

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

**Minutes of the February monthly meeting of the South-East Regional Authority held at City Hall, Waterford, on Monday, 27<sup>rd</sup> February 2006 at 2.30 p.m.**

**Present:** Cllr. S. Ryan, Cathaoirleach, presided.

**Also Present:** Cllr. M. Anglim, Cllr. T. Breathnach, Cllr. J. Brennan, Cllr. J. Crowe, Cllr. M. D'Arcy, Cllr. S. Doyle, Cllr. M. Fitzgerald, Cllr. P. Fitzpatrick, Cllr. T. Howlin, Cllr. D. Hurley, Cllr. P.J. Kavanagh, Cllr. T. Kinsella, Cllr. D. Landy, Cllr. C. Long, Cllr. M. Maguire, Cllr. T. Maher, Cllr. A. McDonald, Cllr. D. McPartlin, Cllr. P. Norris, Cllr. S. Nyhan, Cllr. P. O'Callaghan, Cllr. M. O'Halloran, Cllr. W. Paton, Cllr. C. Phelan-Holden, Cllr. M. Roche, Cllr. J. Tobin, Cllr. D. Walsh.

**In Attendance:** Mr. T. Byrne, Director  
Mr. M. Moroney, European Officer  
Ms. M. Wixted, Projects Coordinator  
Ms. S. Thompson, Research & Policy Officer  
Mr. M. Malone, Designated County Manager.

**Apologies:** Cllr. L. Allen, Cllr. S. Connick.

**Confirmation of Minutes**

On the proposal of Cllr. S. Nyhan, seconded by Cllr. M. O'Halloran, the minutes of the January monthly meeting, copy of which had been circulated, were unanimously approved and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

**Annual Financial Statement in respect of financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2005**

The members noted and considered the Annual Financial Statement in respect of the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2005, copy of which had been circulated.

**EU Financial Perspectives 2007-2013**

The members noted details of the provisional indicative financial allocations for Ireland notified by the European Commission for the programming of cohesion policy for 2007-2013, copy of which had been circulated.

## **Draft Submission to the Department of Finance on the National Development Plan 2007-2013**

The Director stated that Regional Authorities have been requested by the Department of Finance to make submissions on the preparation of the National Development Plan 2007-2013 by the end of March 2006. He made a presentation outlining the main points of the draft submission to the Department.

During the presentation the Director outlined that a joint Regional Authority submission is being prepared and comprises two sections:

**Part 1** - Directions, themes and objectives that are common across all regions.

**Part 2** - Identify specific and focused matters and priorities particular to each region.

Other aspects of the submission will include:

- Key characteristics of the region
- Organisational requirements
- Gateways, Hub and County Town requirements
- Key indicators
- Specific investment priorities for the region

The Cathaoirleach requested that a copy of the presentation be posted to the members.

The Director then answered queries raised by the members which included:

- The extension of the gas network
- Review of the performance of the South-East vis-à-vis the other regions
- Progress in relation to transport infrastructure.

The Cathaoirleach requested that details of projects included in Transport 21 in relation to the South-East be circulated to the members.

The Director stated that the final draft of the submission would be available for consideration and approval by the members at the March monthly meeting.

## **Implementation of the Regional Planning Guidelines**

The Director delivered a brief report setting out progress on the implementation of the Regional Planning Guidelines. He stated that an Implementation Steering Group was established in mid-2005 to monitor and oversee the process. It consists of an elected member of the Authority from each constituent local authority area, the six County/City managers in the region, a representative from IDA, Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government, Department of Transport and Enterprise Ireland.

He informed the members that the Steering Group are addressing the Critical Enabling Investment Priorities identified in the RPG document.

## **Regional Freight Transport Study - 'REDETRAL' Project**

The European Officer informed the members that the Authority is a partner in an INTERREG IIIC co-funded project titled 'REDETRAL'. The purpose of the project is to examine the relationship between the development of Logistics Parks and sustainable traffic and transport solutions. The Authority has asked Waterford Institute of Technology's Logistics and Operations Research Group to carry out research on regional freight transport in the South-East to:

- 1) Establish a database of freight movements
- 2) Determine the growth of freight during the past 10 years and for the next 10 years
- 3) Outline environmental aspects.

