



**Northern Ireland  
Assembly**

**COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**THURSDAY, 13 MARCH 2014**

**ROOM 21, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mrs Pam Cameron MLA (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mr Colum Eastwood MLA  
Mr Tom Elliott MLA  
Mr Alban Maginness MLA  
Mr Barry McElduff MLA  
Mr Ian Milne MLA  
Lord Morrow MLA  
Mr Peter Weir MLA

In Attendance: Mrs Sheila Mawhinney (Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Sean McCann (Assistant Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Neil Sedgewick (Clerical Supervisor)  
Ms Antoinette Bowen (Clerical Officer)  
Ms Jennifer McCullough (Clerical Officer)

Apologies: Ms Anna Lo MLA (Chairperson)  
Mr Cathal Boylan MLA  
Mr Ian McCrea MLA

*The meeting began in public session at 10:12.*

The Chairperson thanked Ms Antoinette Bowen for her work as a member of the Committee staff for the last five years and wished her well for her future career. She also welcomed Ms Jennifer McCullough to her new post.

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were indicated as above.

**2. Chairperson's Business**

The Deputy Chairperson advised members that the amendments to the Local Government Bill, which were agreed by the Committee at its last meeting, had been laid in the Bill Office for the Consideration Stage debate.

### **3. Draft minutes**

The minutes from the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2014 were agreed.

### **4. Matters arising**

4.1 The Committee noted a Departmental reply on taxi enforcement measures.

*Mr Elliott joined the meeting at 10.15.*

4.2 The Committee considered a Departmental response to issues raised by the UFU in relation to illegal dumping of used tyres.

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward a copy of the response to the Ulster Farmers Union for information.*

4.3 The Committee noted a Departmental reply regarding taxis at Ravenhill Rugby Ground.

4.4 At this point in the meeting the Committee was made aware of an announcement of job losses at DVA offices throughout Northern Ireland, but impacting on Coleraine in particular.

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to request an immediate Departmental briefing on this issue during the course of the present meeting.*

### **5. Consultation on Waste Duty of Care – Code of Practice revision 2014**

The Committee considered a consultation on the Waste Duty of Care – Code of Practice revision 2014

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to request a copy of the synopsis of responses.*

### **6. Consultation on Living Places supplementary guidance – synopsis of responses**

The Committee considered the synopsis of responses on the consultation on living Places supplementary guidance.

*Agreed: The Committee was content for the Department to proceed in making the policy.*

### **7. Consultation on proposed exemption for police use of in-car screens**

The Committee considered a consultation on proposed exemption for police use of in-car screens.

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to request a copy of the synopsis of responses.*

## **8. Wind Energy Inquiry - Consideration of submissions**

The Committee considered the formal submissions received to the Committee's Call for Evidence.

*Agreed: The Committee agreed that the submissions should be published on the Assembly website. The Committee also agreed that it would not consider a plan for the inquiry for the next few weeks until the submissions had been analysed.*

*Mr Eastwood joined the meeting at 10:27.*

## **9. Departmental Briefing on consultation on shadow arrangements and the draft Local Government (Transitional, Incidental and Supplementary Provisions and Modifications) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014**

Linda MacHugh (Director, Local Government Policy Division), Julie Broadway (G7, Local Government Policy Division), and Tracy Johnston (Local Government Division) briefed the Committee on the consultation on the shadow arrangements and the draft Local Government (Transitional, Incidental and Supplementary Provisions and Modifications) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014.

The main areas discussed were the impact of the regulations and the allocation of positions of responsibility for the Shadow Councils.

*Agreed: The Committee was content, in view of time pressures on the legislation, that it would consider the synopsis of responses to the consultation alongside the SLI.*

## **10. Departmental briefing on Ministerial amendments to the Local Government Bill**

Linda MacHugh (Director, Local Government Policy Division), Julie Broadway (G7, Local Government Policy Division), John Murphy (Local Government Policy Division) and Mylene Ferguson (Local Government Policy Division) briefed the Committee in relation to the Ministerial amendments being brought forward for consideration stage of the Bill.

The main areas discussed were the rationale for the amendments and the consequences if they are accepted by the Assembly.

## **11. Correspondence**

The Committee considered correspondence from the Department regarding the recommendations of a report on Community Benefits.

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward a copy of this correspondence to the Fermanagh Trust who raised the issue with Committee.*

The Committee noted the following correspondence:

Correspondence regarding an article from 'Irish Environment' magazine.

Departmental letter providing an update on compliance with the George Best Belfast City Airport Planning Agreement.

Correspondence from the Finance and Personnel Committee detailing outstanding Departmental Post –Project Evaluations.

Correspondence from the Enterprise, Trade and Investment Committee to the Department regarding the proposed business case of support for Exploris Aquarium, copied to this Committee for information

Correspondence from the Finance and Personnel Committee regarding a report on Measuring Wellbeing in NI.

Latest edition of Reform Inform Newsletter

IMTAC reports on Walking Routes in Derry – Londonderry for the Disabled.

## **12. Forward Work Programme**

The Committee noted the forward work programme.

## **13. Any Other Business**

The Committee discussed further the announcement of job losses at the DVA and strongly expressed its dissatisfaction that no advance notification of the public announcement had been provided to it, particularly in view of the Department's awareness of its keen interest in the issue.

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to call on the Minister to make an oral statement in the Assembly at its next sitting on Tuesday (18<sup>th</sup> March) to clarify how he proposed to address the situation.*

*Agreed: The Committee asked officials to brief members at its next meeting, and also, if possible, to provide an immediate update that afternoon.*

## **14. Date, time and place of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2014 at 10:00am in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

*The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 11:17.*

**Anna Lo, MLA**  
**Chairperson, Committee for the Environment**  
**20 March 2014**