



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

THURSDAY, 10 MARCH 2016

**BOARD ROOM, AGRI-FOOD AND BIOSCIENCES INSTITUTE,
NEWFORGE LANE, BELFAST**

Present: Ms Anna Lo MLA (Chairperson)
Mrs Pam Cameron MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Cathal Boylan MLA
Mr Alban Maginness MLA
Mr Ian Milne MLA
Mr Alastair Patterson MLA

In Attendance: Miss Ciara McKay (Assembly Clerk)
Mr Mark McQuade (Assistant Clerk)
Mr Neil Sedgewick (Clerical Supervisor)
Mrs Sharon Young (Clerical Officer)

Apologies: Mr Paul Girvan MLA
Mr William Irwin MLA
Mr Patsy McGlone MLA
Mr Barry McElduff MLA
Mr George Robinson MLA

The meeting began in closed session at 10.11am.

The Committee noted correspondence forwarded by the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment on O2 mobile coverage.

Mrs Cameron joined the meeting at 10.13am.

The Committee moved to public session at 10.13am.

1. Apologies.

The apologies are noted above.

2. Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson thanked AFBI for hosting the Committee meeting.

The Chairperson reminded members that this was the Committee's last scheduled meeting before the Assembly is dissolved.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content that the Chairperson approve the minutes of today's meeting.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content that any correspondence received following today's meeting would be circulated to Members up to 29th March; and that the Committee Office will issue a standard letter to the correspondent stating that the Committee has no further meetings but that correspondence has been forwarded.

The Committee noted details of an event that RSPBNI are holding to promote political engagement on environmental issues on the Stormont Estate on 15th March 2016.

3. Minutes

The minutes from the meetings held on 29th February 2016 and 3rd March 2016 were agreed, as amended.

4. Matters arising

The Committee noted correspondence from the Department advising that it would not be in a position to brief the Committee on the Final Report of the North South Ministerial Conference Air Pollution Study before the end of the mandate.

Agreed: The Committee agreed: to write to the Department expressing its dissatisfaction; and to include a reference to the study in its legacy report.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Department providing a copy of its climate change evidence package.

The Committee noted correspondence regarding Japanese Knotweed.

The Committee noted a response from the Department to concerns raised about evidence given to the Committee on Japanese Knotweed on 23 February 2016.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the Department's response to the individual who raised the matter with it.

5. Consultations.

The Committee noted a synopsis of responses to the UK wide consultation on draft air quality plans aimed at reducing nitrogen dioxide, which arise as a result of road transport emissions.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Department notifying the Committee of its intention to consult on regulations to Tackle Drink Driving in Northern Ireland.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Department notifying the Committee of its intention to consult on improvements to Approved Driving Instructor and Approved Motorcycle Instructor schemes in Northern Ireland.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Department notifying the Committee of its intention to consult on proposals to exempt electrically assisted pedal cycles from certain licensing requirements.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Department notifying the Committee of its intention to consult on Ecclesiastical Exemption.

6. Dilapidated/Dangerous Buildings and Neglected Sites - Departmental briefing

Officials joined the meeting at 10.29am

The Committee was briefed by:

Mr Dave Foster Director of Regulatory and Natural Resources Policy
Division, DOE

Mr Simon Webb Regulatory and Natural Resources Policy Division,
DOE

Mr Karl Beattie Regulatory and Natural Resources Policy Division,
DOE

Officials took questions from Members in relation to the proposals in the consultation on dilapidated/dangerous buildings and neglected sites.

Officials left the meeting at 11.15am.

7. SL1 - The Taxis (Taximeters, Devices and Maximum Fares) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 - Departmental briefing

Officials joined the meeting at 11.15am.

The Committee was briefed by:

Ms Liz Loughran Director of Road Safety and Vehicle Registration
Division, DOE

Mr Michael O'Neill Taxis Act Implementation Team, DOE

Mr Alex Boyle Road Safety and Vehicle Registration Division, DOE

The Committee considered the Taxis (Taximeters, Devices and Maximum Fares) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content for the Department to proceed with the proposed statutory rule.

