



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND INVESTMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

27 MARCH 2014

ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS 10.00AM.

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

The meeting began at 10.16am in public session.

1. Apologies

Apologies were noted, as listed above.

2. Minutes of meetings held on Thursday 13 March 2014.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the draft minutes of 13 March 2014.

3. Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson informed members that the meeting will move into closed session at the end to consider an Assembly Research Briefing on a Specialist Advisor on Economic Policy.

Members noted an invitation from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister to a European Economic and Social Committee Presidency event on 3 April 2014.

Members considered the recent press reports of job losses announced by the Post Office.

Agreed: to invite representatives from the Post Office to brief the Committee at a future meeting.

The Chairperson informed members that the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure has scheduled an oral and written briefing on Experiential Tourism from the Northern Ireland Tourist Board on Thursday 3 April 2014.

4. Giro d'Italia 2014, UK City of Culture 2013, G8 Summit and World Police and Fire Games 2013 – Oral Briefing from Northern Ireland Tourist Board

The representatives joined the meeting at 10.19am

Sammy Douglas left the meeting at 10.33am

Members received an oral briefing from Alan Clarke, Chief Executive and Kathryn Thomson, Chief Operating Officer.

Key issues discussed included: the legacy of events hosting by Northern Ireland such as the G8 Summit and the World Police and Fire Games, the cost of events to the tax payer and the economic benefits of events.

Sammy Douglas returned to the meeting at 11.35am

The representatives left the meeting at 11.40am

Agreed: to write to the Strategic Investment Board asking for a copy of the evaluation of the G8 Summit when it is completed.

Agreed: to ask Tourism Ireland what it is doing to promote the Giro d'Italia in other markets, especially in GB.

Agreed: to ask the Department for an estimated overall cost to Northern Ireland for hosting the Giro d'Italia.

Agreed: that the Northern Ireland Tourist Board undertakes a scoping study of linear cycle tracks including the use of canals and disused railway tracks as has been done with the Comber Greenway.

Agreed: that the Northern Ireland Tourist Board provides more detail on the legacy of the World Police and Fire Games.

5. Matters Arising

The Chairperson informed members that the Department has stated that the Invest NI website now has a link to direct users to the Horizon 2020 section of the Department's website.

Members considered a draft response to the Department regarding Intelligent Energy Systems.

Agreed: to forward the response to the Department.

Megan Fearon left the meeting at 11.42am

Members considered a draft response to the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister regarding its Barosso Taskforce Inquiry.

Agreed: the Committee agreed minor amendments to the response.

Agreed: to forward the amended response to the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister.

Members considered correspondence from Richard Bruton TD, Irish Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation expressing his support for the Committee's request for a briefing from Enterprise Ireland.

Agreed: to add a briefing from Enterprise Ireland to the Forward Work Programme.

Members considered a response from the Department to Committee queries on the drawdown of EU Funds.

Agreed: to ask the Department for more detail on what is meant by, "the Department itself has not drawn down any FP7 funding but on the basis of the above methodology its drawdown was attributed as being 50% of the total University drawdown."

Agreed: to ask the Department, in relation to the confidentiality of individual projects as referred to in the response, whether or not increased transparency in relation to EU Funding been implemented by the EU Commission.

Members noted a letter from the Irish League of Credit Unions and the Ulster Federation of Credit Unions expressing their appreciation for the Committee's support for its proposals on widening the range of services credit unions can provide.

Members considered a response from the Department to Committee queries on the impact of efficiency savings plans on InterTradeIreland's programmes.

Agreed: to forward the response to the Committee for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation for information.

Members considered a response from the Department to Committee queries on the level of support available via Invest NI's helpline.

Agreed: to inform the Department that the Committee will discuss the Invest NI Helpline during the briefing from Invest NI in May

6. Subordinate Legislation: SR 2014/74 The Control of Major Accident Hazards (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

Members considered SR 2014/74 The Control of Major Accident Hazards (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Agreed: that the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment has considered SR 2014/74 The Control of Major Accident Hazards (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 and has no objection to the rule.

7. Legislation: Credit Unions and Industrial and Provident Societies Bill

Sandra Overend left the meeting at 11.48am

Members considered a response from the Department to Committee queries on the Credit Unions and Industrial and Provident Societies Bill.

