



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
WEDNESDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2016
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

- Present: Mr Mike Nesbitt (Chairperson)
Mr Danny Kennedy (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Cathal Boylan
Mrs Pam Cameron
Mr Stewart Dickson
Mr William Irwin
Mr Phillip Logan
Mr Seán Lynch
Mr Philip McGuigan
Mr Richie McPhillips
Mr Christopher Stalford
- In Attendance: Mrs Kathy O'Hanlon (Assembly Clerk)
Miss Karen Jardine (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Stephen Magee (Clerical Supervisor)
Mrs Andrienne Magee (Clerical Officer)
Mr Tim Moore (Senior Research Officer) Item 6 only

The meeting began in public session at 2.03 pm.

1. Apologies

There were no apologies.

The Chairperson welcomed Mr Philip McGuigan to his first meeting of the Committee, and acknowledged the contribution made by his predecessor, Mr Ian Milne.

2. Chair's Business

House of Lords EU Committee

The Committee noted that the House of Lords EU Committee is undertaking a short inquiry on the means by which the UK Parliament can effectively scrutinise the forthcoming negotiations on the UK's withdrawal from, and new relationship with, the EU. Members further noted that the House of Lords EU Committee intends to meet with political parties in Northern Ireland as part of its deliberations.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to host an informal lunch with the House of Lords EU Committee during its visit to Parliament Buildings on Monday 17 October.

Mr Christopher Stalford joined the meeting 2.03pm.

Closure of Global OBA Summit event – Tuesday 11 October

Members noted a draft invitation and a proposed guest list to the reception that the Committee is hosting on 11 October to close the Global Outcomes-Based Accountability Summit on Tuesday 11 October.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with the draft invitation and that it should be issued to the invitees identified on the proposed guest list.

Mr Cathal Boylan joined the meeting at 2.05pm.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to invite the First Minister and deputy First Minister to the event.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to be responsible for covering the cost of food for the event.

Members noted that Mr Mark Friedman, author of "Trying Hard is Not Good Enough", will meet with the Committee immediately before the reception on 11 October.

Historical Institutional Abuse

The Committee considered a request from the Rosetta Trust to brief the Committee on issues facing survivors of historical institutional abuse.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to invite the Rosetta Trust to an informal meeting with the Chair, and any other available members.

Correspondence from NI Council for Ethnic Minorities and NI Human Rights Commission

The Committee considered a request from the NI Council for Ethnic Minorities (NICEM) to brief the Committee on the Concluding Observation of the UN Committee on Racial Discrimination, the Programme for Government (PfG) Framework and the Racial Equality Strategy.

The Committee also noted correspondence from the NI Human Rights Commission (NIHRC) which provided copy correspondence to the First Minister and deputy First Minister expressing concern at the Executive's failure to attend the recent UK examination on the sixth periodic report to the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Members further noted a copy of the response from the First Minister and deputy First Minister to that letter, and a subsequent reply from NIHRC.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to invite representatives from NICEM, the NIHRC and the Equality Commission NI (ECNI) to brief the Committee on the NI Executive's engagement with relevant UN Committees; and to give further consideration to matters relating to equality following this briefing.

Agreed: Members agreed that the requests from NICEM to brief the Committee on the PfG and Racial Equality Strategy would be considered at the appropriate point in the Committee's work programme.

NI Public Services Ombudsman

The Committee noted a request from the NI Public Service Ombudsman (NIPSO), Ms Marie Anderson, to meet the Committee to discuss the implementation of the new NIPSO legislation in its first six months of operation.

Members also noted the Annual Report of the Assembly Ombudsman and the NI Commissioner for Complaints 2015-16 which acknowledged the role of the legacy Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister in bringing forward the NIPSO legislation.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to receive a briefing from the NIPSO and her deputy Mr Paul McFadden.

Together: Building a United Community

The Committee noted an invitation from the Executive Office (TEO) to Urban Village events in Derry~Londonderry and Belfast.

The Committee noted an invitation from the Community Relations Council to a Together: Building a United Community Engagement Forum event which is to be held on Tuesday 20 September 2016, and that a member of staff planned to attend.

Mr Lynch left the meeting at 2.14pm.

Attorney General for Northern Ireland: Colloquium

The Committee noted an invitation to a colloquium on ‘Getting legislation right: improving the process’, from the Attorney General for Northern Ireland to the Chair, which is to be held on Wednesday 5 October 2016

The Law Centre NI – Brexit and Immigration

The Committee noted an invitation from the Law Centre NI to an event on Brexit and Immigration which is to be held on Friday 23 September 2016.

Committee Invitations

The Committee noted the current list of Committee invitations

3. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The draft minutes of the proceedings of 29 June 2016 were agreed by the Committee.

4. Matters Arising

Budget 2017-20

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Finance providing information on commissioning responses from departments on Budget 2017-20. It was also noted that a response had not yet been received from TEO to its previous request for information on its baseline position, recognised pressures, spending priorities, proposed efficiencies, and identified linkages to the draft PfG.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to issue a reminder to TEO regarding the outstanding correspondence.

Strategy for Victims and Survivors 2009-2019: Mid-Term Review

The Committee noted the terms of reference for the Victims and Survivors Strategy 2009-2019 Mid-Term Review Project which had been provided by the Commission for Victims and Survivors (CVS).

Outstanding Correspondence

The Committee noted the current list of outstanding correspondence from the Executive Office, and indicated that it was content with the reporting format.

