

**South-East Regional Authority**  
**Údarás Réigiúnach an Oir-Dheiscirt**

**Minutes of the January monthly meeting of the South-East Regional Authority  
held at City Hall, Kilkenny on Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2007 at 2.30 p.m.**

**Present:** Cllr. P. Coffey, Cathaoirleach, presided.

**Also Present:** Cllr. L. Allen, Cllr. M. Anglim, Cllr. L. Brazil, Cllr. T. Breathnach, Cllr. J. Brennan, Cllr. P. Codd, Cllr. J. Crowe, Cllr. M. D'Arcy, Cllr. M. Fitzgerald, Cllr. P. Fitzpatrick, Cllr. D. Geoghegan, Cllr. T. Howlin, Cllr. D. Hurley, Cllr. P.J. Kavanagh, Cllr. T. Kinsella, Cllr. D. Landy, Cllr. C. Long, Cllr. T. Maher, Cllr. A. McDonald, Cllr. D. MacPartlin, Cllr. P. Norris, Cllr. S. Nyhan, Cllr. P. O'Callaghan, Cllr. L. O'Neill, Cllr. W. Paton, Cllr. C. Phelan, Cllr. S. Ryan, Cllr. J. Tobin.

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

**Apologies:** Cllr. S. Connick, Cllr. S. Doyle, Cllr. M. O'Halloran.

**Confirmation of Minutes**

On the proposal of Cllr. P. O'Callaghan, seconded by Cllr. D. Landy, the minutes of the November monthly meeting, copy of which had been circulated, were unanimously approved and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

**Freight Movement and Logistics in the South-East Region**

Mr. Albert Byrne, Head of Engineering Technology, WIT, made a presentation to the members on a freight study titled '*Freight Movement and Logistics in the South-East Region - Implications for Regional Transport Policy*'.

Mr. Byrne explained to the members that:

- WIT were commissioned by the Authority to undertake the study as part of its involvement in the EU INTERREG IIIC 'REDETRAL' Project.
- The main objective of the research was to investigate the movement of freight throughout the South-East region and to determine what policy

decisions could be taken to enhance the region as a central hub in the Irish economy.

- The research also investigated the linkage between the different modes of transport and outlined the environmental aspects of the current freight transport in the Region.
- The research investigated the development of Logistic Parks in Europe and the feasibility of introducing one into the region.
- The final element of the research looked at the viability of a coordinated management of freight movements in the region – making efficient use of the transport infrastructure that is in the Region.

In his presentation, Mr. Byrne outlined the following:

- The literature researched to carry out the study
- What was learned from research carried out
- The percentage of road, rail, waterways and freight usage in all countries involved in the 'REDETRAL' Project
- Distances travelled in each region of Ireland, both by vehicles/km and tonnes/km
- Energy consumption used by transport
- What these figures tell us
- Issues for Regional Policy
- Recommendations.

Mr. Byrne then responded to questions and comments from the members including:

- The fact that it makes economic sense to use the railway to distribute goods
- The importance of securing the rail line between Rosslare and Waterford and on to Limerick
- The importance of improving the standard of road infrastructure in the South-East
- The possibility of use of rail for waste transportation
- The promotion of use of domestic rail which is under-utilised
- The importance of use of rail lines adjacent to industries
- The possibility of more use of our extensive rail network, e.g. if Rosslare or Waterford Port could be more used, traffic could be taken out of Dublin.

The members requested that a National Freight Authority be set up to deal with important freight issues. The adoption of this recommendation was proposed by Cllr. T. Maher and seconded by Mr. A. McDonald. The Cathaoirleach advised

the members that this proposal would be considered as part of the final study report.

The Director thanked Mr. Byrne for his very indepth study of freight movement in the region and acknowledged the role of WIT in the study. He stated that a copy of the draft study has been forwarded to the Department of Transport which is currently considering the document.

### **Programme of Work 2007**

The Director outlined the main elements of the draft Programme of Work in respect of year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2007, copy of which had been circulated. The members requested that the following items be included in the Programme of Work:

- Add Waterford City and Wexford to Section 3.12 – ongoing monitoring of progress on major flood relief schemes
- The members requested that the Authority initiate a feasibility study to examine the potential of Waterford Estuary.

On the proposal of Cllr. P. Coffey, seconded by Cllr. T. Maher, subject to the above amendments, the Programme of Work was approved and adopted by the Authority.

