

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

**Minutes of the September monthly meeting of the South-East Regional Authority held at Presentation Community Development Centre, Dungarvan, on Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2009 at 2.30 p.m..**

**Present:** Cllr. T. Kinsella, Cathaoirleach, presided.

**Also Present:** Cllr. M. Anglim, Cllr. L. Brazil, Cllr. T. Breathnach, Cllr. Joe Brennan, Cllr. John Brennan, Cllr. M. Brett, Cllr. P. Cody, Cllr. J. Conway, Cllr. J. Crowe, Cllr. J. Cummins, Cllr. D. Daniels, Cllr. K. Doyle, Cllr. D. Foley, Cllr. D. Geoghegan, Cllr. M. Greene, Cllr. T. Howlin, Cllr. B. Ireland, Cllr. P. Kavanagh, Cllr. D. MacPartlin, Cllr. A. McDonald, Cllr. C. McLoughlin, Cllr. M. Murphy, Cllr. L. O'Brien, Cllr. P. O'Callaghan, Cllr. E. O'Meara, Cllr. L. O'Neill, Cllr. A. Phelan, Cllr. W. Quinn, Cllr. M. Sheehan, Cllr. J. Tobin.

**In Attendance:** Mr. T. Byrne, Director  
Mr. M. Moroney, Asst. Director  
Ms. A. Sheehan, Office Manager  
Mr. J. Crockett, Designated County Manager.

**Apologies:** Cllr. E. Aylward, Cllr. M. Fitzgerald, Cllr. D. Hurley, Cllr. D. Landy.

**Confirmation of Minutes**

On the proposal of Cllr. D. Daniels, seconded by Cllr. D. Foley, the minutes of the July monthly meeting, copy of which had been circulated, were unanimously approved and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

**South-East Regional Airport**

Mr. Graham Doyle, Chief Executive, Waterford Regional Airport, attended the meeting and provided the members with a progress report on the operation and development of the Airport. He outlined his presentation under the following headings:

- An Airport for the Region
  - Air Infrastructure for the Regions
  - Geographic position of Waterford Airport
  - South-East Catchment Area
  
- Airport Activities

- Schedules Services
  - Other Airport activities
  - Aircraft movements
  - Operational funding from Government
- o Strategy for Growth
    - Strategy underpinned by infrastructure
    - Benefits to employment in the region
    - Impact on FDI in the region
    - Benefits to tourism in the region
  - o Airport Potential
  - o Capital Development
  - o Current Plans for the Airport
  - o Capital Programme.

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

- Airport funding
  - the amount of funding generally available to the Airport
  - the amount of funding available for 2009
  - why funding has been cut by 40% in 2009
  - No public finance available, options for private funding?
- Plans for the Airport to extend the runway at a cost of €10m excluding land
- The possibility of looking at Premiership games in the UK in order to promote and maximise use of the Airport
- The value of the Rescue Service to the Airport.

Mr. Doyle acknowledged the continued support of the Authority for the Airport and stated that the airport will be essential to the region when the economy improves.

The Designated County Manager thanked Mr. Doyle for his presentation and stated that the Airport is an important part of economic infrastructure for the region and it is vital to continue to create awareness of the Airport and its services.

### **Regional Planning Guidelines (RPG) 2010 - 2022**

The Director provided the members with the following update in relation to the RPGs:

- Work is ongoing in relation to reviewing and updating the 2004 RPGs

- Consultation is ongoing with public and private organisations regarding the RPGs
- An Economic Strategy is being compiled by Forfás examining the strengths of the Region, a final draft of which will be provided at the Authority October meeting
- SEA/HDA/FRA are currently being worked on to be incorporated into the RPGs
- The Steering Committee oversees the reviewing and updating of the Guidelines and papers and drafts were considered at last meeting
- Draft RPGs will be sent to the members in advance of the November meeting of the Authority, where, if no amendments are necessary, the RPGs will be adopted by the members.

The Designated County Manager stated that under the new Local Government Planning & Development (Amendment) Bill 2009, a core strategy must be included in development plans which requires every local authority to outline how all development plans adopted comply with the NSS.

### **“McCarthy Report”**

The members noted details of a report, copy of which had been circulated, which contained a summary and main recommendations of the “McCarthy Report”, and a draft response thereto. The Assistant Director requested that any recommendations for revisions be forwarded to him without delay, following which the Authority’s submission would be forwarded to the Ministers for Finance and for the Environment, Heritage & Local Government.

### **Report on the Commission on Taxation**

The members noted details of a summary report, copy of which had been circulated, on the Report of the Commission on Taxation, published in September 2009. The Report was outlined under the following headings:

- Terms of Reference for the Commission
- Main proposals of the Report
- Tax System – Structural Issues
- Taxation of Property
- Tax and the Environment
- Tax Incentives for Retirement Savings
- Future Financing of Local Government.

### **Submission to Department of Agriculture on the CAP post-2013**

The members noted details of a draft submission, copy of which had been circulated, to the Department of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries in response

to the public consultation on the shape of the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) post -2013.

The members stated that there was no reference to the single farm payment in the submission which is vital to farmers and requested that it be included in the submission in order to ensure that it continues.

### **Nominations to Regional Drugs Task Force**

This item was deferred to the October meeting of the Authority.

### **Correspondence**

As requested at the July Authority meeting, the Director wrote to the Heads of the third level colleges in the region, inviting them to come together to discuss the issue of a university for the region. The replies from the colleges that responded, which were not very positive, were circulated to the members. Resulting from this, the Designated County Manager suggested that the Director might contact the Heads of the Colleges involved to find out the most up-to-date position regarding this issue. He stated that all colleges in the region have a substantial and important contribution to make to the region and that it is vital to keep the lines of communication open.

### **Other Matters**

- The members requested that the Authority write to the Ministers for Transport and Finance expressing their concern over any proposals to eliminate funding for rural transport initiatives.
- The members requested that the Authority write to the Ministers for Social & Family Affairs and Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs recommending the use of Garda Stations and Post Offices for Social Welfare recipients to 'sign-on'.
- The members requested that the Authority write to the Minister for Finance regarding the proposed imposition of an 80% Capital Gains Tax rate on gains from the sale of rezoned land as a result of the NAMA legislation. It was agreed to have more information available regarding this matter at the next Authority meeting.

That concluded the business of the meeting.

Sínithe: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Dáta: \_\_\_\_\_

Dáta: \_\_\_\_\_