



Taighde, Idirphlé, Comhairle

Research, Dialogue, Advice

Minutes of the 453rd NESC Council Meeting (in person), Thursday, 27th June 24 @ 10am
The Clock Tower, Department of Education, Marlborough Street, Dublin 1

Attendance: Liz Canavan (Chair), Kevin Daly (DoF), Hubert Fitzpatrick, Seamus Coffey, Caroline Whyte, Karen Ciesielski, Niamh Moore-Cherry, Diarmuid Torney, Aine Stapleton (DHLG), Dermot Coates (DETE), Seán Healy, Nat O'Connor, Nichola Mallon, Niamh Ní Shúilleabháin (DPER), Owen Reidy, Ian Talbot, and Damian McDonald.

Secretariat: Larry O'Connell, Cathal FitzGerald, Helen Johnston, Jeanne Moore, Damian Thomas, David Hallihan, Noel Cahill, Daithi Downey, Gemma O'Reilly. Interns Ciara Cowap, Ana Neary and Róisín Byrne.

Apologies: John Callinan, Chris Van Egeraat, Colin Scott, Noelle O'Connell, Kevin Callinan, Colette Byrne, Jerry Mac Evilly, John Enright, TJ Flanagan, Brid O'Brien, John Hogan (Kevin Daly attended), Graham Doyle (Aine Stapleton attended), Declan Hughes (Dermot Coates attended), and David Moloney (Niamh Ní Shúilleabháin attended).

- 1. Administration:** The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.
- 2. NESC@50 Special Publication:** Larry O'Connell introduced the forthcoming publication. Points raised included: the role, purpose and value of social dialogue; capacity to deliver results for citizens; changing nature of policy making, design and delivery; space, need and the capacity for longer-term thinking and planning; positive framing and factual understanding, in areas like demography, migration, generative AI and new technology; and, the changing geopolitical context and evolving relationships with UK, within EU and across the world. The report was agreed for publication, subject to written procedure on the Council's input, what was Chapter 15 in the material circulated.
- 3. Better Work:** Damian Thomas provided an overview of the report, noting changes made in response to previous feedback from members. The report was welcomed as fair and balanced, with suggestions offered around framing the issue for older workers, implementation, and additional detail on about which cohorts are currently most employed in poorer jobs. The report was agreed for publication.
- 4. Housing and MMC:** Daithi Downey summarised the report and the contribution MMC can make to addressing the housing challenge and climate action. Members welcomed the report, particularly the primary research undertaken. Issues raised included institutional leadership; regulatory flexibility and the role of the 'regulatory sandbox' concept; transport and logistical implications; productivity impacts; regional opportunities; and, the role of procurement policy. The report was agreed for publication.
- 5. Energy Research Programme:** Gemma O'Reilly provided an update on the NESC Energy programme of work. Helen Johnston presented on energy poverty. Issues raised included: complexity of the current phase in the transition; desirability of further case studies; the all-island dimension; and, work on the Energy Poverty Action Plan. The next steps as outlined were agreed, with a draft report to come back to Council in September, along with other papers on the NESC Energy programme.

Next meeting will take place on Thursday, 26th September 2024, at the Clock Tower, Marlborough Street.