5. Strategic Planning

Members considered a paper summarising discussions from the Committee planning meeting held on 7 September 2016.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with the summary paper, subject to the following amendments to paragraph 1.2:

- replace ‘scrutiny’ with ‘statutory’ in the first line of the Committee’s aim; and
- replace ‘a mechanism’ with ‘mechanisms’ in the final bullet point.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to review its strategic priorities early in the New Year.

NIABT visit to China

Members noted that there was an opportunity for a member of the Committee to participate in a study visit to China organised by the NI Assembly and Business Trust, scheduled for the end of October 2016.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content for the Deputy Chair, Danny Kennedy to participate in the visit to China.

RaISe paper

Agreed: The Committee agreed to publish the Assembly Research Paper on Arms-Length Bodies which had been prepared for the planning meeting.

TEO Legislation

The Committee noted correspondence from the Executive Office advising that a process to identify legislative priorities across departments is underway, and that the Committee will be advised of TEO priorities as soon as it is possible to provide the information.

6. Programme for Government 2016-21

A Senior Research Officer from RaISe joined the meeting at 2.23 pm

Mr Tim Moore briefed the Committee on a number of research papers relating to Outcomes-based Accountability including:

- i. Outcomes-based government;
- ii. Outcomes-based Government: Scrutiny of Outcomes; and
- iii. a research note highlighting potential witnesses.

A question and answer session followed.

Mr Moore left the meeting at 2.49pm.

7. Draft Programme for Government Framework 2016-21

Departmental officials joined the meeting at 2.49 pm.

The Committee noted the following relevant documents:

- i. A response from the Executive Office to the Committee's request for a briefing on the initial draft PfG consultation;
- ii. Advice from the NI Commissioner for Children and Young People (NICCY) on the draft PfG framework Framework;
- iii. A response from the NI Local Government Association to the draft PfG Framework 2016-21;
- iv. The "Embracing Change: public sector readiness for outcomes-based funding" paper prepared by Inspiring Impact NI; and
- v. A Departmental briefing paper on the outcome of the consultation on the draft Programme for Government Framework 2016-21.

Mrs Katrina Godfrey, Director of PfG and NICS of the Future; and Mr Joe Reynolds, Head of PfG, DSC and Strategic Policy Division, briefed the Committee on the outcome of the consultation on the draft Programme for Government Framework 2016-21.

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

Departmental officials agreed to confirm: whether CVS had requested the inclusion of an additional outcome focussed on victims; and the number of people who participated in the public events on the draft PfG Framework.

Departmental officials left the meeting at 3.54 pm.

Agreed: The Committee agreed publish the Departmental briefing paper on the Committee's website.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to circulate the Departmental briefing paper and the Inspiring Impact NI report to the other statutory committees for information.

8. Statutory Rule 2016/269 - The Fair Employment (Specification of Public Authorities) (Amendment) Order (NI) 2016

The Committee considered The Fair Employment (Specification of Public Authorities) (Amendment) Order (NI) 2016 and noted that the Examiner of Statutory Rules had no comment to make by way of technical scrutiny.

Mr McPhillips left the meeting at 3.55pm.

Agreed: The Committee for the Executive Office has considered SR 2016/269 The Fair Employment (Specification of Public Authorities) (Amendment) Order (NI) 2016, and has no objection to the Rule.

9. Retention and Disposal Schedule for the Executive Office

The Committee considered the Retention and Disposal Schedule for the Executive Office.

Agreed: The Committee for the Executive Office has considered the Retention and Disposal Schedule for the Executive Office, and has no objection to the schedule.

10. Correspondence

Delivering Social Change Stakeholders updates

The Committee noted Delivering Social Change Stakeholder updates for June, July and August 2016.

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

OFMDFM Annual Report and Accounts 2015-16

The Committee noted the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister Annual Report and Accounts for the year 2015-16.

Equality Commission NI

The Committee noted the ECNI Annual Report and Accounts for the year 2015-16.

The Committee noted a response from the ECNI concerning the complaint made by the NICCY relating to the consultation on proposed legislation on age discrimination and breaches of equality legislation by public authorities.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to seek clarification from the Equality Commission on whether it has now received the information requested from TEO.

Investment Strategy Northern Ireland

The Committee noted the ISNI Delivery Tracking System Investing Activity Reports for July and August 2016.

NI Commissioner for Children and Young People

The Committee noted advice from NICCY on the development of the Children and Young People's Strategy

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the correspondence to the Committee for Education for information.

Scottish Parliament – Launch of Brexit Inquiry

The Committee noted correspondence from the Scottish Parliament announcing the launch of a Brexit Inquiry.

EU Matters Newsletter – Issue 03/2016

The Committee noted the latest edition of the EU Matters Newsletter prepared by the NI Assembly EU Affairs Manager.

Brussels Report April – July 2016

The Committee noted the Northern Ireland Executive Brussels Office Report for April – July 2016.

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

T: BUC Summer Camp Programme 2016/17

The Committee noted correspondence from the Executive Office providing the list of groups in receipt of funding from the Education Authority for the T:BUC Summer Camp Programme 2016/17.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the correspondence to the Committee for Education for information

TEO Departmental Plan 2016/17

The Committee noted that the TEO Departmental Plan 2016/17 had been published.

Agreed: The Committee will discuss the Departmental Plan at its next meeting on 21 September.

11. Forward Work Programme

The Committee noted the draft Forward Work programme for September – October 2016.

11. Any Other Business

None.

12. Date, time and place of next meeting

The next Committee meeting will be held at 2 pm in Room 30 on Wednesday 21 September 2016.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 4.00pm.

Mr Mike Nesbitt MLA
Chairperson
Committee for the Executive Office