



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

THURSDAY, 13 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 Alban Maginness MLA
Mr Ian Milne MLA
Lord Morrow 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 Suzie Cave (Assembly Research & Information Service –
item 16 only)
- Apologies: Mr Barry McElduff MLA

The meeting began in public session at 10.08 am.

- 1. Apologies**
Apologies as noted above.

2. Chairperson's Business

The Committee noted a letter from Queens University, Belfast, inviting the Chairperson to participate in a discussion panel on 'Working with Planning Policy'.

Agreed: The Committee was content for the Chairperson to participate in this event on behalf of the Committee.

The Chairperson referred members to a draft press release regarding an electronic survey to gauge the views of young people on the provisions of the Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill.

Agreed: The Committee was content for the press release to be issued.

The Chairperson advised members that she had received correspondence from the Minister indicating his intention to make a statement to the Assembly in relation to the North South Ministerial Council meeting held on 5 November 2014.

The Chairperson reminded members that financial scrutiny training would be delivered at its meeting on 20 November 2014, as agreed by the Chairpersons' Liaison Group.

3. Minutes

The minutes from the meeting held on 6th November 2014 were agreed.

4. Matters Arising

The Committee noted correspondence from Quinns Coach Hire Ltd in relation to Driver Vehicle Enforcement Policy.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to seek further information from Quinns Coach Hire Ltd.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Department on the Waste Operational Plan.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request a quarterly update from the Department on the Mobuoy road site.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel regarding Financial Transactions Capital.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department for information on its spending from the Financial Transactions Capital budget.

The Committee noted a response from the Department on volunteer car schemes.

Agreed: The Committee agreed forward the response to the Community Transport Association and Volunteer Now seeking their views.

5. Consultations

The Committee noted a consultation on Planning Reform and Transfer to Local Government.

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

Agreed: The Committee agreed to add this issue to the agenda for its next meeting with the Minister.

The Committee noted a consultation on Quality Action Plan and the Materials Recovery Facility Code of Practice.

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

The Committee noted a consultation on Cost Control Arrangements for the Local Government Pension Scheme (NI) and Draft Local Government Pension Scheme.

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

The Committee noted a consultation on Executive Arrangements and the Council Constitution Framework.

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 Reorganisation (Compensation for loss of Employment) Regulations (NI) 2015.

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

6. **Synopsis of responses to the Consultation on the Draft Water Framework Directive (Priority Substances and Classification) Regulations (Northern Ireland) Consultation on the Proposed Nitrates Action Programme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 and Revisions to Associated Regulations.**

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 that it was content for the Department to refer the regulations to the Executive.

Mr Weir joined the meeting at 10.27am.

Mr McCrea joined the meeting at 10.27am.

7. Synopsis of Responses - Consultation on the Filling of Positions of Responsibility and Appointing Councillors to Committees.

The Committee considered a synopsis of responses to the Filling of Positions of Responsibility and Appointing Councillors to Committees.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it is content for the Department to issue the guidance formally to councils.

8. SL1. Amendments to the Motor Vehicles (Wearing of Seat Belts) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1993.

The Committee considered an SL1 proposal for amendments to the Motor Vehicles (Wearing of Seat Belts) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1993.

Agreed: The Committee was content for Department to make the Rule.

The Committee noted the vital importance of wearing seat belts for road safety.

Mr Milne joined the meeting at 10.31am.

9. SL1. Amendments to the Motor Vehicles (Wearing of Seat Belts by Children in Front Seats) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1993.

The Committee considered an SL1 proposal for amendments to the Motor Vehicles (Wearing of Seat Belts by Children in Front Seats) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1993.

Agreed: The Committee was content for Department to make the Rule.

10. SL1. Amendments to the Motor Vehicles (Driving Instruction) (Trainee Licences) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010.

Mr Maginness left the meeting at 10.34am.

The Committee considered an SL1 proposal for amendments to the Motor Vehicles (Driving Instruction) (Trainee Licenses) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010.

Agreed: The Committee was content for Department to make the Rule.

11. SL1. Amendments to the Motor Vehicles (Driving Instruction) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010.

Mr Maginness rejoined the meeting at 10.35am.

The Committee considered an SL1 proposal for amendments to the Motor Vehicles (Driving Instruction) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010.

Agreed: The Committee was content for Department to make the Rule.

12. SL1. The Local Government (Disqualification) (Prescribed Offices and Employments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014.

The Committee considered an SL1 for the Local Government (Disqualification) (Prescribed Offices and Employments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Agreed: The Committee was content for Department to make the Rule.

13. Statutory Rule: SR 2014/276 The Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland).

The Committee considered the Statutory Rule SR 2014/276 The Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland).

Question put and agreed:

“The Committee for the Environment has considered SR 2014/276 The Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland), and, subject to the report of the Examiner of Statutory Rules, has no objection to the Rule.”

14. Committee Inquiry into Wind Energy – Consideration of main issues.

Mr Eastwood joined the meeting at 10.43am.

The Committee discussed the main issues arising from its Inquiry into Wind Energy. The session was recorded by Hansard.

Mr Boylan proposed that further submissions to the Committee inquiry into wind energy should be permitted.

Agreed: The Committee confirmed its previous decision, taken at its meeting on 23 October 2014, that it had concluded its evidence gathering process and that no further submissions would be accepted.

Mr Eastwood left the meeting at 11.13am.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department for clarification of some aspects of the planning process.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that a draft report be prepared for consideration.

15. Departmental Briefing on the draft ‘Second Cycle’ River Basin Management Plans.

The Committee was briefed by Mr Gabriel Nelson, Head of Water Management, Ms Wendy McKinley, Freshwater and RBMP Group Manager and Mr Eamon Campbell, Head of Water Policy on the draft ‘Second Cycle’ River Basin Management Plans.

Mr Boylan left the meeting at 12.28pm

Mrs Overend joined the meeting at 11.59am.

Mr Maginness left the meeting at 12.39pm.

16. Assembly Research and Information Service briefing on EU funding.

The Committee were briefed on European Union funding.

Mr Boylan rejoined the meeting at 1.02pm.

Agreed: The Committee noted a response from the Department on infraction proceedings.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department for further information on a number of European Union issues.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that a member of staff should attend a Horizon 2020 workshop organised by the Department on 20 October 2014 at Magee College.

17. Correspondence

The Committee noted an invitation from Becon Consortium to visit an Energy from Waste facility in Co Meath.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to accept the invitation.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel regarding Assembly scrutiny of the 2015-2016 budget.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to prepare a response for the Finance and Personnel Committee following an evidence session with Departmental officials on this topic on 27th November 2014.

The Committee noted a Departmental update on the George Best City Airport Planning Agreement.

The Committee noted the Irish Environment Newsletter for November 2014.

The Committee noted an invitation from Belfast Healthy Cities.

The Committee noted correspondence from Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful enclosing its report on Marine Litter around the Coast of Northern Ireland.

18. Forward Work Programme

The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme.

19. Any Other Business

No other business was discussed.

20. Date, Time and Place of next meeting

The next meeting will be held Thursday 20th November 2014 in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 1.19pm.

Anna Lo, MLA
Chairperson, Committee for the Environment
20 November 2014