

South-East Regional Authority
Údarás Réigiúnach an Oir-Dheiscirt

Minutes of the September monthly meeting of the South-East Regional Authority held at City Hall, Waterford, on Monday, 25th September 2006 at 2.30 p.m.

Present: Cllr. P. Coffey, 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. D. Hurley, Cllr. P.J. Kavanagh, Cllr. T. Kinsella, Cllr. D. Landy, 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. L. O'Neill, Cllr. C. Phelan, Cllr. M. Roche, Cllr. D. Walsh.

In Attendance: Mr. T. Byrne, Director
Ms. S. Thompson, Regional Broadband Coordinator
Ms. A. Sheehan, Office Manager
Mr. M. Malone, Designated County Manager
Mr. C. Ursu, Romanian Intern.

Apologies: Cllr. S. Connick, Cllr. M. D'Arcy, Cllr. T. Howlin, Cllr. W. Paton, Cllr. S. Ryan, Mr. M. Moroney.

Before the meeting commenced, the Cathaoirleach extended his sympathy and that of the members and staff of the Authority to Cllr. Denis Landy on the recent death of his mother, Margaret Landy.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Corneliu Ursu, Romanian Intern, who will spend 3 months with the Authority from September to December 2006 under the Romanian Young Professionals Internship Scheme.

Confirmation of Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Roche, seconded by Cllr. M. O'Halloran, the minutes of the July monthly meeting, copy of which had been circulated, were unanimously approved and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

Review and Implementation of the South-East Joint Waste Management Plan

Mr. Jimmy Harney, Senior Executive Officer, South Tipperary County Council, made a presentation to the members on "*Review and implementation of the Joint Waste Management Plan for the South-East Region 2006*". His presentation outlined the following:

- Requirements for Review of the Plan
- Main content of the Plan
- Main considerations of the Plan
- Details of submissions received from both LA and Private Sectors
- Plan Summary
- Recommended strategy
- Details of how each county in the region is advancing the Plan
- Key actions and means of implementation.

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

- Identification of a suitable site for a Thermal Treatment Plant and how the suitability of such a site is assessed
- The need for such a site to be located adjacent to the rail network in order to reduce HGVs on our roads
- Whether there is sufficient waste in our region to justify a Thermal Treatment Plant
- How the ash from the Plant will be dealt with
- How the Plant will be financed
- Concern over manpower and transport costs to transfer dry recyclables from Dungarvan to Waterford
- The importance of increasing public awareness on waste reduction
- The need for the Government to enforce waste reduction nationally
- The need for private waste collectors and their permits to be inspected regularly
- Plans to address the 18% of the region currently without refuse collection.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Mr. Harney for his very interesting presentation. He stated that as this is a critical issue for our region, the Authority would like to return to this matter at a future date.

Audit Report in respect of year ended 31st December 2005

The members noted details of the Local Government Statutory Audit Report on the accounts of the Authority for the year ended 31st December 2005, copy of which had been circulated.

Regional Authority Director : Approval of extension of period of appointment

The Cathaoirleach informed the members that the Director's current term of appointment runs from 1st January 2000 to 31st December 2006 and coincides with the term of the National Development Plan. He requested and recommended that the members approve an extension from 1st January 2007 to 31st December 2013, which term will run concurrent with the next NDP. It was proposed by Cllr. A. McDonald, seconded by Cllr. L. Allen and unanimously resolved by the Authority:

"That we, the South-East Regional Authority, hereby agree and resolve that, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act, 1991 (Regional Authorities)(Establishment) Order, 1993 and Section 5(a) of Part II of Department of the Environment Circular Letter L.G. 1/94, the appointment of Thomas Byrne as Director of the South-East Regional Authority be continued for a further period of seven years from 1st January 2007".

Appointment of Consultants for Regional Bio-Energy Implementation Plan

The Director informed the members that a public tendering process had been held to appoint Consultants to prepare a Regional Bio-Energy Implementation Plan. He stated that following the evaluation of the tender submissions received the appointment of Fehily Timoney Ramboll Ltd. had been recommended.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Phelan, seconded by Cllr. T. Maher, the Authority unanimously approved of the engagement and appointment of Fehily Timoney Ramboll Ltd., Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork as Consultants for the preparation of the Regional Bio-energy Implementation Plan in accordance with their tender submission and fixed-price tender sum of €73,930.00 including VAT and expenses.

Wind Energy in the South-East Region

The members noted details of a report, copy of which had been circulated, on the present situation regarding wind energy policy in each county in the South-East Region. The report outlined the following for each constituent local authority:

- Policy regarding wind energy
- Provisions in current Development Plan relating to wind energy
- Proposals to incorporate Wind Energy Development Guidelines into the Development Plan
- Information on Wind Energy Planning Applications
- Details of planning permission granted for wind farms.

The Cathaoirleach thanked the Research & Policy Officer for her extensive report and advised the members to deal with this matter individually with their respective local authorities.

Census 2006 - Preliminary Report

The members noted details of summary report, copy of which had been circulated, on the provisional Census 2006 results. The report outlined the main findings of Census 2006 and detailed the population and percentage change for the South-East Region between 2002 and 2006.

Annual Conference of Association of Irish Regions

The Cathaoirleach informed the members that an invitation had been received from the Association of Irish Regions to nominate representatives to attend its Annual Conference in Sligo on 6th October 2006 titled *“Sustainable Energy - The Untapped Resource of Our Regions”*. The Authority authorised the attendance of the following:

Cllr. D. Landy	Cllr. D. Hurley	Cllr. P. O’Callaghan
Cllr. M. Fitzgerald	Cllr. S. Nyhan	Cllr. D. Mac Partlin
Cllr. D. Geoghegan	Cllr. A. McDonald	Cllr. M. Anglim
Cllr. P. Codd.		

Any Other Matters

- Cllr. D. Walsh informed the members that a grant of €5,000 had been secured towards sending Irish companies with less than 10 employees to display at the Craft Fair in Nantes, France to be held on 2nd - 9th December 2006. Any interested parties should contact Cllr. Walsh.

That concluded the business of the meeting.

Sínithe: _____

Ceadaithe: _____

Dáta: _____

Dáta: _____