

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

**Minutes of the May Monthly Meeting of the South-East Regional Authority  
held at County Civic Offices, Dungarvan, on Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2011  
at 2.30 p.m.**

**Present:** Cllr. J. Cummins, Cathaoirleach, presided.

**Also Present:** Cllr. M. Anglim, Cllr. E. Aylward, Cllr. L. Brazil, Cllr. T. Breathnach, Cllr. J. Brennan, Cllr. P. Cody, Cllr. J. Crowe, Cllr. J. D'Arcy, Cllr. D. Daniels, Cllr. K. Doyle, Cllr. M. Fitzpatrick, Cllr. D. Foley, Cllr. D. Geoghegan, Cllr. T. Howlin, Cllr. D. Hurley, Cllr. B. Ireland, Cllr. A.M. Irish, Cllr. T. Kinsella, Cllr. D. MacPartlin, Cllr. A. McDonald, Cllr. L. McLoughlin, Cllr. L. O'Brien, Cllr. W. Quinn, Cllr. M. Sheehan, Cllr. J. Walsh.

**In Attendance:** Mr. T. Byrne, Director  
Mr. M. Moroney, Asst. Director  
Mr. J. Lavin, RPG Officer  
Ms. S. Thompson, Research & Policy Officer  
Mr. J. Crockett, Designated County Manager  
Ms. A. Sheehan, Office Manager.

**Apologies:** Cllr. P. Kavanagh, Cllr. M. Murphy, Cllr. E. O'Meara.

Before the meeting commenced, the Cathaoirleach proposed the following votes of sympathy to the families of the following:

- Garret FitzGerald, former Taoiseach
- Amy Byrne, Coolnasmear, Co. Waterford who died tragically on her First Communion Day
- Mary Kavanagh, mother of Cllr. Paddy Kavanagh
- Cllr. Martin Browne, Cashel Town Council.

He also extended congratulations to the following:

- Cllr. Denis Landy on his election to Seanad Éireann
- To the winners of the '*Generation Next*' competition under the '*YES*' Project.

**Confirmation of Minutes**

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

## **South-East Business Confidence Study**

Ms. Fiona Macrae, Director, and Mr. John Gilsonan, Managing Director, Market Dynamics, attended the meeting and made a presentation to the members on the findings from a recent South-East Business Confidence Study. The presentation was outlined under the following headings:

- Study Background
- Respondent Demographics
- Key Findings
- Sales/Turnover Index
- Sales/Turnover Outcome
- Expectations 2011
- Prospects for business compared to 6 months ago
- Prospects for the Irish economy compared to 6 months ago
- Customer activity
- Exports
- Future investment
- Summary of findings.

Ms. Macrae and Mr. Gilsonan then responded to queries and comments from the members including the following:

- How do these figures reflect reality?
- The need for companies to start exporting
- The future for the construction industry
- The problem with developing tourism in inland counties
- The need to develop tourism based on the recent visits to Ireland by the Queen of England and President of the United States
- When study is completed, will Government Agencies address weaknesses?
- The difference between profiles within the counties in the South-East
- The difference between expectations and reality.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Ms. Macrae and Mr. Gilsonan for their interesting and informative presentation.

## **'YES' Project : Progress Report**

Mr. M. Moroney, Assistant Director, made a presentation to the members on the findings of the 'YES' project research and survey and the results of the 'Generation Next' competition.

He made his presentation under the following headings:

- Definition of the 'YES' project
- 'YES' Activity in Ireland
- Entrepreneurial Education (EE) Mapping Report
- Third-Level Student EE Survey
- 'Generation Next' Competition

- What's next for the 'YES' Project.

The members then made the following comments on the presentation:

- The need to raise awareness regarding EE
- The need to start EE at primary and secondary school level
- The need to pilot some of the schemes in the project
- The necessity to act on the results of the project
- The need for different faculties to work together in the interests of promoting EE
- The need to tap into the 40/50 year old redundancy market to use the wealth of experience available
- The need to link schools and the business sector to promote EE.

