



Taighde, Idirphlé, Comhairle

Research, Dialogue, Advice

Minutes of the 448th NESC Council Meeting (in person), 29th June @ 10am

The Clock Tower, Department of Education, Marlborough Street, Dublin 1

Attendance: Liz Canavan (Deputy Chair), Caroline Whyte, Jerry Mac Evilly, Karen Ciesielski, Nichola Mallon, Noelle O'Connell, Owen Reidy, John Enright, Joe Cunningham, Kevin Callinan, Seamus Coffey, Niamh Moore-Cherry, Colin Scott, Nat O'Connor, Seán Healy, Brid O'Brien, Colette Byrne, Hubert Fitzpatrick, Ian Talbot, Graham Doyle (DHLGH), David Hegarty (DBEI), Matt McGann (DoF), David Dillon (DSP) and, Barry Vaughan (DoT).

Secretariat: Larry O'Connell, Cathal FitzGerald, Damian Thomas Niamh Garvey, Helen Johnston, Jeanne Moore, Noel Cahill, Gemma O'Reilly, Dáithí Downey and Aoife Crofts (Intern).

Apologies: Diarmuid Torney, Chris Van Egeraat, Gerard Brady, TJ Flanagan, Damian McDonald, Mark Griffin, John Hogan (Matt McGann attended), Declan Hughes (David Hegarty attended), and John McKeon (David Dillon attended).

- 1. Administration.** The minutes of the March 2023 meeting were agreed.
- 2. NESC@50:** Cathal Fitzgerald introduced an 'Update Note' on November Conference and draft paper on '*Ireland as Thriving, Protective and Forward Looking*'. The participation of young people at a future NESC meeting was welcomed. The purpose of the paper is to help inform discussions at the conference, with the possibility of it being published subsequently along with relevant content from the conference. Comments included: replacing 'protective' with 'inclusive'; highlighting planetary sustainability; reference to citizen assemblies; dovetailing with the EU@50 initiative; ensuring fusion of economic, social, and environmental issues; profiling the SDGs; and, raising questions to be addressed by the conference panels.
- 3. Good Jobs:** Damian Thomas presented draft chapters on *Building a Good Jobs Economy*. The focus on Good Jobs was welcomed and viewed as timely by Members. Issues raised included: transposition and implementation of EU Directives; State as an employer, both directly and as a procurer of services; the community and voluntary sector; people not in paid employment and the importance of training, apprenticeships and lifelong learning; pathways and transitions into and within work; definitions and perceptions of good and bad jobs over the lifecycle and for different cohorts, for example, migrants, students; self-employed; role of social dialogue, and data, labour market performance and insights; and, the usefulness of taking a sectoral approach. It was agreed that additional chapters would be discussed at the September Council meeting, with a final draft in December.
- 4. Housing:** Dáithí Downey, seconded to NESC from Dublin City Council, presented a paper '*Towards Affordable, Integrated and Sustainable Residential Development*' to help define a focus for NESC work on housing. Members welcomed the overall approach and agreed that work should proceed as set out in the paper. Issues raised included the importance of objectivity and balance and taking a medium to long-term view.
- 5. Any Other Business:** It was agreed that the minutes would be made available earlier after Council meetings, as well as being published online. It was noted that Government approval of the 'Climate Transition in Agriculture' report had been delayed due to a heavy government agenda.

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