



Northern Ireland
Assembly

**COMMITTEE FOR INFRASTRUCTURE
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

WEDNESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2020

SENATE CHAMBER, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present: Ms Michelle McIlveen MLA (Chairperson)
Mr David Hilditch MLA (Deputy-Chairperson)
Ms Martina Anderson MLA
Mr Roy Beggs MLA
Mr Cathal Boylan MLA
Mr Keith Buchanan MLA
Mrs Dolores Kelly MLA (*via Starleaf*)
Ms Liz Kimmins MLA (*via Starleaf*)
Mr Andrew Muir MLA (*via Starleaf*)

Apologies: None

In Attendance: Mrs Alison Ross (Assembly Clerk)
Mr Vincent Gribbin (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Johnny Lawless (Clerical Supervisor)
Mr William Kinnear (Clerical Officer)

The meeting commenced in open session at 10:06 am.

1. Apologies

As above.

2. Chairpersons Business

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department regarding Common Frameworks, specifically requesting the following information:

- That the Department confirm which frameworks fall within the Department's remit – either where the Department leads, or where it is a cross-cutting policy;

- That the Department confirm which of the frameworks identified are legislative or non-legislative and for each Framework can it provide a list of any legislation (either primary or secondary) required for its implementation;
- That the Department identify the extent to which the provisions of these frameworks are subject to the outcome of the negotiations of the UK's future relationship with the European Union;
- For each Framework that the Department provide a timeline for provision of the summary document, provisional framework and expected implementation date;
- For each framework that the Department set out the nature of the it's engagement with sector stakeholders and experts, including other devolved legislatures;
- For each framework that the Department provide details on what the current arrangements under EU law in this policy area are;
- Detail on the purpose of each framework, what it does, why it is needed and whether it replicates, in part or in full, EU law/policy; and
- What form each Framework will take (e.g. Memorandum of Understanding, Concordat) and include a reason why it will take this form.

3. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 18 November 2020.

4. Matters Arising

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Minister for Infrastructure requesting that she advise the Committee of her Department's intentions to remedy the issues raised in relation to SR 2020-218 The Planning Act 2011 (Review) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020 by the Examiner of Statutory Rules and to offer the Minister support if she decides to bring forward an amendment to the underpinning primary legislation.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to seek legal advice from the Assembly Secretariat regarding the Committee's position in respect of SR 2020-218 and the options left to the Committee with respect to the Statutory Rule.

5. Correspondence

Correspondence from the Committee for Finance regarding the PEACE PLUS Programme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Response from the Ministerial Advisory Panel on Infrastructure to queries raised during the briefing on 11 November 2020.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

Correspondence from the Committee for Communities regarding the Committee stage of The Licensing and Registration of Clubs (Amendment) Bill.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

10:18 am Mr Roy Beggs joined the meeting.

Correspondence from Belfast Public Hire Taxis regarding issues relating to the financial support scheme for taxi drivers.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the relevant extract from the Ministerial response following the Committee meeting on 11 November 2020.

Response from the Minister for Infrastructure to Committee correspondence regarding issues arising from the Committee meeting on 4 November 2020.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response and forward extracts of the response to the relevant parties referenced in the correspondence.

Copy of the Twenty-Ninth Report of the Examiner for Statutory Rules of the Session 2019-2020.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the report.

Response from Logistics UK to Committee correspondence regarding COVID mitigation discussions with the Department for Infrastructure.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the correspondence to the Department endorsing Logistics NI's request for support for the sector.

Department for Infrastructure correspondence regarding changes to the Administrative Guidance for EU Exit Transition Period Statutory Instruments.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Copy of the Thirtieth Report of the Examiner for Statutory Rules of the Session 2019-2020.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the report.

Correspondence from Mr James Myles regarding issues relating to the financial support scheme for taxi drivers.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the relevant extract from the Ministerial response following the Committee meeting on 11 November 2020.

