

Minutes of the 454th NESC Council Meeting (in person), Thursday, 26th September 24 @ 10am
The Clock Tower, Department of Education, Marlborough Street, Dublin 1

Attendance: Liz Canavan (Chair), Kevin Daly (DoF), Hubert Fitzpatrick, Chris Van Egeraat, Kevin Callinan, Declan Hughes (DETE), Jerry Mac Evilly, Caroline Whyte, Karen Ciesielski, Barry Quinlan (DECC), Niamh Moore-Cherry, Anne Marie O'Connor (OPR), Brid O'Brien, Seán Healy, Claragh Mulhern (DHLGH), Ian Talbot, Gerard Brady, Diarmuid Torney, Noelle O'Connell, Colette Byrne, Colin Scott, John Enright, and Damian McDonald.

Secretariat: Larry O'Connell, Cathal FitzGerald, Helen Johnston, Niamh Garvey, Jeanne Moore, Damian Thomas, David Hallinan, Noel Cahill, Gemma O'Reilly & Grainne Collins.

Apologies: John Callinan, Seamus Coffey, Owen Reidy, Nat O'Connor, Nichola Mallon, TJ Flanagan, John Hogan (Kevin Daly attended), David Moloney (DPER), and Graham Doyle (Claragh Mulhern attended).

- 1. Administration:** The minutes of the last meeting (June) were agreed and posted online in July.
- 2. Compact Growth:** Noel Cahill outlined key points from the paper which was welcomed by Members. Issues raised included: historical experiences in Ireland and the role of incentives; additional research in Ireland, UK, Austria, France and Netherlands; implementation of current policy and plans; understanding what's working and tackling barriers at Local Authority level; new thinking and radical action, particularly in Dublin; the importance of social and affordable housing; complexity and politics of projects; definitional issues around compactness, density and clustering in different settings; vacant space above shops; Derelict Grants Programme; role of a site or land value tax; labour market trends and location of work; enabling infrastructure; housing as home and not as an investment; one-off housing in rural areas. The Council was updated on the National Planning Framework review and ongoing work by the Office for Planning Regulator.
- 3. Energy Research Programme:** Gemma O'Reilly provided an overview of the NESC energy work.
Energy Systems paper: Members supported the methodological approach. The issues raised included: EU Directives driving action; infrastructure; avoiding a disorderly transition; planning and resourcing; energy costs for business; action to meet carbon budgets; potential value-added associated with energy; wider EU energy system and recently published Draghi report; people focus within social foundations of the doughnut economics model; energy poverty and vulnerability; energy demand reduction; and public acceptance and planning.
Households and energy communities' paper: Introduced by Jeanne Moore the paper was welcomed by Members. Issues raised included: the importance of trust, tailored advice and intermediaries; links to energy poverty; renters; people's energy practices and energy diaries; building public support, community engagement and social enterprise; defining energy communities; heat from waste for district heating; and international examples, notably Denmark.
- 4. Migration:** The paper prepared by Grainne Collins was discussed. Issues raised by members included: framing NESC work against the wider context of shifting demographic patterns in Ireland and internationally; mapping current activity, across Government strategies, NGOs and research organisations; and, social cohesion and understanding changing community, migrant and business experiences.
- 5. Strategy Statement:** Strategy statement for NESDO/NESC will be circulated for consultation.

Next meeting will take place on Thursday, 19th December 2024, at the Clock Tower, Marlborough Street.