

# Southern Regional Assembly

## Minutes of the Meeting held on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2020

**Presiding:** Cllr. Joe Carroll, Cathaoirleach.

**Present:** Cllr. Robert Beasley, Cllr. Maura Bell, Cllr. Pip Breen, Cllr. John Brennan, Cllr. Noel Coonan, Cllr. Séamus Cosáí Fitzgerald, Cllr. Thomas Kinsella, Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, Cllr. Ken Murnane, Cllr. Gerard Murphy, Cllr. Michael Murphy, Cllr. Deirdre. O'Brien, Cllr. Alan O'Callaghan, Cllr. Shane O'Callaghan, Cllr. Sean O'Connor, Cllr. Michael O'Meara, Cllr. Michael O'Shea, Cllr. Terry Shannon, Cllr. Oliver Walsh.

**Apologies:** Cllr. Siobhan Ambrose, Cllr. Deirdre Forde, Cllr. Kieran McCarthy.

**Officials Present:** Mr. David Kelly, Director; Mr. Kevin Lynch, Asst. Director/Senior Planner; Mr. Dominic Walsh, RPO; Ms. Derville Brennan Asst. Director; Ms. Sharon Murray, A.O.; Ms. Siobhan Rudden, A/A.O.; Ms. Róisín Kiely, A.S.O.; Ms. Samantha Richardson, Development Officer, Ms. Rose Power, E.U. Projects Officer; Ms. Karen Coughlan, E.U. Projects Officer; Ms. Rita McGarvey, A/NCP; Ms. Marie Harnett, Senior FLC.

### **1. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2019.**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 29<sup>th</sup> November 2019 were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Pip Breen and seconded by Cllr. Séamus Cosáí Fitzgerald.

### **2. Matters Arising**

Mr. Kevin Lynch, Assistant Director/Senior Planner reminded the Members that the RSES would be published on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020.

### **3. Presentation by Mr. Gregg Allen, CEO, Community Power:**

Mr. Gregg Allen, CEO, Community Power provided a detailed presentation to all attendees.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Joe Carroll thanked Mr Allen for his presentation.

A lengthy discussion followed with contributions from Cllr M. O'Meara, Cllr R. Beasley, Cllr. S. Cosáí Fitzgerald, Cllr P Breen, Cllr T Kinsella, Cllr M O'Shea, Cllr K Murnane.

Key issues discussed included:

- Offshore vs. onshore energy, which is best;
- Delay in processing National Grid offer applications;
- Unrest by local communities caused by wind farms and the lack of benefits currently received from wind farms to communities;
- The need for clear national policy to issue in relation to planning for wind farms.

Mr. David Kelly, Director SRA again thanked Mr. Allen for a very detailed and informative presentation.

**4. Review of Structures of Management of ERDF Programmes in Ireland (Crowe Report) – Update by Mr. David Kelly, Director.**

Mr. David Kelly provided an update on the Crowe Report, followed by a lengthy discussion with contributions from Cllr. R. Beasley, Cllr. P Breen, Cllr. T Kinsella, Cllr. M O'Shea & Cllr. K Murnane.

Key issues discussed included:

- Whether the commissioning of the Crowe report was an Irish Government or an E.U. decision;
- How the changes in Regional structures in Ireland will impact the future delivery mechanism. What impact this might have on future investment in the Region?

Cllr. Michael O'Shea proposed that the Assembly, depending on the outcome make a written representation to the Minister for Department of Public Expenditure & Reform. This was seconded by Cllr. Terry Shannon.

Mr. David Kelly, Director agreed to keep the matter under review and keep Members informed of any progress.

**5. Planning Submissions for noting**

Mr. Kevin Lynch, Senior Planner / Assistant Director provided details of 3 planning submissions:

- Kerry Co Co - Listowel.
- Cork Co Co - Retail &
- Cork City - Tramore Road.

**6. Schedule of Meetings 2020 (for adoption)**

The Schedule of Meeting for 2020 was adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Alan O'Callaghan & seconded by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness.

**7. Confirm date of next Meeting**

Members agreed to next Meeting date of Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2020.

**8. Any Other Business**

Ms. Derville Brennan, Assistant Director; EU Programmes Division drew Members attention to two booklets which had been distributed to each Member on the EMPOWER EU Project and also the SRA's Regional Action Plan to reduce carbon by monitoring energy efficiency in Social Housing and invited Members to read same at their leisure.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Cllr. Joe Carroll  
Cathaoirleach

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

14/12/2020