



Climate Change Advisory Council Adaptation Committee Meeting Draft Minutes

Date: 25th June 2021

Start time: 09:00

Venue: Video Conference Meeting

Present: Marie Donnelly (Chair), Roger Street, Professor Robert Devoy, Keith Lambkin, Professor John FitzGerald, Mark Adamson, Professor Conor Murphy, Ina Kelly, Gerry Boyle, William Walsh.

Secretariat: Margaret Desmond, George Hussey, Ciara Hilliard, Ben McDermott, Seán O’Leary.

Apologies: Laura Burke.

Observers: Paddy Mahon.

1. Opening of Meeting

The Chair introduced Paddy Mahon, Chief Executive of Longford County Council and Chair of CCMA’s Climate Action, Transport and Networks committee, who had been invited as an observer ahead of Council ratifying his joining the interim Committee. Mr. Mahon was nominated by the CCMA as Ciarán Hayes’ replacement. Summer student Ben McDermott, EPA Programme Officer Ciara Hilliard and incoming Manager of the Council Secretariat George Hussey were also acknowledged. Outgoing Manager of the Council Secretariat Margaret Desmond was thanked by the Chair for her work over the last number of years.

1.1 Minutes for the Adaptation Committee Meeting 22.04.2021

The minutes for the meeting held on the 22nd April 2021 were accepted.

1.2 Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted by the Committee.

1.3 Disclosure of Interests

There were no disclosures of interest.

2. Council Update

The Chair and the Secretariat provided a verbal update from the Council meetings of 13.05.2021 and 18.06.2021. It was noted that while the full Council will not be in place until the amended legislation passes, there are observers joining the Council meetings who are invited by the Chair in the interim. Regarding the Council's work, it was stated that much of the focus is on the carbon budgeting process and the Chair highlighted the importance of ensuring adaptation was considered in the carbon budget communication. Issues around the messaging included topics such as retrofitting, future climate, synergies with adaptation around health and biodiversity and meeting targets outlined in the Paris Agreement. The ratification process for Mr. Mahon's nomination at the next Council meeting was mentioned.

3. Annual Review: Adaptation Scorecard

The Secretariat presented an initial overview of sectoral progress returns to inform Committee deliberations. The evaluation process, including its limitations and the need for consistency, was discussed. Mark Adamson absented himself from the meeting when the Flood Risk Management sector's progress assessment was being considered.

Preliminary assessments are to be issued to the 12 sectors, the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications who is responsible for the National Adaptation Framework (NAF) and the local government sector inviting their comments and observations. These respondents will also be given an opportunity to meet representatives of the Committee if they wish, ahead of the assessments being finalised at the Committee's next meeting.

The Committee discussed the communication of sectoral adaptation progress and emphasised that it should not be a replacement for a comprehensive national MRE and indicator system. It also noted that the Council, through advice from the Adaptation Committee, will be required to continue providing advice and recommendations on a range of adaptation issues and should be as targeted and specific as possible to be of benefit to policy makers. Further development of communication tools identifying sectoral adaptation progress was discussed, along with the next iteration of the National Adaptation Framework and the EPA's 5 Year Assessment.

4. Annual Review: Adaptation Text

A draft of the adaptation Chapter text for the Annual Review was discussed, and that it will be revised to reflect the final progress assessments as necessary. It was recalled that the Council agreed that the final adaptation Chapter should be 10 pages, addressing the sections included for analysis. Information relevant to adaptation will also be included in the Introduction and Executive Summary of the Annual Review 2021. Members of the Committee were invited to submit their comments and observations on the draft Chapter to the Secretariat and a revised draft will be presented for agreement at the next meeting. This will then be sent to the Council for their consideration.

5. Work Programme

The Secretariat presented a verbal update on the Committee's work programme and the proposed research small-scale studies and coastal workshop. Three topics (household adaptation, decision making under uncertainty and nature based adaptation) were proposed as areas of focus for small-scale studies. It was agreed that the Secretariat would examine dates in September and October for the coastal workshop. It suggested that a speaker from the UK should address the workshop as there may be lessons from that jurisdiction in addition to a proposed speaker from the Netherlands. It was agreed that the key value of this proposed workshop lay in the discussion sections which will need to be carefully designed and moderated.

6. Agreed Outcomes, plans for next meeting and AOB

There was a brief discussion regarding the 2021 ECCA conference, which was mentioned at the last meeting and attended by several members of the Committee.

The next meeting of the Adaptation Committee is scheduled on Thursday 29th July.



29.07.2021