

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

**Minutes of the June monthly meeting of the South-East Regional Authority  
held at City Hall, Waterford, on Monday, 23rd June 2008 at 2.30 p.m.**

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

**Also Present:** Cllr. L. Allen, Cllr. M. Anglim, Cllr. L. Brazil, Cllr. J. Brennan, Cllr. M. Brett, Cllr. P. Codd, Cllr. J. Crowe, Cllr. S. Doyle, Cllr. M. Fitzgerald, Cllr. T. Howlin, Cllr. D. Hurley, Cllr. P.J. Kavanagh, Cllr. T. Kinsella, Cllr. D. Landy, Cllr. C. Long, Cllr. M. Murphy, Cllr. A. McDonald, Cllr. D. Mac Partlin, Cllr. P. Norris, Cllr. S. Nyhan, Cllr. L. O'Brien, Cllr. M. O'Halloran, Cllr. L. O'Neill, Cllr. M. Roche, Cllr. S. Ryan, 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.

**Apologies:** Cllr. B. Coffey, Cllr. W. Paton, Cllr. C. Phelan, Cllr. T. Wright.

Before the meeting commenced, Cllrs. Roche and Walsh thanked the Authority for the expressions of sympathy with them and their families at the May meeting following their recent respective bereavements.

**Confirmation of Minutes**

On the proposal of Cllr. T. Howlin, seconded by Cllr. P. Codd, the minutes of the May monthly meeting, copy of which had been circulated, were unanimously approved and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

**Operation and Development of the South-East Regional Airport**

Mr. Graham Doyle, Chief Executive, South-East Regional Airport attended the meeting and made a presentation to the members on the operation and development of the South-East Regional Airport. He outlined his presentation under the following headings:

- Key achievements of the Airport in 2007
- Airport Activities
- Management Team
- Development Plans
- Capital Development
- Airport Projects
- Programme Outcomes

- Current plans for the Airport
- Capital Activity in 2007

Mr. Doyle then responded to queries and comments from the members including the following:

- Inward traffic to the South-East and its affects on tourism
- Security and Customs at the Airport
- The availability of funding for extension of runway and terminal building
- The possibility of a route from Waterford to Nantes, Dublin & Belfast
- Car parking fees at the Airport
- The possibility of selling seats off cheaply when flights are not full
- Marketing of the Airport – not adequately marketed, especially in the South Tipperary area.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Mr. Doyle for his very interesting and informative presentation and congratulated him and his team for the remarkable turnaround at the Airport. He stated that the Authority welcomed regular updates on progress at the Airport.

The members requested that the possibility of a future meeting of the Authority being held at the Airport be examined.

### **Implementation of the National Development Plan 2007-2013**

The members noted details of a summary report, copy of which had been circulated, on the implementation of the National Development Plan 2007-2013.

The report outlined a summary of the key details of a report on the implementation in 2007 of the NDP 2007-2013 that was presented to a meeting on the NDP Central Monitoring Committee on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2008. It also outlined the financial outturn under each Priority heading.

### **Quarterly National Household Survey 2008**

The members noted details of a report, copy of which had been circulated, on Quarter 1 of the National Household Survey 2008, recently issued by the CSO. The survey outlines the most recent trends in (un) employment levels with figures given on both national and regional basis, and also summarised the main highlights of the Report. Details of (un) employment rates (%) - Comparison by NUTS III Regions at Q1/2008 were also outlined.

### **Report on the Future of Irish Gateways**

The members noted details of a summary report, copy of which had been circulated, on *'Twice the Size? Imagineering the Future of Irish Gateways'*, recently published by the Future Academy on behalf of the Urban Forum. The purpose of the report is to stimulate debate about future spatial

development in Ireland. The report outlined the key aspects of the study under the following headings:

- Gateways: Distinctiveness rather than size
- Need for city-based regional governance
- Encouragement of collaborative leadership
- Benefits of population concentration on the East Coast

The Director informed the members that this report is designed to look into the future and suggests how each city should view itself in the future. He also informed them that as regards the Gateway Innovation fund, 9 Gateways are expected to receive funding. Examination of the projects has been completed and Government approval is awaited.

### **Conservation & Protection of Built Heritage**

The members noted details of a report, copy of which had been circulated, on Funding for Conservation & Protection of Built Heritage, recently announced by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage & Local Government. The funding package amounts to almost €25million to support built heritage projects in 2008. This provision represents a record increase of 42% on the amount spent in 2007.

The report outlined the main elements of the programme and displayed the architectural conservation grants for each constituent local authority.

### **Rural Development Programme 2007-2013**

The members noted details of a report, copy of which had been circulated, on the LEADER elements of the new Rural Development Programme 2007 – 2013, recently launched by the Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

The Report outlined details of funding for the programme and how this funding would be channelled in order to support and facilitate the continued development of rural communities all over Ireland.

The Report also detailed the background to the Rural Development Programme and the timeframe and budget involved.

### **Members' Study Visit**

A report was circulated and noted concerning the study visit made by a delegation comprising eleven members of the South-East Regional Authority to Budapest, Hungary from 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> June 2007 at the invitation of the Municipality of the City of Budapest. Ms. Sheevaun Thompson, Research & Policy Officer and Ms. Angela Sheehan, Office Manager, accompanied the delegation.

The participants on the study visit found the visit to be very informative and interesting and found their hosts to be most welcoming. The members thanked Ms. Thompson and Ms. Sheehan for their assistance during the study visit.

### Correspondence

- Letter from Prof. K. Byrne, WIT, stating that he is not available to attend an Authority meeting to discuss the application of WIT for designation as a university.

### Other Matters

- Responding to queries from the members about the N24, the Director informed the meeting that the N24 Prioritisation Study has been completed and is gone to print. He stated that the Cathaoirleach, the Designated County Manager and himself are due to meet with the Chief Executive of the NRA shortly to discuss this matter. The Cathaoirleach and Director of the Mid-West Regional Authority will also attend this meeting.
- The members expressed concern about grants for rural sewerage schemes. They claimed that these grants are insufficient and that there is no incentive for small housing schemes to opt for a rural sewerage scheme. They requested that the Authority write to the Minister for the Environment, Heritage & Local Government requesting that these grants to increased to enable smaller schemes to opt for such a scheme.
- The members also expressed concern about the length of time it takes for the Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government to approve sewerage schemes, which in theory takes one year but in reality is taking longer. They requested that the Authority write to the Department regarding this matter. They also requested that all local authorities in the region be surveyed regarding the timescale involved in approval for these schemes.

That concluded the business of the meeting.

Sínithe: \_\_\_\_\_ Dáta: \_\_\_\_\_

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