consultation, Next steps for delivery, Mr. Redmond gave a full and detailed presentation.



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland



Có-mhainithe ag an  
Aontas Eorpach  
Co-funded by the  
European Union

Include the Strategic Employment Locations of: Carrigtwohill, Little Island, Ringaskiddy and Whitegate on the Labour Force 2022 diagram.

HLG 1 should be strengthened by: referencing in the Policy Section that it is an ambition of the RSES to be one of the Europe's most Creative and Innovative, Greenest and Liveable Regions, including support for the growth of the Metropolitan Area, designated Key Towns and settlements in accordance with the RSES and County Development Plan in the Objectives Section, and referencing support for the implementation of CMATS under the Actions section for the Objective to, "Support and promote initiatives and projects which improve access to public transport for rural and urban areas, including enhanced connectivity and public transport offering.", in the Draft Initial Implementation Plan.

The reference to the Learning Region under HLG 2 should be strengthened by referencing support for the development of the Southern Region as a UNESCO Learning Region, in which Co. Cork can participate to develop opportunities for life-long learning and skills development.

**7. Update on NWE Interreg Programme.**

Sarah Davoren gave a brief presentation on the North West Europe Programme detailing the funding of €310 million ERDF at a 60% co-financed rate available, under the theme headlines of: Climate and environment, Energy transition, Circular Economy, Innovation and resilience and Inclusive society. Applications are sought under the quadruple helix paradigm, and Members were strongly encouraged to activate their Local Authority.

**8. Any Other Business.**

- Members were reminded the AIR Regions to be held on the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> of February in Focus Event has been issued to all Elected Members and all Local Authorities. Members were encouraged to register and to bring the event to the attention of their political colleagues and Local Authorities.
- Following the November Assembly Meeting, Management had an encouraging meeting with the Department, and the actions / activities that can be undertaken will begin very soon.

**9. Date of Next Meeting.**

The next meeting will be held in Assembly House on the 16<sup>th</sup> of February 2024.

Signed: Terry Shannon  
Cllr. Terry Shannon  
Cathaoirleach

Date: 16/2/2024

