



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR THE ECONOMY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

12 OCTOBER 2016

LOAF (SOCIAL ENTERPRISE) CAFÉ

10:00am

Present:

Mr Conor Murphy (Chairperson)
Mr Steve Aiken OBE (Deputy Chairperson)
Ms Caoimhe Archibald
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)
Mr Brendan Corr (Bursary Student)

Apologies:

None

The meeting began at 10:00am in open session

1. Apologies

There were no apologies.

2. Draft Minutes of Meeting on 5th October 2016

Agreed: the Committee agreed the draft Minutes of the meeting on 5th October 2016.

3. Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson advised Members of the Itinerary for the day for the Committee's visit to Loaf Café and Springvale Training and Solutions.

The Chairperson informed Members that the Committee had received correspondence from the Deputy Chair of the Committee for Communities regarding the charity Positive Futures, and the report by the former Committee for Employment and Learning on post Special Education Need provision in education, employment and learning.

Agreed: this Committee to consider, in its future work regarding the report, the benefits of developing a transitional protocol that would simplify the current approach so that families get the assistance they need, and are entitled to, as quickly as possible.

The Chairperson informed Members of correspondence from John Woods, Linwoods, regarding the North South Interconnector.

Agreed: to consider the issues raised in the correspondence again at the briefing by SONI and the Utility Regulator on 16th November 2016.

The Chairperson referred Members to correspondence from the Northern Ireland Commonwealth Games Council regarding its business case to host the Commonwealth Youth Games in Northern Ireland in 2021.

Agreed: to write to the Minister for the Economy asking for this matter to be settled as soon as possible, to allow certainty for the organisers and local competitors.

Agreed: to receive an oral briefing from the Northern Ireland Commonwealth Games Council in the New Year.

The Chairperson informed Members of the Business and Human Rights Forum held on 6th October 2016.

Agreed: to receive a briefing from the Business and Human Rights Forum in the New Year.

The Chairperson informed Members of an invitation from the Assembly's Research and Information Service (RaISe) to make opening remarks at the Knowledge Exchange Seminar 'Economy: Incentivising Investment and Competitiveness and Managing Public Debt'.

Agreed: that the Chairperson make the opening remarks at the seminar.

The Chairperson informed Members of correspondence from Ofcom requesting that the Committee sponsor the Ofcom Annual Plan Consultation event, to be held on 18th January 2017 in Parliament Buildings.

Agreed: that the Committee will sponsor the event.

4. Oral briefing from the NOW Group

The representative joined the meeting at 10:05am

Alan Chambers joined the meeting at 10:08am

Members received a briefing from Ms Maeve Monaghan, Chief Executive, NOW Group.

The key issues discussed included the European Social Fund (ESF), the Social Value Act (England and Wales), expansion of the Now's operations outside Belfast, supply chains, and social clauses opportunities for social enterprises within public tenders.

Agreed: to write to the Economy Minister, the Minister and Committee for Communities, the Health Minister, the First Minister and deputy First Minister, and the Minister for Finance on the issues raised.

The representative left the meeting at 10:48am

5. Matters Arising

Agreed: to write to the Minister for Communities, as recommended by the Minister for Finance, regarding the concerns of the Scottish and Northern Ireland Plumbing Employers' Federation (SNIPEF).

Agreed: to respond positively to correspondence from the Committee for Communities in response to the Committee's letter regarding the Licensing and Registration of Clubs (Amendment) Bill and the issues raised by Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA), in advance of the Consideration Stage of the Bill.

Noted: Members noted correspondence from The Open University providing detail of gender balance of students in the university.

Agreed: the Committee agreed to participate in the ‘Stormont Big Bake’ event to be held on 7th and 8th November 2016, as outlined.

Agreed: to share with RaISe, the submissions received by the Committee which are to feed into the Committee’s response to the House of Lords Inquiry on goods and non-financial services after the UK exit from the EU.

Stephen Farry left the meeting at 10:55am

6. SR 2016/364 The Gas (Designation of Pipelines) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016

Members considered the Gas (Designation of Pipelines) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016.

Question put and agreed:

That the Committee for the Economy has considered SR 2016/364 The Gas (Designation of Pipelines) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016 and, subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules’ report, has no objection to the Rule.

7. SR 2016/369 The Insolvency (Northern Ireland) Order 1989 (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016

Members consider the SR 2016/369 The Insolvency (Northern Ireland) Order 1989 (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016.

Question put and agreed:

That the Committee for the Economy has considered SR 2016/369 The Insolvency (Northern Ireland) Order 1989 (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016 and, subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules report, recommends that it be affirmed by the Assembly.

8. SR 2016/000 The Insolvency (Monetary Limits) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016

Member discussed the SR 2016/000 The Insolvency (Monetary Limits) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016.

Question put and agreed:

That the Committee has considered SR 2016/000 The Insolvency (Monetary Limits) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016 and, subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules’ Report, recommends that it be affirmed by the Assembly.

9. Budget 2017/2018

Members considered an excerpt from the previous June Monitoring briefing.

Agreed: to ask the Department to ensure that its written briefing for the evidence session on the Budget Baseline and October Monitoring includes: disaggregated budgets for Invest NI and Tourism NI; clarification on how extensive liabilities on the Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme will be budgeted for; the reasons for the return of £35m to the centre in the June Monitoring Round; and an outline of the process for the October Monitoring Round.

10. Strategic Planning

The Chairperson advised members that due to time constraints this item will be dealt with at a future meeting.

Agreed: to defer consideration of this item to a future.

12. Correspondence

Noted: correspondence from the Committee for the Executive Office in relation to a research paper which provides an overview on Non-EU UK Treaty Obligations.

Agreed: to consider again a copy of an Agri-Food Strategy Board Going for Growth briefing paper, forwarded from the Committee for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, once responses are received from the Department and Bord Bia on the development of an agri-food marketing body for Northern Ireland.

Noted: correspondence from the National House Building Council (NHBC) regarding the roundtable event to be held in Parliament Buildings, following next week's meeting.

13. Any Other Business

There were no additional items of business.

14. Date, Time and Place of Next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on Wednesday 19th October 2016 at 10.00am in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 11:06am

Mr Conor Murphy
Chairperson
Committee for the Economy

19th October 2016