

South-East Regional Authority
Údarás Réigiúnach an Oir-Dheiscirt

Minutes of the April monthly meeting of the South-East Regional Authority held at County Civic Offices, Dungarvan, on Monday, 26th April, 2010 at 2.30 p.m.

Present: Cllr. T. Kinsella, Cathaoirleach, presided.

Also Present: Cllr. M. Anglim, Cllr. E. Aylward, Cllr. L. Brazil, Cllr. T. Breathnach, Cllr. J. Brennan, Cllr. M. Brett, Cllr. P. Cody, Cllr. J. Conway, Cllr. J. Cummins, Cllr. D. Daniels, Cllr. K. Doyle, Cllr. D. Foley, Cllr. D. Geoghegan, Cllr. M. Greene, Cllr. T. Howlin, Cllr. D. Hurley, Cllr. B. Ireland, Cllr. A.M. Irish, Cllr. P. Kavanagh, Cllr. D. Landy, Cllr. A. McDonald, Cllr. C. McLoughlin, Cllr. M. Murphy, Cllr. L. O'Brien, Cllr. P. O'Callaghan, Cllr. L. O'Neill, Cllr. A. Phelan, Cllr. M. Sheehan, Cllr. J. Tobin, Cllr. J. Walsh.

In Attendance: Mr. T. Byrne, Director
Mr. M. Moroney, Asst. Director
Ms. S. Thompson, Research & Policy Officer
Ms. A. Sheehan, Office Manager
Mr. J. Crockett, Designated County Manager.

Apologies: Cllr. J. Crowe, Cllr. D. MacPartlin, Cllr. E. O'Meara, Cllr. W. Quinn.

Confirmation of Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr. D. Daniels, seconded by Cllr. D. Foley, the minutes of the March monthly meeting, copy of which had been circulated, were unanimously approved and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

Overview of the European Parliament and Issues Facing the European Union

Mr. Francis Jacobs, Head of the European Parliament Office in Ireland, made a presentation to the members on an '*Overview of the European Parliament and Issues Facing the European Union*'. He outlined his presentation under the following headings:

- Introduction to the European Parliament
- General information about the European Parliament
- What the European Parliament does
- How the European Parliament is affected by the Lisbon Treaty

- Current priorities of the European Parliament
- How the Regional Authority can work with the European Parliament.

Mr. Jacobs responded to questions and comments from the members including the following:

- Queries regarding single farm payments
- Enlargement of EU and accession countries' applications
- The need for more interaction between local and regional government and the EU
- The role of Air Traffic Control with respect to European air space
- The need to develop the EU as a manufacturing/trading block
- Globalisation Adjustment Fund: Why has the Irish Government not applied to this fund?
- Concern regarding:
 - rail development in the South-East
 - the Globalisation Fund
 - unemployment in the region
 - agricultural income and loss of agriculture generally.

Following this presentation, the members requested the following:

- That the Authority write to the Department and request that they make an application to the Globalisation Adjustment Fund to aid the revival of the construction industry.
- That a speaker from the Globalisation Adjustment Fund be invited to attend a future meeting of the Authority
- Regarding the rail situation, the following suggestions were made:
 - That the Authority lodge a petition under the Transport Petition Initiative regarding the proposed closure of the Waterford to Rosslare railway line.
 - That a delegation of TDs and Senators from the South-East meet with Mr. Noel Dempsey, T.D., Minister for Transport, regarding the need to maximise the profitability of the Rosslare - Waterford - Limerick line.
 - That the Authority write to Mr. Richard Fearn, Chief Executive, Iarnród Éireann, regarding his recent letter to the Cathaoirleach about the Rosslare - Waterford line.
 - That the Authority request a delegation to the EP Transport Committee in Europe and inform Iarnród Éireann of its intention to do so.
 - Cllr. J. Walsh proposed the following motion: *“that the South-East Regional Authority host a meeting of all stakeholders to include tourist industry, business, trade unions, commuters and local authorities. The objective of the meeting would be to*

consider building a business case on how to improve the viability of the link. The Government and Irish Rail to be lobbied to provide the rail services identified by the stakeholders and to promote the route as a gateway from Rosslare to the south and west of the country connecting to the new rail developments in the west of Ireland”.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. P. Kavanagh and unanimously passed by the Authority.

