



**Northern Ireland  
Assembly**

**COMMITTEE FOR THE ECONOMY**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**15 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 Gordon Dunne MBE  
Mr 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)

Apologies: Mr Alan Chambers

*The meeting began at 10:02am in open session*

**1. Apologies**

As noted above.

## **2. Draft Minutes of Meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

*Agreed:* the Committee agreed the draft minutes of the meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2016.

## **3. Chairperson's Business**

The Chairperson informed Members that a revised agenda had been tabled to include SL1 Industrial Training Levy (Construction Industry) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016.

*Agreed:* Members agreed to the revised Agenda.

The Chairperson reminded 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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 Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA) to its Flagship Conference "Growing Enterprise, Strengthening Communities". The Chairperson informed Members that he is unable to attend due to a prior engagement.

*Agreed:* any Member wishing to attend will inform the Committee Office.

*Stephen Farry joined the meeting at 10.04am*

*Alex Maskey joined the meeting at 10:06am*

The Chairperson reminded Members that next week's meeting will be held at the Northern Ireland Science Park followed by a tour of Titanic's Dry Dock and Pump-house.

*Agreed:* Members to notify the Committee Office if they are unable to attend.

## **4. Department Overview – Strategic Policy Group**

*The officials joined the meeting at 10:07am*

Members received a briefing from Mr Derek Baker, Deputy Secretary, Strategic Policy Group, Mr Diarmuid McLean, Director, Strategic Policy Division 1 and Dr Mary McIvor, Director, Strategic Policy Division 2, Department for the Economy.

The key issues discussed included the Programme for Government, Economic Strategy, Investment Strategy, Tourism Strategy, the appointment of a Departmental Senior Economist and the Research Agenda.

*The officials left the meeting at 10:48am*

## **5. Department Overview – Operational Policy Investment**

*The officials joined the meeting at 10:48am*

Members received a briefing from Mr Trevor Cooper, Director, Higher Education and Finance, Mr Colin Jack, Director, European Fund Management and Philip Cromie, Head of Higher Education Finance, Department for the Economy.

*Alex Maskey left the meeting at 11:08am*

*Gordon Lyons left the meeting at 11:12am*

The key issues discussed included the European Social Fund and the European Regional Development Fund.

*Agreed:* to ask the Department for further information with regard to funding for strengthening the grid.

*The officials left the meeting at 11:22am*

## **6. Matters Arising**

*Noted:* Members considered a response from the former Department for Social Development to the former Committee for Employment and Learning's Inquiry into post Special Education Need (SEN) provision in education, employment and training for those with learning disabilities in Northern Ireland.

*Agreed:* that the Clerk would liaise with other committee clerks regarding responses to the inquiry recommendations across a number of departments.

## **7. SR 2016/242 The Posted Workers (Enforcement of Employment Rights) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016**

Members discussed SR2016/242 The Posted Workers (Enforcement of Employment Rights) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016.

The Chairperson informed Members that the Examiner of Statutory Rules has not yet reported on the Rule so members will be agreeing to the legislation subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules' report.

*Question put and agreed:*

*That the Committee for the Economy has considered SR 2016/242 The Posted Workers (Enforcement of Employment Rights) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 and, subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules' report, has no objection to the Rule.*

#### **8. SL1 The Mines Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016**

Members considered the SL1 The Mines Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016.

*Agreed:* to ask the Department for a written briefing providing further detail of the Department's overall involvement with mines regulations.

*Gordon Lyons returned to the meeting at 11.29am*

#### **9. SL1 The Control of Electromagnetic Fields at Work Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016**

Members considered the SL1 The Control of Electromagnetic Fields at Work Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016.

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

*The Committee moved to Agenda Item 18*

#### **18. SL1 Industrial Training Levy (Construction Industry) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016**

Members considered the SL1 Industrial Training Levy (Construction Industry) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016.

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

*Agreed:* that the Committee will consider the matter again at a future meeting with regard to the implications of the apprenticeship levy on this.

**10. Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (HSENI) Consultation on Revised Approved Code of Practice (ACOP) – Safety of Pressure Systems**

*Noted:* Members considered and noted a HSENI consultation paper on the Revised Approved Code of Practice (ACOP) – Safety of pressure Systems.

*Agreed:* to ask the HSENI to provide a summary of responses on the Revised Approved Code of Practice (ACOP) – Safety of pressure Systems.

**11. Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (HSENI) Consultation on Revised Approved Code of Practice (ACOP) – Safe Work in Confined Spaces: Confined Spaces Regulations 1997**

*Noted:* Members considered and noted a HSENI consultation paper on the Revised Approved Code of Practice (ACOP) – Safe Work in Confined Spaces: Confined Spaces Regulations 1997.

*Agreed:* to ask the HSENI to provide a summary of responses on the Revised Approved Code of Practice (ACOP) – Safe Work in Confined Spaces: Confined Spaces Regulations 1997.

**12. Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (HSENI) Consultation on Revised Approved Code of Practice (ACOP) – Safe Use of Lifting Equipment**

*Noted:* Members considered and noted a HSENI consultation paper on the Revised Approved Code of Practice (ACOP) – Safe Use of Lifting Equipment

*Agreed:* to ask the HSENI to provide a summary of responses on the Revised Approved Code of Practice (ACOP) – Safe Use of Lifting Equipment.

**13. Public Bodies and Public Appointments Annual Report 2014/15**

*Noted:* Members noted the Public Bodies and Public Appointments Annual Report 2014/15.

*Sinead Bradley declared an interest as a former Southern Regional College Board Member.*

*Agreed:* to consider the report again at next week's meeting.

#### **14. Correspondence**

*Noted:* Members noted Correspondence from the Construction Employers Federation (CEF) requesting to brief the Committee.

*Agreed:* to discuss during Agenda item 15.

*Noted:* Members noted an Invitation from the Dundrod and District Motorcycle Club to attend the launch of the 2016 MCE Insurance Ulster Grand Prix.

*Agreed:* Members to contact the Committee Office if they wish to attend.

*Noted:* Members noted correspondence from the Ulster Farmers' Union regarding the recent consultation on the closure of NIRO to new onshore wind.

*Noted:* Members noted correspondence from Ofcom regarding Devolution Measures in Northern Ireland.

*Alex Maskey rejoined the meeting at 11:41am*

#### **15. Draft Forward Work Programme**

Members considered the draft Forward Work Programme for September 2016.

*Agreed:* Members agreed the draft Forward Work Programme.

*Agreed:* to schedule a briefing from the CEF.

#### **16. Any Other Business**

There were no additional items of business.

#### **17. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2016 at 10.00am at the Northern Ireland Science Park.

*The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 11:47am*

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**Mr Conor Murphy**  
**Chairperson**  
**Committee for the Economy**

**22<sup>nd</sup> June 2016**