



Northern Ireland
Assembly

COMMITTEE FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY 22ND MAY 2013
ROOM 21

Present:

Mr Jimmy Spratt MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Sean Lynch MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr John Dallat MLA
Mr Stewart Dickson MLA
Mr Alex Easton MLA
Mr Ross Hussey MLA
Mrs Dolores Kelly MLA
Mr Declan McAleer MLA
Mr Ian McCrea MLA
Mr David McNarry MLA

In attendance:

Mr Paul Carlisle (Clerk to the Committee)
Mr Gavin Ervine (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Ms Tara McKee (Clerical Supervisor)
Ms Alison Ferguson (Clerical Officer)
Mr Brian Mahon (Bursary Student)

Apologies:

Mr Cathal Ó hOisín MLA

10:31am The meeting commenced in closed session.

The Committee discussed the draft report on the Inquiry into the Better Use of Public and Community Sector Funds for the Delivery of Bus Transport in Northern Ireland.

10:35am Mr Dickson joined the meeting

10:39am Mr Lynch joined the meeting

10:39am Mr McCrea joined the meeting

10:43am Mr Hussey left the meeting

10:50am Mr McNarry left the meeting

10:55am The Committee recommenced in open session

1. Apologies

As above.

2. Chairperson's Business

None.

3. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting of 15th May 2013.

4. Correspondence

Members noted the correspondence received.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Minister regarding the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) Comprehensive Network.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding the Minister's attendance at the Committee meeting on 29th May 2013 and agreed to write to the Department to add the issue of a moratorium on road works in the run up to the G8 Summit to the agenda for the briefing.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding Translink evidence at the Inquiry into Comprehensive Transport Delivery Structures.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding the Inquiry into Comprehensive Transport Delivery Structures.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding the Equality Unit Biannual Report.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding its Disability Action Plan 2013.

- Agreed:* The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding high-speed electronic communications network.
- Agreed:* The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding the Committee's request for a briefing on the direct award contract to Northern Ireland Transport Holding Company/Translink.
- Agreed:* The Committee noted correspondence from Public Hire Taxis regarding taxi services at Central Station and agreed to forward to the Department for comment.
- Agreed:* The Committee noted correspondence from Nicole Stevenson regarding the increase in Translink fares and agreed to forward to the Department for comment.
- Agreed:* The Committee noted an invitation from Belfast Taxis Community Interest Company to visit their premises in Belfast and agreed to write to them to decline the invitation.
- Agreed:* The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding the Foyle Ferry Service and agreed to write to the Department to highlight the benefits of this service and ask if any other options have been explored in funding the service.
- Agreed:* The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding a Penalty Charge Notice in Omagh and agreed to forward to the original correspondent for information.
- Agreed:* The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding car park signage and the appeals process.
- Agreed:* The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding road safety on rural roads.
- Agreed:* The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding Efficiency Delivery Programme.
- Agreed:* The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding Northern Ireland Gateways and Connectivity Review.
- Agreed:* The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Health, Social Services and Public Safety regarding suicide prevention strategies and agreed to forward to the Department for comment.
- Agreed:* The Committee noted correspondence from the OFMdFM Committee regarding the proposal for regulation on measures to reduce the cost of

deploying high-speed electronic communications networks and agreed to forward to the Department for comment.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment regarding a Consumer Council NI Review and agreed to forward to the Department for comment.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from Craigavon Borough Council requesting to meet the Committee regarding Lurgan Railway Station and agreed to arrange a briefing.

5. Consideration of the draft Report of the Inquiry into the Better Use of Public and Community Sector Funds for the Delivery of Bus Transport in Northern Ireland

Agreed: The Committee agreed the Membership and Powers section of the Report.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the List of Abbreviations and Acronyms section of the Report.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the Executive Summary section of the Report, subject to agreed amendments.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the Introduction section of the Report, subject to agreed amendments.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the Summary of Recommendations section of the Report, subject to agreed amendments.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the Key Issues section of the Report, subject to agreed amendments.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Committee office takes forward production of the appendices to the Report.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Report be ordered to print.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward a copy of the Report to the relevant Ministers.

6. Subordinate Legislation not subject to Assembly Procedure

Members noted:

- The Parking and Waiting Restrictions (Belfast) (Amendment No 2) Order (Northern Ireland) 2012

- The Roads (Speed Limit) (No 2) Order (northern Ireland) 2013
- The Parking and Waiting Restrictions (Belfast) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2013

7. SL1: The Glenvarna Walk, Newtownabbey (Footpath) (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2013

Agreed: That the Committee for Regional Development is content with the merits of the policy proposal.

8. SL1: The Nugent's Entry, Enniskillen (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2013

Agreed: That the Committee for Regional Development is content with the merits of the policy proposal.

9. Any Other Business

Mr Dallat raised the issue of the recent North West 200 and requested that the Committee invites representatives of the North West 200 to meet with the Committee.

Agreed: That the Committee would write to representatives of the North West 200 to invite them to brief the Committee.

Mr McAleer raised the issue of traffic congestion at the Balmoral Show.

Agreed: That the Committee would write to the Department to reiterate the importance of improving the road infrastructure around the site of the Balmoral Show.

10. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will be Wednesday 29th May 2013 at 10:30am in Room 21.

11:24am *The meeting was adjourned*

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Mr Jimmy Spratt MLA
Chairperson, Committee for Regional Development
29/05/13