



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

THURSDAY, 5 FEBRUARY 2015

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 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)
Miss Allison Ferguson (Clerical Officer)
- Apologies: Mr Ian McCrea MLA
Mr Barry McElduff MLA

The meeting began at 10.11am in public session.

1. Budget 2015/16 – Departmental Briefing

The Committee was updated on the latest position regarding the 2015-2016 budget by Departmental officials. The briefing was recorded by Hansard.

Officials representing the Department were:

Mr Leo O'Reilly	Permanent Secretary
Mr Ian Maye	Deputy Secretary, Planning & Policy
Mr Anthony Carleton	Director of Finance and Business Planning Division
Ms Siobhan Lynn	Finance & Business Planning Division

Mr Eastwood left the meeting at 11.45am.

Officials agreed to provide the Committee with information on Rates Support Grant funding for local councils; they also agreed to provide details of the final budget as soon as this has been determined by the Minister.

2. The Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill

The Committee noted correspondence from the Department regarding further amendments to the Bill.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to include the correspondence in its report on the Bill.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the draft report on the Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill until details of these consequential amendments were available.

3. Apologies

Apologies were as above.

4. Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson referred members to correspondence from RaISe inviting a representative of the Committee to speak at a KESS seminar on Planning, Shoreline Marine and Landscape.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Chairperson would speak at the event.

The Committee noted a record of the Chairpersons Liaison Group meeting on 20 January 2015.

The Committee noted that the informal meeting with RENEW had been scheduled for Tuesday 24th February 2015.

5. Minutes

The minutes from the meeting held on 29th January 2015 were agreed.

6. Matters Arising

The Committee noted correspondence from Friends of the Earth NI regarding the Dalradian Gold mining.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the letter to the Department to respond to the issues raised.

The Committee noted a response from the Department regarding the responsibility for the removal of toxic waste from land.

The Committee noted a response from the Department regarding Article 31 planning applications.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the response to the Northern Ireland Independent Retail Trade Association which had raised these issues.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Enterprise, Trade & Investment regarding its Inquiry into Economic Growth and Job Creation.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that a draft response would be prepared for consideration at its next meeting.

The Committee noted a response from the Department regarding Horizon 2020 Funding.

The Committee noted that three members – Ms Lo, Mr Maginness and Mr Milne – had agreed to attend Scottish Environment Week on 18 and 19 February to bring back information on how a similar event could be facilitated in Northern Ireland.

Mrs Overend left the meeting at 12.00pm.

7. Consultation on the Draft Local Government (Domain Names) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

The Committee noted a consultation on the Draft Local Government (Domain Names) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

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

8. Synopsis of responses to Consultation on the Draft Local Government Reorganisation (Compensation for Loss of Employment) Regs (NI) 2015

The Committee considered a synopsis of responses to the consultation to Consultation on the Draft Local Government Reorganisation (Compensation for Loss of Employment) Regs (NI) 2015.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request an oral briefing on the synopsis of responses to the consultation.

Mr Weir left the meeting at 12.02pm.

9. SR 2015/4 the Motor Vehicles (Driving Instruction) (Trainee Licence) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

The Committee agreed the following question:

'The Committee for the Environment has considered SR 2015/4 the Motor Vehicles (Driving Instruction) (Trainee Licence) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015, and, subject to the report from the Examiner of Statutory Rules, has no objection to the Rule.'

10. SR 2015/5 The Motor Vehicles (Driving Instruction) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

Mr Milne left the meeting at 12.04pm.

The Committee agreed the following question:

'The Committee for the Environment has considered SR 2015/5 The Motor Vehicles (Driving Instruction) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015, and, subject to the report from the Examiner of Statutory Rules, has no objection to the Rule.'

11. SR 2015/6 The Motor Vehicles (Driving Licences) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

The Committee agreed the following question:

'The Committee for the Environment has considered SR 2015/6 The Motor Vehicles (Driving Licences) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015, and, subject to the report from the Examiner of Statutory Rules, has no objection to the Rule.'

12. SR 2015/24 The Motor Vehicles (Wearing of Seat Belts) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

Mr Weir rejoined the meeting at 12.07pm.

Mr Milne rejoined the meeting at 12.07pm.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request an oral briefing on this statutory rule.

13. Briefing on Waste Gasification by Full Circle Power.

Mrs Cameron made a declaration of interest that a family member is employed by Bombardier.

Mr Eastwood rejoined the meeting at 12.09pm.

The Committee was briefed by Mr Brett Ross, Managing Director, Full Circle Power, on the proposed waste gasification plant at the Harbour Estate, Belfast.

Mr Boylan left the meeting at 12.23pm.

14. Correspondence.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA) regarding Local Government Reform.

Agreed: the Committee agreed to arrange an evidence session with NILGA on Local Government Reform in June 2015.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Association of Town & City Management regarding a Town Centre Futures Conference.

The Committee noted correspondence from CIWM.

15. Forward Work Programme

The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme.

16. Any Other Business

No other business was discussed.

17. Date, Time and Place of next meeting

The next meeting will be held at 10.00am on Thursday 12th February 2015 in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 12.37pm.

Anna Lo, MLA

Chairperson, Committee for the Environment

12 February 2015