



Southern Regional Assembly

Minutes of the Meeting

8th October 2021, 12:00pm

via GoToMeeting

Minutes

Presiding: Cllr. Pip Breen, Cathaoirleach

Present: Cllr. Gerard Murphy, Cllr. Deirdre O'Brien, Cllr. Robert Beasley, Cllr. Maura Bell, Cllr. Joe Carroll, Cllr. John Brennan, Cllr. Oliver Walsh, Cllr. Séamus Cosaí Fitzgerald, Cllr. Dan Boyle, Cllr. Alan O'Callaghan, Cllr. Sean O'Connor, Cllr. Michael O'Shea, Cllr. Siobhan Ambrose, Cllr. Tom Cronin, Cllr. Michael Murphy, Cllr. PJ Kelly, Cllr. Ken Murnane, Cllr. Thomas Kinsella, Cllr. Conor McGuinness, Cllr. Thomas Phelan, Cllr. Deirdre Forde, Cllr. Kieran McCarthy, Cllr. Garret Kelleher, Cllr. Michael O'Meara, Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, Cllr. Sheila O'Callaghan, Cllr. Terry Shannon.

Apologies: None.

Officials Present: Kevin Lynch, Bryan Riney, Robert Fennelly, Michael Buckley, Siobhan Rudden, Sarah Davoren, Breda Curran, Samantha Richardson, Karen Coughlan, Rose Power, Eve Hayden, Edel Hunt, Yvonne Cooney, Roisin Kiely, Alice Byrne Kelly, Maria Murphy.

Presenters: Nikita Shetty, Russell Vickers.

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

1. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting held on 10th September

The Members adopted the minutes of the meeting held on 10th September 2021, proposed by Cllr. Gerard Murphy and seconded by Cllr. Michel O'Shea.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. An overview of Future Mobility Campus Ireland

Russell Vickers presented the Future Mobility Campus Ireland (FMCI) which is situated in Shannon Free Zone, Co. Clare. FMCI purpose is to create and deliver a future mobility testbed for stimulating research, development, and innovation of Autonomous Connected Electric Shared Vehicles (ACES), Advanced Air mobility (AAM) and Smart City Infrastructure adding that the long-term goal is the establishment of Ireland's first air taxi service and routine beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS) drone operations.

Russel Vickers invited Members to attend a Future Mobility Campus Ireland Showcase in Shannon, Co. Clare on 3rd November.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr. Breen, Cllr. Forde Cllr. McCarthy and Cllr. Kelly, with points raised including the need for:

- Traffic management and policing of unmanned cars and drones,
- need to provide battery charging facilities throughout Ireland,
- monitoring/regulation of drones including EU regulations,
- the collaboration of key engineers from local authorities in overseeing issues,
- impact of technology on road safety measures.

4. Regional Approach to Smart Specialisation in the Southern Region

Karen Coughlan, EU Projects Officer, presented an update on the Interreg Europe COHESION project which aims to improve the governance of Smart Specialisation Strategy (S3) through the integration of a regional element into S3 to improve the impact of ERDF ROP's. The presented include:

- Appointment of **Bable** a German-based consultancy firm to advise on 'A regional approach to S3 for the Southern Region', which was circulated to Members,
- In collaboration with **Bable**, the SRA has engaged with over 90 stakeholders across the Southern Region to identify regional priorities,
- Ongoing engagement with Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (DETE) to inform the national strategy and promote a regional perspective, including a presentation of report findings in May 2021,
- Submission to DETE S3 public consultation August 2021,
- Presentation of report findings to S3 Steering Committee in September 2021,
- Ongoing collaboration with Regional Enterprise Programme Managers to keep them updated of progress,
- Ongoing collaboration with EMRA and NWRA for a co-ordinated approach.

Karen introduced Nikita Shetty, Consultant with **Bable** who presented their findings on a Regional Approach to Smart Specialisation in the Southern Region. Nikita outlined the objectives and methodology which included extensive stakeholder consultation through targeted interviews and workshops in collaboration with the Regional Enterprise Programme Managers and regional benchmarking exercise, both of which provided insight into the strengths, barriers and opportunities specific to the Region. The analysis culminated in a list of 21 priority areas to consider for smart specialisation. Nikita outlined the next steps required and how this aligns with the RSES implementation and national strategy.

Main findings included:

- Set clear vision for regional S3 in context of the RSES, Smart Region work and national S3,
- Set up a collaborative Governance Model,
- Set up Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism,
- Set up an iterative process to review and update priority areas.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr. Breen, Cllr. Boyle, and Cllr. McCarthy with points raised relating to:

- The report showed strength and potential of the Southern Region,
- Highlighted the gap between third level education attainment and the lack of ongoing training and retraining for lifelong learning,
- Low level of intellectual property rates,
- Over dependence on multi-nationals and the need for more region-based industries,
- Increased funding required for local authorities,
- Evolution of Smart Specialisation from S3 to S4 after the addition of a sustainability element.

5. Any Other Business

Cllr. Phelan enquired if there would be an analysis of the revised National Development Plan (NDP). Kevin Lynch advised that a review of the revised NDP in the context of the RSES will be undertaken and reported to members.

6. Date of Next Meeting

It is intended that the next meeting on Friday, 12th November 2021 will be in Assembly House and via GoToMeeting if possible but subject to Government guidelines

Signed: 
Cllr. Pip Breen
Cathaoirleach

Date: 08/10/2021



AGENDA

8th October 2021

1. Adoption of Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 10th September 2021
2. Matters Arising
3. An overview of Future Mobility Campus Ireland – Russell Vickers
4. Regional Approach to Smart Specialisation in the Southern Regional – Nikita Shetty, BABLE
5. Any Other Business
6. Date of Next Meeting