

**PRESS RELEASE – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

**For Immediate Release**

## **Southern Regional Assembly Gathers for First Meeting in Waterford**

The first meeting of the new Southern Regional Assembly took place today in Waterford, Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2024. The new term sees 19 former members returning alongside 15 elected members serving their first term on the Assembly, including for the first time, the directly elected Mayor of Limerick.

Following the recent local elections, every local authority in the region (Carlow, Clare, Cork City, Cork County, Kerry, Kilkenny, Limerick & Tipperary, Waterford and Wexford) nominates elected members to the regional assembly for the five-year term. The regional assembly is part of the regional tier of government in Ireland and has responsibility for EU funded Programmes and regional planning.

Cllr. Garret Kelleher, Cork City Council, Fine Gael has been elected as the Cathaoirleach 2024-25, succeeding Cllr. Terry Shannon from Cork City Council. Cllr Ken Murnane Carlow County Council was elected as Leas Cathaoirleach.

Cllr Kelleher, Cathaoirleach said:

*“I am honoured to wear the Chain of Office as Cathaoirleach of the Southern Regional Assembly. The functions of the Regional Assemblies have become increasingly important as the regional tier of government and key champions of the regional perspective in economic and spatial development. I am looking forward to working with my colleagues across the political spectrum on the very significant programme of work ahead, including a review of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region and the adoption of the next Corporate Plan for the Assembly.”*

Congratulating the new Cathaoirleach and Leas-Cathaoirleach, Director of the Assembly, David Kelly said that he and all the staff in the Assembly look forward to working with them and the new Assembly over the coming years.

**ENDS**

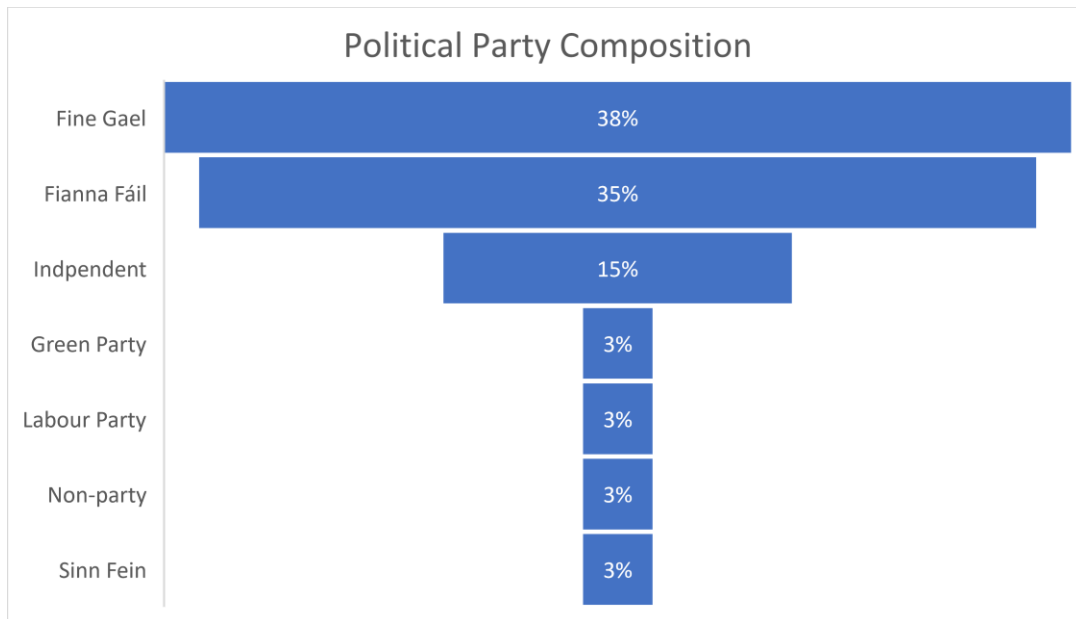
## Notes to Editor:

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## Full list of new assembly membership:

Name	Surname	Local Authority	Party
<b>NEW MEMBERS</b>			
Ben	Ward	Carlow County Council	Fine Gael
Tony	O'Brien	Clare County Council	Fianna Fáil
Bill	Slattery	Clare County Council	Fine Gael
Alan	Coleman	Cork County Council	Independent
Deirdre	Kelly	Cork County Council	Fianna Fáil
Noel	McCarthy	Cork County Council	Fine Gael
John Paul	O'Shea	Cork County Council	Fine Gael
Norma	Moriarty	Kerry County Council	Fianna Fáil
Niall 'Botty'	O'Callaghan	Kerry County Council	Non-Party
Bobby	O'Connell	Kerry County Council	Fine Gael
John	Moran	Limerick City & County Council	Independent
Mairin	McGrath	Tipperary County Council	Independent
Peggy	Ryan	Tipperary County Council	Fine Gael
Michael	Smith	Tipperary County Council	Fianna Fáil
Jim	D'Arcy	Waterford City & County Council	Fine Gael
Barbara-Ann	Murphy	Wexford County Council	Fianna Fáil
<b>RETURNING MEMBERS</b>			
Ken	Murnane	Carlow County Council	Fianna Fáil
Dan	Boyle	Cork City Council	Green Party
Garret	Kelleher	Cork City Council	Fine Gael
Kieran	McCarthy	Cork City Council	Independent
Terry	Shannon	Cork City Council	Fianna Fáil
Gillian	Coughlan	Cork County Council	Fianna Fáil
Sheila	O'Callaghan	Cork County Council	Fianna Fáil
John	Brennan	Kilkenny County Council	Fine Gael
Andrew	McGuinness	Kilkenny County Council	Fianna Fáil
Michael	Collins	Limerick City & County Council	Fianna Fáil
Frankie	Daly	Limerick City & County Council	Independent
John	Sheahan	Limerick City & County Council	Fine Gael
Michael	Murphy	Tipperary County Council	Fine Gael
Conor	McGuinness	Waterford City & County Council	Sinn Féin
Thomas	Phelan	Waterford City & County Council	Labour
Pip	Breen	Wexford County Council	Fianna Fáil
Oliver	Walsh	Wexford County Council	Fine Gael



### About the Southern Regional Assembly

Based in Waterford city, the [Southern Regional Assembly](#) is the regional tier of government in Ireland with a remit for the Southern Region. The Southern Region covers the local authorities of Kilkenny, Carlow, Waterford, Wexford, Tipperary, Cork City, Cork County, Kerry, Clare and Limerick. The Regional Assembly has 34 Members representing the ten local authorities at regional level, 27 appointed by their local authority and six as Committee of the Regions Members.

The Regional Assembly forges links between EU, national and local levels through regional spatial and economic planning and European Regional Development Funding (ERDF) for the benefit of the Southern Region. It is responsible for strategic regional and economic planning and supporting balanced, sustainable regional development by:

- Leading the implementation of the Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy ([RSES](#)).
- Promoting balanced regional development through the management of, support for, and involvement in European Regional Development Fund ([ERDF](#)) funded programmes and projects.
- Linking local, regional, national and EU policy goals through regional planning and EU regional development.