

South-East Regional Authority
Údarás Réigiúnach an Oir-Dheiscirt

**Minutes of the March monthly meeting of the South-East Regional Authority
held at the Council Chamber, County Civic Offices, Dungarvan, on Monday,
26th March 2007 at 2.30 p.m.**

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

Also Present: Cllr. L. Allen, Cllr. M. Anglim, Cllr. L. Brazil, Cllr. P. Codd, Cllr. J. Crowe, Cllr. M. D'Arcy, Cllr. M. Fitzgerald, Cllr. D. Landy, Cllr. M. Maguire, Cllr. D. MacPartlin, Cllr. S. Nyhan, Cllr. P. O'Callaghan, Cllr. M. Roche, Cllr. S. Ryan, Cllr. J. Tobin, Cllr. D. Walsh, Cllr. T. Wright.

In Attendance: Mr. T. Byrne, Director
Mr. M. Moroney, European Officer
Ms. A. Sheehan, Office Manager.

Apologies: Cllr. T. Breathnach, Cllr. J. Brennan, Cllr. P. Fitzpatrick, Cllr. D. Geoghegan, Cllr. T. Howlin, Cllr. D. Hurley, Cllr. C. Long, Cllr. T. Maher, Cllr. P. Norris, Cllr. M. O'Halloran, Cllr. L. O'Neill, Cllr. W. Paton, Cllr. C. Phelan.

Mr. Michael Malone, Designated County Manager.

Confirmation of Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Roche, seconded by Cllr. M. D'Arcy, the minutes of the February monthly meeting of the Authority, copy of which had been circulated, were unanimously approved and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

The Director answered queries from the members regarding the following matters arising from the minutes:

- If any correspondence was received from the NRA/Department of Transport regarding the N.11 dual-carriageway from Gorey to Rosslare and the N.24 from Carrick-on-Suir to Waterford.

The members then requested that the Authority write to Mr. Martin Cullen, T.D., Minister for Transport seeking a meeting with a delegation from the Authority regarding these and other transport issues in the Region.

- If any progress was made in relation to a meeting with Dr. Jim Port regarding university status for Waterford Institute of Technology.

Radon in the South-East Region

Mr. Hugh Synott and Dr. John O'Grady from the Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland (RPII) attended the meeting. Mr. Synott made a presentation to the members on Radon in Ireland and in the South-East Region. In his presentation he outlined the following:

- Role and function of RPII
- Health effects of radon
- Raising of radon awareness and the role of local authorities in promoting awareness
- Outline of estimated deaths caused in Ireland by radon
- How radon gets into buildings and why it is a problem in buildings
- The scale of the problem in Ireland compared to the rest of the world
- Recent developments to reduce the levels of radon in Ireland
- Summary of measurement of radon in homes in the South-East
- Legislation on radon in the workplace.

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

- How radon can be controlled in areas with high radioactivity or areas that produce gasses
- How to measure levels of radon in the home/workplace
- If new or old houses are more likely to be affected by radon
- If radon can be prevented before it enters the home
- How radon can be detected.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Mr. Synott and Dr. O'Grady for attending the meeting and for their very interesting and informative presentation.

Annual Progress Report on the Implementation of the South-East Regional Planning Guidelines

The members noted details of the Annual Implementation Report of the South-East Regional Planning Guidelines, copy of which had been circulated. The Director informed the members that this Report was a summary of the progress achieved on the implementation of the Regional Planning Guidelines in the 12/18 months since their adoption and that the Implementation Steering Group were constantly monitoring and guiding the implementation of these Guidelines.

National and Regional Population Projections

The members noted details of a report, copy of which had been circulated, on national and regional population projections for the period to 2020 recently produced by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

The Report outlined the following:

- Rate of Growth 1991 to 2006 (% compound per annum)
- Regional Share (%) of State Population – 1991 to 2006
- Population Increase 2002 to 2006 due to net in-migration
- National Population Projections to 2020
- Regional Target Projections to 2020.

The Director informed the members that the projections that were used in preparing the Regional Planning Guidelines in 2004 were now out-of-date and the scale of the actual population growth between 2002 and 2006 had not been envisaged and would have serious implications for City and County Development Plans, Public Policy makers etc. He stated that the revised population projections would be considered by the RPG Implementation Steering Group.

County Incomes and Regional GDP 2004

The members noted details of a report, copy of which had been circulated, on County Incomes and Regional GDP 2004. The Summary Report outlined the main points of the full Report and highlighted the following:

- Indices of Disposable Income per person - Regions (Household Income)
- Indices of Disposable Income per person – Counties (Household (Income)
- Indices of GVA ² per person – Regions (GDP)
- Summary of main statistics from *County Incomes and Regional GDP 2004*.

The members expressed concern over the lack of balanced regional development and the perception that the South-East is a wealthy region.

Based on the facts and figures outlined in this and the previous two reports, the members requested that the Authority write to the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment seeking a meeting with a delegation from the Authority to express their concern at the GDP and Disposable Income figures recently published by the CSO. It was requested that a report be prepared showing the comparative and progressive position of the South-East vis-à-vis the State and other regions over the past ten-year period.

Details of 2007 Funding Allocations for Non-National Roads

The members noted details of a report, copy of which had been circulated, on details of the 2007 funding allocations for non-national roads notified to local authorities in the South-East by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. The report outlined details of funding allocated to all County, City and Borough and Town Councils in the South-East Region for 2007, with 2005 and 2006 figures included for comparison purposes.

Bioenergy Action Plan for Ireland

The members noted details of a summary report, copy of which had been circulated, on the Bioenergy Action Plan for Ireland recently published by the Department of Communications, Marine & Natural Resources. The Report outlined a series of measures to be delivered by certain Departments and Agencies in order to implement the Action Plan in a coordinated and cohesive manner.

Government White Paper : 'Delivering a Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland'

The members noted details of a report, copy of which had been circulated, on the Government White Paper : 'Delivering a Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland'. The policy actions outlined in this White Paper will result in a transformed landscape for the Irish energy sector and will ensure more sustainable and more diverse energy sources. The energy market will operate in a lightly regulated environment and the availability of reliable, secure and competitively priced energy supply will be assured.

Draft Policy Paper on Rural Transport

The members noted details of a report, copy of which had been circulated, on a Draft Policy Paper on Rural Transport recently prepared by the Southern & Eastern Regional Assembly.

The members expressed concern regarding the content of the Report and asked that the Authority write to the Southern & Eastern Regional Assembly requesting that the Report be circulated to all constituent local authorities for consideration and observation by the members, prior to the Draft Policy Paper being approved.

Annual Meeting of Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Ltd.

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

Correspondence

- Letter from Mr. Peter Fegan regarding the implementation of the South-East Joint Waste Management Plan.

Any Other Matters

- The members expressed concern at the practice of the Eastern Regional Fisheries Board in appealing the decision of the local authorities to grant discharge licences. The Cathaoirleach requested that the Authority write to the Regional Fisheries Board requesting that a representative from the Board attend a future meeting of the Authority to discuss the concerns raised.

That concluded the business of the meeting.

Sínithe: _____

Ceadaithe: _____

Dáta: _____

Dáta: _____