



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

THURSDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER 2015

SENATE CHAMBER, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present: Ms Anna Lo MLA (Chairperson)
Mrs Pam Cameron MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Colum Eastwood MLA
Mr Alban Maginness MLA
Mr Ian McCrea MLA
Mr Barry McElduff MLA
Mr Gary Middleton MLA
Mr Ian Milne MLA
Mrs Sandra Overend MLA
Lord Morrow MLA

In Attendance: Miss Ciara McKay (Assembly Clerk)
Mr Mark McQuade (Assistant Clerk)
Mr Neil Sedgewick (Clerical Supervisor)
Mrs Sharon Young (Clerical Officer)

Apologies: Mr Cathal Boylan MLA

The meeting opened in closed session at 10.05am.

1. Development session: Effective Scrutiny of Legislation

The Committee took part in a development session on effective scrutiny of legislation.

Agreed: It was agreed that the Committee Clerk would prepare a summary paper on the topics discussed.

The meeting moved to public session at 11.09am.

2. Apologies.

The apologies are noted above.

3. Chairpersons Business.

The Chairperson reminded members that the Committee was sponsoring the launch of the first Northern Ireland Environment Week on Monday 21 September 2015.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the content of a joint press release with Northern Ireland Environment Link on Northern Ireland Environment Week.

The Committee noted events that would be held during Northern Ireland Environment Week.

The Committee agreed that the Chair liaise with a Masters student on her dissertation on wind energy and community.

4. Minutes.

The minutes from the meetings held on 3rd September 2015 and 10th September 2015 were agreed.

5. Matters arising.

The Committee noted a response from Derry and Strabane Council regarding the registration of Trees of National Special Interest for Northern Ireland.

The Committee noted a response from the Department regarding the location of sites affected by European Commission infraction proceedings.

The Committee noted a response from the Department regarding the Executive's draft European Priorities.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Minister regarding a planning decision on the site of the former Fort George base.

The Committee noted a response from the Department regarding the inclusion of CCMS on the Draft Local Government (Community Planning Partners) Order (NI) 2015.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department for clarification on CCMS's role as a statutory consultee given it is represented on the Board of the Education Authority.

The Committee noted a response from the Department regarding issues raised by Broughderg Area Development Association.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the response to Broughderg Area Development Association.

The Committee noted a response from the Department providing an update on the Northern Ireland Civil Service Voluntary Exit Scheme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department for further clarification on the financial savings from the Voluntary Exit Scheme.

The Committee discussed a paper on its strategic priorities for 2015/16.

Agreed: The Committee formally agreed the actions outlined in the paper, as discussed during the Committee's strategic priority session on 17th September.

Mr Eastwood joined the meeting at 11.32am.

The Committee discussed funding arrangements for the Community Places Planning Advice Project.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Minister regarding this matter.

6. Consultations

Mr Maginness left the meeting at 11.36am.

The Committee noted a consultation on the draft code of audit practice for Local Government Bodies in Northern Ireland 2016.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request a synopsis of responses from the Northern Ireland Audit Office once available.

The Committee noted a consultation on the Draft Plan to Improve Air Quality.

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

7. Synopsis of Responses to the public consultation on proposed consolidated Water Framework Directive Priority Substances and Classification Regulations

The Committee considered a synopsis of responses to the consultation on a proposed consolidated Water Framework Directive Priority Substances and Classification Regulations.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content that the Department proceed to draft the Statutory Rule.

8. Synopsis of Responses to the UK Wide Consultation on Transposition of EU Regulation 165/2014 Tachographs in Road Transport

The Committee considered a synopsis of responses to the UK Wide Consultation on Transposition of EU Regulation 165/2014 Tachographs in Road Transport.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the synopsis of responses.

9. Synopsis of Responses to the public consultation on the draft Fluorinated Greenhouse Gases Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

The Committee considered a synopsis of responses to the consultation on the Draft Planning (Hazardous Substances) (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2015.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content that the Department proceed to draft the Statutory Rule.

10. SL1 - The Planning (Hazardous Substances) (No. 2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

The Committee considered the Planning (Hazardous Substances) (No. 2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content for the Department to proceed with the proposed statutory rule.

11. SR 2015/327 The Local Government (Performance Indicators and Standards) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the Statutory Rule until the Examiner of Statutory Rules has reported on the technical aspects of the rule.

12. Environmental Better Regulation Bill

The Committee noted the written submission from the Department for Regional Development on the Environmental Better Regulation Bill.

Oral briefing - Briefing from arc 21

The Committee was briefed by:

Mr Ricky Burnett Policy and Operations Director

Mr Maginness rejoined the meeting at 11.52am.

Mr McCrea joined the meeting at 11.53am.

Mr McElduff left the meeting at 11.58am.

Agreed: The Committee agreed a motion to extend the Committee stage of the Bill to Friday 27th November 2015.

13. Committee End of Session report.

The Committee considered its End of Session report for 2014/2015.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with the report.

14. Correspondence.

The Committee noted an invitation from Bryson Recycling to visit its collection service in Newtownabbey.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to visit Bryson Recycling and to investigate holding a Committee meeting at Mossley Mill.

Mr Eastwood left the meeting at 12.08pm

The Committee noted a letter from the Department regarding the UK Government response to the Committee on Climate Changes 7th Annual Progress Report.

The Committee noted a response from the Department to the Committee for Social Development regarding Illegal Obstruction of Footpaths.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment regarding access to the countryside.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department regarding this matter.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Social Development regarding Northern Ireland Environment Week.

The Committee noted a letter from the Speaker regarding Northern Ireland Environment Week.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister regarding a report by the Office of the Northern Ireland Executive in Brussels.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister regarding European Union policy dossiers.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister regarding Departmental Engagement.

The Committee noted a copy of an invitation from the Committee for Regional Development to NIEA to brief it on the Water and Sewerages Bill.

The Committee noted the Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland - Procurement Activity Report for August 2015.

15. Forward Work Programme.

The Committee noted its Forward Work Programme.

16. Any Other Business.

No other business was discussed.

17. Date, Time and Place of next meeting.

The Committee agreed that its next meeting will be held at 10.00am on Thursday 24th September 2015 in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 12.22pm.

Anna Lo, MLA

Chairperson, Committee for the Environment

24 September 2015