

Minutes of Irish Fiscal Advisory Council Meeting (2nd December 2025)

Conference Room, ESRI building
2pm-5pm, Tuesday 2 December 2025

Present

Mr Seamus Coffey (Chairperson)
Dr Michael McMahon
Mr Alessandro Giustiniani
Prof Stephen Millard
Prof Karina Doorley

Attending

Mr Niall Conroy
Mr Killian Carroll
Mr Brian Cronin
Ms Nara Gómez
Dr Sinéad Ashe
Ms Karen Bonner

On behalf of the Council, the Chairperson, Seamus Coffey congratulated Karina Doorley on her appointment as a Member of Council, effective 28 November, who was warmly welcomed to her first Council meeting.

Proceedings

1. Admin/Financial

- **Declarations of interest:**

There were no declarations of interest

- The Council **approved the minutes** of the meeting of the Council held on 17 November 2025. Michael proposed and Stephen seconded them.

- **Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

- **For Approval**

The **Council Member's Fees and Time Buyouts for the period October – December 2025**, as set out in letters of appointment (and approvals set by Department of Public Expenditure and Reform), were reviewed and approved.

The Council reviewed, discussed and provided feedback which was incorporated into the current draft of the **Strategic Plan 2026-2028** which will be finalised for online publication.

The Council reviewed and agreed for signature the **2026 Shared Services Agreement (SSA)**, in respect of office accommodation, building and support services with the ESRI, covering the period 1 January to 31 December 2026.

The Council agreed to a further one year extension of the Framework and Services **Contract with the Public Authority Pension Services (PAPS)**.

- **Standing items:**

- The next **Audit & Risk Committee** meeting is scheduled for 9 February 2026 to coincide with YE 2025 procedures.
- The Q4 2025 **Management Accounts** will be available in early January 2026.
- All sections of the **Risk Register** have been reviewed by both the A&RC and the Council.
- **Purchases and Receipts book:** The Council reviewed the Purchases and Receipts book October 2025.
- The Council received three **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 was nothing to raise in respect of information security or GDPR.
- **Recruitment Update:**
Following an open selection process through the Public Appointments Service Prof. Karina Doorley was appointed as a Member of the Council effective 28 November 2025. As the appointment is filling a vacancy which arose on 1st August 2025, the initial

term expires on 31 December 2028, with an option of re-appointment thereafter.

A further vacancy will arise on 1 January 2026 as Prof Michael McMahon will step down from the Council on 31 December 2025.

- **EU IFIs**

An update was provided in respect of EU IFI activity.

- **Recent and Forthcoming Meetings:**

Recent:

- Appearance before NI Parliamentary Finance committee. :19 November.

Forthcoming:

- Appearance before the Oireachtas Budgetary Oversight Committee: 16 December
- Annual National Fiscal Framework Conference (9 December) and EUNIFI meeting (10 December). Brussels.
- IPFIN conference (UK & Irish Fiscal Councils/PBOs) 29/30 Jan 2026.
- Fiscal Council's Annual Path for the Public Finance's Conference: RIA Thu 19 February 2026
- Forthcoming Audit and Risk Committee meetings 2026 @ 9.30am: 9 February
- Forthcoming Council meetings 2026: 4 February (9-11.30am), 4 March (9-11.30am)

- **Communications**

An update was provided in respect of recent communication activities primarily related to the impact of the Fiscal Assessment Report published on 26 November.

2. [Fiscal Assessment Report review](#)

The Council reviewed the Fiscal Assessment Report November 2025 in respect of content, structure & text

analysis, web/media analytics, media impact and future considerations.

3. Conference

The Council discussed the draft programme and agreed on a title for its Annual Path for the Public Finances Conference which will be held in the RIA on 19 February 2026.

4. Long-Term work

An update was provided on Long-Term work to include Capital inputs for long run growth projections, a summary of Baseline assumptions, explored a number of scenarios and outlined the next steps.

5. Communications: videos and blogs

There was a presentation on communications which reviewed audience engagement, range and an analysis of article or video views across Fiscal Council publications over the course of the year. Discussion focused on more use of video, possible expansion of platforms and communication resource options and approaches.

6. AOB

The Council expressed its thanks to Michael McMahon, who is stepping down as a Member of Council on 31 December 2025, acknowledging his invaluable commitment, insight, expertise and contribution. Michael has been a Council Member since April 2019, serving as Ministerial appointed Acting Chairperson (July 2023 to August 2024) and as Vice-Chairperson ((December 2020-June 2023) and (August 2024 to date)).

The next meeting of the Council will take place on 4 February 2026.

Signed:

Seamus Coffey (Chairperson)

Dated: _____