



Minutes of the 402nd NESC Council Meeting, 20th Sept 2013

The meeting took place in The Clock Tower, Department of Education and Skills, Marlborough St, Dublin 1, starting at 10 am.

Attendance: Martin Fraser (Chair), Tony Donohoe, James Doorley, Caroline Fahey, Brid O'Brien, Seán Healy, Sean Ó Riáin, Mike O'Sullivan, Matt McGann, John McHale, Anna Davies, Dave Walsh, Mary Walsh, Michael Ewing, Siobhán Egan, Karin Dubsy, Tom Parlon, Sally Anne Kinahan, Lorraine Kavanagh, and Shay Cody.

Secretariat: Rory O'Donnell, Larry O'Connell, Anne-Marie McGauran, Jeanne Moore, Noel Cahill and Helen Johnston.

Apologies: Mary Daly, Ian Talbot, Danny McCoy, John Murphy, Geraldine Tallon, Niamh O'Donoghue, Oisín Coghlan, Edgar Morgenroth, Frank Allen, David Begg and Seamus O'Donohoe.

1. Minutes of the Meeting of July 2013 were approved.

2. Five Part Crisis Five Years On: Larry O'Connell made a presentation on the main elements of the redrafted report, drawing attention to the main arguments and conclusions. The members welcomes what was described as a concise, tightly argued report, with a strong focus on reform. Some minor amendments were suggested. These included: the value of reference to the Data Sharing and Governance Bill; greater attention to the need for coherence of policy at the local level; more focus on investment for recovery; the importance of matching people's skills to the available jobs, the need for good quality jobs, and the role of the Community Employment Scheme; greater attention to the social consequences of the crisis, especially the two main issues of long-term jobless households and the 'downwardly mobile'; a more nuanced interpretation of the fiscal framework; the importance of balance in the emerging financial system; and the need to draw greater attention to policy implementation and review. Some members emphasised the importance of articulating clear messages on its publication, suggesting inclusion of the key points in the slide presentation. Bringing the discussion to a conclusion, the Chairperson asked the Secretariat to finalise the report on the basis of the discussion. He also informed members that the Department of Finance has been invited to make a presentation on the Medium Term Economic Strategy at the October meeting, and where members will have an opportunity to discuss the formulation of the new strategy.

3. The Role of Data for Greening the Economy: An Exploratory Study of its Use and Value: The Council welcomed the proposal to contract a consultancy study on the generation and use of environmental data. Some suggestions were made offered on the focus of the research.

4. The next meeting was set for: Friday October 18th, Clock Tower, 10.00 am.