

Minutes of Irish Fiscal Advisory Council Meeting (29th January 2025)

Online

2.00pm-5.00pm, Wednesday 29th January 2025

Present

Mr Seamus Coffey (Chairperson)

Prof Michael McMahon

Dr Adele Bergin

Mr Alessandro Giustiniani

Prof Stephen Millard

Attending Item No 02-05

Dr Eddie Casey

Mr Niall Conroy

Mr Killian Carroll

Mr Brian Cronin

Ms Nara Gómez

Ms Karen Bonner

Proceedings

1. Closed Session

The Council met in closed session and discussed and reviewed the Formal Schedule of Matters reserved for the decision of the Council, the Code of Conduct and the Annual Board Self-Assessment evaluation.

2. Admin/Financial

- **Declarations of interest:**

There were no declarations of interest

- The Council **approved the minutes** of the meeting of the Council held on 18 December 2024. Adele proposed and Alessandro seconded them.

- **Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

- **Update on OECD recommendations**

Draft legislation in respect of proposed amendments to the Fiscal Responsibility Act is progressing.

- **Council appointments**

It was noted that Stephen Millard, whose initial appointment commenced in June 2024, was re-appointed as a Council Member for a second full 4-year term effective 1 January 2025.

- **SIPO returns**

Council Members were reminded of obligations in respect of (i) Annual SIPO return and (ii) Updating the Fiscal Council's Register of Council Member interests in advance of the SIPO return date of 31 January 2025.

- **Standing items:**

- The next **Audit and Risk Committee Meeting** will take place on 18 February 2025.
- The **Management Accounts** Q4 2024, as reviewed and recommended by the A&RC, were reviewed and approved by the Council.
- The A&RC will commence the annual review of the **Risk Register** at its meeting on 18 February.
- The Council received two **Parliamentary Questions** since the last meeting.
- **AIE/FOI Update:** The Council received no AIE requests since the last meeting. The Council received no FOI requests since the last meeting.
- **Info Security/GDPR:** There were no matters to report.
- **Recruitment Update:** The Summer Internship Programme 2025 recruitment campaign, two temporary posts lasting up to twelve weeks, will commence shortly.
- **Purchases and Receipts book:** The Council reviewed the Purchases and Receipts book December 2024.
- **EU IFIs**
An update was provided in respect of EU IFI activity. Niall will present at the EU IFI Network meeting and attend the EFC alternates meeting in Brussels on 17-19 February.

- **Recent and Forthcoming Meetings:**

Recent:

- Niall presented at a Local Authority Conference on infrastructure: 16 January
- Eddie presented at and Killian and Nara attended the OECD Climate Workshop in Rome on 19 & 20 January.
- Eddie and Niall presented at the IPFIN in Dublin

Forthcoming:

- Forthcoming Council meetings 2025: 3 March (remote @ 2pm), endorsement meeting mid-March.
- Forthcoming Audit and Risk Committee meetings 2025 @ 9.30am: 18 Feb
- Niall presenting at an EU IFI Network meeting and attending EFC alternates meeting: Brussels 17-19 Feb 2025
- 2025 Path for the Public Finances Conference: Thu 20 Feb

3. Communications update

The Council reviewed and discussed its overarching Communications strategy and 2025 annual communications plan.

The Council reviewed the finalised programme for its Annual Path for the Public Finances Conference which will be held in the RIA on 20 February 2025.

The Council discussed plans for the joint release of a collaborative publication with the Climate Change Advisory Council regarding Ireland's climate action and the potential costs of missing targets.

4. Next Projects

An update was provided on current work plans including: BEPS paper, Non-compliance costs, paper on Revenue and Expenditure comparisons and plans for an updated climate paper.

5. AOB

There was no other business. The next meeting of the Council will take place remotely on 3 March @ 2pm.

Signed:

Seamus Coffey (Chairperson)

Dated: _____