



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

# Committee for The Executive Office

## Minutes of Proceedings

Wednesday 2 June 2021

**Meeting Location:** Virtually via Video Conferencing

### **Present by Video or Teleconference:**

Mr Colin McGrath MLA (Chairperson)  
Mr John Stewart MLA (Deputy Chairperson)  
Ms Martina Anderson MLA  
Mr Trevor Clarke MLA  
Mr Trevor Lunn MLA  
Mr George Robinson MLA  
Mr Pat Sheehan MLA  
Ms Emma Sheerin MLA  
Mr Christopher Stalford MLA

### **Apologies:**

### **In Attendance by Video or Teleconference:**

Mr Michael Potter (Assembly Clerk)  
Ms Carla Campbell (Assistant Clerk)  
Ms Sarah-Anne McKinley (Assistant Clerk)  
Ms Alice O'Hare (Clerical Supervisor)  
Ms Andrienne Magee (Clerical Officer)



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The meeting commenced at 2:02pm in open session

### **1. Apologies**

As Above.

### **2. Chairperson's Business**

The Chairperson welcomed John Stewart MLA to the Committee who has replaced Doug Beattie MLA as Deputy Chairperson. The Chairperson also extended his thanks to Doug Beattie MLA for his contributions to the Committee over the past year.

### **3. Draft Minutes**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 26 May 2021.

### **4. Matters Arising**

None.



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**5. Urban Villages and Communities in Transition – Oral evidence: Community Relations in Schools**

The witnesses joined the meeting at 2:04pm

- Ms Lisa Dietrich, Director, Community Relations in Schools.
- Dr Emily Stanton, Programme Manager, Community Relations in Schools.

The witnesses briefed Members on the Urban Villages Initiative and the Communities in Transition Project.

The oral evidence was followed by a question and answer session.

*Christopher Stalford joined the meeting at 2:23pm.*

*Trevor Clarke joined the meeting at 2:29pm.*

The oral evidence was reported by Hansard.

The Chairperson thanked the witnesses for their attendance.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request further information on how provision could be made for multi-year funding streams.



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**6. Urban Villages and Communities in Transition – Oral evidence: Departmental Officials**

The officials joined the meeting at 3:00pm.

- Ms Linsey Farrell, Director of Urban Villages and Communities in Transition, The Executive Office.
- Ms Grainne McConnell, Urban Villages and Programme Delivery Manager, The Executive Office.
- Mr Colin Moffett, Communities in Transition Project Delivery Manager, The Executive Office.

The officials briefed Members on the Urban Villages Initiative and Communities in Transition Project.

The oral evidence was followed by a question and answer session.

The oral evidence was reported by Hansard.

During the evidence the Officials agreed to provide the Committee with a copy of the departmental briefing paper, the Code of Behaviour for the Communities in Transition Project, and information on the number of times the Code of Behaviour has been invoked.

The Chairperson thanked the representatives for their attendance.



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## **7. Historical Institutional Abuse: Committee Motion – consideration of wording**

The Committee considered proposed wording for a Committee Motion calling for a review of the Historical Institutional Abuse Redress Board.

The Committee noted that they may withdraw any Committee Motion laid if it is deemed unnecessary following the oral briefing with Historical Institutional Abuse Groups and the Redress Board scheduled for 23 June 2021.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to lay a Committee Motion in the Assembly:

*“That this Assembly recognises the discontent of victims of historical institutional abuse with the redress process; further recognises that the delays, the impersonal nature of the judicial process, the disparity of awards, and re-traumatisation are posing difficulties for the victims of historical institutional abuse; and calls on the First and deputy First Minister to carry out a review of the redress process, which should be undertaken alongside the current process and should not in any way impede upon the operation of the process while the review is under way”*

## **8. Forward Work Programme**

The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme for May to June 2021.

The Chairperson informed Members that the concurrent meeting scheduled for 16 June 2021 would be held in the Assembly Chamber subject to availability.



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## 9. Correspondence

- i. The Committee noted a written Ministerial statement from the First Minister and deputy First Minister on 27 May 2021.
- ii. The Committee noted a response from the Executive Office to the Committee's requests for further information in relation to correspondence from Michael Gove MP to EU Vice President Šefčovič, the UK-EU Joint Partnership Council and Common Frameworks.
- iii. The Committee noted a response from the Executive Office to the Committee's request for further information on how the commitments detailed in Article 2 of the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland are to be monitored by the Executive.
- iv. The Committee noted a press release from the Executive Office "One-year extension of Small Grant Scheme for Historical Institutional Abuse Victims and Survivors".
- v. The Committee noted a press release from the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs "Edwin Poots discusses Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland with Lord Frost and Brandon Lewis".
- vi. The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for the Economy to the First Minister and deputy First Minister asking what actions the Executive Office is undertaking in advance of 30 June 2021 to reach out to EU Citizens.
- vii. The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Finance in relation to a scheduled concurrent meeting on 16 June 2021.
- viii. The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Finance to the Executive Office seeking an update on the Unique Circumstances funding allocation process and details as to how this money is to be spent.
- ix. The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Health to the First Minister and deputy First Minister requesting that the Executive hold a meeting to consider the issue of waiting lists.



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- x. The Committee noted a press release from the Northern Ireland Office “UK Government announces £2 million for Northern Ireland Screen’s Irish Language and Ulster Scots Broadcast Funds”.
- xi. The Committee noted an announcement from the Home Office that it had published EU Settlement Scheme quarterly statistics.
- xii. The Committee noted correspondence from Chris Lyttle MLA advising Members that he has issued a public consultation on proposals for a Private Member’s Bill to remove the exception of teachers in the Fair Employment and Treatment Order (NI) 1998.
- xiii. The Committee noted correspondence from the Northern Ireland Assembly EU Affairs Manager in relation to the involvement of the Executive and devolved governments in the governance structures of the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement.
- xiv. The Committee noted correspondence from the Northern Ireland Assembly EU Affairs Manager in relation to a European Commission proposal for a Directive on pay transparency.
- xv. The Committee noted a response from an individual in relation to Mother and Baby Homes/Magdalene Laundries.
- xvi. The Committee noted correspondence from the Clerking and Member Support Office offering Member Development programme on “Protecting your Social Media Reputation”.
- xvii. The Committee noted correspondence from the Competition and Markets Authority providing an update on work to establish the Office for the Internal Market.
- xviii. The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for the Economy in relation to a scheduled concurrent meeting on 16 June 2021.
- xix. The Committee noted correspondence from the Historical Institutional Abuse Redress Board requesting a meeting with the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson.



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#### **10. Any Other Business**

None.

#### **11. Date, Time and Place of the next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 9 June 2021 at 2:00pm, virtually via Starleaf.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:57pm.

**Colin McGrath MLA**

**Chairperson, Committee for the Executive Office**