



**Northern Ireland  
Assembly**

**COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**THURSDAY, 12 MARCH 2015**

**HAMILTON SUITE, MARINE COURT HOTEL, BANGOR**

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

*The meeting began at 10.18am in public session.*

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were as above.

**2. Chairperson's Business**

The Committee noted a record of the key issues discussed and decisions taken at the meeting of the Chairpersons' Liaison Group on 3 March 2015.

**3. Minutes**

The minutes from the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2015 were agreed.

**4. Matters Arising**

The Committee noted an update from the Department on the implementation of the recommendations in the report on the Committee's Inquiry into Used Tyre Disposal.

The Committee noted a response from the Department regarding Council food waste collection schemes.

The Committee noted further information from the Department in relation to enhanced child restraint systems.

The Committee noted a response from the Department regarding advice provided to the taxi industry on subordinate legislation.

The Committee discussed a revised response to the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister regarding EU Priorities for 2015.

*Agreed: The Committee agreed that the response should be forwarded to the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister.*

**5. Update on the Designation of Marine Conservation Zones -  
Departmental briefing**

The Committee agreed to move to agenda item 12.

The Committee was briefed by:

Mr Joe Breen

Marine Division, Department of the  
Environment

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the North South Ministerial Council regarding the establishment of a Marine Conservation Zone in Lough Foyle.*

*Mrs Overend left the meeting at 11.08a.m.*

**6. SL1- The Local Government (Constituting a Joint Committee as a Body Corporate) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015**

The Committee agreed to move to agenda item 5.

The Committee considered an SL1 on the Local Government (Constituting a Joint Committee as a Body Corporate) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015.

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

**7. SL1- The Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment) (No.2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015**

The Committee agreed to move to agenda item 6.

The Committee considered an SL1 on the Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment) (No.2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

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

**8. SL1- The Local Government (Transferred Functions Grant) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015**

The Committee agreed to move to agenda item 7.

The Committee considered an SL1 on the Local Government (Transferred Functions Grant) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

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

**9. SR2015/71. The Planning (Development Management) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015**

The Committee agreed to move to agenda item 8.

*Mrs Overend rejoined the meeting at 11.12a.m.*

The Committee agreed the following question:

*'The Committee for the Environment has considered SR2015/71. The Planning (Development Management) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and, subject to the report of the Examiner of Statutory Rules, has no objection to the Rule.'*

**10. SR2015/77. The Local Government Pension Scheme (Governance) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015**

The Committee agreed to move to agenda item 9.

The Committee agreed the following question:

*'The Committee for the Environment has considered SR2015/77. The Local Government Pension Scheme (Governance) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and, subject to the report of the Examiner of Statutory Rules, has no objection to the Rule.'*

*Mr Weir left the meeting at 11.13a.m.*

**11. SR2015/125 The Local Government (Transitional Incidental Consequential and Supplemental Provisions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015**

The Committee agreed to move to agenda item 10.

The Committee agreed the following question:

*'The Committee for the Environment has considered SR2015/125 The Local Government (Transitional Incidental Consequential and Supplemental Provisions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and, subject to the report of the Examiner of Statutory Rules, has no objection to the Rule.'*

**12. Correspondence.**

The Committee agreed to move to agenda item 13.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Department regarding providing six monthly briefings on its interaction with the European Union.

*Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with the Department's approach.*

The Committee noted correspondence from Kells VOCAL regarding a solar power development.

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the correspondence to the Department seeking its views on the issues raised.*

The Committee noted correspondence from Northern Ireland Environment Link inviting it to hold a formal meeting on Thursday 14 May 2015 in its Marquee at the Balmoral Show.

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to hold its meeting on Thursday 14 May at the Balmoral show.*

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to rearrange a visit to Belfast Lough Marine Conservation Zone on Thursday 14 May.*

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

The Committee noted correspondence from West Tyrone Against Wind Turbines regarding its Inquiry into Wind Energy.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister enclosing correspondence from the RSPB on EU Priorities.

The Committee noted information from the Committee for Finance and Personnel on the Northern Ireland Civil Service Voluntary Exit Scheme.

The Committee noted correspondence from a private hire taxi driver regarding changes to the level of Fixed Penalties` for taxi drivers.

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the correspondence to the Department seeking its views on the issues raised.*

**13. Forward Work Programme**

The Committee agreed to move to agenda item 14.

The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme.

**14. Any Other Business**

The Committee agreed to move to agenda item 15.

No other business was discussed.

**15. Date, Time and Place of next meeting**

The Committee agreed to move to agenda item 16.

The Committee agreed that its next meeting will be held at 10.00am on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2015 in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

**16. Synopsis Of Responses on the Consultation on the Proposed Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 - Departmental briefing**

The Committee agreed to move to agenda item 11.

The Committee was briefed by:

Mr Ken Bradley

Environmental Protection Division,  
Department of the Environment

Ms Rachel Singleton

Planning and Natural Resources Division,  
Department of the Environment

*Mr Weir rejoined the meeting at 11.19a.m.*

*Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content for the Department to prepare the Statutory Rule for this legislation.*

*The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 11.27pm.*

**Anna Lo, MLA**

**Chairperson, Committee for the Environment**

**19 March 2015**