Agreed: to forward the Departmental response to the Irish League of Credit Unions and the Ulster Federation of Credit Unions for information.

Members considered a clause by clause summary table of the Bill.

Agreed: to consider a Committee response to the Department at next week's meeting.

Megan Fearon returned to the meeting at 11.53am

8. Legislative Consent Motion: Consumer Rights Bill

Members considered a draft Committee report on the Consumer Rights Bill Legislative Consent Motion.

Agreed: the Committee supports the Department in seeking the Assembly's agreement to the UK Parliament considering provisions of the Consumer Rights Bill relating to consumer policy

Agreed: that members are content with the report.

Agreed: to publish the report on the Committee pages of the website and to forward a link to all members.

9. Written Briefing from DETI: Response to the Electricity Policy Review Part 1 Security of Electricity Supply

Members considered a response from the Department to the Electricity Policy Review Part 1 Security of Electricity Supply.

Agreed: to publish the response on the Committee pages of the website and to forward a link to those who gave evidence to the Committee.

10. Update on Committee visit to Dungannon Enterprise Centre and Willowbank Ltd.

Members considered an update on the Committee visit to Dungannon Enterprise Centre and Willowbank Ltd.

Agreed: to ask DETI, Invest NI and Enterprise NI if there is any scope for developing a more coordinated approach to developing a programme for retail incubation.

11. Written Briefing from NIIRTA: Manifesto for the New Local Councils in Northern Ireland

Members considered a briefing from NIIRTA regarding a manifesto for the new local councils in Northern Ireland.

Agreed: to add an oral briefing from NIIRTA to the Forward Work Programme.

Members agreed to move to agenda item 14.

14. Correspondence

Members noted the following items of correspondence for action;

- i. Members noted correspondence from the Consumer Council regarding the Electricity Policy Review Part II Electricity Pricing.
- ii. From ICBAN to the Chairperson regarding a request to make a presentation to the Committee

Agreed: to add an oral briefing from ICBAN to the Forward Work Programme.

- iii. From the Committee for Finance and Personnel regarding the Investment Strategy Project Delivery Portal.

Agreed: to ask the Department if it, and its associated bodies, has kept, and will continue to keep the system up to date.

- iv. From the NI Assembly and Business Trust inviting members to a briefing on the budget announcement made by the Chancellor and the possible implications for Northern Ireland.

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

- v. From the Department regarding the proposed consultation on Revised Health and Safety Approved Codes of Practice.

Agreed: that the Committee is content to await the outcomes of the consultation.

15. Any other business

Members considered a means for renewable energy developers to provide written evidence to the Committee on its Review into Electricity Policy Part III Grid Connections.

Agreed: that members forward details of any identified organisations to the Committee Office.

Fearghal McKinney left the meeting at 12.10pm

16. Date, time and place of next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on **3 April 2014** at **10.00am** at **Denroy Plastics, Bangor.**

Members agreed to move to agenda item 12.

12. Research Briefing: Renewable energy development in the public sector

Megan Fearon left the meeting at 12.16pm

Members noted a Research Briefing regarding Renewable energy development in the public sector.

Agreed: Researcher to check if Energy Efficiency Action Plan has been completed.

Agreed: to consider the model developed by Nottingham Council for public sector renewable energy.

The Committee moved into closed session at 12.27pm

Sandra Overend returned to the meeting at 12.28pm

Agreed: to ask the Assembly Commission if anything has been factored into the Parliament Buildings roof project in relation to renewable energy.

Agreed: to arrange a meeting between the Chairpersons and Deputy Chairpersons of this Committee, the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister and the Committee for Finance and Personnel to discuss renewable energy in public buildings.

13. Research Briefing: Cross-border Committee meetings in Europe

Members noted a Research Briefing regarding Cross-border Committee meetings in Europe.

Megan Fearon returned to the meeting at 12.38pm

17. Research Briefing: Specialist Advisor – Economic Policy

Agreed: to arrange a meeting between the Chairperson and deputy Chairperson and the Researcher to discuss the proposed Specialist Advisor to the Committee.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 12.40pm

Mr Patsy McGlone
Chairperson
Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment

3 April 2014