



Minutes of the 435th NESC Council Meeting, 25th September 2019

The meeting took place in the Clock Tower, Department of Education, Dublin 1.

Attendance: Elizabeth Canavan (Chair), Brid O'Brien, Sean Healy, Maeve McEwlee, Garrett O'Rourke (DPER), David Hegarty (DBEI), TJ Flanagan, Damien McDonald, Denis Duggan, Shay Cody, Eleanor Denny, Michael Ewing, Oonagh Duggan, Paul Donnelly, Philip Hamell, Geraint Ellis, Rónán Hession (DEASP), Patricia King, Sinead O'Flanagan, Feargal O'Brolchain (DoF), and Paul Hogan (DHPLG).

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

Apologies: James Doorley, Michelle Norris, Joe Cunningham, Ian Talbot, Kate Ruddock, Tom Parlon, Orlaigh Quinn (Dave Hegarty attending), John McCarthy (Paul Hogan attending), Derek Moran (Fergal O'Brolchain attending), Robert Watt (Garrett O'Rourke attending).

1. Minutes of the Meeting June 2019

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed without amendment.

- 2. Transition Teams :** Dr. Cathal Fitzgerald provided a summary of the work undertaken to date within the Transition Team Working Group, outlined some of the initial recommendations emerging from the work and set out the steps that will be taken further progress the project. The Council was generally supportive of the work that undertaken to date though they asked for further clarity on some of the policy proposals. They also highlighted the need to frame the transition as representing a potential viable and positive alternative that is capable of providing employment opportunities for those individuals, sectors and localities most impacted by the transition to a low carbon digital future.
- 3. Welfare and Employment in Ireland:** Dr. Helen Johnston provided an overview of the work to date and in particular, the issues and recommendations for further analysis discussed in the working group. In the discussion which followed a number of the policy proposals were debated including the regulation of employment status; refundable tax credits; a participation income; pay related social insurance; means testing and the role of the public employment service. There was a view that further clarity on the rationale for the policy proposals needed to be provided. It was also indicated this project does provide an opportunity to review and update NESC's work on the Development Welfare State.
- 4. Transport Orientated Development:** Dr. Cathal Fitzgerald presented a summary of the outcome of the NESC workshop on Transport Orientated Development (TOD) held in June 2019. The Council reaffirmed their support for this policy initiative and suggested a role for the Council in building consensus on this issue and for members to use their networks to foster greater societal support for it.
- 5. Projects and Work Programme:** The Director, Dr. Larry O'Connell provided overview of the nature of NESC projects, working methods and the possible future work projects.

The next meeting will take place on Thursday, 19th December 2019.