

Southern Regional Assembly

Minutes of the Meeting held on Friday 14th December 2018

Presiding: Cllr. Séamus Cosáí Fitzgerald, Cathaoirleach

Present: Cllr. R. Beasley, Cllr. P. Breen, Cllr. Kevin Conway, Cllr. J. Carroll, Cllr. Henry Cremin, Cllr. N. Gleeson, Cllr. T. McEllistrim, Cllr. P. McMahon, Cllr. Gerard Murphy, Cllr. J. Murphy, Cllr. Michael Murphy, Cllr. D. O'Brien, Cllr. M. Ryan, Cllr. M. Shields, Cllr. B. Slattery, Cllr. O. Walsh.

Apologies: Cllr. John Sheahan, Cllr. Patrick Millea.

Officials Present: Mr. David Kelly, A/Director; Mr. Dominic Walsh, RPO; Ms. Derville Brennan, A/Assistant Director; Ms. Sharon Murray, Programme Executive; Ms. Karen Coughlan, Assistant Staff Officer; Ms. Breda Curran, Development Officer; Ms. Samantha Richardson, Development Officer; Ms. Roisin Kiely, CO.

1. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting held on 23rd November 2018

The minutes of the meeting held on the 23rd November 2018 were adopted on the proposal of **Cllr. Pip Breen** and seconded by **Cllr. Bill Slattery**.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Presentation on "The E.U. In Our Region"

Ms. Derville Brennan, A/Assistant Director; gave a detailed presentation of the key aspects of E.U. Programmes in the S&E Region, copies of the presentation were circulated to all attendees.

Mr David Kelly outlined that E.U. Programmes have spent over €900 million across three programmes since the year 2000. He also outlined that the European Commission are driving towards the use of Financial Instruments and away from the grants process.

Cllr. Bill Slattery expressed his thanks to Ms. Brennan for her detailed presentation and commented that ERDF Programme funding had been hugely beneficial to his own Local Authority; Clare Co. Council and said there were huge benefits of LA's applying for ERDF funding.

Cllr. Joe Carroll remarked that broadband had recently been installed in the isolated Black Valley in County Kerry so expressed his frustration at the delay in the installation of broadband elsewhere in the region.

Cllr. Henry Cremin stated that he felt we were fighting a losing battle with regards to the 'Smarter Travel' initiative. He noted that more Park & Ride facilities as well as cycling and walking travel methods need to be installed and promoted and the funding going forward should zone in on the provision of these 'Smarter Travel' methods. He also said the cost of things such as electric cars are prohibitive to ordinary people and need to be at a realistic and achievable price.

Ms Derville Brennan replied that the 'Smarter Travel' concept doesn't have to be cost intensive. She noted that it has to be safe or walk or cycle and the changes simply require planning and decision making which is more a local issue than an E.U. issue.

Cllr. Michael Murphy stated that he felt the benefits of the E.U. Programmes funding need to be better publicised and communicated. He also expressed concern over the participation records of our 9 LA's and said he felt participation needed to be improved.

Ms. Brennan outlined that the more successful LA's tend to have strategic unites which can work across all sections and units and therefore tend to be more project focused, therefore she felt there needs to be more investment for resources in LA's.

Presentation on "E.U. Programmes Post 2020"

Mr. David Kelly gave a presentation on 'EU Programmes Post 2020'. This was circulated to all attendees. Mr. Kelly also noted that a study had been commissioned to identify which LA's were active and had received E.U. Programme funding and this study could act as a proxy indicator to show which LA's were the best performing as regards E.U. funding applications and drawdown. Mr Kelly outlined that he expects this study / report to be circulated once complete around the middle of January 2019.

Cllr. Michael Murphy welcomed what Mr. Kelly said about building capacity for a regional approach to E.U. funding in aligning regional strategies with E.U. strategies.

4. Schedule of Meeting Dates for 2019.

These were circulated to all attendees via email and again at todays' meeting.

5. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting of the Southern Regional Assembly was agreed to be held on Friday 11th of January 2019.

6. Any other business

None.

Signed: _____
Cllr. Seamus Cosai Fitzgerald
Cathaoirleach

Date: _____