



Southern Regional Assembly

10th March 2023, 12:00pm

Assembly House, Waterford and via MS Teams

Minutes

Presiding: Cllr. Oliver Walsh, Cathaoirleach.

Present: Cllr. Sheila O'Callaghan, Cllr. Garret Kelleher, Cllr. Ken Murnane and Cllr Thomas Phelan.

Remote Attendance via MS Teams: Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, Cllr. Siobhan Ambrose, Cllr. Robert Beasley, Cllr. Dan Boyle, Cllr. Pip Breen, Cllr. John Brennan, Cllr. Joe Carroll, Cllr. Michael Collins, Cllr. Noel Coonan, Cllr. Séamus Cosáí Fitzgerald, Cllr. Tom Cronin, Cllr. Deirdre Forde, Cllr. PJ Kelly, Cllr. Kieran McCarthy, Cllr. Conor D McGuinness, Cllr. Gerard Murphy, Cllr. Michael Murphy, Cllr. Alan O'Callaghan, Cllr. Sean O'Connor, Cllr. Michael O'Meara, Cllr. Michael O'Shea, Cllr. Terry Shannon and Cllr. John Sheahan.

Apologies: Cllr. Gillian Coughlan, Cllr. Deirdre O'Brien.

Officials Present: David Kelly, Kevin Lynch, Enda Hogan, Dominic Walsh, Karen Coughlan, Marie Harnett, Samantha Richardson, Anna Higgins, Maria Murphy.

Officials Remote Attendance via MS Teams: Dominic Walsh, Vincent Dunphy, Michael Buckley, Siobhan Rudden, Sarah Davoren, Breda Curran, Lisa Moran, Eve Hayden, Edel Hunt, Elayne McDonnell, Róisín Kiely, Catherine Connaughton.

External Presenters Present: Teresa Lennon, Irish Regions European Office (IREO).

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

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

The Members adopted the minutes of the meeting held on 10th February 2023, proposed by Cllr. Robert Beasley and seconded by Cllr. Gerard Murphy.

2. Matters Arising

None.

3. Update on IREO and Committee of Regions – Teresa Lennon, Irish Regions European Office (IREO)

Teresa Lennon presented an update of the work of the Committee of the Regions (CoR), including the involvement of the CoR Members that sit on the Assembly.

Cllr. Michael Murphy, Head of the Irish Delegation acknowledged the hard work that Teresa Lennon and IREO do for Ireland in the EU.

The Cathaoirleach and the Members thanked Teresa for her presentation and asked Members to subscribe to the IREO newsletter. A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr. O'Callaghan, and Cllr. McCarthy.

Points arising included:

- Members to support their local authorities to engage with the IREO regarding EU Policy and funding opportunities;

- The benefits of having European Policy/Project officers in all local authorities;
- Members to notify their local authorities of a one-day national EU funding conference [“Connecting, Communicating and Collaborating - Irish Regions Cooperating Across the EU: How local authorities can engage in European Programmes”](#) taking place at the Radisson Blu Hotel Athlone, on the 19th April 2023;
- David Kelly confirmed a proposal for a small delegation of Members to travel to Brussels on a training visit will be brought to the next meeting.

4. RSES Implementation – Key actions 2023-2024

Kevin Lynch gave an update on the RSES Implementation based on the report circulated to Members. A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr. Kelly, Cllr. Phelan and Cllr. McCarthy, in particular with regard to the RSES Delivery Board.

5. SPA Committees

David Kelly outlined the process for recommencing the SPA Committee's. A paper on the SPA Structure along with updated standing orders were circulated in advance of the meeting. It was suggested that the first in-person SPA meetings could take place during the week of 17th April 2023, in agreement with Members. The motion was adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Kelleher and seconded by Cllr. Phelan.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr. Carroll and Cllr. Phelan.

6. Joint Submission from Executive of the Regional Assemblies on the Draft Planning and Development Bill – for information

David Kelly updated Members on a recent invitation extended to the three Regional Assemblies to attend the Joint Committee on Housing, Local Government & Heritage. This meeting was held on 21st February to discuss the Draft Planning and Development Bill. The Executive of the three Regional Assemblies submitted a joint submission based on the issues raised at the Joint Committee, this was circulated to Members for their information.

At the April meeting, a more detailed presentation on the Draft Planning and Development Bill will be given to Members.

7. Any Other Business

None.

8. Date of Next Meeting

Friday, 14th April 2023 in-person and online.

Signed: 
Cllr. Oliver Walsh
Cathaoirleach

Date: 12/5/23



AGENDA

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1. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting held on 10th February 2023
2. Matters Arising
3. Update on IREO and Committee of Regions – Teresa Lennon, IREO
4. RSES Implementation – Key actions 2023-2024
5. SPA Committees
6. Joint Submission from Executive of the Regional Assemblies on the Draft Planning and Development Bill – for information
7. Any Other Business
8. Date of Next Meeting