



**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 on 1st June 2016

Agreed: the Committee agreed the draft minutes of the meeting on 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: Energy in Northern Ireland 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: That the Chair and Vice Chair will speak at the event and any other Member that wishes to attend will inform the Committee Office.

The Chairperson advised Members of a Clerk's Memo outlining a list of additional stakeholders the Committee may wish to write to in order to establish formal contact.

Agreed: to write to the list of stakeholders as discussed and to ask if there are any current issues they wish to highlight.

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; Mr Michael Gould, Director, Youth Policy; Ms Beverly Harrison, Director, Further Education Policy; and Mr Mike Thompson, Director, Business Engagement, Department for the Economy.

The key issues discussed included the various departmental strategies including the Economic Strategy, Further Education Strategy and Apprenticeships Strategy and investment in Tourism.

Agreed: That officials would provide further information in relation to a number of issues raised by Members.

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; Ms June Ingram, Director, Energy, Telecoms, Minerals and Petroleum; Ms Jackie Kerr, Director, Business and Employment Regulation; and Ms Alison Clydesdale, Director, Energy Renewables, Department for the Economy.

The key issues discussed included the ‘energy trilemma’, the NI Renewables Obligation, the Strategic Energy Framework and telecoms and broadband delivery.

Agreed: That officials would provide further information in relation to a number of issues raised by Members.

The officials left the meeting at 12:14pm

6. Matters Arising

There were no Matters Arising.

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

Members considered the SL1 The Posted Workers (Enforcement Rights) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016.

Agreed: that 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, and to reserve the Committee's position until then.

Noted: Members considered and noted an 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, and to reserve the Committee's position until then.

11. Correspondence

Noted: 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