

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

**Minutes of the September monthly meeting of the South-East Regional Authority  
held at the Council Chamber, County Hall, Carlow, on Monday, 22nd September  
2008 at 2.30 p.m.**

**Present:** Cllr. M. Fitzgerald, Cathaoirleach, presided.

**Also Present:** Cllr. L. Allen, Cllr. T. Breathnach, Cllr. J. Brennan, Cllr. M. Brett, Cllr P. Codd, Cllr. B. Coffey, Cllr. J. Crowe, Cllr. S. Doyle, Cllr. P. Fitzpatrick, Cllr. D. Geoghegan, Cllr. T. Howlin, Cllr. D. Hurley, Cllr. P.J. Kavanagh, Cllr. T. Kinsella, Cllr. D. Landy, Cllr. C. Long, Cllr. M. Maguire, Cllr. M. Murphy, Cllr. A. McDonald, Cllr. P. Norris, Cllr. S. Nyhan, Cllr. L. O'Brien, Cllr. P. O'Callaghan, Cllr. W. Paton, Cllr. C. Phelan, Cllr. M. Roche, Cllr. S. Ryan, Cllr. J. Tobin, Cllr. D. Walsh.

**In Attendance:** Mr. M. Moroney, Acting Director  
Ms. S. Thompson, Research & Policy Officer  
Ms. A. Sheehan, Office Manager  
Mr. E. O'Connor, Designated County Manager.

**Apologies:** Cllr. M. Anglim, Cllr. M. O'Halloran, Cllr. L. O'Neill,  
Cllr. S. Ryan, Cllr. T. Wright, Mr. T. Byrne.

Before the meeting commenced, the Cathaoirleach congratulated the following:

- Kilkenny Hurling Teams – Senior, Intermediate, Minor & Under 21's
- Gay Shelley, Bagenalstown, Carlow on winning a bronze medal at the 2008 Paralympics in Beijing
- Darragh McDonald, Gorey, Co. Wexford, on winning a silver medal at the 2008 Paralympics in Beijing
- Sam Bennett, Carrick-on-Suir, on winning a gold medal at the 2008 European Junior Points Cycling Championships in Poland
- Carlow Hurling Team on winning the Christy Ring Cup 2008.

The Cathaoirleach also passed the following votes of sympathy:

- With the wife and family of Cllr. Denis Burke
- With the wife and family of Cllr. Cyril O'Flaherty.

### **Confirmation of Minutes**

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

### **Role and Functions of the National Economic & Social Forum**

Dr. Jeanne Moore, Social Policy Analyst with the NESF, attended the meeting and made a presentation to the members on the role and functions of the NESF. She outlined her presentation under the following headings:

- Focus of presentation
- Outline, role and structure of the NESF
- Membership of the NESF
- Work Structures and Programme
- Recent Publications
- NESF's Fifth Periodic Report 2004-2006
- Focus on early education, older people and gay, lesbian and bi-sexual equality
- Current Projects
- Policy Implementation
- Futures Ireland Project.

Ms. Moore then responded to questions and comments from the members including the following:

- The input of NESF Board Members in policy making
- Raising awareness of policy implementation
- Insufficient help for support groups of certain categories e.g. mental health, arts & culture, social inclusion and housing
- Lack of use of NESF Reports by Government.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Ms. Moore for her very interesting and informative presentation and suggested that she bring it before local authorities in order to raise awareness of the NESF.

### **Enterprise Week**

The Acting Director informed the members that the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Enterprise Week will take place from 13<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> October next in conjunction with the '*Spirit of Enterprise*' Initiative. Last year's Enterprise Week attracted over 3,000 people to the various events. He stated that there is a very varied programme drawn up this year for each county and Waterford City including events, seminars and workshops.

## **Next Generation Broadband**

The members noted details of a Submission to the Dept. of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources, copy of which had been circulated, regarding the Consultation Process on *Next Generation Broadband*. In the Authority's submission, the following areas were addressed:

- Role of Government and the role of local authorities
- Competition and availability of service offerings
- Backhaul
- Broadband in rural areas
- Stimulating take-up of broadband
- Implementation at sub-national level and the roles that local authorities can undertake.

The Acting Director informed the members that the closing date for submissions is 30<sup>th</sup> September and that any comments or ideas members may have for the submission should be sent to the Authority without delay.

## **Wifi Broadband Mesh Networks Project**

The Acting Director explained to the members that this was an EU-funded project looking at broadband communications. It is proposed to construct wireless mesh broadband networks in Wexford Town and Kilkenny City. The local authorities would initially use the network for delivery of their own services, e.g. traffic fines, water metering, CCTV and public information. Following a public tendering procedure for the construction of the Networks, the tender of Sigma Wireless Communications Limited, McKee Avenue, Finglas, Dublin 11, in the sum of €92,516 +VAT was being recommended for acceptance. On the proposal of Cllr. L. Allen, seconded by Cllr. D. Geoghegan, the aforementioned tender was unanimously accepted and approved by the members.

## **Quarterly National Household Survey**

The members noted details of a report, copy of which had been circulated, on Q2/2008 National Household Survey and Live Register 2008. The report outlined the main highlights from the Survey and tabled (un)employment rates by NUTS III Region and Live Register details for this period.

## **Assessment of Water and Waste Water Services for Enterprise**

The members noted details of a summary report, copy of which had been circulated, on Water and Waste Water Services for Enterprise, recently issued by Forfás. The key findings from the main report were outlined as well as the conclusions and recommendations set out in the Report.

## Annual Conference of Association of Irish Regions

The Cathaoirleach informed the members that an invitation has been received from the Association of Irish Regions to nominate representatives to attend its Annual Conference in Clonakilty on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2008 entitled "*Ireland's Waters - An Untapped Resource?*". The Authority authorised the attendance of the following:

Cllr. M. Fitzgerald, Cathaoirleach

Cllr. P. Norris

Cllr. D. Geoghegan

Cllr. S. Ryan

Cllr. D. Walsh

Cllr. C. Long

Cllr. S. Nyhan

Cllr. D. Hurley

Cllr. L. Allen

Cllr. J. Crowe

Cllr. D. Landy

## Correspondence

- Letter from HSE stating that it was not possible for a HSE representative to attend an Authority meeting. The members were not satisfied with this response and requested that the Authority write to the Minister for Health & Children, enclosing the letter from the HSE.
- **Audit Report** - The Statutory Audit Report to the Minister for the Environment, Heritage & Local Government on the accounts of the South-East Regional Authority for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2007 was circulated to the members and noted by them.
- Copy of correspondence from Eamon Ryan, T.D., Minister for Communications, Energy & Natural Resources to Brian O'Shea, T.D. regarding Pure Plant Oil Producers.

That concluded the business of the meeting.

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