

COMMITTEE FOR FINANCE AND PERSONNEL

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY, 29 APRIL 2015
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present:	Mr Daithí McKay MLA	(Chairperson)
	Ms Michaela Boyle MLA	
	Mrs Judith Cochrane MLA	
	Mr Leslie Cree MBE, MLA	
	Mr Paul Girvan MLA	
	Mr John McCallister MLA	
	Mr Ian McCrea MLA	
	Mr Adrian McQuillan MLA	
	Mr Peter Weir MLA	
In Attendance:	Mr Shane McAteer	(Assembly Clerk)
	Mrs Clairita Frazer	(Assistant Assembly Clerk)
	Mr Joe Westland	(Clerical Supervisor)
	Miss Heather Graham	(Clerical Officer)
Apologies:	Mr Dominic Bradley MLA	(Deputy Chairperson)
	Mr Máirtín Ó Muilleoir MLA	

The meeting commenced at 10:10am in public session.

Agreed: that agenda items 4 and 5 are covered by Hansard and the Official Report published on the Assembly's website.

1. Apologies

Apologies are detailed above.

2. Draft Minutes of Proceedings of 22 April 2015

Agreed: that the minutes are published on the Assembly website.

3. Matters Arising

Table of requests for information from the Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP)

The Committee noted the summary table of requests for information from DFP which provided an update on any matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

4. Review into the Operation of the Barnett Formula - Briefing from the Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy (CIPFA)

The Committee received a briefing on the 'Review into the Operation of the Barnett Formula' from the following representative of CIPFA:

- Alan Bermingham, Policy and Technical Manager, CIPFA.

This session was recorded by Hansard.

John McCallister joined the meeting at 10:15am

Ian McCrea joined the meeting at 10:15am

Paul Girvan joined the meeting at 10:29am

Adrian McQuillan left the meeting at 10:54am

Adrian McQuillan rejoined the meeting at 10:57am

Peter Weir left the meeting at 11:00am

Ian McCrea left the meeting at 11:03am

5. Measuring Wellbeing – Briefing from Carnegie UK Trust/Queen's University School of Law and DFP/Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA)

The Committee received a briefing from the following representatives in response to the recent Carnegie Roundtable report on measuring wellbeing in Northern Ireland:

- Ms Jennifer Wallace, Head of Policy, Carnegie UK Trust;
- Dr Peter Doran, Carnegie Roundtable Member and Associate/Queen's University School of Law;
- Ms Michelle Furphy, NISRA; and
- Dr Bernie Stuart, DFP.

This session was recorded by Hansard.

Peter Weir rejoined the meeting at 11:07am

Judith Cochrane joined the meeting at 11:10am

Ian McCrea rejoined the meeting at 11:16am

Adrian McQuillan left the meeting at 11:44am

Ian McCrea left the meeting at 11:44am

Peter Weir left the meeting at 11:55am

Michaela Boyle left the meeting at 12:13pm

Michaela Boyle rejoined the meeting at 12:16pm

Agreed: that Carnegie UK Trust/Queen's University School of Law will provide further detail on the results of any focus groups held on issues relating to rural communities during the work of the Roundtable.

6. Subordinate Legislation

S.R 2015/208 - The Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 (Disclosure of Patient Registration Information) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

Members considered the DFP papers relating to this statutory rule.

It was noted that the Examiner of Statutory Rules had confirmed that he has no points to raise by way of technical scrutiny in relation to the Rule.

Agreed: that the Committee has considered S.R 2015/208 - The Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 (Disclosure of Patient Registration Information) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and recommends that it be affirmed by the Assembly.

S.R. 2015/152 - The Whole of Government Accounts (Designation of Bodies) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015

Members considered the DFP papers relating to this statutory rule.

It was noted that the Examiner of Statutory Rules had confirmed that he has no points to raise by way of technical scrutiny in relation to the Rule.

Agreed: that the Committee has considered S.R. 2015/152 - The Whole of Government Accounts (Designation of Bodies) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015 and has no objection to the rule.

S.R. 2015/181 - The Public Service (Civil Servants and Others) Pensions (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

Members considered the DFP papers relating to this statutory rule.

It was noted that the Examiner of Statutory Rules had confirmed that he has no points to raise by way of technical scrutiny in relation to the Rule.

Agreed: that the Committee has considered S.R. 2015/181 - The Public Service (Civil Servants and Others) Pensions (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and has no objection to the rule.

7. Correspondence

The Committee noted the following correspondence:

- DFP – Alternative Dispute Resolution: Evaluation of Directive 2007/66/EC;

Agreed: to consider this issue during the next scheduled briefing on public procurement issues.

- DFP – Business Areas forthcoming business in the lead up to recess;

Agreed: to write to the Minister seeking an assurance that any Bills being brought forward by DFP will be expedited to ensure that there is sufficient time for Committee Stage scrutiny ahead of the end of mandate.

- DFP – Departmental Papers and Responses to Committee: Quarter 4, 2015;
- DFP – Draft Business Plan 2015-16;
- DFP – Enterprise Shared Services Performance against Business Planning Targets;
- DFP – Land and Property Services: Draft Collection and Recovery Strategy;
- DFP – Ministerial Briefing on DFP Strategic Priorities;

Agreed: to write to the Minister requesting a briefing on Ministerial strategic priorities at the Committee's first meeting following summer recess, which will inform the Committee's strategic planning workshop for the next session.

- DFP – Monitoring of Savings Delivery Plans, April - September 2014;

Agreed: to forward the DFP correspondence to the other statutory committees, encouraging them to examine the 2014-15 year-end performance of their departments, including the impact of the savings on frontline service delivery as applicable.

- DFP – Monthly Forecast Outturn Data, February 2014-15;
- DFP – Reform of Property Management Project: Work Programme;
- DFP – Final Response to Committee Inquiry Report on Flexible Working;

Agreed: to publish the response on the Committee web pages alongside the Inquiry Report.

- DFP – Response to Assembly Research: Corporation Tax (NI) Bill;
- DFP – Statutory Bereavement Damages;

Agreed: to copy the DFP correspondence to the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL) and the Committee for Justice for information.

- DFP – Voluntary Exit Scheme;

- Strategic Investment Board – Review of the use of social clauses and Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland Procurement Activity Report

Agreed: that extracts of the correspondence relating to the Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland Delivery Tracking System will be copied to the Construction Employers Federation for information.

- Colleges NI – Invite to the BEST Awards 27 May 2015;

Agreed: that any members wishing to attend the event will respond directly to Colleges NI.

- Consumer Council – Request by new Chairperson of the Consumer Council to meet with the Committee Chairperson;

Agreed: that the Chairperson will consider an informal meeting with the Consumer Council Chairperson pending receipt of a list of potential discussion topics.

- EU Matters Newsletter, April 2015.

8. Committee Work Programme

Agreed: to schedule a progress update briefing from DFP on implementation of the Northern Ireland Civil Service People Strategy.

Agreed: that the Committee work programme will be updated to reflect decisions taken today and published on the Committee's website.

9. Any other business

There was no other business.

10. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

In light of the General Election next week, the next scheduled meeting of the Finance and Personnel Committee will be held on Wednesday, 13 May 2015 at 10:00am, Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 12:32pm.

Mr Daithí McKay MLA
Chairperson
Committee for Finance and Personnel
13 May 2015