



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
WEDNESDAY 22 JUNE 2016
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

- Present: Mr Mike Nesbitt (Chairperson)
Mr Cathal Boylan
Mrs Pam Cameron
Mr Stewart Dickson
Mr Phillip Logan
Mr Seán Lynch
Mr Richie McPhillips
Mr Ian Milne
Mr Christopher Stalford
- Apologies: Mr Danny Kennedy (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr William Irwin
- In Attendance: Mrs Kathy O’Hanlon (Assembly Clerk)
Miss Karen Jardine (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mrs Marion Johnson (Clerical Supervisor)
Mrs Andrienne Magee (Clerical Officer)

The meeting opened in public session at 2pm.

1. Apologies

Apologies are noted above.

Mr Cathal Boylan joined the meeting at 2.01pm.

2. Chair's Business

Current Committee Invitations

The Committee noted the list of current invitations.

3. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The draft minutes of the proceedings of 15 June 2016 were agreed by the Committee.

4. Matters Arising

Informal meeting with the Dutch Ambassador

Cathal Boylan provided feedback on the informal meeting he attended with the Dutch Ambassador on Thursday 16 June along with Steve Aiken, Deputy Chair of the Committee for the Economy, and David Ford, member of the Committee for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Development.

Mr Boylan recorded his thanks to the European Union Affairs Manager, Ms Shauna Mageean, for the briefing material provided for the meeting.

Programme for Government scrutiny

Members considered when the Committee may wish to engage with the Department in respect of the outcome of the consultation on the Draft Programme for Government Framework 2016-21 and the PfG Action Plan that will be developed by the Executive Office.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request a briefing on the analysis of the responses to the first consultation on the draft Programme for Government Framework 2016-21 in early September 2016.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request that it is provided with the Executive Office's Departmental Action Plan once it has been drafted, but before it is formally agreed by the Executive.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to all statutory committees setting out the anticipated process and timetable for consultation on the Programme for Government, and the stages at which committees may wish to engage with their respective departments.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Chairperson should raise the matter of joined-up scrutiny by statutory committees with the Chairpersons' Liaison Group, in the context of the new format for the Programme for Government.

5. Departmental Overview and Priorities

Departmental officials joined the meeting at 2.21pm.

Dr Mark Browne, Director of Strategic Policy, Equality and Good Relations; Mr Stephen Boyd, Head of Finance and Corporate Services Division; and Mr Ricky Irwin, Head of Equality, Victims and Human Rights Division, briefed the Committee on the Departmental overview and priorities concerning strategic policy, equality and good relations with a specific focus on the Budget 2016-17, June monitoring, Victims and Survivors and historical institutional abuse.

Mr Stewart Dickson joined the meeting at 2.23pm.

A question and answer session followed. The briefing was recorded by Hansard.

Mrs Pam Cameron joined the meeting 3.02pm.

Officials agreed to provide a breakdown of the £7.4 million allocated to Together: Building a United Community programmes in the June monitoring round; a written paper on the outcome of June monitoring round, including the implications for the Executive Office; and a draft timetable for the forthcoming Programme for Government process, in time for the Committee's next meeting on Wednesday 29 June.

Departmental officials left the meeting at 3.33 pm.

6. Equality and Good Relations

Representatives from the Equality Commission NI joined the meeting at 3.34pm.

Ms Eileen Lavery, Head of Advice and Compliance; Mr Keith Brown, Head of Corporate Services; and Mr Darren McKinstry, Director of Policy and Research, briefed the Committee on the work of the Equality Commission.

A question and answer session followed.

The witnesses agreed to provide: the date that information regarding the complaint made by the NI Commissioner for Children and Young People on the consultation on proposed legislation relating to age discrimination in respect of goods, facilities and services was requested from the Executive Office; a list of alleged breaches of equality legislation by public authorities; and a copy of the document 'Policy Provision of Legal Advice and Assistance'.

Representatives from the Equality Commission left the meeting at 4.10pm.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request that Assembly Research provides a breakdown of the administration costs and programme costs of the Executive Office's sponsored bodies.

7. Subordinate Legislation – Proposed Fair Employment (Specification of Public Authorities) (Amendment) Order (NI) 2016

The Committee considered a proposal by the Executive Office to make a statutory rule under powers conferred by Articles 50 and 51 of the Fair Employment and Treatment (NI) Order 1998, to amend the list of public bodies to be treated as public authorities for the purposes of Part 7 of the Fair Employment and Treatment (NI) Order 1998 (FETO).

Agreed: The Committee was content with the proposal for the rule.

Mr Stalford left the meeting at 4.12pm.

8. Correspondence

Commissioner for Older People

The Committee noted correspondence from the Commissioner for Older People to the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson highlighting the appointment of a new Commissioner, and the work of the Commission which may be of interest to the Committee.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to inform the Commissioner that the Committee would engage with him during any consideration of age discrimination legislation relating to goods facilities and services.

Knowledge Exchange Seminar Series (KESS)

The Committee noted correspondence from Assembly Research and Information Service regarding a Knowledge Exchange Seminar (KESS) on Understanding and Supporting Cultural Diversity.

Delivering Social Change

The Committee noted a Delivering Social Change Stakeholder Update providing dates for draft PfG Framework consultation events.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the update to statutory committees for information.

Commission on Flags, Identity, Culture and Tradition

The Committee noted a press release from the Executive Office announcing the membership of the Commission on Flags, Identity, Culture and Tradition which was issued on Monday 20 June.

9. Forward Work Programme

The Committee considered a list of proposed venues for the Committee's strategic planning meeting in September.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to hold its strategic planning meeting on Wednesday 7 September at Stranmillis College.

Members noted the Committee's draft Forward Work Programme for the period before summer recess.

10. Any Other Business

None.

11. Date, time and place of next meeting

The next meeting will be held in Room 30 on Wednesday 29 June 2016 at 2 p.m.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 4.16pm.

Mr Mike Nesbitt MLA
Chairperson
Committee for the Executive Office