

# COMMITTEE FOR FINANCE AND PERSONNEL

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**WEDNESDAY, 05 MARCH 2014  
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

- Present: Mr Daithi McKay (Chairperson)  
Ms Michaela Boyle MLA  
Mrs Judith Cochrane MLA  
Mr Leslie Cree MBE, MLA  
Mr Paul Girvan MLA  
Mr John McCallister MLA  
Mr Ian McCrea MLA  
Mr Mitchel McLaughlin MLA  
Mr Adrian McQuillan MLA  
Mr Peter Weir MLA
- In Attendance: Mr Shane McAteer (Assembly Clerk)  
Mrs Clairita Frazer (Assistant Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Phil Pateman (Assistant Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Joe Westland (Clerical Supervisor)  
Miss Heather Graham (Clerical Officer)
- Apologies: Mr Dominic Bradley (Deputy Chairperson)

*The meeting commenced at 10:10am in public session.*

*Agreed:* that agenda item 6 is covered by Hansard and the Official Report published on the Assembly's website.

### **1. Apologies**

Apologies are detailed above.

## **2. Draft Minutes of Proceedings of 26 February 2014**

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

## **4. Measuring Wellbeing in Northern Ireland – Briefing from Carnegie UK Trust**

The Committee received evidence on Measuring Wellbeing in Northern Ireland from the following witnesses:

- Martyn Evans, Chief Executive, Carnegie UK Trust;
- John Woods, Carnegie Associate/QUB School of Law; and
- Dr Peter Doran, Carnegie Associate/QUB School of Law.

*Agreed:* to schedule a further briefing from the Carnegie UK Trust prior to the Roundtable report being finalised.

*Agreed:* that, given the cross-cutting nature of the subject, the other statutory committees will be notified of the Carnegie UK Trust's report on measuring wellbeing in Northern Ireland.

*Michaela Boyle joined the meeting at 10:15am*

*John McCallister joined the meeting at 10:19am*

*Paul Girvan joined the meeting at 10:20am*

*Peter Weir left the meeting at 10:49am*

*Judith Cochrane joined the meeting at 10:54am*

*Peter Weir re-joined the meeting at 10:54am*

*Peter Weir left the meeting at 10:55am*

*Peter Weir re-joined the meeting at 11:00am*

*Adrian McQuillan left the meeting at 11:02am*

## **5. Measuring Wellbeing in Northern Ireland – Briefing from DFP and the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency**

The Committee received a briefing from the following officials from DFP and the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA):

- Kathryn Semple, Engagement Manager, Public Sector Reform Division, DFP;
- Rachel McAfee, Economist, Public Sector Reform Division, DFP;
- Kevin Sweeney, Head of Central Survey Unit, NISRA; and

- Michelle Furphy, Principal Statistician, NISRA.

*Agreed:* to schedule a follow up briefing from NISRA on the development of local statistical data on wellbeing measures.

*Peter Weir left the meeting at 11:25am*

*Adrian McQuillan re-joined the meeting at 11:30am*

*Peter Weir re-joined the meeting at 11:32am*

## **6. Northern Ireland Civil Service Human Resources: Shared Services – Benefits Realisation – Briefing from DFP**

The Committee received a briefing from the following DFP officials in response to an Assembly research paper on Northern Ireland Civil Service Human Resources: Shared Services – Benefits Realisation:

- Paul Wickens, Chief Executive, Enterprise Shared Services, DFP; and
- Colm Doran, Director of HR Shared Services, Enterprise Shared Services, DFP.

*Agreed:* to request DFP to provide a copy of the review of the costs of the e-HR Programme against the full business case once completed.

*Agreed:* to forward the briefing papers from this session to the Northern Ireland Audit Office, via the Public Accounts Committee.

*The session was recorded by Hansard.*

*Ian McCrea left the meeting at 11:45am*

*Peter Weir left the meeting at 11:48am*

*Peter Weir re-joined the meeting at 11:53am*

## **7. Correspondence**

The Committee noted the following pieces of correspondence:

- DFP: NISRA Analysis of Sickness Absence in the Northern Ireland Public Sector;
- DFP: Update on the position of outstanding post-project evaluations at 31 December 2013;

*Agreed:* to forward the correspondence to the other statutory committees and the Public Accounts Committee for information.

- DFP: Letter to Committee for Social Development - Future Rate Rebate Consultation;
- DFP: Investing Report;
- DEL: Committee Response to Flexible Working Inquiry;
- Politics Plus: Parliament of Jordan – Economy Committee visit programme;
- Northern Ireland Public Service Alliance (NIPSA): Civil Service Compensation Scheme;

*Agreed:* that the briefing requested by NIPSA will be confirmed in the work programme for 19 March;

- DFP: Report on consultation with trade unions on amendments to Civil Service Compensation Scheme;
- DFP: Civil Service Compensation Scheme Reform;
- Member of Public: A complaint by a member of the public against Ulster Bank;

*Agreed:* to issue a Committee response to the correspondent, as drafted.

## **8. Committee Work Programme**

### Meeting with Ulster Bank

Members noted that the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment will receive briefings from the Ulster Bank and the Irish Bank Officers Association at its meeting on 10 April and, in line with the established convention, members of the Finance and Personnel Committee are invited to attend.

### Budget 2015-16

In preparation for Committee scrutiny of Budget 2015-16, the Committee agreed to commission research papers on the European Investment Bank capital funding and on Preventative Spending.

### EU Funding

Members noted that advice had been received from DFP this morning that the session on EU Funding, which had been rescheduled to 12 March, would need to be rescheduled again due to papers not being ready for issue to the Committee.

*Agreed:* that the Clerk will liaise with DFP officials on the implications of this for the Committee work programme.

Members considered a draft of the Committee work programme.

*Agreed:* that the Committee work programme will be updated to reflect decisions taken today and published on the Committee's website

*Ian McCrea re-joined the meeting at 12:05pm*

## **9. Any other business**

There was no other business.

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

The next scheduled meeting of the Finance and Personnel Committee will be held on Wednesday 12 March 2014 at 10:00 am, Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

*The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 12:06pm*

**Mr Daithí McKay MLA  
Chairperson  
Committee for Finance and Personnel  
12 March 2014**