

COMMITTEE FOR THE ECONOMY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

16 SEPTEMBER 2020

ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

10:00am

Present: Dr Caoímhe Archibald (Chairperson)

Ms Sinéad McLaughlin (Deputy Chairperson)

Mr Stewart Dickson 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 David McClure (Assistant Assembly Clerk)

Mr Michael Greer (Clerical Supervisor) Mr Thomas Manning (Clerical Officer)

Apologies: Mr Gordon Dunne MBE

Mr Christopher Stalford

The meeting began at 10:05am in open session.

1. Apologies

As noted above.

2. Minutes

Agreed: the Committee agreed the Minutes from 9th September 2020.

3. Chairperson's Business

No items of business were recorded.

4. Oral Briefing from the Economists - Economic Situation and Recovery briefing

The witnesses joined the meeting at 10.06am

Members received a briefing from:

Richard Ramsey, Economist

Paul MacFlynn, Economist

Key issues discussed included: the current state of the local Economy, the impact Covid-19 has had on the economy, long term challenges and priorities to help rebuild the economy & the need for a Job Retention scheme focusing on retraining and reemployment.

The witnesses left the meeting at 11.46am

5. Oral Briefing from Professor Katy Hayward - UK Internal Market Bill

The witness joined the meeting at 11.47am

Members received a briefing from:

Professor Katy Hayward, Professor, Queens University Belfast

Key issues discussed included: the introduction of the UK Internal Market Bill, the challenges devolved regions will have in passing legislation that conflicts with the bill and the need to agree a Trade Bill.

Stewart Dickson left the meeting at 12.34pm

The witness left the meeting at 12.39pm

6. Oral Briefing from Excluded NI – Impact of Covid-19 and access to support

The witness joined the meeting at 12.39am

Members received a briefing from:

Brian Donaldson.

Spokesperson, EcludedNI

Key issues discussed included: the groups who have missed out on executive funding, the need for a targeted intervention to help those groups & the support that should be offered to those wishing to become self-employed.

Stewart Dickson returned to the meeting at 12.48pm

The witness left the meeting at 1.21pm

7. Matters Arising

Members agreed to defer until next week.

8. Impact of Covid-19 on Higher Education Teaching, Access to Facilities and Fee's

Members agreed to defer until next week.

9. Correspondence

Noted: Members noted correspondence from the Chairperson of "Belcoo Frack Free" regarding research being considered by the Department into petroleum licensing.

Agreed: to write to the Minister to ask for an urgent update.

10. Any Other Business

No items of business were recorded.

11. SL1 – Corporate Insolvency and Governance Act (Meetings Amendment) Regulation (Northern Ireland) 2020

Members agreed to defer until next week.

12. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on Wednesday 23rd September 2020 in Room 30, Parliament Buildings at 10am.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 1.24pm

Dr Caoímhe Archibald Chairperson Committee for the Economy 23rd September 2020