



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND INVESTMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

18 NOVEMBER 2014

ROOM 29, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS, 10.00AM

Present:

Mr Steven Agnew
Mr Sydney Anderson
Mr Gordon Dunne
Mr Paul Frew
Mr William Humphrey
Mr Danny Kinahan
Mr Máirtín Ó Muilleoir

In Attendance:

Mr Jim McManus (Assembly Clerk)
Ms Angela McParland (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Christopher Jeffrey (Clerical Officer)
Mr Peadar Ó Lamhna (Bursary Student)

Apologies:

Mr Patsy McGlone (Chairperson)
Mr Phil Flanagan (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Fearghal McKinney

The meeting began at 10:10 am with the Clerk presiding due to the absence of the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson.

The Clerk sought nominations for a temporary chairperson. Gordon Dunne was proposed by Steven Agnew and seconded by William Humphrey. As no further

nominations were received and the Clerk invited Gordon Dunne to take the Chair at 10:11am.

1. Apologies

Apologies were noted as above.

2. Chairperson's Business

Members received an update about the possibility of joint scrutiny of the Going for Growth Strategy with the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development.

Agreed: the two Chairpersons and Clerks to meet to discuss and bring forward proposals at a future meeting.

Members considered an invitation to attend the Scrum 2014 conference being held by Momentum on Thursday 27 November 2014.

Agreed: members to inform the Committee Office of their availability to attend by Thursday 20 November 2014.

Members noted a circular issued to the Committee Office regarding the Assembly Christmas Card.

Agreed: to send a conventional Christmas Card to all organisations who have briefed the Committee during the year and who briefed the Committee during the US visit in June.

3. Draft minutes of meeting of 11 November 2014

Agreed: the Committee agreed the draft minutes of 11 November 2014.

4. Oral briefing from CETI Specialist Advisor, Dr Leslie Budd

Dr Budd joined the meeting at 10:14am

Danny Kinahan joined the meeting at 10:34am

Paul Frew joined the meeting at 10:50am

Members received an oral briefing from Dr Leslie Budd, Specialist Advisor to the Committee.

Key issues discussed included: evaluation of the Programme for Government, counter cyclical measures, forecast for the next 24 months in terms of jobs, the

establishment of a National Investment Bank and the implications of corporation tax being devolved to Northern Ireland.

Dr Budd concluded his briefing at 10:54am

5. Oral Briefing from the Northern Ireland Centre for Economic Policy (NICEP)

The representatives joined the meeting at 10:55am

Members received an oral briefing from Professor Neil Gibson, Director NICEP.

Key issues discussed included: growth of the economy, the Northern Ireland labour market, broad based skills recovery, rates relief, the knowledge economy, corporation tax, investment in education and the rebranding of NICEP.

Paul Frew left the meeting at 11:08am

The representative left the meeting at 11:55am

6. Matters Arising

Members considered correspondence from DETI outlining the Department's response to Full Circle Power's concern of the absence of known grace period criterion for the closure of the Northern Ireland Renewables Obligation (NIRO) in 2017.

Agreed: to forward the response to Full Circle Power asking if the issue is resolved to their satisfaction.

Members considered correspondence from DETI regarding the Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) Scheme in response to concerns of Farmgas Community Partners.

Agreed: to forward this response to Farmgas Community Partners for information.

Members noted correspondence from the Department in relation to the launch date of the Domestic RHI.

Members noted correspondence from the Consumer Council regarding prompt payment of invoices.

Members noted correspondence from the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development regarding a joint event for Going for Growth.

Members noted correspondence from Mr Jim Allister MLA regarding a code of conduct for insolvency practitioners.

Members noted that the Committee Office requested a higher definition map from Coleraine Borough Council, at the request of a member, in regards to correspondence on micro-grids considered at the meeting on 11 November 2014.

Members noted, in regards to their call for evidence for the Insolvency (Amendment) Bill, that the Chair of the Chancery and Probate Liaison Committee had expressed some concerns over the provision to facilitate banks to permit bankrupts to have bank accounts.

Agreed: to ask the Department for a copy of the letter it sent in reply to the consultation response from the Chancery and Probate Liaison Committee and to ask that Committee, through the Northern Ireland Courts Service, if it is content with the Department's response to its concerns or if there is anything further on the matter that it would like to raise with the Committee.

