JUTCH Terms of Reference

The Joint Utilities and Transport Clearing House is a non-statutory Taskforce established on foot of the Government Decision on the Accelerating Infrastructure Report and Action Plan of 3rd December.

Mission Statement

The mission statement of the Clearing House is to improve collaboration between utilities in the delivery of critical infrastructure. This will involve State utilities, transport infrastructure providers, and national and local government working together to improve the structures for cooperation and coordination in the delivery of critical infrastructure.

Terms of Reference

The terms of reference of the Clearing House are:

- Identify and resolve issues with structures and processes that create bottlenecks and negatively impact the delivery of critical infrastructure;
- Invite relevant bodies to explain the rationale for current practices in the context of the above;
- Discuss options for the resolution of any identified inter utility – transport – local government sector issues and adopt these changes;
- Set up clear contact points in key bodies.

Working Principles

The working principles of the Clearing House are:

- The Clearing House will avoid duplication and seek to complement and add value to the existing groups.
- The Clearing House will discuss issues and seek to reach a resolution that prioritises the delivery of infrastructure.
- While individual projects may be used to illustrate structural and process issues, the group will not be responsible for the delivery of individual capital projects, which remain the responsibility of relevant Departments.

The Clearing House will meet every 6-8 weeks or more frequently as required.

Membership

The Clearing House will be chaired by the Deputy Secretary General of the Department of Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform, and Digitalisation.

The membership of the Clearing House will be comprised of Senior Officials from the following Government Departments:

- Department of Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform, and Digitalisation
- Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment
- Department of Housing, Local Government, and Heritage
- Department of Transport

In addition, representatives of Local Government:

- County and City Management Association
- Local Government Management Agency

Finally, representatives from state bodies involved in the development of infrastructure:

- ESB Networks
- Uisce Éireann
- EirGrid
- National Transportation Authority
- Transport Infrastructure Ireland
- Gas Networks Ireland
- Land Development Agency

Other bodies/agencies (e.g. CRU) may be engaged and invited to meetings of the Clearing House as required.

Reporting

The minutes of the Clearing House meetings will be published on the Department's website within six months.

Potential Work Programme

The initial work of the Group will focus on:

1. Mapping out Existing Inter-Departmental / Agency Groups that may cross over with the Clearing House, and agreeing coordination methods to avoid duplication of work.

The identification of the key issues that negatively impact on infrastructure delivery.

Following agreement of the critical issues, the work programme will focus on:

1. The resolution of identified issues, including the identification, discussion and implementation of changes to policies / codes of practice / regulations / technical standards that could improve infrastructure delivery;
2. The development of structures that promote early and ongoing engagement on major electricity, water, and transport projects;
3. Identify existing effective local and regional infrastructure delivery coordination structures to identify a best practice approach for national adoption; and
4. Coordination of linear infrastructure works to reduce duplication, disruption, and cost.