The Cathaoirleach and members complimented the Authority on this very worthwhile project. It was agreed that details of the project and its research be forwarded for the information and consideration of relevant education and enterprise interests

### **RPG Implementation**

Observations and Submissions to Planning Authorities in respect of the following were considered and approved by the members:

- (a) Proposed Variation of Waterford City Development Plan  
Proposed by Cllr. J. Walsh, seconded by Cllr. J. D'Arcy.
- (b) Pre-Draft Public Consultation on the review of the Carlow Town Development Plan and the Joint Spatial Plan for the Greater Carlow/Graguecullen Urban Area  
Proposed by Cllr. A. McDonald, seconded by Cllr. D. Foley.
- (c) Pre-Draft Observations on the review of the Wexford County Development Plan 2007 - 2013 and preparation of a new Development Plan for the county.  
Proposed by Cllr. M. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. T. Howlin.

### **Draft National Reform Programme for Ireland**

The members noted details of a submission, copy of which had been circulated, to the Department of the Taoiseach on the Draft National Reform Programme for Ireland under the Europe 2020 Strategy made by the Association of Irish Regions.

The following issues arose following a discussion on the submission:

- It was proposed by Cllr. D. MacPartlin and seconded by Cllr. Michael Sheehan that the Authority oppose any proposal by government to place a levy or charge on septic tanks and that the Authority write to

the Department demanding that septic tanks be maintained at the expense of the State.

Following a brief discussion it was agreed to ask the proposer to formally submit a Notice of Motion for inclusion on the agenda for the next meeting of the Regional Authority.

- The Cathaoirleach informed the members that regarding the issue of a University for the South-East, he and the Director will meet the President and Chairman of IT Carlow on 14<sup>th</sup> June for discussions on the issue.

### **Draft Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan**

The members noted details of a submission, copy of which had been circulated, to the Department of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources on the Draft Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan and its associated Strategic Environmental Assessment and Natura Impact Statement.

The Director requested that if the members had anything extra to add to this submission, they should contact the Authority office with details.

### **Draft Grid25 Implementation Programme**

The members noted details of a submission, copy of which had been circulated, to EirGrid on the Draft Grid25 Implementation Programme and its associated Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Natura Impact Statements.

The submission requested that the observations contained therein be considered and incorporated into the Grid25 strategy in the interest of balanced and sustainable development of the country and the South-East Region.

### **Live Register Figures**

The members noted details of a report, copy of which had been circulated, on Live Register figures for April 2011 recently published by the CSO.

The report outlined the main features of the full report and displayed tables outlining details of the total persons on the Live Register between April 2010 and April 2011 and persons on the Live Register classified by region.

Full copy of report available on [www.cso.ie](http://www.cso.ie).

## Correspondence

The following correspondence was circulated:

- Letter from Richard Dooley, Area Manager, Waterford/Wexford Health Services responding to the Cathaoirleach's letter to the HSE regarding cystic fibrosis services at Waterford Regional Hospital.

## Other Matters

### Conferences:

- On the proposal of Cllr. A. McDonald, seconded by Cllr. M. Sheehan, approval was granted for the attendance of Cllr. A.M. Irish, Cllr. E. Aylward, Cllr. B. Ireland and Cllr. T. Kinsella at a Seminar entitled '*EU Funding & Functions*' in Rosscarbery on 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> May 2011.
- On the proposal of Cllr. J. Brennan, seconded by Cllr. D. Foley, approval was granted for Cllr. J. D'Arcy's attendance at a Seminar entitled '*Exploring Local Government Reform*' in Galway on 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> May 2011.
- On the proposal of Cllr. M. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. D. Foley, approval was granted for the attendance of Cllr. J. Brennan and Cllr. A. McDonald at the IBIS Annual Conference entitled '*North/South Cross Border Relations*' in UCD on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2011.
- On the proposal of Cllr. D. Foley, seconded by Cllr. T. Kinsella, approval was granted for the attendance of Cllr. A. McDonald at an LGBT Seminar entitled '*Exploring Community & Culture*' in Kildare on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2011.

## Date of Next Meeting

- As several local authority AGMs are due to be held on Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> June, the members unanimously agreed that the next Authority meeting be held on Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> June in Waterford.

That concluded the business of the meeting.

Sínithe: \_\_\_\_\_

Dáta: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Dáta: \_\_\_\_\_