



Northern Ireland
Assembly

**COMMITTEE FOR INFRASTRUCTURE
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

WEDNESDAY, 3 FEBRUARY 2021

ROOM 29, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present: Ms Michelle McIlveen MLA (Chairperson)
Ms Martina Anderson MLA (*via Starleaf*)
Mr Roy Beggs MLA (*via Starleaf*)
Mr Cathal Boylan MLA (*via Starleaf*)
Mr Keith Buchanan MLA
Mrs Dolores Kelly MLA (*via Starleaf*)
Ms Liz Kimmins MLA (*via Starleaf*)
Mr Andrew Muir MLA (*via Starleaf*)

Apologies: Mr David Hilditch MLA (Deputy-Chairperson)

In Attendance: Mrs Cathie White (Assembly Clerk) (*via Starleaf*)
Ms Alison Ross (Assembly Clerk) (*via Starleaf*)
Mr Vincent Gribbin (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr William Kinnear (Clerical Officer)

The meeting commenced in open session at 9:36 am.

1. Apologies

As above.

2. Chairpersons Business

None.

3. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 27 January 2021.

4. Matters Arising

None.

5. Correspondence

Correspondence from Construction Employers Federation providing a submission to the Committee for Finance's consideration of the draft 2021/22 Northern Ireland Executive Budget, January 2021.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule a briefing in the Forward Work Programme.

Correspondence from the Minister for Infrastructure regarding planning permission LA04/2015/0301/F (for the construction and operation of combined heat and power generating station).

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Copy correspondence from the Committee for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs to the Minister for Infrastructure regarding Statutory Consultees within Schedule 3 of The Planning Order (NI) 2015.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Copy correspondence from Arc21 to the Inter-Ministerial Group for Green Growth requesting an opportunity to discuss sustainable growth and environment projects.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Correspondence from Retail NI requesting to brief the Committee regarding COVID and Brexit related issues.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule a briefing in the Forward Work Programme.

Correspondence from the Department for Infrastructure regarding the launch of a Recruitment Competition for Non - Executive Members for The Drainage Council Northern Ireland.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Copy of the Examiner of Statutory Rules Twenty-first report of the 2020-2021 session.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the report.

Copy correspondence from the House of Lords, European Union Committee regarding the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning batteries and waste batteries.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Correspondence from the Minister for Infrastructure regarding a Written Ministerial Statement - A1 Junctions Phase 2 Road Improvement Scheme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department requesting a detailed timetable for delivery of the A1 Junction Phase 2 scheme and highlight the need to expedite the procurement process in order to complete the works.

Response from the Minister for Infrastructure to issues arising from the Committee meeting on 13 January 2021.

Mr Roy Beggs declared an interest as a member of the Carrickfergus Road Safety Committee.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department requesting a list of the unsuccessful applicants to the Road Safety Grant Scheme and clarity on whether the Department can re-evaluate, widening eligibility to the scheme or open a new scheme given the availability of funds.

Correspondence from a member of the public regarding the taxi driver financial support scheme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note and forward the correspondence to the Department for information and comment.

Copy correspondence from the Minister for Infrastructure to the Committee for Finance regarding the January Monitoring Round.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Correspondence from the Committee for the Executive Office setting out the Terms of Reference for the Executive Committee meeting to deal with EU Exit matters “the Committee” as set out in the New Decade, New Approach.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Copy correspondence from the Minister for Infrastructure to the Committee for the Economy regarding a request for Planning Officials to provide an oral briefing.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Copy of the Examiner of Statutory Rules Twenty-second report of the 2020-2021 session.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the report.

Response from Translink to Committee correspondence regarding consideration of the Draft Budget 2021-2022.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

Response from Northern Ireland Water to Committee correspondence regarding consideration of the Draft Budget 2021-2022.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

Response from the Drainage Council Northern Ireland to Committee correspondence regarding consideration of the Draft Budget 2021-2022.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

Response from Waterways Ireland to Committee correspondence regarding consideration of the Draft Budget 2021-2022.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

6. Subordinate Legislation – SL1’s – Not Subject to Proceedings

- The Committee considered the following SL1’s not subject to any Assembly proceedings.
 - SL1 - The Waiting Restrictions (Bryansford) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021
 - SL1 - The Schools (Part-Time 20mph Speed Limit) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with the proposals for the Statutory Rules.

7. Departmental Briefing - Budget

The Departmental officials joined the meeting at 9:48 am.

Ms Linda MacHugh, Acting Deputy Secretary, Resources, Governance and EU Group
(*via Starleaf*)

Ms Susan Anderson, Director of Finance (*via Starleaf*)

Mr John Irvine, Director of Major Projects and Procurement (*via Starleaf*)

Mr Terry Deehan, Head of Financial Planning & Management (*via Starleaf*)

The Departmental officials provided the Committee with an oral briefing.

The oral evidence session was reported by Hansard.

A question and answer session followed.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department requesting information on what plans there are for the 20mph speed limit scheme and whether there are plans to roll out to more schools.

Agreed: The Departmental officials agreed to provide information on the breakdown of expenditure this year on Blue-Green Infrastructure Fund and what projects and allocations will be made in respect of this for 2021-2022.

The Chairperson thanked the Departmental officials for their attendance.

The Departmental officials left the meeting at 11:01 am

- Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department urging it to make every effort to take advantage of the additional money available in this financial year by increasing the scope and payments made under the Green Schemes.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department requesting information on what actions it is taking to ensure that capital projects are shovel ready and sufficiently resourced to ensure their timely roll out and completion, in light of current resource constraints highlighted to the Committee and to prevent monies being handed back because of insufficient resource capacity to complete capital projects.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department to ascertain what it is doing to draw down additional Covid funding to facilitate full funding for currently partially funded projects that could be completed within the next two months - such as the Strathfoyle Greenway.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department for clarity on the eligibility criteria for the Bus and Coach Operators Financial Hardship scheme and what further criteria are being applied to operators, particularly small operators, who meet the 40% criterion but who are still being screened out of the scheme. Also to ask how the Department is ensuring that issues arising with operators who are not part of the two main representative bodies are reflected and taken into account.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department to ascertain what the criteria are for drawing down further COVID funding to fund other Departmental projects over and above support for business.

8. Departmental Briefing – Common Frameworks – Hazardous Substances

The Departmental officials joined the meeting at 11:10 am.

Mr Brian Gorman, Operational Governance (*via Starleaf*)

Ms Irene Kennedy, Head of Planning Policy Legislation Branch (*via Starleaf*)

The Departmental officials provided the Committee with an oral briefing.

The oral evidence session was reported by Hansard.

A question and answer session followed.

The Chairperson thanked the Departmental officials for their attendance.

The Departmental officials left the meeting at 11:32 am.

- Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department to ascertain whether the 9 guiding principles set out for considering the Hazardous Substances Framework apply to all the frameworks or only Hazardous Substances.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department advising it of the outcome of the Committee's consideration of the Hazardous Substances Common Framework.

9. Forward Work Programme

The Committee considered the Draft Forward Work Programme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the Forward Work Programme.

10. Any Other Business

Mr Boylan raised the issue of Taxi Industry operational hours in Belfast.

11. Date, Time and Place of next meeting

The Committee agreed that the next meeting would be on Wednesday, 10 February 2021 at 10:00 am in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The Committee adjourned at 11:38 am

Ms Michelle McIlveen MLA
Chairperson, Committee for Infrastructure

10 February 2021