D/Taoiseach Briefing Material Submitted to DoT for PfG Talks

Contents

Briefing on Digital Issues Unit in D/Taoiseach 12/06/20 [FG GP FF]

The Digital Issues Unit is part of Economic Division in Department of the Taoiseach. Its current role includes:

- managing the Data Forum which brings together experts from different areas (industry, civil society, legal experts and the public sector) to contribute to dialogue on the societal issues arising from the continuing growth in generation and use of personal data; ensures discussion between public and private sector on issues like implementation of GDPR and other new EU initiatives

- preparing a new National Digital Strategy (working with other key Depts) which aims to articulate a vision for how Ireland can grasp the opportunities offered by digitalisation and respond to its challenges, for the benefit of our economy and society; public consultation and engagement with stakeholders on development of the Strategy took place in 2019

- organising the annual Digital Summit, under the aegis of the Data Forum, to promote Ireland's profile as a location for thought leadership in the digital and data issues

- supporting the Interdepartmental Group on Data Protection Issues which includes representatives of all Departments; work includes shared training provision for GDPR implementation and Brexit preparations

- supporting the work of the Minister of State with responsibility for Data Protection, including international and domestic engagements with business and potential investors

- participating in the work of the Interdepartmental Group on the EU Digital Single Market (led by D\BEI)

- co-ordinating the Government's role in support of the proposed Grand Canal Innovation District in the Grand Canal Docks

NESC responses 05/03/20 [GP SF]

Q: Request for a summary of NESC work on land-management (international examples/summary of recommendations), analysis of rents, and transport-orientated development.

Land-management
International examples
See Chapter 4 and pages 34-40 at this link:
http://files.nesc.ie/nesc_reports/en/145_Urban_Development_Land.pdf

Summary of recommendations
See Chapter 6 at this link:
http://files.nesc.ie/nesc_reports/en/145_Urban_Development_Land.pdf

Analysis of rents
See documents at this link: https://www.nesc.ie/publications/irelands-private-rental-sector-pathways-secure-occupancy-affordable-supply/

Transport-orientated development
See documents at this link: https://www.nesc.ie/work-programme/land-use-land-value-urban-development/transport-oriented-development/

Q: Request that NESC might identify existing international research, guidelines and case studies of good practice on citizen participation in the planning process.

Public participation is a key feature of the Irish planning system (Relate, 2018). This short note provides some examples of guidelines, case studies and research on citizen participation. This is not an exhaustive list but indicative of the material available.

(i) **Context**
- While not detailing the participative process, this overview of the Irish planning systems in Ireland and Northern Ireland is useful (Cave and Semple, 2018).[1] See also Relate (2018). [2]
- The new Office of the Planning Regulator has a role in improving public awareness of the planning process and supporting research and innovation. There is a current commitment to implement interactive, ICT-driven solutions to enable better participation by the public in the plan-making process.
- There is consultation guidance from DPER but these are not specific to the planning process. DPER (2016) Consultation Principles and Guidance https://assets.gov.ie/5579/140119163201-9e43dea3f4b14d56a705960cb9354c8b.pdf. See also DCCAE on the Aarhus Convention. https://www.dccae.gov.ie/en-ie/environment/topics/aarhus-convention/frequently-asked-questions/Pages/default.aspx

(ii) **Irish examples and reviews**
- UCC Research-innovative methods of community engagement https://www.ucc.ie/en/media/projectsandcentres/imagining2050/InnovativeMethodsofCommunityEngagement(lowres).pdf
- Heritage Council has developed innovative community led design process: https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/projects/community-led-village-design-statements
- Galway Community Network have guidelines for community engagement, https://galwaycitycommunitynetwork.ie/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/GCCN-Guidelines-for-Successful-Community-Engagement.pdf
- Carlow PPN https://www.carlowppn.ie/membership/community-consultation-toolkit/
- Chris McInerney's 2011 overview is not recent but still useful - Building Effective Consultation and Participation: Lessons and learning from outside Ireland, EAPN Ireland.

