



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

**COMMITTEE FOR INFRASTRUCTURE
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

WEDNESDAY, 16 NOVEMBER 2016

SENATE CHAMBER, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

- Present:** Mr William Humphrey (Chairperson)
- Mr George Robinson MLA (Deputy-Chairperson)
Mrs Kellie Armstrong MLA
Mr Declan McAleer MLA
Mr Eamonn McCann MLA
Mr Fra McCann MLA
Mr Justin McNulty MLA
Mrs Jenny Palmer MLA
- In Attendance:** Mrs Cathie White (Assembly Clerk)
Mr Johnny Lawless (Clerical Supervisor)
Mrs Sharon Young (Clerical Officer)
Mr Daniel Lowe (Legislative Studies and Practice Student)
- Apologies:** Mr Alex Easton MLA
Mr Daniel McCrossan MLA

10:03 am The meeting opened in public session.

1. Apologies

Apologies are detailed above.

2. Chairpersons Business

- The Committee discussed the itinerary for the Committee's Road Safety Stakeholder Event on Wednesday 23 November 2016.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to provide food at the event.

- The Committee considered a draft press release for its visit to the Ards Peninsula Coastal Erosion Group on Wednesday 23 November 2016.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Press Release should issue after the visit.

10:08 am Mr Declan McAleer joined the meeting.

- The Committee discussed the Ministerial announcement regarding his intention to proceed with the York Street Interchange scheme in readiness of funding becoming available.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to issue a Press Release welcoming the Ministerial announcement.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 26 October 2016 & 8 November 2016.

Agreed: The minutes of the meeting on 26 October 2016 were agreed.

Agreed: The minutes of the meeting on 8 November 2016 were agreed.

4. Matters Arising

None.

5. Correspondence

- Correspondence from the Committee for Finance providing an Assembly Research and Information Service Paper on the Budget 2017-2018.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Departmental correspondence regarding the Belfast Rapid Transit Projects Public Information Events.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Correspondence from Belfast City Council regarding the Committee meeting and visit on 7 December 2016.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Departmental correspondence providing an update on the noise at George Best Airport.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Correspondence from the Committee for the Executive Office regarding the Draft Departments (Transfer of Functions) (No.2) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Correspondence from the Inclusive Mobility and Transport Advisory Committee regarding the impact of changes to Blue Badge Legislation.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to IMTAC requesting information on their membership and whom they represent.

- Correspondence from the Northern Ireland Executive Office Brussels providing a Report for August – October 2016.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Correspondence from the Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland providing the Department for Infrastructure Investing Activity Report – October 2016.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Departmental response regarding Blue Badge Unit Statistical Information.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

- Community Transport NI response providing a submission to the Minister for Infrastructure.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

- Departmental response regarding money spent on the A5 and A6 Roads.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

- Departmental response regarding Gritting Issues.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

- The Honourable The Irish Society response following the Waterways Ireland Briefing.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response and to forward to Waterways Ireland for information.

- Departmental response regarding Integrated and Community Transport.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

- Departmental response regarding a breakdown of Departmental Pressures and Spending Plans.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

- Correspondence from the Minister for Infrastructure regarding a Planning Application for Wind Farm at Gruggandoo, Mullagharriff Road, Newry, Co. Down.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Departmental correspondence regarding the introduction of legislation to deal with breath testing at authorised check-points.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Correspondence from FloodRe requesting to meet informally with the Committee Chairperson to discuss affordable flood insurance.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to meet informally with FloodRe.

10:11 am Mr George Robinson joined the meeting.

- Correspondence from a member of the public regarding the erection of wind turbines across Northern Ireland.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence and forward to the Department for information and comment.

- Correspondence from the Policy Forum for Northern Ireland confirming the Chairing of a Seminar by Mr William Humphrey MLA.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Correspondence from the Policy Forum for Northern Ireland confirming the Chairing of a Seminar by Mrs Jenny Palmer MLA.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Departmental response regarding the Public Accounts Committee Report on the Effectiveness of Public Transport in Northern Ireland.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response and forward to Mr Savage for information.

- Correspondence from the Minister for Infrastructure regarding a Planning Application for a mixed use development on land South-East of Comber By-Pass.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Correspondence from the Minister for Infrastructure accepting the invitation to the Committee Road Safety Stakeholder Event.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Correspondence from the Committee for the Executive Office regarding the implications for Northern Ireland Civil Service Departments following Brexit.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Correspondence from the Committee for Finance regarding the monthly forecast outturn data.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Departmental correspondence regarding incorrect information provided on the Taxis Act.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- An invitation from CRASH to Northern Ireland Road Safety Awards 2016.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the invitation.

- An invitation from NI Water to the Launch of the ‘Don’t Wait Insulate’ Campaign.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the invitation.

6. Subordinate Legislation – SL1’s Not Subject to Assembly Proceedings

- The Committee considered the following SL1’s which are not subject to any Assembly proceedings.
 - SL1 – The Parking Places (Disabled Persons Vehicles) (Amendment) (No.4) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016
 - SL1 - The Roads (Speed Limit) (No.4) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016
 - SL1 - The Parking and Waiting Restrictions (Belfast) (Amendment No. 5) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016
 - SL1 - The Waiting Restrictions (Ballynure) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it is content to note the proposals for the Statutory Rules.

