



National Skills Council

MINUTES OF MEETING OF NATIONAL SKILLS COUNCIL

16 April 2018

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Chair:

Mr. Richard Bruton, TD, Minister for Education and Skills.

Council members present:

Dr. Graham Love, HEA, Dr. Pádraig Walsh, Quality and Qualifications Ireland; Prof. Mark Ferguson, Science Foundation Ireland; Mr. Michael Moriarty, ETBI; Mr. Paul O'Toole, SOLAS; Mr. Seán Ó Foghlú, Department of Education and Skills; Mr. Martin McVicar, Combilift; Mr. John McKeon, Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection, Dr. Orlaigh Quinn, Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation, Mr. Martin Shanahan, IDA, Prof. Aidan Mulkeen, Prof. Brian Norton, Ms. Julie Sinnamon, Enterprise Ireland.

In attendance:

Mr. Tony Donohue, EGFSN and IBEC; Ms. Kathleen Gavin, Department of Education and Skills; Mr. Phil O'Flaherty, Department of Education and Skills, Mr. Gavan O'Leary, Department of Education and Skills, Ms. Trudy Duffy, Department of Education and Skills, Dr. Ronnie O'Toole, Facilitator, Mr. William Batt, Indecon, Ms. Joan McNaboe SLMRU, Mr. Alan Power, Mr. Kevin Daly.

Apologies:

Mr. James Magill, Vodafone. Mr. Pat Rigney, Fastnet Brands. Mr. Liam Ryan, SAP.

1. Welcome and minutes of previous meeting:

The Minister opened the meeting and minutes of the previous meeting were agreed

Agenda item	Key points discussed	Action
1. Welcome and minutes of previous meeting.	<p>Relevant members of the Council in advance of upcoming meetings will prepare 1 page summary papers on strategic discussion items.</p> <p>Minister Bruton congratulated Mary Doyle on her upcoming retirement and welcomed William Beausang to the Council.</p>	A 1 page summary paper to be prepared by DBEI for the next Council meeting.
2. Update on the National Skills Strategy 2025.	<p>The strategy has 6 main pillars with over 120 actions covering 32 other Government strategies and key actions include the review of career guidance which is now underway, the ICT Action Plan which is being developed and RSF Managers are working on proposals focussed on lifelong learning. The issue of workplace planning in the public sector is becoming an issue.</p>	A Dashboard containing a snapshot of updates on targets and participation rates in programmes such as Springboard+, Skillnets Skills for Growth, apprenticeships/ traineeships to be made available for future meetings.
3. Information Item:	<p>Kevin Daly from DBEI gave a presentation on the Future Demand for High Level ICT Skills in Ireland 2017-2022 Report.</p> <p>Gavan O'Leary, DES gave a presentation on progress towards a new ICT Action Plan.</p>	Council to be kept informed.
Presentation on the Future Demand for High Level ICT Skills in Ireland 2017-2022 Report.		
Presentation on progress towards a new ICT Action Plan.		

4. Strategic discussion: The National Training Fund (NTF)	Dr Ronnie O'Toole from Indecon facilitated a strategic discussion on the National Training Fund (NTF).	Dr Ronnie O'Toole from Indecon will prepare a paper for the July NSC meeting summarising the strategic discussion on the NTF.
5.Outcomes from the NSC January strategic discussion on theme of lifelong learning Council. agreement of priorities	The Council was asked to approve the paper outlining the priorities in the area of lifelong learning based on the strategic discussion item at the January meeting.	The paper was approved.
6. Publications for Approval	Based on executive summaries, the Council was asked to approve publication of the "Vacancy Overview 2017 Report", by SOLAS and "Addressing the skills needs arising from the potential trade implications of Brexit report", from DBEI. The Brexit Report has a focus on customs, supply chain and logistics challenges as a result of Brexit.	These publications were approved by the Council subject to final reports sent to Council members by the end of April and published thereafter.
7. Information items: Updates	General updates were provided on the following: Impact of the Capital Investment Programme (welcome investment across the education and training system). Springboard+ 2018 (new eligibility criteria). The Career Guidance Review (now underway with Indecon).	SOLAS noted that revised figures in respect of traineeships will be circulated to all members in due course.

	<p>CAO Applications.</p> <p>Traineeships/Apprenticeships (new programmes have been introduced, (key role for employers)</p> <p>EGFSN Work plan 2018 (a digital skills group has been set up to look at the impact on jobs in the digital economy).</p>	
8. AOB and closing remarks	<p>The Minister noted that Michael Moriarty will be retiring shortly and thanked him for his contribution to the NSC</p> <p>The Minister noted that the Strategic Discussion for the next NSC meeting will be the Work Place of the Future</p> <p>The Minister closed the meeting.</p>	<p>Next meeting 16th July 2018</p>