

MINUTES OF MEETING OF NATIONAL SKILLS COUNCIL

14th June 2019



National Skills Council

Chair:

Sean Ó Foghlú, Secretary General, Department of Education and Skills.

Council members present:

Mr. Paul O'Toole, HEA; Prof. Mark Ferguson, SFI; Ms. Nessa White, ETBI; Mr. William Beausang, DES; Mr. Conor Dunne, SOLAS; Mr. Liam Ryan, SAP Labs Ireland; Mr. Martin McVicar, Combilift; Dr. Brendan McCormack, THEA.

In attendance:

Mr. John Conlon, DEASP; Ms. Karena Maguire, QQI; Mr. David Hegarty, DBEI; Mr. Ray Bowe, IDA, Ms. Keelin Fagan, EI; Ms. Vivienne Patterson, HEA; Mr. John Howlin, DPER; Mr. Alan Power, DBEI; Ms. Joan McNaboe, SOLAS; Ms. Nora Condon, SOLAS; Mr. Tony Donohoe, EGFSN; Mr. Phil O'Flaherty, DES; Mr. Philip Crosby, DES; Ms. Kathleen Gavin, DES; Ms. Joanne Tobin, DES; Ms. Emma Kinsella, DES.

Apologies:

Ms. Julie Sinnamon, EI; Mr. Martin Shanahan, IDA; Ms. Orlaigh Quinn, DBEI; Mr. Pdraig Walsh, QQI; Mr. John McKeon, DEASP; Ms. Patricia Coleman, DPER.

| Agenda item | Key points discussed | Action |
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| 1. Welcome and minutes of previous meeting. | Seán Ó Foghlú, Chairman thanked SOLAS for hosting the meeting. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes agreed. |
| 2. Presentations to Inform Strategic Discussion | <p>William Beausang outlined the policy background to the Human Capital Initiative.</p> <p>Kathleen Gavin and Joanne Tobin outlined the planned pillars of the HCI and how it will operate as well as next steps.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future Jobs Ireland is to be discussed at Cabinet Committee in July and the HCI will also be discussed as an action. |
| 3. Strategic Discussion: Input into the Development of the Human Capital Initiative | <p>Issues arising that were discussed by the Council include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alignment of HCI to full time undergraduate level provision • Ensuring collaboration between institutions • Avoiding duplication, displacement and deadweight • Ensuring skills initiatives are time bound and potentially mainstreamed • Evaluation and monitoring • Consideration of extension to post graduate level. • Enterprise involvement will be critical • Encouraging greater integration between HE/FE systems. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was confirmed that the HCI is a time bound 5 year initiative. • The next phase is the design of the calls. The DES will be seeking to design in collaboration with HEIs including the research community • Governance and monitoring will be key requirements of the HCI. |
| 4. Agreement of Work Plan and Winter Statement of Priorities | The Chairman introduced both items. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both items agreed |

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| 5. Update Items for Information | <p>Tony Donohoe, Chairman of the EGFSN, gave an update on the EGFSN work plan for 2019. Key issues for examination include the Construction Sector, in particular productivity and the issue of Management Competences.</p> <p>Updates were also given on the June Dashboard, Future Jobs Ireland and the Regional Action Plans.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates were noted and further updates on the Dashboard will be available for the next meeting. |
| 6. SLMRU reports for noting | <p>The Report on Women on Home Duties and Regional Labour Market Infographics were presented.</p> <p>The Council welcomed the Report on Women on Home Duties, as a new and useful report. It is of value in particular with a view to labour market activation of this cohort.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The DES will meet with the SLMRU in relation to the Report and consider the detail further. |
| 7. SLMRU reports for approval | <p>Monitoring Ireland's Skill Supply 2018, the Vacancy Overview 2018 and Report on Lifelong Learning were submitted for approval.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The three reports were approved for publication. |
| 8. Lobbying Act | <p>The Chairman outlined plans to publish information in relation to the National Skills Council under the Transparency Code.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed by members of the Council. • Information will be published in advance of the next meeting. |