



Southern Regional Assembly

10th December 2021, 12:00pm via GoToMeeting

Minutes

Presiding: Cllr. Gerard Murphy, Leas-Cathaoirleach

Present: Cllr. Robert Beasley; Cllr. Maura Bell; Cllr. Dan Boyle; Cllr. Deirdre O'Brien; Cllr. John Brennan; Cllr. Joe Carroll; Cllr. Séamus Cosáí Fitzgerald; Cllr. Tom Cronin; Cllr. Deirdre Forde; Cllr. P.J. Kelly; Cllr. Garret Kelleher; Cllr. Thomas Kinsella; Cllr. Kieran McCarthy; Cllr. Andrew McGuinness; Cllr. Ken Murnane; Cllr. Michael Murphy; Cllr. Sheila O'Callaghan; Cllr. Conor D 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. Sean O'Connor; Cllr. Noel Coonan; Cllr. Siobhan Ambrose.

Apologies: Cllr. Pip Breen, Cathaoirleach

Officials Present: David Kelly; Kevin Lynch; Dave Hennessy; Robert Fennelly; Enda Hogan; Siobhán Rudden; Samantha Richardson; Karen Coughlan; Marie Harnett; Róisín Kiely; Yvonne Cooney; Alice Byrne Kelly; Maria Murphy.

Presenters: Gearoid O'Keeffe, Department of Public Expenditure & Reform.

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

1. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting held on 12th November

The Members adopted the minutes of the meeting held on 12th November 2021, proposed by Cllr. Michael O'Shea and seconded by Cllr. Terry Shannon.

2. Matters Arising

David Kelly advised that the Minister for Public Expenditure & Reform would be invited to a meeting of the Association of Irish Regions early 2022 to discuss matters of concern.

3. An update on National Recovery & Resilience Plan and Brexit Adjustment Reserve

Gearoid O'Keeffe, Department of Public Expenditure & Reform presented an update on National Recovery & Resilience Plan (NRRP) and Brexit Adjustment Reserve.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr. M Murphy, Cllr. O'Shea. Cllr. Boyle. Cllr. Forde, Cllr. S O'Callaghan, Cllr. Murnane and Cllr. Kelly, with points raised:

- The need for greater involvement of the Regional Assemblies and Local Authorities during the implementation phase to ensure balanced regional supports through the NRRP;
- Clarification of the implementation timeline to ensure a balanced distribution of the funds nationwide;
- The need to channel NRRP funding to support infrastructure, rail, retrofitting for housing, and retraining/ reskilling apprenticeships and not to limited priorities.

Gearoid O’Keeffe advised that the EU Commission had developed the priorities underlying the NRRP, including detailed guidance and requirements for the use of the funding. The Department must apply to the EU Commission annually for a drawdown on funding and report on milestones results against the targets set by the EU Commission.

4. Presentation by David Kelly an Update on ERDF Regional Programmes

David Kelly gave a presentation on the progress in developing the ERDF Southern, Eastern & Midland Regional Programme 2021-27. Key points included:

- The SEM Regional Programme will be managed by the Southern Regional Assembly, working in partnership with the Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly;
- Three priorities will be Smart Cities, Smart Regions; Low Carbon & Climate Resilience; and Urban Dimension;
- The co-financing rate for operations under the Programme will be 40% ERDF/ 60% national funding.

Cllr. Forde raised the need for housing retrofit in both the social and private sectors. She asked that Members be kept informed of launch dates for the new programme and calls. Cllr. O’Meara stressed the need for a balanced distribution of the funds across the local authorities and regions

5. Any Other Business

David Kelly noted two points:

- The Draft Kerry County Development Plan was issued on 6 December 2021 for public consultation with submissions open until 23rd February 2022. The Assembly’s draft submission will be circulated to Members for comment before the close of consultation.
- The Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly has been appointed Managing Authority for the Just Transition Fund.

6. Date of Next Meeting

Friday, 21st January 2022 online.

Signed: 
Cllr. Pip Breen
Cathaoirleach

Date: 10/12/2021



AGENDA

10th December 2021

1. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting held on 12th November 2021
2. Matters Arising
3. Update on National Recovery & Resilience Plan and Brexit Adjustment Reserve – Gearoid O’Keeffe, Principal Officer, EU & International Unit, Department of Public Expenditure & Reform
4. Update on ERDF Regional Programmes – David Kelly
5. Any Other Business
6. Date of Next Meeting