

# COMMITTEE FOR FINANCE AND PERSONNEL

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**WEDNESDAY, 25 SEPTEMBER 2013  
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mr Daithí McKay MLA (Chairperson)  
Mr Dominic Bradley MLA (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mrs Judith Cochrane MLA  
Mr Leslie Cree MBE MLA  
Ms Megan Fearon MLA  
Mr Paul Girvan MLA  
Mr John McCallister MLA  
Mr Ian McCrea MLA  
Mr Mitchel McLaughlin MLA  
Mr Peter Weir MLA

In Attendance: Mr Shane McAteer (Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Phil Pateman (Assistant Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Jim Nulty (Clerical Supervisor)  
Ms Heather Graham (Clerical Officer)

Apologies: None

*The meeting opened at 10.05am in public session.*

### **1. Apologies**

Apologies are detailed above.

*Agreed:* that agenda items 4, 5 and 6 are covered by Hansard and the Official Report published on the Assembly's website.

## **2. Draft Minutes of Proceedings of 18 September 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. October Monitoring Round – Departmental Position – DFP Evidence Session**

The Committee received evidence on DFP's return for the October Monitoring Round from the following Departmental officials:

- Ms Brigitte Worth, Finance Director;
- Ms Preeti Miller, Finance Division; and
- Mrs Patricia McAuley, Director of Revenues and Benefits, LPS.

The session was recorded by Hansard.

*Agreed:* that the DFP officials will provide additional information as requested by members at the session.

*Mrs Cochrane joined the meeting at 10.09am*

*Mr McLaughlin left the meeting at 10.14am*

*Mr Girvan joined the meeting at 10.15am*

*Mr McLaughlin rejoined the meeting at 10.16am*

*Mr McCallister joined the meeting at 10.21am*

## **5. A Review of the Fiscal Powers of the NI Assembly – NICVA Evidence Session**

The Committee received an oral briefing on the Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action (NICVA) commissioned report entitled 'A Review of the Fiscal Powers of the NI Assembly' from the following witnesses:

- Mr Seamus McAleavey, Chief Executive, NICVA; and
- Dr Esmond Birnie, Chief Economist, Price Waterhouse Coopers.

The session was recorded by Hansard.

*Ms Fearon left the meeting at 10.55am*

*Mrs Cochrane left the meeting at 10.57am*

*Mr Weir left the meeting at 11.00am*

*Mrs Cochrane rejoined the meeting at 11.00am*

*Ms Fearon rejoined the meeting at 11.01am*

*Mr Weir rejoined the meeting at 11.17am*

*Mr McCallister left the meeting at 11.40am*

## **6. Ministerial Briefing: Strategic Priorities for DFP**

The Committee received evidence on the Strategic Priorities for DFP from the following witnesses:

- Mr Simon Hamilton MLA, Minister of Finance and Personnel;
- Mr Stephen Peover, Permanent Secretary, DFP; and
- Mr Mike Brennan, Budget Director, Central Expenditure Division, DFP; and

The evidence session was recorded by Hansard.

*Mr McCallister rejoined the meeting at 11.41am*

*Mr Weir left the meeting at 12.45pm*

*Mr Weir rejoined the meeting at 12.47pm*

*Mr McCrea left the meeting at 12.54pm*

*Mr McCallister left the meeting at 12.58pm*

*Mr Bradley left the meeting at 12.58pm*

*Mr Bradley rejoined the meeting at 1.07pm*

*Mr Weir left the meeting at 1.10pm*

*Mr McCrea rejoined the meeting at 1.10pm*

## **7. Correspondence**

The Committee noted the following items of correspondence

- Press Release regarding Banking Practices
- Request for meeting with Chairperson regarding Government Procurement  
*Agreed: to forward the correspondence to DFP for a direct response as appropriate.*
- Letter from retiree regarding the Equal Pay Settlement  
*Agreed: to copy the correspondence to DFP for a direct response.*
- Decapitalisation Rates - Consultation Paper  
*Agreed: to schedule a briefing at a later date upon the conclusion of the consultation*
- Assembly Research paper on the Spending Round 2013
- Danske Bank Submission

## **8. Committee Work Programme**

*Members considered a draft of the Committee work programme*

*Agreed: that the draft Committee Work Programme is amended to reflect any decisions made today and published on the Committee's website*

## **9. Any other business**

None

**10. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting**

The next scheduled meeting of the Finance and Personnel Committee will be held on Wednesday 02 October 2013 at 10:00 am in Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

*The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 1.15pm*

**Mr Daithí McKay MLA  
Chairperson  
Committee for Finance and Personnel  
02 October 2013**