



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR THE ECONOMY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

28 SEPTEMBER 2016

BOARD ROOM, SOUTHERN REGIONAL COLLEGE, 10:00am

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

The meeting began at 10:10am in open session

1. Apologies

As noted above.

2. Draft Minutes of Meeting on 21st September 2016

Agreed: the Committee agreed the draft Minutes of the meeting on 21st September 2016.

3. Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson welcomed Brendan Corr to the Committee; and outlined how he will support the work of the Committee as an attached Masters student.

The Chairperson informed Members of the itinerary for the day highlighting the opportunity to visit both the West and East Campuses following the meeting.

The Chairperson informed the Committee that the InterTradeIreland briefing has been cancelled as the briefing paper was not cleared by the Department.

Agreed: to write to the Minister highlighting the Committee's disappointment at having to cancel the briefing and ask why the paper was not cleared.

Agreed: to write to the Department to reschedule the briefing.

The Chairperson informed Members of outstanding Departmental Papers.

Agreed: to write to the Department highlighting that these papers are outstanding and seek an immediate response.

The Chairperson informed Members of correspondence from the Executive Office and from the Head of the Northern Ireland Civil Service with respect to the UK Exit from the European Union.

Agreed: to await further information following the briefing to the Executive Office Committee on this issue.

The Chairperson informed Members of correspondence from an individual regarding the Innovation Factory, which is part funded by Invest NI.

Agreed: to write to Invest NI asking for clarification of its approach to supporting and funding the development of shared workspace.

Agreed: that the Invest NI Chief Executive attends the Committee to allow Members to apply scrutiny to a range of issues.

The Chairperson informed Members of correspondence from the Scottish and Northern Ireland Plumbing Employers' Federation thanking the Chair for raising the issue with the Minister for Finance.

Noted: the Committee noted the correspondence from the Scottish and Northern Ireland Plumbing Employers' Federation.

4. Oral Briefing by Southern Regional College

The Officials joined the meeting at 10:19am

Members received a briefing from:

Mr Brian Doran, Chief Executive, Southern Regional College

Mr Jim O'Hagan, Director of Finance and Corporate Services, Southern Regional College

The key issues discussed included: the role Southern Regional College plays in addressing the skills gap; the Skills Barometer; essential skills in the post primary sector; careers advice in post primary sector; the success of the College in the international Worldskills competitions; the Apprenticeship Levy applied to investment in skills; partnership with business; and the future development plans of the College.

The officials left the meeting at 11:47am

5. Oral Briefing by the Clanrye Group

The representatives joined the meeting at 11:49am

Members received an overview briefing from:

Mr Liam Devine, Managing Director, Clanrye Group

Ms Judith Poucher, Deputy Manager, Clanrye Group

The key issues discussed included: the role of Clanrye Group in assisting the most disadvantaged within the community; the current gaps in services for people with disabilities; the role of Social Enterprises in providing innovative ways of developing opportunities for people with disabilities; partnership with Southern Regional College in the Training for Success programme; partnership with Newry, Mourne and Down District Council; and EU funding and the major effect current uncertainty around the UK exit from the EU is having on Clanrye Group.

Agreed: to include the issues highlighted on the Third Sector in the scoping paper for Committee's strategic planning of work streams.

The representatives left the meeting at 12:26pm

6. Oral Briefing by InterTradeIreland

This briefing was cancelled as the Department did not clear the briefing paper in time for meeting.

7. Matters Arising

Noted: Members noted a written briefing from the Ulster University detailing the implications to the University of the UK withdrawing from the European Union and agreed to return to this as part of the relevant work-stream.

8. Programme for Government

Members considered correspondence from the Committee for the Executive Office regarding a co-ordinated response by Statutory Committees to the draft Programme for Government by the 28th October 2016.

Agreed: that the Committee will submit a response to the Executive Committee once the second draft PfG is published for consultation.

Noted: Members noted a submission from the National Trust to the initial consultation on the draft PfG Framework.

9. Forward Work Programme

Agreed: Members agreed the draft Forward Work Programme.

Noted: Members noted the draft itinerary for 12th October 2016 for the external meeting at LOAF (Social Enterprise) Café and visit to Springvale Employment and Learning Solutions.

Members considered correspondence from representatives from the small scale renewables industry requesting to brief the Committee on the closure of Northern Ireland Renewables Obligation (NIRO) and in advance of the Strategic Energy Framework.

Agreed: to receive a briefing from the small scale renewable industry representatives.

10. Correspondence

Noted: Members noted correspondence from the Committee for the Executive Office regarding the EU Debate NI report. The Committee noted that it had considered the report at its meeting on 14th September 2016.

Noted: Members noted the latest EU Matters newsletter.

Noted: Members noted correspondence from the Committee for Education regarding the impact of the UK exit from the European Union on student mobility.

Noted: Members noted the Investment Strategy Northern Ireland Investing Activity Report for 25th September 2016.

Noted: Members noted correspondence from Catalyst Inc regarding its STEM Careers and Courses supplement. Which was included in every copy of the Belfast Telegraph on 20th September 2016.

11. Any Other Business

There were no additional items of business.

12. Date, Time and Place of Next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on Wednesday 5th October 2016 at 10.00am in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 12:29pm

Mr Conor Murphy
Chairperson
Committee for the Economy

5th October 2016