

South-East Regional Authority
Údarás Réigiúnach an Oir-Dheiscirt

Minutes of the July monthly meeting of the South-East Regional Authority
held at County Hall, Clonmel on Monday, 27th July, 2009 at 2.30 p.m..

Present: Cllr. M. Fitzgerald, Cathaoirleach, presided.

Also Present: Cllr. M. Anglim, Cllr. L. Brazil, Cllr. T. Breathnach, Cllr. Joe Brennan, Cllr. John Brennan, Cllr. M. Brett, Cllr. P. Cody, 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. T. Howlin, Cllr. D. Hurley, Cllr. B. Ireland, Cllr. P. Kavanagh, Cllr. T. Kinsella, Cllr. D. Landy, Cllr. D. MacPartlin, Cllr. A. McDonald, Cllr. C. McLoughlin, Cllr. M. Murphy, Cllr. L. O'Brien, Cllr. P. O'Callaghan, Cllr. E. O'Meara, Cllr. A. Phelan, Cllr. W. Quinn, Cllr. J. Tobin, Cllr. J. Walsh.

In Attendance: Mr. T. Byrne, Director
Mr. M. Moroney, Asst. Director
Ms. M. Thompson, Projects Administrator
Ms. A. Sheehan, Office Manager
Mr. J. Crockett, Designated County Manager.

Apologies: Cllr. E. Aylward, Cllr. M. Greene, Cllr. L. O'Neill.

Address by Outgoing Cathaoirleach

The Cathaoirleach began by welcoming everyone to his final meeting in the Chair. He congratulated the members of the Authority who had recently been elected as Mayors/Cathaoirligh of their local authorities.

- Cllr. Des Hurley - Carlow Town Council
- Cllr. Damien Geoghegan - Dungarvan Town Council
- Cllr. Paddy O'Callaghan - Tramore Town Council
- Cllr. Denis Foley - Bagenalstown Town Council.

He said it was a great honour to serve as Cathaoirleach of the Authority for the past 12 months during which time the Authority continued to work successfully to advance the region's development needs and priorities and continued to be a strong voice for the South-East. He outlined the following projects and activities in which the Authority was involved during his term:

- 'SERB-II': South-East Broadband Phase II Project – 5 MANs constructed in Thomastown, Cahir, Cashel, Carrick-on-Suir and Tipperary and pushing the prioritisation of other towns in the region as part of a Phase III
- Supporting and promoting the case for the establishment of a University in the South-East Region

- Implementing the Regional Planning Guidelines; the Guidelines are currently being reviewed and revised Guidelines will come before the Authority shortly
- Promotion of renewable/bio-energy initiatives through implementation of the Authority's Bioenergy Implementation Plan for the South-East Region
- Spearheading the Region's 'Spirit of Enterprise' Initiative and assisting in the organisation of a "Spirit of Enterprise Week" in the region which is now an annual event; on the nomination by the Regional Authority, the 'Spirit of Enterprise' Initiative was selected as one of only two Irish entries to the European Enterprise Awards 2009
- Submissions to a number of public consultation processes, e.g. Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government on the Reform of Local Government and Department of Communications, Marine & Natural Resources on Next Generation Broadband
- Participating in the work of the Southern & Eastern Regional Assembly, the EU Committee of the Regions and other bodies
- Submitted several bids for EU funding, working in partnership with many of the local/regional stakeholders; received approval under the Ireland-Wales INTERREG programme for 2 projects designed to assist SMEs in the region;
- Promoted many issues of regional importance, such as:
 - the region's transport infrastructure (road, rail, ports)
 - the South-East Regional Airport
 - Industry, enterprise and regional development
 - Renewable energy.

He stated that the region is facing many challenges, and that the Regional Authority has a key role in providing the leadership to ensure that the interests, needs and priorities of the South-East are addressed.

He also expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Leas-chathaoirleach, Cllr. Pat Codd, and to his fellow members of the Authority, to the Designated County Manager, Ned O'Connor, to the Director, Tom Byrne, and to the Staff for all their help and cooperation during his term as Cathaoirleach.

Many members expressed their thanks to the Cathaoirleach and complimented him on the manner in which he discharged the role of the office of Cathaoirleach over the past year.

Election of Cathaoirleach

Nominations were invited for the position of Cathaoirleach of the Authority for the ensuing year.

Cllr. Tom Kinsella was proposed by Cllr. D. Foley and seconded by Cllr. J. Crowe.

As there were no other nominations, Cllr. Kinsella was declared elected as Cathaoirleach of the South-East Regional Authority for the ensuing year. He then took the chair.

