



**National Skills Council**

**Meeting Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2021 2pm to 4pm**

**Remote link via Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science**

- 1. Welcome from the Chairperson**
- 2. Strategic Discussion: Discussion on Building the Talent Pipeline in the Context of the Impacts of Covid on the Economy**

As Members are aware, this meeting's strategic discussion focuses on the structural changes to the economy as a result of the Covid crisis, the future shape of the world of work and ensuring access to, and engagement with, upskilling and reskilling opportunities by all, and particularly those most impacted. The pandemic has accelerated change in areas the Council has already touched on (for eg. digitisation), and there are also unforeseen structural changes (for eg. hospitality, tourism, remote working).

Presentations by,

- Andrew Bell, Head, OECD Skills Strategy Project, on the International Context in relation to the Challenges and Changes facing our economy.
- Alastair Blair, Country Managing Director Accenture in Ireland, on the findings of the recent Accenture Report [\*Talent for Tomorrow – Reskilling to Power Ireland's Economy\*](#).

The Secretariat has suggested some questions which might guide the open discussion amongst Members, following the presentation:

- In relation to long-term structural changes in the economy, what are the implications for the tertiary education system and lifelong learning? How can the positive changes (online, digital, flexible learning etc.) that have taken place during the crisis be embedded in a sustainable way?
- How can we engage cohorts most at risk in lifelong learning? How can obstacles be removed? What is the role and responsibility of enterprise (and indeed all stakeholders) in encouraging individuals to engage in lifelong learning, to view learning as a continuous journey, and in driving forward workforce development and human capital development?

- 3. Information Item - Update on EGFSN Work plan 2021**

- 4. AOB and Closing Remarks**