

Southern Regional Assembly

Minutes of the Meeting held on the 17th July 2020 at 12:00pm in

The Tower Hotel, Waterford.

Due to the COVID19 Restrictions it was not possible to hold the annual Assembly meeting in Assembly House. Therefore, in agreement with An Cathaoirleach, a meeting implementing the 2m social distancing was organised in the Tower Hotel, Waterford City. Members not able to attend in person could participate remotely (without voting) via WebEx.

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. Gillian Coughlan, Cllr. Thomas Kinsella, Cllr. Ken Murnane, Cllr. Gerard Murphy, Cllr. Ken Murnane, , Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, Cllr. Deirdre O'Brien, Cllr. Alan O'Callaghan, Cllr. Sheila O'Callaghan, Cllr. Shane O'Callaghan, Cllr. Sean O'Connor, Cllr. Michael O'Shea, Cllr. Thomas Phelan, Cllr. John Sheahan, Cllr. Oliver Walsh.

Remote Attendance via Webex: Cllr. Michael Collins, Cllr. Declan Clune, Cllr. Conor D. McGuinness, Cllr. Siobhan Ambrose, Cllr. Deirdre Forde, Cllr. Kieran McCarthy, Cllr. Maura Bell, Cllr. Frankie Daly, Cllr. Michael O'Meara, Cllr. Terry Shannon.

Apologies: Cllr. Michael Murphy.

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. Maria Murphy, C.O.;

Officials Remote Attendance via Webex: Mr. Bryan Riney, Regional Planning Officer; Ms. Sharon Murray, AO; Mr. Vincent Dunphy, AO; Mr. Enda Hogan, AO; Mr. Michael Buckley, Auditor; 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. Catherine Connaughton, C.O.

1. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting held on 14th February 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th February 2020 were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Thomas Phelan and seconded by Cllr. Pip Breen.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Note of on-line Briefing June 2002 – for nothing

None.

4. Adoption of Annual Financial Statement

The Annual Financial Statement was adopted on the proposal of Cllr. John Brennan and seconded by Cllr. Séamus Cosáí Fitzgerald.

5. Adoption of Annual Report 2019

The Annual Report 2019 was adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Thomas Phelan and seconded by Cllr. Robert Beasley.

6. Adoption of Corporate Plan 2020-24

Mr. David Kelly, Director stated that the Corporate Plan is an important document which sets out the high level corporate objectives for the five year term of the Assembly. He outlined that through the Members working group there was an opportunity for Members to contribute to its development.

Ms Siobhan Rudden, Senior Staff Officer delivered a presentation on the Corporate Plan 2020-24. Outlining the mission to be the leader of regional development through effective, sustainable spatial planning and the delivery of EU programmes, with the support of our stakeholders. Three Corporate Goals of the Corporate Plan is 1) Regional Leadership; 2) Valuing our People; 3) Promoting Sustainable Regional Development.

The Corporate Plan was adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Robert Beasley and seconded by Cllr. Thomas Phelan.

7. Procedures for Submissions / Observations under the Regional Planning Function

Mr. David Kelly, Director commented that the topic had been introduced at the last on-line briefing and now the formal procedure is being presented to the Members for consideration and adoption. As the RSES is in place, the process of reviewing development plans is underway and this will involve significant engagement from the Regional Assembly. It is important that the Members play their part in ensuring the key objectives set out in the RSES are translated to LA level through the development plan process. The purpose of this procedure is to facilitate Members in inputting to Regional Assembly observations in particular when deadlines for submissions do not align with Assembly meetings.

Mr. Kevin Lynch, Senior Planner/Assistant Director stressed the importance of what we are required to do under the legislation and that the submissions will focus on the high-level regional issues. He confirmed with Members that there is continuous and ongoing co-operative engagement with the LA's throughout the process and he outlined the procedure to the Members (paper circulated).

The Cathaoirleach Cllr. John Sheahan commented the Planning Regulators also has an oversight role.

Procedures for Submissions / Observations under the Regional Planning Function were proposed by Cllr. Pip Breen and seconded by Cllr. Terry Shanahan.

8. Any Other Business

Cllr. Deirdre Forde congratulated Cllr John Sheahan and Cllr Deirdre O'Brien. She commented that Cork City Council has expanded and should have an extra seat on the Assembly.

Mr. David Kelly stated that the Department is aware of the situation.

Cllr. Shane O'Callaghan said this was his last meeting in the Assembly. He enjoyed his time with the Assembly and commended David Kelly and Kevin Lynch on running the Assembly.


Mr. David Kelly thanked Cllr. Shane O'Callaghan for his comments.

Cllr. John Brennan raised the issue of the University for the South East.

Cllr. Kieran McCarthy mentioned the issue of funding for LA's, particularly during the current crisis.

9. Date of Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Southern Regional Assembly was agreed to be held on **Friday 11th September 2020.**

Signed: 

Clr. John Sheahan
Cathaoirleach

Date: 20.11.2020