



Tionól Réigiúnach an Deiscirt
Southern Regional Assembly

Southern Regional Assembly

11th June 2021, 12:00pm via GoToMeeting

Draft Minutes

Presiding: Cllr. John Sheahan, Cathaoirleach

Present: Cllr. Robert Beasley; Cllr. Maura Bell; Cllr. Dan Boyle; Cllr. John Brennan; Cllr. Pip Breen; Cllr. Joe Carroll; Cllr. Noel Coonan; Cllr. Séamus Cosáí Fitzgerald; Cllr. Frankie Daly; Cllr. P.J. Kelly; Cllr. Garret Kelleher; Cllr. Thomas Kinsella; Cllr. Kieran McCarthy; Cllr. Ken Murnane; Cllr. Gerard Murphy; Cllr. Michael Murphy; Cllr. Sheila O'Callaghan; Cllr. Conor McGuinness; Cllr. Michael O'Meara; Cllr. Michael O'Shea; Cllr. Thomas Phelan; Cllr. Gillian Coughlan; Cllr. Alan O'Callaghan; Cllr. Terry Shanahan; Cllr. Oliver Walsh; Cllr. Siobhan Ambrose.

Apologies: Cllr. Deirdre Forde

Officials Present: David Kelly; Kevin Lynch; Derville Brennan; Dominic Walsh; Sarah Davoren; Breda Curran; Samantha Richardson; Karen Coughlan; Eve Hayden; Maria Harnett; Edel Hunt; Yvonne Cooney; Roisin Kiely; Maria Murphy; Alice Byrne Kelly.

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

1. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting held on 14th May

The Members adopted the minutes of the meeting held on 14th May 2021, proposed by Cllr. Beasley and seconded by Cllr. Walsh.

2. Matters Arising

Cllr. Coughlan enquired about inviting the Minister at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) to address the Assembly on the impact of Brexit on the fishing sector as discussed at the last meeting.

David Kelly confirmed he wrote to the Minister inviting him to address the Assembly. The Department had responded advising they will revert to the Assembly following discussion with the Minister.

3. Presentation on National Recovery and Resilience Plan

David Kelly presented an overview on the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP).

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr. O'Shea, Cllr. M. Murphy, Cllr. S. O'Callaghan, Cllr. Coughlan, Cllr. McCarthy, Cllr. Breen, Cllr. Sheahan & Cllr. Boyle.

Key issues discussed included:

- Greater clarity on how the Plan will be rolled out and administrated e.g. through Central Government or Regional Assemblies;
- A need to engage with Irish MEPS on the implementation of the Plan;
- A need for clarification on the timeline for utilising and distribution of the funds;

- The allocation of funds as 52% is allotted to Green Economy and 18% is allotted to Social Economic Recovery;
- A need to provide more funding for Local Authorities in the Region;

David Kelly advised he will discuss joint Regional Assembly engagement with the Irish MEPs through the AIR. He confirmed the timeframe on spending of the funding is 2026. He has requested a representative from the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform discuss the NRRP with the Assembly to.

4. Presentation Eirgrid - Public Consultation: Shaping Our Electricity Future - SRA Submission: For discussion and approval)

Dominic Walsh gave an overview of the draft submission. The key aim of the submission was to ensure that the **Shaping Our Electricity Future** supports the RSES strategy including the settlement strategy and targets, the 50:50 distribution of growth between the Eastern and Midland Region and the Southern and Northern and Western Regions contained in the NPF and Climate Action policies.

Members raised points including interconnectors from Wales and France; the need to future proof energy / electricity in a sustainable way; on the impact of land or off shore wind turbines and undergrounding of cables.

Members also noted the risk to current electricity generation due to the closure of two gas-powered stations. It is important to promote renewable energy such as off shore wind turbines, solar energy and micro generation, especially in rural areas.

The motion to make the submission (subject to taking on board comments of the members regarding the submission) was put to the floor. Cllr. Sheahan proposed and Cllr. Breen seconded.

5. Arrangements for the Annual Meeting

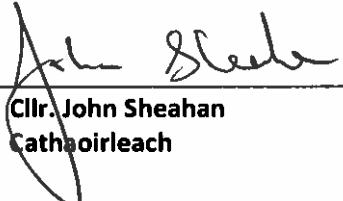
The Annual Meeting (AM) will not take place in Assembly House due to COVID19 guidelines. It is proposed a physical AM will take place in the Tower Hotel with social distancing, as previous year. Dialling-in options via Go To Meeting will be made available for Members who can't attend physical meeting. The date proposed and agreed for the AM is 8th July and Councillors will confirm if they can attend in person or online.

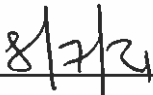
6. Any Other Business

David Kelly noted a thank you letter received from Department and Minister for Transport in relation to Southern Regional Assembly's ITF Summit participation, SRA exhibit content and work of the SRA.

7. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday, 8th July 2021 (Tower Hotel and GoToMeeting)

Signed: 
 Cllr. John Sheahan
 Cathaoirleach

Date: 



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AGENDA

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1. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting held on 14th May 2021
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3. Presentation on National Recovery and Resilience Plan
4. Eirgrid - Public Consultation: Shaping Our Electricity Future - SRA Submission: For discussion and approval
5. Arrangements for the Annual Meeting
6. Any Other Business
7. Date of Next Meeting

