



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND INVESTMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

23 JANUARY 2014

ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS 10.00AM.

- Present:
- Mr Patsy McGlone (Chairperson)
 - Mr Phil Flanagan (Deputy Chairperson)
 - Mr Sydney Anderson
 - Mr Sammy Douglas
 - Mr Gordon Dunne
 - Mr Paul Frew
 - Mr Fearghal McKinney
 - Mr Mitchel McLaughlin
 - Ms Sandra Overend
- In Attendance:
- Mr Jim McManus (Assembly Clerk)
 - Ms Angela McParland (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
 - Mr Nathan McVeigh (Clerical Supervisor)
 - Ms Jacqueline Holt (Clerical Officer)
- Apologies:
- Mr Steven Agnew
 - Ms Megan Fearon

The meeting began at 10.05am in public session.

1. Apologies

Apologies were noted, as listed above.

2. Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 16 January 2014.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the draft minutes of 16 January 2014.

3. Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson reminded members that the Committee has agreed to host a meeting with the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation.

Agreed: the Clerk to schedule the meeting.

The Chairperson reminded members that at its meeting on 14 November 2013, the Committee agreed to ask OFMDFM to provide clarification on issues regarding the drawdown of US funds.

Paul Frew joined the meeting at 10.20am

Agreed: to write to OFMDFM asking for a response to be forwarded by Friday 31 January at the latest.

The Chairperson informed members that members of the Northern Ireland Region of Shopping Centres will be in the Long Gallery on Tuesday 11 February as part of a wider outreach programme and that the Committee office will contact members to check their availability to attend.

The Chairperson informed members that the Committee is to consider papers next week, from the Department, regarding the abolition of the National Consumer Council and the transfer of relevant functions.

Agreed: that the Consumer Council briefs the Committee on this issue next week.

4. Community Outcomes from Wind Energy Developments and the Benefits of Community Energy - Oral Briefing from Fermanagh Trust

The representative joined the meeting at 10.22am

Members received an oral briefing from Lauri McCusker, Director of The Fermanagh Trust.

Key issues discussed included: community benefits for host communities of wind farms and community energy projects.

The representative left the meeting at 11.37am

Agreed: to send the Hansard transcript of the briefing to the Committee for the Environment when it becomes available.

Agreed: The Fermanagh Trust to provide further detail to the Committee regarding RES's Local Electricity Discount Scheme and forward to the Committee a copy of the draft guidance protocol on community benefits derived from wind farms produced by Omagh and Strabane District Councils.

5. Community Banking - Oral Briefing from The Irish League of Credit Unions

The representatives joined the meeting at 11.38am

Patsy McGlone declared an interest as a member of a Credit Union.

Mitchel McLaughlin declared an interest as a member of a Credit Union.

Members received a briefing from Brian McCrory, ILCU Director and Chairman of NI Committee, Rosemary O'Doherty, ILCU Treasurer, Patsy McShane, Member of NI Committee and Kevin O'Donovan, CEO of CUSOP.

Key issues discussed included: the benefits of community banking and the request for funding by the Irish League of Credit Unions for their pilot.

Gordon Dunne joined the meeting at 11.57am.

The representatives left the meeting at 12.28pm

Agreed: the Chair to write to the Minister, on receipt of the Consumer Council report which was supported by the First Minister, and ascertain the level of support the Department has for the request for funding by the ILCU.

Agreed: to write to the Minister for Finance and Personnel and the Office of the first Minister and deputy First Minister and ascertain the level of support within their Departments for providing funding to the ILCU in this matter.

Agreed: Irish League of Credit Unions to provide an update on its pilot, when available, and keep the Committee informed of any meetings held with Ministers regarding this matter.

Sydney Anderson left the meeting at 12.31pm

6. Matters Arising

Members noted a letter from the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development regarding issues raised by the Ulster Farmers' Union on Farm Diversification and renewable generation installations.

Mitchel McLaughlin left the meeting at 12.36pm

Sydney Anderson returned to the meeting at 12.39pm

Members considered a list of answers to written questions provide by Steven Agnew regarding the use of renewables in public buildings.