7. Legislation: Legislative Consent Memorandum – The Deregulation Bill

Members noted a draft Committee report, a response from the Department regarding an exemption to turban-wearing Sikhs wearing safety helmets and correspondence from the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development.

Agreed: the Committee was content with the draft report on the Legislative Consent Memorandum to be laid in the Assembly Business Office and for publication on the Committee's website.

8. Legislation: SL1 Proposed Guarantee of Origin of Electricity Produced from High-Efficiency Cogeneration (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

Members considered the SL1 Proposed Guarantee of Origin of Electricity Produced from High-Efficiency Cogeneration (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Agreed: the Committee is content with the policy implications of the proposed legislation at this stage.

9. Written Briefing from DETI: Mineral Prospecting Licences Awarded to Metallum Exploration Ltd.

Members noted a written briefing from the Department on Mineral Prospecting Licences Awarded to Metallum Exploration Ltd.

10. Written Briefing from DETI: Superfast Rollout Programme Phase 2

Members noted a written briefing from the Department regarding the Superfast Rollout Programme Phase 2.

11. National Policy Statement on Entrepreneurship in Ireland

The Committee considered a Policy statement from the Irish Department of Jobs, Enterprise & Innovation.

The Chair invited Máirtín Ó Muilleoir to speak on this topic.

Agreed: to forward a copy to the Department for views on the statement, how this compares with what Northern Ireland is doing; is the global entrepreneurship index used to inform policy for Northern Ireland (it may be that it cannot be broken down to regional level) – to ask the Department for information on how entrepreneurship in Northern Ireland is driven and progress measured; and the Department to comment on how it sees such an ecosystem of entrepreneurship developing and working in Northern Ireland.

12. Correspondence

Members noted the following items of correspondence:

- i. Correspondence from the Minister regarding harmonisation of EU member states law on pressure equipment.
- ii. A thank you letter from the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation arising out of their recent visit to Parliament Buildings.
- iii. A press release from Ulster Bank.
- iv. Correspondence from New Century regarding the possible ban on house coal in domestic heating.

Agreed: to forward the correspondence to the Committee for the Environment for its comments.

- v. Correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel regarding Financial Transaction Capital.

Agreed: to forward this correspondence to DETI to ask for details of any underspend.

- vi. An invitation to the Future Students of Business Awards.

Agreed: members who are available to attend should contact the Committee Office.

13. Any Other Business

There were no items of additional business.

14. Date, time and place of next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on **Tuesday 25 November at 10.00am** in Room 29, **Parliament Buildings**.

The meeting went into closed session at 12:15pm

15. Electricity Policy Review

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

Agreed: the Committee is content that the list of Membership and Powers stands part of the report.

Agreed: the Committee is content that the list of Abbreviations and Table of Contents stands part of the report.

Agreed: the Committee is content that the Executive Summary stands part of the report.

Agreed: the Committee is content that the Summary of Recommendations at paragraphs stands part of the report.

Agreed: the Committee is content that the Introduction stands part of the report.

Agreed: the Committee is content that the Key Issues and Findings stands part of the report.

Agreed: the Committee is content that the Conclusions and Recommendations stands part of the report.

Agreed: the Committee is content that the extract of the Minutes of Proceedings at Appendix 1 stands part of the report.

Agreed: the Committee is content that the Minutes of Evidence (Hansards) at Appendix 2 stands part of the report.

Agreed: the Committee is content that the Written Submissions at Appendix 3 stands part of the report.

Agreed: the Committee is content that the Case Studies at Appendix 4 stands part of the report.

Agreed: the Committee is content that the Assembly Research Papers at Appendix 5 stands part of the report.

Agreed: the Committee is content that the Correspondence at Appendix 6 stands part of the report.

Agreed: the Committee is content for the Chairperson to approve an extract from today's minutes which reflect the read-through of the Report.

Members considered a copy of the draft motion for the debate.

Agreed: the Committee is content with the draft motion.

The meeting concluded at 12.17pm

Mr Gordon Dunne
Temporary Elected Chairperson
Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment