

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

**Minutes of the March monthly meeting of the South-East Regional Authority held at County Hall, Kilkenny, on Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2010 at 2.30 p.m.**

**Present:** Cllr. T. Kinsella, Cathaoirleach, presided.

**Also Present:** Cllr. M. Anglim, Cllr. E. Aylward, Cllr. T. Breathnach, Cllr. J. Brennan, Cllr. M. Brett, Cllr. P. Cody, Cllr. J. Conway, Cllr. J. Crowe, 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. A.M. Irish, Cllr. P. Kavanagh, Cllr. D. Landy, Cllr. D. MacPartlin, Cllr. A. McDonald, Cllr. C. McLoughlin, Cllr. M. Murphy, Cllr. L. O'Brien, Cllr. P. O'Callaghan, Cllr. L. O'Neill, Cllr. A. Phelan, Cllr. W. Quinn, Cllr. M. Sheehan, Cllr. J. Tobin, 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.

**Apologies:** Cllr. J. Cummins, Cllr. M. Greene.

Before the meeting commenced, the Cathaoirleach thanked the members for facilitating the change of venue for the March meeting. This meeting was changed in order to accommodate attendance of members and officials at the official opening of the Waterford to Knocktopher section of the M9.

He also informed the members that the Authority had recently issued the following press releases:

- Regional Authority Opposes Downgrading of Coast Guard Search and Rescue Helicopter Service in the South-East - 15<sup>th</sup> March 2010.
- Regional Authority Opposes Closing of Waterford-Rosslare Rail Line by Iarnród Éireann - 16<sup>th</sup> March 2010.

The members expressed their support for the press releases and complimented the Authority and the Cathaoirleach on issuing them.

## **Confirmation of Minutes**

On the proposal of Cllr. D. Geoghegan, seconded by Cllr. D. Landy, the minutes of the February monthly meeting, copy of which had been circulated, were unanimously approved and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

## **Presentation on the operation and development of the Port of Waterford**

Mr. Stan McIlvenny, Chief Executive, Port of Waterford Company, made a presentation to the members on the operation and development of the Port of Waterford.

He outlined his presentation under the following headings:

- The importance of Ports for international and European trade
- National Ports trade
- Irish exports through Ports
- Services of Port of Waterford
- Strategy of Port of Waterford
- Actions following strategic objectives
- Ports Policy 2005
- 'Transport 21' Rail Corridor and Road Network plans
- Current status of Port of Waterford
- Container Port Traffic 2009.

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

- The affects of the closure of the Waterford to Rosslare rail line on the Ports
- The issues arising from using the same services as Rosslare Port, e.g. roll on/roll off
- Potential to improve import/export figures
- The issue of cruise ships spending time in Belview Port
- The issue of rail transportation to Belview Port
- Local Authority representation on the Board of the Port of Waterford Company
- What marketing is being done to attract industry to the region via the Port of Waterford?
- How the Port of Waterford will be financed given the downturn in the economy.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Mr. McIlvenny for his very interesting and informative presentation.

## **Annual Competitiveness Report 2009**

The members noted details of a summary report, copy of which had been circulated, on the '*Annual Competitiveness Report 2009 - Creating a Better Future*', recently published by the National Competitiveness Council (NCC).

The following are the priority policy recommendations identified by the NCC in the report:

- To create jobs and tackle unemployment
- To reduce the costs of doing business
- To prioritise infrastructure investment to support enterprise
- To tackle the macro issues.

The members noted that there was no mention of the agricultural sector in the NCC report and requested that the Authority raise this matter with the NCC.

The full report is available on [www.competitiveness.ie](http://www.competitiveness.ie).

## **Progress Report on EU co-financed projects**

The Assistant Director circulated a Progress Report to the members on the following EU co-financed projects in which the Authority is participating:

- 'CIME': Creativity in Micro-enterprises
- 'YES': Youth Entrepreneurship in Schools
- 'BIO-EN-AREA': Improve regional policies for bioenergy and territorial development
- 'CLIMATLANTIC': Local and regional action for carbon footprint reduction

The members complimented the staff on their participation in these projects and on securing approval and funding for them. The members stressed the importance of the encouragement and the promotion of alternative energy in the South-East Region.

## **Mid-Term Review of Ireland's 2007-2013 Regional Aid Map**

The members noted the response of the Authority to the Mid-Term Review of Ireland's 2007-2013 Regional Aid Map, copy of which had been circulated. The response stated that there are currently no grounds at this mid-term review stage for any diminution of the regional aid eligibility designation given to the South East NUTS III Region in Ireland's 2007-2013 Regional Aid Map, as the South-East still meets the original qualifying criteria, i.e.

- a minimum population of at least 100,000 in NUTS II/NUTS III regions

- an unemployment rate higher than 115% of the national average.

The response also pointed out the range of regional socio-economic indicators which outlined the relatively poor economic performance of the region and emphasised that in view of the economic deficits and the need for economic investment into the South-East region, the present designation for regional aid purposes should be maintained.

### **Nomination of representative to IPBMI AGM**

The following nominations were made to attend the AGM of Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Ltd.

- Cllr. T. Kinsella was proposed by Cllr. D. Landy and seconded by Cllr. D. Geoghegan
- Cllr. J. Tobin was proposed by Cllr. A. McDonald and seconded by Cllr. E. Aylward.

Cllr. Tobin withdrew in favour of the Cathaoirleach, and the attendance of Cllr. T. Kinsella was unanimously approved by the members.

### **Correspondence**

- Report from Waterford Regional Hospital on neurology services in the South-East Region.

That concluded the business of the meeting.

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

Dáta: \_\_\_\_\_ Dáta: \_\_\_\_\_