



## **Minutes of the 401<sup>st</sup> NESC Council Meeting, 19<sup>th</sup> July 2013**

The meeting took place in The Clock Tower, Department of Education, Marlborough St, D1, starting at 10 am.

**Attendance:** John Shaw (Chair), James Doorley, Caroline Fahey, Brid O'Brien, Seán Healy, Ian Talbot, Mike O'Sullivan, Tony Donohoe, Michael Ewing, Siobhán Egan, Karin Dubsky, Oisín Coghlan, Mary Walsh, David Hegarty, Edgar Morgenroth, Frank Allen, Seamus O'Donohoe, Sally Anne Kinahan, and Shay Cody and John McKeon.

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

**Apologies:** Sean Ó Riáin, Edmond Connolly, Mary Daly, Danny McCoy, John Murphy, Geraldine Tallon, Tom Parlon, Niamh O'Donoghue and Pat Smith.

1. **Minutes of the Meeting of June 2013** were approved.
2. **Matters Arising: Consumer Prices:** The Secretariat is following up with Forfás and the NCC on the analysis and issues.
3. **Five Part Crisis Five Years On:** Rory O'Donnell made a short presentation outlining the key questions raised in the paper and adding some additional questions for the Council regarding the crafting of a more unified developmental perspective on the future of Irish society, economy and state. . The Council welcomed the draft report and presentation, highlighting both its creative approach to the analysis and the focus on institutional and process innovation. The Council suggested that the report be brought back to the September meeting for agreement and that it be made considerably shorter and sharper with a clearer overall message. Members identified a number of areas in which further work might be undertaken. These included: giving greater balance to social and environmental elements, integrating sustainability into the developmental framework, focusing on Ireland's overall ambition; the importance of a focus on solidarity and a clearer statement of the impacts of the crisis on the most vulnerable. The discussion also included the importance of health in relation to the environment; shale gas; activation reforms; and underemployment. It was agreed to focus on jobless households as a third cross-cutting project.

There was support for proceeding quickly to another draft in September. The Council hopes to publish in time to contribute to the development of the Medium Term Economic Strategy.

The next meeting was set for: **Friday September 20<sup>th</sup>**, Clock Tower, 10.00 am.