



Southern Regional Assembly

12th May 2023, 12:00pm
Assembly House, Waterford and via MS Teams

Minutes

Presiding: Cllr. Oliver Walsh, Cathaoirleach.

Present: Cllr. Pip Breen, Cllr. Joe Carroll, Cllr. Terry Shannon and Cllr. Conor D McGuinness.

Remote Attendance via MS Teams: Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, Cllr. Robert Beasley, Cllr. Maura Bell, Cllr. John Brennan, Cllr. Dan Boyle, Cllr. Michael Collins, Cllr. Noel Coonan, Cllr. Séamus Cosáí Fitzgerald, Cllr. Gillian Coughlan, Cllr. Tom Cronin, Cllr. Frankie Daly, Cllr. PJ Kelly, Cllr. Garret Kelleher, Cllr. Thomas Kinsella, Cllr. Kieran McCarthy, Cllr. Ken Murnane, Cllr. Gerard Murphy, Cllr. Michael Murphy, Cllr. Deirdre O'Brien, Cllr. Alan O'Callaghan, Cllr. Sean O'Connor, Cllr. Michael O'Shea, Cllr. Thomas Phelan, and Cllr. John Sheahan.

Apologies: Cllr. Sheila O'Callaghan

Officials Present: David Kelly, Kevin Lynch, Enda Hogan, Karen Coughlan, Marie Harnett, Breda Curran, Áine Whelan, Rebecca Walsh, Anna Higgins, Omer Sunguroglu and Maria Murphy.

Officials Remote Attendance via MS Teams: Dominic Walsh, Robert Fennelly, Michael Buckley, Rose Power, Eve Hayden, Edel Hunt, Elayne McDonnell, Yvonne Cooney.

External Presenters Attendance via MS Teams: Stephen O'Shea, Deputy CEO – Head of Policy and Research, European Movement Ireland.

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

1. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting held on 10th March and 14th April

The Members adopted the minutes of the meeting held on 10th March 2023, proposed by Cllr. Michael Collins and seconded by Cllr. Tom Cronin.

The Members adopted the minutes of the meeting held on 14th April 2023, proposed by Cllr. Pip Breen and seconded by Cllr. John Sheahan.

2. Matters Arising

None.

3. Presentation from EU Movement

David Kelly introduced Stephen O'Shea, Deputy CEO – Head of Policy and Research at the European Movement Ireland who gave a talk on the 50 Years of Ireland's Membership of the European Union.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr. M Murphy, Cllr. Phelan, Cllr. C McGuinness, Cllr. Carroll, Cllr. Beasley, Cllr. Kinsella, Cllr. Shannon, Cllr. Kelly and Cllr. McCarthy.

Key issues discussed

- a need for a European Officer in all local authorities to access EU funding,
- the advantageous impact of Ireland's membership in the EU on Irish society.

4. SMC Net Zero Project - Rebecca Walsh, EU Projects Officer SRA

David Kelly introduced Rebecca Walsh, EU Projects Officer who gave a detailed presentation (copy available) on the new Horizon Europe funded SMC Net Zero project, which aims to achieve net-zero through innovation in small and medium-sized cities. The project focuses on facilitating knowledge-building activities and digital resources to increase the capacity for planning, deploying, and scaling up decarbonisation solutions. The primary goal is to increase the intellectual assets necessary for planning, assessing, and implementing net-zero innovations in small and medium-sized cities. A copy of the detailed presentation is available.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr. Boyle, Cllr. Kelleher and Cllr. McCarthy.

David Kelly gave a brief overview on the outcome of the first call for the new Interreg Europe Programme and the Interreg North-West Europe Programme 2021-2027.

5. Workshop Proposal

David Kelly provided details of a proposed a workshop called "Strengthening The Effectiveness of The Regional Tier to address current & future challenges," which Members are invited to attend on Friday, 2nd June, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The workshop will be a joint SPA meeting and will take place in a central location within the southern region, but outside the Assembly Chamber.

The proposed agenda for the workshop includes the following topics:

- The role and position of the Regional Assembly – Strengths and Weaknesses.
- Impact of Draft Planning & Development Bill
- The role of the elected member.
- Linkages to the national and local level.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr. Phelan and Cllr. Kelly.

Cllr. Phelan proposed the workshop, which was seconded by Cllr. Shannon and subsequently adopted.

6. Regional Planning Update

Kevin Lynch provided the following updates:

- Launch of the SMP Pathfinder Project 30 a training module which will support Local Authorities and Stakeholders in each of the three Regions.
- The South-East and South-West SPA Meetings took place, but the Mid-West SPA Meeting will be rescheduled.
- Draft SRA Submission to the Draft Direction on the Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029 was issued on 11th May.
- The Draft Planning and Development Bill Report was published and circulated to the Members.

7. Any Other Business

Members were reminded by David Kelly that the deadline for nominations for the Brussels trip is the 16th May 2023. He also mentioned that there will not be a second trip this year, but a trip will be scheduled to take place in February 2024 to facilitate those members who can't attend in June.

David Kelly introduced Omer Sunguroglu as the new Clerical Officer in Corporate Affairs.

David Kelly also thanked Siobhan Rudden who is to leave the SRA in May to take up a new position as Project Officer in SETU, for her contribution and commitment to the Regional Assembly and wished her well in her new post.

Cllr. Oliver Walsh, Cathaoirleach thanked Siobhan Rudden for her service and work over the years. He welcomed Omer to the Regional Assembly.

Cllr. Carroll paid a warm tribute to Siobhan and noted her ready assistance to the Members and wished her best of luck. Other Members joined Cllr. Carroll in his tribute and thanks.

8. Date of Next Meeting

Friday, 9th June 2023 in-person and online.

Signed: Oliver Walsh
Cllr. Oliver Walsh
Cathaoirleach

Date: 9/5/23



AGENDA

1. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting held on 12th May 2023
2. Matters Arising
3. EU Competitiveness Index – Helen Leahy, Head of Regional Policy, IBEC
4. Adoption of the Annual Financial Statement 2022
5. Adoption of the Annual Report 2022
6. Feedback from Members Workshop on June 2nd
7. Any Other Business
8. Date of Next Meeting

