



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

**COMMITTEE FOR THE OFFICE OF THE FIRST MINISTER AND DEPUTY
FIRST MINISTER
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
WEDNESDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2014
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present:

Mr Mike Nesbitt (Chairperson)
Mr Chris Lyttle (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Alex Attwood
Mr Leslie Cree
Miss Megan Fearon
Mrs Brenda Hale
Mr Alex Maskey
Ms Bronwyn McGahan
Mr Stephen Moutray
Mr George Robinson
Mr Jimmy Spratt

Apologies: None

In Attendance:

Mrs Shauna Mageean (Assembly Clerk)
Mr Keith McBride (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Stephen Magee (Clerical Supervisor)
Mrs Marion Johnson (Clerical Officer)

The meeting began at 2.00 pm in public session

1. Apologies

As above.

2. Chairperson's Business

Racial Equality Strategy

The Committee noted correspondence from the Department advising that the briefing on the draft Racial Equality Strategy could not go ahead today as the document is still under consideration within the Department.

Social Investment Fund

The Chairperson advised Members that he had requested an urgent briefing from the Department on the recent Social Investment Fund announcement and that the next available date was 26 February 2014.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request that officials come to brief the Committee at next week's meeting.

Meeting with Head of Civil Service

The Chairperson advised Members that the informal meeting with the Head of the Civil Service is due to take place on Tuesday 18 February 2014.

Delivering Social Change Nurture Unit Signature Project

The Committee considered an invitation to the Chairperson from the Minister for Social Development and the Minister for Education to attend the launch of the Delivering Social Change Nurture Unit Signature Project at Currie Primary School on 20 February 2014. The Chairperson advised Members he was unavailable to attend the ceremony. Members agreed to contact the Committee office if they wished to attend in place of the Chairperson.

Mr Spratt joined the meeting at 2.05 p.m.

Current Invitations

The Committee noted the list of current invitations.

3. Draft Minutes of the meeting held on 5 February 2014

Agreed: The draft minutes of the proceedings of the 5 February 2014, as revised, were agreed by the Committee.

4. Matters Arising

European Issues

The Committee noted a response from the Department providing further information following the briefing from the Head of the Office of the Northern Ireland Executive in Brussels on 23 October 2014.

Delivering Social Change for Children and Young People

The Committee noted a response from the Department to the Committee's request for further information in relation to the Delivering Social Change for Children and Young People consultation.

The Committee also noted a response from the Department advising that it has extended the consultation for the Delivering Social Change for Children and Young People to 21 March 2014.

Wind Energy

The Committee considered a response from the Department to the Committee's request for information on the Executive's policy on the siting of wind turbines on Executive property. The response advised that management of the estate is primarily a Department for Finance and Personnel matter.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department for Finance and Personnel to seek further information on lines of authority for the use of wind turbines on the Executive's estate.

List of Outstanding Issues

The Committee noted the list of outstanding issues.

5. Correspondence

Commissioner for Public Appointments

The Committee noted correspondence from the Department indicating the commencement of a review of the Commissioner for Public Appointments (NI) Order.

Committee for Education

The Committee noted correspondence from the Department to the Committee for Education in relation to funding for Primary Integrating/Enriching Education Programme.

Committee for Finance and Personnel

The Committee noted a copy of correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel providing a briefing paper on the Budget Bill (NI) 2014 from the Department for Finance and Personnel.

Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment

The Committee noted a copy of correspondence from the Department to the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment in relation to US funding.

Committee for Social Development

The Committee noted a copy of correspondence from the Committee for Social Development to the Department highlighting a motion on the delay of the Welfare Reform legislation.

Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission

The Committee noted correspondence from the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission on the European Court of Human Rights decision of 28 January in O'Keefe v Ireland and a copy of the Concluding Observations of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in relation to the second period report of the Holy See.

Commissioner for Older People Annual Report and Accounts 2012/13

The Committee noted a copy of the Commissioner for Older People's Annual Report for 2012/13

Retention and Disposal Schedule

The Committee noted a copy of the Department's Retention and Disposal Schedule.

NILGA

The Committee considered a request from NILGA to brief the Committee on its proposal to establish a NI Strategic European Partnership Panel.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule a briefing from NILGA into the Forward Work Programme.

Delivering Social Change Signature Programmes

The Committee noted responses from the Department, the Department for Education, the Department for Employment and Learning, the Department for Enterprise, Trade and Investment and the Committee for Education to the Committee's Report on its Delivering Social Change Signature Programme Event.

Committee for Finance and Personnel

The Committee considered correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel providing a briefing paper from the Department for Finance and Personnel setting out its draft Estimates.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to consider this item further at next week's meeting.

6. Good Relations Indicators Consultation

Departmental officials joined the meeting at 2.19 p.m.

Mr Attwood joined the meeting at 2.22 p.m.

Departmental officials, Mr Fergus Devitt, Miss Donna Blaney and Mrs Pauline Donnan briefed the Committee on the Good Relations Indicators consultation. Questions and discussion followed. Officials agreed to provide a copy of the Department's consultation list.

Mr Maskey joined the meeting at 2.41 p.m.

Departmental officials left the meeting at 2.42 p.m.

7. Gender Equality Strategy

Departmental officials joined the meeting at 2.43 p.m.

Mr Maskey left the meeting at 3.03 p.m.

Mrs Hale joined the meeting at 3.04 p.m.

Departmental officials, Ms Patricia Carey, Mrs Martina Hanna and Miss Nuala McNamee briefed the Committee on the Review of the Gender Equality Strategy. Questions and discussion followed. Officials agreed to provide a copy of the composition of the Gender Advisory Panel.

Departmental officials left the meeting at 3.35 p.m.

Miss Fearon left the meeting at 3.35 p.m.

Mr Moutray left the meeting at 3.36 p.m.

8. Regeneration of Sites

Departmental officials joined the meeting at 3.37 p.m.

Ms McGahan left the meeting at 4.19 p.m.

Mr Spratt left the meeting at 4.25 p.m.

Departmental officials, Mr Tim Losty, Mrs June Wilkinson, Ms Judith Brown and Miss Anne Loughran provided the Committee with an update on progress of the regeneration of sites. Questions and discussion followed. Officials agreed to provide the Committee with further information in relation to social clauses in procurement at these sites.

Departmental officials left the meeting at 4.28 p.m.

Mr Cree left the meeting at 4.28 p.m.

9. Barroso Taskforce Desk Officer Update

The Committee considered a written briefing from the Department on the Barroso Taskforce Desk Officer's Quarterly Report for October-December 2013.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward a copy of the update to all statutory committees.

Mr Spratt re-joined the meeting at 4.31 p.m.

10. Forward Work Programme

The Committee noted the forward work programme.

11. Any Other Business

None.

12. Date, Time and Location of next meeting

The next meeting will be held at 2 p.m. on Wednesday 19 February 2014, in Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 4.32 p.m.

Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister