

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

**Minutes of the March monthly meeting of the South-East Regional Authority  
held at the Council Chamber, County Hall, Wexford on Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> March  
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. P. Codd, Cllr. P. Coffey, Cllr. S. Connick, Cllr. J. Crowe, Cllr. M. D'Arcy, Cllr. S. Doyle, Cllr. M. Fitzgerald, Cllr. P. Fitzpatrick, Cllr. D. Geoghegan, Cllr. T. Howlin, Cllr. D. Hurley, Cllr. P.J. Kavanagh, Cllr. T. Kinsella, Cllr. D. Landy, 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. L. O'Neill, Cllr. W. Paton, Cllr. C. Phelan-Holden, Cllr. M. Roche, Cllr. S. Ryan, Cllr. D. Walsh, Cllr. T. Wright.

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

**Apologies:** Cllr. C. Long.

**Confirmation of Minutes**

On the proposal of Cllr. W. Paton, 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 subject to the following amendments:

- Insert reference to Cllr. D. Landy's request for an update on the windfarm issue and for a future presentation to members on wind energy.
- Insert apologies in the minutes from Cllr. P. Codd and Cllr. L. O'Neill.

## **Presentation on Government Decentralisation Programme**

Mr. Kieran Sheedy, Department of Finance, made a presentation to the members on the Public Service Decentralisation Programme. In his presentation he outlined the following:

- Scope of the programme
- Progress to date with Decentralisation Implementation Group (DIG)
- Progress to date with Central Applications Facility (CAF)
- Progress to date with HR/IR issues
- Outcome of work to date
- Cost of the programme
- South-East Region – a breakdown of locations, organisations and number of posts created.

Mr. Sheedy and his colleague Ms. Irene Kirby then responded to questions and comments from the members including the following:

- Promotional prospects of decentralised staff
- Reluctance of staff of Government Departments to leave Dublin which can result in loss of expertise
- Attempts to match location with demand
- The cost of decentralisation generally, the cost of properties for relocation and subsequent cost to the taxpayer
- Has any forward planning been done to allow for relocations to local towns, villages etc.?

The Cathaoirleach thanked Mr. Sheedy and Ms. Kirby for their very interesting and informative presentation. He stated that decentralisation was a very important issue and that the presentation had brought clarity to the situation. He said that the Authority would like to be kept up to date on progress and would welcome a further presentation in the future.

## **Submission for South-East Region for input into the National Development Plan 2007-2013**

The Director informed the members that the Authority had prepared a Submission for input into the National Development Plan 2007-2013. He made a presentation to the members under the following headings:

- Background to the invitation from DoF for submissions and explanation of Submission structure:

**Part 1** : Directions and objectives that are common to all RAs

**Part 2** : Issues and priorities particular to each RA

- Strategic Context
- Horizontal Issues
- Consultation
- Part 1 : Commons Issues
- Part 2 : South-East Priorities
- Goals
- Key Investment Requirements
- Other Aspects.

The Director informed the members that there were only a few days left for any amendments to be made to the submission. The members made several suggestions for inclusion in the submission and the Director informed them that while some of these issues may already have been covered in Part 1, he would endeavour to ensure that their suggestions be incorporated into Part 2. He also informed them that up to now the NDP had been delivered through 9 Operational Programmes, a National Monitoring Committee and Regional Operational Programmes and because balanced regional development is so important, emphasis in the new NDP should be placed on spatial and territorial planning and investment.

### *'Transport 21'*

The members noted details of a report, copy of which had been circulated, on the Government's *'Transport 21'* Initiative. The report outlined the priorities contained therein that will directly impact on the South-East Region. Also included in the report were the statistics of *'Transport 21'*, completion dates for selected major projects and the National Roads Network 2015.

The members expressed the following concerns regarding *'Transport 21'*:

- That the Limerick to Waterford road be given priority for upgrading and included in the Western Corridor
- That the N11 dual-carriageway be completed and carried on to Rosslare
- That the problem regarding gridlock at the M50 and Toll Bridge be addressed.

## **Rural Water Supply Schemes in the South-East Region**

The members noted details of a report, copy of which had been circulated, on Rural Water Supply Schemes Financial Allocations for 2006. The report highlighted the allocations for counties in the South-East Region and also the 2005 allocations for comparison.

### **Correspondence:**

- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Education and Science regarding university status for Waterford Institute of Technology, stating that a body may be appointed to examine this case and make a recommendation to the HEA. On completion of this process, an Order may be made granting university status.

The members requested that local agencies, Chambers of Commerce and Oireachtas Members in the region be requested to support this very important issue.

### **Any other matters**

- The members enquired about the delivery of broadband to the towns of Gorey, Enniscorthy and New Ross. As no reply had yet been received from the Department of Communications, Marine & Natural Resources, the members requested that further enquiries be made regarding this issue.

That concluded the business of the meeting.

Sínithe: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Dáta: \_\_\_\_\_

Dáta: \_\_\_\_\_