

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

**Minutes of the May monthly meeting of the South-East Regional Authority  
held at Civic Offices, Dungarvan, on Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> May 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. T. Breathnach, Cllr. J. Brennan, Cllr. M. Brett, Cllr. P. Codd, Cllr. B. Coffey, Cllr. J. Crowe, Cllr. S. Doyle, Cllr. M. Fitzgerald, Cllr. D. Geoghegan, Cllr. T. Howlin, Cllr. P.J. Kavanagh, Cllr. T. Kinsella, Cllr. D. Landy, Cllr. C. Long, Cllr. M. Murphy, Cllr. A. McDonald, Cllr. P. Norris, Cllr. S. Nyhan, Cllr. L. O'Neill, Cllr. C. Phelan, Cllr. S. Ryan, Cllr. J. Tobin, Cllr. D. Walsh, Cllr. T. Wright.

**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. P. Fitzpatrick, Cllr. D. Hurley, Cllr. D. MacPartlin,  
Cllr. M. O'Halloran, Cllr. W. Paton, Cllr. M. Roche.

Before the meeting commenced, the Cathaoirleach made the following announcements:

- He proposed the following votes of sympathy:  
To Cllr. D. Walsh on the death of his sister, Kathleen Walsh  
To Cllr. M. Roche on the death of her mother-in-law, Irene Keating.
- He informed the members that Prof. K. Byrne, Director, WIT, was not available to date to meet with Authority officials to discuss the application of WIT for designation as a university. He proposed that the Authority write to Prof. Byrne to invite him to attend a meeting of the Authority in the near future in order to discuss the issue. This was agreed.
- As the Lisbon Treaty Referendum will be held before the next Authority meeting, he recommended a YES vote. Cllr. S. Doyle stated that he is in favour of a NO vote.

### **Confirmation of Minutes**

On the proposal of Cllr. D. Landy, seconded by Cllr. M. Brett, the minutes of the April meeting, copy of which had been circulated, were unanimously approved and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

### **Ireland Wales INTERREG Programme 2007-2013**

Mr. Simon Baily, Head of Unit, Ireland Wales INTERREG Programme, made a presentation to the members. His presentation was outlined under the following headings:

- Ireland Wales Programme Area
- New Regulatory Environment for 2007-2013 Programmes
- Programme Focus
- Programme Budget
- Programme Budget per Priority
- Objectives of Priorities 1 & 2
- Programme Management & Timetable
- Programme Update to May 2008
- How to apply for funding under the Programme
- Joint Technical Secretariat Appraisal & Project Selection.

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

- Enquiries about community organisations applying for funding
- How to deal with match funding
- How to find a Welsh partner
- Criteria for assessing quality of application
- How long the application process takes
- The possibility of seeing sample applications to get ideas for applications.

The Director encouraged the members to participate in the Programme as it is a great opportunity to access funding and stated that the co-funding rate of 75% is one of the best available. He advised them to apply as early as possible.

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

### **N24 Prioritisation Study**

Mr. Michael Moroney, European Officer, made a presentation to the members on the N24 Prioritisation Study and the document prepared on behalf of the

Authority by consultants Colin Buchanan & Partners, copy of which had previously been circulated. In his presentation he outlined why the Prioritisation Study was necessary, how it was compiled, details of the Report and what the next steps to be taken are.

The members discussed the issue and made the following comments:

- It is vital to have N24 recognised as a major route
- The South-East Region is suffering without upgrade of N24
- Very worthwhile document – move forward with it
- The necessity to build roads to high standards
- Linkages essential to local areas
- Cllr. D. Landy proposed that the Authority seek a deputation with the Minister for Transport, Mr. Noel Dempsey, T.D., to discuss the issue. This motion was seconded by Cllr. M. Brett and unanimously agreed by the members.

### **OECD Review of the Irish Public Service**

The members noted details of a summary report, copy of which had been circulated, on the OECD Review of the Irish Public Service : *Ireland – ‘Towards an Integrated Public Service’*.

Four key themes were examined by the OECD ; the capacity of the public service, performance and budgeting, governance and service delivery. In addition to consultation and meetings with the public service, case studies were used in five sectoral areas – education, health, local government, agencies and An Garda Síochána. The Summary Report outlined the key findings and recommendations set out in the main Report.

### **Green Paper on Local Government**

The members noted details of a summary report containing details of the Green Paper on Local Government : *‘Stronger Local Democracy – Options for Change’*, copy of which had been circulated. This Paper presents a set of options for change which share a strong common theme of renewing local democratic leadership. The purpose of the Paper is to present options for further consideration and debate.

The Authority made a submission to the initial consultation and submissions are invited on the Green Paper with a deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> July 2008, to which the Authority will make a further submission to further promote the case for devolution of powers and functions to Regional Authorities.

The members stated that the Authority should use this opportunity to make a strong submission regarding Regional Government and Regional Authorities.

They requested that the submission be compiled and brought to the members for approval. The members were invited to contact the Authority with any ideas they might have for the submission.

### **Preparing Europe's Digital Future, i2010**

The members noted details of a summary report entitled '*Preparing Europe's Digital Future, i2010*' recently published by the European Commission, copy of which had been circulated. The report outlines the results so far for the i2010 – the EU's digital-led strategy for growth and jobs and highlights that more than 250 million EU citizens regularly use the internet and 80% have access to some form of broadband connection. The key finding of the report is that this accessibility is not evenly spread.

### **Small Business in Ireland - 2008 Edition**

The members noted details of a report, copy of which had been circulated, on '*Small Business in Ireland - 2008 Edition*', recently published by the CSO. The summary report outlined the key points of the main report under the following headings:

- Industry
- Services
- Construction
- Sectoral Comparison
- Earnings and Labour Costs
- The Knowledge Economy
- Labour Market Profile
- Small, Medium and Large Enterprises
- International Comparisons.

### **Other Matters**

- The members congratulated the Munster Rugby Team on their recent Heineken Cup win over Toulouse in Cardiff.

That concluded the business of the meeting.

Síniú: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Dáta: \_\_\_\_\_

Dáta: \_\_\_\_\_