



Northern Ireland
Assembly

COMMITTEE FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY 19TH FEBRUARY 2014

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HOUSE, GREAT VICTORIA STREET, BELFAST

Present:

Mr Jimmy Spratt MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Sean Lynch MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Joe Byrne MLA
Mr Alex Easton MLA
Mrs Brenda Hale MLA
Mr Ross Hussey MLA
Mr Declan McAleer MLA
Mr David McNarry MLA
Mr Cathal Ó hOisín 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)

Apologies:

Mr John Dallat MLA
Mr Kieran McCarthy MLA

09:32am *The meeting commenced in open session*

1. Apologies

As above.

2. Chairperson's Business

3. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the meetings of 5th February 2014 and 12th February 2014.

4. Correspondence

Members noted the correspondence received.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from Mr John Dallat MLA regarding Translink pensions and agreed to forward to the Department for a written briefing on this issue.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the OFMdFM Committee regarding the Joint Ministerial Council (Europe) – October 2013.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development regarding the Reservoir Bill and agreed to issue a response, noting the lack of clarity around liability of community groups leasing NI Water reservoirs.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel regarding Departmental Spring Supplementary Estimate.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel regarding NIAO Report on Sick Absence in the Public Sector and agreed to forward to the Department for comment.

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

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the OFMdFM Committee regarding the Barroso Task Force Desk Officers Report: October – December 2013.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the OFMdFM Committee regarding EU funding drawdown by Department.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding Committee queries on Public Passenger Transport Regulations.

- Agreed:* The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding cancellation of Minister's briefing on 5th March 2014 and agreed topics for discussion at the Minister's briefing at the meeting on 2nd April 2014.
- Agreed:* The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding Committee queries on Public Passenger Transport (Service Agreements and Service Permits)
- Agreed:* The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding future road works and strengthening of sea roads.
- Agreed:* The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding further Committee queries on interim arrangements following resignation of Translink Chief Executive and agreed to write to the Department for clarification on this matter.
- Agreed:* The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding a response to the Private Members Bill on Scrap Metal Dealers.
- Agreed:* The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding traffic issues in Hillsborough village.
- Agreed:* The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding Committee queries on road closures and diversions
- Agreed:* The Committee noted correspondence from Mr Connor Breen regarding public and community transport in rural Ireland, North and South.
- Agreed:* The Committee noted an IMTAC survey of disability training provision by transport providers in Northern Ireland.
- Agreed:* The Committee noted correspondence from Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce regarding accessibility issues with Belfast City Centre and agreed to arrange a briefing on this issue.
- Agreed:* The Committee noted correspondence regarding a seminar on maximising the potential of Walking and Cycling Infrastructure in Touristic Areas.
- Agreed:* The Committee noted correspondence from the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Transport and Communications regarding a meeting between the two Committees and agreed to arrange a suitable date for this meeting.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding gritting of roads – a review of Departmental procedures.

5. Department for Regional Development and Translink Briefing: Belfast Transport Hub

09:43am The following officials joined the meeting

Ciaran Doran – Director of Public Transport Services Division, DRD

Ciaran Rogan – Marketing Executive, Translink

Clive Bradberry – Infrastructure Executive, Translink

The officials presented to the Committee in respect of the work of the above. Following the presentation, Members put questions.

09:52am Mrs Hale joined the meeting

10:12am Mr Spratt left the meeting

10:12am The Deputy Chairperson assumed the role of Chairperson

10:17am Mr McNarry left the meeting

10:25am Mr Spratt re-joined the meeting and re-assumed the role of Chairperson

10:26am The officials left the meeting

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department for further information on the capacity and usage of the Great Northern Multi Storey Car Park.

6. Any Other Business

7. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will be Wednesday 26th February 2014 at 10:00am in Room 21, Parliament Buildings.

10:26am The meeting was adjourned

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Mr Jimmy Spratt MLA
Chairperson, Committee for Regional Development
26/02/14