



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR THE ECONOMY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

26 MAY 2020

ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

10:00am

Present: Dr Caoímhe Archibald (Chairperson)
Ms Sinéad McLaughlin (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Gordon Dunne MBE
Mr Gary Middleton
Mr John O'Dowd
Mr John Stewart
Ms Claire Sugden

In Attendance: Mr Peter Hall (Assembly Clerk)
Ms Sinead Kelly (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Michael Greer (Clerical Supervisor)
Mr Thomas Manning (Clerical Officer)

Apologies: Mr Stewart Dickson
Mr Christopher Stalford

The meeting began at 10:03am in open session.

1. Apologies

As noted above.

2. Oral Briefing from NILGA & SOLACE NI

The witnesses joined the meeting at 10.04am

Members received a briefing from:

Alderman Stephen Moutray	Chair of NILGA's Economy & International Affairs Committee;
Ms Lisa O'Kane	Programme Manager, NILGA;
Mrs Suzanne Wylie	Chief Executive, Belfast City Council; and
Mr Anthony Tohill	Chief Executive, Mid-Ulster Council

Key issues discussed included: the impact of Covid-19 on local government, the support offered to local businesses, the need by the Hospitality and Retail sector to redesign their business going forward, a plan to redesign town centres to enable the reopening and re-educating the public and a focus on re-skilling programmes to address unemployment.

Agreed: Members agreed to engage further with NILGA & SOLACE NI

Agreed: The Committee agreed to discuss the issues raised during the briefing at its weekly triage videocall and then write to the Minister accordingly.

The witnesses left the meeting at 11.01am

3. Any Other Business

There were no items of business.

4. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on Wednesday 27th May 2020 in Room 30, Parliament Buildings at 10am.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 11.09pm

Dr Caoímhe Archibald
Chairperson
Committee for the Economy
27th May 2020