

## Minutes for NCP Meeting 110

Meeting: National Competitiveness and Productivity Council No 110  
Venue: WebEx  
Date: 8.30 am – 10.30 am, Thursday 08 December 2022

### Members Present:

Dr Frances Ruane, Chair  
Ciarán Conlon, Director of Public Policy, Microsoft, Ireland  
David Hegarty, Assistant Secretary, Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment  
Laura Bambrick, Head of Social Policy & Employment Affairs, ICTU  
Jim Woulfe, Chief Executive, Dairygold Co-operative Society Limited  
Jeremy Godfrey, Chair, Competition and Consumer Protection Commission  
Fergal O'Brien, Executive Director, Lobbying and Influence, Ibec  
Neil McDonnell, Chief Executive, ISME  
Patrick Walsh, Managing Director of Dogpatch Labs  
Breda O'Sullivan, on behalf of Mary Buckley, Interim Chief Executive, IDA Ireland  
Leo Clancy, Chief Executive, Enterprise Ireland  
Margot Slattery, ISS World Service, Global Head of Diversity and Inclusion  
Michael Taft, Research Officer, SIPTU

### Advisors Present:

John Shaw, Department of the Taoiseach  
Maria Graham, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage  
Ann Marie Brooks, Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media  
Liam Coen, on behalf of Andrew Munro, Department of Justice  
Evin McMahon, on behalf of Paul Bolger, Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications  
Niall Egan, Department of Social Protection  
William Beausang, Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science  
Garret Doocey, Department of Transport  
John McCarthy, Department of Finance

### Apologies

Colin Menton, Department of Public Expenditure and Reform  
Sinead McPhilips, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

### Secretariat

Dermot Coates  
Linda Kane  
Rory Mulholland  
Patrick Condon  
Karen Hogan

	Action
<p><b>110.1 Chair's Introduction, Minutes &amp; Matter Arising</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Chair opened the meeting.</li> <li>▪ The Chair welcomed Anne Marie Brooks from the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, to her first meeting of the Council.</li> <li>▪ The Chair noted that this is the last meeting for Jim Woulfe, Chief Executive, Dairygold Co-operative Society Limited and thanked him for his contributions over the years,</li> <li>▪ The Chair also noted that Paul Bolger will be stepping down as the Council Advisor for the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications and Lisa Keyes will join the Council next year.</li> <li>▪ The minutes from NCPC meeting 109 were approved.</li> <li>▪ The Secretariat provided an update on the IGEES Annual Conference held in November 2022.</li> <li>▪ David Hegarty provided a summary on the recently published Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment's new White Paper on Ireland's enterprise policy.</li> </ul> <p><b>. Members Comments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Members commended DETE on the White Paper being accessible.</li> <li>▪ Members noted that Climate and Digital were well prioritised in the White Paper.</li> <li>▪ Members note that productivity is featured throughout the White Paper and are encouraged that the NCPC has had an impact on it.</li> <li>▪ A discussion on clustering policy concludes that clusters need to be value adding and should be driven by policy.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>110.2 NCPC Engagement and Communications</b></p> <p><b>Government Response</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Chair states that the Government Response to ICC 2022 was published on Tuesday afternoon, 29 November 2022. And gives thanks to John Shaw and all the staff at Department of An Taoiseach for coordinating</li> <li>▪ John Shaw (Department of the Taoiseach) then gave a brief update on the process</li> </ul> <p><b>Latest NCPC Bulletins</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Secretariat provided an update on the latest NCPC Bulletins.</li> <li>▪ The final Bulletin of 2022 will be a Bulletin on the availability of international indicators and role they have played in Council publications.</li> </ul>	<p>Secretariat to consider the feedback and revert to the Council</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A member suggests that the Competitive Sustainability Index could be a useful indicator for the Council. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Work to spread NCPC message to schools and universities through engagement</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p><b>110.3 Work Plans for 2023</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Chair opened the agenda item and noted that the objective of this discussion is to invite views from the Members and Advisors on the proposed options for 2023, including the Scorecard, the Challenge, the Carrying Capacity paper and Bulletins.</li> </ul> <p><b>Planning for Scorecard 2023</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Secretariat, presented on Planning for Scorecard 2023.</li> <li>▪ The Council are asked for their views on areas they feel should be expanded or included in the Scorecard and if the approach in 2020 is still fit for purpose.</li> </ul> <p><b>Members Comments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ One member noted that a low pay metric would be useful for the publication.</li> </ul> <p><b>Planning for Challenge 2023</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ For Challenge 2022 it was decided to move the summer meeting of the Council to the month of July to allow for a more advanced draft to be circulated and discussed. The Secretariat propose that the Council should follow the same pattern again in 2023.</li> <li>▪ The call for Challenge topics will be circulated in the first quarter of next year and the list of topics will be finalised at the March meeting.</li> </ul> <p><b>Possible Paper on Carrying Capacity in 2023</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Secretariat discussed the work which has been done on Carrying Capacity Paper which is planned for publication 2023.</li> </ul> <p><b>Members Comments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Members raised the topic of elder care and early years care as a possibility for inclusion in the paper, but note that it will be difficult to capture as it is a public investment yet privately delivered.</li> </ul>	<p>Secretariat to consider the feedback and revert to the Council</p>

- Members discussed planning as an important issue which could be discussed in the paper, with the forestry, offshore and marine energy development sectors being noted as examples of pinch points. Members noted the importance of addressing the key pinch point areas coming down the track in the paper, noting the State plays a key role in ensuring a stable regulatory environment, and a robust and reputable planning system.
- Members raised the idea of addressing how the State can allocate capacity in the economy in the most efficient areas, and to stop doing things that are no longer important. The issue of ensuring supply of proper skillsets was also raised.
- Members noted that the State has performed poorly in keeping pace with developments and not being able to take advantage of new opportunities. This may be due to the state operating at near 100% capacity and struggling to adapt to new circumstances.

#### NCPC Bulletins

- The Secretariat noted its intention to continue these publications, however noted that for the coming year priority will need to be given to the larger pieces of work (Scorecard, Carrying Capacity Paper, Challenge 2023).

#### AOB

- The Chair noted that future meetings will be planned to be in person rather than virtual.
- Meeting dates for 2023 were proposed:
  - 30 March 2023
  - 27 July 2023
  - 12 October 2023
  - 13 December 2023.
- Date for the next Council meeting:
  - **30th March 2022 @ at 8.30am**