Agreed: to receive an update from Assembly Research on the research into public sector renewable generation uptake, to include a written briefing from the Properties Division in the Department of Finance and Personnel on this issue.

Members noted a list of suggested invitees, from The Fermanagh Trust, for the stakeholder event on Tuesday 18 February.

Agreed: to also invite a representative from each district council to attend the event.

The Chairperson informed members that in response to the Committee's request as to why the Energy Bill has been delayed, the Department has stated it is considering, subject to the Minister's approval, having to defer the Bill due to other energy legislative priorities.

Agreed: To write to the Department asking for details of the other energy legislative priorities that may lead to the delay in the Energy Bill.

7. Dangerous Substances and Explosives Atmospheres Regulations – HSENI Consultation

Members considered a consultation document from the Department regarding Dangerous Substances and Explosives Atmospheres Regulations.

Agreed: to receive a summary of responses following consultation.

8. Legionnaires Disease: the control of legionella bacteria in water – HSENI Consultation

Members considered a consultation document from the Department regarding Legionnaires Disease: the control of legionella bacteria in water.

Agreed: to receive a summary of responses following consultation.

9. Control of Substances Hazardous to Health – HSENI Consultation

Members considered a consultation document from the Department regarding Control of Substances Hazardous to Health.

Agreed: to receive a summary of responses following consultation.

10. Safety in the installation and use of gas systems and appliances – HSENI Consultation

Members considered a consultation document from the Department regarding Safety in the installation and use of gas systems and appliances.

Agreed: to receive a summary of responses following consultation.

11. Revised Procedure for Licence Modifications and Appeals Process – DETI Consultation

Members considered a consultation document from the Department regarding Revised Procedure for Licence Modifications and Appeals Process.

Agreed: to receive a summary of responses following consultation.

12. Strategic Framework to tackle Economic Inactivity in Northern Ireland – DETI and DEL Consultation

Members considered a consultation document from the Department regarding Strategic Framework to tackle Economic Inactivity in Northern Ireland.

Agreed: to receive a summary of responses following consultation.

Agreed: to receive a briefing from the Department post consultation.

Agreed: to write to the Department asking when it expects the summary of responses to be available and what is the percentage of economically inactive people who are students in the other regions, namely England, Scotland and Wales.

13. Correspondence

Members noted the following items of correspondence for action;

- i. From Ofcom, including a press release, in regards to roaming charges

Agreed: to consider this next week in relation to the videoconference with the EU Directorate General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology.

Agreed: to ask Assembly Research for an up to date paper on what the EU Commission has done to date in regards to roaming charges.

- ii. From the Committee for Regional Development detailing the draft Terms of Reference for its Inquiry into the Benefits of Cycling to the Northern Ireland Economy.

Agreed: to write to the Committee for Regional Development stating that the Committee is content with its proposal for an inquiry and suggests they look at how other countries have approached this issue and also consider the tourism aspect with regards to cycling.

- iii. Members noted correspondence from the Consumer Council providing a copy of its response to the Department's consultation on future consumer representation arrangements.
- iv. Members noted correspondence from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister, providing copies of progress reports for the four Barroso Task Force Desk Officers covering the second quarter of July – September 2013.

Members noted the following items of correspondence;

- i. From the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development on the first Annual Progress Report on the implementation of the Rural White Paper Action Plan.
- ii. From the Chairperson of the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure to the Minister, regarding the Development of Tourism Signature Projects.

14. Any other business

Agreed: To write to the Department asking it to outline what is being done to promote the Giro d'Italia 2014 and opportunities for businesses.

15. Date, time and place of next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on **30 January 2014** at **10.00am** in **Room 30, Parliament Buildings.**

The meeting was suspended at 12.55pm

Sydney Anderson left the meeting at 12.55pm

The meeting recommenced in closed session at 1.06pm

16. Electricity Policy Review – Closed Session

Members considered the draft report for the Committee's Electricity Policy Review.

Fearghal McKinney left the meeting at 1.10pm

Gordon Dunne left the meeting at 1.26pm

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 1.35pm

Mr Patsy McGlone
Chairperson
Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment

30 January 2014