



## Climate Change Advisory Council Adaptation Committee Meeting - DRAFT MINUTES

**Date:** 22.04.2021

**Start time:** 9:00

**Venue:** Video conference

**Present:** Marie Donnelly, Chair; Mark Adamson, OPW; Prof. Gerry Boyle, Teagasc; Laura Burke, EPA; Prof. Robert Devoy, Prof. John FitzGerald, UCC; Dr Ina Kelly, HSE; Keith Lambkin, Met Éireann; Prof. Conor Murphy, Maynooth University; Roger Street, Oxford University; William Walsh, SEAI.

**Apologies:**

**Secretariat:** Dr Margaret Desmond, Seán O'Leary, Phillip O'Brien, Gemma O'Reilly, Claire Camilleri.

**Presentations:** Dr Kelly de Bruin (ESRI)

## **1. Opening of Meeting**

### **1.1 Minutes for the Climate Change Advisory Council Adaptation Committee Meeting 17.12.2020**

The minutes of the Committee meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020 were agreed and signed electronically by the Chair.

### **1.2 Adoption of Agenda**

The agenda for the meeting was adopted.

### **1.3 Disclosure of Interests**

There were no disclosures to report.

## **2. Council Update**

The Chair and Secretariat provided an update from the Council meetings of 14.01.21, 05.03.21 and 15.04.21. This included an update on the the Independent Evaluation of the Climate Change Advisory Council, the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill and the Climate Action Plan.

The Committee were reminded that the outgoing Council had thanked them for their work and had agreed that the Climate Change Advisory Council Adaptation Committee 2016-2020 Review and Outlook would help inform the work of the next Council and Committee.

## **3. EU Adaptation Strategy**

A discussion on 'Forging a climate-resilient Europe - The new EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change' published 24 February 2021 took place. The Committee noted the importance of this strategy. They discussed the lack of awareness of the impacts of climate change and the necessity for clear indicators to measure key changes, impacts and to inform the use of future climate model projections. The Committee noted the international work underway regarding adaptation indicators that may be of significant benefit in this area, and the complexity of the task. Teagasc volunteered to examine the potential to use the National Farm Survey as a pilot for testing potential indicators for the agricultural sector. The Committee considered that nationally indicators could be piloted in some sectors (including health, agriculture, local government and biodiversity) building on ongoing research.

#### **4. Work Programme and Committee Administration**

The Committee was informed that at its meeting on the 5 March, the Council agreed that the current Adaptation Committee should be asked to extend for a period of less than a year with the Chair of the Council acting as Chair of the Adaptation Committee for the interim until a full Council is appointed. It was also noted that how the Committee would transition to a new one will be explored following passage of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill.

The Adaptation Committee heard that the Council agreed a budget of €20,000 for the Committee's work in 2022 to progress research and workshops to explore key issues in adaptation.

The Committee discussed options for this work, including regarding decision making, metrics and household level adaptation. Other suggestions included the social dimensions of adaptation, just transition/just resilience from an adaptation perspective and resilience in the financial sector noting the complexity of the issues within each topic.

It was requested that the Secretariat prepare options for advancing a limited number of small scale studies in such areas and also a coastal adaptation workshop.

#### **5. Fellowship Update**

Dr Kelly de Bruin (ESRI) presented an update on the 'An Economic Assessment of Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Options in Ireland' Council funded fellowship which aims to explore a better understanding of climate change impacts in Ireland and identify options about these impacts. Dr de Bruin noted that they were in the process of final interviews to appoint the fellow, and that the study would take approximately two years with the intention to provide outputs to the Committee throughout the process.

The Committee noted the importance of the outputs of the European Climate Change Adaptation Conference (ECCA) in May.

#### **6. Annual Review**

The Committee discussed the streamlined structure for the Annual Review 2021 which was agreed by Council to include a c. 10-page adaptation chapter and the intention to continue to reflect adaptation messages in the Introduction and Executive Summary of the Annual Review. The Committee discussed an approach on capturing adaptation progress in key sectors and agreed that a consultation with sectors would take place through a structured questionnaire that would be issued to sectors, CAROs and the adaptation division of the

Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC). The approach was recommended to Council for their approval.

The Committee noted the timelines for the preparation of the Adaptation content for the Annual Review 2021.

#### **7. Agreed Outcomes, plans for next meeting and AOB**

The Committee was informed that the Council is mid-appointment process and a full Council will not be appointed until the final enactment of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill. It was noted that once a full Council is appointed, it is intended to address the Independent Evaluation Report of the Council and develop a strategy for the term of Council. The Committee was updated on the work of the Council in developing advice on carbon budgets, however it is not in the Council's remit to provide a sectoral breakdown or adaptation targets as part of this process.

The Committee noted correspondence received from the Irish Climate Science Forum on Sea Level Projections.

The Committee noted that it is intended to meet in June, and that a schedule of Committee meetings for the remainder of the year is to be developed.



25.06.2021