



## Minutes of the 430<sup>th</sup> NESC Council Meeting, 5<sup>th</sup> July 2018

The meeting took place in the Clock Tower, Department of Education.

**Attendance:** Elizabeth Canavan (Chair), Sinead O’Flanagan, Paul Donnelly, Patricia Coleman (DPER), Feargal O’Brolchain, Damien McDonald, TJ Flanagan, John Enright, David Hegarty, Eleanor Denny, Shay Cody, Tom Gerarty, Oonagh Duggan, Kate Ruddock, Michael Ewing, Patricia Murphy (DES), Geraint Ellis, James Doorley, Sean Healy, Brid O’Brien, Edgar Morgenroth, Patricia King, John McCarthy, and Philip Hamell.

**Secretariat:** Rory O’Donnell, Anne Marie McGauran, Damian Thomas, Helen Johnston, Jeanne Moore, Larry O’Connell, Noel Cahill, Sineád Nic Coitir, Edna Jordan, Richard Holland, and Cathal FitzGerald.

**Apologies:** Ian Talbot, Orlaigh Quinn (Dave Hegarty attending), Robert Watt (Patricia Colman attending), Tom Parlon and Maeve McEwlee.

**1. Minutes of the Meeting March 2018:** It was agreed that minutes from the final meeting of the previous the NESC Council would be published, with the correction on one typing error.

### **2. Multistakeholder Agreements in Climate Governance and Energy Transition**

Dr Jeanne Moore, of the Secretariat, presented the analysis of the Dutch Energy Agreement. In the Council’s discussion members noted the value of multistakeholder engagement but also the importance of the necessary support, capacity and tools for doing it effectively. They noted the need to deepen the understanding of the climate change challenge in Ireland and to consider ways to intensify climate action. It was agreed that a Working Group on Climate Governance would be established to further consider the issues raised by the multistakeholder agreement report and other on-going NESC work on climate governance.

### **3. Cost-Benefit Analysis, Environment and Climate Change:**

Noel Cahill presented the key points from the paper, which examines recent developments in cost-benefit analysis (CBA) in relation to environmental and climate change and the implications for the implementation of CBA to Irish project appraisal. The Council discussed some of the technical issues regarding CBA as well as some of the contextual issues that underpin CBA including dealing with uncertainty, assumptions of growth and its use as one significant, but not the only, tool for project appraisal. Also noted was the importance of placing this paper in the wider context of ongoing work in the OECD and in the Department of Expenditure and Reform. It was agreed this would be completed as a Secretariat Paper and that the Secretariat would continue to liaise with DPER before publication.

### **4. Social Insurance and Welfare:**

Dr. Anne-Marie McGauran, of the Secretariat, outlined the request of the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection (DEASP) that NESC undertake analysis on some of the challenges facing social insurance and its relation to the wider welfare system. Council members sought clarification of the nature of the work requested. Note was made of on-going discussions elsewhere on pensions and the USC. It was argued that NESC’s work should take note of the broader context, as well as issues of precarious work, jobseekers benefit and those not in work. It was agreed that NESC would respond to the department’s request and that the Secretariat would consult with both DEASP and others on the scope of the project.

**5. Any other business:** The next meeting was set for Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2018.