



Taighde, Idirphlé, Comhairle

Research, Dialogue, Advice

Minutes of the 450th NESC Council Meeting, 28th September @ 10am

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

Attendance: Liz Canavan (Deputy Chair), Noelle O'Connell, Ian Talbot, Colette Byrne, TJ Flanagan, John Enright, Caroline Whyte, Jerry Mac Evilly, Seán Healy, Nat O'Connor, Brid O'Brien, Diarmuid Torney, Colin Scott, Niamh Moore- Cherry, David Hegarty (DBEI), Rónán Hession (DSP), Kevin Callinan, Ian Power (DoF), and Robet Scott (DPER).

Young People Group: Anna Mcwey, Kevin O'Connor, Liam Kelly, Ellie Chadwick, Ryan Dolan, Naomhán Mhaonaigh, Caitlin Faye Maniti, Aisling Maloney, Eileen Leahy DCEDIY, Siobhán Hennessy & Rebecca Price (NPO staff).

Secretariat: Larry O'Connell, Cathal FitzGerald, Niamh Garvey, Helen Johnston, Jeanne Moore, Gemma O'Reilly, and Dáithí Downey.

Apologies: John Callinan, Owen Reidy, Chris Van Egeraat, Gerard Brady, Karen Ciesielski, Nichola Mallon, Seamus Coffey, Damian McDonald, Hubert Fitzpatrick, John Hogan (Ian Power attended), David Moloney (Robert Scott attended), Declan Hughes (David Hegarty attended), and John McKeon (Rónán Hession attended).

- 1. Administration.** The minutes of the June 2023 meeting were agreed via email prior to the meeting.
- 2. Natural Capital:** Jeanne Moore provided an overview presentation of the report. The report was commended by members as enlightening and timely. Issues raised included the significance of data, especially standardisation, making it accessible, and building on the current infrastructure; the importance of engagement with, and support for, farmers; the need for an integrated policy governance framework; the value of training up more ecologists; and clarifying the link with the well-being framework. It was proposed that the key messages from the report convey the broader value of nature and the purpose of using the natural capital accounting tool. The discussion concluded with suggestions to condense the report and highlight the key messages. It was agreed to finalise the report through written procedure.
- 3. NESC@50:** Two representatives from the group of young people consulted as part of the NESC@50 preparations presented the findings from their report to the Council. They presented six priority issues: Housing and Poverty; Transport and Accommodation; Health and Well-being; Education; Discrimination and Equity; and Climate Change. They highlighted challenges and recommendations in each.

Council members welcomed the report, and further welcomed input on how to improve participation rates of young people living with a disability. Discussion concluded with reflecting on how young people's engagement can be further supported in NESC's work into the future, including drawing on more quantitative data sources (such as the reports from the Ombudsman for children) in addition to qualitative perspectives on young people's experience.

- 4. Good Jobs:** Larry O'Connell introduced the paper on Scottish and Welsh case studies which will form part of the overall Good Jobs report. Members were keen to ensure that the material was used effectively to inform the overall Good Jobs report highlighting issues of procurement, the role of migrant workers, age discrimination, the composition of social dialogue, and the demands on employers.
- 5. Any Other Business:** David Hegarty, who has been a departmental representative on NESC for 10 years and is now stepping down, was thanked for his positive contribution.

Next meeting will take place on rescheduled date of Monday 18th December 2023, at the Clock Tower, Marlborough Street.