



Tionól Réigiúnach
an Deiscirt

Southern Regional
Assembly

Southern Regional Assembly

16th February 2024, 12:00pm

Assembly House, Waterford and via MS Teams

Minutes

Presiding: Cllr. Terry Shannon.

Present: Cllr. Robert Beasley, Cllr. Dan Boyle, Cllr. Pip Breen, Cllr. Ken Murnane, Cllr. Sheila O'Callaghan, Cllr. Michael O'Shea.

Remote Attendance via MS Teams: Cllr. Noel Coonan, Cllr. Siobhan Ambrose, Cllr. Maura Bell, Cllr. John Brennan, Cllr. Joe Carroll, Cllr. Séamus Cosáí Fitzgerald, Cllr. Tom Cronin, Cllr. Frankie Daly, Cllr. Deirdre Forde, Cllr. P.J. Kelly, Cllr. Garret Kelleher, Cllr. Kieran McCarthy, Cllr. Conor D. McGuinness, Cllr. Michael Murphy, Cllr. Alan O'Callaghan, Cllr. Sean O'Connor, Cllr. Michael O'Meara, Cllr. Thomas Phelan, Cllr. John Sheahan, Cllr. Oliver Walsh.

Apologies: .

Officials Present: David Kelly, Kevin Lynch, Enda Hogan, Dominic Walsh, Breda Curran, Denis Cotter, Oonagh Messette, Omer Sunguroglu.

Officials Remote Attendance via MS Teams: Claire Breen, Brigh Ryan, Eoin O'Connor, Karen Coughlan, Maria Murphy, Mary Molloy, Samantha Richardson, Áine Whelan.

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

1. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting held on 12th January 2024.

The Members adopted the minutes of the meeting held on 12th January, proposed by Cllr. Robert Beasley, and seconded by Cllr. Michael O'Shea.

2. Matters Arising.

No matters arising.

3. European Urban Initiative (EUI) programme and its opportunities for local authorities – Dr Karl Murphy, Urban Contact Point, EMRA.

Dr Murphy provided a detailed presentation on the EU Urban agenda and specifically on LA's can benefit from supports under the European Urban Initiative, copy of slides circulated. He highlighted:

- **Financial support:** €315m available with up to EUR 5 million ERDF (maximum co-financing rate of 80%)
- **Beneficiaries:** urban authorities (associations or groupings of urban authorities) with a total population of more than 50 000 inhabitants



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- Implementation period: 3.5 years
- Capacity Building: Open to cities and towns of all sizes

Next Calls:

Call 3: May 2024. the themes released in March! Call 4: Spring 2025

Following queries from Cllrs. Boyle, Phelan and Murnane, Dr. Murphy agreed to share a map indicating the location of Urbact projects in Ireland and detailed how Local Authority and Municipal Districts have the option to collaborate. The Director, David Kelly indicated that the Capacity Building Option would be an excellent steppingstone to get involved and could open the door to avail of other funding streams.

4. Adoption of Annual Work Programme 2024

The Director and both Assistant Directors presented the Annual Work Plan, highlighting the priority areas for focus in 2024.

The Annual Work Programme for 2024 was proposed by Cllr. Pip Breen and Seconded by Cllr Ken Murnane.

5. Proposal for Members Workshop on Draft Revised NPF

The Director, David Kelly outlined that the proposed date for the joint SPA workshop on the NPF Review is April 5th, however this is contingent on the Draft Revised NPF being published. It was agreed to hold the workshop on Clonmel. The feedback from the workshop will be included in the SRA submission on the NPF. For those who can't attend there will be an opportunity to feed into the process as the draft submission will be circulated for Members input. Further details will be presented at the March meeting.

6. Approval for Members attendance at Training Seminar

Members were reminded that attendance at the recent AIR Training Seminar had been approved, and following requests, it was agreed that all presentations would be sent to the Members.

7. Any Other Business

- UNESCO Learning City: Waterford City has recently been designated UNESCO Learning City. David Kelly commended the work of Dominic Walsh and former colleague Bryan Riney on their work on the Learning Region which acted as a key catalyst for this, Dominic was also central to the successful application.
- AIR Event: The event was very successful with great attendance and the Director thanked the team who worked so hard to put it together. He also thanks speakers and participants.
- Assistant Director Enda Hogan informed the Assembly that the Thrive scheme was launched by Minister O'Donnell following the Training Seminar and was now open to all Local Authorities with a budget of €90 million, for those requesting more information – Rose Power is the staff member responsible. Answering the query put forward by Cllr. Thomas Phelan, the Assistant Director Enda Hogan detailed that Strand 1 is for larger projects as originally designated under the RSES, and the onus will be on the Local Authority to decide which project to put forward. There will be a very competitive process under Strand 2.
- In response to a query from Cllr. Dan Boyle, the Director David Kelly indicated that the topic of the All-Ireland Rail Review will be dealt with during an upcoming meeting.
- Cllr. Siobhan Ambrose commended the 50-year dedication and long serving representation of Cllr. P.J. Kelly who has decided not to contest the next Local Elections.



8. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Assembly is on the 8th of March, Members are encouraged to attend in Person. The Members were reminded that this is also the date for the Referendum and International Women's Day.

Signed: 
Cllr. Terry Shannon
Cathaoirleach

Date: 8-3-24.



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AGENDA

1. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting held on 12th January 2024
2. Matters Arising
3. European Urban Initiative (EUI) programme and its opportunities for local authorities – Dr Karl Murphy, Urban Contact Point, EMRA.
4. Adoption of Annual Work Programme 2024
5. Proposal for Members Workshop on Draft Revised NPF
6. Approval for Members attendance at Training Seminar
7. Any Other Business
8. Date of Next Meeting



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