



Southern Regional Assembly

12th February 2021, 12:00pm

GoToMeeting

Minutes

Presiding: Cllr. John Sheahan, Cathaoirleach

Present: Cllr. Deirdre O'Brien; Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose; Cllr. Robert Beasley; Cllr. Maura Bell; Cllr. Dan Boyle, Cllr. Pip Breen; Cllr. John Brennan; Cllr. Joe Carroll; Cllr. Noel Coonan; Cllr. Séamus Cosáí Fitzgerald; Cllr. Tom Cronin; Cllr. Frankie Daly; Cllr. Deirdre Forde; Cllr. P.J. Kelly; Cllr. Garret Kelleher; Cllr. Thomas Kinsella; Cllr. Kieran McCarthy; Cllr. Andrew McGuinness; Cllr. Ken Murnane; Cllr. Gerard Murphy; Cllr. Michael Murphy; Cllr. Alan O'Callaghan; Cllr. Sheila O'Callaghan; Cllr. Michael O'Meara; Cllr. Michael O'Shea; Cllr. Thomas Phelan; Cllr. Oliver Walsh.

Apologies: None

Officials Present: David Kelly; Kevin Lynch; Derville Brennan; Dominic Walsh; Robert Fennelly; Siobhán Rudden; Karen Coughlan; Edel Hunt; Eve Hayden; Marie Harnett; Maria Murphy; Alice Byrne Kelly; Anna Higgins; Catherine Connaughton; Yvonne Cooney.

A record of attendance was taken.

1. **Adoption of Minutes of Meeting held on 22nd January 2021**

The Members adopted the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd January 2021, proposed by Cllr. McCarthy and seconded by Cllr. Cronin.

2. **Matters Arising**

NDP Review

David Kelly advised that following discussion with the Cathaoirligh and the Directors of the three Assemblies it was agreed to raise the matter through the Association of Irish Regions (AIR).

Cllr. Kelly raised the issue of non-compliance by the Irish Government with the Flemish Decree in relation to rural housing.

David Kelly advised that the draft rural housing guidelines should be issued in the summer and can be reviewed at this time.

3. **Draft Annual Work Programme**

David Kelly introduced the Annual Work Programme 2021, a statutory requirement under Article 21 of the Establishment Order.

Cllr. McCarthy thanked Assembly staff for drafting the document. He recognised the benefits of the ETC programmes and expressed the hope that the long-established connections with Wales through the Ireland Wales Programme will continue. David Kelly noted that a letter from the Cathaoirleach will

be sent to Welsh Government counterparts regarding continued engagement, as agreed at a previous meeting.

Cllr. Sheahan proposed and Cllr. McCarthy seconded.

4. **Public Consultation National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP)**

David Kelly briefed the meeting on the submission on the NRRP, an initiative by the European Commission which aims to mitigate the economic and social impact of the pandemic through investments and projects aligned with EU flagship areas, including climate action and digital transitions. Ireland is expected to receive €583m in grants between 2021 and 2022. Ireland must submit a plan to the Commission by 30th April, which has two months to either reply or decide to adopt the NRRP. The Department of Public Expenditure and Reform is leading on the draft plan, in association with Dept. of the Taoiseach and has consulted with other government departments to identify key priority areas for funding.

David Kelly advised that the SRA sent the consultation document to each local authority. On a query related to the Brexit Adjustment Reserve he confirmed that this is separate to the NRRP and the details of it have not yet been finalised.

5. **Southern Regional Assembly Video**

Alice Byrne Kelly introduced the recently produced promotional video setting out the role of the Assembly and the RSES. The video was part of the Implementation Strategy for the RSES and would be circulated to members, included on the website and circulated to public bodies.

6. **Any Other Business**

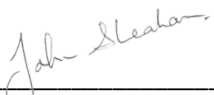
The following points were raised under Item 6:

- Cllr. Boyle raised the impact of the upcoming Land Development Agency (LDA) Bill in relation to the role of elected members;
- Cllr. M Murphy noted the improvement of SRA website content;
- Cllr. Phelan raised the lack of Assembly representation on the Regional Advisory Group for the Technology University for the South East. David Kelly advised that he has written to the Executive Director of the Regional Advisory Group;
- Kevin Lynch briefed the members on the preparation of a submission to Irish Water on the National Water Resources Plan. This would be circulated to the Members for comment before the deadline of 1st March. Cllr. M Murphy questioned the role of Irish Water in the County Development Plans. Kevin Lynch advised that Irish Water has a statutory role in the development plan process and a requirement to base their investment on the RSES and NPF priorities however the funding to deliver the investment required by Irish Water is a political matter;
- A reminder to Members regarding participating in the "Ireland in the Metropolitan Century" survey which was circulated last month;
- Two additional Members will be nominated as representatives on the Association of Irish Regions at the next Assembly meeting. The nomination process will be agreed in advance to reflect a reasonable representation of all political groupings on the AIR.

7. **Date of Next Meeting**

Friday 12th March 2021

Signed: _____


Cllr. John Sheahan
Cathaoirleach

Date: 12.03.2021



AGENDA

12th February 2021

1. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting held on 22nd January 2021
2. Matters Arising
3. Draft Annual Work Programme
4. Public Consultation National Recovery and Resilience Plan
5. Southern Regional Assembly Video
6. Any Other Business
7. Date of Next Meeting