Correspondence from Belfast International Airport regarding the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule a briefing from Belfast International Airport at its meeting on 2 December 2020.

Correspondence from Mr Connor McGinley regarding issues relating to the financial support scheme for taxi drivers.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the relevant extract from the Ministerial response following the Committee meeting on 11 November 2020.

Minister for Infrastructure response to Committee correspondence regarding issues arising from the Committee meeting on 11 November 2020.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response and forward extracts of the response to the relevant parties referenced in the correspondence.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule an informal Starleaf meeting with individual Taxi Drivers who have contacted the Committee to discuss their concerns in respect of the eligibility criteria for the Taxi Driver funding scheme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Minister regarding the concerns Taxi Drivers have about the Covid funding package, to request information on what she proposes to do about the adverse impact the eligibility criteria are having for those seeking to benefit from the scheme and in particular the issues around taxi insurance; and to request information on the Audit Office recommendations pertaining to the insurance issue.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Minister requesting copies of her correspondence with the Ministers for Infrastructure, Communities and Economy relevant to the Taxi Driver funding scheme.

6. Subordinate Legislation – SR’s – Not Subject to Assembly proceedings

- The Committee considered the following SRs not subject to any Assembly proceedings.
 - SR 2020-240 The Road Traffic (Amendment) (2016 Act) (Commencement No.2) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020.
 - SR 2020-257 The Parking Places (Disabled Persons’ Vehicles) (Amendment No.2) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020.
 - SR 2020-259 The Roads (Speed Limit) (No.2) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020.
 - SR 2020-260 The Roads (Speed Limit) (No.3) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020.
 - SR 2020-263 The Parking Places (Disabled Persons’ Vehicles) (Amendment No.3) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020.
 - SR 2020-264 The Parking and Waiting Restrictions (Dromore) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020.
 - SR 2020-266 The Roads (Speed Limit) (No.4) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020.
 - SR 2020-270 The Parking Places (Disabled Persons’ Vehicles) (Amendment No. 4) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the Statutory Rules.

7. SR 2020-252 The Regulation (EC) No 1370/2007 (Public Service Obligations in Transport) (Amendment) (EU Exit) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2020

The Committee considered SR 2020-252 The Regulation (EC) No 1370/2007 (Public Service Obligations in Transport) (Amendment) (EU Exit) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2020. The purpose of the Rule is to address failures of retained EU law to operate effectively and other deficiencies (in particular under paragraph 3 of schedule 2) arising from the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union.

Agreed: The Committee considered SR 2020-252 The Regulation (EC) No 1370/2007 (Public Service Obligations in Transport) (Amendment) (EU Exit) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2020, and, subject to the Examiner of Rules has no objection to the rule.

8. SR 2020-258 The Killyvally Road, Garvagh (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020

The Committee considered SR 2020-258 The Killyvally Road, Garvagh (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020. The purpose of the rule is to abandon an area of 1351 square metres of former road at Killyvally Road, Garvagh, commencing at a point 102 metres east of its junction with Station Road, Garvagh and extending for 127.8 metres in an easterly direction along the front of Nos. 6-10 Killyvally Road, after completion of such works as the Department considers necessary to provide alternative facilities.

Agreed: The Committee considered SR 2020-258 The Killyvally Road, Garvagh (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020, and, subject to the Examiner of Rules has no objection to the rule.

9. SR 2020-265 The Seagoe Industrial Estate, Craigavon (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020

The Committee considered SR 2020-265 The Seagoe Industrial Estate, Craigavon (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020. The purpose of the rule is to abandon an area of 3914.02 square metres of road consisting of five areas of footpath, carriageway and verge at Seagoe Industrial Estate, Craigavon after the completion of such works as the Department considers necessary to provide alternative facilities for road traffic.

Agreed: The Committee considered SR 2020-265 The Seagoe Industrial Estate, Craigavon (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020, and, subject to the Examiner of Rules has no objection to the rule.

