

COMMITTEE FOR FINANCE AND PERSONNEL

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**WEDNESDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER 2014
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mr Daithí McKay MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Dominic Bradley MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Ms Michaela Boyle 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)
Mr Phil Pateman (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mrs Clairita Frazer (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Joe Westland (Clerical Supervisor)
Miss Heather Graham (Clerical Officer)

Apologies: Mrs Judith Cochrane MLA

The meeting commenced at 10:05 am in public session.

Agreed: that agenda items 4 and 5 are 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 10 September 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.

Institute of Revenues, Rating and Valuation Conference

Members noted a paper setting out the main discussion points arising from the conference, which was attended by the Chairperson and secretariat staff.

The Committee agreed to consider the following agenda items next; Correspondence and Committee Work Programme.

4. Correspondence

The Committee noted the following correspondence:

- DFP: Performance of DFP Business Areas against 2013-2014 Business Plans;

Agreed: that, following a preliminary analysis of the performance of each DFP Business Area by Committee staff, the Committee will decide on which areas to focus its scrutiny.

- Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister: EU Proposal for a Regulation on promoting the free movement of citizens and businesses in the EU;
- Road Safety Markings Association: Request for a meeting to discuss the implications of current funding issues relating to highway maintenance;

Agreed: to refer this request to the Committee for Regional Development given that the issue falls within its remit.

- Quarry Products Association Limited: Request to brief the Committee on Transport NI resource budget (roads);

Agreed: to refer this request to the Committee for Regional Development given that the issue falls within its remit.

- Construction Employers Federation: Invitation to the Construction Excellence Awards on Thursday 2nd October 2014;

- Committee for Health, Social Services and Public Safety – Management of Health Budget
- DFP – Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Further Provisions and Support for Victims) Bill

5. 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 is published on the Committee's website

6. Briefing from the Minister of Finance and Personnel on Departmental Strategic Priorities and Other Budgetary Issues

The Committee received a briefing on Departmental Strategic Priorities and Other Budgetary Issues from the following DFP representatives:

- Minister Simon Hamilton, DFP;
- David Sterling – Permanent Secretary, DFP;
- Mike Brennan – Budget Director, DFP.

Agreed: to write to DFP to seek the detail of savings achieved from reform in areas such as shared services, information technology and asset management.

The session was recorded by Hansard.

*Mitchel McLaughlin left the meeting at 10.10 am
 Mitchel McLaughlin re-joined the meeting at 10.12 am
 Michaela Boyle joined the meeting at 10.13 am
 John McCallister joined the meeting at 10.25 am
 Ian McCrea left the meeting at 11.10 am
 Ian McCrea re-joined the meeting at 11.20 am
 Michaela Boyle left the meeting at 11.25 am
 Michaela Boyle re-joined the meeting at 11.29 am
 Peter Weir left the meeting at 11.30 am
 Peter Weir re-joined the meeting at 11.35 am
 Paul Girvan left the meeting at 12.00 pm
 Ian McCrea left the meeting at 12.01 pm
 Paul Girvan re-joined the meeting at 12.02 pm
 Mitchel McLaughlin left the meeting at 12.22 pm
 Ian McCrea re-joined the meeting at 12.31 pm
 Peter Weir left the meeting at 12.33 pm
 Michaela Boyle left the meeting at 12.38 pm
 Peter Weir re-joined the meeting at 12.40 pm
 Daithí McKay left the meeting at 12.45 pm*

Dominic Bradley took the Chair at 12.45 pm for the remainder of the meeting.

7. Outcome of Consultation on Regulations for the Civil Service Pension Scheme (NI) 2015 – Briefing from DFP

The Committee received a briefing on the Outcome of the Consultation on Regulations for the Civil Service Pension Scheme (NI) 2015 from the following departmental officials:

- Grace Nesbitt, Head of Pensions Division, Corporate Human Resources, DFP;
- Margaret Coyle, Head of Civil Service Pensions Policy, Legislation and Communication, DFP.

Mr Bradley declared an interest as a member of the Northern Ireland Teachers' Pension Scheme.

The session was recorded by Hansard.

Agreed: that, due to time pressures, the scheduled Assembly Research briefing on In-Year Monitoring will be rescheduled to a later date.

8. Any other business

There was no other business.

9. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Finance and Personnel Committee will be held on Wednesday, 24 September 2014 at 10:00 am, Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

The Deputy Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 1.05 pm

Mr Daithí McKay MLA
Chairperson
Committee for Finance and Personnel
24 September 2014