



# Southern Regional Assembly

13<sup>th</sup> May 2022, 12:00pm

Assembly House, Waterford and via GoToMeeting

## Minutes

**Presiding:** Cllr. Pip Breen, Cathaoirleach

**Present:** Cllr. Tom Cronin, Cllr. Sean O'Connor, Cllr. Ken Murnane.

**Remote Attendance via GoToMeeting:** Cllr. Michael Murphy, Cllr. PJ Kelly, Cllr. Siobhan Ambrose, Cllr. Noel Coonan, Cllr. Thomas Kinsella, Cllr. Alan O'Callaghan, Cllr. Kieran McCarthy, Cllr. Maura Bell, Cllr. Michael O'Meara, Cllr. Terry Shannon, Cllr. Robert Beasley, Cllr. John Sheahan, Cllr. John Brennan, Cllr. Séamus Cosáí Fitzgerald, Cllr. Sheila O'Callaghan, Cllr. Kieran McCarthy, Cllr. Michael Collins, Cllr. Michael O'Shea, Cllr. Garret Kelleher, Cllr. Terry Shannon, Cllr. Conor McGuinness, Cllr. Oliver Walsh, Cllr. Deirdre O'Brien, Cllr. Joe Carroll, Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, Cllr. Dan Boyle.

**Apologies:** Cllr. Deirdre Forde, Cllr. Thomas Phelan and Cllr. Michael O'Shea.

**Officials Present:** David Kelly, Kevin Lynch, Siobhan Rudden, Maria Murphy, Alice Byrne Kelly.

**Officials Remote Attendance via GoToMeeting:** Dominic Walsh, Robert Fennelly, Bryan Riney, Michael Buckley, Breda Curran, Rose Power, Eve Hayden, Marie Harnett, Edel Hunt, Yvonne Cooney, Catherine Connaughton.

**Presenters Present:** Teresa Lennon, IREO

**Presenters Remote Attendance via GoToMeeting:** Emma Oldroyd, Matt Kennedy, Tom Coyne and Sadhbh Sheeran, ARUP

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

### 1. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> April

The Members adopted the minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2022, proposed by Cllr. Ken Murnane and seconded by Cllr. Robert Beasley.

### 2. Matters Arising

None.

### 3. Blue Green Infrastructure (BGI) & Nature Based Solutions (NbS) Framework - Emma Oldroyd, ARUP

Bryan Riney gave an update on the Blue Green Infrastructure (BGI) and Nature Based Solutions (NBS) and its implementation through the Blue Green City project which is co-finance by INTERREG Europe. Emma Oldroyd, ARUP gave a presentation (copy available) on the Blue Green Infrastructure and Nature-based Solutions Framework for the Southern Region.

A discussion followed with contributions from the Cathaoirleach, Cllr. O'Callaghan, Cllr. Kelly; Cllr. Boyle, Cllr. Kelleher, Cllr. Murnane and Cllr. McCarthy. Key issues discussed included:

- A need for a more ecosystem approach in local authorities;

- A need for circular economy in sustainability for resource management;
- A need to emphasise the importance of environmental indicators;
- A need to simplify the terminology when dealing with the general public;
- A need to target primary schools;
- How the framework can assist local authorities in defining and implementing “Blue Green” or nature-based solutions.

#### 4. Presentation by Teresa Lennon of the Irish Regions European Office (IREO)

Teresa Lennon presented an update of the work of the Committee of the Regions (CoR), including the involvement of the CoR Members that sit on the Assembly.

Cllr. Michael Murphy, Head of the Irish Delegation acknowledged the hard work that Teresa Lennon and IREO do for Ireland in the EU.

The Cathaoirleach and the Members thanked Teresa for her presentation and asked Members to subscribe to the IREO newsletter. Points arising included:

- Members to support their local authorities to engage with the IREO regarding EU Policy and funding opportunities;
- The benefits of having European Policy/Project officers in all local authorities.

#### 5. Any Other Business

- Regarding a query raised by Cllr. Kelly concerning ongoing online/hybrid meetings David Kelly advised that DHLGH have confirmed the intention retain the option for Councils’ and Regional Assemblies to meet using an online/hybrid format to promote family friendly and flexible practices.
- SRA Statutory submissions made on the following:
  - Material Amendments Draft Limerick City & County Development Plan;
  - Material Amendments for Draft Tipperary County Development Plan;
  - Material Amendments for Draft Wexford County Development Plan;
  - Material Amendments for Draft Cork City Development Plan.
- Kevin Lynch advised that an email will issue to Members asking for their input on a study called “Achieving Regional Equality” being undertaken by Dr. Carla Kayanan, University College Dublin which is part of an assessment of the RSES.
- Cllr. O’Meara asked that rail transport be discussed at a future Regional Assembly meeting.
- Cllr. Dan Boyle asked for the All Island Strategic Rail Review to be discussed at a future Regional Assembly meeting.
- A training workshop for Members will be organised in September. Further details will be provided.

#### 6. Date of Next Meeting

Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> June 2022, in-person and online.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_



**Cllr. Pip Breen**  
**Cathaoirleach**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_





# AGENDA

## 13<sup>th</sup> May 2022

1. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2022
2. Matters Arising
3. Blue Green Infrastructure (BGI) & Nature Based Solutions (NbS) Framework - Emma Oldroyd, ARUP
4. Presentation by Teresa Lennon of the Irish Regions European Office (IREO)
5. Any Other Business
6. Date of Next Meeting