



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

**COMMITTEE FOR INFRASTRUCTURE
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

WEDNESDAY, 26 FEBRUARY 2020

THE SENATE CHAMBER, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present: Ms Michelle McIlveen MLA (Chairperson)
Ms Martina Anderson MLA
Mr Roy Beggs MLA
Mr Cathal Boylan MLA
Mr Keith Buchanan MLA
Mrs Dolores Kelly MLA
Ms Liz Kimmins MLA
Mr Andrew Muir MLA

Apologies: Mr David Hilditch MLA (Deputy-Chairperson).

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

The meeting commenced in open session at 10:04 am.

1. Apologies

As above.

2. Chairpersons Business

None.

3. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 19 February 2020.

4. Matters Arising

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule a briefing by the Utility Regulator on the Price Control 2021 into the Forward Work Programme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department requesting an update on the ongoing issue with MOT Test Centres including information on the outcome of the Engineer's Report, whether the lift manufacturer is liable, if there is a need to consider new legislation given that the 4 month exemption period will soon be coming to an end and clarification on emissions tests.

5. Correspondence

Correspondence from Northern Ireland Greenways congratulating the Chairperson on her appointment and requesting to brief the Committee.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence and to schedule a briefing from Northern Ireland Greenways in the Forward Work Programme.

Correspondence from CBI inviting the Chairperson to address their Infrastructure Working Group.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Chairperson is able to attend future events as and when they arise.

Ministerial response to issues arising from her briefing to the Committee on 5 February 2020.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department requesting further information in respect of EU Funding established under the Department for Research & Development, InterReg Funding and how the gap in funding is to be filled.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule a Departmental briefing in respect of the Community Transport Programme.

Correspondence from a member of the public highlighting concerns around quarry regulation.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note and forward to the Department for information and comment and to seek an update on regulations relating to quarry licenses.

Correspondence from the Chartered Institution of Highways and Transportation inviting the Chairperson to attend their Northern Ireland Region Annual Dinner.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the invitation and that the Chairperson should attend.

6. Departmental Briefing – Regional Planning & Strategic Planning

The Departmental officials joined the meeting at 10:15 am

Mr Angus Kerr, Chief Planner and Director of Regional Planning
Mr Alistair Beggs, Director of Strategic Planning
Mr Scott Symington, Head of Operational Governance
Ms Susan Wilkin, Head of Plan Scrutiny

The officials provided the Committee with a briefing on Regional Planning & Strategic Planning.

Ms McIlveen, Chairperson, declared an interest as her brother is a serving member of the Planning Committee on Ards & North Down Borough Council

The oral evidence was followed by a question and answer session.

Mr Muir declared an interest as a former Councillor for Ards & North Down Borough Council and as a former employee of Translink.

Agreed: The Departmental officials agreed to consider any lessons learned from the review carried out of waste disposal at the Mobuoy site.

Agreed: The Departmental officials agreed to provide information on the number of retrospective planning applications and the dates when they were approved.

The oral evidence session was reported by Hansard.

The Chairperson thanked the officials for their attendance.

The Departmental officials left the meeting at 11:54 am.

The meeting suspended at 11:54

The meeting reconvened at 11:56

Agreed: The Committee agreed to postpone Agenda Item 7 until a future date.

7. Departmental Briefing – Rivers & Flooding

Agreed: The Committee agreed to postpone the briefing on Rivers & Flooding and reschedule it to a future date in the Forward Work Programme.

8. Forward Work Programme

The Committee considered the Draft Forward Work Programme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the forward work programme as amended.

9. Any Other Business

None.

10. Date, Time and Place of next meeting

The Committee noted that the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 4 March 2020, at 10:00 am in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The Committee adjourned at 11:57 am

**Ms Michelle McIlveen MLA
Chairperson, Committee for Infrastructure**

4 March 2020