



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR THE ECONOMY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

21 OCTOBER 2020

ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

10:00am

- Present:
- Dr Caoímhe Archibald (Chairperson)
 - Ms Sinéad McLaughlin (Deputy Chairperson)
 - Mr Stewart Dickson
 - Mr Gordon Dunne MBE
 - Mr Gary Middleton
 - Mr John O'Dowd
 - Mr Christopher Stalford
 - Ms Claire Sugden
- In Attendance:
- Mr Peter Hall (Assembly Clerk)
 - Ms Sinead Kelly (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
 - Mr David McClure (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
 - Ms Maeve Holly (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
 - Mr Michael Greer (Clerical Supervisor)
 - Mr Thomas Manning (Clerical Officer)
- Apologies:
- Mr John Stewart

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

1. Apologies

As noted above.

2. Minutes

Agreed: the Committee agreed the Minutes from 14th October 2020.

3. Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson informed Members of correspondence from NITA in regards to the new Covid-19 restrictions calling for greater clarity on which indoor tourist attractions can remain open.

Agreed: to write to the Executive Office asking for clarity on the issues raised by NITA and on the issue of public houses selling alcohol to be consumed off the premises.

Agreed: to write to the Department for Communities DALO seeking an update on the progress of the High Street Taskforce.

4. Oral Briefing from NILGA: Role of Local Government in Tourism Strategies

The Witnesses joined the meeting at 10.06am

Members received a briefing from:

Cllr Matt Garrett,	President, NILGA;
Ms Anne Donaghy,	Chief Executive, Mid & East Antrim Borough Council;
Ms Lisa O'Kane,	Programme Manager, NILGA

Gordon Dunne declared an interest as his son is a Councillor for Ards and North Down Council.

Christopher Stalford declared an interest as a staff member is a Councillor for Belfast City Council

Stewart Dickson declared an interest as a staff member is a Councillor for East and Mid Antrim Council.

Stewart Dickson declared an interest as a resident of Mid and East Antrim Borough Council area.

Key issues discussed included: the ongoing engagement between local government and the Assembly, the impact Covid-19 has had on the Northern Ireland tourism

sector, the support roles local councils have offered and what is needed to help the recovery of the tourism sector.

The Witnesses left the meeting at 11.54am

Agreed: the witnesses agreed to write to the Committee with further information on various points that were discussed.

5. Matters Arising

Members agreed to defer Agenda Item 5, due to time constraints.

6. Results 2020 and Covid-19

Members agreed to defer Agenda Item 6, due to time constraints.

7. Departmental Consultation - Legislative measures to transpose Gas Directive 2009/73/EC as amended by Directive 2019/692 and implement consequential amendments to NI energy legislation from the end of the transition period following the UK's exit from the EU

Members agreed to defer Agenda Item 7, due to time constraints.

8. Departmental Written Briefing: Energy Strategy

Members agreed to defer Agenda Item 8, due to time constraints.

9. NIAO Report - Generating Electricity from Renewable Energy

Members agreed to defer Agenda Item 9, due to time constraints.

10. The General Consumer Council for Northern Ireland Annual Report and Accounts - 2019-2020

Members agreed to defer Agenda Item 10, due to time constraints.

11. Issues impacting on the role of the University College Union Northern Ireland

Members agreed to defer Agenda Item 11, due to time constraints.

12. Correspondence

Members agreed to defer Agenda Item 12, due to time constraints.

13. Any Other Business

There were no items of business.

14. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on Wednesday 4th November 2020 in Room 30, Parliament Buildings at 10am.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 11.58am

Dr Caoímhe Archibald
Chairperson
Committee for the Economy
4th November 2020