



**Northern Ireland  
Assembly**

**ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND INVESTMENT**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**06 MARCH 2014**

**NEWRY AND MOURE ENTERPRISE AGENCY, NEWRY 10.00AM.**

Present: Mr Patsy McGlone (Chairperson)  
Mr Steven Agnew  
Mr Sydney Anderson  
Mr Gordon Dunne  
Ms Megan Fearon  
Mr Paul Frew  
Mr Fearghal McKinney  
Mr Mitchel McLaughlin

In Attendance: Mr Jim McManus (Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Nathan McVeigh (Clerical Supervisor)  
Mr Jonathan Lawless (Clerical Supervisor)  
Ms Jacqueline Holt (Clerical Officer)

Apologies: Mr Sammy Douglas  
Ms Sandra Overend

*The meeting began at 10.20am in public session.*

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were noted, as listed above.

**2. Minutes of meetings held on Thursday 20 February 2014 and Thursday 27 February 2014.**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed the draft minutes of 20 February 2014.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed the draft minutes of 27 February 2014.

**3. Chairperson's Business**

Members considered an invitation from the Assembly and Business Trust to an InterTradeIreland event on Tuesday 11 March and an invitation to a CBI event on 25 March.

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

The Chairperson informed members the Committee Office had received a request to swap rooms with the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure for the meeting on 1 May.

*Agreed:* the Committee is content to move the Committee meeting to Room 21 on 1 May.

**4. Border Region Economy and impact of Savings Delivery Plans – Oral Briefing from InterTradeIreland**

*The officials joined the meeting at 10.24am*

*Gordon Dunne joined the meeting at 10.24am*

Members received an oral briefing from Aidan Gough, Strategy/Policy Director, InterTradeIreland and Dr Eoin Magennis, Policy Research Manager, InterTradeIreland.

Key issues discussed included: the border region economy and the impact of savings delivery plans on businesses supported by InterTradeIreland.

*Stephen Agnew joined the meeting at 10.59am*

*Agreed:* to forward the InterTradeIreland briefing papers to the Joint Committee on Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation.

*Agreed:* The Department to provide the Committee with information from Invest NI on the level of support available through the 0800 181 4422 helpline number.

*Agreed:* That InterTradeIreland to provide the Committee with details on how InterTradeIreland programmes are being affected by efficiency savings and the resulting impact of the savings on businesses.

*The officials left the meeting at 11.41am*

**5. The work of Newry and Mourne Enterprise Agency – Oral Briefing from the Newry and Mourne Enterprise Agency**

*The representative joined the meeting at 11.42am*

Members received an oral briefing from Conor Patterson, CEO, Newry and Mourne Enterprise Agency.

Key issues discussed included: the role, targets and work of the North South Steering Group on Horizon 2020.

*Sydney Anderson left the meeting at 12.16pm*

*The representative left the meeting at 12.31pm*

**6. Matters Arising**

Members considered a response from the Department to an Assembly Research paper regarding Northern Ireland Sub-Regional Economic Data.

*Agreed:* to ask the Department to forward the NISRA report on the feasibility of producing tables similar to the ‘national accounts’ tables produced by the Scottish Government when it becomes available.

*Agreed:* to include this paper on the website pages relating to the sub-regional economic data.

Members noted a response from the Department to the Committee request for a breakdown on the expenditure for Giro d’Italia.

Members noted a response from the Department to Committee queries regarding Post Project Evaluations.

Members considered a response from the Department to Committee queries regarding delays on SEUPB projects involving the Department.

*Agreed:* to clarify if the SEUPB received the correspondence sent by the Committee.

Members noted a response from A&L Goodbody to Committee queries regarding its China programme.

Members considered correspondence from the Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce regarding Export Strategy/Action Plan.

*Agreed:* to forward the correspondence to the Department for information.

Members considered a response from the Department to a Committee request for a briefing on the meeting between the Minister and the Ulster Bank.

*Agreed:* to ask the Department for a detailed breakdown of each agenda item discussed at the Minister's meeting with Ulster Bank.

Members considered a draft Committee response to the Chairpersons' Liaison Group regarding late papers from the Department.

*Agreed:* to incorporate the delay in receiving papers from OFMDFM in the response.

Members noted correspondence from RBS regarding its 2013 annual results.

## **7. Legislation: SL1 Renewables Obligation (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2014**

Members considered an SL1 regarding the Renewables Obligation (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Members considered responses from the Department and the Minister to Committee queries.

*Agreed:* to write to the Minister clarifying the Committee position regarding this legislation and providing an outline of Committee correspondence during its scrutiny of the legislation.

*Agreed:* to receive oral briefings from BNRG and Lightsource at the meeting on 13 March 2014.

*Agreed:* to ask the Department for a written briefing outlining any survey work that has been conducted to establish the potential for deep Geothermal heat and power generation in Northern Ireland.

## **8. Legislation: SL1 The Control of Major Accident Hazards (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2014**

Members considered an SL1 regarding the Control of Major Accident Hazards (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2014

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

## **9. Forward Work Programme**

Members considered a draft Committee forward work programme.

*Agreed:* the Forward Work Programme was agreed.

## **10. Correspondence**

*Members noted the following items of correspondence for action;*

- i. From HSENI regarding consultation on amendment to Employment Order.

*Agreed:* to commend the HSENI for the clarity of its response to its queries on this matter and asking for a summary of responses following the consultation.

- ii. Members noted correspondence from the Minister regarding home heating oil prices.
- iii. Members noted correspondence from the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister regarding competitive EU funding.

*Agreed:* to inform the Department that the Committee is content to await the draft Tourism Accommodation Policy document.

- iv. Members considered an invitation from the Agriculture and Forestry Greenhouse Gas Implementation Partnership.

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

- v. Members noted correspondence from the Fermanagh Trust regarding the Community Energy stakeholder event.
- vi. Members noted correspondence from the Minister regarding the Transposition of the Energy Directive.
- vii. From the Centre for Economic Empowerment to the deputy Chairperson regarding a roundtable discussion on economic data.

*Agreed:* that the Assembly Researcher attends the discussion on behalf of 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 **13 March 2014** at **10.00am** in **Room 30, Parliament Buildings.**

*The Chair adjourned the meeting at 12.41pm*

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**Mr Patsy McGlone**  
**Chairperson**  
**Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment**

**13 March 2014**