

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

**Minutes of the March monthly meeting of the South-East Regional Authority held at Whites Hotel, Wexford on Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2009 at 2.30 p.m.**

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

**Also Present:** Cllr. L. Allen, Cllr. M. Anglim, Cllr. L. Brazil, Cllr. T. Breathnach, Cllr. J. Brennan, Cllr. M. Brett, Cllr. P. Codd, Cllr. J. Crowe, Cllr. S. Doyle, Cllr. P.J. Kavanagh, Cllr. T. Kinsella, Cllr. C. Long, Cllr. M. Maguire, Cllr. M. Murphy, Cllr. A. McDonald, Cllr. D. MacPartlin, Cllr. L. O'Brien,, Cllr. M. O'Halloran, Cllr. L. O'Neill, Cllr. C. Phelan, Cllr. M. Roche.

**In Attendance:** Mr. T. Byrne, Director  
Mr. M. Moroney, Asst. Director  
Ms. S. Thompson, Research & Policy Officer  
Ms. A. Sheehan, Office Manager  
Mr. E. O'Connor, Designated County Manager.

**Apologies:** Cllr. B. Coffey, Cllr. D. Geoghegan, Cllr. T. Howlin, Cllr. D. Landy, Cllr. P. Norris, Cllr. P. O'Callaghan, Cllr. S. Ryan, Cllr. D. Walsh, Cllr. T. Wright.

**Confirmation of Minutes**

On the proposal of Cllr. L. O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. M. Murphy, the minutes of the February monthly meeting, copy of which had been circulated, were unanimously approved and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

**Matters Arising**

- The members stated that the outcome of the Waterford Wedgwood dispute still resulted in no manufacturing in Waterford and that the focus on the tourist end of the business is not of sufficient benefit to the South-East Region
- The members requested that the current review and update of the RPGs should take the present economic climate into consideration. The Director informed them that the RPGs will incorporate a Regional Economic Strategy, and will have regard to the most recent regional accounts, regional GDP and socio-economic trends.

## **Implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive in the South Eastern River Basin District and the Draft River Basin District Management Plan**

Mr. Ray Spain, Project Co-ordinator, SERBD, made a presentation to the members on the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) in the South Eastern River Basin District and on the Draft River Basin District Management Plan. He outlined his presentation under the following headings:

- The current position regarding the WFD
- Who must implement the WFD?
- Is the WFD essential?
- What must be done to implement the WFD?
- How the WFD will be implemented
- Where to go from here with regard to the WFD
- Basic measures to comply with the WFD
- WWTP Discharges
- Industrial Discharges
- Landfills and Quarries
- Wastewater from un-sewered properties
- Forestry/ Agriculture
- Bathing Waters
- Birds & Habitats
- Drinking Water
- Shellfish/Pearl Mussel.

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

- The effects of WFD on septic tanks
- How the cost of implementation, monitoring, staff costs etc. will be met
- Protection of Pearl Mussel
- Can local authorities afford to comply/not comply?
- 95% of responsibility for implementation is placed on local authorities  
- Is this viable?
- How much funding is the EU providing?

The Designated County Manager questioned the capacity of affording the implementation of the WFD by 2015. He stated that the cost of compliance is huge and is to be provided by Central Government, Local Government and the private sector. He stated that the cost of compliance for South Tipperary County Council alone would be €300m.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Mr. Spain for his interesting and informative presentation and complimented him on the work involved in preparing the Draft River Basin District Management Plan.

### **Draft Annual Report 2008**

The members noted and considered details of the draft Annual Report for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008, copy of which had been circulated. On the proposal of Cllr. L. Brazil, seconded by Cllr. J. Brennan, the draft Annual Report 2008 was adopted by the members.

### **Statement on Education and Training**

The members noted details of a summary report, copy of which had been circulated, on a Statement on Education and Training recently published by the National Competitiveness Council. The report stated that education is central to our ability to improve our quality of life and wellbeing through our success in selling goods and services on international markets and that Ireland's education system has been a key contributor to economic growth and improvements in living standards in recent years. The report outlined priority recommendations to enhance Ireland's education and training system.

### **County Incomes and GDP 2006**

The members noted details of a report, copy of which had been circulated, on County Incomes and Regional GDP 2006, recently published by the Central Statistics Office. The report provided a summary of the main points and outlined tables relating to the following:

- Household Income – Indices of Disposable Income per person per region in Ireland for 2004, 2005 and 2006
- Household Income – Indices of Disposable Income per person per County in the South-East Region and in the region as a whole for 2004, 2005 and 2006
- GDP – Indices of GVA per person per region in Ireland
- Summary of main statistics from *County Incomes and Regional GDP 2006*.

### **2009 Funding Allocations for Non-National Roads**

The members noted details of a report, copy of which had been circulated, on Non-National Roads Allocations to Local Authorities for 2009. The report

outlined details of the Government's €1.44 billion investment in the National Roads Programme 2009. This investment is being made under the *Transport 21* Programme and the NDP. The overall allocation represents an average investment of €120 million per month in Ireland's national roads.

### **Quarterly National Household Survey**

The members noted details of a summary report, copy of which had been circulated, on the Quarterly National Household Survey for Q/4 2008 and Live Register figures for 2009 recently published by the CSO, copy of which had been circulated. The report outlined the most recent trends in (un) employment levels with figures given on both national and regional basis and also summarised the highlights from the main report.

### **Annual Meeting of Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Ltd.**

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Maguire, seconded by Cllr. M. Brett, the members unanimously agreed that Cllr. M. Fitzgerald, Cathaoirleach, be nominated to attend the Annual Meeting of the Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurance Company.

### **Other Matters**

- The members requested that Authority meetings be held at an earlier time of the day in the run up to the local elections. It was agreed that the April monthly meeting is to be held at 12.00 noon.
- The Cathaoirleach thanked Mr. Peter Scallan, Wexford Opera House for his very comprehensive guided tour, which was held prior to the meeting. He also thanked Cllr. Ted Howlin for organising the tour.

That concluded the business of the meeting.

Sínithe: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Dáta: \_\_\_\_\_

Dáta: \_\_\_\_\_