



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

**COMMITTEE FOR INFRASTRUCTURE
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

WEDNESDAY, 7 DECEMBER 2016

THE CONNOR ROOM, BELFAST CITY HALL

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

Apologies: None

10:01 am The meeting opened in public session.

1. Apologies

Apologies are detailed above.

2. Chairpersons Business

- The Committee considered an updated timetable from the Committee for Finance regarding responses to the Budget Statement.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule a meeting on 17 January 2017 to receive a briefing from the Assembly Research and Information Service on the Budget.

- The Committee considered a draft response to the Draft Programme for Government.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the response to the Committee for the Executive Office.

- The Committee considered a Departmental update on the reduction in the Blue Badge Scheme backlog and a draft press release welcoming the reduction.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to issue the press release.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 30 November 2016.

Agreed: The minutes of the meeting on 30 November 2016 were agreed.

4. Matters Arising

None.

5. Correspondence

- Correspondence from a member of the public regarding inadequate road signage in the Stranmillis Area.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence and write to the individual advising him to contact his local elected representatives.

- Response from the Police Service for Northern Ireland regarding the management of major traffic congestion incidents in Belfast.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

- Correspondence from the Committee for Education to the Minister for Infrastructure regarding its inquiry into educational underachievement.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Correspondence from the Strategic Investment Board providing the Department for Infrastructure's Investing Activity Report – November 2016.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Correspondence from Sustrans requesting to brief the Committee on their CHIPS Project.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule a briefing in the forward work programme.

- Response from IMTAC providing details of its Membership and requesting to brief the Committee.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule a briefing in the forward work programme.

- Departmental response regarding the erection of wind turbines.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response and forward to Ms Moore for information.

- Departmental response regarding Transport NI's Winter Service Programme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

- Correspondence from the Office of Rail and Road regarding its Review of the Rail Safety and Standards Board.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Correspondence from the main Utilities organisations providing information on their Winter Weather Campaign.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to support the campaign.

- Correspondence from the Lagan Navigation Trust requesting the opportunity to present to the Committee in pursuance of our campaign to re-open the Lagan Navigation from Belfast to Lough Neagh.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule a visit and briefing in the forward work programme.

- Ministerial correspondence giving notice of his intention to make a written statement on the Review of Winter Flood 2015-2016.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Departmental correspondence on the Consultation - Review of Permitted Development Rights for Mineral Exploration.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Northern Ireland Water response regarding the cost of the installation of water meters.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

- Correspondence from the Confederation of British Industry regarding the launch of the Unlocking Regional Growth Report.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Correspondence from the Construction Employers Federation regarding the Review of sewer bonds for house builders.

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

- Correspondence from the Planning Appeals Commission – Regional significant planning application by SONI Limited for a proposed electricity substation – Call for Submissions.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Correspondence from the Planning Appeals Commission – Regional significant planning application by SONI Limited for a proposed electricity substation – Extension of Submission date.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Departmental correspondence regarding the Consultation on Implementation of Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications for Driving Instructors Directive.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Departmental response regarding an SL1 on passenger and goods vehicles.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

- Correspondence from the Upper Cavehill Residents Association.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence and write to the association advising it to contact the local elected representatives.

6. Subordinate Legislation – SL1s Not Subject to Assembly Proceedings

- The Committee considered the following SL1's which are not subject to any Assembly proceedings.
 - SL1 - The Bus Lanes Orders (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016
 - SL1 - The Waiting Restrictions (Saintfield) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016
 - SL1 - The Parking and Waiting Restrictions (Belfast) (Amendment No.6) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016

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

7. SL1 - The Former Derriaghy Road, Lisburn (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016

The Committee considered SL1 - The Former Derriaghy Road, Lisburn (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016.

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

8. SL1 - The Trunk Roads T1, T3 and T7 (York Street Interchange) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016

The Committee considered SL1 - The Trunk Roads T1, T3 and T7 (York Street Interchange) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016

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

Agreed: The Committee agreed to issue a press release welcoming the work on York Street Interchange.

