



Southern Regional Assembly

22nd January 2021, 12:00pm via 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. Michael Collins; Cllr. Noel Coonan; Cllr. Séamus Cosáí Fitzgerald; Cllr. Gillian Coughlan; Cllr. Tom Cronin; Cllr. Frankie Daly; Cllr. Deirdre Forde; Cllr. P.J. Kelly; Cllr. Garret Kelleher; Cllr. Thomas Kinsella; Cllr. Kieran McCarthy; Cllr. Conor D. 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. Terry Shannon; Cllr. Oliver Walsh

Apologies: None

Officials Present: David Kelly; Kevin Lynch; Derville Brennan; Dominic Walsh; Robert Fennelly; Bryan Riney; Siobhan Rudden; Breda Curran; Samantha Richardson; Rose Power; Karen Coughlan; Edel Hunt; Marie Harnett; Maria Murphy; Alice Byrne Kelly; Anna Higgins; Catherine Connaughton; Yvonne Cooney; John Daly

A record of attendance was taken.

Cllr. Sheahan thanked Members for their work as public representatives during the Covid 19 pandemic to date.

1. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting held on 11th December 2020

The Members adopted the minutes of the meeting held on 11th December 2020, proposed by Cllr. Breen and seconded by Cllr. Beasley.

2. Matters Arising

Cllr. Carroll referred to the Section 31 Direction by the Minister For Planning and Local Government requiring the deletion of the Retail Variation No 2 from the Cork County Development Plan. The decision was made on the recommendation of the OPR and he raised concern over the role of the OPR over the decision making power of Councillors at Local Government level.

It was agreed to discuss the matter under item 3.

3. SRA Draft Submission on the National Development Plan (NDP) Review

David Kelly introduced the Review of the National Development Plan stating that it was committed to under the Programme for Government and is led by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform under Minister McGrath. As each of the three Regional Assemblies were

specifically invited to make a submission he emphasised the importance of highlighting the regional priorities as agreed under the respective RSES.

Kevin Lynch gave a presentation on the detail of the submission which had been circulated to the members and thanked Robert Fennelly and John Daly for their work on drafting the submission. He highlighted that the process was not a fundamental review of the NDP or the NPF but related primarily to funding (the consultation is organised through DPER). The Draft Submission from the Assembly highlights the need for increased funding for our Region to match the ambition of Project Ireland 2040, and the need for change in the funding delivery structures to ensure our urban and rural areas can achieve the objectives for sustainable growth as set out in the NPF and RSES. This should include an increased emphasis on direct funding in tandem with competitive funding. The views of members are sought prior to the submission date of 29 January 2021 (note this has subsequently been extended to 19 February 2021).

A discussion took place with contributions from: Cllr. Sheahan, Cllr. Breen, Cllr. Boyle, Cllr. Coughlan, Cllr. Phelan, Cllr. McCarthy, Cllr. Kinsella, Cllr. G Murphy, Cllr. O'Shea, Cllr. Beasley, Cllr. Cronin, Cllr. Carroll;

Members raised points in relation to the submission including 'extending public transport', criticism of competitive funding, improved broadband, climate action, and funding from Irish Water for rural villages.

Members also expressed strong concern over the role of the OPR including the recent decision by the Minister in Cork County and their submission on the Draft Wexford Development Plan. Contributions were made by: Cllr. Sheahan, Cllr. Breen, Cllr. Coughlan, Cllr. Phelan, Cllr. McCarthy, Cllr. Kinsella, Cllr. Walsh, Cllr. G Murphy, Cllr. O'Shea, Cllr. Beasley, Cllr. Cronin, Cllr. Carroll;

It was agreed that the Director would follow up on the matter with the other two Assemblies with the view to organising a meeting of the three Cathaoirleach and three Directors to discuss the issues further.

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

It was agreed that the submission to DPER should be accompanied by a separate letter to Minister McGrath from the Cathaoirleach highlighting the concerns of the members; the Director to liaise with the Cathaoirleach after the meeting.

4. Paper on the RSES Implementation Structure – for approval

Kevin Lynch referred to the report and recommendation which had been circulated including Implementation Structures and RSES Work Programme for 2021. Cllr Sheahan put the matter to floor. Cllr Breen proposed and Cllr Phelan seconded.

5. Regional Planning Update

- The Draft Kilkenny Development Plan was published on 22 December 2020 and the Assembly would be making a submission by the consultation date of 12 March 2021.
- The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage had issued Section 28 Guidelines in relation to Housing Supply.
- The Assembly had produced a video promoting the work of the Assembly including the RSES which is on the website and would be discussed at the next meeting.

Cllr. Phelan thanked Kevin Lynch for presenting at the meeting of the Waterford City and County Council Planning Strategic Planning Committee on 21st January 2021.

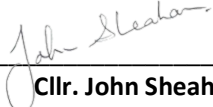
6. Any Other Business

David Kelly noted the following:

- The Regional Assemblies' input to the National Remote Work Strategy through the Regional Co-Working Analysis;
- Work on the development of the Regional Operational Programme has begun and a meeting of the subgroup will convene in the next few weeks;
- An invitation to Members to join the SRA webinar "Renewable Energy Investment Forum" on 4th February.

7. Date of Next Meeting

Friday 12th February 2021

Signed: 

Cllr. John Sheahan
Cathaoirleach

Date: 12 Feb, 2021



Appendix 1: AGENDA

1. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting held on 20th December 2020
2. Matters Arising
3. SRA Draft Submission on the National Development Plan Review – discussion & approval
4. Paper on the RSES Implementation Structure – for approval
5. Regional Planning Update
6. Any Other Business
7. Date of Next Meeting