Officials left the meeting at 11.58am

8. SR 2016/95 The Waste (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016

Question put and agreed:

'The Committee for the Environment has considered SR 2016/95 The Waste (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 and, subject to the report of the Examiner of Statutory Rules, has no objection to the Rule.'

9. SR 2016/96 The Waste Management Licensing (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016

Question put and agreed:

'The Committee for the Environment has considered SR 2016/96 The Waste Management Licensing (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 and, subject to the report of the Examiner of Statutory Rules, has no objection to the Rule.'

10. SR 2016/115 The Planning (General Development Procedure) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016

Question put and agreed:

'The Committee for the Environment has considered SR 2016/115 The Planning (General Development Procedure) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016 and, subject to the report of the Examiner of Statutory Rules, has no objection to the Rule.'

11. SR 2016/116 The Planning (Hazardous Substances) (No.2) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016

Question put and agreed:

'The Committee for the Environment has considered SR 2016/116 The Planning (Hazardous Substances) (No.2) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 and, subject to the report of the Examiner of Statutory Rules, has no objection to the Rule.'

12. SR 2016/117 The Planning (Listed Buildings) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016

Question put and agreed:

'The Committee for the Environment has considered SR 2016/117 The Planning (Listed Buildings) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 and, subject to the report of the Examiner of Statutory Rules, has no objection to the Rule.'

13. SR 2016/119 The Groundwater (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016

Question put and agreed:

'The Committee for the Environment has considered SR 2016/119 The Groundwater (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 and, subject to the report of the Examiner of Statutory Rules, has no objection to the Rule.'

14. Draft SR - The Local Government (Standing Orders) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016

The Chairperson put the following motion to the Committee:

'The Committee for the Environment has considered the draft Local Government (Standing Orders) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 and, subject to the report of the Examiner of Statutory Rules, recommends that it is approved by the Assembly.'

The Committee divided: Ayes 2; Noes 0; Abstentions 4.

Ayes:

Ms Anna Lo MLA, Mr Alban Maginness MLA.

Noes:

None.

Abstentions:

Mrs Pam Cameron MLA, Mr Cathal Boylan MLA, Mr Ian Milne MLA, Mr Alastair Patterson MLA .

The motion was carried.

15. S.R. 2016/128 - The Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016

Question put and agreed:

'The Committee for the Environment has considered S.R. 2016/128 The Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 and, subject to the report of the Examiner of Statutory Rules, has no objection to the Rule.'

16. Local Government Auditors Draft Code of Audit Practice 2016

Question put and agreed:

'That the Committee for the Environment has considered the Local Government Auditors Draft Code of Audit Practice 2016 and recommends that it is approved by the Assembly.'

17. Post-Reform Strategic Central-Local Waste Management Discussions – NILGA Written Briefing

The Committee noted a written briefing from NILGA on Post-Reform Strategic Central-Local Waste Management Discussions.

18. Committee for the Environment: Draft Legacy Report

The Committee discussed its draft Legacy Report.

Agreed: The Committee agreed its legacy report and that it should be published on the Assembly website.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Clerk should include any factual information, including financial information and any Statutory Rules that might be laid before the Assembly dissolves.

19. Correspondence

The Committee noted correspondence from the Department regarding George Best Belfast City Airport Planning Agreement Modification.

The Committee noted a correspondence from the Department providing updated Seats for Sale and Extensions Log information supplied by George Best Belfast City Airport.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister providing the Executive Office in Brussels Report for November 2015 to February 2016.

The Committee noted two Explanatory memorandums on: Proposals for a Council Decision on the Conclusion of the Minamata Convention on Mercury; and Proposal for a Regulation on mercury.

20. Forward Work Programme

There was no forward work programme.

21. Any Other Business

The Chairperson thanked members and staff for their contribution to the work of the Committee over the mandate.

Members of the Committee also thanked the Chairperson and staff, past and present, for their contribution to the Committee.

22. Date, time and Place of next meeting

This was the final Committee meeting of the mandate.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 12.29pm.

Anna Lo, MLA
Chairperson, Committee for the Environment
15 March 2016