



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND INVESTMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

12 JUNE 2014

BOARD ROOM, INVEST NI HEADQUARTERS, 10.00AM

- Present:
- Mr Patsy McGlone (Chairperson)
 - Mr Phil Flanagan (Deputy Chairperson)
 - Mr Steven Agnew
 - Mr Sydney Anderson
 - Mr Sammy Douglas
 - Mr Gordon Dunne
 - Ms Megan Fearon
 - Mr Paul Frew
 - Mr Fearghal McKinney
 - 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)
- Also in attendance:
- Mr Aidan Stennett (Research Officer)
 - Mr Martin McTaggart (Bursary student)
- Apologies: None

The meeting began at 10.10am.

1. Apologies

There were no apologies.

2. Minutes of meetings held on Thursday 5 June 2014.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the draft minutes of 5 June 2014.

Sandra Overend joined the meeting at 10.05am

Gordon Dunne joined the meeting at 10.05am

3. Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson informed members that the Green Investment Bank event on Tuesday past was attended by representatives from various government departments, company representatives and MLAs.

Agreed: to ask each department represented at the event to provide a written briefing to its Assembly Committee highlighting what they each got out of the event, how they could see their Department working with the Green Investment Bank in the future, highlighting the opportunities, identifying the barriers and exploring how these barriers can be overcome.

4. Matters Arising

Members considered a letter from the Minister informing the Committee that the Minister has decided to accept an offer of assistance from the Treasury to amend Northern Ireland legislation applying to insolvency and will therefore be asking Legislative Counsel to remove clause 14 from the Insolvency (Amendment) Bill.

Agreed: members are content with the proposal.

Members considered a response from the Department to the Committee's queries on the Petroleum Production Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987 discussed at the meeting of 15 May.

Agreed: to add the response to the Hydraulic Fracturing section of the Committee's pages on the Assembly website.

Members considered a briefing from the Department informing the Committee of its views on correspondence the Committee has received from the Bryson Group in respect of the Strasbourg Declaration and Social Value Framework.

Agreed: to ask the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister for a copy of the report from the Brussels Desk Officer ‘Opportunities and key priorities for social enterprises in NI’ along with a written briefing on what action is being taken as a result of the report.

Sydney Anderson joined the meeting at 10.09am

Members considered a response from the Department to the Committee’s request to advise it on the opportunities available under the Digital Agenda and the Industrial Flagships Policy Initiative.

Agreed: to ask the Department for a written briefing on how it is actively working towards the DAE goals.

Members noted correspondence from the Ulster Farmers’ Union regarding its request to give oral evidence on the Committee’s Electricity Policy Review Part III Grid Connections.

Agreed: to encourage individuals or organisations to provide, to the Committee, any case studies they have that are relevant to the Review.

5. Assembly Research: Renewable Energy in Public Sector Buildings

Members received a briefing from Assembly Research regarding Renewable Energy in Public Sector Buildings.

Paul Frew joined the meeting at 10.26am.

Steven Agnew joined the meeting at 10.29am

Agreed: to commission Assembly Research on the out-workings of the DFP conclusion in relation to 50 and 100 year payback for solar technologies and to compare this to case studies provided by Mr Steven Agnew; Assembly Research to clarify if the Public Sector Energy Campaign figures include social housing; Assembly Research to carry out research into the use of combined heat and power plants in social housing and what financial supports, incentives or government schemes are available for people to convert old properties to low carbon or build energy efficient houses; Assembly Research to provide a briefing on the district heating scheme in place in Tralee, Co. Kerry.

Agreed: Mr Sammy Douglas to provide information on a local project in which government has provided incentives around energy efficient housing.

Agreed: to ask the Director of Facilities for a written briefing on the renewable energy systems included in the Parliament Buildings roof project.

6. Written Briefing from Invest NI: Specific Aspects of Invest NI Activity

Members noted a written briefing from Invest NI regarding Specific Aspects of Invest NI Activity.

7. Written Briefing from DETI: 2013/14 Operating Plan Year-End Outturn Figures against Targets – Performance Monitoring of Key Targets

Members noted a written briefing from DETI regarding 2013/14 Operating Plan Year-End Outturn Figures against Targets – Performance Monitoring of Key Targets.

8. Written Briefing from DETI: Update on the Draft 2014 – 2020 ERDF Growth and Jobs Programme

Members considered a written briefing from DETI regarding an Update on the Draft 2014 – 2020 ERDF Growth and Jobs Programme.

Agreed: to ask the Department for an update following the Executive meeting on 19th June 2014; to ask the Department if there is any potential within the Programme to look at barriers SMEs face such as banking costs or transaction costs, particularly in the border areas; to ask the Department why there is no focus on the social economy as it is a main priority in the Strasbourg Declaration.

9. Written Briefing from the Northern Ireland Tourist Board: Capital Investment Programme

Members considered a written briefing from the Northern Ireland Tourist Board regarding the Capital Investment Programme.

Agreed: to ask the Department if there is any particular trend or themes in relation to projects being withdrawn.

10. Written Briefing from DETI: Measuring Northern Ireland's High Growth Firms 1998 – 2013

Members noted a written briefing from DETI on Measuring Northern Ireland's High Growth Firms 1998 – 2013.

11. Written Briefing from Tourism Ireland to the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure

Members noted a written briefing from Tourism Ireland to the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure.

12. Written Briefing from Manufacturing NI: Grid Connection

Members noted a written briefing from Manufacturing NI regarding Grid Connection.

Agreed: to include the paper in evidence for the Committee's Review of Electricity Policy Part III Grid Connection.

13. Ministerial Statement: Outcome of the Public Consultation on the Future Arrangements for Consumer Representation in Northern Ireland

Members considered a Ministerial Statement regarding the outcome of the Public Consultation on the Future Arrangements for Consumer Representation in Northern Ireland.

Agreed: to commission Assembly Research on the extent of the statutory powers which Consumer Focus has in Britain and evidence of the benefits these powers bring to consumers.

14. Correspondence

Members noted the following items of correspondence:

- i. Members considered correspondence from Full Circle Power Energy Park confirming a presentation on Thursday 3 July, 2.20pm at Bombardier Aerospace.

Agreed: the Committee office will contact members in regards to their attendance.

- ii. Members noted correspondence from the Minister informing the Committee of the progress of the revised draft Regulatory Impact Assessment Guidance.

- iii. Members considered correspondence from the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development in relation to the impact of ground-based solar PV on Single Farm Payments.

Agreed: to forward the correspondence to the Ulster Farmers' Union and NIAPA.

15. Any other business

Members discussed the current Game of Thrones exhibition at the Waterfront Hall.

Agreed: to ask the Northern Ireland Tourist Board for an update on the exhibition.

Members discussed the consultation carried out regarding red tape to businesses, in relation to the Better Regulation Strategy and in particular what is being done to make cross-border trade easier.

Agreed: to ask the Department for an update on the public consultation.

16. Date, time and place of next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on **19 June 2014** at **10.00am** in **Room 30, Parliament Buildings**.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 11.15am.

Mr Patsy McGlone
Chairperson
Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment

19 June 2014