

COMMITTEE FOR FINANCE AND PERSONNEL

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**WEDNESDAY, 24 SEPTEMBER 2014
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mr Daithí McKay MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Dominic Bradley MLA (Deputy 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 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: Mr Mitchel McLaughlin MLA

The meeting commenced at 10:06 am in public session.

Agreed: that agenda item 7 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 17 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.

Members were advised that in line with normal procedure, the Committee would go into closed session for the first three agenda items which included discussion of strategic planning, consideration of the draft Report on the Inquiry into Flexible Working in the Public Sector in Northern Ireland and the draft End of Session Report 2013-14.

The Committee went into closed session at 10:08am

4. Committee Strategic Planning Workshop

Following the briefing from the Minister of Finance and Personnel at its meeting last week, the Committee reviewed its activities and outputs in the 2013-14 Session and considered its strategic priorities for the current Session.

Agreed: that the Committee will prioritise work in respect of financial scrutiny and other budgetary issues and will explore the possibilities for further outreach and stakeholder engagement during the course of the Session.

Agreed: that a draft terms of reference for an inquiry into the operation of the Barnett formula will be prepared for consideration.

Agreed: to adopt the methodology proposed for prioritising the Committee's work programme.

John McCallister joined the meeting at 10:16 am

Judith Cochrane joined the meeting at 10:18 am

Peter Weir left the meeting at 10:27 am

Ian McCrea left the meeting at 10.33 am

Peter Weir re-joined the meeting at 10:35 am

Peter Weir left the meeting at 10:55 am

Peter Weir re-joined the meeting at 10:58 am

Ian McCrea re-joined the meeting at 11:04 am

Peter Weir left the meeting at 11:05 am

Peter Weir re-joined the meeting at 11:10 am

Dominic Bradley left the meeting at 11:10 am

5. Flexible Working Inquiry – Initial Consideration of Draft Committee Report

The Committee considered a revised draft Committee Report on the Inquiry into Flexible Working in the Public Sector in Northern Ireland.

Agreed: that a final draft Report will be prepared for formal consideration at an upcoming meeting.

6. End of Session Report 2013-14 – Final consideration of draft report

The Committee considered a draft End of Session Report 2013-14.

Agreed: that paragraphs 1-8 stand part of the Report.

Agreed: that paragraphs 9-14 stand part of the Report.

Agreed: that paragraphs 15-18 stand part of the Report.

Agreed: that paragraphs 19-21 stand part of the Report.

Agreed: that paragraphs 22-31 stand part of the Report.

Agreed: that paragraphs 32-41 stand part of the Report.

Agreed: that paragraph 42 will be amended to reflect the main priorities for the 2014-14 Session identified earlier in the meeting.

Agreed: that paragraphs 43-44 stand part of the Report.

Agreed: that the Appendix stands part of the Report.

Agreed: that the report, as amended, be the End of Session report of the Committee for Finance and Personnel for 2013-14.

7. Borrowing from the European Investment Bank and Other Sources – Briefing from DFP

The Committee received a briefing on Borrowing from the European Investment Bank and Other Sources from the following departmental officials:

- Peter Jakobsen – Central Expenditure Division, DFP;
- Jeff McGuinness – Central Expenditure Division, DFP.

The session was recorded by Hansard.

Peter Weir left the meeting at 11:20 am

Dominic Bradley rejoined the meeting at 11:25 am

Peter Weir re-joined the meeting at 11:25 am

8. Correspondence

Members noted the following pieces of correspondence.

- Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister (COFMdFM): Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland (ISNI) Implementation Report to June 2014.
- COFMdFM: Programme for Government Progress Reports.
- Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure: Letter to Minister of Finance and Personnel regarding DCAL 2013-14 Annual Reports and Accounts.
- All Party Group on Construction: ISNI Portal.

Agreed: to write to the All Party Group on Construction setting out the Committee's recent approach to the scrutiny of this matter, following issues highlighted by the Construction Employers Federation.

- Committee for Education: Letter to Minister of Finance and Personnel regarding the Education Budget.
- Committee for Education: Invitation to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Sentinus Event, Wed 1 October 2014, Long Gallery.
- Agenda NI: Invite to Annual Northern Ireland Economic Conference.

9. 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.

10. Any other business

There was no other business

11. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Finance and Personnel Committee will be held on Wednesday, 01 October 2014 at 10:00 am, Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 11:44 am

Mr Daithí McKay MLA
Chairperson
Committee for Finance and Personnel
01 October 2014