

## **COMMITTEE FOR FINANCE AND PERSONNEL**

### **MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**WEDNESDAY, 20 MARCH 2013  
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

- Present: Mr Daithí McKay MLA (Chairperson)  
Mrs Judith Cochrane MLA  
Mr Leslie Cree MBE MLA  
Mr Paul Girvan MLA  
Mr John McCallister MLA  
Mr David McIlveen MLA  
Mr Mitchel McLaughlin MLA  
Mr Adrian McQuillan MLA  
Mr Peter Weir MLA  
Ms Sandra Overend MLA, Committee for Enterprise, Trade and  
Investment (Item 10 only)
- In Attendance: Mr Shane McAteer (Assembly Clerk)  
Mrs Kathy O'Hanlon (Assistant Assembly Clerk)  
Mrs Clairita Frazer (Assistant Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Jim Nulty (Clerical Supervisor)  
Ms Heather Graham (Clerical Officer)
- Apologies: Mr Dominic Bradley MLA (Deputy Chairperson)  
Ms Megan Fearon MLA

*The meeting opened at 10.10 am in public session.*

The Clerk informed members that both the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson would not be available at the beginning of today's meeting and invited nominations for a temporary Chairperson.

It was proposed by Mr Cree and seconded by Mrs Cochrane that Mr McLaughlin takes the Chair of the Committee until either the Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson joined the meeting. Mr McLaughlin duly took the Chair.

*The meeting moved to closed session at 10.11am for a preparatory preview of today's business.*

*The meeting returned to open session at 10.12am.*

*Agreed:* that Agenda items 5 and 6 are recorded by Hansard and the Official Report published on the Assembly website.

**1. Apologies**

Apologies are detailed above.

**2. Draft Minutes of Proceedings of 13 March 2013**

*Agreed:* that the minutes are published on the Assembly website.

**3. Matters Arising**

Table of Requests for Information from the Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP)

The Committee noted the table of requests for information from DFP which provided an update on any matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

**4. De-agentisation of Land and Property Services – Briefing from DFP**

The Committee received an oral briefing from Stephen Peover, Permanent Secretary, DFP, and John Wilkinson, Chief Executive, Land and Property Services (LPS) on the de-agentisation of LPS.

*Mr McCallister joined the meeting at 10.24am.*

*Mr Weir joined the meeting at 10.26am.*

*Mrs Cochrane left the meeting at 10.31am.*

**5. Welfare Reform: Rate Rebate Replacement Arrangements – DFP Evidence Session**

The Committee took evidence on the preliminary consultation on the interim rates support scheme from the following DFP officials: Brian McClure, Head of Rating Policy Division; and Andrew McAvoy, Rating Policy Division. The session was recorded by Hansard.

*Mr Girvan left the meeting at 10.31am.*

*Mr Girvan returned to the meeting at 10.39am.*

*Agreed:* that the DFP officials will provide follow up information as requested during the evidence session.

*Agreed:* that the Committee will invite representative stakeholders to give evidence on this issue.

*Mrs Cochrane returned to the meeting at 10.52am.*

The Committee agreed to take subordinate legislation next.

## **6. Subordinate Legislation**

The Committee considered the following items of subordinate legislation:

### SL1 – Pensions Increase (Review) Order (NI) 2013

Members noted the above proposal, which is not subject to any Assembly procedure.

### The New NAV List (Time of Valuation) Order (NI) 2013

The Committee noted that the Examiner of Statutory Rules had no issues to raise by way of technical scrutiny in relation to the Rule.

*Agreed:* that the Committee has considered The New NAV List (Time of Valuation) Order (NI) 2013 and has no objection to the Rule.

### Rates (Small Business Hereditament Relief) (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2013

The Committee noted that the Examiner of Statutory Rules had no issues to raise by way of technical scrutiny in relation to the Rule.

*Agreed:* that the Committee has considered the Rates (Small Business Hereditament Relief) Regulations (NI) 2013 and has no objection to the Rule.

### The Rates (Unoccupied Hereditaments) (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2013

The Committee noted that the Examiner of Statutory Rules had no issues to raise by way of technical scrutiny in relation to the Rule.

*Agreed:* that the Committee has considered The Rates (Unoccupied Hereditaments) (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2013 and has no objection to the Rule.

## **7. Flexible Working Inquiry – Evidence from Salford City Council**

The Committee took evidence from David Horsler, Customer and Support Services, Salford City Council via videolink. The session was recorded by Hansard.

*Mr Weir left the meeting at 11.15am.*

*Mr Weir returned to the meeting at 11.20am.*

The Committee agreed to take correspondence next.

## **8. Correspondence**

The Committee noted the following items of correspondence:

- Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment (ETI): A Financial Capability Strategy for NI;
- ETI Committee: Savings Delivery Plans;
- Minister of Finance and Personnel: Globalisation Adjustment Fund;
- Sustrans: Changes to Staffing Structure;
- DFP: Efficiency Delivery Plans;

*Agreed:* to copy the correspondence to the relevant statutory committees.

*Mr McQuillan joined the meeting at 11.31am.*

- DFP: Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Headquarters;
- Assembly Secretariat European Project Manager: Consultative Partnership Group on EU Funding 2014-2020

*Agreed:* to seek an update from DFP on the status of the NI contribution to the UK Partnership Agreement and on any action points for DFP arising out of the work of the Group.

The Committee agreed to consider the Work Programme next.

## **9. Committee Work Programme**

The Committee considered a draft of the Committee work programme.

*Agreed:* that the Committee work programme is amended to reflect decisions made today, and that the revised programme is published on the Assembly website.

*The meeting was suspended at 11.35am.*

*The meeting resumed at 11.47am in closed session.*

*Ms Overend joined the meeting at 11.47am.*

*Mr McIlveen left the meeting at 11.47am.*

## **10. Titanic Signature Project and EU Funding – Briefing from DFP and the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI)**

The Committee received a briefing from the following officials: Maura Young, Head of European Division, DFP; Stephen Barrett, Central Expenditure Division, DFP; Stewart Heaney, Central Procurement Directorate, DFP; Trevor Cooper, Head of Finance

Division, DETI; Mike Thompson, Head of Tourism, Telecoms and GSNI Policy, DETI; and Paul Brush, Head of EU Support Unit, DETI.

*The Chairperson joined the meeting and took the Chair at 12.15pm.*

*Mr Weir left the meeting at 12.18pm.*

*Mr Girvan left the meeting at 12.22pm.*

*Mrs Cochrane left the meeting at 12.25pm.*

*Mr McCallister left the meeting at 12.27pm.*

*Agreed:* the departmental officials will provide additional information as requested during the briefing.

*The meeting returned to open session at 12.40pm.*

*Agreed:* the Committee will invite departmental officials to provide a follow-up briefing at a later date.

#### **11. Any Other Business**

None.

#### **12. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Finance and Personnel Committee will be held on Wednesday 10 April 2013 at 10.00am in Room 30, Parliament Buildings, Stormont.

*The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 12.41pm.*

**Mr Daithí McKay MLA**  
**Chairperson**  
**Committee for Finance and Personnel**  
**10 April 2013**