



Committee for Infrastructure

Minutes of Proceedings

28 April 2021

Meeting Location: Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings

Present: Ms Michelle McIlveen MLA (Chairperson)
Mr David Hilditch MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Keith Buchanan MLA

Present by Video or Teleconference:

Ms Martina Anderson MLA
Mr Roy Beggs MLA
Mr Cathal Boylan MLA
Mrs Dolores Kelly MLA
Ms Liz Kimmins MLA
Mr Andrew Muir MLA

Apologies: None

In Attendance: Mr Nick Henry (Assembly Clerk)
Mr Jonathan Lawless (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr William Kinnear (Clerical Supervisor)



The meeting commenced at 10:03 am in open session

1. Apologies

As above.

2. Chairpersons Business

Agreed: The Committee agreed write to the Minister for Infrastructure regarding the Court of Appeal decision on the awarding of Roads Maintenance Contracts by the Department for Infrastructure, what was the legal basis for proceeding to the Court of Appeal.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule a briefing from the Department on wider procurement process and awarding of contracts within the Department.

3. Draft Minutes.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 28 April 2021.

4. Matters Arising

None.



5. Correspondence

Response from Mrs Florence Robinson to a Departmental response regarding concerns over cycle paths in Ballymena.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

Response from Mid & East Antrim Borough Council to the Committee call for evidence on the Decarbonising Road Transport in Northern Ireland Inquiry.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response and include in the inquiry report.

Response from the Department for the Economy to the Committee call for evidence on the Decarbonising Road Transport in Northern Ireland Inquiry.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response and include in the inquiry report.

Response from the Road Haulage Association to the Committee call for evidence on the Decarbonising Road Transport in Northern Ireland Inquiry.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response and include in the inquiry report.

Response from Retail NI regarding proposals for Rural Town and Village Infrastructure Fund and other challenges.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

Response from Waterways Ireland to Committee request for additional information on funding.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.



Copy of the Examiner for Statutory Rules Thirty-fourth Report of the Session 2020-2021

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the report.

Correspondence from the Department for Infrastructure regarding the Review of Strategic Planning Policy on Renewable & Low Carbon Energy.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence

Correspondence from the Committee for the Economy providing follow-up information from HMRC and Trader Support Services following the joint meeting on the Northern Ireland Protocol.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Response from Translink to Committee correspondence providing support for the public transport workers who were attacked.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to suspend the Committee meeting at 11:00 am to observe a one minute's silence to mark International Workers Memorial Day 2021, in particular to remember those who have lost their lives during the COVID-19 pandemic.

6. SL1 - Trunk Road T4 Loughbrickland to Hillsborough (A1 Junctions Phase 2) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021

The Departmental officials joined the meeting at 10:09 am.

Mr John Irvine, Director of Major Projects & Procurement
Mr David Millar, Head of Lands
Mr Liam McEvoy, Southern Division Strategic Road Improvement Manager



The Departmental officials provided the Committee with an oral briefing.

A question and answer session followed.

Agreed: The officials agreed to provide the Committee with further information on the inclusion of CCTV at the new bus stops proposed as part of the A1 road works.

Agreed: The officials agreed to provide the Committee with further information on the impact on financial planning due to the loss of EU funding and delay in UK government providing replacement funding scheme.

Agreed: The officials agreed to provide the Committee with further information on the number of road accidents along the stretch of A1.

Mrs Kelly left the meeting at 10:43 am.

Agreed: The Committee was content with the proposal for the Statutory Rule.

Agreed: The Committee also considered SL1 - The Private Accesses on the Trunk Road T4 ("The A1 Junctions Phase 2 – Loughbrickland to Hillsborough") (Stopping-Up) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021 and was content with the proposal for the Statutory Rule.

The Departmental officials left the meeting at 10:58 am.

The Committee agreed to suspend at 10:58 am to observe a minute's silence to mark International Workers Memorial Day 2021

The Committee resumed at 11:02 am.

Present: Ms Michelle McIlveen MLA (Chairperson)
Mr David Hilditch MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Keith Buchanan MLA



Present by Video or Teleconference:

Ms Martina Anderson MLA

Mr Roy Beggs MLA

Mr Cathal Boylan MLA

Ms Liz Kimmins MLA

Mr Andrew Muir MLA

7. SL1 - The Trunk Road T2 (Ballynahinch Bypass) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021.

The Departmental officials joined the meeting at 11:02 am.

Mr John Irvine, Director of Major Projects & Procurement

Mr David Millar, Head of Lands

Mr Liam McEvoy, Southern Division Strategic Road Improvement Manager

The Departmental officials provided the Committee with an oral briefing.

A question and answer session followed.

Agreed: The officials agreed to provide the Committee with further information on the expected improvement in journey times that will be realised by the T2 initiative.

The Chairperson thanked the Departmental officials for their attendance.

The Departmental officials left the meeting at 11:21 am.

Agreed: The Committee was content with the proposal for the Statutory Rule.



8. Departmental Briefing – Living with water in Belfast

The Departmental officials joined the meeting at 11:21 am.

Mr Simon Richardson, Director of Living with Water Programme (*via Starleaf*)
Mr Stuart Wightman, Programme Manager Living with Water Programme (*via Starleaf*)

The Departmental officials provided the Committee with an oral briefing.

A question and answer session followed.

Agreed: The officials agreed to respond to any further questions from Members in writing.

The Chairperson thanked the Departmental officials for their attendance.

The Departmental officials left the meeting at 12:00 pm.

9. Forward Work Programme

The Committee considered the Draft Forward Work Programme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the Forward Work Programme.

10. Any Other Business

None.



11. Date, Time and Place of the next meeting

The Committee agreed that the next meeting would be on Wednesday, 5 May 2021 at 10:00 am in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm.

Ms Michelle McIlveen MLA
Chairperson, Committee for Infrastructure

5 May 2021