



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

DRAFT MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

TUESDAY, 6 MAY 2014

ROOM 29, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present: Ms Anna Lo MLA (Chairperson)
Mrs Pam Cameron MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Cathal Boylan MLA
Mr Tom Elliott MLA
Mr Ian McCrea 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 Jennifer McCullough (Clerical Officer)

Apologies: No apologies were received

The meeting began in public session at 12:55.

1. Apologies

Apologies were indicated as above.

2. Chairperson's Business

No business was discussed.

3. Draft minutes

The minutes from the meetings held on 10th April and 1st May 2014 were agreed.

Mr Weir joined the meeting at 12:57.

4. Matters arising

4.1 The Committee considered a Departmental reply in relation to a planning application by Dalradian Gold Ltd.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward a copy of the reply to the original correspondent.

4.2 The Committee considered a Departmental response to issues raised by a church group regarding minibus brake tests and weight restriction.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward a copy of the reply to the original correspondent.

4.3 The Committee noted a Departmental response outlining the current legislative position of volunteer car drivers.

4.4 The Committee noted information on the Fife Council Scheme of Delegation in relation to planning, and statistical information on planning applications processed.

4.5 The Committee considered further information from the Department on capacity building and training to accompany the introduction of the councillors' code of conduct.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to clarify whether the training is compulsory for all councillors, not just members of the planning committee; if any form of formal certification is to be issued for this training; and if the code of conduct will reflect any future changes in the code of conduct for the Northern Ireland Assembly

4.6 The Committee noted a report from the Department on the Marine Conservation Workshop held on 19 March 2014.

4.7 The Committee considered a response to issues raised by employees of the DVA on actions being taken by the Department to identify alternative posts within the public sector.

Agreed: The Committee asked the Department to be kept updated on the progress of this issue.

Mr Elliott and Mr McCrea joined the meeting at 13.10.

4.8 The Committee considered further information from the Department regarding the HGV Road User Levy.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to seek further clarification on charging and enforcement of the levy on non-NI HGV road users.

The Committee also agreed to forward a copy of the response to the Donegal Truckers.

Mr Milne left the meeting at 13.17.

4.9 The Committee considered a Departmental reply in response to issues raised by the Mourne AONB Residents' Group on ASSI designation.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to facilitate a meeting between a delegation from the Mourne Area AONB Residents' Group and the NIEA.

The Committee also agreed to forward a copy of the reply to the original correspondent.

4.10 The Committee noted a Departmental update on capital funding allocated to the North West Region Waste Management Group.

4.11 The Committee considered a Departmental response on community engagement in its consultation on draft Supplementary Planning Guidance 'Anaerobic Digestion' to PPS18.

Agreed: The Committee was content for the Department to proceed with publication of the final version of the supplementary guidance.

4.12 The Committee noted a response from the Department to concerns regarding the cost and road safety implications of proposals included in the UK-wide consultation on UNECE Regulation – Enhanced Child Restraint Systems.

4.13 The Committee noted responses from the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee on planning restrictions on slurry stores and clarification on Active Farmer ID.

Mr Weir left the meeting at 13:28.

5. Consultation on the Draft Local Government (Executive Arrangements) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

The Committee considered the consultation on the Draft Local Government (Executive Arrangements) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014.

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

6. Synopsis of responses on the Consultation on the draft Biodiversity Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2020.

Mr Elliott left the meeting at 13:30.

The Committee considered the synopsis of responses to the consultation on the Draft Biodiversity Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2020.

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

7. SL1 – The Sulphur Content of Liquid Fuels (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

The Committee considered the SL1 proposal for The Sulphur Content of Liquid Fuels (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Agreed: The Committee was content for the Department to proceed with making the Rule.

8. SL1 – Pollution Prevention and Control (Industrial Emissions) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

The Committee considered the SL1 proposal for The Pollution Prevention and Control (Industrial Emissions) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Agreed: The Committee was content for the Department to proceed with making the Rule.

9. SR 2014/117 The Controlled Waste and Duty of Care (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

The Committee considered the Statutory Rule SR 2014/117, The Controlled Waste and Duty of Care Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Mr Weir re-joined the meeting at 13:33.

Question put and agreed:

That 'The Committee for the Environment has considered SR 2014/117 - The Controlled Waste and Duty of Care (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 and, subject to the Examiner's report, has no objection to the Rule.'

10. SR 2014/118 The Planning (Control of Advertisements) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

The Committee considered the Statutory Rule SR 2014/118, The Planning (Control of Advertisements) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Question put and agreed:

That 'The Committee for the Environment has considered SR 2014/118 - The Planning (Control of Advertisements) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 and, subject to the Examiner's report, has no objection to the Rule.'

11. Wind energy inquiry

The Committee considered the inquiry plan and a list of stakeholders for a proposed stakeholder event.

Agreed: The Committee was content with the inquiry plan and the proposed list of stakeholders.

12. Correspondence

The Committee considered correspondence regarding opposition to a proposed power station in Larne.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the correspondence to the Department for comment.

The Committee considered correspondence from the RSPB regarding funding concerns for the Rural Development Programme 2014-20.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the correspondence to OFMdFM for comment as requested by the RSPB.

The Committee considered correspondence from Cormac and Fidelma McAleer, and Peter Keenan, to DOE, DETI and DOJ in relation to the Dalradian Goldmine, copied to the Committee for information.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the correspondents and ask to be copied into any responses they receive on this issue.

The Committee considered a response from the Department regarding concerns raised by a member of the public on the proposed Greywacke quarry.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the response to the original correspondent.

The Committee considered a request from JPR Belfast to brief the Committee regarding the Fair Head Tidal Project.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to hold an informal meeting with the group.

The Committee noted the following correspondence:

Latest edition of Reform Inform

Correspondence from NEA regarding the DSD public consultation on the Affordable Fuel scheme.

Correspondence from House of Lords providing an update on EU Directive Proposal EM 7510/13 on coastal management and spatial planning.

Correspondence from the Minister regarding several planning applications in Magherafelt.

Departmental letter advising of the publication of the final version of PPS23.

Departmental letter publishing upcoming fees and charging schemes to be implemented.

Investment Strategy NI report April 2014.

Copy of email sent to the Justice Committee from a members of the public regarding speed camera abuse.

Copies of written Assembly questions to the Environment Minister regarding taxis.

Correspondence from First Flight Wind Ltd. regarding the recent publication of the Offshore Scoping report.

Correspondence from NIIRTA regarding the SPSS public consultation.

Latest e-bulletin from NIEL.

Departmental correspondence regarding the George Best Belfast City airport planning agreement.

Letter from the Finance and Personnel Committee providing an indicative timetable for forthcoming monitoring rounds.

The Committee also noted a number of DOE press releases.

10. Forward Work Programme

The Committee agreed that the Minister should provide an oral update at the meeting on 19 June.

Members also agreed to reschedule the next meeting of the Committee from Thursday 15 May to Tuesday 13 May.

11. Any Other Business

No other business was discussed.

12. Date, time and place of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 13th May 2014 at 12:45 in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 13:45.

Anna Lo, MLA
Chairperson, Committee for the Environment
13 May 2014