

South-East Regional Authority
Údarás Réigiúnach an Oir-Dheiscirt

Minutes of the January monthly meeting of the South-East Regional Authority held at County Hall, Carlow, on Monday, 25th January, 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. J. Conway, Cllr. J. Crowe, Cllr. J. Cummins, Cllr. J. D'arcy, 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. D. Landy, Cllr. D. MacPartlin, Cllr. A. McDonald, Cllr. C. McLoughlin, Cllr. M. Murphy, Cllr. L. O'Brien, Cllr. E. O'Meara, Cllr. L. O'Neill, Cllr. A. Phelan, Cllr. W. Quinn, Cllr. M. Sheehan, Cllr. J. Walsh.

In Attendance: Mr. T. Byrne, Director
Mr. M. Moroney, Asst. Director
Ms. A. Sheehan, Office Manager
Mr. J. Crockett, Designated County Manager
Mr. D. Walsh, RPG Officer,
Ms. B. Guest, SEA Officer.

Apologies: Cllr. P. Cody, Cllr. M. Fitzgerald, Cllr. P. Kavanagh, Cllr. P. O'Callaghan, Cllr. J. Tobin.

The Cathaoirleach opened the meeting and wished members and staff a Happy New Year. He made the following announcements:

- On behalf of the Authority, he offered sympathy to the Government and people of Haiti following the devastating earthquake that struck the country on 12th January last.
- On behalf of the Authority, he conveyed good wishes for a speedy recovery to Mr. Brian Lenihan, T.D., Minister for Finance.
- He congratulated Cllr. Denis Landy on being re-appointed as a member of the EU Committee of the Regions for a 5-year term.
- He congratulated Cllr. Landy and Cllr. Michael Fitzgerald for their work on the CoR over the past 4 years.
- As Cllr. Fitzgerald will no longer be a member of the Authority, he commended him for his outstanding contribution to the work of the Authority, particularly during his year as Cathaoirleach.

Confirmation of Minutes

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

Regional Planning Guidelines Update & Review

The members noted details of draft Regional Planning Guidelines (RPG), copy of which had been circulated, in order to consider and approve this document, incorporating SEA, HDA and SFRA.

The Director addressed the members on '*RPGs - Background & Context*'. He outlined his presentation under the following headings:

- NSS 2002-2020 published in 2002, the objective of which was to promote balanced regional development.
- Planning & Development Act, 2000 conferred the power on Regional Authorities to make RPGs for their regions, which are intended to provide for implementation of the NSS and to provide a Strategic Planning Framework to guide the work and plans of local authorities.
- The issues addressed by the RPGs.
- RPGs 2004-2016 made by the SERA in May 2004.
- Review and update of the current RPGs (RPGs 2010-2022).
- Preparation of Draft RPGs.
- Socio-economic State of the South-East Region.
- Next steps regarding the RPGs.

Mr. D. Walsh, RPG Officer then made a detailed presentation to the members on '*A Review of Regional Planning Guidelines for the South-East Region*'. He outlined his presentation under the following headings:

- RPG Review
- Changes to latest draft from 2004 RPGs
- RPG Structure
- Main changes chapter by chapter
- Strategic Goals
- Settlement Strategy
- Regional Population Targets
- Population Targets for Main Settlements
- Implementation
- Next Steps.

A discussion was held regarding the Draft Guidelines. The members requested that a further workshop/information session be provided in order

to be fully briefed on the draft, prior to consideration and approval. It was decided that:

- A workshop/information session for members would be held on Wednesday, 10th February at 11.00 a.m. in County Hall, Kilkenny.
- In the meantime, the Authority members will consult with SPCs, other local authority Councillors, Directors of Planning, Senior Planners and Managers in their own constituent local authorities in order to gather sufficient information prior to the workshop.
- A representative from the DoEHLG will be invited to attend the meeting.
- Prior to the workshop, the SERA will prepare a document summarising and highlighting the principal changes in the draft circulated from the 2004 RPGs. This document will be circulated to the members when completed.
- Members to e-mail all issues for consideration at the workshop to dir@sera as soon as possible. All issues raised to be circulated to all members in advance of the workshop.
- A Special Meeting of the Authority will be held following the conclusion of the Workshop to consider and approve the Draft RPG 2010-2022.

Quarterly National Household Survey

The members noted details of a report, copy of which had been circulated on the Quarterly National Household Survey for Q3/2009, recently published by the CSO. The report outlines the most recent trends in (un)employment levels with figures given on both national and regional basis.

County Incomes and Regional GDP 2007

The members noted details of a summary report, copy of which had been circulated on County Incomes and Regional GDP 2007, recently published by the CSO. The report summarised the principal statistics of the main report under various categories for the State and each Regional Authority area.

Water Quality in Ireland

The members noted details of a report, copy of which had been circulated on '*Water Quality in Ireland 2007-2008*', recently published by the Environmental Protection Agency. The report outlines the key indicators of the aquatic environment, which summarises the most recent national water quality assessments. It also presents the most up-to-date data available in Ireland on the 20 most relevant and important indicators of water quality. It includes, for the first time, interpretation of the significant monitoring data collected under the Water Framework Directive.

Association of Irish Regions (AIR) Seminar

The following members were nominated and approved by the Authority to attend an AIR Seminar in Tullamore, Co. Offaly on Thursday, 11th February 2010 entitled *'Responding to the Challenges: Telecommunications, Tourism and Local Government Reform'*:

Cllr. D. Geoghegan Cllr. M. Murphy Cllr. C. McLoughlin
Cllr. B. Ireland Cllr. E. Aylward Cllr. E. O'Meara.

Correspondence

- Letter from Mr. Richard Dooley, HSE regarding dermatology services in the South-East.
- Letter from Mr. Noel Dempsey, T.D., Minister for Transport, regarding the Rural Transport Programme.
- Letter from Mr. Joe Allen, DoEHLG, regarding nomination of the Irish Delegation of the Committee of the Regions.

That concluded the business of the meeting.

Sínithe: _____

Ceadaithe: _____

Dáta: _____

Dáta: _____