### **Annual Allowance for Regional Authority Cathaoirleach**

The members noted and considered the provisions of the Local Government Act, 1991 (Regional Authorities)(Establishment Order) 1993 (Amendment) Order, 2006 made by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage & Local Government with respect to the payment of an Annual Allowance for reasonable expenses to the Cathaoirleach of a Regional Authority.

On the proposal of Cllr. L. Allen, seconded by Cllr. P. Codd it was unanimously resolved:

“That we the South-East Regional Authority, in accordance with the provisions of Article 5 of the Local Government Act, 1991 (Regional Authorities) (Establishment Order) 1993 (Amendment) Order, 1995 as amended by Article 7 of the Local Government Act, 1991 (Regional Authorities) (Establishment Order) 1993, (Amendment) Order, 2006, hereby determine that an annual allowance for reasonable expenses in the sum of Twelve Thousand Euro (€12,000) effective from 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2007 be paid to the Cathaoirleach of the Authority.”

## **'SERB-II' - Regional Broadband Programme - Phase II**

The Director informed the members that 9 towns in the South-East region have been included in the current National Broadband Programme. The design of - optic-fibre MANs for Cahir, Cashel, Carrick-on-Suir, Tipperary and Thomastown has been completed. Invitations to tender have been sent out and it is hoped to have a Contractor appointed and work commenced on the project by May 2007. He also informed them that the Authority will recruit a Project Engineer to supervise this project. The Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources is coordinating the progress of the four towns - Tullow, Bagenalstown, Tramore and Dunmore-East - for which wireless solutions have been approved.

## **Implementation of South-East Joint Waste Management Plan**

The members noted details of a report, copy of which had been circulated on the current situation regarding the implementation of the South-East Joint Waste Management Plan. The report outlined a summary of key objectives and targets of the Plan, a breakdown of treatment of waste in the region up to 2011 and recommendations to achieve targets set out.

## **'Biologic@' Project**

The members noted details of a report on the EU co-funded 'Biologic@' Project, copy of which had been circulated. The report outlined the following:

- The purpose of the project
- Recent activities undertaken by the Authority
- Details on All-Ireland Organic Food Conference
- Details on Regional Information Evening
- Details on South-East Regional Organic Food Fair and Information Day.
- Details on an Interpretive Centre to be developed in Co. Wexford.

On the proposal of Cllr. P. Codd, seconded by Cllr. M. D'Arcy, a contribution of €26,000 under the 'Biologic@' Project was approved by the Authority to support the development of an Interpretive Centre in conjunction with County Wexford Partnership and County Wexford Organic Centre.

## **Establishment of a University in the South-East Region**

The members noted details of a letter, copy of which had been circulated, from the Minister for Education and Science in response to the Authority's representations with respect to the establishment of a University in the South-East Region.

The members suggested that the Authority request a meeting with Dr. Jim Port, the independent expert who has been appointed to conduct a preliminary

assessment of the submission for upgrading to university status made by Waterford Institute of Technology.

### **Fáilte Ireland – Tourism Reports**

The members noted details of a summary report, copy of which had been circulated, on tourism in Ireland in 2006 and the outlook for 2007. The summary report outlined the following:

- The main highlights of the full Fáilte Ireland Report
- Details of Regional Tourism
- Outlook for Irish tourism for 2007

### **End-of-Year Statements issued by IDA and Enterprise Ireland**

The members noted details of a summary report, copy of which had been circulated, on end-of-year statements by IDA Ireland and Enterprise Ireland. The summary report outlined the main points of both statements, which are based on preliminary results for 2006.

The members requested that Ms. Siobhán McEvoy, Regional Director of IDA, be invited to attend a future meeting of the Authority.

### **'Transport 21' – Upgrade/Improvement of N24**

The members noted details of a report, copy of which had been circulated, on the proposed upgrading and improvement of the N24 National Route under 'Transport 21' which is the Government's ten year transport plan that sets out a major programme for the development of our transport infrastructure over the next decade. The summary report outlined the proposed schemes on the N24 under this Plan.

### **Any Other Matters**

- Cllr. P. Fitzpatrick raised the issue of wheelchair accessibility for meeting venues. It was pointed out that Council Chambers in all city/county halls in the region that are normally used for Authority meetings are wheelchair accessible, and that a chair lift is available in Kilkenny City Hall. The Cathaoirleach advised the members that this question is always borne in mind in relation to arrangements for Authority meetings.

That concluded the business of the meeting.

Sínithe: \_\_\_\_\_

Ceadaithe: \_\_\_\_\_

Dáta: \_\_\_\_\_

Dáta: \_\_\_\_\_