



Southern Regional Assembly

Minutes of the Meeting
12th November 2021, 12:00pm
via GoToMeeting

Minutes

Presiding: Cllr. Pip Breen, Cathaoirleach

Present: Cllr. Gerard Murphy, Cllr. Deirdre O'Brien, Cllr. Maura Bell, Cllr. Joe Carroll, Cllr. John Brennan, Cllr. Oliver Walsh, Cllr. Séamus Cosáí Fitzgerald, Cllr. Dan Boyle, Cllr. Alan O'Callaghan, 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. Deirdre Forde, Cllr. Kieran McCarthy, Cllr. Gillian Coughlan, Cllr. Michael O'Meara, Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, Cllr. Sheila O'Callaghan, Cllr. Terry Shannon.

Apologies: Cllr. Robert Beasley, Cllr. Sean O'Connor, Cllr. Thomas Phelan.

Officials Present: David Kelly, Kevin Lynch, Dave Hennessy, Dominic Walsh, Sharon Murray, Siobhan Rudden, Breda Curran, Edel Hunt, Alice Byrne Kelly, Maria Murphy.

Presenters: Kevin Lynch

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

1. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting held on 8th October

The Members adopted the minutes of the meeting held on 8th October 2021, proposed by Cllr. Gerard Murphy and seconded by Cllr. Michel Collins.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Renewed National Development Plan (NDP) 2021 - 2030: Regional Perspective

Kevin Lynch gave an overview (presentation circulated) of the National Development Plan (NDP) 2021-30

- Proposed investment is at above average EU levels.
- There are a multiplicity of proposals and programmes of benefit to the Region however it is difficult to assess their direct impact in terms of implementation the RSES.
- Regional Monitor as an important tool for the Regional Assembly.
- The regional cities have historically had a lower share of investment projects over €20 million and €100 million compared to their planned growth which is concerning and could seriously undermine the overall objectives of RSES and the MASPs.
- A range of measures are proposed including the establishment of PI2040 City Delivery Boards to drive investment in these locations in line with the NPF targets. The Assembly has promoted this concept through the MASP Delivery Boards.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr. Breen, Cllr. O'Shea, Cllr. O'Carroll, Cllr. Boyle, Cllr. McCarthy, Cllr. Kinsella and Cllr. Forde with points raised relating to:

- The lack of balance in regional funding,
- The under development of Cork and Shannon airports,
- A need for improved broadband connectivity and climate action plans for urban and rural areas.

It was proposed to write to Minister McGrath inviting him to attend an Assembly meeting to discuss the NDP. David Kelly suggested that it might be better to issue the invite in the context of the Association of Irish Regions which is in the process of arranging an event for early 2022 and agreed to discuss with the Cathaoirleach.

4. Draft Budget 2022

David Kelly referred to the proposed budget and thanked Sharon Murray and her team for preparing the Annual Budget 2022. The budget includes a small increase of 1% from last year's however due to the COVID 19 pandemic a number of budget lines were either unspent or underutilised in 2021. Therefore, these amounts are being returned to the LA's in the form of a credit against the 2021 requirement resulting in an overall reduction on the LA demand of 11.7%.

The Annual Budget for 2022 was adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Kieran McCarthy and seconded by Cllr. Michael O'Shea.

5. Any Other Business

David Kelly introduced Dave Hennessy as the new Assistant Director for EU Programmes & Corporate Affairs Division. Members welcomed Dave Hennessy to the Assembly.

Cllr. O'Carroll proposed a formal presentation for Derville Brennan on behalf of the Members to thank her for her work at the Assembly. Cllr. Sheila O'Callaghan seconded the proposal.

6. Date of Next Meeting

Friday, 10th December 2021 via on-line platform.

Signed: 
Cllr. Pip Breen
Cathaoirleach

Date: 21/12/21