



# Southern Regional Assembly

Minutes of the Meeting  
20<sup>th</sup> November 2020  
12:00pm via GoToMeeting

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*Due to the COVID19 Restrictions it was not possible to hold the November Assembly meeting in the Chamber in Assembly House. However, the Designation Order, S.I. No. 446 of 2020 given effect by the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Mr. Darragh O'Brien TD on 20 October 2020 designates Regional Assemblies under section 29 of the Civil Law and Criminal Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020 allowing for Regional Assembly meetings and meetings of Assembly Committees to be held remotely. All decisions or votes taken by elected members at such meetings (whether physically or remotely present) shall have the same status in law as decisions or votes taken at a physical meeting.*

**Presiding:** Cllr. John Sheahan, Cathaoirleach.

**Present:** Cllr. R. Beasley, Cllr. Pip Breen, Cllr. PJ Kelly, Cllr. John Brennan, Cllr. Joe Carroll, Cllr. Noel Coonan, Cllr. Séamus Cosáí Fitzgerald, Cllr. Thomas Kinsella, Cllr. Ken Murnane, Cllr. Gerard Murphy, Cllr. Deirdre O'Brien, Cllr. Alan O'Callaghan, Cllr. Sheila O'Callaghan, Cllr. Michael O'Shea, Cllr. Thomas Phelan, Cllr. Oliver Walsh, Cllr. Michael Collins, Cllr. Conor D. McGuinness, Cllr. Siobhan Ambrose, Cllr. Deirdre Forde, Cllr. Kieran McCarthy, Cllr. Maura Bell, Cllr. Frankie Daly, Cllr. Tom Cronin, Cllr. Garret Kelleher, Cllr. Terry Shannon.

**Officials Present:** Mr. David Kelly, Director; Mr. Kevin Lynch, Senior Planner/Assistant Director; Ms. Derville Brennan Asst. Director; Mr. Dominic Walsh, Regional Planning Officer; Ms. Siobhan Rudden, S.S.O.; Ms. Sharon Murray, AO; Ms. Breda Curran, Development Officer; Ms. Rose Power, E.U. Projects Officer; Ms. Karen Coughlan, E.U. Projects Officer; Ms. Edel Hunt, Acting Senior F.L.C.; Ms. Eve Hayden, Senior F.L.C.; Ms. Marie Harnett, Senior F.L.C.; Ms. Yvonne Cooney, Acting A.S.O; Ms. Maria Murphy, C.O.; Ms. Alice Byrne Kelly, C.O.; Ms. Anna Higgins, C.O.; Ms. Catherine Connaughton, C.O.

Cathaoirleach John Sheahan took a roll call of Members present.

**1. Note of online Briefing October 2020 – for noting**

Noted.

**2. Supplementary Standing Order on Remote Meetings – for Consideration & Adoption**

Cathaoirleach John Sheahan introduced the Supplementary Standing Orders to the Assembly to allow for remote meetings following the Direction issued by Minister O'Brien. He emphasised that these are supplementary to the existing standing orders and only come into effect where physical meetings cannot take place. The Cathaoirleach requested if a 'sunset clause' could be introduced.

David Kelly advised that as the default position would always be a physical meeting in the Assembly chamber a sunset clause would not be necessary, but agreed that the SSO's should be reviewed on a regular basis. He noted that the SSO's will allow for a hybrid situation whereby Members unable to travel will be able to participate remotely to a physical meeting

Cllr. Gerard Murphy proposed and Cllr. Michael Collins seconded.

### **3. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

Cllr. Pip Breen proposed and Cllr. Deirdre O'Brien seconded.

### **4. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

### **5. Update on the Ireland Wales Programme 2014 – 20, Breda Curran, Development Officer**

Breda Curran gave a detailed presentation on the Ireland Wales Programme.

Cllr. John Sheahan, Cathaoirleach thanked Breda Curran for her presentation.

Cllr. Kieran McCarthy underlined the value of projects like the Ireland Wales Programme and that it was regrettable the programme is coming to an end due to Brexit. He advised that the "Committee of the Regions" have set up a contact group with former British colleagues and that the Regional Assembly as programme partner for the Ireland Wales Programme could set up a similar group.

Cllr. Maura Bell thanked Breda Curran for her presentation and stated how important projects like the Ireland Wales programme are to the Region and in particular to County Wexford. She stressed it's vital to keep up connections made through this Programme and to look for other funding.

Mr. David Kelly, Director noted the valuable contribution the Ireland Wales Programme has made to the Region over the years and the many excellent projects. He considered that it was disappointing that it was unlikely there would be a future Ireland Wales programme and highlighted the really good links which had been established over the years with colleagues in the Welsh Government.

It was proposed and agreed by the Members that contact should be made through the Cathaoirleach with Welsh counterparts to continue collaboration and cooperation.

### **6. Regional Plan Update**

Kevin Lynch gave an update on statutory submissions. Submissions had been made on the Clare and Tipperary Development plans and this completed the work on statutory submissions on Issues Papers. The next stage was engagement with the Draft Plan process and the Draft Submission on the Draft Wexford Plan will be circulated to Members in line with the procedure agreed on July 17<sup>th</sup>. It was agreed that members of the team would brief the Wexford members on the Draft Submission.

Other implementation updates included:

- the Match Up "10 Minute Towns" project
- Blue Green Cities project
- Regional Co-Working Analysis.
- Joint SRA and CARO workshops on climate action with the local authorities.

Cllr. Kieran McCarthy commended the team on holding the Climate Action workshops. He stated that Local Authorities needed larger teams and access to funding to implement Climate Action.

## **7. Adoption of Annual Budget 2021**

Mr. David Kelly, Director thanked Sharon Murray and her team for preparing the Annual Budget 2021. The Annual Budget represents a 5.8% reduction in the demand placed on the Local Authorities. Overall, the budget is a reduction on last year's budget.

Following a request from Cllr. Michael Murphy it was agreed to investigate if any support could be offered to Members to cover additional I.T. related costs due to the crisis.

Cllr. Deirdre Forde proposed and Cllr. Oliver Walsh seconded.

## **8. Approval of Overdraft Facility 2021**

Mr. David Kelly, Director stated this overdraft is in case of an emergency to pay bills and staff salaries. He requested the annual approval of the Members for an overdraft of €150,000.

Cllr. John Sheahan, Cathaoirleach proposed and Cllr. Michael Murphy seconded.

## **9. NDP review – for information**

Mr. David Kelly, Director said that Minister Michael McGrath the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, has initiated a review of the National Development Plan and informed Members that the SRA will be making a submission, Members will have the opportunity to input. The deadline is 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

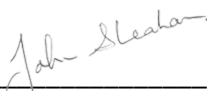
## **10. Any Other Business**

Mr. David Kelly, Director said he acknowledged the letter from Minister McGrath with regard to the Regional Operational Programmes 2021 – 2027, particularly to acknowledge the fact that the regions are still are going to have a key role in the development and the delivery of those problems going forward.

## **11. Date of Next Meeting:**

The next meeting of the Southern Regional Assembly was agreed to be held on **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2020.**

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

  
**Cllr. John Sheahan**  
**Cathaoirleach**

Date: 11.12.2020