## **Renewable Energy/Biofuels Initiatives**

### **- 'Regbie'**

The Projects Coordinator advised the members about a call for proposals under the European Commission's Intelligent Energy Call. The Authority has applied to be a partner in the 'Regbie' project. This is a transnational project which aims to support and to strengthen local and regional actors to increase the market penetration of bio-energy heating systems and to support the implementation of the EU Biomass Action Plan.

### **- Sustainable Energy Ireland Proposal**

The Projects Coordinator told the members that the Authority has submitted a proposal to SEI for funding to prepare a Regional Implementation Plan for Bio-Energy in the region. The plan will enable the region to have a more focussed, direct approach to the management of renewable energy at a local level to ensure

that national and EU policy is being adhered to. Relevant stakeholders in the region will work with the Authority in carrying out and implementing the project.

The members unanimously approved of the Authority's participation in both of these projects.

- **Declaration on Energy Efficiency**

The Director said that the Tipperary Energy Agency has requested the Regional Authority to sign a declaration to promote fuel efficiency, a draft declaration had been circulated with the agenda. The Cathaoirleach signed the Declaration on behalf of the Authority after it was proposed by Cllr. T. Maher, seconded by Cllr. J. Brennan and agreed.

**Approval and participation in EU-funded projects**

- **'Reform'**

The Projects Coordinator informed the members about the Authority's participation in the 'Reform' project – Regional Economic Research and Technological Development (RTD) Policy through Foresight & Mentoring. The purpose of the project is to enable increased RTD activity and investment in the future. Other partner regions participating in the project are from: UK, Israel, Switzerland, Romania, Poland.

- **'Europlane'**

The Research & Policy Officer advised the members that the Authority has been approved for participation in the INTERREG IIC 'Europlane' project. The purpose of the project is to promote regional airports as they play an important role in relation to accessibility and social and economic cohesion. There are 13 partner regions from 6 EU member states with the lead partner based in Germany.

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Roche, seconded by Cllr. T. Howlin, participation in both projects was unanimously approved by the members.

**Submissions made by the Authority**

The members noted details of submissions (copies of which had been circulated) to:

- (a) Department of Agriculture and Food (CAP Rural Development Division) and the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht

Affairs (Rural Development Division) on the development of a Rural Development Strategy & Programme(s) 2007-2013

- (b) Forfás on Benchmarking Ireland's Broadband Performance
- (c) Commission for Energy Regulation on the proposal on Revised Gas Connections Policy (copies of submissions herewith).

The European Officer informed the members that a consultation seminar will take place in Tullamore on 14<sup>th</sup> March in relation to the development of a Rural Development Strategy & Programme(s) 2007-2013. It was agreed that 4 members from the Authority attend.

#### **Nomination of a representative to attend the 80<sup>th</sup> General Meeting of the Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurance Company**

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Tobin, seconded by Cllr. M. Roche, the members unanimously agreed that Cllr. S. Ryan, Cathaoirleach, be nominated to attend the AGM of the Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurance Company.

#### **Nominations to Regional Drug Task Force**

The Director advised the members that nominations from Wexford and Waterford City are required to replace members who have resigned from the RDTF. The following members were nominated by the Authority to the RDTF:

- Cllr. David Walsh (Waterford City)
- Cllr. Declan McPartlin (Wexford).

It was agreed that the Director would again write to the Minister regarding payment of expenses associated with attending meetings and associated events.

#### **Other Matters**

- The Director informed the members that an invitation has been received for the Authority to undertake a study visit to Seville, Spain in the context of the EU inter-regional collaboration and cooperation. The members accepted his recommendation that the Authority accept the invitation for a delegation of representatives to make the study visit which would include meetings with government officials and regional administrators. The proposed dates for the study visit are from the 18<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> May 2006.

- Cllr. S. Doyle proposed a resolution “that the Regional Authority condemn without reservation the thuggery and criminality so evident on the streets of our Capital City on Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> February 2006 which denied the democratic right to a group of Irish people to parade in a peaceful manner and voice their feelings regarding their loved ones losing their lives during the recent conflict in our country.” Cllr. M. D’Arcy seconded and the resolution was passed.

That concluded the business of the meeting.

Sínithe: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Dáta: \_\_\_\_\_

Dáta: \_\_\_\_\_