



Minutes of the 417th NESC Council Meeting, 16th January 2015

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

Attendance: John Shaw (Chair), Seán Healy, Karen Murphy, James Doorley, Brid O'Brien, Gavan O'Leary, Mary Walsh, Pat Smith, Seamus O'Donohoe, Tony Gallagher, Oisín Coghlan, Karin Dubsy, Michael Ewing, Anna Davies, Edgar Morgenroth, Shay Cody, Tony Donohoe, Ian Talbot, David Begg, and John McCarthy.

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

Apologies: Seán Ó Riáin, Mike O'Sullivan, Mary Daly, Niamh O'Donoghue, Tom Parlon, John Murphy and Rory O'Donnell (Secretariat).

1. **Minutes of the Meeting of December 2014** were approved.
2. **Approaches to Sustainable Urban Development: Case Studies from Dublin:** Philip Lawton gave a presentation to the Council of the main findings from his research.

Members suggested that the broad title, 'sustainable urban development', did not describe the focused analysis of socially integrated housing. Points made in the discussion included the following: physical investment in urban renewal does not necessarily lead to improved outcomes in education or employment, but the importance of the quality of housing was also emphasised; as well as tenure mix, there is a need to consider the social mix within tenures. It was pointed out that the achievement of a social mix does not necessarily lead to social inclusion and the question was also raised as to whether the achievement of a social mix was necessary to the achievement of satisfactory social outcomes. Other issues brought up included the problem of lack of synchronisation of investment in housing and services and the value of involving housing associations in the pre-planning stages of housing development.

It was agreed that the paper would be revised to identify it as a more focussed treatment of some urban development issues and that consideration would be given to wider work on urban sustainability.

3. **Work in 2015:** The Council welcomed the Secretariat note summarising work in 2014 and setting out the papers and themes in preparation for the early months of 2015. In opening the discussion of further work in 2015, the Deputy Chairman stated that the Department of the Taoiseach wanted the Council NESC to undertake work on the broader direction of policy as Ireland comes out of the economic crisis. This suggestion was welcomed by members and a number of suggestions on the focus of that work were made. It was also suggested that work on jobless households include examination of local community development committees. It was agreed that the Secretariat would undertake some initial scoping of the project on recovery and renewal for the next Council meeting. It was noted that a Consultation Paper from the Expert Group on the Future Funding of Higher Education will be discussed at the next Council meeting.
4. **Other Business:** None

The next meeting was set for: **Friday, 20th February 2015**, Clock Tower, 10.00 a.m.