



# Southern Regional Assembly

## Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting

11<sup>th</sup> July 2021, 12:00pm  
The Tower Hotel, Waterford and via GoToMeeting

## Minutes

**Presiding:** Cllr. Pip Breen, Cathaoirleach

**Present:** Cllr. Deirdre O'Brien, Cllr R. Beasley, Cllr. John Sheahan, Cllr. John Brennan, Cllr. Joe Carroll, Cllr. Noel Coonan, Cllr. Séamus Cosaí Fitzgerald, Cllr. Dan Boyle; Cllr. Gillian Coughlan, Cllr. Gerard Murphy, Cllr. Sheila O'Callaghan, Cllr. Shane O'Callaghan, Cllr. Sean O'Connor, Cllr. Michael O'Shea, Cllr. Siobhan Ambrose, Cllr. Garret Kelleher, Cllr. Tom Cronin, Cllr. Terry Shannon, Cllr. Oliver Walsh.

**Remote Attendance via GoToMeeting:** Cllr. Michael Murphy, Cllr. PJ Kelly, Cllr. Ken Murnane, Cllr. Noel Coonan, Cllr. Thomas Kinsella, Cllr. Alan O'Callaghan, Cllr. Thomas Phelan, Cllr. Deirdre Forde, Cllr. Kieran McCarthy, Cllr. Maura Bell, Cllr. Michael O'Meara, Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, Cllr. Terry Shannon.

**Apologies:** None.

**Officials Present:** David Kelly, Derville Brennan, Bryan Riney, Siobhan Rudden, Maria Murphy, Alice Byrne Kelly.

**Officials Remote Attendance via GoToMeeting:** Dominic Walsh, Robert Fennelly, Sharon Murray, Vincent Dunphy, Enda Hogan, Michael Buckley, Sarah Davoren, Breda Curran, Samantha Richardson, Rose Power, Karen Coughlan, Marie Harnett, Roisin Kiely, Catherine Connaughton, Laura Hederman.

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

### 1. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> June

The Members adopted the minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2021, proposed by Cllr. Sheahan and seconded by Cllr. Shannon.

### 2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

### 3. Adoption of Annual Report 2020

The Annual Report 2020 was adopted on the proposal of Cllr. John Sheahan and seconded by Cllr. Michael O'Shea.

Cllr. McCarthy acknowledged the wide-ranging activities reported in the report and highlighted the importance of the European projects and their relevance for local authorities.

Cllr. M Murphy, agreeing with Cllr. McCarthy, commented on the impact of the work and stressed the importance of measuring this impact.

#### **4. Adoption of Annual Financial Statement**

The Annual Financial Statement was adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Terry Shannon and seconded by Cllr. Deirdre O'Brien.

Cllr. Carroll commented on the expenditure of the building works and the continuing roof leaks at Assembly House. He requested clarity on the situation with the builders' work.

In response to a query from Cllr Carroll David Kelly stated that the repair works currently being carried out are due to some water ingress in the building. Due to the nature and age of the building there is always going to be maintenance work required however it is hoped that the present works should resolve the water ingress issue on the flat concrete roof.

Responding to Cllr Kinsella regarding the savings made on travel expenses over the previous year David Kelly confirmed that these are factored into the budget estimates for the following year and the demand on local authorities.

#### **5. Regional Planning Update**

Bryan Riney gave an update on regional planning including the recent statutory submissions and a draft of the Cork County Council development plan circulated to Members at the June meeting. The development plan was finalised and submitted to Cork County Council before 1<sup>st</sup> July deadline. Bryan stated three new consultation piers have opened as follows:

- 1) Kilkenny County Council draft development plan submission deadline 28<sup>th</sup> July;
- 2) Waterford City & County Council draft development plan submission deadline 30<sup>th</sup> August;
- 3) Limerick City & County Council draft development plan submission deadline 6<sup>th</sup> September.

Bryan also commented on a number non-statutory consultation peers which the Southern Regional Assembly is preparing submissions:

- National Research and Innovation Statutory 2021-27;
- Department of Transport's development of 10-year strategy for the road/haulage sector.

He noted a section on the role of the Members of the Southern Regional Assembly in relation to Regional Spatial Planning on page 22 of the National Marine Planning Framework which was launched on 1<sup>st</sup> July.

A discussion took place with contributions from Cllr. Carroll, Cllr. G. Murphy, Cllr. Boyle, Cllr. Kelly, Cllr. Kinsella. Members raised points in relation to county development plans, National Planning Framework, population issues for rural areas, the joint retail strategy, housing crisis and derelict/vacant buildings.

Cllr. Boyle requested a calendar which listed submissions for all the county and city development plans be issued to Members.

David Kelly thanked Members for their comments and stated the Southern Regional Assembly has engaged positively with officials in Cork County Council. He acknowledged that there is some frustration amongst Members' concerning some aspects of the process however he stated a regular meeting has been agreed with OPR and the 3 Regional Assemblies to include the directors and Cathaoirleach which will provide the Members and opportunity discuss concerns directly with the OPR.

Bryan Riney noted that the Regional Assembly is in contact with the planning policy unit at Cork County Council, which is assessing all the submissions made including the OPR's.

Cllr. Breen, Cathaoirleach stated all councillors should remember the County Development Plan are their plans and they should put into the plan what they can pass in their council chamber.

#### **6. Potential Meeting with Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine**

David Kelly noted the Minister's interest in meeting Members to discuss the impact of Brexit on the fishing sector. David stated a potential meeting could take place on 22<sup>nd</sup> July at the Southern Regional Assembly with a representative delegation of Members because of time constraints. David asked Members to nominate three representatives to join the Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach. The Members agreed that Cllr. Coughlan, Cllr. Carroll and Cllr. Cosáí Fitzgerald would attend. Those Members interested in attending the meeting to email David Kelly.

#### **7. Any Other Business**

David Kelly stated all Assembly meetings will revert online until the Government Covid 19 guidelines are updated.

David Kelly announced the retirement of Derville Brennan from the Southern Regional Assembly in September after almost 20 years of service. He thanked her for her outstanding work and service to the Assembly across many areas and he noted that she will be very much missed by her colleagues.

Cllr. Pip Breen, Cathaoirleach thanked Derville Brennan for her service and work over the years.

Cllr. O'Shea expressed his surprise at the news. He paid a warm tribute to Derville and noted her ready assistance to the Members and wished her best of luck. Other Members joined Cllr. O'Shea in his tribute and thanks.

Derville Brennan thanked everyone and wished the Members and staff of the Assembly the best for future endeavours.

#### **8. Date of Next Meeting**

Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> September 2021 via GoToMeeting.

Signed:   
Cllr. Pip Breen  
Cathaoirleach

Date: 11/07/2021



## July Ordinary Meeting Agenda 8<sup>th</sup> July 2021

1. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2021
2. Matters Arising
3. Adoption of Annual Report 2020
4. Adoption of Annual Financial Statement
5. Regional Planning Update
6. Potential Meeting with Minister McConalogue
7. Any Other Business
8. Date for next meeting