



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

THURSDAY, 11 FEBRUARY 2016

SENATE CHAMBER, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

- Present: Ms Anna Lo MLA (Chairperson)
Mrs Pam Cameron MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Cathal Boylan MLA
Mr Paul Girvan MLA
Mr William Irwin 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 Alban Maginness MLA
Mr Barry McElduff MLA
Mr Patsy McGlone MLA
Mr George Robinson MLA

The meeting began in public session at 10.24am with the following Members present: Ms Anna Lo (Chairperson); Mr Cathal Boylan; Mr Ian Milne; and Mr Alastair Patterson. In the absence of a decision-making quorum proceedings commenced in line with Standing Order 49(5).

1. Apologies.

The apologies are noted above.

2. Anaerobic policy and review of renewable energy policy – Departmental briefing

The Committee moved to agenda item 5.

Mrs Cameron joined the meeting at 10.26am

Officials joined the meeting at 10.27am.

The Committee was briefed by:

Mr Angus Kerr Director, Planning Policy Division, DOE

Mr Philip McGowan Planning Policy Division, DOE

Ms Joy Hargie Planning Policy Division, DOE

Mr Girvan joined the meeting at 10.46am.

Mr Irwin joined the meeting at 10.50am.

Mr Boylan left the meeting at 11.03pm

Mr Milne left the meeting at 11.03pm

Officials left the meeting at 11.05am.

The Committee noted correspondence from Windwatch NI.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the correspondence from Windwatch NI to the Department for written response to the issues raised. The Committee also agreed to seek a written update from officials on the Sea Gen and Rose Energy projects.

3. Chairperson's Business

The Committee moved to agenda item 2.

The Committee noted correspondence from Our Sperrins Our Future seeking a meeting with it.

Agreed: The Committee agreed, subject to diary commitments, to meet with the group on Monday 15th February 2016.

4. Minutes

The Committee moved to agenda item 3.

The minutes from the meetings held on 2nd February 2016 and 4th February 2016 were agreed.

5. Matters arising

The Committee moved to agenda item 4.

The Committee noted a response from the Department regarding concerns raised by the PSNI on the Waste Management Licensing (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016.

Mr Boylan rejoined the meeting at 11.08am.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department requesting an update from officials on its discussions with PSNI in relation to exemptions.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to representatives from the industry it previously met with to seek their views on the proposed legislation.

The Committee noted a response from the Department in relation to four proposals for an EU Directives relating to waste.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to ask to the Department to keep a watching brief on this matter; and to keep the incoming Committee informed on subsidiarity issues arising from EU Directives.

The Committee noted a copy of the Department's Taxi Driver Communication Bulletin.

The Committee noted a copy of the Department's response to the Committee for Regional Development's request for information on schemes to alleviate flooding and stormwater.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to ask for information on mechanisms/schemes which provide assistance for built heritage/listed buildings from the impact of flooding.

The Committee noted a response from Newry, Mourne and Down District Council providing statistics on Japanese Knotweed.

6. The Scrap Metal Dealers Bill – Formal Clause by Clause consideration.

The Committee commenced its formal clause by clause consideration of the Scrap Metal Dealers Bill.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that at its meeting on Tuesday 9 February 2016 it had reached a consensus that the Committee had run out of time to give proper consideration to all of the issues that had been raised on the Bill; including the amendments proposed by the Department, which impact on every clause other than Clause 21 (short title).

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the remaining time left in the Committee Stage would not be sufficient to resolve any outstanding issues.

Clauses 1 to 20.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it would group clauses 1 to 20 in the Scrap Metal Dealers Bill for the formal question.

“Question: That the Committee is not content to form a view of Clauses 1 to 20, as the Committee is unable to give proper consideration and scrutiny of the complex issues raised at Committee Stage within the time remaining, including that it does not have a full understanding of the impact that the Bill will have on the scrap metal industry, put and agreed to.”

Clause 21

“Question: That the Committee is content with the clause as drafted, put and agreed to.”

Schedules 1 and 2

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it would group schedules 1 and 2 in the Scrap Metal Dealers Bill for the formal question.

