



Shareholders or Stakeholders? Enlightened corporate governance for our times



A TASC discussion

What is the purpose of a company? It is often taken as self-evident that companies exist primarily to create maximum value for their shareholders.

Indeed, the *shareholder value* model of the firm is now so much part of the mainstream that it has been incorporated into company law and accounting practices worldwide.

Yet the recent financial and economic crisis has undermined faith in the orthodoxy that the stock market is the best yardstick to measure company value.

Is it time to think afresh about governance of the company and its proper role in society and the economy?

Does a *stakeholder value* approach offer a sustainable alternative, with its emphasis on companies' responsibility for different groups both inside and outside the firm?

Should employees themselves, as key stakeholders in any firm, be automatically entitled to a voice in governance through direct participation at board room level? Is this a pipe dream? Or can we envisage an enlightened approach to corporate governance that balances conventional shareholder profit goals with broader stakeholder engagement in decision-making?

Expert panel

This discussion brings together an expert panel of corporate governance experts, academics and practitioners to discuss fresh ideas of what makes a sustainable company for our times. Further details of invited speakers and chair to follow.

Date and venue:

Thursday 23rd March 2017 | ESB HQ, 27 Fitzwilliam Street Lower, Dublin 2

Agenda:

Evening event | 18.00 - 20.30 |

Registration:

Registration details to follow.

This event is the first in a series sponsored by the National Worker Directors' Group as part of a research project by TASC exploring the possibilities of employee involvement in the modern company. For more information see www.tasc.ie

