

Assembly Meeting - Minutes

13th December 2024, 12.00pm

Assembly House, Waterford



Tionól Réigiúnach
an Deiscirt

Southern Regional
Assembly

Presiding: Cllr. Garret Kelleher.

Present: Cllr Pip Breen, Cllr Gillian Coughlan, Cllr Jim D'Arcy, Cllr Deirdre Kelly, Cllr Andrew McGuinness, Cllr Ken Murnane, Cllr Barbara-Ann Murphy, Cllr Sheila O'Callaghan, Cllr Bill Slattery, Cllr Michael Smith, Cllr Oliver Walsh.

Present on MS Teams: Cllr Dan Boyle, Cllr Frankie Daly, Cllr Mairin McGrath, Mayor John Moran, Cllr Norma Moriarty, Cllr Tony O'Brien, Cllr. Niall O'Callaghan, Cllr Bobby O'Connell, Cllr Terry Shannon, Cllr Ben Ward.

Apologies: Cllr. John Brennan, Cllr. Alan Coleman, Cllr. Peggy Ryan

Officials Present: David Kelly, Enda Hogan, Kevin Lynch, Ian Ludlow, Kevin Twomey, Dominic Walsh, Áine Whelan, Brigh Ryan, Claire Breen, Colm Walsh, Sarah Davoren, Dr. Rhiannon Carey Bates, Pdraig O'Shea, Eoin O'Connor, Mary Molloy, Samantha Richardson, Lisa Moran, Oonagh Messette, Omer Sunguroglu. Cllr. Patrick McEvoy. EMRA. Co. Kildare Co.Co.

Officials Present on MS Teams: Michael Buckley, Elayne McDonnell, Eve Hayden, Rose Power

Following the Roll Call, the Cathaoirleach congratulated the Assembly Members who had been elected to Dáil Eireann, namely Noel McCarthy, Conor D McGuinness, John Paul O'Shea and Michael Murphy.

1. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting held on 8th November 2024

The Members adopted the minutes of the meeting held on 8th November 2024, proposed by Cllr. Deirdre Kelly and seconded by Cllr. Pip Breen.

2. Matters Arising

No matters arising.

3. Interreg Europe PROXIMITIES Project Update: Promoting Accessible Services, Liveable Spaces, and Sustainable Connections in Peripheral Urban Areas of the Southern Region.

Áine Whelan, Brigh Ryan and Kevin Twomey gave a detailed introduction to the PROXIMITIES Project which entails Promoting accessible services, liveable spaces and sustainable connections in peripheral urban territories. With a budget of €2.2 million and 9 partners, the project will run until the 30th June 2028.

Following queries and comments from Cllr. Sheila O'Callaghan, Mayor John Moran, Cllr. Barbara Anne Murphy the Executive informed the Members that by taking part in projects such as this, the Assembly is in a better-informed position to influence both the review of the RSES and to influence National Policy.

4. Report on the Future of Local Democracy October 2024, Seanad Public Consultation Committee.



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Assistant Director Kevin Lynch and Cllr. Patrick McEvoy, EMRA. Co. Kildare Co. Co highlighted the [Report on the Future of Local Democracy](#) by the Seanad Public Consultation Committee as published on the 10th October 2024.

The Recommendations: were discussed and emphasis was made that the to move on the agenda for reform of local and regional structures there is a need to have a commitment in the Programme for Government and all Members are encouraged to engage in the process. Members will be supported in conveying the key messages from a Regional Assembly perspective.

5. Training Visit to Brussels, 2025

The Director detailed the intention of organising a training visit to Brussels and outlined the activities. The proposed date will be the week commencing 7th April 2025. Members were asked to inform the Corporate Section if they are interested in attending.

6. Nomination of two alternates to the Association of Irish Regions

At the Association of Irish Regions meeting of the 26th November 2024, the revised constitution was agreed and signed. The main revision was the inclusion of two alternates to those previously nominated and accepted. The Members were asked to consider this development, and it will be an agenda item for nominations at the next meeting.

7. Meeting Schedule 2025

The schedule as circulated was Proposed by Cllr. Oliver Walsh and seconded by Cllr. Bill Slattery.

8. Any Other Business

- Cllr. Gillian Coughlan asked for an update on the progress of EU Officers In Local Authorities; The Director stated that there is no update at this time and will be raised again with the new Minister responsible.
- Cllr. Gillian Coughlan asked how much involvement the Assembly will have for the duration of the European Presidency from July to December 2026 to which it was explained that the RA will be actively involved through a number of channels including ESPON.
- Lisa Moran outlined the recently installed Brno Gateway at the Apple Market, Waterford highlighting our EU connections.
- The Director welcomed a new member of staff, Pdraig O'Shea, Senior Executive Planner, to the team.

9. Date of Next Meeting

Friday the 10th January 2025 will be the next meeting date.

Signed: 
Cllr. Garret Kelleher
Cathaoirleach

Date: 10 / 01 / 2025



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