



Oifig an Runaí Aire
Office of the Minister of State

31 August 2022

Ms Anne Maria Walsh
Kilkenny County Council
info@kilkennycoco.ie

Please quote ref: HPLG-MoSB-00395-2022

Dear Ms Walsh,

I wish to refer to your correspondence on behalf of Kilkenny County Council.

The Regional Assemblies in Ireland were established under the Local Government Reform Act 2014. They took their current form in 2015 replacing the NUTS III Regional Authority structure which operated since 1999. Regional Assemblies are part of the local government structure, with membership comprising elected members of every city, county and city and county council in the function area of the Regional Assembly.

The Regional Assemblies have a range of powers in relation to spatial planning and economic development. This includes a function under the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended (the Planning Act), to prepare and make a Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES). The RSES forms part of a hierarchy of spatial plans established in law, from the National Planning Framework (NPF) at national level, the RSES at Regional Level, and City and County Development Plans and Local Area Plans at city and county level. The Regional Assemblies also have roles in sourcing European funding for Regional Programmes and managing the European Regional Development Fund, promoting coordinated public services, monitoring proposals which may impact on their areas, and advising public bodies of the regional implications of their policies and plans.

It is open to local authorities within the functional area of a Regional Assembly to work together in order to support the development and oversight of proposals under the RSESs. This type of cooperation is encouraged and can be helpful in advancing matters of common interest and plans and programmes with a regional focus. The Southern Regional Assembly would be best placed to advise Kilkenny County Council in relation to how any such forum could contribute to structures or committees at a regional level and feed into work that is being done in order to secure and monitor the objectives of the RSES.



In relation to the resourcing of any such forum I would note that under section 159 of the Local Government Act 2001, each Chief Executive is responsible for the staffing and organisational arrangements necessary for carrying out the functions of the local authority for which he or she is responsible.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Burke', written over a horizontal line.

Peter Burke T.D.

Minister for Local Government and Planning

Please note: I am a Designated Public Official under the Regulation of Lobbying Act, 2015