



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

MONDAY, 29 FEBRUARY 2016

SENATE CHAMBER, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

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

The meeting began in public session at 2.02pm.

1. Apologies.

The apologies are noted above.

Mr Milne joined the meeting at 2.03pm.

2. Chairs Business

The Committee noted a letter from the Minister accepting its invitation to brief it on Thursday 3rd March on the outcome of the proposals for a Climate Change Bill and the Climate Change Conference in Paris.

The Committee discussed other issues it wished to discuss with the Minister, including the outcome of the discussion paper on an independent

environment protection agency; funding; transfer of functions to new departments; flooding; and protection of historical assets.

3. Report on River Pollution stakeholder event – Written briefing

The Committee considered a draft report on its river pollution stakeholder event.

Mr McGlone joined the meeting at 2.11pm.

Agreed: The Committee agreed its draft issues paper following its stakeholder event on river pollution; and that it should be published.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the report to the Committee for Justice; the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development; and the Committee for Regional Development.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the following Motion on River pollution; and that 1.5 hours was sufficient for the debate:

‘That this Assembly notes the Report of the Committee for the Environment’s Stakeholder Event on River Pollution; and calls on the Minister of the Environment to work with his Executive colleagues and key stakeholders to take forward the actions identified in the Report in relation to fully implementing existing legislation, addressing the causes of pollution, monitoring, and enforcement.’

4. Local Government Auditors Draft Code of Audit Practice 2016 - Written briefing

The Committee considered a summary of responses to the consultation and the draft Local Government Auditors Draft Code of Audit Practice, which was laid in the Business Office.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with the draft code.

5. SL1 - The Waste Management Licensing (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016.

The Committee considered the Waste Management Licensing (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016.

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

6. SL1 - The Waste (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2016.

The Committee considered the Waste (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2016.

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

7. SL1 - Amendments to the Road Traffic Offenders (Northern Ireland) Order 1996 and the Motor Vehicles (Driving Licences) Regulations (NI) 1996.

The Committee considered amendments to the Road Traffic Offenders (Northern Ireland) Order 1996 and the Motor Vehicles (Driving Licences) Regulations (NI) 1996.

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

8. SL1 - The Taxi Licensing (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016

The Committee considered the Taxi Licensing (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016.

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

9. SL1 - The Planning (General Development Procedure) (Amendment) Order (NI) 2016

The Committee considered the Planning (General Development Procedure) (Amendment) Order (NI) 2016.

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

10. SL1 - The Planning (Hazardous Substances) (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2016

The Committee considered the Planning (Hazardous Substances) (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2016.

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

11. SL1 - The Planning (Listed Buildings) (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2016

The Committee considered the Planning (Listed Buildings) (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2016.

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

12. Draft SR The Driver and Vehicle Agency Trading Fund Order (Northern Ireland) 2016.

The Committee noted that the summary of responses to the consultation was laid in the Business Office.

Question put and agreed:

“The Committee for the Environment has considered The Driver and Vehicle Agency Trading Fund Order (Northern Ireland) 2016 and recommends that it is approved by the Assembly.”

13. Correspondence

The Committee considered the Retention and Disposal Schedule for Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with the schedule.

The Committee considered the Retention and Disposal Schedule for Ards and North Down Borough Council.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with the schedule.

The Committee considered the Retention and Disposal Schedule for Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with the schedule.

The Committee considered the Retention and Disposal Schedule for Derry City and Strabane District Council.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with the schedule.

The Committee considered the Retention and Disposal Schedule for Fermanagh and Omagh District Council.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with the schedule.

The Committee considered the Retention and Disposal Schedule for Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with the schedule.

The Committee noted a letter from Minister advising of his planning decision on a proposed redevelopment near Comber Road, Newtownards.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Finance and Personnel Committee regarding briefings it received on EU Funding Programmes PEACE IV and INTERREG V.

Mr Maginness joined the meeting at 2.26pm.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to ascertain if a funding programme relates to environment and sustainable transport; and a breakdown of the number of applications received on the environment theme.

The Committee noted correspondence from Lagan Rivers Trust providing information as part of the Committee’s review of river pollution.

The Committee noted a letter from the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development to the Department regarding Emergency Financial Assistance Scheme.

The Committee noted EU Explanatory Memorandums on the progress report of the implementation of the Water Framework Directive in the Danube River Basin; and Guidance on emissions and releases of Mercury.

14. Forward Work Programme

The Committee noted its Forward Work Programme.

15. Any Other Business

No other business was discussed.

Mr Milne left the meeting at 2.30pm

16. Date, time and Place of next meeting

The Committee noted that its next meeting will be held at 10.00am on Thursday 3rd March 2016 in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 2.32.

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