



Tionól Réigiúnach
an Deiscirt

Southern Regional
Assembly

Southern Regional Assembly

12th April 2024, 12:00pm

Assembly House, Waterford and via MS Teams

Minutes

Presiding: Cllr. Terry Shannon.

Present: Cllr. Dan Boyle, Cllr. Pip Breen, Cllr. Garrett Kelleher, Cllr. Oliver Walsh.

Remote Attendance via MS Teams: Cllr. Noel Coonan, Cllr. Robert Beasley, 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. Andrew McGuinness, Cllr. Gerard Murphy, Cllr. Michael Murphy, Cllr. Deirdre O'Brien, Cllr. Alan O'Callaghan, Cllr. Sean O'Connor, Cllr. Michael O'Meara, Cllr. Michael O'Shea, Cllr. Thomas Phelan.

Apologies:

Officials Present: David Kelly, Kevin Lynch, Eoin O'Connor, Kevin Twomey, Ian Ludlow, Denis Cotter, Clare Breen, Oonagh Messette, Lorraine Barron.

Officials Remote Attendance via MS Teams: Omer Sunguroglu, Maria Murphy, Eve Hayden, Brigh Ryan, Elaine McDonald, Yvonne Cooney, Áine Whelan, Mary Molloy, Edel Hunt, Breda Curran, Roisin Slattery, Michael Buckley.

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

1. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting held on 8th March 2024.

The Members adopted the minutes of the meeting held on 8th March, proposed by Cllr. Garrett Kelleher, and seconded by Cllr. Oliver Walsh.

2. Matters Arising.

No matters arising.

3. ESB Asset Development & Offshore: Sean Moroney & Keith O'Sullivan, ESB; Thomas McHugh, Ørsted

Sean Moroney outlined the activities of ESB detailed the current and future activities encompassing: Invested in Net Zero including Renewables, Zero Carbon Dispatchable Power Generation, Hydrogen and Sub Sea Storage.

Thomas McHugh gave an introduction to Ørsted outlining their activities in Ireland and in the UK with regard to both on-shore and off-shore renewables.



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Keith O’Sullivan appraised the Members of the Green energy @Cork.

Presentation attached.

Having thanked the Speakers, **David Kelly** noted the scale and significance of the possibilities for the Region. He reminded the members that officials from DECC will attend the May meeting to present on the Draft South Coast DMAP.

There was a detailed discussion with interventions from Cllr. Breen, Cllr O’Shea, Cllr Carroll, Cllr Boyle, Cllr Kelly, Cllr Beasley, Cllr Forde, and Cllr Kelleher on the following points:

- Costs of energy to consumers;
- The importance of suitable and enabling infrastructure for ports and harbours;
- Opportunities for solar on farms;
- Should the question of Nuclear be discussed?;
- Importance of MARA being in place;
- The construction costs make up largest portion of green energy production;
- Southern Region will generate over 50% of renewable Energy in Ireland so region well placed;
- Importance of off-shore;
- Importance of security for infrastructure in current geopolitical environment;
- Engagement with fishing industry;
- Importance for Assembly to engage with the process.

Kevin Lynch reminded the Members that through the new planning bill and the renewal of the RSES will give the Assembly responsibility for renewable energy and increased Marine responsibility.

4. Update Report on RSES Implementation.

Kevin Lynch gave a detailed update progress report on RSES implementation to the Members, setting out the considerable progress made with many actions either complete or in progress under the following:

- Governance Actions;
- Engagement with Local Authorities;
- Regional Initiatives;
- Regional Strategies and Engagement with Govt and Regional Bodies.

However, he warned that the impact of RSES Work Programme is hindered by certain constraints of the Assembly Role, which has been discussed previously. With the NPF review underway the workload for will now pivot to making submissions to the NPF Review and RSES Review.

5. Report on LECP’s – for discussion and approval

- Eoin O’Connor, Regional Planning Officer presented the report on the Cork County Council LECP recommending 4 minor adjustments. The report was adopted on the proposal by Cllr. Dan Boyle and Seconded by Cllr. Garrett Kelleher and will form the basis of the Consistency Statement.
- Kevin Twomey, Regional Planning Officer presented the report on the Limerick City and County Council LECP 2024-2030 recommending 4 minor adjustments. The report was adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Garrett Kelleher and Seconded by Cllr. Terry Shannon and will form the basis of the consistency statement.

6. Any Other Business

- David Kelly introduced Ian Ludlow to the Members, indicating that he will now be the Senior Staff Officer for the Corporate Section and the “go-to” person for Members. He also introduced Lorraine Barron as the new Clerical Officer for the EU Projects Section.
- The invitation to Europe Day event on the 9th of May will be circulated to Members.



- At the next meeting of the Assembly, the South Coast Marine Map will be presented.
- The next meeting will also be the last with the current Elected Representatives as Members of the Assembly. A lunch will be provided to those present.
- Cllr. Phelan asked if it were possible to have a leaflet produced detailing the achievements of the Assembly and particularly the RSES during this term, specifically tailored to the electorate. David Kelly agreed that this will be produced and issued before the next meeting.
- Cathaoirleach Cllr. Terry Shannon wished all Member best of luck on the canvassing trail to those going for re-election and enjoyment of retirement for those not participating.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Assembly is on the 10th of May, Members are encouraged to attend in person and lunch will be provided for those in attendance.

Signed: Terry Shannon
Cllr. Terry Shannon
Cathaoirleach

Date: 10/5/2024



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AGENDA

1. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting held on 8th March 2024
2. Matters Arising
3. ESB Asset Development & Offshore: Sean Moroney & Keith O'Sullivan, ESB; Thomas McHugh, Ørsted.
4. Update Report on RSES Implementation
5. Report on LECP's – for discussion and approval
 - a. Cork City
 - b. Limerick City & County
6. Any Other Business
7. Date of Next Meeting



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