



Minutes of the 398th NESC Council Meeting, 19th April 2013

Meeting took place in Department of Education and Skills, Marlborough St. D1, 10 am.

Attendance: Martin Fraser (Chair), John Murphy, Martin Shanahan, Sally-Anne Kinahan, Owen Ryan, Mary Walsh, Brid O'Brien, Seán Healy, James Doorley, Sean Ó Riáin, Ian Talbot, Mary Daly, Frank Allen, Edmond Connolly, Matt McGann, Patricia Murphy, Michael Ewing, Oisín Coghlan, Siobhán Egan, Tony Donohoe, Deirdre McDonnell, Tom Parlon, Niall O'Donnellan.

Secretariat: Rory O'Donnell, Larry O'Connell, Helen Johnston, Anne Marie McGauran, Jeanne Moore, Noel Cahill, John Sweeney.

Apologies: Edgar Morgenroth, David Begg, Michael O'Sullivan, Michelle Norris, Seamus O'Donohoe, Caroline Fahey, Karin Dubsy, Geraldine Tallon and Niamh O'Donoghue (alternates sent).

- 1. Minutes of the Meeting of March 2013** were approved.
- 2. Project Proposal: Processes to Design and Deliver Energy Transformation in Ireland:**
Members approved the project proposal.
- 3. Ireland's Five Part Crisis: Enterprise and Employment:** At the request of the Chairman, John Murphy, of the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, explained the context for the work on enterprise and employment. This was followed by presentations from [Martin Shanahan](#) of Forfas and [Niall O'Donnellan](#) of Enterprise Ireland. Larry O'Connell, of NESC, explained the logic of the Secretariat's paper on the deepening and widening of enterprise policy. In a wide-ranging discussion, members made comments on the following issues: the need for an employment policy, distinct from enterprise policy, a view which was not shared by all members; the need for better connection between national and local policy, with respect to both enterprise and employment; given the scale of the unemployment problem, the firms supported by enterprise policy have limited role in solving the employment problem; the need to re-stimulate the economy, with a suggestion made on possible construction projects; the relevance of the questions posed in the Secretariat's paper on the widening and deepening of enterprise policy, and on new institutional arrangements for local economic development. The Chairman noted the important points made and emphasised that the central goal is to address unemployment and get people jobs. He thanked Martin Shanahan and Niall O'Donnellan for their presentations. He informed the Council members that the Secretariat would do more work on this topic and bring it back to the Council.
- 4. Ireland's Five part Crisis: Consumer Prices:** This paper would be discussed at a future meeting.
- 5. The next meeting was set for: Friday May 17th, Clock Tower, 10.00 am.**