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[1] A joint paper by the Oireachtas Library & Research Service and the Northern Ireland Assembly Research & Information Service.

[2] https://www.citizensinformationboard.ie/downloads/relate/Relate_August_2018.pdf

- Eirgrid have a six step process for the delivery of grid infrastructure and was a winner in the National Planning Awards http://www.eirgridgroup.com/site-files/library/EirGrid/Reviewing-and-Improving-Our-Public-Consultation-Process.pdf
- https://www.ipi.ie/news/press-releases/ipi-national-planning-awards
- NESC (2014) Wind Energy in Ireland: Building Community Engagement and Social Support http://files.nesc.ie/nesc_reports/en/139_Wind_Energy_Main_Report.pdf
- Community Planning in NI e.g. community visioning, citizen reporting http://civicinnovationni.org/Case-Studies/Participatory-Card-Games-for-Shaping-Places

International approaches and examples

- The OECD provides some guidance. https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/e3e6f273-en/index.html?itemId=/content/component/e3e6f273-en&mimeType=text/html
- UNECE https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/eia/Publications/2016/Good_Practice_Recommendations_on_Public_Participation_in_Strategic_Environmental_Assessment/1514364_E_Espoo_web.pdf
- There are innovative approaches to place-making in urban contexts that provide examples of community participation. Place-making is a model of public participation in urban planning. It has community-based participation integrated with a structured programme to develop quality public spaces. For more information, the European Place-making Network has case studies. https://placemaking-europe.eu/listing/shaping-better-places-together/
    - One example from Dundee in Scotland outlines the effectiveness of community design led events and similar participatory design-led processes. This research led by the University of Dundee focused on the skills and expertise required in the facilitation of participatory design processes. https://placemaking-europe.eu/wp-content/uploads/listing-uploads/file/2019/12/executive-summary.pdf
- Involve UK provide innovative approaches to citizen engagement https://www.involve.org.uk/our-work/our-projects/research/what-does-public-value-about-environment E.g. Dudley Council Citizens' Assembly called: the Dudley People's Panel. https://www.involve.org.uk/our-work/our-projects/practice/what-should-future-dudley-and-brierley-hill-look
- Canada: https://participatoryplanning.ca/healthy-places-policy-toolkit http://participatoryplanning.ca/sites/default/files/upload/document/tool/participatory_process.pdf
- New South Wales, Australia toolkit: https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/open-data-and-reporting/reporting/community-engagement-toolkit-councils
- Stratford, California: https://www.amcto.com/getattachment/Education-Events/Annual-Conference/2018-Annual-Conference/Conference-Program-and-Schedule/2C-Creative-Approaches-to-Public-Consultations.pdf.aspx?lang=en-CA
- Neighbourhood Labs Bologna, Italy: https://oecd-opsi.org/innovations/laboratori-di-quartiere-neighbourhood-labs/

- US https://www.epa.gov/international-cooperation/public-participation-guide-tools-generate-and-obtain-public-input
- EU https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/file_import/better-regulation-toolbox-53_en_0.pdf

Other texts:

- Lesley Malone (2019) Desire Lines: A Guide to Community Participation in Designing Places Routledge.
- *Norton, P. and Hughes, M. (2017) Public Consultation and Community Involvement in Planning, Routledge.*
- Demos on people powered planning https://demos.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/People-Powered-Planning.pdf

NESC response to GP on Aspects of Housing 03/03/20 [GP][SF]

Request for NESC Work

- ***Land-management***
    - International examples
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    - Summary of recommendations
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- ***Analysis of rents***
    - See documents at this link: https://www.nesc.ie/publications/irelands-private-rental-sector-pathways-secure-occupancy-affordable-supply/

- ***Transport-orientated development***

    - See documents at this link: https://www.nesc.ie/work-programme/land-use-land-value-urban-development/transport-oriented-development/