



Minutes of the 441st NESC Council Meeting, 24th June @ 10am (via WebEx)

The meeting took place virtually via webex from the Department of the Taoiseach, Room 301.

Attendance: In room 301: Elizabeth Canavan (Chair), Online: Brid O'Brien, James Doorley, Sean Healy, Dave Hegarty (DBEI), Ronnie Downes (DPER), Denis Duggan, John Enright, TJ Flanagan, Paul Donnelly, Philip Hamell, Geraint Ellis, Edgar Morgenroth, Eleanor Denny, Sinead O'Flanagan, Fiona Quinn (DHPCLG), Ian Talbot, Kevin Callinan, Patricia King, Oonagh Duggan, Caroline Whyte, Matthew McCann (DoF) Ronan Hession (DEASP), Aoife Budd & Brona Olwill (SIU, DoT), Emily Whelton (DoT), and Brenda Boylan (DoT).

Secretariat: In room 308: Larry O'Connell, Niamh Garvey Online: Damian Thomas, Helen Johnston, Cathal FitzGerald, Anne-Marie McGauran, Jeanne Moore, Noel Cahill, Edna Jordan, Jenny Andersson, Elaine Kennedy, Sinéad Nic Coitir, Laura Browne (Intern) and Lydia O'Neill (Intern).

Apologies: Karen Ciesielski, Tom Parlon, Orlaigh Quinn (Dave Hegarty attending), John Hogan (Matthew McCann attending), John McKeon (Dave Dillon attending), Graham Doyle (Fiona Quinn attending) Mark Griffin (Brian Carroll attending) and David Moloney (Ronnie Downes attending).

1. Minutes of the Meeting December 2020

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed without amendment.

- 2. Well-being framework consultation report:** Niamh Garvey introduced the NESC work, and Emily Whelton outlined how the work of the Interdepartmental Group on Well-Being (IDGWB) connects with that being carried out by NESC. The NESC and IDGWB reports will go to Government shortly, and an initial dashboard of well-being data will be launched by the CSO in autumn. Issues raised in the discussion included the importance of a deeper understanding of equity, the need for data on this and incorporating such data into a national well-being framework; ensuring that the public understands the need for well-being data; the importance of a well-being framework being implemented and examples of where this has been done internationally.
- 3. Shared Island:** Helen Johnston introduced a paper on combatting poverty. Issues raised in the discussion included income adequacy, rural vs urban poverty, the impacts of Brexit, and alignment of measurement in different jurisdictions. Jeanne Moore outlined a paper on climate and biodiversity. The discussion noted the benefits of collaboration between north and south to address climate change, e.g. in research; building on formal co-operation structures, formalising informal co-operation, and making good practice more visible. The comprehensive report to the Council in December will incorporate both papers, along with ongoing work on mental health, social enterprise and regions; reference to well-being; and a 'digging deeper' exercise in the North West.
- 4. Health Dialogue report:** Peter Cassells thanked NESC for their work, and Damian Thomas outlined the key findings. Observations included the relative role of the voluntary, private and state sectors going forward, working conditions in healthcare, the role of service-level agreements, autonomy and accountability of service providers, innovation and advocacy by volunteer providers, the role of taxation in funding healthcare, and how to carry forward the lessons of responding to Covid-19.

1. AOB: None.

The next meeting will take place on Thursday, 30 September 2021.