



COMMITTEE FOR ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND INVESTMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

29 SEPTEMBER 2015

ROOM 29, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS, 10:00am

- Present:
- Mr Patsy McGlone (Chairperson)
 - Mr Conor Murphy (Deputy Chairperson)
 - Mr Adrian Cochrane-Watson
 - Mr Gordon Dunne
 - Ms Megan Fearon
 - Mr Paul Frew
 - Mr Paul Givan
 - Mr William Humphrey
 - Mr Fearghal McKinney
 - Mr Máirtín Ó Muilleoir
- In Attendance:
- Mr Jim McManus (Assembly Clerk)
 - Ms Angela McParland (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
 - Mr Michael Greer (Clerical Supervisor)
 - Ms Marion Johnson (Clerical Officer)
- Apologies: None

The meeting began at 10:17am

1. Apologies

No apologies were received.

2. Draft Minutes of Meetings of 8th September 2015 and 22nd September 2015

Agreed: the Committee agreed the draft minutes, as amended, of 22nd September 2015 and the amended minutes of 8th September 2015.

3. Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson informed Members that two new business items had been added to the Agenda and that a revised Agenda was tabled for members.

Agreed: the Committee agreed the revised agenda.

The Chairperson informed members that he had been invited to speak at a Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce event on Wednesday 30th September 2015 regarding the current Export Action Plan and the Committee's Report on its Inquiry into Economic Growth and Job Creation in a Reduced Tax Environment.

Agreed: the Chairperson to attend the NICC event.

4. Oral Briefing Tourism Northern Ireland: Year of Food & Drink 2016

The Officials joined the meeting at 10:19am

Patsy McGlone declared an interest as a relative of his works in the hospitality industry

Fearghal McKinney joined the meeting at 10.25am

Megan Fearon left the meeting at 10.30am

Adrian Cochrane-Watson joined the meeting at 10.38am

Members received a briefing from Mr John McGrillen, Chief Executive, Tourism NI and Ms Kathryn Thomson, Chief Operating Officer, Tourism NI.

The key issue discussed was the Northern Ireland Year of Food & Drink 2016. The Officials also discussed with members an opportunity for an event to be hosted in Parliament Buildings.

The Officials agreed to forward to the Committee: details of the masterclass events; who the steering groups comprise of; further information on how the £400,000 is being allocated and quarterly updates on the project.

William Humphrey left the meeting at 11:08am

The representatives left the meeting at 11:16am

5. Matters Arising

Members noted correspondence from Policy Forum NI thanking the Chairperson for attending a Seminar on behalf of the Committee.

Members noted an update from the Department in regards to a report by the Ulster University Economic Policy Unit on Corporation Tax.

Members noted a Departmental response regarding the DETI Business Plan 2014/15.

Members noted correspondence from the Utility Regulator providing a link to its most recently published Board Minutes.

The Chairperson informed Members that the Committee will receive an oral briefing from mobile network operators on 20th October 2015 on non-competitive issues. The mobile operators have offered to meet with members informally afterwards on a one to one basis with more detail on commercially sensitive projects.

Members noted a response to from the Utility Regulator regarding the evidence session on 9th July 2015 and agreed to consider this further during Agenda Item 16.

6. Legislation: SL1 The Weights and Measures (Food Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

Members considered the SL1 The Weights and Measures (Food Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

Agreed: the Committee is content with the policy proposals at this stage.

7. Legislation: SL1 The Storage of Carbon Dioxide (Access to Infrastructure) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

Members considered the SL1 The Storage of Carbon Dioxide (Access to Infrastructure) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

Agreed: the Committee is content with the policy proposals at this stage.

8. Legislation: SL1 The Storage of Carbon Dioxide (Licensing Etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

Members considered the SL1 The Storage of Carbon Dioxide (Licensing Etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

Agreed: the Committee is content with the policy proposals at this stage.

9. Written Briefing from DETI: Northern Ireland Broadband Improvement Project

Members discussed a written briefing from the Department in relation to the Northern Ireland Broadband Improvement Project.

Agreed: the Department and BT to provide an oral briefing to the Committee during this session.

10. Written Briefing: Consumer Council NI Annual Report and Accounts for Year ended 31 March 2015

Members noted the Consumer Council NI Annual Report and Accounts for Year ended 31 March 2015.

11. Enterprise Research – UK Growth Dashboard Report

Members noted the Enterprise Research UK Growth Dashboard Report, provided to the Committee by its Specialist Advisor, and discussed the offer from the Chief Executive of Visit England to brief the Committee.

Agreed: to invite Mr Peter Beresord, CEO of Visit England, to brief the Committee.

12. Correspondence

Members noted the following items of correspondence;

i. Correspondence from Viridian in relation to the Renewables Closure Order for Onshore Wind, agreeing to consider this further during Agenda Item 16.

ii. An invitation to a roundtable discussion with a delegation of EU community and business leaders.

Agreed: the Chairperson will attend and the Deputy Chairperson, if available, will also attend. Other members to contact the Committee Office if they are available to attend.

iii. A report by the Northern Ireland Audit Office on The Northern Ireland Events Office.

iv. An invitation to members to attend a Northern Ireland Renewables Industry Group Energy Policy Summit on 13th October 2015.

Agreed: members to contact the Committee Office if they are available to attend.

- v. An invitation to an event to be held at Queen's University on Northern Ireland and the EU referendum.

Paul Givan joined the meeting at 11.27am

- vi. Correspondence from an Energy Broker.

Agreed: that the energy broker be added to the Committee's stakeholder list.

- vii. Correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel on the October Monitoring Round.

13. Any Other Business

There were no additional items of business.

14. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on **Tuesday 6 October 2015 at 10.00am in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.**

The Committee agreed to move to Agenda item 16

16. Consultation: Closure of the Northern Ireland Renewables Obligation (NIRO) to Onshore Wind.

Members considered a consultation document in relation to the Closure of the Northern Ireland Renewables Obligation (NIRO) to onshore wind.

Agreed: to receive a summary of responses following consultation.

17. Assembly Research: Reform of the Legacy Credit Unions Sourcebook

Members considered a research paper and Departmental response in relation to a consultation paper on the Reform of the Legacy Credit Unions Sourcebook. Members also considered a draft letter to the Prudential Regulation Authority.

Agreed: to issue the letter to the Prudential Regulation Authority.

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

The Chairperson suspended the meeting at 11:34am

15. Oral Briefing from the DETI Permanent Secretary: Absence of Minister

The meeting recommenced at 12:02pm with the following members in attendance:

Patsy McGlone (Chairperson)

Conor Murphy (Deputy Chairperson)

Gordon Dunne

Paul Frew

William Humphrey

Máirtín Ó Muilleoir returned to the meeting at 12:03pm

Fearghal McKinney returned to the meeting at 12.04pm

Paul Givan returned to the meeting at 12.12pm

Members received a briefing from Dr. Andrew McCormick, DETI Permanent Secretary.

The key issues discussed were on the policy areas on which the absence of a Minister will impact.

The Permanent Secretary agreed to provide further detail to the Committee on when it can expect written briefings on the Strategic Energy Framework and the progress of the Enterprise Zone pilot.

William Humphrey left the meeting at 12.37pm

The Permanent Secretary left the meeting at 12:41pm

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 12:41pm

Mr Patsy McGlone
Chairperson
Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment

6 October 2015