



## Minutes of the 431<sup>st</sup> NESC Council Meeting, 27<sup>th</sup> Sept 2018

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

**Attendance:** Elizabeth Canavan (Chair), Paul Hogan, Patricia Coleman, Deirdre Hanlon (DTTAS), Feargal O'Brolchain, Sinead O'Flanagan, James Doorley, Brid O'Brien, Eleanor Denny, David Hegarty, John Enright, Patricia Murphy (DEASP), Michelle Norris, Paul Donnelly, Damien McDonald, Geraint Ellis, Kate Ruddock, Michael Ewing, Maeve McEwlee, Ian Talbot, Shay Cody, Patricia King, Denis Duggan, and Philip Hamell.

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

**Apologies:** Sean Healy, Orlaigh Quinn (Dave Hegarty attending), Robert Watt (Patricia Coleman attending), John McCarthy (Paul Hogan attending), Tom Parlon, Tom Gerarty, Oonagh Duggan, Edgar Morgenroth.

NESC Deputy Chairperson, Liz Canavan opened the meeting.

### **1. Minutes of the Meeting July 2018**

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed without amendment.

### **2. NESC Work Programme 2018/19:**

The Director highlighted the work undertaken during the previous year, including the Council's work on housing, jobless households and in the area of climate change and environment. The latter included work on multi-stakeholder agreements which it was noted would be published as a Secretariat paper. The Director noted that the planned work programme for 2018/19 included three key areas of work: housing and land; social insurance and welfare; and climate change and the low carbon transition. The work on housing included a proposal to begin an analysis of transport orientated development to include a review of international experience and relevant Irish experience.

### **3. Social Insurance and the Welfare System: Towards a Sustainable Developmental Welfare State**

A paper was presented which outlined the evolution of the welfare system, highlighting key challenges and the case for more integrated action, and a number of specific lines of inquiry.

The discussion acknowledged the value of the work and the fact that it provides the Council with an opportunity to carefully discuss and shape the evolution of the social insurance and welfare system. Among the issues noted by members were: the changing nature and future of work; bogus self-employment and its impact on workers; ways in which rules differ between categories of employment and potential inequities; access to services and the role of means tests; the perspectives of those who experience unemployment; mandatory pension enrolment; the importance of start-ups and supports; new forms of contributions, including from employers; the distribution of income and the role of the tax system; the role and impact of FIS; the sustainability of the social insurance system; and, work underway in D/Finance and the Tax Strategy Group and the working Group on USC.

It was agreed that a series of discrete issue papers that would help to address some of these issues raised would be prepared by the Secretariat and brought to Council for their consideration.

### **4. Any other business:**

The Chair proposed that future Council meetings begin at 10.30am unless the relevant agenda required otherwise. This was agreed. The next meeting was set for Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2018.