“Question: That the Committee is not content to form a view of Schedules 1 and 2, as the Committee is unable to give proper consideration and scrutiny of the complex issues raised at Committee Stage within the time remaining, including that it does not have a full understanding of the impact that the Bill will have on the scrap metal industry, put and agreed to.”

Long Title

“Question: That the Committee is content with the Long Title of the Bill, put and agreed to.”

Committee report

The Committee considered the draft Committee Report on the Scrap Metal Dealers Bill.

The Committee considered the Executive Summary section of the report.

Agreed: The Committee was content with the Executive Summary section as drafted.

The Committee considered the Introduction section of the report.

Agreed: The Committee was content with the Introduction section as drafted.

The Committee considered the Committee Approach section of the report.

Agreed: The Committee was content with the Committee Approach section as drafted.

The Committee considered the Key Issues section of the report.

Agreed: The Committee was content with the Key Issues section as drafted.

The Committee considered the Issues raised by the Department of the Environment section of the report.

Agreed: The Committee was content with the Issues raised by the Department of the Environment section as drafted.

The Committee considered the Issues addressed by the Sponsor of the Bill section of the report.

Agreed: The Committee was content with the Issues addressed by the Sponsor of the Bill section as drafted.

The Committee considered the Proposed Departmental Amendments section of the report.

Agreed: The Committee was content with the Proposed Departmental Amendments section as drafted.

The Committee considered the Summary of Other Evidence section of the report.

Agreed: The Committee was content with the Summary of Other Evidence section, subject to an amendment to paragraph 42.

Mr Girvan left the meeting at 11.38am

The Committee considered the Clause-by-Clause Consideration section of the report.

Agreed: The Committee was content with the Clause-by-Clause Consideration section of the report as drafted.

The Committee considered Appendices 1 to 6 of the draft Report.

Agreed: The Committee was content with Appendices 1 to 6.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content for the Chair to approve an extract from the minutes of the meeting on 9th February 2016; and the extract of the minutes of this meeting to be included in its report.

Agreed: The Committee ordered its report on the Scrap Metal Dealers Bill (NIA 307/11-16) to be printed.

Mr Girvan re-joined the meeting at 11.42am

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Business Committee expressing concern about the scheduling of Bills approaching the end of the Mandate.

7. Consultation

The Committee noted a Synopsis of Responses to the consultation on the draft Policy Guidance on the Identification and Designation of Quiet Areas.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department for the following: timescale of its further consultation with councils; whether the arising policy from this consultation requires legislative change; clarification on how the criteria for designated quiet areas was developed; and whether there is scope to add additional areas given the views expressed in the consultation.

8. SL1 - The Driver and Vehicle Agency Trading Fund Order (Northern Ireland) 2016

The Committee considered the Driver and Vehicle Agency Trading Fund Order (Northern Ireland) 2016.

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

9. SR 2016/27 The Planning (Local Development Plan) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016

Question put and agreed:

“The Committee for the Environment has considered SR 2016/27 The Planning (Local Development Plan) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 and, subject to the report of the Examiner of Statutory Rules, has no objection to the Rule.”

10. SR 2016/28 The Emissions Performance Standard Monitoring and Enforcement Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016

Question put and agreed:

“The Committee for the Environment has considered SR 2016/28 The Emissions Performance Standard Monitoring and Enforcement Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 and, subject to the report of the Examiner of Statutory Rules, has no objection to the Rule.”

11. Correspondence

The Committee noted a letter from the Minister advising of his decision on a planning application on the construction and operation of combined heat and power generating station.

The Committee noted an email from NICCY regarding its recent Fund-Mapping report.

The Committee noted the following Explanatory Memorandums: EU Report on the Shipment of Waste; and EU Report on Commitments to Kyoto Protocol.

The Committee noted the current Irish Environment Newsletter

12. Forward Work Programme

The Committee noted its Forward Work Programme.

13. Any Other Business

No other business was discussed

14. Date, time and Place of next meeting

The Committee noted that it would next meet on Thursday 18th February 2016, 10.00a.m. at the Lough Neagh Discovery Centre, Oxford Island to hold its river pollution stakeholder event.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 11.59pm.

Anna Lo, MLA
Chairperson, Committee for the Environment
23 February 2016