



Tionól Réigiúnach
an Deiscirt

Southern Regional
Assembly

Southern Regional Assembly

10th May 2024, 12:00pm

Assembly House, Waterford and via MS Teams

Minutes

Presiding: Cllr. Terry Shannon.

Present: Cllr. Noel Coonan, Cllr. Dan Boyle, Cllr. Pip Breen, Cllr. Thomas Phelan, Cllr. Oliver Walsh.

Remote Attendance via MS Teams: Cllr. Robert Beasley, Cllr. Maura Bell, Cllr. John Brennan, Cllr. Michael Collins, Cllr. Seamus Cosáí Fitzgerald, Cllr. Tom Cronin, Cllr. Deirdre Forde, Cllr. Garret Kelleher, Cllr. P.J. Kelly, Cllr. Thomas Kinsella, Cllr. Kieran McCarthy, Cllr. Conor D. McGuinness, Cllr. Michael Murphy, Cllr. Alan O'Callaghan, Cllr. Sean O'Connor, Cllr. John Sheahan.

Apologies: Cllr. Gillian Coughlan, Cllr. Sheila O'Callaghan.

Officials Present: David Kelly, Kevin Lynch, Enda Hogan, Dominic Walsh, Ian Ludlow, Kevin Twomey, Brigh Ryan, Oonagh Messette.

Officials Remote Attendance via MS Teams: Claire Breen, Michael Buckley, Anna Higgins, Edel Hunt, Elayne McDonnell, Mary Molloy, Maria Murphy, Róisín Slattery, Omer Sunguroglu, Colm Walsh, Áine Whelan.

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

The Cathaoirleach proposed a Vote of Sympathy on the sudden and sad death of Cllr. Gerard Murphy, this was seconded by Cllr. John Sheehan. Members and staff expressed their shock and sorrow at the untimely death of Cllr Murphy and commended his commitment to public life at local and national level over a long period. His willingness to help others, share knowledge and experience was also acknowledged. The Assembly meeting was adjourned for 15 minutes as a mark of respect. A formal letter, offering the condolences of the Southern Regional Assembly, will now be issued.

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

The Members adopted the minutes of the meeting held on 12th April, proposed by Cllr. Oliver Walsh, and seconded by Cllr. Pip Breen.

2. Matters Arising.

No matters arising.

3. Draft South Coast Designated Maritime Area Plan (DMAP) – Officials from DECC

Paul Gallagher, Offshore Energy Division, Lisa Underwood, International & Offshore Energy Division



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Brian Fitzgerald, Community Liaison Officer and Mark O'Reilly, Fishing Liaison Officer provided a detailed presentation on the Draft South Coast DMAP and provided details of the consultation process, slides circulated.

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

- Infrastructure necessary and lifetime;
- Installation distances;
- Community benefits;
- Environmental and maritime risks;
- Community engagement;
- Economic forecasts.

David Kelly thanked the Speakers and impressed on the Members the scale and importance of the opportunities that ORE presents for the region and country.

4. RSES 2nd Report Update.

Kevin Twomey and Brigh Ryan gave a detailed presentation on the draft 2nd RSES implementation report, slides circulated. The key messages are that there is evidence that progress is being made however many challenges still exist.

The findings, conclusions and recommendations will be completed for the September Assembly Meeting.

Comments were received from Cllrs. Phelan, Breen and Boyle primarily expressing concern at the imbalance of investment across the country.

5. Regional Assembly Information Leaflet

The information leaflet was prepared to circulate to all elected Members in the Southern Region following the local elections in June to provide information on the role of the Regional Assembly.

6. Any Other Business

Cllr. Boyle reminded the Executive of the issue of the Cork City representation following the boundary extension. The Director acknowledged this and stated that he has flagged this issue with the DHLGH.

The Cathaoirleach wished all Elected Members running for re-election well and invited those present to lunch.

7. Date of Next Meeting

To be advised.



12 July 2024

Signed: _____

Cllr. Terry Shannon
Cathaoirleach

Date: _____

