



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR THE ECONOMY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

8 JUNE 2016

ROOM 29, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS, 10:00am

Present: Mr Conor Murphy (Chairperson)
Mr Steve Aiken OBE (Deputy Chairperson)
Ms Caoimhe Archibald
Mr Tom Buchanan
Ms Sinead Bradley
Mr Alan Chambers
Mr Gordon Dunne
Mr Stephen Farry
Mr Gordon Lyons
Mr Mervyn Storey

In Attendance: Mr Peter Hall (Assembly Clerk)
Ms Angela McParland (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Ms Sinead Kelly (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Michael Greer (Clerical Supervisor)
Mr Craig Mealey (Clerical Officer)

Apologies: Mr Alex Maskey

The meeting began at 10:05am in open session

1. Apologies

As noted above.

2. Draft Minutes of Meeting 1st June 2016

Agreed: the Committee agreed the draft minutes of 1st June 2016.

3. Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson informed Members of an invitation from the Policy Forum for Northern Ireland to its Keynote Seminar on Tuesday 6th December 2016.

Agreed: that the Chairperson will attend.

The Chairperson informed Members of an invitation from the Open University to attend the launch of a partnership between the Open University and the Northern Ireland Council of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions on Friday 17th June 2016.

Agreed: that the Chairperson will attend and any other Member that wishes to attend will inform the Committee Office.

The Chairperson informed Members of an invitation from the NI Assembly Business Trust to a briefing on the newly formed Assembly Committees on Monday 13th June 2016.

Agreed: Those Members will inform the Committee Office if they wish to attend.

The Chairperson advised Members of a Clerks memo outlining a list of additional stakeholders the Committee may wish to write to in order to establish formal contact.

Agreed: to update as discussed and write to the list of stakeholders

Alan Chambers joined the meeting at 10:11am

4. Department Overview – Operational Policy: Delivery Through ALB's

The officials joined the meeting at 10:12am

Members received a briefing from Mr Eugene Rooney, Deputy Secretary, Department for the Economy, Mr Michael Gould, Director, Youth Policy, and Department for the Economy, Ms Beverly Harrison, Director, Further Education Policy, Department for the Economy and Mr Mike Thompson, Director, Business Engagement, Department for the Economy.

The key issues discussed were an overview of Departmental issues, Roles & Structures, Priorities for the Department and an Apprenticeship Strategy.

The officials left the meeting at 11:15am

5. Department Overview – Operational Policy: Infrastructure and Regulation

The officials joined the meeting at 11:16am

Members received a briefing from Mr Chris Stewart, Deputy Secretary, Department for the Economy, Ms June Ingram, Director Energy, Telecoms, Minerals and Petroleum, Department for the Economy, Ms Jackie Kerr, Director, Business and Employment Regulation, Department for the Economy and Ms Alison Clydesdale, Director, Energy Renewables, Department for the Economy.

The key issues discussed were an overview of Departmental issues, Challenges within the Energy Sector and Broadband delivery.

The officials left the meeting at 12:14pm

6. Matters Arising

No Matters Arising was noted.

7. SL1 The Posted Workers (Enforcement of Employment Rights) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016

The officials joined the meeting at 12:15pm

Members received a briefing from Mr John McKeown, Head of Employment Relations Policy and Legislation, Department for the Economy, Ms Deirdre Walsh, Employment Relations Policy and Legislation Branch, Department for the Economy and Ms Jackie Kerr, Director, Business and Employment Regulation Division, Department for the Economy.

The key issues discussed was the SL1 The Posted Workers (Enforcement Rights) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016

Agreed: the Committee is content with the policy implications of the proposed legislation.

The officials left the meeting at 12:24pm

Stephen Farry left the meeting at 12:25pm

8. SR 2016/146 Construction (Design and Management) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016

Members discussed SR 2016/146 Construction (Design and Management) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016

Agreed: That the Committee for the Economy has considered SR 2016/146 Construction (Design and Management) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 and has no objection to the Rule.

9. Legislation: SR 2016/187 The Weights and Measures (Food) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016

Members discussed SR 2016/187 The Weights and Measures (Food) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016.

Agreed: That the Committee for the Economy has considered the SR 2016/187 The Weights and Measures (Food) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) and subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules Report has no objection to the rule.

10. Consultation:

Noted: Members considered and noted a departmental consultation paper on the Draft Gas (Designation of Pipelines) Order (NI) 2016

Agreed: to ask the Department to provide a summary of responses on the Draft Gas (Designation of Pipelines) Order (NI) 2016 consultation when it is completed.

Noted: Members considered and noted a Ofcom consultation on “Designing the broadband universal service obligation”

Agreed: to ask Ofcom to provide a summary of responses on the “Designing the broadband universal service obligation” consultation when it is completed

11. Correspondence

Members noted a NISRA/Departmental publication on renewable electricity generation for Northern Ireland

12. Any Other Business

There were no additional items of business.

13. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on Wednesday 15th June 2016 at 10.00am, Room 29.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 12:28pm

Mr Conor Murphy
Chairperson
Committee for the Economy

15th June 2016