



Southern Regional Assembly

14th October 2022, 12:00pm

Assembly House, Waterford and via GoToMeeting

Minutes

Presiding: Cllr. Oliver Walsh, Cathaoirleach

Present: Cllr. Pip Breen, Cllr. Dan Boyle, Cllr. Thomas Phelan, Cllr. Conor D McGuinness, Cllr. Michael Murphy, Cllr. Shelia O'Callaghan, Cllr. John Brennan, Cllr. Michael O'Shea, Cllr. Ken Murnane.

Remote Attendance via GoToMeeting: Cllr. Maura Bell, Cllr. Gillian Coughlan, Cllr. Siobhan Ambrose, Cllr. PJ Kelly, Cllr. Deirdre Forde, Cllr. Deirdre O'Brien, Cllr. Alan O'Callaghan, Cllr. Thomas Kinsella, Cllr. Kieran McCarthy, Cllr. Gerard Murphy, Cllr. Robert Beasley, Cllr. John Sheahan, Cllr. Joe Carroll, Cllr. Noel Coonan, Cllr. Séamus Cosáí Fitzgerald, Cllr. Michael Collins, Cllr. Frankie Daly, Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, Cllr. Tom Cronin, Cllr. Terry Shannon.

Apologies: None.

Officials Present: Kevin Lynch, Enda Hogan, Robert Fennelly, Marie Harnett, Lisa Moran, Aine Whelan, Maria Murphy, Alice Byrne Kelly, Catherine Connaughton.

Officials Remote Attendance via GoToMeeting: David Kelly, Vincent Dunphy, Michael Buckley, Karen Coughlan, Rose Power, Sarah Davoren, Breda Curran, Samantha Richardson, Eve Hayden, Edel Hunt, Elayne McDonnell, Yvonne Cooney, Róisín Kiely.

Presenters Present: Justin Gleeson, All-Island Research Observatory (AIRO) Maynooth University.

External Attendee Present: Dr Carla Kayanan (UCD).

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

1. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting held on 9th September

Cllr. Dan Boyle brought to attention that he has asked for the All Island Strategic Rail Review to be discussed at a future Regional Assembly Meeting at the meeting held on the 9th September 2022 and that this wasn't included in the minutes of said meeting. The minutes are to be revised to include same.

The Members adopted the minutes of the meeting held on 9^h September 2022, proposed by Cllr. Pip Breen and seconded by Cllr. Ken Murnane.

2. Matters Arising

None.

3. Presentation on the Regional Development Monitor - Justin Gleeson, AIRO

Justin Gleeson of All-Island Research Observatory (AIRO) gave a presentation (copy available) on the development of the Regional Development Monitor (RDM) undertaken by the three assemblies as part of RSES implementation. Members will be issued an invitation to attend the launch of the monitor in the National Gallery on 29th November 2022.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr. Breen, Cllr. Phelan, Cllr. Boyle, Cllr. O'Shea, Cllr. Forde, Cllr. S O'Callaghan, Cllr. C McGuinness, Cllr. Kelly, Cllr. McCarthy, Cllr. Murnane.

4. Presentation on the Southern, Eastern & Midlands Regional Programme – Enda Hogan, Assistant Director

Enda Hogan presented an update on the development and final design of the Southern, Eastern & Midlands (SEM) Regional Programme 2021-2027. It is anticipated the European Commission will formally adopt the Programme by end of October 2022 or shortly thereafter.

5. Regional Planning Update

Kevin Lynch spoke briefly to Members on a Regional Planning update as follows:

- SRA submission on Issues paper on Graiguecullen Joint Urban Local Area Plan with Carlow and Laois County Councils.
- SRA launch of "Towards a Learning Region" in September.
- Implementation of the Two Year RSES Plan.
- Completion of the Blue Green Cities project.

6. Motion, see attached

Cllr. Murphy proposed a Motion to the Minister for Public Expenditure & Reform to provide significant additional funding to Local Authorities in 2023 and seconded by Cllr. John Brennan.

MOTION in the name of Cllr. Michael Murphy:

"That we, the members of the Southern Assembly, call on the Minister for Public Expenditure & Reform to provide significant additional funding to Local Authorities in 2023 having regard to the unprecedented levels of inflation, in particular, spiralling energy costs, rising construction costs, enhanced payroll commitments, impact of the cost-of-living crisis on other revenue streams such as rents and rates. Such additional funding is crucial to maintaining essential services across the Regions."

Subject to the agreement of the members, this NOM would be also circulated to both other Regional Assemblies.

Proposed: Cllr. Michael Murphy.

Seconded: Cllr. John Brennan

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr. Brennan, Cllr. Phelan, Cllr. O'Shea, Cllr. Sheahan, Cllr. C McGuinness, Cllr. Kelly, Cllr. McCarthy, Cllr. Murnane.

Cllr. C McGuinness requested a copy of the letter be circulated to the Mayors of the Local Authorities in the Southern region so it can be added to future Council meetings.

Cllr. McCarthy proposed an amendment to the wording to the last sentence of the Motion “Such additional funding is crucial to *restoring, maintaining and enlarging essential operational services* across the Regions”. Cllr. Murphy seconded the amendment.

All Members unanimously passed the motion.

David Kelly asked for confirmation that Members agree to the wording amendment to the Motion. The Cathaoirleach confirmed Members agree to the Motion with the wording amendment to be sent to the Minister and copies to be issued the Mayors of all LA’s in the Southern region.

7. Date of Next Meeting

Friday, 11th November 2022 in-person and online.

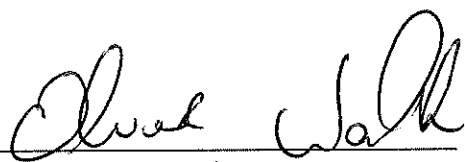
8. Any Other Business

Cllr. Kelly stated all Members should attend Assembly meetings in person.

Cllr. Boyle requested for the All-Island Strategic Rail Review to be discussed at a future Regional Assembly meeting. He requested a wider debate about EPA’s figures regarding river and water quality because of the regional implications.

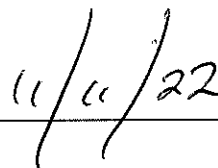
David Kelly introduced new members of staff Lisa Moran, Áine Whelan as the new EU Projects Officers and Elayne McDonnell as the new Senior First Level Controller.

Signed: _____



Cllr. Oliver Walsh
Cathaoirleach

Date: _____





AGENDA

14th October 2022

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2. Matters Arising
3. Presentation on the Regional Development Monitor - Justin Gleeson, AIRO
4. Presentation on the Southern, Eastern & Midlands Regional Programme – Enda Hogan, Assistant Director
5. Regional Planning Update
6. Motion, see attached
7. Date of Next Meeting
8. Any Other Business

MOTION in the name of Cllr. Michael Murphy:

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Proposed: Cllr. Michael Murphy.

Seconded: