



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR THE ECONOMY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

14 SEPTEMBER 2016

ROOM 29, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS, 10:00am

- Present:
- Mr Conor Murphy (Chairperson)
 - Mr Steve Aiken OBE (Deputy Chairperson)
 - Ms Sinead Bradley
 - Mr Tom Buchanan
 - Mr Alan Chambers
 - Mr Gordon Dunne MBE
 - Dr Stephen Farry
 - Mr Gordon Lyons
 - Mr Alex Maskey
 - 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:
- Ms Caoimhe Archibald

The meeting began at 10:06am in open session

1. Apologies

As noted above.

2. Draft Minutes of Meeting on 7th September 2016

Agreed: the Committee agreed the draft minutes of the meeting on 7th September 2016.

3. Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson informed Members of correspondence from the Minister to the Chairperson in regards to the proposed EnergyWise scheme. The Chairperson welcomed the Minister's statement that he will reflect further on the future of energy efficiency policy and that the Board of the Utility Regulator is to extend the NISEP for one year to March 2018.

Agreed: that the Committee Office will forward to Members details of the Minister's announcement on the matter.

The Chairperson informed Members of an invitation to the Attorney General's Colloquium on "Getting legislation right: improving the process". The event is to be take place on Wednesday 4th October 2016.

Agreed: Members agreed that the Chairperson decline the invitation as the Committee is to meet at that date and time. Any Members intending to attend should contact the Committee Office.

4. Oral Briefing by Colleges NI: Overview

The representatives joined the meeting at 10:10am

Alex Maskey joined the meeting at 10:12am

Members received a briefing from Mr Glynn Roberts, Chair, Colleges NI, Mr Gerard Campbell, Chief Executive, Colleges NI, Mr Ken Webb, Principal, South Eastern Regional College and Ms Marie-Therese McGivern, Principal, Belfast Metropolitan College.

The key issues discussed included the importance of the post primary sector equipping students with essential skills, the importance of proper collaboration between colleges and the post primary sector, colleges' role in upskilling the population, a strategic framework for 14 to 19 year old students and the forthcoming Apprenticeship Levy,.

Agreed: the Committee agreed to consider the recommendations made in the Careers Review 2014 report at its next meeting.

Gordon Dunn left the meeting at 11:06am

The representatives left the meeting at 11:38am

5. Matters Arising

Noted: Members noted further correspondence from an individual regarding in regards to the closure of NIRO to onshore wind.

Agreed: to await the response from the Department.

Noted: Members noted a response from the Minister regarding the Department's current policies and practises on public appointments.

6. SL1 The Offshore Installations (Offshore Safety Directive) (Safety Cases Etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016

Members considered the SL1 The Offshore Installations (Offshore Safety Directive) (Safety Cases Etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016.

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

7. Programme for Government

Members noted correspondence from Catalyst Inc. which included Catalyst Inc.'s submission to the PfG Call for Evidence and its submission to the refocus of the Economic Strategy.

The Chairperson noted that the Committee is awaiting a copy of the Department's action

Agreed: to await the response from the Department to the Committee's request for a copy of its action plan.

8. Utility Regulator Annual Report 2015-16

Noted: Members noted the Utility Regulator Annual Report 2015-16.

9. Correspondence

Noted: Members noted an Assembly Research paper ‘EU Referendum Update’.

Noted: Members noted correspondence from EU Debate NI on establishing the best outcome for NI.

Noted: Members noted a submission from the Royal Irish Academy to the UK Inquiry on Implications of Brexit on Science and Research.

Noted: Members considered an invitation from Coca-Cola HBC to visit their Lisburn plant.

Agreed: the Committee to visit to the plant and if possible hold an external meeting at the plant during this session.

Members considered an invitation from Agenda NI to the NI Economic Conference.

Agreed: Members to contact the Committee Office if they are available to attend.

Noted: Members noted an invitation to the Committee from the Business and Human Rights Forum to attend their next meeting.

Agreed: that the Clerk will attend and report back to the Committee.

10. Any Other Business

There were no additional items of business.

11. Date, Time and Place of Next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on Wednesday 21st September 2016 in Room 29.

The Committee agreed to move to closed session at 11:48am

12. Strategy Session

Members considered the work-streams that were discussed at the planning meeting.

Agreed: to write to the Secretaries of State for Exiting the EU, International Trade, and Northern Ireland, and request an update on the discussions they had with economy stakeholders with regard to leaving the EU, on their recent visits to Northern Ireland.

Agreed: the Committee to arrange a visit and possibly hold a meeting at a social enterprise body during this session.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 11:54am

Mr Conor Murphy
Chairperson
Committee for the Economy

21st September 2016