



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

THURSDAY, 6 NOVEMBER 2014

SENATE CHAMBER, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

- Present: Ms Anna Lo MLA (Chairperson)
Mrs Pam Cameron MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Cathal Boylan MLA
Mr Colum Eastwood MLA
Mr Ian McCrea MLA
Mr Barry McElduff MLA
Mr Alban Maginness MLA
Mr Ian Milne MLA
Mrs Sandra Overend MLA
Mr Peter Weir MLA
- In Attendance: Ms Sheila Mawhinney (Assembly Clerk)
Mr Mark McQuade (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Neil Sedgewick (Clerical Supervisor)
Ms Allison Ferguson (Clerical Officer)
- Apologies: Lord Morrow MLA

The meeting began in public session at 10.09 am.

- 1. Apologies**
Apologies as noted above.

2. Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson referred members to a record of key issues discussed and decisions taken at the Chairperson's Liaison Group meeting on 21 October 2014.

Mr Maginness joined the meeting at 10.11am.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Fermanagh Trust regarding evidence taken for the Committee Inquiry into Wind Energy.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Northern Ireland Renewables Industry Group regarding the issues raised by the Fermanagh Trust and to include this correspondence in its report on the Inquiry into Wind Energy.

The Chairperson referred members to correspondence from the Minister indicating his intention to make a statement to the Assembly on Monday 17 November 2014 on the outcome of the British Irish Council Meeting on Wednesday 15 October 2014.

The Chairperson advised the Committee that details of members' attendance at Committee meetings during the 2013/2014 session would be published on the Committee web page on Friday 7th November 2014.

3. Minutes

The minutes from the meeting held on 23rd October 2014 were agreed.

4. Matters Arising

The Committee noted correspondence from the Minister providing an update on the work of the Joint Working Group on Archaeological Archives.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Northern Ireland Renewables Industry Group providing regarding the Committee Inquiry into Wind Energy.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to include this correspondence in its report on the Inquiry into Wind Energy.

The Committee noted further information from the Department on its proposals to introduce a scheme of Continuous Insurance Enforcement.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Department indicating that there would be a delay in providing a synopsis of responses to the consultation on the Waste Management Licensing (Amendment) Regulations.

The Committee noted further information from the Department on funding for Environmental Programmes impacted by October Monitoring.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Department advising members that the draft statutory rule, The Pollution Prevention and Control (Industrial Emissions) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014,

had been withdrawn on the advice of the Examiner of Statutory Rules, and that an amended draft rule has been re-laid.

Mr McElduff joined the meeting at 10.14am.

5. Consultations

The Committee noted a consultation on WEEE Compliance Fee Methodology.

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

The Committee noted a consultation on the draft Local Government (Transitional, Incidental, Consequential and Supplemental Provisions) Regulations (NI) 2014.

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

Mr McCrea joined the meeting at 10.15am.

6. Synopsis of responses to the Consultation on the Draft Water Framework Directive (Priority Substances and Classification) Regulations (Northern Ireland).

The Committee considered a synopsis of responses to the consultation on the Draft Water Framework Directive (Priority Substances and Classification) Regulations (Northern Ireland).

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request an oral briefing from the Department.

7. Statutory Rule. SR 2014/264. The Local Government (Indemnities for Members and Officers) (Amendment) Order (NI) 2014.

The Committee noted that SR 2014/264. The Local Government (Indemnities for Members and Officers) (Amendment) Order (NI) 2014 had been affirmed by the Assembly.

8. Departmental Briefing on Planning Reform and Transfer to Local Government.

The Committee was briefed by Mr Angus Kerr, Director of Planning; and Ms Irene Kennedy, Mr Simon Kirk, Mr Joe Torney and Mr Brian Gorman, Planning Division, on the synopsis of responses to the consultation on the first phase of the proposals for subordinate legislation on planning reform and the transfer of planning to local government.

The briefing was recorded by Hansard.

Mr McElduff left the meeting at 10.25am.

Mr Eastwood joined the meeting at 10.52am.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it would take further evidence on individual pieces of secondary legislation if required.

9. Departmental Briefing on Draft Local Government (Disqualification) (Prescribed Offices and Employments) Regulations.

The Committee was briefed by Ms Linda MacHugh, Director, Local Government Policy Division, and Ms Julie Broadway and Mr John Murphy, also Local Government Policy Division, on the Draft Local Government (Disqualification) (Prescribed Offices and Employments) Regulations.

The briefing was recorded by Hansard.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content for the Department to draft the SL1 proposal for this secondary legislation.

10. Departmental Briefing on the draft Strategic Planning Policy Statement.

The Committee was briefed by Mr Angus Kerr, Director; and Ms Joy Hargie, Mr Simon Kirk and Mr Philip McGowan, all from Planning Division, on the synopsis of responses of responses to the consultation on the draft Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS).

Mr Eastwood left the meeting at 11.54am.

Mr Weir joined the meeting at 12.00pm.

Officials agreed that they would forward a copy of the final draft SPPS to the Committee before it was submitted to the Executive for approval.

11. Correspondence

The Committee discussed correspondence from the Minister to Shadow District Councils regarding draft budget proposals.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to raise this matter with officials and the Minister at briefings scheduled for 27 November 2014 and 4 December 2014.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Enterprise, Trade & Investment regarding the Northern Ireland Economic Strategy, Year 2 Annual Monitoring Report.

The Committee noted the Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland Investing Activity Report for October 2014.

The Committee noted correspondence from Deloitte regarding the annual State of the State 2014-15 report.

12. Forward Work Programme

The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme.

13. Any Other Business

Mr McElduff raised the impact of forthcoming policy changes on car sharing services provided by the Community Transport Network, and highlighted a forthcoming event at parliament Buildings in relation to this.

14. Date, Time and Place of next meeting

The next meeting will be held Thursday 13th November 2014 in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 12.53pm.

Anna Lo, MLA

Chairperson, Committee for the Environment

6 November 2014