

**Minutes of Special Meeting of the Social Development Strategic Policy
Committee held in Áras Contae an Chláir on Wednesday 13th February 2019
at 2.30pm**

Present: Cllr. Gerard Flynn, Chairperson
Cllr. Tony O'Brien
Cllr. Pat Burke
Cllr. Paul Murphy
Cllr. Tom McNamara
Trudy Leyden
Thomas Guilfoyle
Anne Haugh, Director of Service
Siobhan McNulty, Senior Executive officer.
Helen Walsh, County Librarian
Patricia Callaly, Interim Director, Glór
Brian McCarthy, Senior Planner
Kathy Lordan, Assistant Staff Officer

Apologies: Patrick Keogh

The purpose of the meeting was to update the members on the Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) and in this regard Cllr. G. Flynn welcomed Brian McCarthy, Senior Planner, to present on the RSES.

B. McCarthy referred to the Southern Regional Assembly Area which consists of:

- Clare
- Limerick
- Tipperary
(Old Mid-West Region)
- Waterford
- Wexford
- Carlow
- Kilkenny
- Kerry
- Cork

There are two Elected Members from Clare on the Assembly – Cllr. Bill Slattery and Cllr. Pat McMahon.

B. McCarthy described a RSES as follows:

- Strategic policy document to set out a vision for the strategic planning and economic development of the region to 2030
- Overarching purpose of the RSES is to support the implementation of the National Planning Framework (NPF) & Government Economic Policies;
- Sets the framework for local planning and economic development - but will require strategic choices at the regional level
- Adoption of the RSES is a Reserved Function which requires the approval of the members of the Assembly.

B. McCarthy advised that the next steps are:

- Following a statutory consultation period of 10 weeks on the Draft RSES (18th December, 2018 to 8th March, 2019), a report on Submissions will be presented to elected members of the Southern Regional Assembly.
- Members may adopt the strategy or, where there are material amendments to the Draft Strategy, the Assembly will enter a further 4 week consultation period on material amendments leading to final adoption of the RSES

He also advised that there is a follow up workshop on 27th February in the Council Chamber which will present an opportunity to put together a submission from Clare County Council.

Cllr. G. Flynn stated that it was felt that the concerns voiced in Clare did not appear in the Strategy.

A. Haugh queried how aligned are the projections in the RSES with national housing targets.

T. Guilfoyle emphasised the importance of Shannon Airport and requested that Clare County Council strengthen the wording of the submission in relation to Shannon Airport.

T. Leyden referred to the significance of the section on climate change.

Cllr. T. O'Brien indicated that the sustainability of our rural towns and villages is important.

B. McCarthy advised the meeting that all points raised would be noted.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____ **Signed:** _____
Cllr Gerard Flynn **Anne Haugh**
Chairperson **Director of Service**

Date: _____