The Committee agreed to move to agenda item 18

9. SL1 - The Motor Vehicles (Driving Instruction) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017

The Committee considered SL1 - The Motor Vehicles (Driving Instruction) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017

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

The Committee agreed to move to agenda item number 9.

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

- The Committee considered the following SRs which are not subject to any Assembly proceedings.
 - SR 2016-399 The Road Traffic (Amendment) (2016 Act) (Commencement No.1) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016

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

The Committee agreed to move to agenda item number 10.

11. SR 2016-420 The Railways Infrastructure (Access, Management & Licensing of Railway Undertakings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016

Agreed: The Committee agreed to defer its decision on the Statutory Rule until the Examiner of Statutory Rules has reported on this rule.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule a briefing from the Examiner of Statutory Rules on this rule, if required.

The Committee agreed to move to agenda item number 11.

12. Briefing from Belfast City Council

10:13 am The representatives joined the meeting.

The Committee was briefed by Mrs Suzanne Wylie, Chief Executive, Cllr Aileen Graham, Chair of City Growth and Regeneration Committee and Mr Gerry Millar, Director Property and Projects.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

10:39 am Mr Justin McNulty joined the meeting.

11:03 am The representatives left the meeting.

The Committee agreed to move to agenda item number 12.

13. Briefing from Belfast Chamber of Trade & Commerce

11:04 am The representatives joined the meeting.

The Committee was briefed by Mr Gordon McElroy, President, Mr Paul McMahon, Past President, Mr Christopher McCausland, Senior Vice-President, and Mr John Moore, Past President.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

11:44 am Mr Paul Girvan joined the meeting.

11:49 am The representatives left the meeting.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward a copy of the Hansard of the briefing to the Department for comment.

The Committee agreed to move to agenda item number 13.

14. Briefing from the Taxi Forum

11:50 am The representatives joined the meeting.

The Committee was briefed by Mr Alex Boyle, Road Safety and Vehicle Registration Division, Department for Infrastructure, Mr Kieran Harte, General Manager, Uber, Mr Scott Kennerley, Head of Transport, Consumer Council Northern Ireland and Mr Christopher McCausland, Director, Value Cabs.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

12:08 pm Mr Daniel McCrossan left the meeting

12:22 pm The representatives left the meeting.

The Committee agreed to move to agenda item number 14.

15. Departmental Briefing - Transport NI - Parking for Taxis & Bus Lanes

12:23 pm The Departmental officials joined the meeting.

The Committee was briefed by Mr Ciarán de Búrca, Director of Transport Projects Division, Mr Philip Robinson, Principle Engineer, and Mr Stephen Hughes, Traffic Management Policy.

12:25 pm Mr Justin McNulty left the meeting

12:28 pm Mr Eamonn McCann left the meeting.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

12:41 pm Mr Alex Easton left the meeting.

12:44 pm The Chairperson left the meeting.

12:44pm Mr George Robinson took the Chair.

12:46 pm Mr William Humphrey re-took the Chair.

Agreed: The officials agreed to provide the Committee with reasons on the closure of bus lanes on motorways.

Agreed: The officials agreed to update the Committee on communications between the Department and the Police Service of Northern Ireland regarding traffic matters.

12:59 pm The Departmental officials left the meeting.

The Committee agreed to move to agenda item number 15.

16. Draft Forward Work Programme

The Committee considered the draft Forward Work Programme for January 2017.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the draft forward work programme for January 2017.

The Committee agreed to move to agenda item number 16

17. Any Other Business

- The Chairperson referred to the correspondence from the Police Service of Northern Ireland in relation to the traffic congestion in Belfast on the evening of 15 November 2016.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Police Service of Northern Ireland regarding its roles and responsibilities during traffic incidents.

The Committee agreed to move to agenda item number 17.

18. Date, time and place of next meeting

The Committee noted that the next meeting should be held on Wednesday, 11 January 2017.

1:04 pm The Chairperson adjourned the meeting.

**Mr William Humphrey MLA
Chairperson, Committee for Infrastructure**

11 January 2017