

Ordinary Meeting - Minutes

12th July 2024, 12.00pm

Assembly House, Waterford



Tionól Réigiúnach
an Deiscirt

Southern Regional
Assembly

Presiding: Cllr. Garret Kelleher.

Present: Cllr. Dan Boyle, Cllr. Pip Breen, Cllr. Alan Coleman, Cllr. Gillian Coughlan, Cllr. Jim D'Arcy, Cllr. Garret Kelleher, Cllr. Noel McCarthy, Cllr. Máirín McGrath, Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, Cllr. Conor McGuinness, Cllr. John Moran, Cllr. Norma Moriarty, Cllr. Ken Murnane, Cllr. Michael Murphy, Cllr. Barbara-Anne Murphy, Cllr. Tony O'Brien, Cllr. Niall O'Callaghan, Cllr. Shiela O'Callaghan, Cllr. Bobby O'Connell, Cllr. John Paul O'Shea, Cllr. Thomas Phelan, Cllr. Peggy Ryan, Cllr. John Sheahan, Cllr. Bill Slattery, Cllr. Michael Smith, Cllr. Oliver Walsh, Cllr. Ben Ward.

Apologies: Cllr. Michael Collins, Cllr. Frankie Daly, Cllr. Deirdre Kelly, Cllr. Kieran McCarthy.

Officials Present: David Kelly, Dominic Walsh, Brigh Ryan, Sharon Murray, Marie Harnett, Mary Molloy, Ian Ludlow, Breda Curran, Pauline Toomey, Denis Cotter, Maria Murphy, Omer Sunguroglu, Oonagh Messette.

1. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting held on 10th May 2024

The Members adopted the minutes of the meeting held on 10th May 2024, proposed by Cllr. Pip Breen and seconded by Cllr. Oliver Walsh.

2. Matters Arising

No matters arising.

3. Adoption of Standing Orders

The Members adopted the draft Standing Orders 2024 - 2029, proposed by Cllr. Terry Shannon and seconded by Cllr. Pip Breen.

4. Adoption of Schedule of Meetings - September to December 2024

The Members adopted the schedule of meetings September – December 2024, proposed by Cllr. Oliver Walsh and seconded by Cllr. John Sheahan.

5. Overview of the Southern Regional Assembly - David Kelly, Director

David Kelly gave an overview of the background to the SRA and outlined the key statutory functions.

Ian Ludlow outlined some practical details relating to Members allowances, T&S procedures and in response to query from Cllr Moriarty details on conferences and training allowances.

6. Overview of the E.U. Programmes Division

Marie Harnett highlighted the work of the ERDF Regional Programme, and its priorities, the role of the SRA within European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) Programmes, the ETC Network and EU Projects.

Cllr. Michael Murphy welcomed the work that is being done by the Assembly and the Irish Regions Office, He also reminded the Assembly that within the lifetime of this Assembly, Ireland will have the EU Presidency in 2027.

The Director also mentioned that a familiarisation visit to Brussels, particularly for new Members, will be organised, most likely in early 2025.

7. Overview of the Regional Planning



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Dominic Walsh provided an overview of the Regional Planning function and the important role of the Statutory Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES). He also outlined that NPF review which is currently underway.

Following discussion, the Director indicated that a Joint SPA meeting will be held before the next Assembly meeting with the specific agenda of the Assembly's submission on the consultation period of the First Revision to the National Planning Framework (NPF) which concludes on the 12th September 2024. Details will follow.

8. Nomination to Committees of the Southern Regional Assembly;

- a) **Southern, Eastern & Midland Regional Programme Monitoring Committee - Cathaoirleach and 3 members**
- b) **CAP Strategic Plan Monitoring Committee – 1 member**
- c) **EIST Programme (ESF+) Monitoring Committee – 1 member**

This item will be held over until the next Assembly Meeting to give all Members time to understand prospective roles and responsibilities.

9. Adoption of Annual Report 2023

The 2023 Annual Report was adopted on the nomination of Cllr. John Sheehan and seconded by Cllr. Connor D. McGuinness.

The Members were advised that they are obligated to produce and adopt a Corporate Plan for the term of this Assembly – 2025 to 2029 within the next 9 months.

10. Cohesion Policy Post 2027

The Director gave a quick introduction to the discussions which are ongoing regarding Cohesion Policy post 2027 and sought approval to continue the active involvement in the debate. A Joint Position Paper from the three Regional Assemblies will be discussed in more detail at the Sept meeting.

On behalf of the Committee of the Regions Members, Cllr. Gillian Coughlan strongly encouraged further dialogue, and encouraged all Members to highlight EU membership, involvement and activities to all their Local Authorities

Cllr. Pip Breen requested that the information deficit between the Assembly and Local Authorities be addressed;

Cllr. Ben Ward highlighted the bureaucratic burden on those attempting to access grants and requested that this be highlighted in future discussions.

11. Any Other Business

Opening Welcome Reception of the SPRAOI Festival will be held in Assembly House on Thursday 1st August at 6.30pm. All are welcome to attend.

12. Date for next meeting

Friday the 13th September 2024 in Assembly House. Members will be advised of the arrangements for the next SPC meeting.

Signed: _____



Cllr. Garret Kelleher
Cathaoirleach

Date: _____

13/09/2024



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