

## **COMMITTEE FOR FINANCE AND PERSONNEL**

### **MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**WEDNESDAY, 05 NOVEMBER 2014  
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  
Mr Paul Girvan MLA  
Mr John McCallister MLA  
Mr Raymond McCartney 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: Ms Michaela Boyle MLA

*The meeting commenced at 10:07 am in public session.*

*Agreed: that agenda items 4, 9 and 10 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 22 October 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.

*Peter Weir joined the meeting at 10:08 am*

*Ian McCrea joined the meeting at 10:08 am*

## **4. Legislative Consent Motion: Powers to prevent transfers out of unfunded public service defined benefit pension schemes to defined contribution pension schemes – Briefing from DFP**

The Committee took evidence on the above proposed Legislative Consent Motion (LCM) from the following departmental officials:

- Blathnaid Smyth, Policy and Legislation, Civil Service Pension Branch, Corporate Human Resources (CHR), DFP
- Stephen Ball, Policy and Legislation, Civil Service Pension Branch, CHR, DFP

*Agreed:* to write to the relevant trade unions for an urgent response on the provisions of the proposed LCM.

*Agreed:* to notify the other applicable Assembly committees of today's evidence in the interim.

*This session was recorded by Hansard.*

*Judith Cochrane joined the meeting at 10:12 am*

## **5. Current Account Switch Service – Briefing from Payments Council**

The Committee received a briefing on the Current Account Switch Service from the following representative from the Payments Council.

- Tim Yudin – Director of Collaboration and Change, The Payments Council

*Agreed:* to copy the Payments Council paper to the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment for information, given the cross-cutting relevance of the issue.

*Judith Cochrane left the meeting at 10:30 am*

*Peter Weir left the meeting at 10:35 am*

*Peter Weir re-joined the meeting at 10:36 am*  
*Ian McCrea left the meeting at 10:40 am*  
*Ian McCrea re-joined the meeting at 10:42 am*  
*John McCallister joined the meeting at 10:50 am*

## **6. Financial Institutions and Impacts on Consumers – Written Briefing from Consumer Council**

The Committee considered a written briefing on Financial Institutions and Impacts on Consumers from the Consumer Council.

*Agreed:* to copy the Consumer Council paper to the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment for information, given the cross-cutting relevance of the issue; and to consider scheduling a briefing from the Financial Conduct Authority for a future date.

*The Committee agreed to consider the following agenda items next; Correspondence and Any other business*

## **7. Correspondence**

The Committee noted the following pieces of correspondence:

- Minister of Finance and Personnel: Correspondence to Social Development Committee: Planned maintenance contracts from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive;
- DFP: Response to the Committee for the Office of the First and Deputy First Minister on the EU Proposal regarding free movement of citizens and businesses in the European Union;
- Committee for Education: Copy of Committee response to the Northern Ireland Audit Office report on Sickness Absence in the Northern Ireland Public Sector;
- Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment: Memo regarding visit to SDC Trailers

*Agreed:* to draw DFP's attention to the issues raised in the correspondence, reiterating the need for effective communication with the business sector in relation to business rating, particularly the Non-Domestic Revaluation.

*Agreed:* to respond to the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment by providing it with a copy of the correspondence to DFP.

- Committee for Employment and Learning: Invitation to Stakeholder Event;
- Note of Chairpersons' Liaison Group meeting held on Tuesday 21 October 2014;
- EU Affairs Manager: EU Newsletter;

- Assembly Research paper: The Barnett formula - update 2014

*Agreed:* to forward the research paper to the expert witnesses who are scheduled to brief the Committee on 12 November 2014.

## **8. Any other business**

### Inquiry into Flexible Working the Public Sector in Northern Ireland

Members considered a draft press release on the Committee's Report on its Inquiry into Flexible Working in the Public Sector in Northern Ireland and were reminded that the debate on the Committee's Inquiry Report is scheduled for Monday 10 November. Formal printed copies of the Report were distributed to members on Monday 3 November.

*Agreed:* the press release as drafted and that copies of the Report, subject to the embargo, are issued to the press in advance of the debate.

### Members Attendance

Members were advised that information on Members' attendance at committee meetings during the 2013-14 session has now been checked and verified and the relevant information will be placed on the Committee webpage on Friday 7th November 2014.

## **9. Outcome of October Monitoring Round – Briefing from DFP**

The Committee took evidence on the Outcome of the October Monitoring Round 2014 from the following departmental officials:

- Joanne McBurney , Central Expenditure Division (CED), DFP
- Stephen Barrett, CED, DFP

*Agreed:* to write to the other statutory committees to ask that they press their departments to proactively explore Financial Transactions Capital as a source of funding applicable capital projects.

*The session was recorded by Hansard.*

## **10. Draft Budget 2015-16: Strategic Issues – Briefing from DFP**

The Committee took evidence on the Draft Budget 2015-16 from the following departmental officials:

- Joanne McBurney, Central Expenditure Division (CED), DFP
- Jeff McGuinness, CED, DFP

*Agreed:* to write to other applicable Assembly committees to commission their responses to the Draft Budget 2015-16 at a departmental level, for inclusion in the Committee's co-ordinated report to DFP; and to forward the Assembly Research paper to assist in their scrutiny.

*The session was recorded by Hansard.*

*Peter Weir left the meeting at 11:22 am*

*Peter Weir re-joined the meeting at 11:27 am*

*Dominic Bradley left the meeting at 11:35 am*

*Raymond McCartney left the meeting at 11:40 am*

*Adrian McQuillan left the meeting at 11:45 am*

*Raymond McCartney re-joined the meeting at 11:45 am*

*Adrian McQuillan re-joined the meeting at 11:48 am*

## **11. 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

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

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

*The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 11:50 am*

**Mr Daithí McKay MLA**

**Chairperson**

**Committee for Finance and Personnel**

**12 November 2014**