



Minutes of the 443rd NES C Council Meeting, 16th Dec 2021 @ 9.30am (via WebEx and Room 301)

Attendance: In room 301: Elizabeth Canavan (Chair), Online: Brid O'Brien, Sean Healy, James Doorley, Dave Hegarty (DBEI), Damien McDonald, John Enright, TJ Flanagan, Philip Hamell, Geraint Ellis, Sinead O'Flanagan, Michelle Norris, Graham Doyle, Maria Graham & Paul Lemass (DHPCLG), Ian Talbot, Kevin Callinan, Patricia King, Caroline Whyte, Karen Ciesielski, Oonagh Duggan, Edgar Morgenroth, Maeve McElwee, David Dillon (DEASP), Aingeal O'Donoghue, Eoghan Duffy, Aoife Budd & Brona Olwill (SIU, DoT), Joanne Mulholland (DoFinance), Jasmina Behan (DPER) Barry Vaughan (DoT).

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

Apologies: Paul Donnelly, Orleigh Quinn (Dave Hegarty attending), John McKeon (Dave Dillon attending), David Moloney (Jasmina Behan attending) and Mark Griffin (no Alternate).

- 1. Minutes of the Meeting September 2021:** Minutes of previous meeting were approved.
- 2. Final Draft Report Shared Island:** Helen Johnston presented the four main parts of the report, noting the extensive research and consultative processes underpinning the work. Members welcomed the report. The discussion highlighted the need to push the conclusions and point more towards ways forward; clear communication around the report and launch; issues which could negatively impact on co-operation (such as regulatory mis-alignment); focus, role and 'working' methods of the working groups, including NGO involvement; engagement with civil society and stakeholders in northern Ireland; place-based dialogue structures and the potential role of PPNs; long-term and stable resourcing strategy for co-operative dialogue and work; contribution of all border regions; accessibility of GFA bodies to civil society groups; north-south research funding; well-being measures to assess progress; and data comparability.

It was agreed that the report would be finalized by written procedure.

- 3. Housing:** Members welcomed a paper providing an overview of NES C work on housing and possible areas for further work and research. The influence of NES C on *Housing for All* and the importance of NES C adding value to work being done elsewhere were noted. Issues which were seen as appropriate to NES C included active land management including land leasing, financing of private and commercial output; value for money of government support, the impact of subsidies on rental costs, and protection of tenants; planning issues; constitution and rights, sustainable urban development and affordability; disability and future proofing / lifetime adaptability of housing; vacant accommodation; and trends in household size and meeting demographic challenges. The discussion also referenced the Housing Commission and the Planning Advisory Forum and links to NES C work.

It was agreed that further bilateral meetings would be held with Council members and other stakeholders.

- 4. AOB:** A brief update was provided on Council's work on 'Public Policy Lessons from the Pandemic' and Just Transition and Agriculture, and the establishment of a NES C Working Group to support that work.

The next meeting will take place on Thursday, 31st March 2022.