

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

**Minutes of the June monthly meeting of the South-East Regional Authority  
held at the Council Chamber, Clonmel Borough Council, Town Hall, Clonmel,  
Co. Tipperary on Monday 26th June 2006 at 2.30 p.m.**

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

**Also Present:** Cllr. L. Allen, Cllr. M. Anglim, Cllr. L. Brazil, Cllr. T. Breathnach, Cllr. J. Brennan, Cllr. J. Crowe, Cllr. M. Fitzgerald, Cllr. D. Geoghegan, Cllr. T. Howlin, Cllr. P.J. Kavanagh, Cllr. T. Kinsella, Cllr. C. Long, Cllr. M. Maguire, Cllr. T. Maher, Cllr. A. McDonald, Cllr. D. MacPartlin, Cllr. P. Norris, Cllr. S. Nyhan, Cllr. P. O'Callaghan, Cllr. M. O'Halloran, Cllr. C. Phelan, Cllr. M. Roche, Cllr. J. Tobin, Cllr. D. Walsh.

**In Attendance:** Mr. T. Byrne, Director  
Ms. A. Sheehan, Office Manager  
Mr. M. Malone, Designated County Manager.

**Apologies:** Cllr. P. Coffey, Cllr. S. Doyle, Cllr. P. Fitzpatrick, Cllr. D. Landy, Cllr. L. O'Neill.

Before the meeting commenced, the Cathaoirleach proposed the following:

- Congratulations to Cllr. D. Landy on being elected Mayor of Carrick-on-Suir for 2006-2007.
- Speedy recovery to Mr. Martin Long, husband of Cllr. C. Long.

**Confirmation of Minutes**

On the proposal of Cllr. P. O'Callaghan, seconded by Cllr. T. Maher, the minutes of the May monthly meeting, copy of which had been circulated, were unanimously approved and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

**Irish Tourism - Changing Times, Changing Structures**

Mr. Joe Palmer, Chief Executive, South-East Tourism made a presentation to the members on "*Changing Trends & Changing Structures in Tourism - South-East Ireland*".

Before his presentation commenced, Mr. Palmer thanked the Authority for the opportunity to make an annual presentation to the members and informed them

that the structure of Irish Tourism was shortly due to change and that within this new structure his new title would be '*General Manager – South-East Region – Fáilte Ireland*'.

In his presentation , he outlined the following:

- The new national structure of Irish Tourism
  - New Tourism Strategy to be implemented in June 2006
  - Transfer of Regional Tourism Authorities to a regionalised Fáilte Ireland in June 2006
  - Fáilte Ireland to appoint new Regional Tourism Development Boards in July 2006
  - Fáilte Ireland to establish a new Regional Tourism Council in September 2006
  
- The current position with Irish/South-East Tourism and the standards which must be achieved
- The new regional/local structures of Irish Tourism
- National/Regional Operations
- Tourism Support 2006
- How well the 'Sunny South-East' is performing
- Where hotel rooms are located in the region
- Hotel Room Stock in the South-East
- Overseas performance by region 1990-2003
- Tourist Office Review 2005
- Key South-East Promotional Initiatives 2006
- Key needs for Tourism in the South-East
- Responsibilities of the new Regional Tourism Development Board
- Local representation within the new structure.

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

- Local representation to be made via the Regional Authority – to be discussed with Mr. M. Malone, Designated County Manager
- Marketing of Marine Tourism in the Region
- Lack of Conference facilities in the Waterford area
- Lack of local knowledge with large amounts of foreign nationals in the workforce
- Promotion of culture within Irish Tourism
- Price competition between sea ferries and air travel
- The South Tipperary members requested that Mr. Palmer make a presentation on the issue of promoting tourism in inland counties

- Cllr. D. Walsh informed the members that an invitation had been extended to the Authority and other organisations in the region to attend a Trade Fair in Nantes, France on 2<sup>nd</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> December 2006 to promote the South-East Region
- The members requested that Mr. Palmer's presentation be circulated.

The Cathaoirleach and members thanked Mr. Palmer and his staff for his very interesting and informative presentation and wished him well in his new post as General Manager, South-East Region, Fáilte Ireland.

### **CLÁR Village and Countryside Enhancement Scheme**

The members noted details of a report, copy of which had been circulated, on the increase in the level of funding under the CLÁR Village and Countryside Enhancement Scheme. The Report outlined the background to the Programme and the areas targeted under the Programme.

### **IDA Annual Report 2005**

The members noted details of a summary report, copy of which had been circulated, on the IDA Annual Report 2005. The Summary Report detailed the main highlights from the Annual Report and showed investments made by the IDA in the South-East. It also outlined the IDA Ireland Indicators.

### **Quarterly National Household Survey of Educational Attainments**

The members noted details of a report, copy of which had been circulated, on Quarterly National Household Survey Educational Attainments 2002-2005. The report contained a breakdown of educational attainments across the regions.

### **Local Authority Housing Programmes 2006**

The members noted details of a report, copy of which had been circulated, on the Local Authority Housing Programmes 2006. The report outlined the 2006 allocations and the programmes funded by them. It also outlined a breakdown of the Housing Programme 2006 Capital Allocations for Local Authorities in the South-East Region.

### **Regional Broadband Programme - Phase II**

The Director explained to the members that the Authority has gone through a procurement process for the Supervision/ Project Management of the Regional Broadband Programme - Phase II. He requested approval of the

members for the appointment of Industria Networks Ltd. On the proposal of Cllr. D. Walsh, seconded by Cllr. T. Maher, the Authority unanimously approved of the appointment and engagement of Industria Networks Ltd., International Exchange Centre, Clonshaugh Business and Technology Park, Dublin 17 as consultants for the design and project management of the construction of Broadband Metropolitan Area Networks in Tullow, Bagenalstown, Thomastown, Tramore, Dunmore East, Cahir, Cashel, Carrick-on-Suir and Tipperary under the Regional Broadband Programme – Phase 2 and further approved of the acceptance of their tender in the sum of Five Hundred and Eight Thousand Euro (€508,000 exclusive of VAT) for the brief.

A discussion followed regarding the poor quality of broadband available from Service Providers in the Region. The Director informed the members that Service Providers are obliged to provide a reasonable service and that quality control mechanisms would have been put in place by the Department of Communications, Marine & Natural Resources and any complaints should be directed to that Department.

**‘REGBIE’ Project – Regional Bio-energy Initiative**

The Director informed the meeting that the Authority had joined a consortium to bid for a renewable energy project for which approval and co-funding has been notified by the European Commission under its Intelligent Energy Call for Proposals. The Authority’s budget for this project is €95,000 and it will support bio-energy initiatives in the region.

**Correspondence**

- Copy of a letter was circulated to the members from Mr. Noel Dempsey, T.D., Minister for Communications, Marine & Natural Resources regarding the provision of broadband in County Wexford Towns under the Regional Broadband Programme – Phase II.

That concluded the business of the meeting.

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

Dáta: \_\_\_\_\_

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