The members agreed that there should be a proper integrated rail network in the region and all local authorities and agencies in the South-East should be contacted to lobby together for this vital cause.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Mr. Jacobs for his very interesting and informative presentation.

Response of the Minister for Transport to the Authority’s representations concerning the Helicopter Search and Rescue Service in the South-East

The members noted details of a letter, copy of which had been circulated, on the response of the Minister for Transport to the Authority’s representations concerning the Helicopter Search and Rescue Service in the South-East. Members welcomed the statement that the service will continue to be operated on a 24/7 basis from Waterford Regional Airport.

Waterford Airport Economic Impact Assessment

The members noted details of a summary report, copy of which had been circulated, on the recently published report ‘*Waterford Airport Economic Impact Assessment*’.

The summary report assessed the economic impact and wider importance of Waterford Airport to the South-East Region and considered such issues as how the airport is used, by whom and the benefits it provides to business, tourism and people living in the South-East.

The full report can be viewed at www.flywaterford.com .

‘Horizon 2020’

The members noted details of a summary report, copy of which had been circulated, on ‘*Horizon 2020*’, recently published by IDA Ireland. The report is a blueprint for attracting FDI into Ireland in the coming decade and sets out a road-map of what is needed to fuel Ireland’s future success with leading global corporations over the coming decade. Significantly, it also outlines a series of short term goals, including an ambitious target for job creation.

The report also outlines Investment Targets 2010 – 2014 and New Initiatives – Ten Steps of Transformation. It concludes with a series of six Team Ireland policy enablers necessary to enhance Ireland’s world-class environment to continue to attract overseas investment in the future.

The members stated that they were not happy with the contents of this report as no FDI or job creation had come to the South-East in the last fifteen months.

The Director suggested that a representative from the IDA be invited to attend a future Authority meeting to provide a regional dimension for the members.

Management Development in Ireland

The members noted details of a summary report, copy of which had been circulated, on *‘Management Development in Ireland’*, recently published by the Management Development Council. The report identifies areas for improvement in management practice amongst Irish SMEs. It also outlines the following:

- Recommendation to stimulate demand for management development
- Recommendations to reform delivery of management development
- Recommendations on funding for management development.

Maximising Ireland’s Potential for Company Research & Development

The members noted details of a summary report, copy of which had been circulated, on *‘Maximising Ireland’s Potential for Company Research & Development’*, recently published by the Advisory Council for Science Technology and Innovation, which outlines a series of recommendations on how to improve the environment for companies to engage in research, development and innovation in Ireland.

Evaluation of Framework Programme 6 (FP6)

The members noted details of a summary report, copy of which had been circulated, on *‘Evaluation of Framework Programme 6 in Ireland’*, recently published by Forfás. The report sets out the results of an evaluation of Ireland’s involvement in FP6, and that its public and private research communities have played an active role in the Programme, deriving significant benefit as a result. Irish organisations were allocated a total of €100 million in FP6 funding out of a total allocation of €16.6 billion.

Full report available on www.forfas.ie .

Correspondence

- Letter from Mr. Richard Fearn, Chief Executive, Iarnród Éireann, regarding the Rosslare to Waterford Railway line.

Other Matters

- The following proposal was made by Cllr. Marie Murphy and agreed by the Authority:

"Due to retirements 6 counties are now without a county Librarian (by the end of the year this will rise to 9). The current embargo is inhibiting services and this is to the detriment of all users of the Libraries. Within the SERA region 3 areas are affected, Waterford County, Kilkenny and Carlow. I propose that we send a letter to the Minister of the Environment and the Minister for Finance looking for a derogation on the moritorium."

- On the proposal of Cllr. M. Brett, seconded by Cllr. A. McDonald, it was unanimously agreed by the members that the Cathaoirleach accept the invitation received to attend the *'Encore 2010 Environment Conference'* to be held in Olsztyn, Poland on 10-12 June 2010 .

That concluded the business of the meeting.

Sínte: _____

Ceadaithe : _____

Dáta: _____

Dáta: _____