Cllr. Kinsella expressed his thanks and appreciation to his proposer, seconder and the members for electing him to the office of Cathaoirleach. He said it was an honour to be elected and thanked the outgoing Cathaoirleach for his contribution to the Authority over the past year. He also paid tribute to all Cathaoirligh and members of the Authority since 1994 and stated that he looked forward to working with the members and staff of the Authority to advance all the issues of importance to the development of the region over the coming year.

Election of Leas-chathaoirleach

Nominations were invited by the Cathaoirleach for the position of Leas-chathaoirleach of the Authority for the ensuing year.

Cllr. Martin Brett was proposed by Cllr. John Brennan and seconded by Cllr. B. Ireland. As there were no other nominations, Cllr. Brett was declared elected.

Cllr. Brett thanked his proposer and seconder and stated that he looked forward to working with the Cathaoirleach and members of the Authority for the ensuing year.

The Designated County Manager, Mr. Joe Crockett congratulated the newly elected Cathaoirleach and Leas-chathaoirleach and thanked the outgoing Cathaoirleach for his contribution to the Authority.

Nominations to Regional Planning Guidelines (RPG) Steering Committee

One member of the Regional Authority from each constituent local authority was required to be nominated to membership of the RPG Steering Committee who were charged with overseeing the implementation of the RPGs. The following nominations were made:

Carlow County Council	-	Cllr. Denis Foley
Kilkenny County Council	-	Cllr. Martin Brett
South Tipperary County Council	-	Cllr. Catherine McLoughlin
Waterford City Council	-	Cllr. Jack Walsh
Waterford County Council	-	Cllr. Liam Brazil
Wexford County Council	-	Cllr. Declan MacPartlin.

Nominations to Fáilte Ireland Regional Tourism Development Board

Two members of the Regional Authority were requested for appointment as members of the Fáilte Ireland Regional Tourism Development Board. The following representatives were nominated:

- Cllr. Denis Foley
- Cllr. Paddy O'Callaghan.

Confirmation of Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr. P. O'Callaghan, seconded by Cllr. T. Howlin, the minutes of the May monthly meeting, copy of which had been circulated, were unanimously approved and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

Presentation on the role and functions of Regional Authorities

For the benefit of the new members nominated to the Regional Authority, the Director made a brief presentation outlining the role and functions of Regional Authorities. The presentation was circulated to the members.

Update on Regional Planning Guidelines (RPG) Review

The Director explained to the members that the RPG review and implementation is a major role of the Authority. He stated that the 2004 RPGs were currently under review and that new RPGs will be published in early 2010. The draft version of the Guidelines should be before the Authority by October next for consideration and approval.

Quarterly National Household Survey

The members noted details, copy of which had been circulated, of the Quarterly National Household Survey, recently published by the CSO for Q1/2009. The report outlined the most recent trends in (un)employment levels by region in Ireland.

National Skills Bulletin 2009

The members noted details of a report, copy of which had been circulated, on the "*National Skills Bulletin 2009*" recently published by the Expert Group on Future Skills Needs. The Bulletin provides statistical analysis of the employment data for all the main occupations in the economy and draws on this data, and other qualitative information, to identify imbalances in the Irish labour market at occupational level. The Bulletin is produced by FÁS on behalf of the Expert Skills Group and draws on the data in the National Skills Database maintained by FÁS.

Entrepreneurship in Ireland 2008

The members noted details of a report, copy of which had been circulated, on "*Entrepreneurship in Ireland 2008*", copy of which had been circulated, recently published by Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) consortium. The report examines levels of entrepreneurship at its various stages of development according to a consistent methodology.

Any Other Matters

- A discussion was held regarding the McCarthy Report and the following suggestions were made:
 - That a combined effort be made by all local authorities to retain a regional aspect to local government in Ireland
 - That the AIR convene a special meeting to put a strategy together to retain Regional Authorities
 - That the Authority request a Ministerial Deputation to discuss the retention of Regional Authorities
 - That a statement be issued by the Authority regarding the importance of retaining Regional Authorities in order to educate the public.
- The members requested that representatives from Enterprise Ireland and IDA be asked to attend a future Authority meeting.
- The members requested that the Authority make a formal submission to the Higher Education Strategy Group regarding university status for the South-East. They also requested that the Director write to the Director of each IT in the region and Tipperary Institute inviting them to come together and meet with the Regional Authority to discuss how establishment of a university in the region can be achieved.

That concluded the business of the meeting.

Sínithe: _____

Ceadaithe: _____

Dáta: _____

Dáta: _____