7. SL1 - The A509 Derrylin Road, Kinawley (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016

The Committee considered SL1 - The A509 Derrylin Road, Kinawley (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content to note the proposal for the Statutory Rule.

8. SL1 - The Carryduff Road and Saintfield Road, Temple Crossroads, Lisburn (Abandonment and Stopping-Up) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016

The Committee considered SL1 - The Carryduff Road and Saintfield Road, Temple Crossroads, Lisburn (Abandonment and Stopping-Up) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content to note the proposal for the Statutory Rule.

9. SL1 - The Passenger and Goods Vehicles (Recording Equipment) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016

The Committee considered SL1 - The Passenger and Goods Vehicles (Recording Equipment) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content to note the proposal for the Statutory Rule.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department inquiring if the legislation poses any difficulties for their income targets.

10. SL1 - The Coronation Park, Dundonald (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016

The Committee considered SL1 - The Coronation Park, Dundonald (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content to note the proposal for the Statutory Rule.

11. SL1 - The Level Crossing (Bellarena) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016

The Committee considered SL1 - The Level Crossing (Bellarena) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content to note the proposal for the Statutory Rule.

12. SL1 - The Level Crossing (Castlerock) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016

The Committee considered SL1 - The Level Crossing (Castlerock) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content to note the proposal for the Statutory Rule.

13. SL1 - The Level Crossing (Coleraine (Bushmills Road)) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016

The Committee considered SL1 - The Level Crossing (Coleraine (Bushmills Road)) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content to note the proposal for the Statutory Rule.

14. Subordinate Legislation - SRs - Not Subject to Assembly Proceedings

- The Committee considered the following SRs which are not subject to any Assembly proceedings.
 - SR 2016-381 The Parking and Waiting Restrictions (Newtownabbey) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016
 - SR 2016-380 The Cycle Routes (Amendment No.2) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016
 - SR 2016-379 The Belfast Road, Carrickfergus (Part Time 20mph Speed Limit) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content to note the proposals for the Statutory Rules.

10:19 am Mr Justin McNulty joined the meeting

15. SR 2016-000 The Water Meter Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016

Agreed: That the Committee for Infrastructure has considered SR 2016-000 The Water Meter Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 and has no objection to the rule.

16. SR 2016-378 The Richmond Crescent, Bangor (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016

Agreed: That the Committee for Infrastructure has considered SR 2016-378 The Richmond Crescent, Bangor (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016 and has no objection to the rule.

17. SR 2016-382 The Church Street, Mullagh Road, Maghera (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016

Agreed: That the Committee for Infrastructure has considered SR 2016-382 The Church Street, Mullagh Road, Maghera (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016 and has no objection to the rule.

18. SR 2016-383 The Baronscourt Lane, Carryduff (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016

Agreed: That the Committee for Infrastructure has considered SR 2016-383 The Baronscourt Lane, Carryduff (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016 and has no objection to the rule.

19. SR 2016-392 The Groganstown Road, Belfast (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016

Agreed: That the Committee for Infrastructure has considered SR 2016-392 The Groganstown Road, Belfast (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016 and has no objection to the rule.

20. Departmental Evidence Session – Roads Winter Maintenance Programme

10:23 am The Departmental officials joined the meeting.

The Committee was briefed by Mr John Irvine, Director of Network Service, Mr Aloysius Loughran, Network Services and Mr George Montgomery, Network Services.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

Agreed: The Departmental officials agreed to provide clarification to the Committee on the use of grit boxes and whether the theft of salt constitutes a criminal offence.

Agreed: The Departmental officials agreed to provide information to the Committee on whether the Ligoniel Primary School and Forth River Primary School are covered by the gritting schedule.

Agreed: The Departmental officials agreed to consider whether community groups could help with gritting.

Agreed: The Departmental officials agreed to provide information to the Committee regarding whether the B47 Road should be added to the gritting schedule.

Agreed: The Departmental officials agreed to provide the Committee with the out of hours number for reporting problems.

11:07 am The Departmental officials left the meeting.

21. Departmental Briefing - Consultations on Renewable Energy Development and Development of the Countryside - Summary of Responses

11:07 am The Departmental officials joined the meeting.

The Committee was briefed by Mr Angus Kerr, Director of Planning Policy, Ms Joy Hargie, Planning Policy and Mr Adrian Gribben, Planning Policy.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

11:36 am Mr Declan McAleer left the meeting.

11:43 am Mr Fra McCann left the meeting.

11:55 am Mrs Kellie Armstrong left the meeting.

11:59 am The Departmental officials left the meeting.

22. Draft Forward Work Programme

The Committee considered the draft Forward Work Programme to December 2016.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the draft forward work programme to December 2016.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Department would brief the Committee on taxis and bus lanes on 7 December 2016.

23. Any Other Business

- The Committee discussed the traffic congestion in Belfast City Centre on Tuesday 15 November 2016.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Chief Constable of the Police Service for Northern Ireland to ascertain the role of the Police Service of Northern Ireland in managing incidents of major traffic congestion when they occur.

24. Date, time and place of next meeting

The Committee noted that the next meeting should be held on Wednesday, 30 November 2016 at 10:00 am in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The Committee noted that it will be visiting Ards Peninsula Coastal Erosion Group on Wednesday 23 November 2016.

12:13 pm The Chairperson adjourned the meeting.

Mr William Humphrey MLA
Chairperson, Committee for Infrastructure

30 November 2016