

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

**Minutes of the February monthly meeting of the South-East Regional Authority held at County Hall, Carlow, on Monday, 25th February 2008 at 2.30 p.m.**

**Present:** Cllr. P. O'Callaghan, Cathaoirleach, presided.

**Also present:** Cllr. L. Allen, Cllr. M. Anglim, Cllr. T. Breathnach, Cllr. J. Brennan, Cllr. P. Codd, Cllr. B. Coffey, Cllr. J. Crowe, Cllr. M. Fitzgerald, Cllr. P. Fitzpatrick, Cllr. D. Hurley, Cllr. P.J. Kavanagh, Cllr. D. Landy, Cllr. C. Long, Cllr. M. Maguire, Cllr. T. Maher, Cllr. M. Murphy, Cllr. A. McDonald, Cllr. D. MacPartlin, Cllr. P. Norris, Cllr. S. Nyhan, Cllr. L. O'Brien, Cllr. L. O'Neill, Cllr. W. Paton, Cllr. C. Phelan, Cllr. J. Tobin, Cllr. D. Walsh.

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

**Apologies:** Cllr. T. Howlin, Cllr. T. Kinsella, Cllr. M. O'Halloran, Cllr. M. Roche, Cllr. S. Ryan.

Before the meeting commenced, the Cathaoirleach invited the members to attend the official launch of the South-East Region Bioenergy Implementation Plan 2008-2013 by Mr. John Gormley, T.D., Minister for the Environment, Heritage & Local Government at Johnstown Castle, Co. Wexford on Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> March 2008 at 4.00 p.m. He informed them that an official invitation would issue shortly.

**Confirmation of Minutes**

On the proposal of Cllr. L. O'Neill, seconded by Cllr. D. Hurley, the minutes of the January monthly meeting, copy of which had been circulated, were unanimously approved and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

**Matters Arising**

A discussion was held regarding the necessity and the case for a university for the South-East region. The members agreed that all parties must be united in supporting this campaign. The outcome of this discussion was as follows:

- That the Authority look into Section 4.4.1 of the Universities Act as a means of applying for university status for the South-East
- That the Authority convene a meeting with all interested bodies in the South-East to lobby Government for a university in the South-East.

### **EU Water Framework Directive in the South-Eastern River Basin District**

Mr. Ray Spain, Project Coordinator, South-Eastern River Basin Project, made a presentation to the members on the River Basin Management Plan and on what the Water Framework Directive will mean for local authorities. In his presentation, he outlined the following:

- Timetable for the Plan
- Guidance on the River Basin Management Project
- Water quality classification and proposed environment quality standards
- Programme of Measures
- How the Plan will affect local authorities.

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

- The affect the Plan will have on farmers and people building one-off rural houses
- The input of the IFA into the Plan
- The input of the Fisheries Board into the Plan
- Mechanisms being used to involve the public in this process
- Timeframe involved in implementation of the Plan
- The possibility of provision of funding to help people comply with the Plan
- The overall cost to the taxpayer
- Concern over compliance with RPGs.

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

### **Audit Report on the accounts of the South-East Regional Authority**

The members noted and considered details of an Audit Report on the accounts of the Authority for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2006, copy of which had been circulated.

### **Annual Financial Statement**

The Annual Financial Statement in respect of the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2007, copy of which had been circulated, was considered by the Authority and, on the proposal of Cllr. P. Codd, seconded by Cllr. C. Long, was unanimously approved by the members.

### **Programme of Work 2008**

The Director outlined the main elements of the draft Programme of Work in respect year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008, copy of which had been circulated. On the proposal of Cllr. D. Hurley, seconded by Cllr. C. Long, the Programme of Work was approved and adopted by the Authority.

### **Designated County Manager's Report**

The members noted and considered details of the Designated County Manager's Report, copy of which had been circulated. Mr. E. O'Connor formally presented the report which outlined the main activities of the Authority over the period from October 2006 to December 2007 and set out how the Authority provided for better coordination and cooperation in activities and linkages between its constituent local authorities and with other regional authorities.

The Designated County Manager thanked the Director, members and staff of the Authority for their hard work and cooperation over the period covered by the report.

### **Higher Education and Regions**

The members noted details of a summary report, copy of which had been circulated entitled "*Higher Education and Regions*" recently published by the OECD. The summary report outlined the key points of the main report for the information of the members.

### **End-of-Year Statements - IDA, Enterprise Ireland and Forfás**

The members noted details of a summary report, copy of which had been circulated, on end-of-year statements for IDA, Enterprise Ireland and Forfás. The summary report outlined the statement highlights from each report for the information of the members.

### **Quarterly National Household Survey**

The members noted details of a summary report, copy of which had been circulated on recently published Quarterly National Household Survey, recently published by the Central Statistics Office for Quarter 3, 2007.

The survey outlined the most recent trends in (un)employment levels with figures given on both national and regional basis. The main points of the survey were summarised for the information of the members.

### **Correspondence**

- Letter from P.M. Mullally, Chief Officer, An Bord Pleanála, regarding reported views on rural housing on the occasion of the launch of the Board's Annual Report 2006.

### **Other Matters**

- The members requested a current update on the N.24 Prioritisation Study. The Director informed them that the study was well underway and that they could expect a draft copy in approximately 4 weeks.

That concluded the business of the meeting.

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

Dáta: \_\_\_\_\_

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