

## MEETING OF THE CHAIRPERSONS' LIAISON GROUP

TUESDAY 21 JANUARY 2014

Present: Mr Robin Swann MLA (Chairperson)  
Mr Patsy McGlone MLA (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mrs Michaela Boyle MLA  
Mr Paul Frew MLA  
Ms Anna Lo MBE MLA  
Mr Alex Maskey MLA  
Miss Michelle McIlveen MLA  
Mr Mike Nesbitt MLA

In attendance: Dr Gareth McGrath, Director of Clerking  
Mrs Nuala Dunwoody, Clerk Assistant  
Mr Damien Martin, Clerk Assistant  
Ms Kathy O'Hanlon, Clerk to the Liaison Group  
Mr Oliver Bellew, Assistant Assembly Clerk  
Mr George McClelland, Clerical Supervisor  
Mr Michael Greer, Clerical Supervisor

Apologies: None

*1.03pm The meeting opened in closed session*

### **1. Apologies**

There were no apologies.

### **2. Minutes of the meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2013**

The minutes of the meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2013 were agreed.

### **3. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

#### **4. Correspondence**

Members noted a response from the Committee on Standards and Privileges to the Group's correspondence requesting that the facility for the Commissioner for Standards to investigate complaints against members for their conduct at committee meetings is considered during any future review of the Code of Conduct.

#### **5. Strategic Planning for CLG**

Members noted a paper in relation to strategic planning for the Group. The Clerk briefed members on the paper and on the Committee Review Group's (CRG) recommendations which related to the Chairpersons' Liaison Group (CLG). In the context of the recommendations, chairpersons considered proposed amendments to the role and purpose of CLG.

*1.07pm Mrs Boyle joined the meeting*

*Agreed: Members agreed revised wording for the role and purpose of the Chairpersons' Liaison Group.*

*1.09pm Mr Nesbitt joined the meeting*

Members discussed the most appropriate way to proceed with strategic planning for the Group.

*Agreed: It was also agreed that the Group would prepare a strategic plan collectively at a separate meeting.*

#### **6. Committee Review Group – Update on Implementation of Recommendations**

*1.11pm Mr Maskey joined the meeting*

The Group received an update on the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee Review Group from Mrs Dunwoody. Members noted the response from the

Standards and Privileges Committee to the CRG recommendation relating to All Party Groups and concurred that it did not fully address the concerns raised by CRG.

*Agreed: It was agreed that the Clerk Assistants would discuss this matter with the Clerk to the Committee for Standards and Privileges.*

The Group also noted correspondence from the Audit Committee regarding the CRG recommendation to establish a single committee to carry out the Audit Committee's work and to scrutinise the budget of the Assembly and the Public Services Ombudsman.

## **7. Committee Expenditure**

Members noted an update by the Mr Martin, Clerk Assistant, on committee expenditure for the year to date. Mr Martin advised that money has been transferred within the Committee Office budget to meet the pressure on committee travel.

Mr Nesbitt requested that expenditure for each committee is shown for a rolling 24 month period with future committee budget updates.

## **8. Draft Forward Work Programme**

*Agreed: Members noted and agreed the draft Forward Work Programme.*

## **9. Any other business**

None.

## **10. Date, time and venue of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Liaison Group is scheduled to take place on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2014 at 1.00pm in Room 21, Parliament Buildings.

**1.21pm** The Chairperson adjourned the meeting.

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Mr Robin Swann, Chairperson

18 February 2014