



# Southern Regional Assembly

14<sup>th</sup> May 2021, 12:00pm via GoToMeeting

## Draft Minutes

**Presiding:** Cllr. Deirdre O'Brien, Leas-Cathaoirleach

**Present:** Cllr. Robert Beasley; Cllr. Maura Bell; Cllr. Dan Boyle; Cllr. John Brennan; Cllr. Pip Breen; Cllr. Joe Carroll; Cllr. Séamus Cosáí Fitzgerald; Cllr. Tom Cronin; Cllr. Frankie Daly; Cllr. Deirdre Forde; Cllr. P.J. Kelly; Cllr. Garret Kelleher; Cllr. Thomas Kinsella; Cllr. Kieran McCarthy; Cllr. Andrew McGuinness; Cllr. Ken Murnane; Cllr. Gerard Murphy; Cllr. Michael Murphy; Cllr. Sheila O'Callaghan; Cllr. Conor McGuinness; Cllr. Michael O'Meara; Cllr. Michael O'Shea; Cllr. Thomas Phelan; Cllr. Gillian Coughlan; Cllr. Alan O'Callaghan; Cllr. Terry Shanahan; Cllr. Oliver Walsh; Cllr. Siobhan Ambrose.

**Apologies:** Cllr. John Sheahan, Cathaoirleach

**Officials Present:** David Kelly; Kevin Lynch; Dominic Walsh; Bryan Riney; Robert Fennelly; Sarah Davoren; Vincent Dunphy; Enda Hogan; Siobhán Rudden; Breda Curran; Samantha Richardson; Rose Power; Karen Coughlan; Maria Murphy; Alice Byrne Kelly; Anna Higgins; Catherine Connaughton.

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 2021, proposed by Cllr. Breen and seconded by Cllr. Beasley.

**2. Matters Arising**

David Kelly referred to the impact of Brexit on the fishing sector, raised by Cllr. Coughlan at the April meeting. It was agreed by the Members that the Minister should be invited to address the Assembly on the issue.

**3. Presentation by Kevin Lynch and Robert Fennelly on Assembly Submission on NIFTI**

Kevin Lynch and Robert Fennelly presented the draft submission on National Investment Framework for Transport in Ireland (NIFTI). The deadline submission is 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

A discussion followed including the following points:

- Greater emphasis should be given to Funding Mechanism for Local Authorities;
- A need to highlight the climate action work being done by Local Authorities and the Climate Action Regional Offices;
- A need to acknowledge the economic effect from the Covid-19 pandemic on Local Authorities;
- A need to emphasise that sustainable infrastructure and transport should be multimodal and to avoid single infrastructure proposals;
- Local Authorities in the Southern Region should speak with one voice when calling for transport investment;

- A need to emphasise the importance and benefit of port connectivity throughout the Southern region, especially to Waterford Port and to Rosslare Europort, to assist in securing increased funding and investment;
- Irish Rail's new freight rail route from Mayo to Waterford Port was welcomed;
- There should be an emphasis on infrastructure led investment.

The executive in response advised that there was no issue taking on board the comments of the members.

The submission was agreed subject to taking on board comments of members; Cllr. McCarthy proposed and Cllr. Breen seconded.

**4. Presentation by Kevin Lynch on Project Ireland 2040: Phase 1 Report – Review of the National Development Plan (NDP)**

Kevin Lynch gave an overview on Project Ireland 2020: Phase 1 Report, a review of the National Development Plan. The Assembly had made a submission on the NDP Review in January 2021. Key points included an emphasis on the alignment of the NPF and the NDP. The regional cities in particular appear to have a lower share of investment projects over €20 million and €100 million compared to their planned growth which is a concern. Measures are proposed to improve alignment between government spending and the NPF. This is of critical concern to the Assembly to ensure that our Region (both urban and rural) achieves the targets for a 50:50 split in growth between the Southern and North & Western and Eastern & Midlands Regions.

**5. Presentation by Robert Fennelly on International Transport Forum (ITF) Summit 2021**

Robert Fennelly gave an overview on the Assembly exhibition at International Transport Forum Summit 2021 which will take place from 17<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021. The Assembly is partnering with the Department of Transport, National Transport Authority, ARUP, Assembly EU projects and other stakeholders

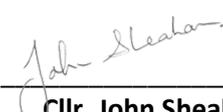
The (ITF) is an intergovernmental organisation with 62 member countries. The Forum is a high level forum for transport policy, facilitating a global dialogue (at Ministerial level) for better transport. It presents a significant opportunity for the Assembly and a range of presentations have been prepared across the Assembly. All videos shown will be uploaded to the Southern Regional Assembly website after 28<sup>th</sup> May.

**6. Any Other Business**

Cllr. Phelan requested a copy of the Regional Port Strategy. Robert Fennelly advised that this is in the stages of preparation and the members would be updated in due course.

**7. Date of Next Meeting**

Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Signed:   
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**Cllr. John Sheahan**  
**Cathaoirleach**

Date: 11.06.2021



# AGENDA

14<sup>th</sup> May 2021

1. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2021
2. Matters Arising
3. Southern Regional Assembly Submission on NIFTI (Paper attached) – for discussion and agreement
4. Presentation on Project Ireland 2040: Phase 1 Report – Review of the NDP
5. Presentation on International Transport Forum Summit 2021
6. Any Other Business
7. Date of Next Meeting