



Taighde, Idirphlé, Comhairle

Research, Dialogue, Advice

Minutes of the 448th NESC Council Meeting (in person), 30th March @ 10am

The Atrium, Department of Justice, 51 St Stephens Green, D2

Attendance: Liz Canavan (Chair), Diarmuid Torney, Chris Van Egeraat, Joanne Mulholland (DoF) Niamh Moore Cherry, Colin Scott, Seamus Coffey, Gerard Brady, David Hegarty (DBEI), Nat O'Connor, Seán Healy, Brid O'Brien, Joe Cunningham, Kevin Callinan, Brian Carroll, Colette Byrne, TJ Flanagan, Damian McDonald, Nichola Mallon, Caroline Whyte, Jerry Mac Evilly, Karen Ciesielski, Graham Doyle, Lena Jacobs (DoT, Well-Being Unit), and Barry Vaughan (DoT).

Secretariat: Larry O'Connell, Niamh Garvey, Helen Johnston, Cathal FitzGerald, Damian Thomas, Anne-Marie McGauran, Jeanne Moore, Noel Cahill, and Gemma O'Reilly.

Apologies: John Enright, Hubert Fitzpatrick, Noelle O Connell, Owen Reidy, Ian Talbot, John Hogan (Joanne Mulholland attended), Orlaigh Quinn (David Hegarty attended), Mark Griffin (Brian Carroll attended) and John McKeon.

- 1. Administration.** The minutes of the December 2022 meeting were agreed.
- 2. Climate Transition in Agriculture:** Niamh Garvey introduced the report which Council members welcomed, noting in particular its positive and balanced tone; the engagement process with key stakeholders; a fresh narrative emphasising transition 'within' rather than 'out' of agriculture; its role as a precedent for other sectors in transition; the need to balance experimentation and learning with clarity about rules and incentives; the importance of implementation and monitoring; the value of a place-based approach; challenges facing older and younger farmers; importance of resourcing the actions called for and supports for farmers; further focus on state bodies and their role and use of public land. The Council agreed to finalise the report through written procedure.
- 3. Social Enterprise on the Island of Ireland:** Helen Johnston introduced the revised social enterprise report. This was welcomed by the Council, in particular, the shared island focus; the case studies; and links to equality, and social and economic resilience, especially for people outside the labour market. Additional issues raised included links to philanthropy and greater crossover between enterprise and social enterprise. The Council agreed the report will proceed to publication.
- 4. Inequality and Well-being Frameworks:** Dr Anne-Marie McGauran presented the report. The issues raised included existing data shortages and the potential for new statistics; social cohesion and discrimination; cross-departmental working; economic inequality, the complex links between income, child poverty and wellbeing; embedding the language of wellbeing into communities in an integrated way; and, potential links to the work of the new Child Poverty Unit. The Council agreed to finalise the report through written procedure.
- 5. NESC@50:** Dr Cathal Fitzgerald outlined work on communications and the Conference in Dublin Castle on November 23rd. The Council will be updated in June.
- 6. Any Other Business:** Dr Jeanne Moore updated the Council on a new project on Accounting for Nature and three roundtables planned for May – June.

Next meeting will take place on Thursday, 28th Sept 2023, at the Clock Tower, Marlborough Street.