



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2020

Room 30, Parliament Buildings, Belfast

Present: Mr Colin McGrath MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Doug Beattie MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Ms Martina Anderson MLA
Mr Trevor Clarke MLA
Mr Trevor Lunn MLA
Ms Emma Sheerin MLA
Mr Christopher Stalford MLA

Apologies: Mr George Robinson MLA
Mr Pat Sheehan MLA

In Attendance: Ms Marie Austin (Assembly Clerk)
Mr Craig Mealey (Assistant Clerk)
Ms Carla Campbell (Assistant Clerk)
Ms Andrienne Magee (Clerical Officer)

The meeting commenced at 2.04pm in open session.

1. Apologies

As above.

2. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 29 July 2020.

3. Matters Arising

Common Frameworks and PEACE PLUS

The Committee considered a response from the Executive Office confirming an oral evidence session on Common Frameworks; providing information on the PEACE PLUS Programme; and, answering a Committee Member's written question.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that officials from the Department of Finance should accompany Executive Office officials when oral evidence is being taken on EU Funding Programmes.

Disability Action Plans

The Committee considered a response from the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland detailing those public authorities that do not have a current Disability Action Plan, and the actions being taken to ensure plans are developed.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request an update on the position at the end of December 2020.

The meeting was suspended at 2:08pm

The meeting resumed at 2:10pm

Victims' Payment Scheme

The Committee noted a response from the Executive Office providing further information on the Victims' Payment Scheme.

4. Shared Future Funding – Departmental Written Briefing

The Committee considered a departmental written briefing on Shared Future Funding.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Executive Office requesting further information on a range of issues in relation to Shared Future Funding.

5. Forward Work Programme

The Committee considered the Forward Work Programme for September to October 2020.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to move back the oral evidence session with the Community Relations Council on funding issues to October 2020.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to move forward the oral evidence session with Junior Ministers on Brexit issues to 23 September 2020.

6. Correspondence

- i. The Committee noted a letter from the Junior Ministers apologising for past delays in providing papers to the Committee and committing to the timely provision of papers and responses in the future.
- ii. The Committee noted correspondence from the Executive Office regarding the Joint Ministerial Committee (European Negotiations) meeting which was held on 3 September 2020. The Committee also noted a copy of the relevant UK Government Communique.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request that a written update on the key points made by Executive Ministers at the meeting is provided as soon as possible.

- iii. The Committee noted a copy of a response from the Executive Office to the Committee for Communities regarding social distancing for people with visual impairments.
- iv. The Committee noted correspondence from the Chair of the All Party Group on UNSCR 1325 Women Peace and Security regarding embedding gender equality in future policy and the COVID-19 response.
- v. The Committee considered correspondence from Fermanagh and Omagh District Council requesting to meet with the Committee to discuss issues of concern relating to Brexit.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to consider the meeting request as part of its Brexit scrutiny schedule.

- vi. The Committee noted the Northern Ireland Audit Office report: *Overview of the Northern Ireland Executive's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic*.
- vii. The Committee noted correspondence from Development Trusts NI attaching a copy of the report: *From Coronavirus to Community Wealth*.
- viii. The Committee noted: *Investment Strategy Northern Ireland - Investing Activity Report: August 2020*.

7. Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson informed Members that both he and the Deputy Chair had met informally with the First Minister and deputy First Minister on Tuesday 8 September 2020, and provided a summary of the issues discussed.

Mr Stalford joined the meeting at 2:21pm

8. Any Other Business

None.

9. Date, Time and Place of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 16 September 2020 at 2.00 pm in Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:22pm.

Mr Colin McGrath MLA
Chairperson, Committee for the Executive Office