



An Chomhairle Pinsean The Pensions Council

Minutes

Pensions Council Meeting

26 September 2023 @ 15:00

Venue: MS Teams

Council members in attendance:

Roma Burke (Chair) (RB)
Clare Dowling (CD)
Olive Gaughan (OG)
Stephen Gillick (SG)
Brendan Kennedy (BK)
Ciara McLoughlin (CML)
Munro O'Dwyer (MD)
Tim O'Hanrahan (TH)
Joanne Roche (JR)

Council members apologies:

Andrew Condon (AC)
Deirdre Cummins (DC)

Also present:

Aaron Bayle, Department of Social Protection (AB)
Marco Carlesso (note taker, secretariat)
Christine Lutz (secretariat)

Quorum: Quorum present – 9 members present (6 required for Quorum)

1. Welcome and declaration of new interests

The Chair welcomed the members and attendees. She invited the Pensions Council members to declare any new potential conflicts of interest or relevant changes in circumstances and none were declared.

The Chair thanked the members for their attendance and contribution at the 18 September 2023 meeting, in which Dr. Colm Fitzgerald presented his results of his technical assessment of the Alternative AE Proposal. The Chair stated that the objective of today's meeting was to continue the discussion that commenced at the previous meeting and to receive an update on the status of the retirement Living Standards request for tender process.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted by the members.

3. Operational matters

The Chair informed the members that the Council's request for tender for a research project on Retirement Living Standards had been published on the eTenders platform. The Chair thanked AB for his work on progressing this project. AB informed the Council that the request for tender process is open until Wednesday, 25 October 2023. A Committee, comprising of representatives from the Department of Social Protection and the Pensions Council has been established to assess the responses, when received. Colum Walsh from the DSP will chair the Committee. The Committee will review the responses in line with the criteria and recommend the preferred provider to the Project Office. An update will be provided at the next Pensions Council meeting.

4.Strategic work in progress – Alternative AE proposal

A wide-ranging discussion took place amongst the members. The Council acknowledged the importance of carefully considering the technical, political and legal feasibility of the Alternative AE Proposal in an Irish context.

The Council agreed that it would be beneficial to have sight of Dr Fitzgerald's draft report at the earliest opportunity, so Council members can carefully review the findings against the requirements set out in the RFT and consider the evidence provided in support. Once robust evidence, data, and calculations to support any assumptions and conclusions made is received, Council members will provide their observations and feedback. When Dr Fitzgerald has provided his final report of the technical assessment, the Council will draft its own report to the Minister, which will consider Dr Fitzgerald's findings as well as address the other matters raised in the Minister's letter to the Council.

5. AOB

There were no matters under AOB.

6.Next meeting

The Chair observed that as two meeting had been held in September, the next meeting is scheduled to be held remotely via MS Teams on Wednesday, 15 November 2023.

Action Items:

No.	Action Details	Person responsible	Date to be completed:
1	Council members to provide feedback on draft report once received, review.	All	By end of October 2023