10. SR 2020-271 The Mount Pleasant, Townhill Road, Portglenone (Stopping-Up) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020

The Committee considered SR 2020-271 The Mount Pleasant, Townhill Road, Portglenone (Stopping-Up) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020. The purpose of the rule is to stop-up Mount Pleasant, Portglenone at its northern junction with Townhill Road at a line commencing at a point on the northern edge of the carriageway of Mount Pleasant and extending for a distance of 10 metres in a southerly direction.

Agreed: The Committee considered SR 2020-271 The Mount Pleasant, Townhill Road, Portglenone (Stopping-Up) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020, and, subject to the Examiner of Rules has no objection to the rule.

11. SR 2020-273 The A26 Crankill Road Central Reservation, Ballymena (Stopping-Up) Order 2020

The Committee considered SR 2020-273 The A26 Crankill Road Central Reservation, Ballymena (Stopping-Up) Order 2020. The purpose of the Rule is to stop-up a gap in the central reservation of the A26 Crankill Road, Ballymena dual carriageway at a point 352 metres south of its junction with Kildowney Road for a distance of 10 metres in a southerly direction.

Agreed: The Committee considered SR 2020-273 The A26 Crankill Road Central Reservation, Ballymena (Stopping-Up) Order 2020, and, subject to the Examiner of Rules has no objection to the rule.

12. Departmental Briefing – PC 21

The Departmental officials joined the meeting at 10:38 am.

Ms Linda MacHugh, Acting Deputy Secretary, Resources, Governance and EU
Mr Damian Curran, Acting Director, Water and Drainage Policy Division

The Departmental officials provided the Committee with an oral briefing.

The oral evidence session was reported by Hansard.

A question and answer session followed.

The Chairperson thanked the Departmental officials for their attendance.

The Departmental officials left the meeting at 11:56 am.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department seeking further information on the following issues:

- What is the possible financial impact of the Brexit scenarios of a deal or no deal on the cost of the maintenance of the water and sewage infrastructure
- Given the tight financial situation what are the criteria used under PC21 to approve and decline projects.

- Is a lack of capital funding preventing projects going ahead that would save money in the longer term.
- How does PC21 fit with each of the Local Development Plans, what discussion takes place on this interconnection and details of any engagement with the Department for Communities on housing strategies.

13. Briefing from the Community Transport Association

The representatives joined the meeting at 11:58 am.

Mr Tim Cairns, Director for Policy and Public Affairs, Community Transport Association
 Mr Paddy McEldowney, Chief Executive, Easilink Community Transport
 Mrs Ashley Keane, Chief Executive, Out and About Community Transport

Martina Anderson left the meeting at 11:59pm

The representatives provided the Committee with an oral briefing.

The oral evidence session was reported by Hansard.

A question and answer session followed.

The Chairperson thanked the representatives for their attendance.

Liz Kimmins left the meeting at 12:50pm

The representatives left the meeting at 1:04 pm.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Minister seeking further information on funding for the Community Transport sector, including from Covid mitigation funds. What discussions the Minister intends to have with the Ministers for Health and Communities regarding funding given the benefit their Department's receive from Community Transport and what the Minister intends to do with respect to Section 22 of the Transport Act that would assist Community Transport and the overall public transport system.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Committee for Communities and the Committee for Health, regarding the benefits for their respective Department's in funding Community Transport; to see if any pressure can be added in respect of assistance for funding and to provide them with the Community Transport Association briefing papers.

14. Forward Work Programme

The Committee considered the Draft Forward Work Programme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the Forward Work Programme with the inclusion of a briefing from Belfast International Airport on 2 December 2020.

15. Any Other Business

None

16. Date, Time and Place of next meeting

The Committee agreed that the next meeting would be on Wednesday, 2 December 2020 at 9:30 am in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

The Committee adjourned at 13:06 pm

Ms Michelle McIlveen MLA
Chairperson, Committee for Infrastructure

2 December 2020