



Minutes of the 428th NESC Council Meeting, 14th December 2017

The meeting took place in Clock Tower, Dept of Education, Marlborough St at 10.00hrs.

Attendance: Liz Canavan (Deputy Chair), Shay Cody, Robert Watt, Carol O'Reilly (DTTAS), Tom Geraghty, Denis Duggan, Grainne Morrissey (DoEd), Bríd O'Brien, Seán Healy, Michael Ewing, Oonagh Duggan, Kate Ruddock, Feargal Ó Broin (DoF), Ian Talbot, Philip Hamell, John McCarthy, David Hegarty (DBEI), Edgar Morgenroth, and Patricia King.

Secretariat: Rory O'Donnell, Anne Marie McGauran, Damian Thomas, Helen Johnston, Jeanne Moore, Larry O'Connell, Noel Cahill, Sinéad Nic Coitir, Edna Jordan and Richard Holland

Apologies: Martin Fraser (Chairperson), James Doorley, Maeve McElwee, TJ Flanagan, and John Enright
The meeting was chaired by Liz Canavan (Deputy Chair).

1. Minutes of the Meeting Sept 2017: Approved

2. The Deputy Chair introduced a discussion on *Land Use, Land Value and Urban Development*.

Following a presentation from the NESC Secretariat, the Council discussed the draft report. The following observations were made by Council members:

- The report should be more radical and blunt; it should describe clearly what should happen, and set out practical steps for getting there. It should recognise that the current system is not working, and focus on a small number of practical recommendations and conclusions.
- In particular, it should focus on the role of the state in managing public land, and in acquiring and rezoning private land. Only the state should have the power to rezone land.
- Emphasis should be placed on using brown field sites first. This approach is reflected in the NPF.
- The approach to rezoning should be more hands-on, and there is a need for a CPO system that works. The Law Reform Commission is examining this issue.
- An argument was made for a general site value tax.
- There is a need for public champions and public debate, as there may be considerable resistance to these ideas. We should also learn from the experience of local communities involved in projects such as the DDA.
- It was agreed that the paper would be re-worked to take these comments on board, and re-circulated in January for approval, in order to inform discussion on the NPF and National Capital Plan. The background papers in international approaches to active land management and transport infrastructure, should be circulated to Council members.
- It was also agreed that a workshop on all these issues should take place in Q1 2018.

3. Discussion of Draft Report on Low Work Intensity Households:

Following a presentation from the Secretariat, the Council discussed the draft report. The following observations were made:

- The report is too long and some of the case study material could be cut back.
- It was time for more research on community employment schemes. The view was put that employers don't value experience on these schemes, or any alternative educational routes. The system faces greater challenges and complexity arises because of a variety of needs. There is a need for better links between provision and the wider labour market.

4. Council agreed that a Working Group should be set up to review the report and bring forward policy recommendations. The Group would be chaired by the Deputy Chair, and would consist of 8 members, including someone from each pillar, someone from DSP, and possible external members. The report should be ready by March.

5. The next meeting was set for Thursday 29th March 2018.